

Chief of Vice Squad to Seek Injunction Against 3525 Club

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The chief of the police vice squad pushed Saturday for a civil injunction against the swank 3525 Club in a move to prohibit the club from serving drinks to after-hours customers.

The action came after police and state liquor control agents had raided the club early Saturday for the second time in three weeks. Paddy wagons and police cars hauled 56 persons to a night session of justice of the peace court to face complaints of violating the curfew act.

The club is located in the fashionable 3525 Turtle Creek apartment center.

Detective Capt. Pat Gannaway, who engineered the raid said an injunction will be filed Tuesday with Dist. Atty. Henry Wade's office.

"We're going to seek a restraining order to keep the club from violating the law," Gannaway said.

He explained that a civil district court injunction would pave the way for padlock action against the club in event of further curfew law violations.

"If the law's violated again, it's my understanding it would give the court the right to hold the club in contempt and give the court the right to padlock it for a year."

The raid button was pushed shortly before 1 a.m. after undercover agents had gained admission to the club and observed patrons drinking.

Police said only 11 of the 56 persons arrested were card-holding members of the club. A raid there April 2 netted 52 persons, including eight members, on curfew complaints.

Raiders carried patrons, club entertainers and waiters to Oak Cliff sub-courthouse Saturday where Justice of Peace W.E. Richburg immediately convened court. Asst. Dist. Atty. Bill Alexander signed 56 complaints.

Half of the 56 arrested pled guilty and paid fines of \$16.50 apiece while attorneys posted \$200 bond each for the remaining persons who pled not guilty.

The courtroom was cleared two hours later.

Gannaway said the club had been warned to expect further police action after the April 2 raid.

"We understand an attorney for the club will appeal any action we take against them, which is perfectly all right with us, he said.

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A Member Remembers

Mrs. Jerome (Rosemary) Thornton, a member of the Turtle Club, tells her version of the police raid there in 1960.

Paddy Wagons

In those days, there were few upscale clubs and no liquor by the drink in Dallas. The Turtle Club at 3525 was a private club, very dressy and sophisticated. One Saturday night Jerome and I invited another couple to 3525 as our guests and we were dancing and carrying on.

When we went back to the table a man in a suit had his hand on Jerome's drink. As Jerome was telling him off, we saw his hand held an eyedropper. He revealed a badge and said, "You are under arrest for drinking alcohol after the curfew," which was then

1:00 a.m. When we looked around, all the doors were locked, and a deputy was standing in front of each one. A paddy wagon appeared, and the police loaded everyone from the club in it, put chains across the wagon doors like we were criminals, and took us all to a night court in Oak Cliff.

At court everyone stood before the judge who assessed a fine. Some paid on the spot while others planned to contest. We were photographed and paid our fine and that of our guests and got home around 5 a.m.

The raid had originally been scheduled for Friday night but the police found out the Dallas district attorney was going to the Turtle Room that evening, so they moved the raid to Saturday.

Unwanted Publicity

On Sunday a caller identifying himself as a *Herald* reporter told Jerome that the paper planned to publish his night court photo in the Monday paper. Since he was a deacon at Highland Park Methodist Church and a respected businessman he tried, unsuccessfully, to talk the reporter out of it.

Concerned about his reputation, Jerome called his good friend Mr. Hobby McCall, of the law firm McCall, Parkhurst, and Crow. When he learned that Hobby was playing golf, Jerome called Brook Hollow Country Club and interrupted his golf game. Before Hobby could call back, the couple we brought to the Turtle Room called to say that there was no reporter, and it was all just a practical joke.

Mrs. Jerome Thornton granted rights to publish the above account

Postscript

An 11 May 1960 article reveals that J.P. Pierce McBride of Precinct 1, which included 3525 Turtle Creek, accused Gannaway of a "questionable motive" by hauling residents to Precinct 7 in Oak Cliff for 2 a.m. court sessions.

According to Judge McBride, "the proper thing would be to put the people in jail and let them post bond, just as is done in other offenses." He also questioned the propriety of holding post-midnight court sessions after a mass arrest.

McBride quoted the Texas Constitution and the Texas Code of Criminal Appeals to support his opinion, to which Gannaway replied, "there will be no change of policy."

Incidentally, it was Judge McBride who three years later charged Jack Ruby with the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald.