



Crime and Punishment

Oaksey

Court Case

Frederick James Lock

A 17-year-old Oaksey youth, Frederick James Lock, pleaded guilty at Malmesbury Police Court to-day to stealing a packet of cigarettes valued sixpence from an automatic machine at Oaksey.

Taking into consideration his age and the fact that it was his first offence the Bench dismissed the case, but ordered Lock to pay 11s 6d costs.

Mrs Rose Chambers, of the Post Office, Oaksey, said that on the 13 March, she filled a machine with eight packets of cigarettes. None had been used at noon, but at 6.30, she found only seven packets and a farthing in the machine. She went to the police.

On 14 March, Lock came to her and gave her sixpence and apologised for taking one packet. Before he left the office, Mrs Chambers stated that she had found farthings in the machine previously. She asked him if he would confess to her that he had previously put farthings in the machine.

Later he returned with a shilling.

Inspector Sloper said farthings fitted the machine after they had been filed.

Announcing their decision the chairman of the magistrates said, "They will not make you pay considering you have paid back the money you stole, because that is what it amounts to. They hope you will not go astray in the future."

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