

LIQUOR BLANK THEFT BRINGS AN ARREST

Man Seized in Philadelphia Has 100 of 400 Missing Permits.

HELD IN \$15,000 BAIL

Deputy Marshal Dowden Exonerated for Having Office in Liquor Store.

SEARCH POWER TESTED

Four Dismissed Because Police Entered Premises Without Lawful Authority.

Michael Morrison, no address, was held in \$15,000 bail yesterday by United States Commissioner Hitchcock on a charge of having stolen from the office of Prohibition Director Harold L. Hart 400 blank liquor withdrawal permits, which when properly filled out would have resulted in the removal of millions of dollars worth of whiskey from bonded warehouses throughout the country.

The blanks disappeared from Mr. Hart's office last Monday. The case was placed in the hands of Special Agent Leo Keyes, who questioned clerks in the prohibition director's headquarters in this city. Later he learned from other sources that Morrison was seen leaving the building on the day of the theft with a bundle under his arm.

Keyes traced Morrison to a hotel in Philadelphia, where he was arrested early yesterday morning and surrendered 100 blanks, but refused to say what had become of the other 300 blanks. He consented to return to this city and upon arriving here was questioned by Walter P. Murphy, acting chief of a special intelligence unit sent here from Washington to investigate liquor scandals.

Dowden Exonerated.

Wallace Collins, Acting United States Attorney in Brooklyn, said that an investigation had been made of the action of Edward C. Dowden, a Federal deputy marshal, in having desk room for a private business venture in an office in West Thirty-fourth street, Manhattan, which also had as sub-tenants a number of liquor concerns. The Federal attorney said that Dowden had been exonerated of any connection with these firms.

Dowden is attached to Marshal James M. Power's office in Brooklyn. "I never knew of any liquor concerns being in the same office," said Dowden yesterday. "I rented the place from the New Issue Finance Corporation and paid the office rent to that firm."

Supreme Court Justice O'Malley yesterday signed 131 orders to show cause why many brands of wines and liquors and other property seized by the police, valued at more than \$1,000,000, should not be destroyed, confiscated or sold by the State. The orders are against persons convicted of violating the Mullan-Gage act and are returnable on September 5, Special Term, Part II, Supreme Court.

It is estimated that the vehicles in which a portion of the intoxicants were seized, including automobiles, motor trucks, motorcycles, boats, wheelbarrows and other conveyances are valued at about \$200,000, and therefore the law are subject to confiscation or forfeiture to the State.

Assistant District Attorney Albert B. Unger declared that the number of arrests for liquor violations had increased from 100 to about 20 a day, showing, he believed, that 30 per cent. of the wet spots had gone out of business in this city since the police began enforcing the Mullan-Gage act last April.

Policeman Held for Raid.

Policeman Walter Clancy was held in \$100 bail for action by the Grand Jury by Magistrate Francis X. McGuire on a charge of oppression in connection with an alleged forced raid on the cafe of John McMahon at 359 West Forty-fifth street on August 3.

The accused policeman was represented by Assistant Corporation Counsel Charles C. Marrin, who contended that Clancy under the Mullan-Gage law had right to enter a saloon and search the place without a search warrant. McMahon in talking the stand said he had invited Clancy to enter the place, which he had not as yet opened for business. Previously the witness said the policeman had forced entry.

"I have no personal animosity against Officer Clancy," said Magistrate McGuire. "I feel, however, that it is time that a test case be made of these liquor cases where places are raided without a search warrant. I hope this case will clear up the atmosphere. McMahon has had a sudden change in policy since his first appearance in this court."

Max Cohen, a manufacturer of women's dresses at 120 West Seventeenth street; Nat Cohen, a son; Miss Josephine Harbo and Matthew Corino, employees there, were discharged yesterday by Magistrate Max S. Levine when arraigned on a charge of having either manufactured or prepared gin for sale.

The four were arrested on Saturday night by detectives who seized a large number of filled bottles labeled Gordon G. grain alcohol, labels and a still. The raid was made in the loft used during the daytime for the making of women's dresses. In dismissing the case Magistrate Levine said:

"From the testimony it is evident the officers had no search warrant and there is no proof that there was any sale of liquor. The thing savors of unlawful entry to me and that the officers were overzealous in their duty."

John Dunston, proprietor of Jack's restaurant, Sixth avenue and Forty-third street; William Perrin, cashier, and William Heinze, a waiter, were held in \$1,000 each yesterday by United States Commissioner Hitchcock on a charge of violating the Volstead act. They were arrested by Izy Eisenstein, who arrested the trio late Wednesday evening. Dunston also is charged with maintaining a nuisance and the other two with illegal possession and sale of whiskey.

SUICIDE WAS WIDOW.

It was Mrs. Mary E. Marrow, 50, a widow, of 356 West Thirty-sixth street, Manhattan, who threw herself in front of a trolley car at Coney Island Wednesday, according to an announcement made at the Kings county marine yesterday. A niece, Lucretia Hatzel of 395 West Thirtieth street, made the identification certain. Mrs. Marrow had \$1,077 in cash besides some valuable jewelry in her pocketbook when she jumped.

PIRATE RAID ON THE DEERING TURNS OUT A HERMIT'S JOKE

Recluse on Carolina Coast, Once a Sailor, Admits Faking Bottle Message and Yarns of Modern Buccaneers Along Atlantic Seaboard.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Aug. 25. Christopher Columbus Gray, thirty-year-old fisherman of Buston Beach, N. C., was the real discoverer of the pirate ship and the instigator of the recent wild tales of their careers of destruction and death up and down the Atlantic coast.

Gray, it was learned to-night, faked the famed bottle message picked off the North Carolina sands a few weeks ago telling of a mysterious ship running down the schooner Carroll A. Deering, later found wrecked off the North Carolina coast. This message was believed by the State Department, as indicated in an official statement at the time.

Representatives of the Department of Commerce said to-night that Gray, who was found in his humble abode on the coast, admitted to Secret Service operatives his authorship of the queer message. Handwriting experts called in on the case got Gray in tow. Comparisons of his handwriting with the scribbled note which caused such a furor among the Government's crime detection operatives finally established that Gray had perpetrated the pirate hoax.

Lawrence Richey, one of the Government operatives, now attached to the staff of Secretary of Commerce Hoover returned to Washington with Gray's story, and a report on some new theories.

SAFETY BOX REVEALS NO SECOND WIFE

Bortel Divorced, Says New York Widow.

Formal application was made yesterday to the Surrogate's Court for the appointment of Mrs. Anna Bortel of 600 West 139th street as administratrix of the estate of Frank Eugene Bortel, whom she married four years ago. An application granted Wednesday for permission to open Bortel's safe deposit box following the death on August 19 disclosed the existence of another woman claiming to be his wife. She is Mrs. Hattie Schwartz Bortel of South Bend, Ind.

Search of the safe deposit box yesterday in the office of the Corn Exchange Safe Deposit Company, 253 Broadway, revealed no trace of Bortel's will or anything relating to another wife, according to Raphael Blank of 44 Court street, Brooklyn, Mrs. Anna Bortel's attorney. The New York Mrs. Bortel, he said, has a dim recollection that her husband once spoke about a divorce out West and imagines that the South Bend woman may have been the other party to the divorce.

developed on the wrecking of the schooner Deering. Discovery of Gray and the fact that his message was a fake left Government officials still at sea over the whereabouts of the crew of the Deering, who have disappeared.

Gray served for ten years in the United States navy and later became a fisherman, following somewhat the life of a recluse. He suspected Government agents were after him and took to his heels, disappearing into the swamps. Later he was induced to come out.

The message Gray wrote, and which later became the basis for the series of pirate yarns and a Government inquiry, was as follows: "Deering captured by oil burning ship, something like a chaser, taking off everything, handcuffing crew; crew hiding all over ship; no chance to escape; please notify headquarters of Deering."

After the bottle message was first picked up and the Deering's owners were advised and the family of Capt. W. M. Wormald, master of the schooner living at Portland, Me., were informed the skipper's family at once communicated with their Senators, who took the matter up with the State Department.

Gray will not be prosecuted. Officials expressed doubt whether under any existing law he could be punished for perpetrating his joke on the entire Government.

COLD DINNER PLEA FAILS TO PREVENT ALIMONY

Exporter Ordered to Pay \$35 a Week.

The assertion that his wife used to tell him "the meat balls are in the lochob" when he came home looking for a nice warm dinner, and that she said she would "rather be an old man's darling than a young man's slave," did not help Harry Aaron, exporter, of 396 Broadway, much yesterday in defending an alimony motion by Mrs. Gertrude Aaron, who is suing him for separation. Supreme Court Justice Martin ordered him to pay her \$35 a week alimony and \$100 counsel fees.

Mrs. Aaron alleged he has failed to provide for her and their three children since April 1, though spending money for liquor. The defendant also submitted a letter he said his wife wrote her sister, Ida, telling her "the way to handle husbands is to treat 'em rough," but the exhibit did not avail, for in another part the letter said, "Don't think I have an angel to deal with, for I haven't."

SHOOTING IN CHASE SCATTERS THROUGH

Two Men Accused as Express Company Robbers Captured by Detectives.

WOMAN PLAYS DETECTIVE

Ticket Seller Causes Arrest of Pair Who Are Held on Pocketpicking Charge.

Two shots fired in Fourteenth street, near Eighth avenue, scattered pedestrians yesterday afternoon as Detectives Devine and McNamara of the West Twentieth street station started in pursuit of two men suspected of being the bandits who on April 27 last held up an express company manager at Pier 55, Hudson River.

The detectives caught sight of the men at Fourteenth street and Ninth avenue, and were said to have recognized them from descriptions put out at the time of the holdup. As they approached the suspected men became wary and walked rapidly east. Devine shouted: "Come here; we want to talk to you!"

At that the men broke into a run. The detectives each drew revolvers and threatened to fire, and when the men failed to halt sent bullets over their heads. The street crowds promptly drew aside, and as the detectives raced in pursuit a crowd gathered and followed.

Reaching Eighth avenue traffic was heavy and the detectives closed in. They caught the men at the northwest corner, backing them at revolver point against the Chelsea National Bank. The prisoners said they were Terence Smith, 246 West Fifteenth street, and Edward Cavanaugh, 219 West Twelfth street. At the police station Frank Plank, manager of Hendrickson's Express Company, who was held up, gagged and robbed of \$650 in the pier office of the company, was said to have identified the men, picking them out of a lineup of twelve men.

The courage of Mrs. Dagmar Wendt, a ticket agent at the B. R. T. elevated station at Fifty-fifth street and New Utrecht avenue, Brooklyn, who left her booth at 3 o'clock yesterday morning, crossed to the downtown platform, and, unobserved, watched two men who she thought were acting suspiciously, was responsible for the capture of the men on charges of being pocketpickers.

Mrs. Wendt said that from the top of the overhead bridge to the downtown station she saw the men start to go through the pockets of a man sleeping on a bench. She called two detectives from the Vernon avenue station, who made the arrests. The prisoners, said to be James Bisiglia, 1154 Fifty-ninth street, and William Beveridge, 203 Bay Thirty-fifth street, were

held in \$5,000 bail each in Fifth avenue court. Peter Kane, the alleged victim, said he was robbed of \$37.50.

Bail of \$10,000 was fixed on each of three men charged in Tombs court with the theft of harness, saddles and blankets valued at \$7,600 from H. Kaufmann & Sons, 193 Division street, Tuesday night. They were George Delchman, 93 Marcy avenue; Abe Heller, 405 Riverdale avenue, and David Kolin, 313 Glenmore avenue, Brooklyn. A straw hat with the initials "K" found in the loft where the robbery took place was said to have fitted Kolin's head. The men will be heard Monday.

William Bayliff of 315 East Eighty-fourth street, who told the police that he was a moving picture actor and had frequently portrayed the part of a safe blow, was arrested yesterday afternoon and locked up in the Atlantic avenue station in Brooklyn, charged with having been one of the four men who blew the safe in the home of John J. Brady at 871 St. Mark's avenue, Brooklyn, three doors from the home of Police Commissioner Enright. The safe was blown on August 16 and several hundred dollars worth of jewelry was stolen. Brady denied having any part in the robbery. The police said he had served two terms in Sing Sing for burglary and one in the Elmira Reformatory. He will be arraigned to-day in the Gates avenue court.

MAIL LINE EXPECTED TO BE REORGANIZED

Kermit Roosevelt May Join Steamship Company.

Conferences will be resumed to-day at the offices of the United States Shipping Board at 45 Broadway between its officers and receivers for the United States Mail Steamship Company in an effort to adjust differences over the charter of nine passenger liners to the company for operation. Reorganization of the company, with A. E. Clegg, head of the Kerr Steamship Company, and Kermit Roosevelt of the Roosevelt Steamship Company, an affiliated organization associated with it, was hinted last night. Definite action of some nature is expected at to-day's meeting, it was said.

Conferences yesterday were attended by Ernest J. McCormack and Herbert Noble, receivers for the Mail Line; Elmer Schlesinger, general counsel, and William M. Bullitt, special counsel to the Shipping Board; J. Harlow Smith, vice-president of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, and Delancey Nicolli, Jr., attorney for the receivers. Before returning to Washington last night Mr. Smith said it was impossible to determine at present what the liabilities of the Mail line would amount to.

TAKES OVERDOSE OF DRUG.

John Marshall, 33, a civil engineer, of 11 West 184th street was taken from his home last night to Fordham Hospital suffering, it is said, from an overdose of formaldehyde. Marshall received shrapnel wounds in the war and was taking the drug in small doses to relieve pain. His condition is serious.

PUTNAM B. STRONG INHERITANCE CUT

Widow of Reform Mayor of New York Leaves Bulk to Daughter.

RECALLS MAY YOHE CASE

Elopement of Major With Actress a Sensation Twenty Years Ago.

Three codicils to the will of Mrs. Mary U. Strong, widow of William L. Strong, former Mayor of New York, effect a gradual decrease in the size of the inheritance of her son, Putnam Bradley Strong, and a corresponding increase in the bequests to her daughter, Mrs. Mary Strong Shattuck, of 19 Washington Square North. The will was filed yesterday. Mrs. Strong died July 27, at Lenox, Mass.

Twenty years ago the name of Putnam Bradley Strong was an international topic of conversation, in view of his sensational elopement in 1902 with May Yohe, vaudeville actress, once the wife of Lord Francis Hope and wearer of the famous Hope diamond, and their subsequent activities in many lands. Recently, the petition seeking probate shows, Mr. Strong has been living quietly in Culpeper, Va. As a young man he was prominent in National Guard activities, at one time being a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Sixty-ninth, and trained at the Fort Myer officers' camp during the recent war. He was a major in the regular army when he eloped with Lady Hope. The actress divorced him in Oregon in April, 1910. Three years later he married his present wife abroad and retired with her to seclusion in Virginia.

The will of the "reform Mayor's" widow was dated December 23, 1912. It bequeathed all the testatrix's lace, furs, jewelry and household effects to Mrs. Shattuck, and stated that a gift of \$80,000 made to the daughter just before the will was executed should not be deducted from the daughter's share in the estate. Mrs. Strong explained she made this gift to her daughter to counterbalance large sums "much in excess of this" which she had given to the son.

The residue of the estate was to be divided into two parts, one of them to go outright to her daughter, and the other to be held in trust for Major Strong, he to receive the income during his life, the principal to pass to his heirs on his death.

Mrs. Strong then made the safeguarding stipulation that if her son survived her the Central Union Trust Company should become executor of the estate, but

that if he did not survive her, the daughter should be executrix.

The first codicil, signed November 14, 1913, cut off the bequest of the principal of the son's trust fund to his heirs, if any, and directed that the principal on his death should revert to the residuary estate—that is, to the daughter. The second codicil, December 29, 1914, provided that if Putnam survives her and is still living with his second wife, Norma Ashley Strong, the wife is to receive a bequest of \$25,000, but no alteration is made in the disposal of the trust fund principal as provided by the first codicil.

The third codicil, signed March 26, 1915, directs that \$85,000 be given outright to Mrs. Shattuck in addition to the one-half residuary estate already bequeathed her, "so that the share in my residuary estate provided for my son shall be diminished by that sum and added to the share provided for my daughter."

Witnesses of the will were Thomas T. Sherman of New York, and the Rev. Dr. Ernest M. Stiles, rector of St. Thomas's. The petition seeking probate was filed by the firm of Everts, Choate, Sherman & Leon. It merely gives a technical valuation of "more than \$20,000 in real and personal property," giving no clue to the size of the estate. The lawyers themselves refused to place an estimate.

FIND ABDUCTED GIRL, CATCH ABDUCTORS

Macaluso, With Two Others, Waylays Former Sweetheart in Street.

Miss Marnie Italiano, 22, of 231 East Ninety-seventh street, was kidnapped early yesterday morning from in front of 205 East Ninety-seventh street, but was rescued later in the day by detectives of the East 104th street police station.

They found her in the apartment of Mrs. Rose Diritani in 763 East 115th street, and sent her to the Florence Crittenton Home because she had been warned by the alleged kidnapers that she would be killed if she appeared in court against them. The detectives feared that if they released her she would disappear.

The police arrested Mrs. Diritani, Pietro Macaluso of 232 East Ninety-seventh street, Felix Longo of 193 Madison street and Joseph Mayo of 123 Heater street, charging Macaluso with kidnapping and the others with acting in concert.

The police say that Macaluso and the girl were engaged to be married, but that she broke the engagement because Macaluso flirted with other women. This was some time ago, they said, and when the girl refused to return to him, Macaluso made plans to kidnap her. He and Longo, with Mayo driving, met the girl in an automobile as she left her home yesterday morning and kidnaped her. Neighbors gave the police the number of the car and it was found in Catharine street.

INQUIRY STARTED ON PIGEON MESSAGE

District Attorney Wants to Know Who Sent Call for Help From Yellowstone.

NATURALIST DENIES IT

Management of Belleclaire Hotel Alleged to Have Had Part in Hoax.

The mystery of the carrier pigeon picked up in Yellowstone Park on August 17 and bearing on its leg a message stating that Edmund Heller, two naturists in Yellowstone Park, had engaged the attention of the District Attorney's office. It appears now that whoever wrote the message and liberated the pigeon is liable to indictment for forgery in the third degree. Mr. Heller turned up in Mammoth Hot Springs just as a relief party was setting out to find him, and a statement has been received from him denying that he was lost at all.

Joab H. Banton, Chief Assistant District Attorney, as the result of a talk he had yesterday with Edward Van Slyke, editor of Forest and Stream, a friend of Mr. Heller's, will make an investigation. Mr. Van Slyke showed the District Attorney a telegram he has received from the naturalist describing the stories of his disappearance as "deliberate falsehoods promoted without my knowledge or permission."

The message, which Patrolman Wesley Wilson of the West Forty-seventh street station found on the pigeon, read: "Notify Dan Singer, Belleclaire Hotel, I am lost on Hoodoo Mountains, Yellowstone Park. Send help, provisions and pack horses." It was written in a hand which Van Slyke said is not Heller's and was signed with the naturalist's name and dated August 13.

Van Slyke further stated that he received a letter from Heller, posted from Ogden, Utah, on August 12. Ogden is 242 miles from the Yellowstone. Singer, who also is a naturalist, admitted the message was a hoax, according to Van Slyke, but denied authorship of it, placing responsibility for it upon the management of the Belleclaire Hotel. Patrolman Wilson, Singer and the hotel manager will be subpoenaed to appear at the District Attorney's office Monday, Mr. Banton said.

CRANBERRY CROP MENACED.

WAKEFIELD, Mass., Aug. 25.—Frosts, floods and worms have combined to reduce the Massachusetts cranberry crop to an estimated 205,000 barrels this year. V. A. Sanders, Federal crop statistician for the New England district, reported to-day. The cranberry production in 1920 was 350,000 barrels.

If you are one of the thousands who have been hearing about Miss Lulu Bett but haven't read the book itself here is your chance.

Starting next Sunday Zona Gale's Miss Lulu Bett will be published in the Magazine Section of The New York Tribune.

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