

# "Brick" Munro, "Good Samaritan" of Davenport Underworld, is Bankrupt

(From Davenport Democrat.)

"Brick" Munro, the Good Samaritan of Davenport's underworld, who in the old days of the wide open town was worth \$150,000, is today broke.

After giving away several fortunes, the man who bore the reputation of never turning a deaf ear to the pleas of the needy, is about to go into bankruptcy. The golden days are past, his wealth has been dissipated, and the many friends who fraternized with him at his heyday, have vanished. Bankruptcy papers have been filed in the district court.

Munro was the proprietor of the big saloon, dance hall and pavilion, formerly located at the corner of Second and Rock Island streets, which proved a gold mine until the 12-hour law and the vice crusaders closed up the old front street district and in turn put him out of business.

The place, which was known as "Brick's Pavilion," was famous from coast to coast, and was the rendezvous of the sporting fraternity from every part of the United States. Traveling men would make jumps of from 100 to 300 miles just to spend Sunday at Brick's. The place was patronized by men from every walk of life and there was a steady stream of gold into the till.

When Munro was on the crest of prosperity, he scattered money with a lavish hand. Today his assets are practically nil. His big heart proved his undoing.

Brick's history reads like a work of fiction and a few words as to his earlier career will serve to accentuate his rapid rise to affluence as well as his more precipitate decline.

James A. Munro got his start in Davenport as a hack driver. He decided to go into business for himself and borrowed enough money to buy a horse and carriage. He saved his money, paid for his outfit and borrowed again, each time adding to his equipment.

At this time, Munro had a chance to buy the saloon which was destined to play such an important part in his career. The place had been mismanaged and was badly run down. The proprietor was disgusted with the whole layout and was willing to sell at a sacrifice.

From that time on Munro seemed to possess the golden touch of a Midas. The saloon was enlarged and the dance hall built. He acquired considerable real estate, bought the Family Theatre in Davenport, which was then a vaudeville house, had an interest in a Clinton play house, took over the Family Theatre in Rock Island, had an interest in a shoe store in the Windsor hotel block on Perry, had a big livery on Third street between Rock Island and Iowa, in addition to his

hack line and various other ventures. At that time it is estimated that he was easily worth \$150,000.

The pavilion was one of the brightest spots in the middle west. Before Iowa legislators became busy, the place was operated 24 hours a day and the employees and attaches worked in shifts. Munro employed from eight to ten bartenders, from 10 to 20 entertainers—musicians, singers, dancers and the like—and about 25 waiters. Bill "King" Brady, the greatest ragtime piano player in the country, tickled the ivories in the old Rock Island street place. Charlie Schamp was another disciple of syncopation who delighted the gay dancers.

Tables lined the walls of the pavilion and these were always filled with care free men and fashionably dressed women. It was no unusual thing for a wealthy spendthrift to buy from \$300 to \$400 worth of wine during an evening.

Of late the cabaret has become a craze throughout the United States and is hailed as an innovation. Eight years ago Brick Munro's garden boasted a cabaret entertainment which for quality and magnitude has not been surpassed to this day.

High salaried performers from the "legit" took a fling at entertaining the midnight crowds in the dance hall, looking upon it as a sort of diversion. They welcomed it as a relief from the steady grind behind the footlights.

There was something doing every minute. A big orchestra crashed out ragtime strains for the dancers and during the intermissions the cabaret performers took the floor.

The patrons were many and they spent without stint. It was the exception, rather than the rule, when a day's receipts did not pass the \$500 mark. Waiters would clean up from \$10 to \$25 a night in tips, and would have refused to quit had their salaries been entirely cut off.

In those days of prosperity, "Brick" gave to the down and outers, the poor and the unfortunate with a lavish hand. His heart was as big as a steamer trunk. In the building was a dining room and kitchen for himself, his family and his employees.

There was never a meal served there but what a number of unfortunate were invited to place their feet under the festive board and eat their fill.

One night a forlorn looking bum with a week's growth of beard and tattered clothes stood in the bar room apart from the crowd. He looked as though he had not had a square meal in weeks. When the call for midnight lunch was sounded, the hobo started forward hopefully, then walked disconsolately back to his position against the bar.

"Brick" was a silent witness to the entire affair and sipping up to the man, said: "How about it, partner, are you pretty hungry?"

"You bet I am," was the reply. "Well, come on down and join us," and linking his arm in that of the seedy one, Brick led the way to the table.

The midnight feed was a sort of family affair. The entertainers, waiters and the rest would all sit in the circle. The food was plain, but there was lots of it. The menu usually consisted of fried potatoes, scrambled eggs, steaks, coffee and the like—just good, wholesome fare. There were oftentimes from 15 to 20 invited guests, recruited mostly from the ranks of the down and outers.

Brick was a great friend of the kids. In those days the People's Union Mission was in operation on Second street between Iowa and Rock Island. Ned Lee, who was at the head of the institution, was anxious to raise funds for a gymnasium, but was unable to make much headway.

One day Munro heard about it, and he immediately sent for Lee. "How much would it take to fit up a gym for the kids?" he asked.

Lee told him and without a word Brick reached for his check book and filled in the proper amount. "There, that ought to fill the bill," he said with his genial smile.

Every Christmas Munro sent a check of at least \$100 to the mission. "To buy some trinkets for the kids," he explained it.

When a picnic or outing was planned at the mission, Brick always donated several crates of oranges, lemons and other good things. Citizens who donated 50 cents or a dollar to the cause, always were anxious to see their names in the paper. Not so with Brick. He preferred to perform his charitable acts quietly.

He never received credit for fitting out a gymnasium for the street urchins and his name was never seen in the newspapers when he sent a fat check for good things. "That would never do, for the money was tainted," cried public opinion.

Munro was a second Tim Sullivan in Bucktown. He controlled the big percentage of votes and anyone expecting to become a candidate usually consulted the proprietor of the Pavilion.

Oftentimes the ravages of disease would grip the unfortunate people of the district and a popular subscription would be necessary to secure for them proper care, medicines and food. Invariably, the name of "Brick" Munro would head the list with a substantial sum opposite.

In time of sorrow and death "Brick's" helping hand was always outstretched. When the homeless and friendless passed over the great divide, it was "Brick" that provided a decent burial. Whenever a death was reported in "Bucktown," and it became known that there were no relatives to claim their own, Davenport's Tim Sullivan would arrange for the funeral and foot the bill. It is no exaggeration to say that he buried no less than 25 or 30 such people when there were no others willing to assume the burden.

As an example of his big-heartedness, the following instance is given by one of his old employees:

A railroad man, without any too much wealth, spent a night in Front street saloons, and awakened the next morning minus his meager roll. The thieves had "cleaned" him for fair and even his shoes were gone. The victim was ruefully taking an inventory in the Munro saloon, when the proprietor walked up.

"Kind of got you, didn't they, partner?" he asked.

"They sure did."

Then stooping down, Munro took off a brand new pair of shoes which he had only purchased the day before. Handing them to the victim, he said, "Guess they'll do until you can get something better."

The man was profuse in his thanks, but Brick wouldn't listen to it. He dismissed the subject by asking one of his men to get the pair of shoes which he had but recently discarded.

"Brick" was loved by his employees, which is the real test of character. Men that worked shoulder to shoulder with him for years, had nothing but good words for him. And not without reason. An idea of the manner in which he cared for those about the place may be gleaned from the following:

A young man named John Gadiant was employed in a minor capacity about the place. One day he went down in the basement to look after the tapping of a beer keg and in some manner he touched a live wire. He was electrocuted instantly.

Gadiant was the sole support of a widowed mother, and the death was a particularly sad one. Munro paid the funeral expenses, closed his place for an entire day—which meant a big loss—and presented the mother with a check for several hundred dollars.

Munro gave away hundreds of dollars in meat tickets to unfortunate. Stranded theatrical people always sought "Brick" when on their uppers. Many a time he got a homesick girl's trunk out of "hock" after she had wearied of the theatrical world, paid her board bill, and staked her to enough money to get home.

At the time of the San Francisco earthquake, Munro turned over his place to the performers then in Davenport who had relatives on the coast. Each one did a turn, a song, a dance or monologue of some sort. A big collection was taken and several hundred dollars were raised for sufferers. Needless to say, Munro was one of the most liberal subscribers to the cause.

The money poured into the pavilion in a veritable torrent, but Munro parted with it in almost the same manner. He never turned down anyone seeking a loan and in most instances practically gave the money away, never expecting it back.

Right now, he has an interesting collection of unpaid notes and I. O. U's. Many of them signed by prominent Davenporters who have since been smothered upon by the fickle goddess of fortune. Should one-half of these debtors make good their obligations, "Brick" would not be seeking relief in bankruptcy.

Those who have had dealings with Munro in past years are unanimous in stating that he was ever the soul of honor and that his word was as good as gold. He always made good his obligations when he was able.



Corner 18th Street and 3rd Avenue.

H. S. CABLE, President  
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P. GREENAWALT, Vice President

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W. G. JOHNSTON, Asst. Cashier  
J. J. GREEN, Asst. Cash.

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P. GREENAWALT,

FRANZ HAPP,  
H. P. HULL,  
E. W. HURST,

PHIL MITCHELL,  
M. O'CONNOR,  
JOHN VOLK.

## Financial Statement

(State Auditor's Call.)  
BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF BUSINESS  
January 14, 1914.

### RESOURCES:

Loans and discounts .....	\$2,538,252.93
Overdrafts .....	128.69
Bonds .....	74,850.00
Banking house .....	93,671.81
Cash and due from banks .....	509,859.87

Total .....

### LIABILITIES:

Capital stock .....	\$ 200,000.00
Surplus .....	100,000.00
Undivided profits .....	133,142.42
Deposits .....	2,770,884.84
Reserved for interest and .....	12,596.04
Dividends unpaid .....	140.00

Total .....

## Rock Island Savings Bank

Organized 1890.

Savings, Commercial and Trust Departments.

SAFE DEPOSIT VAULTS

### BANK STATEMENTS.

(OFFICIAL PUBLICATION)

Report of the condition of

## State Bank

Rock Island, Ill.

Located at Rock Island, State of Illinois, before the commencement of business on the 14th day of January, 1914, as made to the Auditor of Public Accounts of the State of Illinois, pursuant to law.

### RESOURCES.

LOANS:		
Loans on real estate .....	\$ 430,256.87	
Loans on collateral security .....	116,872.02	
Other loans and discounts .....	474,968.64	\$1,021,897.53
OVERDRAFTS: .....		1,686.43
INVESTMENTS:		
Public service corporation bonds .....	242,826.75	
Other bonds and securities .....	101,352.50	344,179.25
MISCELLANEOUS RESOURCES:		
Banking house .....	157,753.37	157,753.37
DUE FROM BANKS:		
State .....	4,510.40	
National .....	238,277.39	232,787.79
CASH ON HAND:		
Currency .....	62,858.00	
Gold coin .....	24,360.00	
Silver coin .....	1,968.50	
Minor coin .....	183.75	89,370.25
OTHER CASH RESOURCES:		
Checks and other cash items .....	3,790.47	
Collections in transit .....	1,511.40	5,301.87
Total resources .....		\$1,852,976.49

### LIABILITIES.

CAPITAL STOCK PAID IN .....		\$ 200,000.00
SURPLUS FUND .....		100,000.00
UNDIVIDED PROFITS:		
Less current interest, expenses and taxes paid .....	\$ 34,469.22	34,469.22
DEPOSITS:		
Time certificates .....	48,713.82	
Savings, subject to notice .....	947,682.26	
Demand, subject to check .....	466,453.94	
Demand certificates .....	30,044.09	
Cashier's checks .....	6,715.61	1,499,608.82
DUE TO BANKS, including certificates of deposit:		
State .....	7,033.36	
National .....	6,802.93	
Private and foreign .....	2,162.16	15,998.45
MISCELLANEOUS LIABILITIES:		
Reserved for taxes and interest .....	2,900.00	2,900.00

I, K. T. Anderson, cashier of the State Bank of Rock Island, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

K. T. ANDERSON, Cashier.

State of Illinois, County of Rock Island, ss.: Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of January, 1914.

(SEAL) Signed, C. R. CHAMBERLIN, Notary Public.

neq of neq Sec. 26-16-4W: \$8,000. Moline Heights addition, Moline; Charles Akers and wife to Frederick W. Beck, a 40 ft. of n 80 ft. of w 160 ft. out lot 1 R. A. Smith's sub division out lot "B" Smith & White's addition. Andrew S. Pauley to Gertrude L. Hance, lot 32 block 1 Beecher & Welsh addition, Rock Island; \$1.

## The Income Tax

of the government directly affects only those whose annual income is \$3,000 or more, but there are self-imposed taxes which affect almost everybody.

If you have been taxing yourself by wasting money on useless luxuries or otherwise, why not cut it out with the new year and put the money you save into the German Trust & Savings bank to earn interest for you? It always will be available when you really need to spend it.

## German Trust & Savings Bank

ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

### Report of the Condition of

## The Peoples National Bank

Rock Island, Ill.

at the close of business

January 13, 1914.

### RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts .....	\$460,946.00
U. S. and other bonds .....	189,497.36
Banking House .....	125,500.52
Furniture and Fixtures .....	25,375.34
Cash and due from banks .....	156,196.63

Total .....

### LIABILITIES

Capital Stock .....	\$100,000.00
Surplus .....	25,000.00
Undivided Profits .....	7,961.77
Circulation .....	30,000.00
Deposits .....	794,554.08

Total .....

### Report of the Condition of

## German Trust & Savings Bank

Rock Island, Ill.

at the close of business

January, 13, 1914.

### RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts .....	\$462,148.13
Municipal and other bonds .....	199,176.05
Fixtures .....	583.75
Cash and due from banks .....	57,250.78

Total .....

### LIABILITIES

Capital Stock .....	\$200,000.00
Surplus .....	50,000.00
Undivided Profits .....	4,722.13
Individual Deposits .....	464,436.58

Total .....

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Posam Soap will improve and beautify your skin and keep it in healthy condition.—(Adv.)

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No knife, no paraffin, no injection, or detention from business. I have successfully made a specialty of ruptures low down and hard to hold, ruptures following operations, navel ruptures, falling of the womb, and all bad cases in men, women and children, and have my greatest success with patients who have failed to get a cure elsewhere.

If you prefer to wear a truss and only know what comfort

### THE WUNDERTRUSS

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brings to you, you wouldn't be without one a single day. It holds ruptures easier than other trusses and after all others fail. Sixty days' trial. Worn and endorsed by thousands.

No leg straps, elastic bands or steel springs.

1893—21 Years' Experience—1914

If you cannot call, write for future dates.

DR. M. H. BROWN, M.D.

136 West 34th St., New York.

Next visit to Rock Island, Harper house, Saturday, Jan. 17, 8 a. m. to 4 p. m.—(Adv.)

### REALTY CHANGES

William E. Bailey and wife to Joseph G. Woodbury, lot 32 Bailey's Woodlawn addition, South Rock Island; \$500.

George Atwood Williams to Vincent Jesse Bond, part lot 6, block 2, Atkinson's sub division out lot 20; \$1.

Cale W. McClean and wife to Cash M. Bull, neq of Sec. 23 and neq of