

How the Sleuths Track Rich Men

Millionaires Use Detectives as Scouts in Wall Street Battles—Walters Paid to Listen—Experiences Related

(New York Herald.)

Shadowing Wall street's "captains of industry," in order to learn in advance what is "doing," has become a regular recognized branch of the many detective agencies in New York city. So far has the business been developed that some agencies make a bid for what they call "financial work." For a consideration they will furnish precise information as to where a certain individual goes, whom he sees and even what he says, for a day, for a week, or for a year, for that matter. And they are doing lots of business. Mr. J. P. Morgan, it is said, is constantly under surveillance and whenever J. J. Hill comes to New York his every move is watched.

No one knows who sends these shadows forth to pry into the private affairs of men. The managers of the detective agencies keep the secret well. Frequently even they do not know for whom they are working, the real client being hidden behind a lawyer go-between. But the purpose and value of the espionage are plain even to the lay mind. It is important for rival financiers to know who supplies the millions which go west for the purpose of building a rival railroad. It serves to explain the future actions of the firm in other deals and enables those who have the information to judge as to the purpose of their rivals. They make them "show their hand" before they are ready to show it, and since the rival believes himself undiscovered the advantage rests with the man who employs the detective.

When David H. Moffatt returned to Denver, Colo., last spring he told some interesting tales of how he was "shadowed" during his stay in New York when he was financing the Denver, Northwestern and Pacific deal. He was trying to raise money in Wall street to build the road and other financial interests were trying to prevent him. Agents supposed to represent these opponents were engaged to watch his movements and learn who visited him and upon whom he called.

Shadowed Night and Day

Everywhere he went some one was watching. Finally, just as his financial affairs were reaching a decisive stage, Mr. Moffatt decided to outwit his opponents. He left his hotel, registered at another and awaited results. Half an hour later a well dressed man engaged a room adjoining and seated himself beside with his door open. He read a book and complacently smoked a cigar. Mr. Moffatt locked his door and made a dash to retire for the night. Instead, he turned out the light and took his departure quietly through another door. He rejoiced over the ease of his egress and repaired to another hotel, this time an out of the way place, where he thought no one would look for him. He engaged dining without registering and as he started toward the elevator he was informed to see the well dressed stranger appear at the front door, still inly smoking. Though the financier's scheme had failed he was not fazed. He next spent the night with relatives.

"These fellows never did find out where I got the money to build that road," he said, describing the event, "but they never will."

But Mr. Moffatt does not need to be sure about his success in finally eluding his shadow, because the men who make shadowing a business are not so easily thrown off the track, as shown by the case of William N. Cory.

Shadowed Amory and Braker

When subpoenas were issued about Feb. 27, 1933, for Mr. James R. Amory and for his son-in-law, Mr. Taylor, by the defense in Mr. Cory's action for criminal libel against H. H. Vreeland, president of the Metropolitan Railway company, it was developed that Mr. Amory and Mr. Henry J. Braker, who backing the former in the fight against the railway company, were being constantly shadowed.

Very time Mr. Braker left his office four men followed him. Whenever Braker turned his head these men would secrete themselves in convenient ways. He was not molested and rather amused than annoyed by actions of his "guardians," as he called them.

The case of Mr. Amory the pursuit more persistent. Soon after he in his investigations of the Metropolitan company's condition he realized that he was being constantly watched, sometimes by two men and serious occasions by a man and a woman. While on a trip to Norfolk, he was constantly under espionage and at one time was approached by a detective, who tried to engage him in conversation about family affairs. One day, while driving in Central Park, the two men who had followed for months kept a short distance from him in a cab, and two others, a man and woman, on horseback, rode at the side of the carriage.

"It is true," Mr. Amory asserted at the time, "that I called upon General Greene two or three days ago, but it would be an inaccuracy to state that I complained of persecution and asked police protection. I have long known that a vacant house on the corner of Lexington avenue and Sixty-second street, near my home, had been made a headquarters for a band of detectives and I have recently advised the real estate agents of the fact. Respecting the published statement that my telephone wire had been tapped and my mail tampered with I have nothing at present to say, as the attention of the proper authorities has been called to these matters. This 'shadowing' system is become tiresome. It has continued for nearly a year and it wears upon one's nerves. What crime have I committed that I should be hounded in this manner? My counsel, Mr. J. Coleman Drayton, is also watched as closely as myself."

The climax of that case came when Mr. Amory, hounded to desperation, caused the arrest of one of the men who followed him into a Broadway office building. The manager of a well known detective agency went on the sleuth's bond and paid the slight fine imposed upon the man. Mr. Amory's real purpose in causing the arrest of his shadow was to ascertain if possible who was interested in having his movements watched, but all he got was the name of the detective agency. The identity of the power behind it, although strongly suspected, was never established.

The Hounding of Hildreth

The case of William H. Hildreth, of Larchmont, some years ago, was equally interesting. Two sleuths were sent out by a New York agency to follow the suburban resident. Mr. Hildreth was a member of the firm of Abe Steen & Co., which was accused of rehypothecating bales of goat skins. Loans, it was said, were secured on the skins, which were shipped back to London and then reshipped and other loans secured on the same goods. Financiers who advanced money wanted to find this out and be able to prove it.

Hildreth lived at Larchmont, and although he had seen two men loitering around the railroad station in New York and later in Larchmont he attached no importance to the fact until his friends in Larchmont told him he was being shadowed. His wife told him that a strange man had camped upon the piazza of their next door neighbor's home and "sleuthed" there until the indignant family put him to flight. Mr. Hildreth had the detective arrested, and managers of the agency which employed him arrived on the scene and paid the \$10 which the court imposed on the charge of vagrancy. Mr. Hildreth never found out who was having him followed.

It is bad enough to have a "shadow on your back" but it is adding insult to injury when it is necessary to have a shadow on that shadow. Every financier in Wall street knows that a detective may be watching him for the benefit of his financial enemies. The scout of Wall street's banks is always at his back, and so he defends himself by securing a detective of his own to report the other's presence, his actions and, if possible, who employs him.

Not long ago a prominent man of affairs was told by his own detective that there were four men "on him." The man had a big deal on and did not care to be bothered. He asked his detective to throw them off the track. It was dark and the detective suggested that they exchange hats, coats, shoes and glasses. The scheme promised to work, because the detective and his employer looked very much alike. Disguised, the detective walked briskly out of the office after putting out the lights. Four men followed him.

Thrown Off the Trail

He got into a cab at the door and they followed in a closed carriage. He alighted near Chatham square, which was a curious place for a Wall street man to go after dark, but the detective was born and as a boy played around Chatham square, and knew the ins and outs of it. The four "shadows" got out also. Two walked down one side of the street and two on the other. The disguised detective walked along until he came to a shoe-maker's awl stuck in the pavement near the house line for a sign. Back of the awl was an alleyway. He dodged into the alleyway and made his way home.

The four detectives failing to see a living soul on the street mistook the shoemaker's sign in the dim light of the street lamp for their man. He was standing still and so they stood still. He stood still for half an hour without moving; so did they. One of them, growing suspicious, turned back and came at the awl from the opposite direction. Then his laugh and his curse notified the rest of their defeat.

Mr. Arthur Merklin, manager of a well known detective agency, told the story from the inside; how the detectives follow financiers and how they work. "Oh, yes," he said, "they are doing it right along and it is a regu-

lar branch of our business now. We never know for whom we are working. Our orders always come from a lawyer, never from the person most interested. You see, in a secret business like ours they don't trust us with any information—they pay us for getting it. I was walking down Broadway the other day and I saw four men whom I recognized as 'operators' for a rival agency. Looking ahead I saw an oldish man who I knew was their 'party.' I followed until he went to a hotel and up to his room. I stood near him and heard him ask for the number of his key. Then I looked on the register and saw who he was.

"I am not at liberty to tell his name, but I will say that he was a man high up in the treasury department at Washington and every visit of his to New York meant something to the financiers of Wall street. I knew what lawyer represented him in New York, so I phoned to that lawyer.

"Do you know there are four detectives following Mr. So-and-So from Washington?" I asked.

"No," said he, "but you put four more on them and find out if possible who sent them."

"I knew already what agency sent them, and I also knew that the power behind the throne would never be known. But I put four men on the other four and, by turning to their reports I can tell you where that man from Washington went, whom he met, and all he did, even to what he ate, and in a great many instances what he talked about when he dined.

"Usually it takes about four men to shadow a man carefully. We do not shadow the man alone, but also the people he meets until we find out who they are. Sometimes we shadow the person the man meets if it looks to us that the second man is important. For instance, the purpose of our shadowing an individual may be to find out how he sells or buys a certain stock. If A, a sugar magnate, meets B, and B immediately goes to a broker's office and sells sugar short, the broker's office is more important to our client than the meeting of A and B, because an interference as to the tone from B's subsequent action.

"This, of course, is by way of illustration, because sugar magnates rarely ever talk business in public—their private office is the place for that and we do not get in there. In the meantime, while one man is following B to the broker's office, the other three are still on O. One by one they leave to follow the man that A meets, but before they go they leave a 'phone address with the last man, so that he can call them up and tell them where to rejoin the party after their part of the work is done.

"These tall office buildings are hard places to follow a man into because of the elevators. You have to be right on 'your friend's' heels, to get into the same car with him, or you will never find out which office of the hundred or so in the building he visits. When he gets out, you get out, and after noting the name on the door through which he goes you wait in the halls. Then you come in contact with the floor man. He lets you loiter a while and then he wants to know whom you are waiting for. Our agency has a great many of these floor men fixed so that they will not interfere with our boys.

Office Building Work

"It always takes two men to work an office building: one to go up in the elevator and the other to watch at the door downstairs to prevent the 'party' from escaping in case the other operative should happen to miss the man upstairs. It does not often happen that we can report conversation between our man and the friends he meets, but we do sometimes.

"When a man dines late he drinks wine and talks private affairs in public places. His shadow eats at a table as near to him as possible, but a financier even in his most unguarded moments will not raise his voice enough to be overheard even at the next table. So it becomes necessary for the shadows to 'fix' the waiter.

"The waiter is a privileged person. He can stand right over the two at the table, and he is often compelled to hear the conversation whether he wants to or not. If you make it worth his while he will stick to the table like a leech, with his eyes in vacancy, but his ears in action, and he will tell you all about it later.

"We never know to what use the information is put, and we do not care. A man should not do anything he would not have the whole world see. And I will say that the men we have followed rarely ever do. The value of our reports depends upon the information which the man who reads them brings to them. They do not mean a thing to us, and useless that we wonder why the Wall street men cheerfully pay good money for what they get."

COLLIDED IN A FOG

Serious Street Car Accident in Seattle Where Many Are Injured

SEATTLE, Nov. 28.—Two loaded street cars on the university line collided head-on during a heavy fog this morning. Harry Kinney, a telephone lineman, had a leg crushed and is internally injured. Motorman Hammond has a hip crushed and is terribly bruised, and cut about the body. He may die. Ten others are more or less seriously injured.

MISTAKEN FOR A BURGLAR

Grocerman Shoots a Sixteen Year Old Boy Who Passed His Place this Morning

(Special Telegram to Evening Teller.)

CHICAGO, Nov. 28.—John Wheelis, a grocerman, mistook a sixteen-year-old boy by the name of Geo. Reynolds, who was passing his store early this morning for a burglar and shot and killed him. He is the son of a police captain in St. Louis and expected to start home today.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Record of Transactions in City and County—M. W. Barnett, Abstractor

Nez Perce county, Idaho, November 27, 1933:

Deeds

Mattie J. Thomas to Leonard W. Edmister, sw 1/4 nw 1/4, nw 1/4 sw 1/4 section 10, township 33 N., range 2 W.; consideration \$600.

Leonard W. Edmister and wife to John R. McCahill, same; consideration \$1,000.

James Stuart to P. W. Mitchell, lot 4, block 12, lot 16, block 26, lot 3, block 32, town of Nezperce; consideration, \$100.

William E. Larson to L. B. Reynolds, w 25 feet lots 11 and 12, block 24, town of Nezperce; consideration \$300.

Lulu M. Carson to George A. Manning, lot 6, block B, McAllister addition to city of Lewiston; consideration \$275.

Jacob H. McWry and wife to Zephaniah Johnson, lots 5, 6, 7, 8, block 2, subdivision No. 1, Mowrys addition to town of Nezperce; consideration \$240.

L. B. Reynolds to F. E. Black, lot 9, block 47, town of Nezperce; consideration \$71.

L. B. Reynolds to F. E. Reynolds, lot 10 block 47, same; consideration \$1,000.

William E. Larson to Fred C. Brash, lot 12, block 4, town of Nezperce; consideration \$200.

Charles E. Deschamp and wife to same, lot 11, block 4, same; consideration \$100.

An exchange gets off the following: "If men are the salt of the earth, women are undoubtedly the sugar. Salt is a necessity, sugar a luxury. Vicious men are salt-peter; stern men are rock salt; nice men are table salt. Old maids are brown sugar; good-natured matrons are loaf sugar, and pretty girls the fine pulverized sugar. Pass the pulverized sugar, please."

Notice to Investors

We have investigated the fruit and vegetable canning proposition for Lewiston and find eminently fair and satisfactory and that the people of Lewiston ought to put it on its feet.

We have subscribed for the stock as liberally as we could.

Mr. George W. Morrison and Mr. J. B. McGrane will solicit subscriptions for balance of stock necessary to put enterprise on good financial footing.

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