

GIRL BANDIT TELLS TRUTH

Conscience Hurt Her So She Spilled Story of Robbery; Says "Sheik Urged Her on."

(By William J. Burke)
CLEVELAND, O. (U.S.)—A girl bandit, who confessed to court that she robbed a drug store clerk at the point of a gun, when her boy "sheik" told her she was yellow if she didn't do it, will have to face a Grand Jury investigation and police prison term, the presiding judge told her "she" was a plucky girl, and he advised her, "I would like to see you in the penitentiary to make a clean breast of the whole affair."

Anna last December met and married a man after a brief courtship. Within a week she became suspicious because her husband, although always supplied with money, never seemed to have a regular job. She left him a few days, being out of work and dependent, with but 25 cents in her pocket, she visited a picture show. Sitting next to her was a youth of 17, who learned her story when she wept.

"Come and live with me," he pleaded. "I'll cure your troubles." Worn out with the struggle, the girl assented.

Her husband lasted four days. Then, pressing a shiny new revolver in her hand, the "sheik" told her to go out and rob a store. "You're yellow if you don't!" he told her.

Smarting under his taunts, she started out. She passed a dozen stores before she "nerved" her courage to the sticking point and snatched the hold-up.

A lone clerk in a drug store was the victim. The loot was \$50. "Gunning safely, the girl's conscience troubled her. Two days later she went to a telephone and called her victim.

When she identified herself, the clerk said:

"When the girl called again police had been tipped off, and she was arrested as she left a telephone booth a few blocks away from the scene of her crime."

In custody she made a clean breast of the whole affair.

"My conscience troubled me after the robbery," she said. "I couldn't sleep; I couldn't eat. So I decided to call the clerk and tell him how sorry I was. I couldn't give back the money, for I'd used it to pay a debt."

"I'm glad it's over, though. No more of this life for me."

Anna was born in a little southern Ohio mining town. When 12 she went out in the world to seek a living. She scrubbed and washed windows, lack of education preventing her from getting a better job.

Reform organizations have interested themselves in her case. It is likely that when her case is called in court she will be given a suspended sentence and a chance to make good.

"A conscience is a good thing," the court told her. "I don't so much blame you as society. Anna, I hope something may be done for you."

STREET FOLK OF BERLIN NOW BANK WITH EX-BEGGAR

BERLIN (AP)—A bank conducted by a former match seller and beggar near Alexander Place, the heart of the section where the poorest of Berlin's poor live, has the call over the big banks of the city for the patronage of mendicants, street fakes, street musicians, chorus girls and others in every station. The proprietor of the bank, Emil Neumann, formerly was a stockbroker. He lost his money by speculation and about the same time he lost a leg when run over by a train.

For ten years Neumann had been one of the street folk, selling matches and begging. One day he was recognized by an old friend who advanced sufficient money to him to establish himself as a broker on a small scale. The street folk had confidence in him and gave their marks to him. The confidence was rewarded in receipts in dollars, pounds or other stable currency, and hence the street folk continue to patronize Neumann's bank in preference to the others which give receipts only in marks.

AMERICAN FLYERS EXCELL IN MAKING NEW AIR RECORDS

PARIS (AP)—United States flyers hold 36 of the 45 air records ratified by the International Aeronautic Federation in its recent meeting at Paris. France has eight, Great Britain four and Italy one. In a short time, when the federation has decided to place the records of performances accomplished by refusing in flight in a separate category from the others, the United States will possess 42 of the 55 air records in existence.

French aviation experts find fault in the opinion that individual records do not prove collective superiority.

SHIPPER HELD RAILROAD HELP

Water and Highway Shippers Thought No Harmful Influence by N-P President.

(By Sullivan)
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (U.S.)—Railroads, contrary to a general belief, favor rather than oppose improvement and development of highways and waterways.

From an economic standpoint, W. W. Hildwin, president of the Missouri-Pacific system, informed the public it is essential to develop all methods of transportation to the fullest in keeping with the development of the nation that railroads today can give the best service.

In the improvement of all methods of transportation railroads would be relieved of unnecessary congestion, which, now exists. Where many commodities must be handled by railroads to their destination, Hildwin points out, they could be diverted through other channels if such channels were available.

Development and improvement of our water systems and highways would be a panacea for transportation ills, Hildwin says.

Many commodities were carried to the markets by slower routes, without financial loss to shippers, the railroads would be free to handle perishable products, which necessarily must be transported by the fastest means possible.

Philanthropy has not influenced the encouragement of the development of other means of transportation but in the solution of a problem that has troubled the nation for the last few years, the railroads are urging improvement of other channels in the hope that it would work out to a common good.

The public may appear justified in attacking railroad rates at times when they really work a hardship in a depressed market, but during such times the railroads defend themselves by saying that rates at all times must be based upon the cost of the service, or the carriers themselves would be the sufferers, and no one could ever accuse them of harming themselves knowingly.

It is during such periods of depression that shippers could avail themselves of cheaper rates through new though possibly slower channels, to get their products to market, and a common good would result.

FEAR ALCOHOL MAY BLOW UP SYRACUSE POSTOFFICE

SYRACUSE, (U.S.)—Thousands of gallons of alcohol, capable of blowing the building to atoms were stored in the basement of the Syracuse postoffice, imperiling the lives of more than 500 persons employed in the postoffice and neighboring buildings.

This alleged condition was brought to the notice of Patrick H. O'Hara, chief of the fire prevention bureau, by Professor E. N. Patton, head of the department of chemistry at Syracuse university, who said that if a single spark came into contact with the alcohol it would precipitate a terrible explosion. Chief O'Hara will make a rigid inspection, and it is expected the liquor will be removed.

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TY COBB IS MYSTERY MAN

Baseball Fans Watch for Sign of Slowing Up in Cobb's Work.

DETROIT, (AP)—Ty Cobb, manager of the Detroit Tigers, has been attracting the attention of baseball fans since his second year in the American League. That was back in 1905. He joined the Tigers the year before much the same as any crowd breaks into the clubhouse, but it did not take the Georgia Peach long to demonstrate that he was quite different from the ordinary rookie.

During the 1905 season Cobb failed to hit in the 300 class. Since then he has not failed to hit in the select circle of hitters. Next spring the Tiger leader will begin his 25th season with the Detroit team and he is attracting nearly as much attention as he did when he was earning his reputation as the greatest all-around player in the game. However, the attention he now is attracting is a little different.

Baseball fans have become accustomed to Cobb hitting .300, but now they are asking: "Is Cobb slowing up?" "Will Cobb hit .300 next season?" "Will next season be Cobb's last as an active player?"

To the first question the answer is "Yes," without qualification. Baseball players in the major leagues are regarded as old at 35. Few of them ever attain the age of 40 in the big show. Cobb is between those two figures, hence there is no doubt that he has slowed up considerably from the years when it was regarded as ordinary for him to steal not only second, but third base.

There is no reason why Cobb should not hit .300 next season. He has done it for 18 consecutive seasons and by doing it last year established himself as the only player in the history of the major leagues who has hit for .300 or better for 18 years in a row. The late Captain A. V. Spaulding did it 20 years, but there was a break of two years in each of which he fell below .300.

Whether the next campaign will be Cobb's last as an active player is up to Cobb himself. Judging from his physical condition he should be able to play the outfield for at least three more years, barring accidents. He has threatened to retire as an active player and whether he will carry out that threat at the close of next season time only can tell.

COPS SUBDU DOPE TRAFFIC

Police of Panama Rout "Dope" With Result That Crime Is Reduced Greatly.

(By James Kilgallen)

PANAMA CANAL ZONE (U.S.)—The dope vendors of Panama and the canal zone are whipped.

This statement was made to International News Service by Colonel Albert H. Lamb, inspector general of police of the Republic of Panama, in an interview in which he pointed out that the once serious "dope" traffic in the canal zone is slowly but surely being stamped out.

Colonel Lamb is in charge of the 455 police officers in the Republic, 160 of whom are mounted.

The Panama police are an attractive lot. They are like-looking, light brown in complexion and wear snappy khaki uniforms. Most of them appeared to be between 25 and 30 years old.

"We have been hearing down hard on the vendors of 'dope,'" said Colonel Lamb. "The number of American soldiers and sailors in the Canal Zone who have been able to get dope in the last year has been greatly reduced."

"This situation is quite a contrast to the time—not far back—when there was much traffic in dope among the sailors and soldiers."

There has been just as much progress in cleaning up this traffic as the medical authorities have made in making the formerly insular Canal Zone sanitary.

"We got through a law which makes the minimum sentence for any person caught selling dope one year in jail and one year's banishment from the provinces in which they live. The Republic of Panama is divided into provinces."

The most of the dope is sold in the principal cities in the Republic—Panama and Colon—Panama on the Pacific side of the Canal, Colon on the Atlantic. It is to these two places that the soldiers and sailors come for their "good times."

"The work of reducing this traffic has been greatly assisted by the American Zone police, who work in the closest co-operation with the police of the Republic."

Crimes of which there are many, sell most of the opium while the great bulk of cocaine comes from Colombia, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, Colombia, according to Colonel Lamb, does not co-operate in the efforts to stamp out the traffic, because Colombia since Panama asserted its independence from Colombia, has no relations with Panama and does not recognize the Republic of Panama.

Just before the joint army and navy maneuvers late in January in the vicinity of the Canal between 50 and 75 vendors of dope were arrested. Colonel Lamb admitted that despite these arrests there are about 250 others in some way or another identified with the dope industry.

Crime generally has been greatly cut down, according to Colonel Lamb, who has been in charge of the Panama police for the last 42 years and who is recognized as a fearless and efficient official. Colonel Lamb has been in a sense a soldier of fortune. It was he who organized the police force of Panama. It was a nondescript, inefficient, outfit, numerically weak, when he took it in hand. He also organized the police force of Chathamula years ago, under the Dictator, Manuel Estrada Cabrera.

Colonel Lamb said that, although the population of Panama is comprised of people of almost all nationalities and temperaments, the number of grave crimes is comparatively small. Murders, he said, are uncommon; robberies are few, and affairs over women are not as numerous as, stranger might surmise. Most of the arrests are due to intoxication. The saloons of Colon and Panama are wide open and liquor of all kinds can be purchased at price that enables all the inhabitants to drink more or less freely.

The Panama policeman gets \$40, \$50, and \$60 a month, depending upon length of service. Each of them has two khaki uniforms which they purchase themselves.

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GREAT BOWLING TOURNAMENT IS NOW ARRANGED

CHICAGO, (AP)—The greatest tournament in the history of the American Bowling Congress will not under way here February 23 to continue for 25 days, with a record breaking list of 2,131 teams—10,455 individual bowlers—entered in the competition for prize money running close to \$102,000.

Measured from the standpoint of number of contestants, the event is the largest sporting proposition ever held. It is probable that no other event in the world exists as many contestants—not even the Olympic games in which teams from all over the world compete. The major pin event will be the 122nd Regiment Army of pin spitters.

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