

Specks O'Keefe Names McGinnis As 'Brains' in Brink's Holdup

Boston—(AP)—Joseph (Specks) O'Keefe, confessed Brink's holdup murderer, named McGinnis as the "brains" behind the \$1,218,211 looting of Brink's, Inc., six years ago.

McGinnis and the seven other defendants accused of the Jan. 17, 1950 holdup—the nation's largest cash robbery—stared sullenly as O'Keefe turned to face them from the witness stand.

O'Keefe said the robbery conspiracy began in 1947 when defendant Anthony Pino asked "if I'd be interested in getting in a holdup bigger than the Sturtevant job."

This was in reference to the \$107,000 holdup of the Sturtevant Mill in Boston's Hyde Park section a few months earlier.

Gang Named

O'Keefe said he told Pino he'd have to know who was going to be in on the holdup before making up his mind. Later in 1948, he said he met Pino again and he named defendants Michael Geagan, Sandy Richardson, Adolph Jazz Maffie and Vincent Costa as the men who would work the job.

"Pino told us there would be a 'Mr. X' brought in to plan the robbery. All of us objected," O'Keefe said. "We told him we didn't want any part of 'Mr. X.'"

O'Keefe said that same night Pino brought in McGinnis. The witnesses testified that it was he and Costa who searched along the dingy row of north end tenements for a vantage place from which the Brink's money operations were watched through a high powered telescope.

O'Keefe said that McGinnis joined the gang in 1949 after they abandoned plans to hold up Brink's at the old Federal Street building.

During O'Keefe's testimony the eight defendants watched restively. Pino mopped his face with a handkerchief. O'Keefe's eyes occasionally flicked towards them, his expression contemptuous.

Planned At Pino's House

The witnesses said that in the summer of 1948 Pino told him he had found the building into which Brink's was going to move. He quoted Pino as saying it was on Prince Street and "workmen were still getting it ready."

"Most of the planning took place at Pino's house," O'Keefe said. "We agreed it would be safer if all of us didn't get to-

gether at one time. So once in a while I would meet Pino at a movie."

O'Keefe said Pino ordered that none of the gang was to use his own weapon for the robbery, that the guns and costumes would be provided by him.

The witness, whose criminal record dates back 20 years and includes 70 arrests, described dozens of nighttime visits to the Brink's counting house in the

months before the gang set out for the holdup.

"We familiarized ourselves with everything," O'Keefe said. "We went through all the desks and files. We also copied a list of Brink's customers."

O'Keefe said another of McGinnis' brainstorms was to burn the Brink's money vaults. "He told us he knew a burning process that would not create too much heat and maybe set off an alarm."

Investigation Opens Into Charges That Recruit Was Slugged

Parris Island, S.C.—(AP)—Officials at this sprawling Marine Corps boot camp Saturday investigated charges that a supply-room corporal slugged a young recruit just receiving his first field pack because he didn't "have sense enough to say 'sir.'"

Pvt. Donald Hamisfar, 20, of Norwalk, Ohio, Friday night told United Press in an exclusive interview that the non-commissioned officer, who has not been identified, "hit me in the ribs, just above the stomach,"

Navy doctors said they found a "bruised spot" on Hamisfar's abdomen when they operated on him Aug. 28 for groin hernia. The doctors said the hernia, which was congenital in origin, could have been aggravated by the blow.

The young recruit said that the incident happened only two days after he had enlisted.

Immediate Probe Begun
Officials at this boot camp, where only two months ago S. Sgt. Matthew McKeon was found guilty of negligence on the "death march" drowning of six recruits, immediately launched an intensive investigation of the Hamisfar affair.

Hamisfar, from his hospital bed gave this account of the incident:

"On Aug. 23 the platoon was taken by our drill instructor to the supply room to check out gear. We were issued a pack, a bucket and swab. A sergeant (the Marine Corps identified him as a corporal) picked up my pack and carried it out in the middle of a semi-circle.

"He raised it above his head and said 'Now do all of you have one of these?' I didn't know that he had my pack so I said 'No, I don't have one.'

"He came up to me and said

"Don't you have sense enough to say 'sir' when you're talking to a non-commissioned officer?"

"I said 'yes sir,' and he hit me in the ribs, just above the stomach."

Hamisfar, who at first refused to talk to a reporter but told his story at the urging of Maj. Gen. Homer L. Litzenberg, commanding general of this training base, said that the non-com didn't hit him as hard as he could have, but "it was a very painful blow and I still feel it when I sleep on my back."

Hamisfar's hernia was discovered the following day when the recruit received his first physical examination here Hamisfar had not reported the incident until the bruise was discovered during his operation.

Students Examined At Vision Clinic

More than 135 Medford students in grades one through 12 were examined during the recent visual screening clinic sponsored by the Medford Lions club.

The clinic was held Sept. 7 in cooperation with the Vision Conservation Institute of the Northwest. Registration and screening were handled by the Medford Lady Lions under supervision of vision specialists.

Students were identified only by number and statistical information gathered will be used by the institute for research purposes, according to the Lions club. However, results of each child's test will be made available to his parents.

Herb Seitz, president of the Lions club, said that response to the clinic has prompted plans for a return visit on an annual basis.

Cynthia Ruotolo Killed Same Day She was Kidnapped

Hamden, Conn.—(AP)—Six-week-old Cynthia Ruotolo was killed Sept. 1, the same day she was kidnaped from a department store, county detective Edmund Flanagan said Saturday.

"The cause of death was asphyxiation," he said. "Upon all available information death occurred five days before the body was discovered." The baby's body was found in Lake Whitney Sept. 6 by three boys.

Flanagan's announcement had come after investigators conferred with Yale pathologist Dr. Averill A. Liebow, who had been called to interpret findings of an FBI laboratory report on the vital organs of the child.

The report was not released. Flanagan refused to say whether it would be.

A bruise on the baby's forehead, Flanagan said, was sustained before she was stolen from her carriage inside the store and did not contribute to the death nor did it cause a serious injury.

Elaborating, he said "the head injury was sustained sometime before Sept. 1 but no definite date has been ascertained."

Asked whether "asphyxiation" was regarded as the same as "suffocation," he answered: "Right."

"Does that mean she didn't drown?" he was asked.

"We're not saying that. When you drown you suffocate, too," he replied.

Flanagan said he had not seen the autopsy report, and could not tell whether the baby might have been suffocated by some material prior to being placed in a plastic potato sack and dropped into the lake.

As to how long the body had been in the water, the detective said, "I can't say. I don't know."

While the interview was going on, Stephen Ruotolo, the father of the baby, appeared at headquarters and told a group of newsmen and photographers, "you guys are crucifying my wife. You guys haven't been very fair."

Flanagan said the investigation would continue.

Around Hollywood

Hollywood—(AP)—The usual movie star's mother is content to retire and bask in her child's glory, but one parent of moviedom is a local celebrity in her own right.

In the realm of interior decorators, Mrs. Gladys Belzer is as much a success as her daughter Loretta Young is in show business.

In Hollywood, land of fads and trademarks, it is considered chic to be able to say you take Mil-towns, buy your clothes from Don Loper or have "my home done by Mrs. Belzer."

In fact, some mansions are advertised in the motion picture trade papers as simply "for sale—home decorated by Mrs. Belzer"—no first name even necessary.

Decorators Thrive
The Los Angeles area is decorator-crazy, with more decorators per capita than in any other city, apparently because show folks and other owners of new wealth need guidance. One can't even

Candidates Plan To Attend Fair

All but two candidates have accepted invitations from the League of Women Voters to the nonpartisan Candidates' Fair to be held Saturday, Oct. 27, at 8 p.m. in the McLoughlin Junior High school boys' gymnasium.

At a meeting of the league's voter service committee this week, Mayor Earl H. Miller announced that a city official will be present at the fair to explain traffic problems, storm sewers, sanitary sewers, off street parking and fluoridation.

Mrs. Eugene Peterson of the county elections department stated the department will also have a booth at the fair to explain how ballots should be marked, the advantages and disadvantages of write-in votes and absentee ballots.

Participants in the coming Candidates' Fair who attended the meeting were Don McNeil, manager of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, repre-

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J. EDGAR HOOVER FINED

Indianapolis—(AP)—J. Edgar Hoover was given a suspended 10-day sentence and fined \$67 for drunkenness, reckless driving and profanity. Hoover, 35, is not related to the FBI chief.

representatives of the American Association of University Women, Jaycees, Jaycettes, child guidance clinic, Jackson county Democrats, Jackson county Republicans, Business and Professional Women and Toastmistresses.

Oregonian Named In Libel Suit

Portland—(AP)—The Oregonian Publishing Company yesterday was named defendant in two libel suits asking damages totalling \$300,000.

Action was filed in Multnomah county circuit court by Circuit Judge Frank B. Reid of Eugene who charged that the newspaper published a "libel, wilfully, maliciously and without just cause, and statements in the article are false."

Also named a defendant in Judge Reid's complaint was R. Harlow Schillios, a Eugene freelance writer and photographer.

The article in question was published in the Oregonian Aug. 12 and concerned statements allegedly made by Lane County District Attorney Eugene C. Venn at a public meeting.

The Oregonian and Venn were also named defendants in two suits filed by William Huey, a Eugene attorney who asked \$150,000 damages in each suit.

Judge Reid's complaint said he has made a written request to the newspaper for a retraction but that the Oregonian had failed to publish a retraction.

Venn commented after being notified of the action against him, "I welcome the opportunity to prove in the court of law the truth of my statements."

CONTRACT AWARDED
Portland—(AP)—The Corps of Engineers has awarded a \$113,405 contract to West Coast Steel Works of Portland for removal and salvage of one abandoned highway and four railroad bridges in The Dalles dam area in Wasco and Sherman counties.

Big D'Anjou Crop Expected This Year

A "big D'Anjou pear crop is expected for the Rogue valley this year according to Clifford Cordy, county horticultural agent. Pear sizes are larger than many previous years, he said.

Orchardists will begin full scale harvesting of Bosc variety the first of next week as D'Anjou picking slacks off, Cordy said.

Picking of Hale and Elberta variety peaches is near completion in valley orchard and Rio Osa Gems are scheduled for harvesting next week.

Penitentiary Warden Files Libel Complaint

Portland—(AP)—A \$225,000 libel suit has been filed here by Clarence T. Gladden, warden of the state penitentiary. The suit was directed against publication of an article in the November, 1955, issue of the publication "Headquarters Detective."

Gladden's complaint alleged the article contained false and malicious references to him.

WEATHER
By United Press
Northern California: Fair Sunday; local fog on coast night and morning.

Miller Proclaims Constitution Week

Mayor Earl Miller has proclaimed the week of Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week in Medford.

In issuing the proclamation, Mayor Miller said, "Whereas the United States of America is a constitutional republic consisting of federal and state governments. No powers can be exercised by any individual or group unless by a written constitution, federal or state, or laws enacted thereunder. Ours is a government of laws, not by men. . . . therefore, I urge all Medford citizens to observe this week as Constitution Week."

The Mayor's proclamation came as a result of a proclamation by President Eisenhower complying with a Congressional Resolution.

Austin Flegel Dies After Long Illness

Portland—(AP)—Austin F. Flegel, Portland industrialist, former state senator and economic adviser to Thailand, died at his Portland home Friday night after an extended illness. He was 66.

Flegel, an attorney and president of the Willamette Iron and Steel corporation, served for 28 months as chief of the United States technical and economic mission to Thailand. He was at one time the Democratic nominee for governor of Oregon and was defeated by Douglas McKay. He was best known recently as a benefactor of the Portland zoo, sending it numerous animals from Thailand.

Survivors include the widow, five brothers and two sisters.

Engineers Schedule The Dalles Meeting

Salem—(AP)—The Association of Western State Engineers will hold its 19th annual convention in The Dalles Sept. 17-19, State Engineer Lewis A. Stanley announced Saturday.

Stanley is president of the association.

The meeting will be attended by some state engineers of 17 western states and representatives of several federal departments.

Discussion of federal-state relations in water rights control will be among topics to be discussed.

Mill Workers Defeat Proposal to Join IWWA

Ashland—Employees of the Mistletoe Planning mill and Mistletoe Wholesale company turned down by a vote of 25 to 19 a membership in the International Wood Workers of America, according to Arthur M. Peters, owner and manager of the two businesses.

A petition for staging an election was presented by the IWWA with signatures of 30 per cent of the 45 Mistletoe employees. Supervisors, clerical and sales personnel were excluded from voting. This was the first such election for Mistletoe businesses, Peters said. It was directed by Arthur Hedges, Portland, of the National Labor Relations Board.

Iowa Man Dies After Falling Off Train

Baker—(AP)—Charles F. Coffman, 74, Chariton, Iowa, died at midnight Friday night in a Baker hospital of injuries suffered when he apparently fell from a streamliner train Thursday night as it passed through Pleasant Valley near here.

Coffman was not discovered missing until the train reached LaGrande, about 55 miles from the scene of the mishap. A railroad section crew hunted for him and he was located at 3 a.m. yesterday and rushed to the hospital. He was unconscious when found.

The Iowa man was en route to Portland, Ore., when the accident occurred.

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MILK and MARIGOLDS...



Milk, marigolds, eggs—a variety of nature's products—fill the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Heitkamp of Medford. Milk, however, is their main interest, and they run a herd of 65 milking cows on their 220-acre farm.

The Heitkamps, who are members of the Milk Producers' League of Jackson County, came to America from Germany in 1923. In 1929 they moved to the Rogue Valley and helped establish the Crater Meat Company and Southern Oregon Nursery. They established their dairy in 1945, and have since developed one of the largest dairy farms in the area.

In addition to her work in the dairy—Mrs. Heitkamp runs a small poultry enterprise and cultivates the prize-winning flowers in her garden. Martin, Jr., is studying agriculture at Oregon State College.

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