

\$20,000 IS LOOT FROM S. P. TRAIN

MAINTENANCE, Cal. June 22.—A gang of train robbers, armed with revolvers and machine guns, held up Southern Pacific passenger train near McAvoy today, shot the engineer and scoured with loot estimated at more than \$20,000.

Shortly afterward the bandit car, found burning in a ditch near Campford, put police on the trail of the gang, thought to have consisted of three to five men, and posse were patrolling the highways and countryside within an hour after the robbery, hoping to capture the outlaws.

The heist apparently was planned and executed with a thoroughness that led police to believe the gang had made long preparations for the robbery. The \$20,000 payroll of the Columbia Steel mill in Portland, usually carried on Saturdays in the mail car, was the gang's object, it was thought. This payroll, however, was sent to Pittsburg earlier in the week.

Two of the men boarded the train at Map Point, eight miles from Pittsburg. Another waited with a machine gun in an automobile near the McAvoy crossing.

After conversing with passengers on the train as it neared McAvoy, one of the robbers, described as heavy-set and wearing a cap, rose from his seat and covered the occupants of the car with two guns. The other, younger and slightly nervous, searched the passengers for weapons, disdaining considerable sums of money in their pockets as "small change."

While the young bandit ordered Rear Brakenman F. A. Heikka to pull the stop whistle cord, the other climbed into the cab and, according to Engineer J. H. Barnes directed him to back up the train, as it had gone past the place where their companion waited. Barnes drove his car instead of complying with the order and the robber shot him through the arm.

After the train was backed about half a mile, Barnes said, he was ordered to get out of the cab while the robber who shot him, showing a conspicuous familiarity with locomotive machinery, let the water out of the engine, tender and boiler, crippling the train.

Meanwhile the other member of the gang had forced the passengers and train crew to leave the train and line up alongside the right of way where a third robber sat, a sub-machine gun in his hands.

Next the older man knocked on the door of the mail car.

"Where's that payroll?" he demanded.

The mail clerk, George Tyler, refused to open the door and the robber turned to Conductor Harry Walmsley and demanded the key. Walmsley refused and the bandit outside sent a spray of machine gun bullets at his feet. Walmsley then produced the keys and the older bandit entered the mail car with drawn gun.

Cursing Tyler, the man shot three times but missed the clerk who was then shoved out of the car to join the others.

Sixteen registered mail sacks were rifled and their contents strewn about the floor of the car. After taking the larger packages, one of which contained a \$18,000 payroll for Southern Pacific track workers, the robber jumped from the car and joined his two companions.

Before entering the automobile the man who had rifled the mail car was heard to say:

"The big one wasn't there." With a parting word of warning not to give an alarm for an hour, the trio drove off.

LEGION TO TALK JAUNT TO SALEM

An important session of the American Legion is scheduled for Monday night, June 24 at the armory. Plans for raising funds for Legion activities will be discussed and other items of interest are on the business program for the evening. The coming state convention which takes place in Salem next month will also be brought up for discussion. All Legionnaires are urged to be present promptly at 8 p. m. in order that the meeting may be adjourned in time for the big weather watch which is being sponsored by Medford Post.

ASHLAND PARK FINE FOR CELEBRATION

ASHLAND, Ore., June 22.—Specialist J. H. Fisher, keeper of Medford this week in charge of the celebration in the Ashland Forest of July celebration. Ashland has much to offer to visitors looking for the celebration. Ashland park is at its loveliest this year, as the late rains and the cool weather have afforded favorable conditions for the growth of grass and foliage.

The celebration has been well planned, with each feature of the program in charge of some one of the city's service and civic clubs and will be in direct charge of a competent committee.

It is believed that the whole of Southern Oregon will cooperate to make the day one of great patriotic values and not merely a commercial venture.

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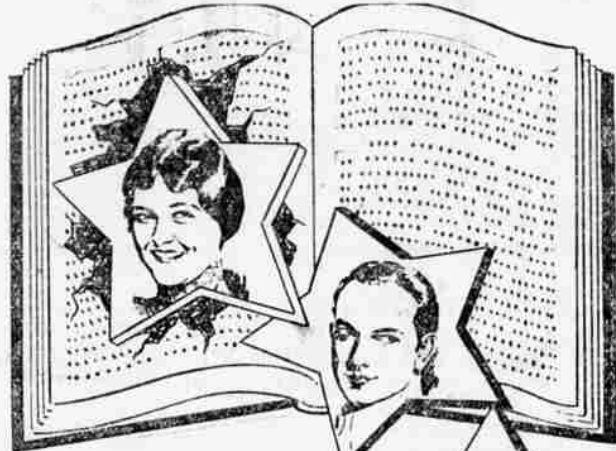
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