

SCHERMERHORN'S SECRET CONFABS WITH G. G. C. TOLD

Jones, La Dieu, Brecheen and Fehl in and Out of Accused Sheriff's Office Frequently After Crime

Oiga Anderson, chief office deputy of the sheriff's office, and Gertrude Martin of the tax department, testified Tuesday afternoon at the trial of Suspended Sheriff Gordon L. Schermerhorn that the official, accused of ballot theft, and Walter J. Jones, mayor of Rogue River, and J. Arthur La Dieu, both convicted of ballot theft, Thomas L. Brecheen of Ashland, defendant awaiting trial, John Glenn, acquitted former county jailer, and County Judge Earl H. Fehl, also a co-defendant, held frequent secret conferences in the sheriff's private office between the date of the ballot robbery and the series of arrests.

In and Out Often. Mrs. Martin testified that the purported leaders of the vote stealing plot, entered the sheriff's office by way of the tax department—an unusual route—and that they came "quite often." Both testified Jones, La Dieu and Brecheen "were in and out frequently," and that as far as they knew, their missions were not county business.

The witness also testified that the visits averaged half an hour in length and that Fehl and Brecheen were the most frequent conferees.

Both the witnesses testified that after the ballot theft, Schermerhorn was "absent-minded, excitable, concerned and nervous." Oiga Anderson testified that Schermerhorn had asked her to recall that he had been in the office "between eight and nine o'clock." Mrs. Anderson testified it was between "7 and 9:10 o'clock" on the night of the vault looting.

Burton Saw Skulkers. Col. R. H. Burton testified that about 10 o'clock on the night of the ballot robbery he was standing on Laurel street and saw some men crawl out of the courthouse window in the rear from the auditorium and thought it was a fight. He investigated and met Schermerhorn there and the latter, after a talk, asked him what he thought of the "Good Government Congress." Burton replied he did not think it was "worth a d—n."

The next day, after the robbery was discovered, Burton testified he met Schermerhorn near the vault window and he (Burton) said: "If you had stayed at that window, you might have caught the thieves," and Schermerhorn replied: "I want at the window." Burton said he then told Schermerhorn, "I am the man you spoke to, last night."

"Urged to Come Clean." Under cross-examination Burton admitted he had several talks with Schermerhorn in the city park and other places, and had urged him "to come clean and resign, and have your friends intercede with the district attorney."

Burton testified "he seemed to be afraid if he resigned they wouldn't dismiss the indictment." He insisted that the meetings had been agreeable to Schermerhorn, though defense counsel tried to make it otherwise. Burton admitted Schermerhorn told him: "I went into the office clean, and I'm going out clean."

Burton was a voluble witness, and had to be admonished by the court several times. Burton said he "sauntered down to the courthouse after he had been chased away from a friend's house, where he was playing pinocle, as Andy's wife said he had to go to bed and get some sleep, so he can get up in the morning."

Sorry for Schermerhorn. County Commissioner R. E. Nealon testified that a few weeks after the ballot robbery, he had said to Schermerhorn:

"Like a lot of other people, I feel sorry for you, for we feel you have been pulled into this, until they have you under their control." Schermerhorn replied, "They have not got that much pull."

Commissioner Nealon said when the commissioners voted to put on a night watchman after the ballot robbery County Judge Fehl objected and called Schermerhorn and asked him, "If the sheriff's office couldn't handle the situation?" Schermerhorn was reluctant to make a definite reply. The commissioners appointed a night-watchman, over Fehl's objection, and the next day Schermerhorn deputized him.

Commissioner Nealon said he told Schermerhorn, "people can't see how the robbery was committed without the sheriff's office knowing something about it—right under the sheriff's windows."

Schermerhorn told Nealon he had been on the west side and the south side of the courthouse on the robbery night, and that he saw "them fellows, or those fellows crawling out of the window, but thought they had a bottle of whiskey hid in a tree." Commissioner Nealon testified.

Fehl Would Stop Re-count. William Rosenbaum, airport mechanic, testified that he attended the "Congress" at the courthouse on the ballot theft night, and heard Fehl ask the audience, "how many want a recount?" and a few answered in the affirmative, and Fehl then declared "the would see there would be no recount."

Rosenbaum testified he saw Fehl and Schermerhorn talking on the south side of the courthouse and they were joined by Newton C. Chaney, who soon left for home. He said when Fehl first appeared on the south side, "young kid said, 'What's the matter, Fehl, won't they let you stay inside?' and Fehl asked, 'Who said that?'"

Rosenbaum said he saw Oliver Martin standing at the southwest corner, and that Schermerhorn also held a conference with him. Hall Kept Eyes Open. Leonard Hall, editor of the Jacksonville Miner, and a figure in the turmoil last winter, testified that he was at one of the windows on the south side of the courthouse, looking inside at the "Congress," and was there from 8 till about 11 o'clock. Hall said he saw Oliver Martin standing out 20 feet from the southwest corner, and "seemed to be the hub of things and delivering messages." He said Schermerhorn came out from behind the building and Hall saw Fehl on the south side, also Brecheen and Jones talking to Martin, and Fehl and Jones talking. He said Jones "kept prowling up and down."

Hall said he saw Schermerhorn at the Mail Tribune office about 11 o'clock that night and he was "nervous," that he came without an invitation, and forced his way into the conversation. The latter revelation was ordered stricken by the court. Rosenbaum testified that he also saw Schermerhorn at the Mail Tribune, but he only remained a few minutes.

Earl York, a postal clerk, testified that on the way home from the Elks, he stopped at the courthouse, and saw Schermerhorn coming around from the rear and talk to Martin. York said he lingered between 10 o'clock and 10:30 o'clock and the outside crowd had started to thin.

Visited Tribune Office. Sam Carey, former ad solicitor for the News testified Schermerhorn called and said he was "going to the Mail Tribune to give them a story about the recount," and returned in a few minutes. The evidence showed that Schermerhorn was in the Mail Tribune for close to an hour talking to printers, scribes, and the night-watchman on duty during the height of the Banks-fomented agitation.

Attorney Frank Van Dyke testified that the day the robbery was discovered he met Schermerhorn on the second floor of the courthouse, and Schermerhorn, after a few conversational remarks, said: "I used to be in the secret service in Colorado, and if I was handling this case, I would let it drop for a couple of months, and then start a quiet investigation."

BIG CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM TO GIVE JOBS IS APPROVED

Two Hundred Million Will Be Spent Under Projects Submitted to Cabinet—No Inside to Contracts

WASHINGTON, July 12.—(AP)—A huge federal construction program, estimated roughly at about \$200,000,000 was approved late yesterday by the cabinet board in charge of the public works program for putting men back to work.

The projects will not be announced until they have been approved by President Roosevelt, but Secretary Ickes, public works administrator and chairman of the board, said they would be submitted today for prompt action.

Assistant Named. Following the meeting of the board Ickes announced the appointment of Colonel H. M. Waite, formerly city manager of Dayton, Ohio, as his first assistant in administering the \$3,300,000,000 public works program, with the title of deputy administrator.

The board set up a subcommittee of three members, headed by Ickes, to allocate among the public parks, national forests and Indian reservations the \$50,000,000 set aside in the program for roads in those areas. Another board meeting will be held today to consider municipal projects which have been recommended by the reconstruction corporation.

The federal projects approved by the board today were included in a program totaling about \$400,000,000 recommended by a subcommittee which has been considering estimates drafted by the various government departments.

Some Gain Approval. Ickes announced he had given preliminary approval to allocations for \$400,000,000 road construction and to Utah, Ohio, Massachusetts and New York.

The total of \$400,000,000 was set aside in the public works act for road construction to be allocated on the basis of length of post roads, area and population. Secretary Ickes warned contractors not to waste money on agents claiming to have an "inside track" to contracts.

Ickes said contracts would be awarded "to those able to do the best job for the least money in an honest way." He added: "The public works fund will be conserved for the purpose of giving work to the unemployed. All possible public and private 'overhead' will be eliminated to this end."

VASELINE WELL FLOWS 10 YEARS

LAMAR, Okla.—(UP)—A fresh oil well which came in 10 years ago as a producer of almost pure vaseline was still pumping the heavy golden substance and paying its owner handsome returns today.

Perhaps the only well of its kind in the world, the well is a marvel

SWIM — DANCE at TWIN PLUNGES

"The Fun Spot of Southern Oregon"

ELKS' NATIONAL CONVENTION TO OPEN JULY 16TH

MILWAUKEE, Wis., July 12.—(UP)—Complete approval of the program of entertainment and business for the 69th annual reunion of Elksdom here July 16 to 22 was given today by Grand Exalted Ruler Floyd E. Thompson of Chicago.

Thompson told Julius P. Hell, chairman of the Milwaukee convention board, stating that "the program is the most complete and comprehensive ever prepared for a national Elks reunion."

For the first time in history, the grand lodge sessions will be opened with public ceremonies which will permit other than delegated representatives of the 438 Elks lodges to attend. It is hoped that President Roosevelt, who is an Elk, will be present in Milwaukee to open the convention.

On the same opening program Grand Exalted Ruler Thompson will speak, as will Postmaster General James A. Farley, Governor Albert G. Schmedeman of Wisconsin, Mayor Hoan of Milwaukee, and Chauncey Yockey, exalted ruler of Milwaukee lodge.

The convention officially opens July 16. Past grand exalted rulers will occupy various Milwaukee pulpits.

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On Monday the Elks national 54-hole golf tournament will begin.

On Tuesday marksmen will inaugurate the Elks ninth annual trapshoot and on that day also the championship national ritualistic team of Elksdom will be picked.

One of the most colorful events on the program will be the national drill competition to be conducted among Elks lodges of the country.

There also is to be a national band contest to decide which band outfit of all the Elks lodges in America merits the title of champion.

Pendleton Ranch Is Movie Locale

LOS ANGELES, July 12.—(AP)—A party of forty film players including Richard Arlen and Chester Morris, left last night for Pendleton to

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LOS ANGELES, July 12.—(AP)—A party of forty film players including Richard Arlen and Chester Morris, left last night for Pendleton to

spend two weeks filming exterior on the ranch of Henry W. Collins for the picture, "Golden Harvest."

Ralph Murphy, director, said Collins will act as technical advisor.

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- WIDER TREAD For Safety means that you can stop quicker

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