

# HIS WITCHCRAFT

September 30th, 1973.

# LOST ITS

# MAGIC

News of the World Reporter

FOR one of Britain's top witches, 53-year-old Charles Pace had a pretty down-to-earth way of getting out of trouble.

Blithely he filled in cheques — which bounced higher than a witch's broom.

And that led him to take part in a ritual very different from all the orgies he has attended over 30 years. He stood in the dock at Exeter Crown Court facing a man in a flowing robe — the Judge.

The story of Pace's downfall really began when he confessed in the News of the World three years ago that he was embroiled in the Black Arts and was regarded as a master Satanist.

"I have plumbed the very depths of the abyss," he said.

He talked of attending "blood sacrifices," of sex rites, and of his association with "The Beast," Aleister Crowley.

He concluded: "It has taken me three whole decades to discover the truth—that modern witchcraft and the so-called black magic that goes with it is a lot of old codswallop."

His confessions got quite a few people under a spell.

Publishers showed interest in two books he wrote, *Black Candles at Midnight* and *his Twilight of the Damned*.

## Borrowed

A TV company began negotiations for a documentary called *Demons of Darkness*.

Then Pace decided to turn his tales of the occult into successful films and set up his own film company. That was when the fates turned against him.

For he had to borrow £2,000 to finance his business deals and then tried to pay his debts with worthless cheques.

Pace of Bolton Street, Brixham, Devon, pleaded guilty to a charge of dis-

## Those black rites led him right into the red

honestly obtaining £500 from a cafe owner by deception.

The jury was directed to find him not guilty on two other charges of obtaining a total of £1,500 by deception.

Mr Christopher Waud, prosecuting, said Pace and two others formed Valhalla

Film Productions in February. It was without funds.

Pace ran into financial difficulty and his fellow directors told him the company would not be responsible for his personal troubles. It had been agreed that Pace could only cash company cheques if they

## A witch confesses

## RITUAL

They try to kill a child—and an evil priest dies



*BY CHARLES PACE*



FLASHBACK to the News of the World, March 29, 1970

were countersigned by fellow director Carl Herkes.

But Pace gave a printer a cheque for £800 signed only by himself.

It was returned with a request for the second signature.

A few days later he gave a cafe owner a worthless cheque for £1,200 to cover

a £700 debt and obtain a further £500 in cash.

Pace was given a suspended sentence of a year's jail.

Mr David Owen-Thomas, QC, the Recorder, said: "When I first read the case papers, I thought Pace was a worthless barnacle content to latch on to the unwary and good-hearted citizens of Brixham.

"But there appeared to be some merit in what he was writing, though it was not the sort of literature to fill libraries.

He added that it would be useless to order Pace to make compensation, but he hoped he would have the decency to do his best to repay the losers.