

U. S. Bases Its Gangster Drive On Centralization and Secrecy

By Richard Rendell

WASHINGTON (AP) — Centralization and secrecy are regarded by John Edgar Hoover, director of criminal investigation for the department of justice, as two major factors in the success of any federal man-hunt.

They resulted directly in the elimination of John Dillinger as Public Enemy No. 1.

"We received hundreds of tips during the four and a half months we were looking for Dillinger," Hoover said, "and most of them were cleared through the Washington office."

"When our office in New York or Los Angeles or anywhere else received advice on Dillinger's whereabouts, the tips were sent in here

and relayed to the office nearest the place he was supposed to be.

"That is the fastest and least expensive way to do it," the director explained.

Checked All Tips

Centralization of direction sometimes goes even further than that. In big cases, Hoover directs the questioning of prisoners on the basis of telephone reports received from the field.

He is in almost constant telephonic touch with men out on the job. He has a private line strung from the department building to his house so he can be reached at home day or night.

Sifting the Dillinger tips which

WATERFOWL LIFE NEAR EXTINCTION IS MIDLAND FEAR

By Cy Plattes

ST. PAUL (AP) — Thundering shotgun and the phantom-like beating rattle of wings through silent air soon will signal the opening of the nation's waterfowl season for some 2,600,000 hunting enthusiasts.

From the St. Lawrence flats in the east to the salt-tanged blinds of the west coast and from lake-studded areas of Central North America to the wintering grounds of the south, the cannonade will echo and re-echo. But, judging from advance reports,

the source of this season's abrogation sympathy will be different.

Hunters familiar with the phrase "but you should have been here day-before-yesterday" will hear its new version, "you should have been here two years ago."

For these vast legions of waterfowl that darkened the sky in years past, offering sport to millions on liberal limits and shooting periods, are no more.

Such is the opinion of Minnesota conservation authorities, of a state that has taken the lion's share of the midwest duck flight annually.

As for the state's sportsmen, past years have taught them lessons on waterfowl depletion, an even the radical assertion of alarmists that waterfowl will be doomed to years hence if the depletion continues, has found credence with many.

Conservationists point to 1930 when Minnesota's reports showed more than 1,200,000 ducks and shore birds taken. Then they skip to last season and the unsavory figure of 450,000 combined bag total.

"Duck sickness" in Canada, Word from Alberta, the great duck "incubator" in Canada, holds that botulism or duck sickness has claimed thousands of birds this summer.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba report drought, unfavorable breeding conditions, and other adversities thinning the waterfowl ranks.

However, it'll be up to the hunter himself to gain first hand information on the waterfowl situation.

One fact remains — the total of ducks killed in the United States next autumn may make or break one of North America's greatest resources — waterfowl.

FRED PAULUS VISITS HERE

Fred Paulus, deputy state treasurer of Oregon, was a visitor in La Grande yesterday, calling on city officials while en route from Burns to Enterprise on state business. He went up the branchline last night.

HURLEY GRAHAM VISITOR HERE

Hurley Graham, who was deputy sheriff of Union county more than two decades ago, was a visitor at his former headquarters at the court house yesterday. Mr. Graham has been a resident of Walls Walla for the last 21 years during which time

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Murder at MOCKING HOUSE BY WALTER G. BROWN

SYNOPSIS: Although Sergeant Harper has proved that the stranger and the policeman found dead in Pierre Dufresne's house did not shoot each other, and were murderers, he cannot pin the crime on anyone until he can show how the murderer escaped, and who the stranger is. He is questioning Mrs. Croycden, and has learned that she sent her husband to an apartment in uptown Albi. He notices a diamond ring she wears.

Chapter 26
DUFRESNE AGAIN

HARPER leaned forward. "Now, Mrs. Croycden, I would like to know more about the servants in this house. Has there been trouble with any of them in the past, or any trouble between themselves? I don't mean petty squabbles."

For the first time Alaine Croycden hesitated, and Harper felt the lowering of an imperceptible veil of aloofness. With her hands lying motionless in her lap she studied the detective's face with cool gravity. In all the house there was not a sound at that moment.

"I am afraid there is nothing I can tell you that would be relevant to the ideas you hold," she answered at last, quietly.

"What about Andrews? I gather that he is greatly in Mr. Dufresne's confidence."

"Andrews has spent his whole adult life in the service of the Dufresne family, starting with Mr. Dufresne's father. Naturally, he is treated almost as a member of the family."

Harper thought that over. "How long have the Whitmores been employed?"

"It must be about ten years. We wish we could find some one half so efficient and conscientious for our own house."

"What about Donaghy, the chauffeur?"

Mrs. Croycden shot him a quick, penetrating look, which the detective did not miss, and as she thought over her reply, she kept turning that unusual ring around and around on her finger.

"Joseph is considerably younger than any of the others," she answered at last, "less settled in his habits and no doubt he has more outside interests. But he is courteous, prompt, and obliging, and I believe there has been no question at all as to his conduct either on or off duty."

"Then there has been nothing in the nature of friction or bad feeling between Andrews, say, and the Whitmores? Or between Donaghy and Andrews?"

"No, indeed."

"What of the housemaid who was here last year, Ellen Becker? She left rather suddenly, I believe. Was there an unexplained reason for her departure?"

"I think not. Ellen never fitted in very well here. She was a reserved, rather melancholy girl, from what I saw of her. I'm sure she left of her own accord. My sister would have said something to me had it been otherwise."

"How old was this girl?"

"Thirty, or perhaps a year or two older. Not an attractive girl at all," she added, "and a rather sulky demeanor that did not improve her any."

Harper rubbed his chin reflectively. "In spite of what you say," he remarked, "all has not been as tranquil as the surface seems to indicate. That much is obvious, for, aside from the murders, Mrs. Croycden, we know there have been repeated secret meetings held in this room, a thing extremely unlikely without the help and connivance of some one in this house. I value your opinion and judgment, Mrs. Croycden, but last night's occurrence will not let me accept them at face value in this particular matter."

"YOU must do as you think best," Alaine Croycden answered, in a non-committal tone. She looked down at her related hands and noticed Harper's eyes following the flashing glitter of the twin gems.

"I see that my heirloom has been attracting your attention," she said, extending her hand in a graceful gesture. "It came from Mr. Croycden's mother, and I can't bring myself to separate the stones or mendarize the old setting."

"Gems are fascinating things," Harper replied. "I certainly would not diminish their sentimental value for the sake of a modernized setting."

They were interrupted by the appearance of Richard Croycden and Pierre Dufresne. The dapper master of the house had donned a perfectly tailored double-breasted suit, closely buttoned, so that his erectness and swag were given him more than ever an air of aggressive vigor. Croycden looked somewhat tired and distraught and was smoking a cigarette with nervous haste.

"Richard, I have just been telling Mr. Harper about your concert last night," Alaine greeted him.

Croycden laughed. "The police are going in for subtlety, Alaine. What Harper really wanted was our alibi, Alaine you quite satisfied, Sergeant?"

Harper smiled. "It's one of the best alibis I ever heard. I don't see how we can do a thing with it," he teased in return.

Pierre Dufresne faced the detective suddenly, and asked bitterly, "Harper, how long are you going to keep up this business? You have brought a very serious charge against my household and I'm waiting for you to back it up with proof, sound, legal evidence. If it turns out that you can't I warn you that it's likely to cost you your stripe."

"Pierre, you mustn't talk like that!" Alaine Croycden tried to smooth the ruffled waters. "Mr. Harper is only doing his duty."

Without the slightest warning came the sudden crack of a revolver. The report seemed to come from beneath their very feet, sharp and unusually loud in that silent house. They exchanged startled glances.

"Don't be alarmed," Harper urged. "Detective Lafferty is testing the real murder gun. Fortunately we have found it, hidden in the gutter of the roof. That answers your question, Mr. Dufresne. We now have sound, legal evidence" that there was a double murder here. We'll be finished when we find out whose finger pulled the trigger last night!"

Richard Croycden's hands had jerked so nervously at the sound of the shot that he had recaptured his cigarette in midair. He stared at the detective with frowning intensity. Alaine Croycden leaped up in her fright, her hands clasping each other and her ring still flashing its multicolored sparks.

But Pierre Dufresne went on quietly tapping his cigarette against the platinum case. There was mockery and defiance in his glittering look, and Harper caught a faint flick of brandy on his breath.

"Don't let us stop you!" he answered, "but I'll be damned if we wish you any luck!"

LAFFERTY looked through the pocket lens at the crystal body of the goblet and then again at the sheet of yellow letter paper Harper held out for his inspection. "It's a smeary print," he stated, "but there's no doubt about it — that's Andrews' thumbmark in both places. Well, let's have another round with the model butler. We'll see if he can think fast enough to get out of this one."

The lanky detective took the letter and read it over. It was the third of the eight crank letters Dufresne had turned over to the police when he had first placed the matter in their hands, about a week before. The thumbmark appeared about midway of the left margin.

"It was just a fluke," Harper explained. "I was showing Mrs. Croycden now a fingerprint is brought out for photographing and I happened to pick up this glass for the experiment."

"It would have come out long ago," Lafferty grumbled, "if Dufresne hadn't opposed the fingerprinting of the staff. Come on, let's put the screws to the old boy. I'm going to enjoy this."

"Not so fast, Jack, not so fast. There's no profit in going off half-cocked. Nobody's going to run away while we figure things out. It might be a help if some one did," he added as an afterthought.

Lafferty threw his superior a sardonic look. "You're hard to convince," he protested. "What are you holding out for now, a hand-written confession from the murderer?"

"No, but we're not a couple of rookies out after big game for the first time. If we made an arrest every time we struck a clue we'd have Mrs. Dufresne locked up because she went out last night and Dufresne because the gun disappeared from his room this morning. Before we tackle Andrews let's have a good look at these letters. We've been so busy with other matters they haven't had the attention they deserve."

"The first thing that is apparent," he went on, "is that each was mailed downtown. That gives us no help with everybody at the Austerlitz except the Whitmores. The first four were exactly one week apart, then came a gap of eleven days with the last four somewhat irregular. Dufrénes placed them before Director Connor on the 4th of January. On the morning of the 7th came the last letter, at least up to the present."

"At least? Do you think there are going to be any more of them?" Lafferty questioned.

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Tomorrow, the situation nears a crisis.

New Fish Types Are Discovered In Klamath Area

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — In the small tepid and yellowish waterholes of the wide expanse of land embraced by south central and southeastern Oregon, strange forms of fish life — species believed yet unclassified, have been found.

Dr. Carl L. Hubbs, ichthyologist of international repute, who led an expedition into the fast vanishing desert lakes, is reported by word received here to have netted several strange types of fish from the holes of the area—a region once covered to great depths by a pre-historic inland sea.

A strangely-stunted fish about five inches in length, and believed by Dr. Hubbs to be the descendant of a race of giant fish that inhabited the great Oregon sea, is regarded as the most important of the specimens so far taken. Some newly-discovered sub-species of other forms of fish life were caught in water areas of the Klamath and Lake counties. Several most unusual forms of crustaceans were found in the underground lake in the Malheur cases — water barron of fish life.

All these are to be sent to Dr. Hubbs' laboratory at University of Michigan for classification. His research will continue until September.

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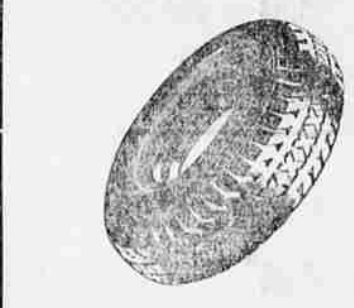
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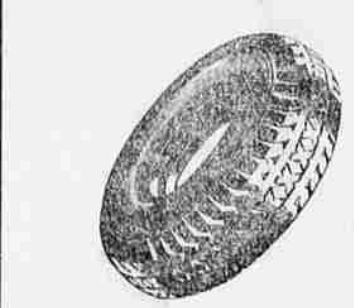
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