

Auditors Found Cash Everywhere In Checking 'Miss M's' Cubicle

Editor's note: This is the second in a three-part series on Miss Minnie Mangum, accused of stealing more than \$2,000 from her employers.

By H. D. QUIG
Norfolk, Va. — U.P.—At 5:50 p.m. last Dec. 16 a platoon of 24 federal auditors swooped down on the Commonwealth Building and Loan Association. And on its respected and popular employee of 26 years, Miss Minnie C. Mangum.

They went to the cubicle where she worked as boss of the savings department and assistant secretary treasurer of the association.

Before they finished their checkup, they found shortages of \$2,884,957.06.

"Everything we would pick up, money would fall out—cash, coins, checks," says William A. Patton, federal home loan bank examiner.

"She opened one drawer and there was a bundle of currency with a rubber band around it. She said there was about \$4,000 there."

Just six days after the auditors swooped, the plump spinster sat with John M. Sink, president of the Fourth District Federal Home Loan Bank, and signed a question-and-answer statement which starts:

Mr. Sinks: "Miss Mangum, there is an apparent shortage in this association. Do you hold yourself responsible for this shortage?"

Miss Mangum: "Yes."

Mr. Sink: "Could you give us an approximate estimate of this shortage?"

Miss Mangum: "Two million dollars, I think."

Mr. Sink: "When did you begin to use the association's mon-

ey?"

Miss Mangum: "About 20 years ago."

She had, she said, given or lent the association's money to friends and all her relatives except one sister. These people, she said, knew nothing of her defalcations.

One part of her statement, concerning a loan to a cousin, goes:

Miss Mangum: "I lent her \$5,000 but she paid it back."

Mr. Sink: "When the \$5,000 was repaid, did this money go to the credit of the association?"

Miss Mangum: "Yes sir. No, I mean it went to my account."

How did Miss Minnie do it? What was her technique?

For one thing, she was in complete charge of the banking. She hired girls fresh out of business school so she could "break them in to my system." But she made a mistake last fall in hiring Mrs. Esther Cannon as a bookkeeper.

Mrs. Cannon, with some experience before, questioned some figures. Miss Minnie got mad. There was a shouting argument. A state auditor, present for a routine check, heard it, got suspicious and reported to his superiors.

Basically, the state said, Miss Minnie had three systems:

1. Simply stealing cash from the funds that came in. At the end of the day, tellers would take the tapes off their cash registers, count their cash and be checked out by Miss Minnie. From there on she had sole control of the cash and of the records.

2. A friend wants \$2,000. Miss Mangum walked with him to a

teller and said: "Open an account for Mr. so-and-so and put \$2,000 to his credit. You make a memo of it." The friend then was credited with a deposit of \$2,000 although he actually had deposited nothing. He could draw on it when he wished.

3. Make loans against savings deposits to friends and relatives who had nothing in the association.

Miss Minnie had something else. Roy F. Phillips, president of the now defunct association, says:

"She couldn't possibly have done what she's charged with doing if she hadn't the perfect confidence of everyone. The auditors had the same confidence in her that we did."

Tomorrow: Why she did it.

Helicopter Sets Altitude Record

Line Pine, Calif. — (U.P.)—A helicopter pilot today was scheduled to again attempt a landing atop 14,495-foot Mt. Whitney after establishing two firsts for helicopters.

Bill Davidson, a flyer from Bakersfield, Calif., Tuesday flew over the tilted granite summit at an estimated altitude of 15,000 feet. He was the first helicopter pilot to cross the peak, highest in continental United States.

Davidson said he was unable to set down on the summit because of fan belt trouble. He said he made a forced landing at 12,200 feet, bettering an Air Force record of 9,300 feet.

The previous record for a successful landing and takeoff in mountain country was set when the Air Force rescued a stricken hiker from a meadow in California's Sequoia National Park.

APPLEGATE-JACKSONVILLE Sterling Creek Cabin Burns

By HELGA MITCHELL

Applegate-Jacksonville — A three room cabin belonging to Walter L. Clary of Sterling Creek burned to the ground last Thursday night. Cause of the fire was not determined. Clary had been visiting with a neighbor, Roy Hetrick, and when he came home, he found his house completely destroyed by fire. Clary's home was not insured, and he lost everything but the clothes he was wearing. He has been staying with different neighbors for awhile, and is now employed by the State Forestry at Table Rock rd.

The Hunter and Best Sawmill at Ruch is about to embark on a night shift, and they have been hiring men to form the new crew. A few more experienced men are needed to complete the crew, before the night shift will commence.

Guests staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Byrne of Upper Applegate are Byrne's sister, Mrs. Stella O'Brien of Richmond, Calif., and with her is Harold Watson, and Watson's sister, Mrs. Gertrude Helm of San Jose. As the visitors were en route to this area, they had a tire blow out at Yreka and their car was wrecked. Fortunately, none of the car occupants were hurt. A relative, Clarence Williams of Medford, picked them up in his car at Yreka and brought them to the Byrne home.

Sunday visitors at the Mansel Milam residence were Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Poter of Klamath Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Webb of Lakeside, Ore., visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Smith this week.

Services at the Ruch Community church will include Sunday school, 10 a.m.; worship services, 11 a.m.; Bible study, 8 p.m.

Mrs. Lee Port is improving continually.

Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Straube of Upper Applegate were Mr. and Mrs. Albert Nelson of Klamath Falls.

The song, "It's So Peaceful in the Country," is certainly true and applicable to the visiting city slicker, but not to the hard working farmers and their wives who rarely have time to take in the peace and quiet of the country. The idyllic dream of the farmer and his wife sitting peacefully rocking on their front porch, watching the rest of the busy world go by, certainly is a fallacy. Having been raised in New York City, we always linked this scene with thoughts of the country, but after having visited farms and studying rural life in general, we are beginning to wonder if such a pastoral scene ever did exist.

Mrs. Molly Foster of Forest Creek recently returned to the Mitchell Sanitarium.

Luncheon guests at the home of Mrs. Mansel Milam of Sterling Creek last week were Mrs. Al Blumreich and Mrs. James Stephens.

Found: Another correspondent who wrote for the Indianapolis Gazette. Several years ago, Mrs. Marcel LePiniec wrote the "Horse and Hound" column, which pertained to fox hunting.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Harr donated a special organ to the American Union Sunday school recently, which was greatly appreciated by the members of the school.



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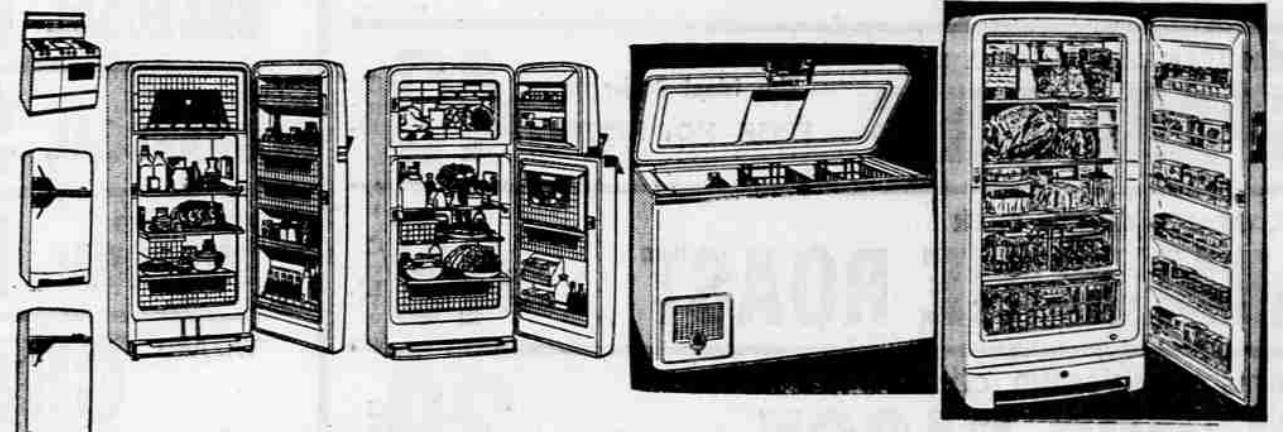
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