

Rolph Reiterates He Cannot Understand Free

SO CALLED VISIT INJECTING GINGER IN GRAFT PROBE

While San Jose Man Stands Pat, Mayor Delves Into the Past to Prove Mistake

Continued From Page 1

clock and did not adjourn until nearly midnight.

The witnesses during the afternoon were Sheriff H. B. Traflet of Santa Cruz, Paulino Deniegra, a druggist implicated by Maurice de Martini, a bunco man, and De Martini himself.

After a recess of two hours the grand jury reconvened at 7:30 o'clock last night and continued with the examination of witnesses. The three bunco men, De Martini, Dubois and Corrigan, were again called.

The grand jury will resume its investigation on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

SITTING TO BE THOROUGH

It is the purpose of the grand jury to sift thoroughly the charges before taking any definite action, according to J. H. Dumbrell, foreman of the grand jury. This, Dumbrell asserts, will require several meetings.

Sheriff Howard V. Traflet of Santa Cruz told the jury of an agreement entered into between himself and Dondero, one of the bunco men's victims, to start a civil suit for the purpose of recovering, if possible, the \$7,700 Dondero had been fleeced out of.

Traflet declared he was acting disinterestedly and quite out of sympathy for Dondero, who was friendless and helpless.

Deniegra took the stand next, and refuted the statements made by Maurice de Martini, in which the latter asserted he had telephoned to Detective Esola for Deniegra on a number of occasions, and was familiar with the "protection" pact existing between the bunco men and the detectives involved.

STORY IS CONSISTENT

When de Martini was called he reiterated the charges made to the district attorney several days ago. According to District Attorney Pickert, Martini's story was substantially the same as that which he had told previously, even to the smallest particulars.

District Attorney Arthur M. Free of San Jose was another witness subpoenaed by the grand jury, but was not called to the stand. Free arrived from San Jose shortly after noon, armed with bulky court records which, he says, he intended to produce before the grand jury to prove that Detective Esola had hampered the San Jose officials in their efforts to capture bunco men.

The records in question were from the trial of Emilio Chiesi, convicted of fleecing D. Barghetti of \$2,400. Chiesi is commonly called "the washer trick," and sentenced to eight years in San Quentin on March 11, 1912.

"HELD OUT" ON VICTIM

According to Free, Barghetti was brought to San Francisco prior to the trial of Chiesi and turned over to Esola to be shown the photographs of bunco men. Esola, Free declared, showed Barghetti all the pictures in the gallery except those of the bunco men. Barghetti finally saw a picture of the man he wanted in the Oakland police department, and Chiesi was later arrested.

Free further declared that Detective Dreischmeyer, acting under his direction, had considerable difficulty in locating bunco men. He stated that he had the San Jose authorities. Every time Dreischmeyer went into the Italian quarter of San Francisco in search of a man, Free asserts, Esola could notify the bunco men ahead of time to keep in hiding. He even declared that Esola openly told Dreischmeyer that he would not give up a man in his district.

At the time of Chiesi's trial before the superior court of San Jose in March, 1912, Esola was subpoenaed as a witness and questioned by Free concerning his attempt to prevent Barghetti from recognizing the picture of the man who had fleeced him. From the court records in his possession yesterday Free read several pages of Esola's testimony tending to show the evasiveness of the latter's answers.

"YES, PICKINGS ARE GOOD"

"Esola came to San Jose at that time," said Free, "loaded down with diamonds. Dreischmeyer remarked to him: 'I think I understand now how you get these things, and Esola laughingly replied, 'Yes, the pickings are good.'"

DE MARTINI WON'T LET UP ON CAESAR

De Martini yesterday made further accusations against Caesar Ronchi, the restaurant proprietor, whose cafe has been declared by the bunco men to have been a gathering place for both police officials and bunco men. De Martini again told of his association with Ronchi in Chicago in the swindling game and traced the restaurant man's movements from the time of his first visit to San Francisco. De Martini said:

"I met Caesar in Chicago when he was down and out. I had been making plenty of money and I helped him out for six months by arranging for his lodgings and paying for his meals. He

ROLPH AND FREE NOT YET AGREED

Reiterating his statement that he had called on Mayor Rolph several months ago to lay before him facts concerning the relations of certain members of the San Francisco police department with the Italian bunco ring, District Attorney Arthur M. Free of Santa Clara county yesterday afternoon in this city gave his explanation of the visit and expressed an assurance that he can convince the mayor of the latter's mistake in denying that the matter was brought to his attention. On the other hand, Mayor Rolph professed again last night his inability to understand Free's statement.

Free was interviewed in the hall of justice while he was waiting to be called before the grand jury to present his charges against the police. He had read Mayor Rolph's denial, and said he hoped to clear the matter up. Free said that, although he called on Mayor Rolph the exact date of the visit referred to in his statement, he believed he could establish it by looking up data in his office.

"Rolph evidently recalls but one visit from me at his office," said Free, "and says that he didn't even know that I was a district attorney. As a matter of fact, I called on him twice, and each time I presented my card. As he evidently looked at my card, which read, 'A. M. Free, Counselor at Law,' District Attorney of Santa Clara

Men who figure in the bunco graft revelations. A. M. Free, district attorney of Santa Clara county (upper portrait at left); Howard V. Traflet, sheriff of Santa Cruz county (at upper right); below the convicted bunco men, who are (from left to right) Maurice de Martini, Frank Corrigan and Frank Dubois.



County, I can't see why he should not have known that I was district attorney.

"Rolph is right in stating that I called on him in regard to the lease of his ranch. However, I consulted with him another time about the relations of detectives who were side-tracking us."

"I told the mayor of the matter at the time of my first visit, and he referred me to Police Commissioner Theodore Roche. I thought that if the city's executive took no more interest than that it was certainly not up to me. I thought that he would want to know what was taking place in his police department."

Free said that when he called on the mayor with regard to the detectives Rolph was busy and, after excusing himself to some other caller, had taken him into an anteroom.

"On that visit to Mayor Rolph," Free concluded, "I said to him: 'If you want to look into this I am at your service.'"

"I can not understand what Free is driving at," said Mayor Rolph when the district attorney's latest statements were read to him. "I can state absolutely that he called on me but once and then only on a private matter. The time of that visit was April 5, 1912, as I said before. How, then, could I have referred Free to Police Commissioner Roche when Roche was not appointed commissioner until October 1, about six months later. I only took the mayor's chair on January 8, 1912, and Free's visit occurred a short time after that. In view of these facts it seems to me that Free is in a hole."

Attorney Berry would probably go to San Quentin prison this morning to take the statements of Convicts Gallo and Chiesi.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF GANG LOCATED

OAKLAND, April 25.—Stephen Ferrera, serving a term of 10 years in San Quentin for swindling Joseph Valmini out of \$2,100, is known by Oakland detectives to have operated with the San Francisco confidence gang. Ferrera was arrested a year after buncoing Valmini in Portland, Ore., and was rearrested in San Francisco and brought to Oakland by Inspector William Kyle for trial for the Valmini swindle. Kyle says that Ferrera was one of the oldest and cleverest operators of the gang.

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ARCHITECT BOARD SUSTAINS CHARGES

Three Consulting Experts Found Guilty by Conferees of Unethical Methods

By a vote of 40 to 25 the San Francisco chapter of the American Institute of Architects yesterday decided to sustain the charges of evasion, duplicity and discourtesy made against the city's board of consulting architects, John Galen Howard, Frederick H. Meyer and John Reid Jr.

The trial of the accused members was held secretly in the assembly room in the Phelan building and lasted from 2 p. m. until 4:30 p. m., at which time the three "culprits" left the room while their fellow members balloted on their case. Although the charges were sustained, no provision was made for punishment.

The scrutiny was conducted for the defendants by George W. Kelham and for the chapter by Edgar Matthews and William Mosser. These three, with Topke and W. B. Paville first brought the charges against the three.

The row in the institute attracted more than the usual amount of attention because Mayor Rolph was drawn into the fight. He sided with the consulting board. When the charges were brought, he said:

"Their attitude is harassing, unethical and undignified. Their principal object seems to be to prevent the completion of the civic center before 1915, and their tactics are those of obstructionists. Instead of criticizing their fellow members who are on the board, these architects should do all in their power to promote the success of the big undertaking."

"Attacking members of their profession in such a manner as this is about as cowardly a thing as they could do."

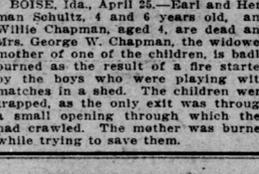
The chapter claimed the consulting board deceived it about the character of work they were to do for the city; that they were led to believe the real work was to be allotted after a competition, instead of which it was done by members of the board.

Reid is a brother in law of Mayor Rolph.

THREE CHILDREN DEAD IN FIRE THEY START

BOISE, Ida., April 25.—Earl and Herman Schultz, 4 and 6 years old, and Willie Chapman, aged 4, are dead and Mrs. George W. Chapman, the widowed mother of one of the children, is badly burned as the result of a fire started by the boys who were playing with matches in a shed. The children were trapped, as the only exit was through a small opening through which they had crawled. The mother was burned while trying to save them.

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- A5234 I Cannot Sing the Old Songs. (Claribel.) Mrs. A. Stewart Holt, contralto. Violin and piano accompaniment. 12 in. \$1.00
- A881 Come Into the Garden, Maud. (Baife.) Reed Miller, tenor. Orchestra accompaniment. 10 in. 75c
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- A5171 Dreams of Childhood. Gavotte. (Waldteufel.) Prince's Orchestra. 12 in. \$1.00
- The Little Pierrots. March. (Bosc.) Prince's Orchestra. 12 in. \$1.00
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