

RECALLS STORIES OF HUMAN INTEREST

Jacob A. Rilis Talks of Bank Burglaries, Grave Robberies and Kidnapings.

POLICE REPORTER FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

New York Most Useful Citizen to Lecture Tonight on Subject Near His Heart.

Jacob A. Rilis, who is one of the most interesting figures on the platform in America, is in Portland for the purpose of lecturing on "The Battle With the Sun," tonight at the Y. M. C. A. hall.

The ideas which he promulgates in this lecture he obtained as a police re-



Jacob A. Rilis.

porter in New York City, a position he held for more than 25 years. His life has been an interesting one and his reminiscences, as he relates them, either in his book or orally, could be listened to for hours without becoming wearisome.

"When I became a police reporter," said Mr. Rilis this morning, "I acted on the theory that every crime committed is the result of a certain environment, and I wrote my accounts in a way intended to point out conditions existing in the great city which were largely responsible for crime."

"The Manhattan Bank Robbery," "Well," he said, smiling, "I've had a great many, and would scarcely know how to begin to comply with that question. One of the first big cases I worked on was the great Manhattan bank robbery in 1878. I was at work at police headquarters, just around the corner from the bank when the robbery was committed. They got away with \$3,000,000—the largest amount of booty on record. I tell you, we struggled against each other in that case—the newspaper men—and the paper seemed to think I got the best of it, for my salary was substantially increased that week. It was the Manhattan robbery that made Thomas Byrnes famous as a chief of detectives. One by one the robbers were run to earth, and it wasn't a great while after that until Byrnes had scattered the crooks of New York to all quarters of the world. Poor Byrnes! He made a mistake in accepting the office of chief of police, for it led him into scandals, and with the coming of Theodore Roosevelt as president of the police commission, he had to get out."

"Ghoul Stole Body of Stewart." "Another case of intense interest at the time was the stealing of the body of Millionaire A. T. Stewart from the family vault. New York went wild over it. I do not remember a case that attracted more attention. The grave-robbers wanted a ransom of \$50,000, but the police were so hot on the trail that the robbers did not dare risk the acceptance of the money or the return of the corpse. None of those concerned were ever discovered, nor was the body. I am inclined to believe that there is still a possibility of the truth coming to light through the confession of some dying person."

"Another celebrated case which Mr. Rilis handled was the abduction of Charley Ross."

"The crime was committed in Philadelphia," he said, "but the interest soon centered in New York, for it was there that the kidnaped boy was supposed to have been taken. The police department worked for months and months on that case, running down false clues, arresting the wrong men and searching every quarter of the city for some trace of the boy and his abductors."

"Dying Robber Confesses." "After a long lapse of time, the crime was practically fastened upon two crooks and river thieves named Mo-

sher and Douglass, who had suddenly disappeared.

"One winter's night word came into the station-house that this duo of criminals had come across the bay in a boat, and were eating in a cheap restaurant on Washington street. A platoon of police and some reporters went among them—dashed madly for the restaurant and surrounded it, only to learn that Mosher and Douglass had returned to their boat and pushed off from shore a few minutes before."

"The men went directly across to a rough landing with the intention of robbing the house of Judge Van Brunt, little suspecting that the police boats were pursuing them. They were effecting an entrance to the premises when the judge heard them, aroused his servant, and between the two they shot both robbers to death."

"We were near enough to hear the shots, having just scrambled ashore. When we rushed upon the scene Mosher was beyond speaking. We turned to Douglass, who was breathing his last. 'Did you steal Charley Ross?' asked the officer in charge."

"Douglass nodded affirmatively. 'Where is he?' was the next question. It was too late. The man expired before his lips could move, and Charley Ross—the real Charley Ross—has never been found."

"Willing to Return to Work." Mr. Rilis was, and is still, an intimate friend of President Roosevelt, whom he met as police commissioner. Mr. Roosevelt was greatly interested in his writing on the subject of New York's vices and acted upon many suggestions from the newspaper man, one of them being the cleaning out of Mulberry bend, in which district 17 murders occurred within two or three years. The old "bend" is now a beautiful park. Owing to his peculiar style of writing, police news and the New York Sun's policy of standing by the administration, Mr. Rilis was for several years in the unique position of fighting through the local columns the editorial of his employer, Charles A. Dana. The latter was converted to the Rilis method upon the occasion of the latter exposing the fact that sewage contamination existed in New York's drinking water. Every other newspaper in New York denied the statement in horror. Rilis, however, took his camera on a tour of inspection, unearthed the facts, proved them, and the result was an expenditure of \$5,000,000 for improvements.

"Twenty-five years of this sort of thing," concluded Mr. Rilis, "and I was ready to quit. I left the desk five years ago, but always shall reserve my right to return to the Sun whenever I discover an evil long enough to fight and remedy it over my own signature."

AT THE THEATRES.

"Zaza" Tonight.

The gifted actress, Florence Roberts, will begin an engagement of one week at the Marquam Grand theatre, presenting her famous success, "Zaza." David Belasco's great comedy-drama both to-night and tomorrow night. The arrangement of the plays following will be: "The Adventure of Lady Ursula," for Thursday night, Ibsen's great story, "A Doll's House," for Friday night and Saturday matinee and the Spanish romance, "Marcelino," for Sunday night. Miss Roberts has augmented her company since her last appearance here and her coming engagement will be additionally interesting from the fact that Melbourne McDowell, who has himself achieved stellar honors, is now her leading support. Seats are now selling for the entire week.

The "Billionaire" Advance Sale.

Tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock the advance sale of seats will open in the lobby of the Marquam Grand theatre for Thomas G. Seabrooke in "The Billionaire," a musical comedy by Klaw and Erlanger will present at the Columbia theatre next Thursday night and Friday matinee. A big feature of "The Billionaire" is the placing of a theatre within a theatre. The first scene shows the lobby of a New York playhouse, and the second shows the auditorium and a stage. A good deal of humor is said to be caused by the seating of the audience in the mimic theatre on the stage. Then Thomas G. Seabrooke undertakes to present a highly sensational melodrama in five acts, written by himself, the performance to occupy five minutes. Mr. Seabrooke, as the heavy villain, is said to make a decided hit. The fat man, the big man, the big hat and other types are shown in the audience on the stage.

The Grand's New Bill Today.

The Sisters Ripley will offer at the Grand this afternoon the most marvelous sensation which the city of Portland has ever beheld in their new invention, the spectacular radium dance. The light producing material costs \$1,000 a pound. The use of this mineral is most expensive, but it is given with all effect and is a thing really wonderful to see. The Cliffords, fresh from triumph at Paris, New York and Chicago, also is a marvel. The Martels show that they deserve the title of kings of the bicycle. The conversational fellows, the Berger brothers, who do a thrilling acrobatic stunt, and Chester, two beautiful women who sing from all the great operas in superb style, and the grandiose with its more than usually good things, make up a program that absolutely is matchless.

Baker Opening.

This afternoon the new bill for the week opens at the Baker. A great bill has been gathered together for the patrons. Here it is: The Great Eastern Trio, the greatest entertainers in the United States; the three Rexenos, the marvelous acrobats, in their great ladder act; Harrison brothers, the talented sketch artists in their latest skit, "The Matrimonial Agent"; Raymond G. Baldwin, the popular balladist, singing a new illustrated song; Bell and Thornton, introducing Miss Thornton, the champion back and wing dancer of the United States; William Walker, the well known monologist, and the biograph, illustrating an attack in a Japanese outpost. Look in on the Baker this week.

Offerings at the Lyric.

At the Lyric this afternoon the new bill for the week begins action. The list of acts is an exceptional one and will doubtless prove a good week's card. The Wheeler and Wilson trio comedy singers and dancers. The best act of its kind in the world, Jennie Swensen, the dainty dancing banjoist; Eddie DeVoe, the acrobatic tramp; Winn and Hart, in their comedy sketch; Murray Hill, the monologue king; John W. Wood, singing a new illustrated ballad; Collins brothers, acrobats, and the vltascope with a great moving-picture film. See that the Lyric is on your visiting list for this week.

"The Fatal Scar."

"The Fatal Scar," replete with interest, mirth and pathos, will be presented at the Empire theatre on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights of this week, also at the Saturday matinee, and no lover of melodrama should fail to attend

MICROSCOPE ON FOUR NEW BRIDGES

Property-Owners Determined to Have No Repetition of Tanner Creek Sewer Work.

WANT WORK EXAMINED BEFORE IT IS COMPLETED

Committee Has Been Delayed in Investigation Because of Lack of Receipts.

An investigation is to be made into the four bridges embraced within the Zimmerman resolution adopted by the council nearly four weeks ago. The committee has not been able to begin its work so far, because it could not get copies of plans and specifications and contracts, but has waited as long as it can, and will make other arrangements to have these copies made if they cannot be had immediately through the regular channel. One of the members stated this morning that this investigation had been too long postponed and that the affair would be pressed to an immediate issue.

Property owners affected by the proposed inquiry are growing restless. If any correction is to be made in the methods of work, they want it done while the work is in progress, and not after it is finished. If it is found that incomplete jobs are not according to specifications, a remedy is comparatively easy, whereas a finished bridge would be a hard problem if material alterations were demanded by the investigating committee. Several property owners near Marquam gulch were especially desirous of having expert engineering talent pass on the security of the foundation work of the Front street bridge before the superstructure was placed. Unless early action is taken by the committee, these opportunities will pass.

As the Morrison street bridge is to be finished some time this month, according to the statement of the contractors, criticism or commendation will be about all that can be accomplished there by the committee, unless such deviation is proved from the specifications as warrant holding back a portion of the pay. The matter of paying \$52,000 more than the original contract called for, to add parts or features adopted after work began, will be taken up, as this sum did not pass through the competitive bid scorifier. Addition of tender rooms, supplanting an oak block pavement with a preservative-treated fir, and using steel girders for wood, which are the three principal items of the added cost, are not thoroughly understood by those who have taken up the investigating task.

There has been some complaint in regard to the block pavement item. In the original plans and specifications a certain discretion was left the city in this respect. As the contract was assigned with the Pacific Construction company, it appears that oak block pavement was chosen. Later, for a little more than \$7,000 additional cost to the city, the contractors were authorized by the executive board to supplant the oak with fir treated with an approved preservative, and were also required to treat the cross planking beneath with the same. This item will no doubt come in for explanation.

GAMBLE FIERCELY FOR PINS AND MARBLES

Seized with the gambling mania, and believing that they were out of the jurisdiction of Sheriff Word, about a dozen schoolboys, ranging in age from 10 to 15 years, took possession yesterday afternoon of one of the street cars which was standing idle in the yards at Woodlawn, and played cards, dice and other games for money, marbles and every other "old thing" that they could produce. While it lasted the game was exciting. Some of the youths who were losing got desperate and played high stakes to retrieve their fallen fortunes. Others became boisterous and accused the dealers of cheating. Epithets were hurled back and forth with such frequency that the gamblers attracted the attention of a number of persons who were passing. Seeing that their fair was discovered the players made a rush for the door and were soon skipping across lots in an attempt to prevent their being apprised of the matter, which led them to an investigation. It was found that the deserted car contained stools, small tables, cards and the other paraphernalia for carrying on gambling. Many believe that the boys in the neighborhood have been meeting regularly to gratify their passion for gambling.

The performance, which introduces Frank James the hero of many daring adventures of past years. But few traveling companies carry so much elaborate scenery. No expense has been spared to make this production artistically realistic.

Tots at the Arcade.

Three little tots, aged 3, 4 and 5, respectively, including the Renee family's turn, which is the notable act of the Arcade theatre's new program, which opens this afternoon. Of all the juvenile turns which have ever visited the west, the act by these three young riders in the world, is by far the best.

Up to the Star's High Standard.

This afternoon the new bill opens at the Star theatre, headed by the Molasses, two Italian dancers, the four acrobatic Campbella, a comedy quartet, and three other feature acts. The bill contains more performers than any other program in the city, and the quality of the acts is up to the Star's high standard.

New Today at the Bijou.

This afternoon is the "big time" at the Bijou, when begins the new bill for the week. No music-lover should neglect the opportunity to hear the famous women cornet players, Kendall and Thompson. There's plenty of fun, and plenty of catchy music as well. The bill is good all the way through.

Worst of All Experiences.

Can anything be worse than to feel that every minute will be your last? Such was the experience of Mrs. R. H. Newton, Decatur, Ga. "For three years," she writes, "I endured insufferable pain from indigestion, stomach and bowels troubles. Electric Bitters when doctors and all remedies failed. At length I was induced to try Electric Bitters and was cured. I improved at once and now I'm completely recovered. For Liver, Kidney, Stomach and Bowel troubles, Electric Bitters is the only medicine. Only 50c. It is guaranteed by Red Cross Pharmacy, corner Sixth and Oak, on the way to the postoffice."



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Table listing various clothing items and prices, including Suspenders, Handkerchiefs, Gloves, Neckwear, and Shirts.

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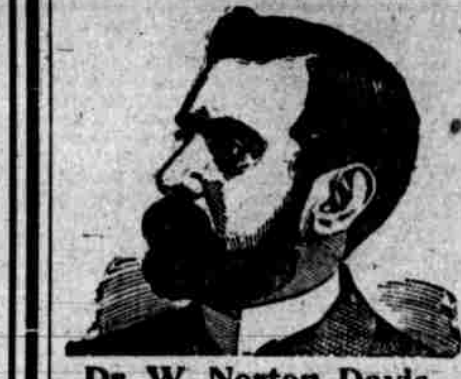
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