AGENT SWINDLES J. WESLEY LADD

Book Impostor Operating in Chicago Believed to Have Visited Portland.

RARE EDITIONS HIS BAIT

Account of $50,000 Clean-up in Illinois Brings to Light Fact That Same Man Fleeced Rich Local Citizen.

A clever book agent, who is reported in press dispatches to have swindled prominent Chicago people out of $50,000, is believed to have operated in Portland a little over a year ago. J. Wesley Ladd was one of the victims of the shark, who has just been heard from in Chicago. He believes it is the same man who cleaned up a tidy little sum here.

Although a reward of $250 has been posted for the man's arrest, he seems immune and is still at liberty to ply his nefarious trade. His work in Chicago is along the same lines that marked his career in Portland.

The impostor's favorite method here, as there, was to get into the confidence of wealthy people who could afford to buy rare, and consequently expensive, editions. He purported to be the representative of a responsible publishing house in the Middle West. Of course, these pretensions were false, and the house is now lending every assistance it can to effect the fellow's capture.

After talking books and getting his Portland customers interested, the agent's custom was to induce his friends to sign notes for him. One reason he asked this slight favor was so he could bring out books from the East to show his customers. For such books as he disposed of, for the agent had some source of supply, he exacted robbers' prices.

Sells Books to Ladd.

After buying some very expensive books from the agent, J. Wesley Ladd, who is a book lover and has a splendid library, was told by a friend that he was paying too much for his books and investigation proved the statement that he was giving more than fair prices for the agent's wares. But the discovery came too late for by this time the agent had secured his signature to a number of joint notes that totaled a comfortable sum and had disappeared, leaving the banker to settle.

Now a book agent whose work is exactly similar has popped up in Chicago and it is believed that the man's game worked so well in Portland that he was emboldened to try it in breezy Chicago, where it is the boast of the average business man that he cannot be cheated at any game.

Not only that, but the book agent went to the families of some of the biggest financial giants and shrewdest operators in Chicago. Mrs. John A. Patten, of Evanston, wife of the famous grain operator on the Chicago Board of Trade, and formerly Mayor of the college town, obligingly signed notes amounting to $30,000 and gave her personal check for $2950 more. The checks and notes were realized upon and all the woman has to show for her investment is a de luxe edition of books worth probably about $500.

Signs Notes for $10,000.

Another millionaire's wife in Chicago listened to the attractive story of the book agent and signed notes for $10,000. When her husband heard of the notes and investigated, he found he had been cheated. Thereupon he sorrowfully compromised and got his wife's notes back upon the payment of $10,000.

But Speculator Patten is bent on revenge. He can fight an enemy in the Chicago wheat pit and lose without flinching, but when it comes to a book agent getting the better of him, he resents it. He declares that his wife has been shamefully imposed upon in her wish to act in a charitable manner. He declares he intends to see justice done and will do everything he can to bring the imposters to justice.

"My wife is heartbroken about this thing," Mr. Patten said in telling of the affair to a Chicago newspaper man. "Out of the kindness of her heart, she signed notes for about $20,000 and gave them to the book agent so he could have the books bound for him by a well-known publishing house. The books really were to be sold, so the agent said, to a Portland banker who was then in Europe. The agent made a plea that he had been ill and that if he could get the books from the publishing house he could sell them to the Portland banker, with whom he had had former dealings.

"My wife had purchased a few books of this agent previously. When the agent represented to her that he must have a signed contract from some trustworthy person, with notes to cover the amount of the purchase, she agreed to sign them so that the agent could sell the books to the Western banker when he returned from Europe.

Mentions Portland Banker.

"The first notes that she signed were for $5500. The agent went away, but returned in a few weeks and said that the Portland banker wanted a better set and that if he could order a set worth $8500, he could sell them to him. He asked Mrs. Patten to sign notes for that amount so he could get the books, and tore up the old notes before her eyes. This convinced my wife of his honesty and she signed the new issue. Besides this, she signed other notes upon the representation of the agent that he could sell the books for large sums to millionaire book lovers."

The Western banker referred to is J. Wesley Ladd. The recollection of his transactions with the book agent is too painful to permit him to dwell upon the particulars or recount the details. He admits he was "stung," but he does not say how much.

The scheme worked upon the wives of the Chicago millionaires is described as being nothing more than the old lightning-rod game disguised in calfskin and morocco.

Among the "rare" editions for which Mrs. Patten unwittingly contracted, was Halliwell's edition of Shakespeare. This edition, the agent said, was worth thousands of dollars, and was finely bound. The edition, which was limited to 150 copies, signed by the publisher and Mr. Halliwell, is on sale in Chicago bookstores for $400.

Detectives are at work in Chicago on the case and their findings indicate that there was more than one man concerned in the game.

They believe that the gang has headquarters in New York and that they duped many people in Chicago besides Mrs. Patten and the other millionaire's wife, whose name has been guarded with the utmost secrecy. Mr. Patten says he knows a number of people who have been victimized in Chicago of more modest sums through the convincing talk put up by the book agent. The wife of one of his clerks, he said, had been duped into buying a set of books for $85 worth about $25.

BUILDING FRONT COLLAPSES; TWO MEN INJURED.

RUINED FRONT OF BUILDING AFTER THE COLLAPSE.

Collapse of a section of the brick front of a building, which is being repaired at 21 North Second street, precipitated A. D. Moody and Otto Olin, who were at work on the wall, to the pavement 15 feet below under a half ton of brick at 3:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon. That both men were not killed is regarded as remarkable, for a big steel beam was released by the falling bricks and dropped with the two imperiled men but did not strike them. Both were thought to be dead, as they lay buried in a mass of brick and mortar but, on being rescued from the debris, it was found they were severely though not fatally hurt. Moody sustained injuries to his back and leg and Olin's hip was wrenched. Both men were covered with minor cuts and bruises. The two men were working from a scaffold on the wall and were engaged in replacing old brick with new ones. A steel cross beam weighing a ton was held in place by a steel pin, which became loosened. The beam and a shower of brick fell together, carrying the workmen down in the debris. Moody, who was the contractor in charge of the work, was taken to the Good Samaritan Hospital. Olin was taken to his home at 105 East Water street. Both men were resting easily last night, no bones having been broken. Barring the development of internal injuries, both will be about in a short time.

FIRST CONVENTION OPENS

PORTLAND DISTRICT EPWORTH LEAGUE IN SESSION.

Many Members Hear Address by Rev. F. L. Young on "Optimism." Dr. Ghormley Tonight.

The first annual convention of the Portland District Epworth League was opened at University Park Methodist Episcopal Church last night, when a large number of Epworthians and others from all over the district, gathered to hear an address on "Optimism," by Rev. F. L. Young, of St. John. The edifice was decorated with Oregon grape and other green products of the forests, and presented a pretty sight. Dr. Young's remarks were strikingly appropriate, being especially cheerful, and were directed to the young people in particular.

Many delegates and visitors from nearly every chapter of the district were present at the opening session. More are expected this morning, when the convention will open its services with a devotional meeting at 9 o'clock, led by Rev. C. T. McPherson, pastor of Epworth Methodist Episcopal Church. Papers on various phases of Epworth League work and discussion of the same will continue throughout the day.

University Park Chapter and Church, of which Rev. W. R. Jeffrey, Jr., is pastor, is entertaining all the delegates and visitors. At noon and night, lunch will be served to all, both today and tomorrow, and a special lunch will also be provided for every one who attends the Sunday afternoon rally.

The programme for today is as follows:

Morning—
Devotional services, led by Rev. C. T. McPherson, pastor of Epworth Methodist Episcopal Church.
Papers and discussions.
"The Epworth League as a Spiritual Force in the Church," by H. A. Kilham, of Centenary Chapter.
"The Word of Christ in This Generation," by James A. Bamford, of Mount Tabor Chapter.
"Our Brother by the Wayside," by Mrs. Lena Swetland, district third vice-president, of Laurelwood Chapter.
"Methods and Phases of Social Work," by Roy Glass, of University Park Chapter.
Roll call of chapters.
Afternoon—
Devotional services, led by Rev. Harold Oberg, pastor of the Montavilla Methodist Episcopal Church.
"The Secretary," by F. S. Francis, of Sunnyside Chapter.
"The Treasurer," by F. S. Godfrey, of Central Chapter, district treasurer.
"The Junior League," by Mrs. Stella H. Burt, district superintendent of the Junior Leagues.
Roll call of chapters.
Missionary exhibit.
Song service.
Address by Rev. J. F. Ghormley, pastor of Central Christian Church.

MANILA PLANS FOR FLEET

Visitor Declares Festivities Will Surpass Those on Coast.

Although having followed practically all of the big receptions tendered the officers and sailors of the battleship fleet since its arrival in the waters of the Pacific, Samuel J. Wallace, for several years a resident of Manila, who is now visiting in Portland, believes that these festivities will be surpassed by the entertainment that is being planned for the "jackies" when they reach the Philippines. Even at this early date, according to Mr. Wallace, arrangements for the entertainment of the 30,000 or more men who man the ships of the Nation's fleet are under way, and preparations have proceeded to a point where but very little remains to be done.

"Of course, when I say that Manila intends to outdo the cities of the Pacific in the entertainment of the men of the fleet, I am not trying to discredit attentions showered upon them by the Coast enthusiasts, but am merely stating what I am assured will be the truth," said Mr. Wallace this afternoon. "I realize that there are many who will insist that I am prompted in my assertions by a certain patriotic feeling. However, when the fleet entertainments that are being given on the Pacific Coast are a thing of the past, and the great armada wends its way homeward after circumnavigating the globe, the truth of my assertion will be proven beyond any doubt. I have followed the fleet from San Diego to San Francisco, and have witnessed celebrations and entertainments that have excelled in brilliancy and splendor anything that I had before seen.

"Every school child and business man, as well as the women of the Islands, is helping along the success of the celebration that Manila will extend to the fleet. Special features, such as will provoke much comment, will be consolidated with the general entertainment programme."

Mr. Wallace will leave tomorrow for Denver, to visit his mother and father whom he has not seen in five years. He intends to return to Manila before the fleet reaches the Islands.

QUICK WORK ON CONTRACT

Construction of Plow Company's Building Will Be Rushed.

About the quickest contract work ever undertaken in Portland was that done yesterday on the new plant for the Oliver Chilled Plow Works, at East First and East Taylor streets. The contract was signed at 11 o'clock A. M. and at 1 P. M. work was begun on the site. The lot is 100x100 and the building will occupy the entire quarter block. Some filling is necessary, but no piling will be required, as the concrete piers and foundations will rest on good ground.

Rev. J. F. Ghormley, Who Will Address the Epworth League Convention at University Park Methodist Church Tonight on "Temperance."

The plant is to be erected on plans drawn by MacNaughton, Raymond & Lawrence, who will also superintend the building. The foundations are to be of concrete, the outer walls of brick and the interior of slow-burning mill construction.

Ever since the establishment of a branch of the company in Portland, the local representatives say the business has grown rapidly and that finally the home company at South Bend, Ind., decided that a Coast branch had become a necessity to care for the business. After investigating the advantages offered by other cities, James Oliver II, who is the resident official of the company, decided that Portland, in point of location and other advantages, is the best place for the branch and the company proceeded forthwith to secure the site and award contracts for the construction of the building.

Estimates place the cost of the three-story brick building at from $25,000 to $30,000 and it will be ready for occupancy about July. Plans were being examined yesterday at the Building Inspector's office and the permit will probably be finally granted today.

The first permit granted for alterations on the building formerly occupied by Pantages Theater, of $15,000, has been issued. Work is progressing rapidly on the basement, which has already been excavated.

The traction facilities of Europe are far behind those of this country. Within a radius of 50 miles of Liverpool there is a population of 7,000,000, the most thickly populated country in the world, and not a trolley line in existence for their accommodation.

ALL STATES SHARE IN CUT

APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE IS NOT SPARING OF AX.

Contention That Mr. Hawley Should Have Got More for Crater Lake Park Not Borne Out.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, May 20.—Private letters reaching Washington state that Will G. Steel has been censuring Representative Hawley because he did not get an appropriation of $50,000 for Crater Lake National Park. This criticism is based on the fact that $50,000 was carried in the sundry civil bill for the construction of a road into the Mount Rainier Park in Washington.

That Mr. Steel's criticism of Mr. Hawley is unjust and undeserved will appear from a brief statement of the facts. The House committee on appropriations, which framed the sundry civil bill, was guided by the estimates of the Department. The Department recommended an appropriation of a little more than $10,000 for the Crater Lake Park, and a like amount for the Mount Rainier Park. The last Congress, however, authorized the construction of a wagon road into the Mount Rainier Park, and made the initial appropriation towards its construction. This road, therefore, was placed on a par with river and harbor improvements that are placed under the continuing contract system. Congress had previously authorized the building of this road, and the work was under way. It was therefore incumbent upon this Congress to make provision for carrying the work forward, and it was solely because of this fact that the $50,000 item was inserted in the bill.

On the general item of improvements the Mount Rainier Park did not fare as well as Crater Lake Park, for the Senate did not raise the item for general improvements in Mount Rainier Park, though it did, on motion of Senator Fulton, increase the Crater Lake item to $10,000, nearly the amount of the estimate. It would be absolutely impossible for any delegation of four members to get an appropriation for a National park in excess of the estimates. Such a thing has never been done. Had it been possible, the Oregon delegation would have secured as much money as could possibly be squeezed out of the committee. Instead of increasing park appropriations over the estimates, the House committee took the ground that these items were less important than appropriations for other public works, and in consequence, every park appropriation was cut way below the estimates, even for Yellowstone National Park, which has more friends in Congress than any other National park.

In this horizontal cut, Oregon suffered no worse than any other state. That the appropriation was reduced was not due to any lack of effort on the part of Mr. Hawley, for he labored conscientiously to get as much money as possible. If Mr. Steel had the slightest conception of the way in which appropriations are secured in Congress, he would have never made his attack upon Mr. Hawley. Money is not hanging around the appropriations committee room to be picked at the pleasure of members. Every dollar has to be fought for, and in the general fight Mr. Hawley accomplished as much as any other member similarly placed.

Masters May Go on Strike.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21.—Eight hundred members of the two local organizations of masters, mates and pilots may tender their licenses to the Government inspectors if the charges filed by Supervising Inspector John Bermingham against Captain Johnson, of the river steamer J. D. Peters; Captain Parker, of the Key Route ferry-boat Fernwood, and Captain Rideout, of the river steamer Modoc, result in the suspension of the licenses of these men. Captain Bermingham charges that the three masters named neglected to obey the navigation rules at the time of the arrival of the battleship fleet on May 6 and that they caused the whistles of their boats to blow unnecessarily loud.

Metzger fits glasses for $1.00.

Hanan shoes at Rosenthal's.

M'GINN RETIRES FROM THE CASE

Overruled by Court on Law Point He Withdraws From Suitter Trial.

TESTIMONY FOR DEFENSE

Next Door Neighbor of Shaffer, the Murdered Man, Tells of Events Leading to Shooting—Landlord Gives Similar Version.

Henry E. McGinn, who was employed as special prosecutor in the Suitter murder trial, resigned yesterday because of a ruling against him by Judge Cleland on a law point. Dan J. Malarkey, of counsel for the defense, asked and was granted the privilege of calling Captain James A. Watts, a member of the firm of Brown & McCabe, stevedores, to the stand out of the regular order. Captain Watts was asked if he knew the reputation of Henry Shaffer as being a man of violence when drunk. The witness replied that he did, and said that Shaffer had worked for him. He was asked what kind of man Shaffer was, but before he could answer objection was interposed by Judge McGinn.

Watts had made arrangements to leave at 2 P. M. yesterday with his family for Seattle to see the fleet. He was obliged, however, to remain until the afternoon session of court, in order that the attorneys' arguments might be heard. Judge Cleland admitted the testimony. Watts said Shaffer's reputation was bad. Asked if he remembered a time when Shaffer lived at Twenty-third and Lovejoy streets, and beat his wife, he answered, "Yes." He said there was a crowd around at the time.

Chester Shaffer, who was a next-door neighbor of Henry Shaffer at the time of the shooting, was then called to the stand by the defense, the state having rested. Although of the same name he was not related to the dead man. In many details he contradicted the testimony of the state's witnesses. According to his story there were two kegs of beer in the house the afternoon of the party; one in the cellar lying on its side, and one in the bathroom. This testimony was corroborated later in the afternoon by Jacob Holzworth, Shaffer's landlord, who said he had seen members of the party carry the 10-gallon keg of beer from the basement into the house just before he left to search for an officer. That was between 5 and 6 o'clock at night, he said.

Says Shaffer Threatened Trouble.

"Henry Shaffer came to me in the afternoon," said Chester Shaffer, "and wanted me to fix some boards for him across the bathtub to set the beer glasses on. He said that if the old man, referring to Mr. Holzworth, made any trouble he would show him a tough time, that he would show him he (Shaffer) could run his own business.

"He took me to the basement and raising one corner of a 10-gallon keg said: 'This is a keg of beer for my friends.'

"Then we went upstairs, where the eight-gallon keg was. Shaffer filled a half-gallon lard bucket with beer by working a pump, like a bicycle pump, on the keg, and then filled a glass. I drank from the glass. He drank from the bucket. Then he filled the glass and bucket again. He said the beer had just been put on tap, and showed me the wall where the foam had spattered. Then he tried to tell me some more about his trouble with Holzworth, but I didn't care to listen to it. It appeared to me as though he wanted to thrash the old man.

"I went home and told my wife there was going to be trouble in the neighborhood, and that we would leave and avoid it. We went to my sister's, near the Steel bridge, on the East Side. We returned home between 5 and 6 o'clock in the evening. I could hear the racket at the Shaffer home a block and a half away."

"Did it sound like the noice of two-steps and waltzes?" asked Attorney Malarkey.

Party Was "Whooping It Up."

"No, they were yelling, 'Whoop 'em up, whoop 'em up.' I could hear stamping, like clog dancing. It sounded as though some of them were trying to sing, but couldn't. Besides that I heard some stringed instruments playing."

The witness then told of Holzworth's visit, 15 or 20 minutes after he (Chester Shaffer) returned home with his wife. He said they went to look for an officer, and remembering that a nearby grocery store, which had a telephone, was closed they went to Suitter's home. Holzworth and the officer returned to Henry Shaffer's house, while Chester Shaffer followed to his own home with Mrs. Suitter and her two children.

Here the witness for the defendant flatly contradicted the testimony of Mrs. Dora Shaffer, the wife of the dead man. She said the policeman wore an overcoat, being very positive in this statement. Chester Shaffer said Suitter wore no overcoat until after the shooting, when he loaned him his (Chester Shaffer's).

On Mallory avenue, across the street from the longshoreman's house, is a park. The witness said that when he proceeded with Mrs. Suitter and the children along Mallory avenue to the corner of the Henry Shaffer home, just opposite the square, he saw Patrolman Suitter and Shaffer standing almost in front of Henry Shaffer's house.

"There they stopped and had some argument," continued the witness. "It seemed to be pretty warm. I saw Mr. Shaffer step up in front of Mr. Suitter and shake his fist in front of him. Then I saw the officer pull back his coat and show his star. I could not hear much that was said except that when Mr. Suitter pulled open his coat Mr. Shaffer said, 'I will have you blacked.' I didn't catch just what it was, but I took it at the time to mean that Suitter would get his eye blacked or something of the kind.

"I saw Mrs. Dora Shaffer on the front steps. I saw her come out of the front door. There were three or four standing with her. She was in front of them. They crowded her out."

This statement is directly at variance with Mrs. Shaffer's statement that she did not go to the front porch, and did not see her husband on the sidewalk talking to the officer. Chester Shaffer was asked by District Attorney Manning on cross-examination how he knew it was Mrs. Shaffer. He resented this, and answered with some force, "How do I know you?" He said she wore no cloak or hat at the time.

Story of the Shooting.

"Between the time Mr. Suitter first called and the second visit the noise continued to grow worse. I went out on my front porch. Then Patrolman Fred J. Leavens appeared at the door of Henry Shaffer's house, and, standing on the porch, called to the crowd on the opposite corner of the street. They didn't seem to understand what he wanted. He seemed to be in an awful hurry, and ran across the street. Just then I heard two shots fired. I jumped the railing of my porch, and ran into the Shaffer house by the front door. I was there before Patrolman Leavens returned.

"As I entered I saw several people in the front room rushing for the kitchen. I ran to the kitchen, and found Henry Shaffer lying on the floor. Several people were crowding over his body toward Mr. Suitter, who was in the corner. They were very much excited, and were making suggestive motions. The body lay with its feet toward the kitchen door. The blood was flowing from the mouth onto the floor."

On cross-examination the witness said that Suitter told the crowd to stand back, and that they looked as though they would rush him.

Jacob Holzworth, the owner of the property where the homicide took place, next took the witness stand. He is 52 years old, of German birth, and has been in Portland 24 years. He said he went home early the night of March 1, and cooked his own dinner. He intended to leave his house early that night to avoid the noise of the birthday party next door. He said he did not go near the Shaffer home to remonstrate with the longshoreman, as "I didn't want to get my head broke." He was on the stand when court adjourned last night.

Testimony Before Inquest Read.

During the morning session Miss Julia Kirker, the stenographer who took the testimony of Officer Suitter at the Coroner's inquest, was placed upon the witness stand to read from a transcript of her shorthand notes the story of the shooting. The purpose of the introduction of this testimony before Suitter has been called upon to testify is not apparent. A portion of Suitter's testimony reads:

When I drew my gun Shaffer said, "Shoot and be d—d," and rushed at me. He struck at me, and I tried to hit him with my club, but was cornered so closely that I could not strike with any force. Shaffer grabbed my left wrist, and several of the men seized my right arm. Then I kicked twice and fired. I did not think I hit him the first shot, and I fired again, and kicked, and as I did so he fell.

Attorney Malarkey then asked Miss Kirker if there was not a crowd at the inquest, and she said, "Yes, pretty near the same crowd that is here now."

"Were they demonstrative?"

"Well, they were not quiet; they hissed at Suitter."

"Did they not spit at him?"

"I did not see any such thing."

"Any testimony that was favorable to Suitter was hissed at, wasn't it?"

"Some of it was."

Shaffer's Sister-in-Law on Stand.

Mrs. Emma Span, Mrs. Henry Shaffer's sister, said that when he was shot Shaffer stood with his arms akimbo. She was asked if Shaffer struck Suitter, and answered:

"Oh, my God, no. He asked nice to go out—awful nice. He ask just so nice what he can. Awful nice. Awful nice."

Referring to this in his argument to the court, later, Attorney Malarkey said that instead of stepping up to Suitter as meek as a lamb, he went at him like a roaring lion; that Shaffer had fight in him and that there was no question but that Shaffer was known in the community to be a violent and desperate man.

Paul Doch, one of the witnesses for the state during the morning, unexpectedly contradicted some of the state's own witnesses. Chief of Police Gritzmacher was placed on the stand in the morning to tell about an order to the police, issued November 13, regarding the use of firearms. His testimony was excluded by decision of the court, upon the objection of Attorney Malarkey. The court held that no matter what the order to the police, the state law must govern them in their actions.

Morak Sues on Promissory Note.

John Morak, who ran at the primaries for Constable on the Republican ticket, has filed suit in the Circuit Court against Joe Amato and his wife. Morak alleges that they signed a promissory note the first of this month calling for payment of $263 on demand. This has not been paid, says the complaint. As Amato cannot write he made his mark, and Morak acted as witness to the signature.

Offensive Partisan Resigns.

RUTLAND, Vt., May 21.—Following the receipt of an official notice from Controller of the Currency Lawrence O. Murray, calling attention to the rule forbidding political activity by Government employes, Frank W. Fish, of Vergennes, for the last eight years National Bank Examiner for Vermont and part of Massachusetts, submitted his resignation.

Mr. Fish had been canvassing in the First Vermont Congressional District for the nomination for Congress, and it was this that caused the notice from the Controller.

Confer on Meat Inspection.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—An important conference between officers of the Department of Agriculture and meat inspectors from all parts of the United States will be held at Chicago beginning May 25, and will continue for several days. The primary object will be to secure, if possible, a more uniform enforcement of the new regulations governing the inspection of meat.

CARD OF THANKS.

We desire to express our thanks and appreciation to the many friends and neighbors who so kindly assisted us in our recent bereavement, and also for the beautiful floral offerings. Mrs. Janet C. Boggs and mother, Mrs. Adeline Armstrong.

H. B. LITT

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