

Vandalism Is Not A Harmless Prank

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Crime Prevention
Officer

Vandalism - What Is It?
It is deliberately and pointlessly damaging property. It has been referred to as "ripping off", "yard farming" and many other "off the wall" phrases.

Whatever you refer to vandalism as - it's not a harmless prank. It is very

much a crime.

It causes suffering and even death (Vandalism is a waste of both time and money. Whenever vandalism occurs, you pay in two ways.

(1) In the direct way, it hits your very own money pocket when you are the victim.

(2) In an indirect way, higher taxes are created to repair or replace public property that a vandal

damaged or destroyed. Then there is the higher insurance costs, and it's all because of someone wanting to get a "kick" out of being destructive.

Vandalisms are on the rise. Millions of incidents are reported yearly, however, for the one reported there are two that go unreported. When you are hit or you see a vandal attacking public property, report it. If these vandals

see that they cannot get by with their pranks, then maybe some of this will cease.

Who Vandalizes?
Most of the time youngsters are your vandals. Youngsters from all walks of life - girls and boys, the rich and poor, good students and bad students as well as the dropouts and all races not just the whites and not just the blacks, but everyone.

The young child (ages 6 or 7) may be destructive at school and in parks. Children this young are often being deliberately destructive and are at a more difficult age to decide how to handle the problem.

Teenagers often have problems with growing up and take their "pains" out on vehicles or spray painting walls, etc. of public places with obscene words.

Older youth are usually the ones responsible for the more serious accounts. They tend to damage vehicles or machinery. They may also be involved in such crimes as theft, arson and burglary.

Usually when the "gang" is out together action happens. Many times destruction is done on a dare or as a part of

initiation into the groups. A group or "gang" often feels "safer" or "braver" if all together. Much of the time, if it were only one person, vandalism would not occur as frequently.

In the next article, we will deal with the question "Why do people vandalize?"

Please remember - If you plan to be away from

your home for a period of 24 hours or more, please contact the Kings Mountain Police Department Crime Prevention Office at 739-3636 or 739-7444 for a Home Security Check.

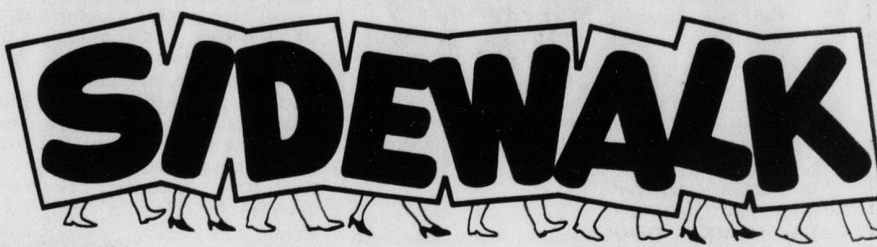
For more information on Crime Prevention, contact the Kings Mountain Police Department Crime Prevention Office at the above numbers.



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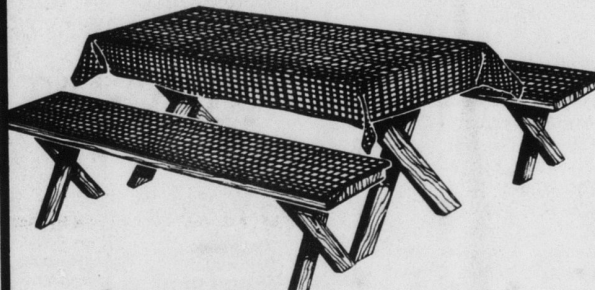
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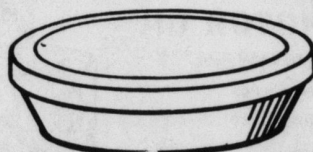
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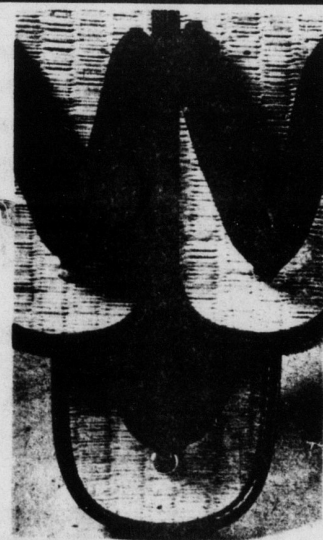
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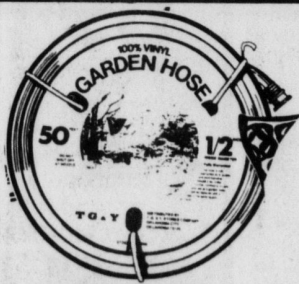
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Plastic
FLATWARE



8 Each knife, fork & spoon
to bag. Dinner size.

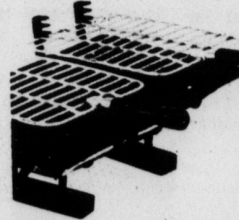
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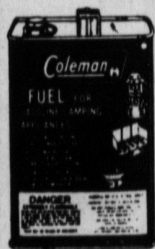
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