

Cowboy Casts Caustic Comment on Crime Pay

By J. C. REYNOLDS

Almost every day we run across the axiom, "Crime does not pay," in newspaper, detective magazines, crime novels and in confessions of famous, as well as obscure, criminals. This idea is played up big by all the writers and by the police element everywhere. And it is not a bad idea at that. Endeavor to impress on the public mind by constant repetition that crime does not pay.

But let's you and I examine the matter more thoroughly.

If you were buying a house you would hardly pay out your money on the agent's bare word, nor would you be entirely satisfied with one look at the front side. You would wish to go all over it, see it from the back and examine its foundations. It might turn out to be a house with a false front, with rotting foundations and about to tumble down in the back.

If you would use the same amount of caution in all other ways you would find it to be of considerable value in your daily dealings.

Now let us have a look behind this structure that appears so solid in front and has the motto in big letters over the front door, "Crime does not pay." Please be assured that I am not trying to put in a good word for crime. I am dead against it. But I am also dead against inhaling a lot of hooey that is designed to hypnotize the public and which does to a great extent.

Crime indeed does not pay the one who gets caught. And the official figures say that one out of every 10 criminals is caught. But how about the other nine out of the 10 who are not caught? Did you ever wonder what they thought about it? And did you know that thousands upon thousands of our so-called respected and influential citizens made their money from various kinds of crime and a lot of them are still at it?

Take the gangsters for example. The government is hot after them; hopes to wipe them out; has indeed already put the screws to quite a number. But, Buddy, let me tell you the government hasn't made a dent so far in the ranks of these lawbreakers. They have made a big fuss over the ones they have caught up with and have thundered out to the rest that crime does not pay and threatened to keep after them till they get them all.

But the nine out of every 10 who are still on the loose, outside of a very few unlucky ones, have nothing to fear and still pursue their nefarious trades unafraid and contented. And why should they be afraid, when their money will buy protection from the police and pay lawyers and judges to secure their immunity from punishment?

Our country is thickly sprinkled today with individuals who stole their start in life and who are now taking things easy on the fortunes they built up on that foundation. Just show me an old-time cattleman who ever ate his own beef, or whose cowboys were not instructed

to brand every maverick they could get a rope on. Many a one I have branded myself for my boss and thought nothing of it. Would you call that crime, stealing another man's cows and calves?

I was standing on the sidewalk of a western city talking to one of the biggest cattlemen in that section who also was a state senator. The roundup had just come in and a bunch of his cowboys rode by us up the street. There was a nigger rider in the outfit who was quite a pet with everyone on account of his daring and the cattlemen called to him, "How did the roundup come out, Sam?"

"Pretty good, pretty good, Boss," he answered. "Mos' all de cows had two calves dis year and some of de bulls had calves too." The cattlemen laughed heartily and said to me, "That Nig is all right, never forgets to rustle for his boss." I worked a long time for a man who got his start holding up stages in the early days. When he got enough he quit, bought a business, made a lot of money and died one of the state's most respected citizens, though the way he acquired his first stake was no secret. Everybody knew it. He gave me the Colt's he did the holding-up with, and I carried it a couple of years in preference to my own six-gun.

I could tell some pretty snappy yarns about what happened at that camp and the tough bunch that worked there and the way we had of putting out the lights at bedtime. No lights ever were blown out there. We shot 'em out after getting into bed and woe to the one who didn't make a good job of it.

I often have heard it said that no saloon man could stay honest in that business for over two years as the chances to get away with money were too plentiful and too tempting. Be that as it may, I personally know of six saloon men who made so much of that kind of money in the early days "rolling" drunks, and in other shady ways, that they were enabled to retire from all work years ago and since then have been taking life easy in beautiful homes here and there in various western states and have reputations of being exemplary citizens.

However, in some instances, the law catches up with the malefactor in a hurry, as in the case of a desperate character who recently purloined a potato and an onion in the city of Medford and who was quickly apprehended and sentenced to 30 days in jail. The sentence was remitted on condition that he leave the state, but it goes to show that thievery, even when committed by hungry robbers, will not be tolerated in that well-regulated community.

Look at the rascals who have stolen government timber, oil lands, mines, patents and other things of great value and are now living in affluence, admired and respected by the public at large. Look at the police of some of our largest cities who acquire inde-

pendent wealth in a few short years and retire. I am well acquainted with a man who resigned his position as chief of police in a certain western city to take a job as an ordinary policeman in Seattle where the pickings were far larger.

Then consider the big, legalized crooks of Wall street who ply their nefarious trade under the protection of the law, cold-bloodedly fleecing their victims to the last penny, many of said victims being unsophisticated widows and orphans. This kind of thievery is termed "high finance." Suppose you had \$50,000 you wished to invest in a way that would bring you in good interest on the investment and one of those financial jugglers persuaded you to put it all into mining or oil stocks that he knew were about to go floozy. Suppose he sprayed you with a flow of wise-sounding and fluent conversation until you invested your money and lost it, and then gave you the horse-laugh for being a sucker. Is that anything but bare-faced thievery? And is not thievery considered as crime the world over? Yet they are doing it every day and getting away with it.

Do you suppose they believe that crime does not pay? The merchant who shortweights or shortchanges you or charges you two prices for no reason except his own greediness is as much a criminal as the holdup who relieves you of your cash at the point of a gun, though the law does not so regard it.

A man who, under some flimsy pretext, sells you a piece of ground for \$300 per acre that is really worth no more than \$40 an acre is as much a criminal as the thief who breaks into your house and steals everything he can get his hands on. What is the difference?

In either case you are rudely separated from your money very much against your will. Do you remember the swarm of profiteers who started out fleecing everybody right and left at the close of the war and got so bad the government had to take a hand in it?

Men you regarded as your good friends, prominent in church and social circles, seemed to go crazy with the lust for gain. Once you fell into their clutches they would skin you out of your eye-teeth and laugh in your face. One big department store I know of, indicted by the government for profiteering on 85 separate counts of selling cloaks to women for \$150 apiece that cost them but \$16.

Would it hurt any worse to have your purse taken away by a footpad? Where are all the absconding cashiers, bankers, treasurers and employes who have run off with millions? If you ask me, I would say most of them are sitting pretty in some foreign country having a good time spending the dough. Once in a great while some fly-by-night like Insull is caught and a big fuss made about it, and we are again assured that crime does not pay. But how about all the rest of 'em that are not caught?

And we are not going to believe anything serious is going to happen to Insull until we see it. Some clever lawyer will find a comma missing, or a semi-colon misplaced in the indictment and that will kill the whole proceeding so that no

trail can be had for a year or two, by which time it is likely some of the most important witnesses will have died or left the country and all they can do will be to fine him and let him go. They may sentence him to 10 years and pardon or parole him in six months. What a life! And they tell us crime does not pay.

Why, it is the biggest paying thing going, especially if one avoids the raw stuff like Dillinger, Pretty Boy Floyd and that kind of criminal is so fond of, and which really does not pay, and makes it a point to get in solid with the legalized criminals who have nothing to fear and who can put in a whole lifetime at it. Then, at the last minute, he can repent of his sins, be admitted into Heaven and live happily ever afterward.

Federal Home Loan Association Soon to Be Ready for Loans

An organization meeting of the Medford Federal Savings and Loan association was held a few days ago at the offices of the Jackson County Building and Loan association, and organization of the association was completed. At this meeting regulations and by-laws were adopted as provided for federal savings and loan associations, giving primary consideration to the best practices of local mutual thrift and home financing institutions in the United States.

A board of directors was elected as follows: C. M. Kidd, director-president; John C. Mann, director-vice president; W. J. Warner, director-vice president; Glenn O. Taylor, director-attorney; R. E. Green, director-treasurer; J. H.

Green, director-treasurer; J. H. Fletcher, director-secretary-manager, and C. C. Lemmon, director. Glenn O. Taylor and O. H. Bengtson were elected attorneys for the association by the board of directors.

Total stock subscribed at this time is approximately \$45,000 with the association in a position to receive further stock subscriptions. The secretary of the treasury of the United States, under the Home Owners' Loan act of 1933, will invest in stock \$3 for every \$1 that is raised by local subscription. On this basis, the association can call upon the secretary of the treasury for \$135,000 as soon as it has been passed upon by a federal examination. This examination is expected to be made in a very short time.

The Medford Federal Savings and Loan association is a mutual thrift institution in which people may invest their funds in order to provide for the financing of homes in this community.

We are wholly unable to work up a thrill over the discovery of an extensive ice-covered plateau in Little America—Weston (Ore.) Leader.

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CLAUDETTE COLBERT

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THE WOMAN OF ALL THE AGES
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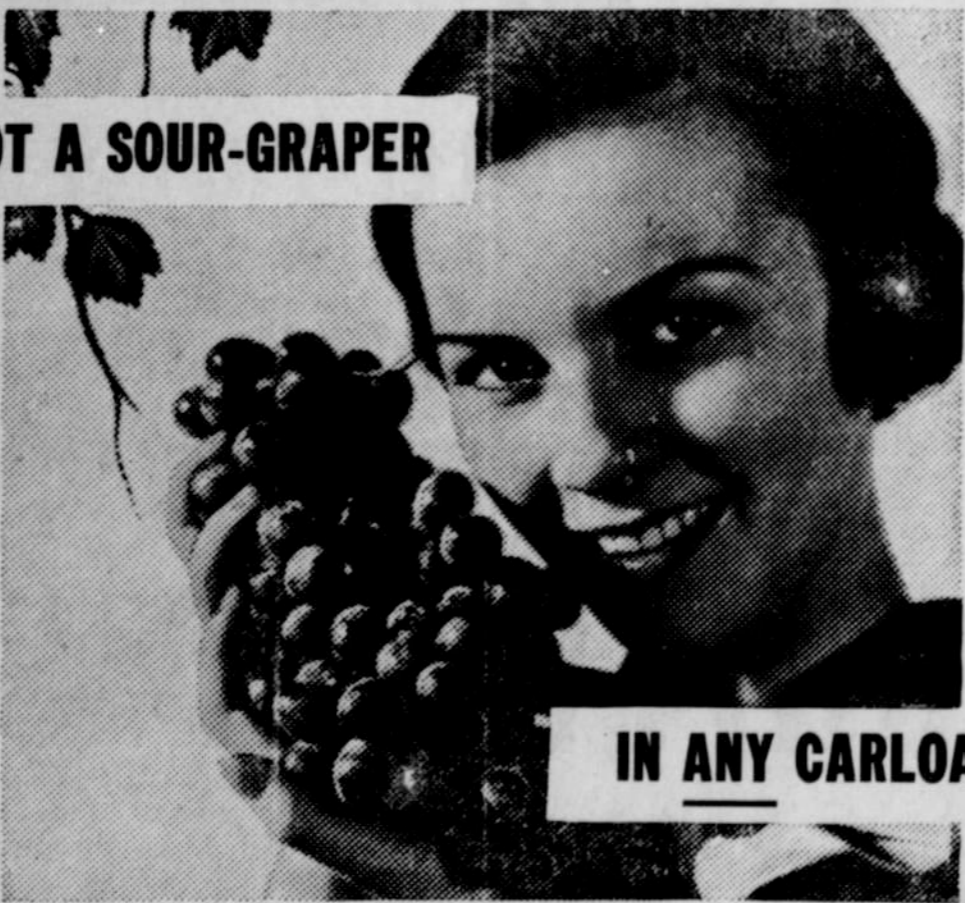
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