



BILLINGS IS HELD AS BLACKMAILER

The 'Shadow' Suspect Is Caught in Seattle.

DUAL ROLE BELIEVED BARED

Prisoner Also Is Accused as Talkative Burglar.

EXTRADITION IS WAIVED

With End of Trail Reached, Events Leading to Suspicion and Arrest Are Revealed.

Portland police detectives yesterday arrested in Seattle George Billings, alias Joe Brady, with the arrest of Billings, Mayor Baker and Chief of Police Jenkins declared that the mystery surrounding the daring activities of the "talkative burglar" and "the Shadow" will be solved before the close of the week.

Suspected of playing the dual role of burglar and extortionist, Billings will be brought back from Seattle today by Lieutenant Goetz and Inspectors Leonard and Hellyer, who took him into custody.

News of the capture was first received in a telegram to Mayor Baker in the afternoon. Shortly before 4 o'clock last night Captain of Inspectors Circle received a long-distance message from Lieutenant Goetz that Billings has consented to return without extradition. The detectives will leave Seattle with him today.

Details of Search Revealed.

With the arrest of Billings and his impending return to Portland, where a charge of burglary now stands against him, much of the secrecy of police activities in their determined search for the man was revealed. And while the capture was made by Lieutenant Goetz and Inspectors Leonard and Hellyer, it was known at police headquarters that much of the credit must be shared by these officers with Joe Day, veteran detective sergeant. It was Sergeant Day who first took up the trail for Billings, alias Brady, more than a month ago, shortly after the burglary at the home of Roscoe C. Nelson, Portland lawyer, which was one of the last jobs undertaken by the "talkative burglar."

Billings Draws Suspicion.

Several days after the burglary and his subsequent notoriety achieved by the "talkative burglar" through his written and telephone correspondence with Mr. Nelson, Sergeant Day was met on the street by Jack O'Neil, manager of the Globe theater. O'Neil voiced the suspicion that Billings, who was using the alias of Brady at the time, might be mixed up in the daring early morning burglary in which were baffling the entire police bureau.

After the burglary of the Nelson home the "talkative burglar" mailed back in a small box a part of the jewelry taken. After this jewelry had been returned Mr. Nelson expressed the hope that the burglar would consent to return Mrs. Nelson's diamond engagement ring in return for a certain amount of cash.

Phone Call Is Received.

Less than an hour after the newspaper containing this offer was on the streets Mr. Nelson received a telephone call from a man whom he recognized by the voice as the burglar who had talked and stolen so freely and easily in the Nelson home a few nights before. By telephone it was arranged that Mr. Nelson should drop a large envelope containing \$100 on the sidewalk along Twelfth street, between Washington and Alder, the following day at a time set by the burglar.

This was done, but the ring was not returned. Sergeant Day, during the course of his investigation, learned that Billings a week before this had borrowed \$5 from O'Neil. The day after Mr. Nelson dropped the envelope containing \$100 in currency of small denominations Billings entered the Globe theater and paid back his loan to Mr. O'Neil. At that time he displayed a thick roll of \$5 bills.

The night after Mr. Nelson dropped the \$100 envelope he received another telephone message from his unknown burglar in which the latter asserted he had failed to find the envelope as expected. After considerable discussion the burglar insisted that another package containing \$25 be dropped before the ring should be returned.

O'Neil's Name Mentioned.

"Well, I know Jack O'Neil and Dr. Ben L. Norden, and they will both tell you that I keep my word," the fellow responded.

After he took up the chase Sergeant Day directed his efforts toward locating the place where the man was living during his stay in Portland. After he had procured this last money from Mr. Nelson, Billings failed to put in an appearance around the Globe theater, where he had spent part of his time before.

After a lengthy telephone conversation, it was agreed between Mr. Nelson and the burglar that they should meet near the public auditorium, Third and Clay streets, the following morning, which was Sunday. Mr. Nelson drove up to the meeting place in his automobile. As

ATHENS, GA., IN PERIL IN \$2,500,000 BLAZE

FLAMES IN BUSINESS DISTRICT BEYOND CONTROL.

Hundreds Struggle to Save Property From Buildings in Danger. Atlanta Sends Apparatus.

ATHENS, Ga., Jan. 25.—Damage estimated around \$2,500,000 was caused here early today by fire of undetermined origin in the business section of Athens. Three city blocks were practically destroyed within three hours after the fire started, and at 2 A. M. it appeared still to be out of control.

Explosions of gasoline drums scattered the flames before the firemen could gain control, and the fire spread down the east side of Wall street south to Broad, virtually destroying every building along the street. Three stores on Broad street were burned.

The fire continued to spread more than three hours after it started and after virtually destroying the two buildings occupied by Michael Bros., another building on Broad street. It was said the block on Broad, known as the Dupree block, would be a total loss.

A druggist at Jackson and Clayton streets caught fire soon afterwards and spectators believed the flames might sweep through another block here. Many expressions of opinion were that the whole downtown section would be burned unless the flames were checked quickly.

Hundreds of persons struggled to save their property from buildings threatened by flames, and the streets adjoining the fire area were soon jammed with wagons, automobiles and wheelbarrows loaded with furniture and stock taken from stores and offices.

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 25.—The Atlanta fire department was called upon early today to send aid to Athens, and it was said the fire raging there threatened to destroy the entire downtown section.

HOUSE FOR FREE SEEDS

Lawmakers Vote to appropriate \$360,000 for Distribution.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—The house today voted to appropriate \$360,000 for the free distribution of seeds by members of congress.

This is \$120,000 more than was appropriated for the current fiscal year. The vote was 83 to 72. This was the first time in years that the annual agricultural appropriations bill provided no funds for seed distribution. Representative Langley, republican, of Kentucky, introduced an amendment embodying the appropriation, which was adopted after Representative Blanton had made an unsuccessful attempt to have it ruled out on a point of order. He described seed distribution as a graft.

MINE CONFERENCE IS ON

Greater Federal Co-operation Aim of Berkeley Meeting.

BERKELEY, Cal., Jan. 24.—Delegates from all government experiment stations of the west, the United States bureau of mines at Washington, D. C., and Pacific coast universities and mining schools assembled in Berkeley today to discuss means by which greater federal co-operation can be lent the mining industry. The conference at the Pacific coast mine rescue station at the University of California is under the auspices of the government bureau of mines.

RETAIL LUMBER DOWN \$6

Lath and Common Grades at Bend Cut 20 Per Cent.

BEND, Or., Jan. 24.—(Special.)—New retail lumber prices including lath and common grades, were announced here today, representing a downward revision averaging about six dollars a thousand. This means an average cut of approximately 20 per cent, the local retailing agent for the Bend mills stated.

COURT UPHOLDS SEIZURES

Taking of German Insurance Company Securities Approved.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—The supreme court today upheld the authority of the alien property custodian to seize securities deposited in this country by German insurance companies to protect American policy holders. The court said there could be no doubt that the trading with the enemy act authorized such a seizure.

2344 IS FORD'S GAIN

Newberry's Plurality in State Is 7500; 1574 Precincts Counted.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—At the end of today's recount by the senate committee of ballots cast in the 1918 Michigan senatorial election, Henry Ford had a net gain of 2344.

The recount included 1574 precincts out of 2352. In the state Senator Newberry's plurality was about 7500.

WAR WOOL TO BE SOLD

Department Sets Date to Dispose of 4,000,000 Pounds.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Approximately 4,000,000 pounds of wool will be offered for sale at auction by the war department it was announced today. The sale will be held at Boston February 3.

TILT LOOMS OVER ROOSEVELT ROAD

Danger to General Highway Plans Scented.

\$2,500,000 FUND INVOLVED

Trouble Depends on Action of Hall and Norblad.

TWO SENATORS WATCHED

Not Much Done by Commission on Mythical Route Because Federal Aid Is in Air.

STATE HOUSE, Salem, Or., Jan. 24.—(Special.)—Clash of interests is pending over the Roosevelt highway and before the end of the session this mythical military road along the Oregon coast may be a thorn in the side of the general highway program. Whether the Roosevelt highway will cause trouble depends on the course of action adopted by Senators Hall and Norblad, who have introduced a measure to have \$2,500,000 set aside to start work.

The people originally approved the Roosevelt highway and authorized a bond issue in that sum, with the understanding that the federal government would match it. The government has done nothing, so Hall and Norblad want the state money used, arguing that by the time the \$2,500,000 is spent the government may be ready to co-operate.

Highway Becomes Detriment.

The Roosevelt highway has been a stumbling-block in the road program of the coast counties. The state highway commission has not done much toward locating and improving the coast highway for the reason that there is always the possibility of the Roosevelt highway coming to life through federal assistance. Intended originally as a benefit to the coast counties, the highway, in fact, has become a detriment.

It would be better for the coast counties if the Roosevelt highway was repealed, for then the state highway commission would be more free to give attention to the coast highway. With the Roosevelt project in abeyance, the commission has been marking time, practically, on the coast highway and probably will continue to mark time until the proposed Roosevelt highway appropriation is matched by congress or the highway law rescinded.

Among the objections to the Roosevelt highway bill of Senators Hall and Norblad is that it would take the vote there.

According to the statutes, the delegates met at Salem January 10 and cast the vote—five each—for Harding and Coolidge. We filled the vacancy caused by the removal from the state of John Y. Richardson, electing George E. Waters of Salem. I was elected messenger to take the vote to Washington. Secretary of State Koser prepared three certificates. One was mailed to the president of the United States senate, Mr. Marshall, from Salem; the second was sent to District Judge Wolvorton.

OREGON MESSENGER MAY BE FINED \$1000

ELECTORAL VOTE DUE AT CAPITOL NOT YET THERE.

Other States Reported Similarly Remiss; Vice-President Marshall Much Concerned.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Jan. 24.—Members of the Oregon delegation in congress became intensely worried tonight when advised by Vice-President Marshall that Oregon's messenger carrying the electoral vote of the state to Washington had not arrived.

The vice-president's office had taken so much interest in the matter that it ascertained the fact that W. L. Robb of Portland was supposed to carry Oregon's five votes for Harding and Coolidge here to be deposited with the vice-president before midnight. Failure to do this, according to Mark Thistlewaite, secretary to the vice-president, meant that Mr. Robb would be called on to forfeit his mileage from Portland to Washington and to pay a fine of \$1000.

Oregon, it was explained, will not lose its electoral vote by the delinquency of Mr. Robb, but he will be called upon to pay the penalty.

Members of the Oregon delegation began to make inquiry today when they were told that the state's messenger was in danger of being penalized, but discovered that it was useless to try to save the situation. The best information they could obtain was that Mr. Robb was not planning to leave Portland until February 5 and that therefore it was foolish to urge him to hurry up.

At least five other states appeared to be in the same boat, including Maryland, which is just next door to Washington. Messengers from the comparatively nearby states of Indiana and North Carolina also had failed to appear, while those from the western states of Utah and Nevada were missing.

Mr. Robb last night announced that he telegraphed Senator McNary yesterday afternoon, explaining to him that it had been thought here that all points of the electoral law were being fulfilled and that he had expected to leave for Washington with the vote February 1. He expected to receive orders soon to proceed to the national capital with it.

"I have no other expectation than that I shall go to Washington with the electoral vote," said Mr. Robb. "Evidently there has been a mistake as to when I should have been in Washington with the vote, but when it is explained to Vice-President Marshall no doubt he will authorize me to take the vote there."

Of this amount, \$4,300,000 was assigned to Kuhn, Loeb & Co., New York bankers. It was purchased by them in the London open market and is part of nearly \$5,000,000 in gold recently acquired by that company.

FIVE OF 100 STUDENTS FAIL AT CALIFORNIA

UNIVERSITY'S PERCENTAGE LAST SEMESTER GIVEN.

Men Who Are Disqualified Until Studies Are Made Up Found to Outnumber Women.

BERKELEY, Cal., Jan. 24.—(Special.)—Approximately 5 per cent of the students enrolled at the University of California last semester were disqualified as a result of failure to pass in two-thirds of their courses. According to an announcement from the president's office made public today, the number so disqualified was 521. Of this number a great proportion were foreign students, and must clear their records by examinations in those studies in which they were deficient before they will be allowed to re-enter.

For the first time, entrants at the University of California have been required to submit to an intelligence test. On Saturday some 1500 students took a three-hour test, much like the old army test. Of this number 800 were new students, while the rest volunteered for the examination. Though the test is an innovation at the university, it is hoped that by it freshmen will be advised to pursue the lines of work for which they are best adapted. The results of the examination will not be known for a week or ten days.

COAL BILL IS DENOUNCED

Calder Measure Aids Profiteers, Says Maine ex-Governor.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Because of its provisions taxing coal brokerage commissions as high as 90 per cent, the Calder bill to regulate the coal industry is "the most stupendous aid to profiteering ever devised," former Governor Curtis of Maine declared today before the senate committee considering the measure.

"I'm just explaining why the coal men are anxious to see this bill go through," he said. "It amounts to a conspiracy between the government and the profiteers to raise the price of coal. It tempts men to profiteer. As a coal man I've no objection, but as a citizen I'm telling you what it will do."

BRITISH GOLD RECEIVED

Steamship Carmania Enters Port With \$7,600,000 Aboard.

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.—Gold worth \$7,600,000 arrived here today from England aboard the steamship Carmania.

Of this amount, \$4,300,000 was assigned to Kuhn, Loeb & Co., New York bankers. It was purchased by them in the London open market and is part of nearly \$5,000,000 in gold recently acquired by that company.



LOTISSO INSISTS WIFE HIDES CRIME

All Memory of Murder of Wife Is Denied.

KISS IS LAST RECOLLECTION

War Bride Declared to Have Confessed Infidelity.

SLAYER SOBS ON STAND

Defendant Declares He Does Not Recall Confession Nor Anything Until Day After.

"I'm just making a fool of you. I never did love you, Tom. I've been untrue to you from the start."

This was the confession of Tessie Lotisso, 19-year-old English war bride of Thomas Lotisso, a few moments before she was slain by her husband in the early morning of November 30, testified Lotisso, on trial for his life before a jury in the court of Circuit Judge Tucker yesterday.

But that he flamed with anger and emptied his pistol at her in passionate retribution for the alleged betrayal was denied. He shot her in a moment of which he has not the slightest recollection, Lotisso declared, saying that he had no recollection of a complete confession made before former Deputy District Attorney Deich and newspaper men the morning of Mrs. Lotisso's death, nor of the remark a city jailer has testified Lotisso flung in the direction of a friend when questioned as to the reason he was in jail that morning.

"Oh, I bumped off the old lady last night."

His recollection only returned with the happening of the afternoon following, he testified.

Wife's "Confession" Repeated.

Of events after the taking of his wife from a Chinese restaurant at Fourth and Everett streets, where she had gone for noodles when through work at midnight in company with three other girls from the Broadway manager of the establishment, November 29, Lotisso testified in part as follows:

"At Sixteenth and Alder my wife suggested again that we get out and walk. She said she had something very important to tell me. When we got off and started walking down the street, I said: 'My goodness, little girl, you're causing me a lot of trouble. You're driving me crazy. The only thing I can think to do is to send you back to England.' I told her what I had learned of the reputation of the place where I had found her that night.

"I told her it was a hell-hole where niggers, Chinamen and persons of the lowest type gather after midnight and have their noodles and booze."

"Then she said to me, 'I'm just making a fool of you. I never did love you, Tom. I've been untrue to you from the start. We can't live together any more.'"

Soldier Brought Into Case.

"Furthermore, when I got off the steamer in New York City I met a soldier, and this soldier kept me company from the time I left New York until we got to Chicago, and was with me two days and two nights there. I've been untrue to you from the start."

"When she told me that I didn't know what to do, I couldn't believe it. I said, 'My goodness, Tessie, to think that I have lived with you all this time and at the last moment you come and tell me of these things. I can't believe it.'"

"But she said it was all true, and that there was a letter in the American Red Cross office in which she confessed what she did in Chicago."

"I walked over to the driver, after mentioning him to drive up to us, and said, 'Eddie, what is the damage?' He said he thought it was \$2. I got out a \$5 bill and just then Tessie, who was standing nearby, started to run."

No Recollection of Shooting.

"I asked him to give me my overcoat which I had left in the seat of the car and I started after her. I walked to the corner of Fourteenth and Alder, when my wife turned south. Then she fell down. She didn't have her eyeglasses on that night and must have stumbled on the curb. I ran over and picked her up, and said, 'Tessie, get yourself together and we will go home.' I kissed her lips. Then I picked up her hat and purse and we started to walk toward Alder street."

"It was then when I heard someone say, 'You let that girl alone, you come and tell me what you don't know what took place after that. Do remember someone struck me on the head. They told me afterward that I had shot my wife. I don't recall anything after that. Somebody struck me on the side of my head. 'They told me after I was arrested that I had shot my wife, that I had killed her.'"

Lotisso Sobbs Violently.

With his face contorted as though in anguish of recollection of that moment, and fists doubled, Lotisso broke into violent sobbing. It lasted only a moment. Albert B. Ferrera, a lawyer with Joseph H. Page and Orval Perkey, represent the defendant, in

HOMESEEKERS' RATES TO NORTHWEST BACK

GREAT NORTHERN FIRST ROAD TO MAKE REDUCTION.

Farmers of Middle West May Make Round Trip for Less Than One-Way Fare.

A decisive step toward pre-war conditions has been taken by the Great Northern railway in announcing that it will restore homeseekers' rates to Pacific northwest points along its lines from St. Paul. These rates have not been in effect on any road since they were abolished as an economy measure during the war, and the Great Northern is the first to resume.

Announcement of the rate restoration, received here yesterday in a special message from St. Paul, declared that it will mean the resumption of the influx of homeseekers from the middle west to the northwest. Great Northern traveling lecturers, working under the direction of E. C. Leedy, general supervisor of agriculture for the railway, have been telling the farmers and others in the middle west of the opportunities in the northwest. It is explained, and now that low fares have been re-established, the prospective settlers will be able to make the trip out this way to see for themselves what it is here.

For a little less than a one-way fare travelers may visit the northwest points included in the rates restoration order and return to their original starting station.

The rates will be effective the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from April to October of this year.

STORM ISOLATES DENVER

Mountain Region Reports Heaviest Snowfall of Winter.

DENVER, Jan. 24.—The heaviest snowstorm of the winter, embracing many points in the Rocky mountain region, isolated Denver and other cities from telegraph and telephone communication for a time early today.

According to the weather bureau the storm swept south from Cheyenne, Wyo., over Colorado, northern New Mexico and Oklahoma, east into Kansas and central Nebraska and north to North and South Dakota. The storm center was Goodland, Kansas.

WOOL GROWERS TO FIGHT

Demand for Tariff to Be Pressed at National Capital.

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 24.—Frank J. Hagenbarth, president of the National Wool Growers' association, announced that he will leave for Washington, Wednesday, to confer with the house ways and means committee relative to the proposed tariff on wool, a bill which is distinct from the emergency bill.

Mr. Hagenbarth is expected to be joined at Washington by Dr. S. W. McClure of Middleton, Or., who will take part in the conference.

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MORRIS CREDITORS MAY GET 80 CENTS

Books Indicate Loss of Investors Will Be Low.

RECEIVER LISTS ALL ASSETS

Litigation, It Is Said, Will Reduce Amount.

ONE TEST SUIT IS PLAN

If Many Go Into Court to Establish Claims Others Will Lose, Says W. D. Whitcomb.

Creditors of Morris Bros., Inc., default bond issue, probably will eventually receive about 80 or 85 cents on the dollar through liquidation of the company, according to W. D. Whitcomb, receiver, and his staff after continual day-and-night labor since Friday, December 24, 1920, and made public for the first time yesterday afternoon.