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Our Man Hoppe PAGE 39

The Ku Klux Klan ---A Service Group

Arthur Hoppe

"COMMUNITY SERVICE," said Mr. Harry V. Plate, the noted public relations consultant. "It's the new image." And with that he proudly tossed down a 16-page special advertising supplement for the Sunday papers which he'd been working on for a week. It's called, "The Ku Klux Klan—A Report."

And a mighty handsome job it is. The cover is a full-color portrait of Colonel Jefferson Lee Stonewall Sr., "A True Christian." Inside is the dramatic story of how the Colonel stepped too close to a burning cross at a 1921 lynching in Hogback, La. His breath unfortunately ignited and he thus became "the first victim in a long, long war" against Catholics, Jews, Negroes, the Justice Department and all other aliens.

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THIS IS FOLLOWED by a dire warning on the threat of alienism. "Today," says the text grimly, "statistics show the world is 91.3 per cent dominated by Catholics, Jews, Negroes, Orientals, Europeans, Latin Americans, Canadians, Northerners and other aliens."

Page 6 has a warm portrait of the present Grand Kuckold, Colonel Stonewall Jr., who says: "My only rewards for my life-long service to my father's memory are a deep sense of satisfaction, the knowledge I am doing right and $1.3 million in membership fees."

Across the fold are photographs of 24 Klan leaders—their courage and dedication shining out for all the world to see through their eyeslits. (Names available upon subpoena.)

But the emphasis in the supplement is on community service. Headlined "Action Programs," the next eight pages are devoted to photographs and texts on the Klan's day to day work in such fields as urban renewal, political education and voter registration drives.

"In the important field of urban renewal, no group has done more than your hard-working Klan to remove unsightly structures that stand in the way of a more beautiful America," says the caption under a picture of a burning Negro church.

"Political education," says the text accompanying several photographs of friendly Klansmen in neat white bedsheets calling on their White Neighbors, "includes circulating petitions to impeach the Federal Government, support the National Rifle Association and abolish the distillery tax."

Another photograph shows a smiling Klan lady pasting a bumper sticker saying "Support Your Local Red-necked Sheriff" on her car—her smile hidden by her floral chintz hood.

"But the key to the Klan's action programs," says the text, "is its unceasing labors in the crucial field of voter registration." This is summed up by a color shot on the back cover of a typical Klan meeting—the devout members kneeling in Christian prayer as a cross and three aliens burn in the background.

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"HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?" asked Mr. Plate. I said with all his work it would be a shame if the Klan didn't buy it.

"Oh, don't worry," he said, "there's a growing market for community service images. If they don't want it, I'll make a few minor changes and sell it to The Friends of the Hell's Angels."