

Truck Cargo Hijacking Returns To Plague Law Enforcement Men

New York — (U.P.) — A crime that helped to give the "roaring 20's" its name has come back like a lion in the postwar period to plague both law enforcement agencies and industry.

Truck cargo thefts and hijackings have increased sharply since the end of World War II. Losses now are believed to be running in excess of \$100,000,000 a year.

Industry spokesmen point out that the consumer actually foots the hijacking bill.

"Hijackings and truck cargo thefts push up insurance rates, which in turn mean higher transportation charges and ultimately higher prices at the retail level," they said.

Hijacking is a throwback to the lawless days of prohibition when gangsters battled for control of the illegal liquor trade. Violence was their creed and the big black sedan bristling with machine guns was their trademark.

Gunplay Seldom Used

But today highly organized gangs prey upon the nation's trucks with the precision of a professional football team. Seldom do they resort to gunplay or other rough stuff.

An analysis of loss reports from insurance companies and

law enforcement agencies indicates that truck cargo thieves made off with an estimated \$100,000,000 worth of loot in 1955, against only \$22,000,000 in 1945.

A spokesman for the Cargo Protection bureau in New York says these loss figures do not reflect "single-package" losses, such as when one fur coat or one case of whiskey is stolen from a truck.

"Estimates show that single-case losses in the aggregate represent an even greater toll to carriers and shippers than full-load losses," according to the bureau.

These loss figures are disrupted by many trucking industry groups as being exaggerated or not fully substantiated.

However, the bureau emphasizes that all loss figures are estimates. It points out that truck cargo thefts are not a serious problem among the big contract carriers, such as those which comprise the American Trucking association.

Liquor Favorite Target

"The great proportion of highway thefts occur from shipper-owned or locally-leased pick-up and delivery trucks which frequently lack the protective measures set up by the contract carriers," the bureau explains.

The bureau notes that most

truck cargo thefts occur when unattended while the driver makes a pick-up or delivery in a nearby store or building.

Liquor is a favorite target of the "truck rustlers." In Baltimore last month the FBI seized three men only a few minutes after they hijacked a tractor trailer carrying \$50,000 worth of whiskey.

But scores of other easily disposed of items such as furs, tobacco, food, appliances, clothing and even metals stand high on the hijacker's list of popular items.

Like the bandits of the Old West who knew exactly which stagecoach was carrying gold, today's hijackers know what cargo a truck is hauling and what route it will follow. Sometimes they slip up, like the time a gang wound up with 15,000 Bibles.

Ike Not Expected To Speak at Linfield

Washington—(U.P.)—Rep. Walter Norblad said today that he has been informed that President Eisenhower will not be able to accept an invitation to deliver the commencement address at Linfield college this year.



CHIPPER AND CHEERFUL — President Eisenhower walks beneath wing of his Aero Commander plane on arrival in Washington from Gettysburg, Pa. The chief executive, chipper and cheerful after a highly encouraging medical checkup, observed Mothers' Day at his farm.

On The Side

By E. V. Durling

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

Travel guides continue to cover an increasingly wide field of advice. For example, I note it suggested that a lonely young woman in Paris can find it helpful in meeting interesting men by buying a French poodle and then strolling about the boulevards with the pup in tow. The poodle will give a male stranger a chance to open a conversation, referring to the dog, without his being considered flirtatious. The young woman can respond to the gentleman's interest in her dog without endangering her reputation. And so one thing leads to another. It is not a new idea. Young women of Manhattan have been using the same system of flirtation for years. Especially on Park ave.

Perfect Husband

Is there such a thing as a perfect husband? How about a nearly perfect husband? It would seem Geoffrey Grenville-Williams of London might qualify for one of these ratings. Mr. Grenville-Williams, who is a millionaire, has a beautiful young wife named Edwina. Of his matrimonial mate, this remarkable husband says, "My wife is my hobby. I try to buy her something every day." Some of the things Mr. Grenville-Williams has recently purchased for Mrs. Grenville-Williams are a mink coat, a Russian sable, a sapphire mink coat, a \$280,000 diamond necklace and a pair of \$2,800 earrings.

Asides

Note "Babe" Ruth referred to as a "batting champion of the American league." Should read "Champion home run batter." The "Babe" was never the batting champion of the American league. Incidentally, Ty Cobb won that title 12 times. . . . that distinguished Allrophile, Dr. Samuel Johnson, had a cat named Hodge. The favorite food of Hodge was oysters.

Dentists

Why do dentists insist upon standing up while working? There are dental chairs which permit dentists to sit down while in action. The use of a dental chair is said to have the possibility of adding five or more years to the dentist's professional life. Too many dentists quit before they should because their legs go back on them. Also, the use of a restful chair by the dentist will give a better break for patients with late afternoon appointments. Dentists who have been standing up all day are often not in the best of humor around four in the afternoon.

Bathtub Singer

Have come into possession of a remarkable song book compiled by George Goodwin that has done much for the variety of my singing in the bathtub programs. To give you an idea of the calibre of these programs, permit me to inform you that this morning I rendered the following ditties: "Where did you get that hat?"; "McFadden's Uptown Flat"; "Sergeant McGee of the N.Y.M.P."; "Just Because She Made Them Goo Goo Eyes"; "She Was Happy 'Til She Met You"; "A Little Bit of What You Fancy Does You Good" and

Never Take the Horseshoe from the Door.

Briefly

It was none other than that widely traveled and highly observant fellow Tyrone Power who once said: "I have watched them closely and I say after traveling in many countries that English girls have the nicest legs in the world." . . . Am asked the ages of Lana Turner, Judy Garland and Rita Hayworth. Rita is one year older than Lana who is three years older than Judy who was born the year Morvich won the Kentucky Derby.

Sidelines

Sarah Bernhardt did not mar-

A Nichol's Worth of . . .

Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS

United Press Feature Writer

Washington — (U.P.) — What's new in Washington:

Dorothy, pretty young daughter of Republican Congressman O t t o Krueger of North Dakota, got all worked up over what people say about her state. Like Indians raiding the forts in the dark of night.

Dorothy is teaching school in Maryland. When she took her worries to pop, he asked her to sit down and plead a cause for their home state. She did and the congressman printed it in his news letter.

Said Dorothy: "I get really upset when I have to locate North Dakota geographically for those who've never heard of it, or what is even worse, to hear about the Indians." The North Dakota red man, she said, is docile and neighborly.

The help around Capitol Hill, like many an aproned housewife, is busy feather dusting and getting the premises prettied up for summer and visitors. But most of our ladies in simple living don't have the problem of dismantling chandeliers. All of the dangling bobbles on the hill have to be unhooked, scrubbed and put back. It's quite a chore.

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson has some interesting hobbies. One is putting around the garden, planting carrots and petunias.

He also is better than the garden variety of horsemen, having won several silver cups.

Our informant from Heidelberg, Germany, cables that the Army is collecting souvenirs. Some of the kids are making their own take-homes. Like cuff links from melted down coins. Pebbles along the beaches grow up to be "Jewelry." Hotel baggage labels are decorations for ash trays. Museum tickets wind up under the glass of cocktail tables.

None is for sale. Strictly hobbies.

The Postal News Services bulletin reports that carrier Harold

ry for the first time until she was 30 years old . . . How large can a human being grow? So far the largest man known to medical historians was Miles Darden of Tennessee. Darden was seven feet six inches in height and weighed 871 pounds.

Visual Telephone

When will the visual telephone be available in this country? That is the telephone which in a person to person call makes it possible for those on the telephone to see each other. That type of telephone has been in operation in Europe for many years. As far back as 1938 it was possible to telephone from Berlin to Munich, a distance of 408 miles for the equivalent of \$1.95 for three minutes and to see the person talked to.

Miller of Rochester, Ind., had no trouble at all delivering a letter addressed simply: "Milo, Theima, Jean Joan, two blocks south of thumb hand side."

Miller got it there on time, even though the sender didn't say which thumb.

Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson hired a new hand the other day. Asked if the man had enough authority, the secretary replied:

"He has not enough authority to do the wrong things and keep it up very long."

Multnomah Vice Probe By Grand Jury Slated

Portland—(U.P.)—The Multnomah county grand jury investigation into alleged vice operations in Portland is scheduled to get under way either today or tomorrow, Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton said.

Trumans Arrive In France for Tour Around Europe

Le Havre, France — (U.P.) —

Former President Truman arrived here today for a seven week look around Europe but said he would return home and take an active part in the presidential campaign if asked.

He quickly added that he had no interest in a presidential campaign except to elect a Democratic president.

Mr. Truman said he and Mrs. Truman had "smooth sailing" on the five day Atlantic crossing aboard the liner United States and a steward volunteered the information "There wasn't a single wave."

Up Early for Stroll

As usual the former president was up at 7 a.m. for a stroll around the decks after the liner docked in clear, sunny weather. He was still suffering from a fall down a stairway three weeks ago and limped along with the aid of a cane.

He was chipper enough, however, to climb a full flight of stairs instead of taking an elevator.

"This should give you boys some knee exercises," he cracked to newsmen hurrying to keep up with him.

Mr. Truman, dapper in a blue suit, held a news conference shortly before he and Mrs. Truman boarded a boat train for Paris. The train was 15 minutes late because of a freight engine which blocked the way.

No Political Interest
Asked if he would run for office any time in the future, Mr. Truman said, "I'm not interested in politics at all."

He scoffed at reports he would

Spilled Tea Aids In Negotiations

Washington — (U.P.) — Attention diplomats: A Japanese official has accidentally discovered a new method of negotiating with the Russians.

Just spill some tea during the conference.

Ichiro Kono, Japanese minister of agriculture and forestry, spilled his tea during fishery negotiations last week with Soviet Premier Bulganin in Moscow.

What happened next is described in a Radio Moscow broadcast.

"It is a good sign in the Soviet Union to spill tea on an occasion like this," Bulganin soothed his guest. "The talks will surely come to a successful end," he added.

Soviet negotiations, at first willing to allow Japanese fishermen to take only 25,000,000 fish annually in a restricted area, later agreed to the Japanese proposal of 45 to 50,000,000 fish.

Oregon Marines Set Confab-Reunion Date

The Oregon Marine corps league convention reunion will be held in Albany June 2 and 3.

Registration begins at General Headquarters at 9 a.m. June 2. During the two day convention recognition for top representation of any corps outfit will take place. All marines and ex-marines, whether members or not, are urged to attend.

For reservations to the convention those interested are asked to call Jim Barrett in Albany, Wabash 8-8637.

Dodd For Delegate



WALTER H. DODD serves as assistant to Oregon's United States Senator Richard L. Neuberger in our nation's capitol, Washington, D. C.

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The Rummage and Miscellaneous Sale starts at 9 A.M. . . . The Auction Sale is from 1:30 to 5 P.M. and again from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M. . . . Be sure to be there . . . all proceeds are for the YMCA . . . and the money will be used to purchase vitally needed athletic equipment . . . It's for a fine cause . . . you'll have a lot of fun . . . and you may be King for a Day! . . . And win the rich King's Treasure Chest.

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