

Italian Criminals Pose As Priests While Executing Some Criminal Acts

Rome — (UPI) — A man in a priest's robes entered a bank, pulled a submachine gun from under his cassock and said: "This is a holdup. Don't move."

It happened Aug. 20, 1959, in the north Italian village of Bevilacqua. The holdup, which netted the phony priest and an accomplice \$747 in cash and \$9,600 in checks, was but one of the many instances in which Italian criminals have disguised themselves as priests or nuns.

In a country where Roman Catholic priests are numerous and respected — and where

they have a sometimes exaggerated reputation for influence and power — clerical robes have often proved an ideal disguise for thieves, con men and other small-time crooks.

The disguise is so effective that even the police used it once, but stopped immediately following outraged shouts of protest in parliament.

False Priest

Two crimes by people posing as clerics were reported in a single day during February in different areas of northern Italy. In Verona province, a false priest with

a French accent toured the countryside by taxi and asked parish priests to contribute money for "secret charity." At least three priests were swindled out of sums ranging from \$8 to \$18 each.

Police said they thought the man was an old acquaintance who had been posing as a priest since 1958, when he swindled a cloth merchant in a Venice suburb.

The same day, the good-natured owner of a milk bar in Monza near Milan allowed two "nuns" fatigued from alms-collecting to rest and eat a bite at his place.

Shortly after they left, bar owner Carlo Mariani found that his wife's handbag with \$800 worth of jewelry had vanished. Passers-by later

said they saw the two "nuns" walk quickly around the corner, board a motorcycle and roar out of town.

That, of course, was small-

time compared with the \$10,468 earned at a single stroke by Romualdo de Fonzo, alias "Msgr. Mariano de Ceva," before he was arrested in Rome a few years ago.

Di Fonzo, then 36, pulled his elaborate confidence game on Marcello Luconi, a clothes merchant in the town of Prato, to whom he identified himself as an assistant to Msgr. Ferdinando Baldelli, president of the Pontifical Relief Organization (POA).

An accomplice contacted Luconi and told him POA had just been donated large quantities of coffee and pep-

per for distribution to the poor. POA, he said, wanted to sell the pepper and coffee to finance distribution of spaghetti.

Luconi was interested and "Msgr. de Ceva" sold him the non-existent coffee and pepper.

The fraud was one of many in which self-appointed "priests" claimed influence in big business or politics. In a country where the clergy's influence is in fact considerable — and magnified beyond reality by popular imagination — most of the con men found people ready to believe them.

The one known case of police using a priestly disguise happened in Rome in 1959, when Domenico Nonazzani called a friar to confess his sins and was handcuffed by the "confessor."

The phony friar was a member of the national police who had chosen the disguise to shadow Nonazzani, known as a religious fanatic. Nonazzani was wanted on a warrant for insulting a magistrate who once sent him to an insane asylum.

The "friar" arrested Nonazzani without hearing his confession.

J. C. Penney Will Observe 59th Year With 'Pow-Wow'

The J. C. Penney company will observe its 59th anniversary April 7 to 22 with a nationwide "pow-wow" to mark the founding of the company in Kemmerer, Wyo., in 1902.

Local employees will join Penney workers throughout the country in recreating the "cigar-tore Indian" era of earlier days.

The merchant symbol of the past was selected as the anniversary's theme to recall the period from 1850 to 1890. Decorations and memorabilia from bygone days will be used in the store during the celebration, according to Medford Manager Ray F. Baker.

He said the store would welcome any suggestions or displays to help recreate this colorful period in American history.

Founder of Company

The founder of the company, James Cash Penney, was born in Hamilton, Mo., in 1875. In 1902 he founded the J. C. Penney company, Inc., and served as president until 1917. He was chairman of the board from 1917 to 1958, and is presently serving as a director, at the age of 85.

A recent book, "View from the Ninth Decade," is the fifth autobiographical work he has written, in collaboration with other writers.

This year's anniversary symbol, the "Indus Americanus Woodens," or the cigar-store Indian, is said to have originated in England and was first displayed on the counter of a London apothecary shop in 1617.

The Indian, attired in a kilt of tobacco leaves, was used to advertise tobacco introduced to England by Sir Walter Raleigh. It is believed to have first been displayed in America in Boston in 1730.

Inmates Star on Television at Las Vegas Jail

Las Vegas, Nev. — (UPI) — Aspiring actors take note: One way to get on television is to be arrested in Las Vegas by a deputy sheriff.

But your audience on CCG-TV (Clark County Jail) will be limited, and Aunt Cecilia back in Indiana will not be able to catch the debut.

The circuit is closed, and your only critic will be an officer looking in from the office of the jail.

Six cameras in the multi-million-dollar Clark County Court House are hidden behind prison-proof glass. Located in strategic positions, they permit one deputy to maintain effective surveillance over the three-story jail wing.

The officer can sit in the remote office and watch six monitor screens — each channeled to one of the cameras recording prison activity.

Two cameras are located on the third floor. Each is trained on a corridor on which cellblocks face. Any person leaving a cell will immediately come into view on one of the screens.

Two more cameras are on the second floor to cover the dining hall and infirmary. On the ground floor, there is a rear door leading to a subterranean garage. Through this door all prisoners are admitted for booking.

One camera on the ground floor watches garage activity immediately outside the steel door. The remaining camera is mounted inside the door.

An organized jail break with outside assistance would be seen by officers before the participants even reached the only outside door to the jail. An inside job would be spotted just as quickly.

CCG-TV—Installed a year ago at a cost of \$36,000—will more than pay for itself in wages saved. One man can now perform the work of six. The network is not without sound.

Sound Available

A master control board at the jailer's fingertips can add audio to the picture on his screen. There are 20 hidden microphones in the jail and a deputy can, with a flick of a switch, cut in a mike in a specific area to monitor conversation.

There also is an inter-alarm system.

Buttons, some in secret locations, others plainly marked in red on corridor walls, are only a few steps away from any location in the cellblock, in case a deputy finds himself in trouble.

When a button is pushed, an alarm rings in the jail office and a sign flashes on the wall showing the location of the disturbance.

The microphones are two-way so that deputies can carry on a conversation with the command post in the office.

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59th

ANNIVERSARY

Year 'Round Famous
DAN RIVER Woven Plaid

SPORT SHIRTS

Terrific
Anniversary
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166



- 2 Bias Pockets!
- Permanent Collar Stays!
- Pearlized Buttons!
- Wash 'n' Wear!
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These Features!

The very latest from Dan River in new spring woven cotton plaids! Penney's brings you heap big value! Dan River cotton plaids . . . more colorful than an Indian chief's head-dress! Wash 'n wear wonders, too, need little or no ironing! All Penney tailored with permanent collar stays, 2 pockets. Men's sizes small, medium, large.

MEN! Fabulous
Wash 'n' Wear Cotton

SLACK BUY!

2 pair \$5

COMBED AND CARDED
BEDFORD CORDS!

Repeat of a Terrific Sellout! Now Select from 500 Pairs!

Men, stock up now on cool, washable cotton slacks for all summer long . . . These are all perfectly tailored . . . all are "American Made" built to Penney's own rigid specifications . . . select several pairs in your size. Fine 9-wale Bedford cotton cords, combed and carded quality cottons, all in your own favorite tailored style. Wash 'n wear finish. Buy them for leisure, casual wear, sportswear, and for work, but buy them NOW and SAVE!

models:
CONTINENTAL—Beltless trouser, plain front concealed elastic side adjustments, set in back pockets, 18" bottoms cuffed.

UNIVERSITY GRAD—Plain front, separate belt loop waistband, tapered legs, conservative cut, 18" cuffed bottoms.

colors:
Oyster tan, willow green, charcoal grey, black and new dusky blue!

sizes:
29 to 42 cuffed. Inseam 29 to 34. No charge for cuff alterations!

MEN'S STORE—PENNEY'S STREET FLOOR



Boys' Sizes
Ages 6 to 18
2 pair \$4

famous the country over
for extra long wear

Penney's Townclad MILEAGE MAKER SUITS

regulars,
shorts, longs \$55

No idle boast, this! These suits of sturdy 14-ounce worsted have been 100% approved by Penney's own hard-to-please laboratory! Our tests establish beyond a doubt that you get twice the strength and resistance to abrasion you would normally expect! Styling's great, too! Choose from smart patterns, weaves; get distinctive 3-button tailoring!



RICH WOOL and WOOL BLEND SPORT COATS

Anniversary
Special!

Penney's Big Anniversary Sport Coat Buy can't be beat for casual comfort, good looks, fashion tailoring! Color has a big punch this Spring . . . olive tones, burnished browns, subtle greys are all top performers in new-look checks and handsome plaids. All 3-button naturals with minimum padding, center vent . . . every detail.

18⁸⁸

BOLD STRIPES SPARK NEW BOATNECK POLOS With New Sleeve Pocket

New
¾ Sleeve \$2.98

Style extra! Penney's surface interest knits are one of the greatest values we've seen. All quality combed cottons featuring new-look novelty necklines, ¾ length sleeves with pocket and pointed tails.

Boys' sizes—6 to 18 . . . 1.98
men's sizes small, medium, large



SAVE! COTTON CHAMBRAY WORK SHIRTS

Sanforized® standard weight chambray with long stay-put tails, shape retentive lined collars. Full comfort cut.

men's sizes
14 to 17 \$1



SANFORIZED® COTTON DENIM BIB OVERALLS

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