

## MAIL ROBBERY PLOT REVEALED BY GIRL

### Details of Mail Theft Given Out

Federal Officers Tell Story Involving Poverty, Greed, Gambling Chances, Love, Hate and Cupidity.

### Record Train Robbery

Plans for the biggest train robbery ever staged in the world were conceived originally by Orville Phillips, 17, and Fred Poffenbarger, 19, according to the first connected and detailed story of the crime which has been made public by postal inspectors.

The story involves sordid poverty, greed, cupidity, gambling chances, double crossing, love, hate and, in fact, the entire gamut of human emotions and circumstances.

Orville, a deserter from the army facing arrest and imprisonment upon discovery of his identity, was desperate. He told his partner, Fred, that he could obtain information from his brother, Meirle, 20, which would enable them to stage the robbery.

The three of them met frequently during the six weeks preceding the robbery to lay their plans. They also rehearsed the stories they would tell if any of them were captured. And upon their subsequent arrests they all told stories identical in detail.

### Car Driver Unknown

Poffenbarger was authorized by his accomplices to select a fourth man to drive the automobile for them. He obtained a friend whom neither Meirle nor Orville knew. Later developments indicate that he entered into collusion with this friend to "double-cross" the Phillips brothers.

On the appointed night, Saturday, November 13, the Phillips boys and Poffenbarger met at the Union Pacific transfer depot, while the fourth accomplice, waited at Fifteenth street and Eleventh avenue with the car. Meirle mounted the engine and his two companions boarded the train on the step at the rear of the car they planned to rob.

Meirle was to act as lookout while the young bandits broke into the car and threw out the loot. Poffenbarger broke the glass in the door, unlocked and opened it after the train started. Then he and Orville climbed in, threw out the pouches, and jumped after them. They were obliged to complete the entire job while the train covered six blocks between the transfer station and the crossing at Fifteenth street.

### Robbery Carefully Planned

They had planned and rehearsed so carefully, however, that the sacks were dumped on the designated spot and hauled out of sight before the train started, with the exception of one pouch of the 10 tossed to the ground. This was noticed by a mail clerk on the last car in the train and led to the discovery of the robbery.

The Phillips boys and Poffenbarger then began to place the sacks in the waiting automobile. When five had been loaded by them, the driver threw his machine into gear and sped away, leaving his accomplices behind with four sacks of loot, according to private arrangement between Poffenbarger and the driver.

All of the boys took a gambling chance that the daring robbery would net them material reward. The chosen car was filled with registered mail sacks, containing packages of varying value. They could not distinguish the bank registers from others.

### Gamble on Contests

Nor could Poffenbarger and the driver tell in advance whether the five sacks they stole from their accomplices contained stuff of more value than that in the pouches left behind when the automobile ran away. As it happened, the \$50,000 currency shipment from San Francisco was in one of the sacks carried off.

Poffenbarger and the brothers took their four sacks to the home of the former, 2439 Sixth avenue, to split the loot. They cut open the sacks, but found little of value. Most of the stuff was bonds, which were rendered non-negotiable by being stamped on their faces. Five diamond brooches were found, but the stones were small.

So the Phillips brothers really were double-crossed and obtained practically nothing as their share for participation in the robbery. They did not know the driver of the automobile and were led by Poffenbarger to believe that he had been double-crossed, too.

This was not the case, however, since the driver saw him later that night, or sometime the next day, and delivered to him about \$25,000 in currency as his half of the loot in the five mail bags stolen by them from their accomplices. This he took to the home of T. A. Daly, 273 Seventh avenue, for concealment.

Daly, his wife and H. A. Reed helped him to hide the currency in various places.

### First Arrests Sunday

First arrests in the robbery case were made Sunday afternoon when postal inspectors took Meirle and Earl Phillips into custody. Meirle's suspicious action in riding from the transfer station with the engineer caused this move. His confession exonerated his brother, Earl, but later implicated Fred Poffenbarger, the next man to be held in the case.

The stories told by these two boys

### Omaha Lass Sacrificed Love On Altar of Duty in Country

Romance of Pretty 20-Year-Old Clerk and Aviator Sweetheart Shattered by Suspicions of His Part in Daring Robbery of Burlington Mail Train.

A victim of a shattered romance that began with the glamor of an army lieutenant's uniform and ended with the lucrative robbery of 10 registered mail pouches in Council Bluffs, Miss Ella Peterson, 20, and pretty, lies abed at her home, 1706 South Tenth street, weeping silently.

For Keith L. Collins, 23, former lieutenant in the air service of the army and ardent wooer of Miss Peterson, is wanted by federal authorities to fill up the missing link in the chain of evidence about the mail robbery.

The thought of her Lochinvar involvement in the robbery has prostrated her. That she did her duty in giving federal authorities information implicating her lover in the robbery is the girl's pathetic confession.

### Parents Are Proud

The thought of appearing in court against her lover in case he is apprehended with the missing currency has placed her in hysteria. "Mother, what else could I do but turn him over to the officers?" the girl cried while her mother caressed her.

"Yes, we're proud of Ella," Mr.

### Mail Robbery Suspects May Be Box Car Thieves

\$1,700 in Goods Detectives Say Was Stolen From Box Cars Is Recovered by Federal Officers.

Federal officers late yesterday afternoon recovered \$1,200 in alleged mittens, shoes and a Victrola from mittens, shoes and a Victrola from the home of Fred Poffenbarger, one of the alleged principals in the \$3,500,000 Council Bluffs mail robbery.

From the Poffenbarger home, officers went to the home of T. A. Daly, another man under arrest for complicity in robberies, and recovered approximately \$500 in blankets and gloves found hidden in an old box in the alley.

At the time of Daly's arrest officers found a quantity of mittens, blankets and cheese. This, with the loot recovered yesterday, was identified by railroad detectives as property stolen from boxcars in Council Bluffs in the last two or three months.

The blankets found in the Daly home and in the Poffenbarger home were stolen from the same boxcar, officers stated, and this further substantiated the theory that the gang which planned and executed the greatest train robbery in the history of the country has worked together on smaller jobs for a considerable length of time.

Fred Poffenbarger, sr., the father, maintained that he did not know the goods found in different rooms in his home had been stolen.

"My boy told me he bought them, and the Victrola which he brought home has been there a long time," Poffenbarger said.

While officers loaded the loot in an automobile and carried it to the federal building, they admitted that they were after money and not loot from petty boxcar robberies.

"We're after thousands of dollars still missing and this little stuff doesn't make much impression on us," an officer said.

### Check of Recovered Mail Train Loot to Be Made in Bluffs Today

Federal officers announced last night that all the money recovered at various times since the big mail robbery in Council Bluffs Saturday night would be counted some time today.

It was planned to check up on the amount recovered last night, but the fact that some of the officers who found the money were not in Council Bluffs at the time forced the delay.

"It is necessary for the men who recovered the money to be present when it is counted so they may identify it as the money found by them," a federal officer explained last night.

The officers who recovered it will be in Council Bluffs tomorrow and then we will know the exact amount of the stolen loot which has been recovered."

### Broken Bow Men Convicted Of Assault on Young Girl

Broken Bow, Neb., Nov. 20.—(Special.)—Russell O. Bunnell and Frank Talbot, charged with a statutory offense against Viola Talbott, 12, were found guilty after a trial here and each were sentenced to six years at hard labor in the state penitentiary.

### Wife of Norfolk Banker Dies Suddenly on Auto Trip

Norfolk, Neb., Nov. 20.—(Special.)—Mrs. E. M. Huntington, prominent Norfolk woman, dropped dead at Dodge City, Kan., today while en route to California in an automobile with her husband, a prominent Norfolk banker.

### Associates Of Chester Are Sought

Efforts Made to Locate High-Powered Auto, Whose Occupants Held Up Man Near Scene of Arrest.

Grand Island, Neb., Nov. 20.—(Special Telegram.)—Hall county officials are busily engaged today in an effort to locate a high-powered, well-provisioned and heavily armed motor car that Thursday night held up a man named Haney and ordered him to pilot them to a point 12 miles south of Broken Bow.

### Attempts Suicide Again

Broken Bow, Neb., Nov. 20.—(Special Telegram.)—Failing in an attempt to kill himself by hanging in a cell in the Broken Bow jail last night, Dennis Chester, alleged Kansas City murderer, made a second unsuccessful attempt at self-destruction early this morning.

His second failure at suicide occurred when he dived from the bunk in his cell to the cement floor. He was knocked unconscious by the dive and his head was badly lacerated, according to his guard. He did not regain consciousness until several hours after the attempted suicide.

Following his first attempt to kill himself, which occurred early last night when he tore a blanket in his cell into strips and then tied them to a raft of letters, which was found in his cell following the second attempt at suicide.

Finishing his letter, Chester climbed upon the bunk in his cell and, with a cry, "This is how I make my high dive," to his guard he leaped headfirst to the cement floor. The cell door was immediately unlocked and the prisoner was removed and a physician called. The force of the impact caused him to

### Mother Faints as Young Son Is Taken Away by Policemen

Earl Glassman, 18, 2503 Bristol street, was arrested yesterday by Detectives Franci and Heller, and taken to Council Bluffs to answer charges of robbing drug stores here.

While at Central police station, in Omaha, his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Glassman, visited him. When young Glassman consented to be taken to Council Bluffs without extradition proceedings, both parents broke down and sobbed.

As he was being taken away, his mother rushed forward crying, "Can't I go with you, Earl?" She then fainted.

"I will do what I can to get you out, son," exclaimed the father. "God be with you."

There were tears in Earl's eyes as he was led away.

### \$5,000,000 Paid for D. and R. G. Road

Denver, Colo., Nov. 20.—Representatives of the Western Pacific railroad bought the properties of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad at foreclosure sale here today. The sale price was \$5,000,000 cash.

The purchasers also agreed to assume \$141,175,000 obligations of the Rio Grande.

### Wilson Now Able to Walk About Without Aid of Cane

Washington, Nov. 20.—President Wilson is now able to walk about the White House without even the aid of a cane, it was stated today at the White House.

He uses his wheelchair only for the purpose of an occasional relaxation, it was said. White House officers declared that the president's health had so far improved as to make it possible for him to address congress in person when it convenes next month, but that Mr. Wilson had as yet made no definite plans to do so.

### Dry Agent Dies of Wound Received in Liquor Raid

Oklahoma City, Okl., Nov. 20.—Kirby Frans, a prohibition enforcement agent, died here early today from a gun shot wound received while he was raiding an alleged moonshine still at the home of George Wells at Perry last night. A posse of officials has left for Perry.

### WHERE TO FIND The Big Features of THE SUNDAY BEE

Where Omaha Boys and Girls Learn Printing and Other Trades—Part 4, Page 1.  
Heart Secrets of a Fortune Teller—Part 4, Page 8.  
Jimmy Montague in Profile—Part 4, Page 8.  
Letters of a Home-Made Father—Part 4, Page 8.  
Dick Stewart in Caricature—Part 4, Page 3.  
Sports—Part 3, Pages 1 and 2.  
Women's News and Features—Part 2.  
Amusements—Part 4, Pages 5, 6, 7.

### Where Do We Go From Here?



### 107 Prisoners to Face U. S. Court On Wet Charges

69 Indicted by Grand Jury, 38 Others Arrested; Pleas Will Be Heard Monday.

Pleas of 107 alleged violators of the prohibition law will be heard in federal court Monday.

Sixty-nine have been indicted by grand jury on a charge of manufacturing liquor. Thirty-eight have been arrested on information relative to sale or possession of liquor for which indictments are not necessary.

Federal Prohibition Director Hanley stated today that the United States district attorney's office would join him in demanding jail sentences rather than fines for those who enter a plea of guilty Monday.

"Fines are merely a license for carrying on the liquor business, the same as they used to pay in the day of high license," Hanley said today. "But jail sentences place them in the same category as criminals breaking other laws and will do much more to stop this business than fines."

### Members of Boston Police Force Held On Larceny Charges

Boston, Nov. 20.—Eleven members and former members of the Boston police force were held on charges of larceny, breaking and entering and conspiracy to steal as a result of a grand jury investigation.

Three of the 10 men against whom indictments were returned already were in jail serving sentences for thefts. The others were arrested today. His order suspending from duty these still, connected with the department was issued by Police Commissioner Curtis immediately upon their arrest.

Charges upon which the men were indicted have to do with the theft of large quantities of liquor and candy and in one case of a diamond ring valued at \$1,000.

### Kidnaper of Coughlin Baby Given Life Term

Norristown, Pa., Nov. 20.—August Pascal, alias Pasquale, "the crank," in the Coughlin kidnaping case, was sentenced to life imprisonment today by Judge Swartz. Pascal had pleaded guilty to second degree murder and kidnaping for extortion.

His order Blakely Coughlin, the 13-month-old baby of Mr. and Mrs. George B. Coughlin, from their home near Norristown on June 2 last and smothered the infant under his coat. He was sentenced on the kidnaping charge and sentence was suspended on the second degree murder charge.

### Broken Bow Man Freed on Charge of Assaulting Woman

Broken Bow, Neb., Nov. 20.—(Special.)—George Gross in district court was found not guilty of assaulting Mrs. Susie Wallin, who resides south of Weisstatt. The trial occupied two days. The jury was out seven hours.

### Warm Shoes Make Youngsters Happy

Each Dollar to Bee's Shoe Fund Helps Some Little Tot.

A happy group of poorly-clad waifs chattered happily at the headquarters of The Bee's shoe fund yesterday morning.

Some red little toes peeped out from tattered shoes. But the children were happy because there was enough money in the fund to buy them the plain but strong and warm shoes which mean comfort to them through the winter.

Contributions from many people are coming in. Every dollar brings some longed little child nearer to "that" pair of shoes for which he or she is hoping.

If you can help, just bring or send your contribution to The Bee office.

Previously reported: \$185.00  
B. L. Terry, Alexandria, Neb., 2.00  
Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Adams, 1.00  
Joseph and Richard Still, Hastings, 1.00  
"In His Name," Cotterfield, Neb., 2.00  
Mrs. J. H. Adams, 1.00  
Cash, 2.50  
Mrs. Josephine H. French, 2.50  
Mrs. A. T. Klapp, 2.50  
Mrs. Crawford, Central City, Neb., 5.00  
Total \$185.00

### U. S. Soon Will Seize Breweries Making Old-Fashioned Beer

Washington, Nov. 20.—All breweries manufacturing beer containing more than one-half of 1 per cent alcohol will be seized by the federal government, it was indicated today at the bureau of internal revenue.

Officials of the bureau said an analysis of beer from a number of breweries was now being taken, and that where the product was found to exceed the legal limit in alcoholic content the government would act to enforce the law.

### Mother and Babe Run Down by Automobile

Mrs. Frank Berry, with her year-old baby, Marion, in her arms, was knocked to the pavement last night when struck by an automobile driven by Louis Adosta, 822 Bancroft street.

The accident occurred at Twenty-fourth street and St. Marys avenue as Mrs. Berry was about to board a street car. Neither she nor her baby were injured.

### Winner Man Found Guilty Of Assaulting Young Girl

Winner S. D., Nov. 20.—(Special Telegram.)—Lloyd Boyd, who was charged with criminally assaulting Edna Ferris, a young girl, near Carter last summer, was found guilty by a jury here after 12 hours deliberation. The case was tried in circuit court here before Judge Williams Williamson.

### Greece Ratifies Labor Conventions of League

London, Nov. 20.—Greece is the first nation formally to notify the league of nations of ratification of the labor conventions adopted by the Washington labor conference.

### Six Stills Seized in Operation

Quantity of Liquor and Mash Taken From Two Homes Breaks All Records in Omaha.

The first raid was made upon the home of W. H. Tann, 2309 North Twenty-seventh avenue, where police confiscated five stills in operation, 2,000 gallons of mash and 20 gallons of whisky. Tann was arrested and charged with illegal possession and manufacture of liquor.

### Three Men Are Arrested

Seizure of the largest number of stills and largest quantity of liquor at one time in Omaha since national prohibition went into effect was made late Saturday afternoon when a squad of police officers, led by Detective George Summitt, raided two homes.

David M. Ferguson, same address, also was arrested, charged with illegal possession when six small bottles of whisky were found in his pockets.

### Alleged to Be Salesman

Police say they believe the small bottles contained samples of the liquor which Tann was making and that Ferguson has been acting as a salesman for him. Reports reaching police headquarters indicate that Ferguson is known to be selling liquor in many parts of the state, officers say.

According to police, Tann has been making an average of 200 gallons of whisky a day. The raid on his home was made after an anonymous tip had been sent to the Central police station.

One of the stills seized was of 45-gallon capacity, a second of 35 gallons and the other three of 15 gallons each.

### Second Raid Made

After the raid on Tann's home, the officers went to the home of J. C. Sellick, 2616 North Thirteenth street, seizing one still in operation, 500 gallons of mash and 50 gallons of whisky. Sellick was arrested on a charge of illegal possession and manufacture of liquor.

Stills taken in yesterday's raids bring the total confiscated by Detective Summitt last week up to 12. He has also seized 150 gallons of liquor and several thousand gallons of mash.

Police Commissioner Ringer commended Detective Summitt for his work, making the statement that his department is doing everything in its power to stamp out bootlegging and bootleggers out of business.

### New York Bartenders, Primed for Sleuths, Wait in Vain for Raid

New York, Nov. 20.—Thousands of bartenders in the city of New York leaned on their elbows today on bars which glistened only with drops of ginger ale, where yesterday there was whisky, and gazed passively at the swinging doors swing, expecting their places to be raided.

But they were in vain. And many thought with sorrow of the business they might have done at from 50 cents to \$1 a glass if they had only known.

For late last night word went out to the faithful few that there was to be a general descent of police and men from the offices of the district attorneys of the five counties in an effort to do what the federal agents have found impossible—make New York dry.

While the city's bartenders were gazing wistfully at the street thinking of better days, Le Roy W. Ross, United States district attorney for Brooklyn, was making known just how utterly the effort to enforce prohibition here has failed.

There are 1300 saloons openly selling liquor in defiance of the law in Brooklyn alone, Ross has announced.

### Reissuing of Booze Permits Protested by Dry Leaders

Washington, Nov. 20.—Prohibition leaders today protested to the government enforcement officers against the reissuing of permits to wholesale liquor dealers to handle intoxicating liquors. The claim was made by Wayne B. Wheeler, counsel for the Anti-Saloon league, who headed the delegation, that issuance of the permits to liquor dealers, not manufacturers or wholesale druggists, was not authorized by the Volstead act.

The permits, hundreds of which are outstanding, expire automatically by December 1.

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### The Weather

Forecast. Sunday probably rain and colder.  
Hourly Temperatures.  
5 a. m. 46 10 a. m. 53  
8 a. m. 48 2 p. m. 55  
11 a. m. 50 5 p. m. 52  
2 p. m. 52 8 p. m. 48  
5 p. m. 48 11 p. m. 45  
8 p. m. 45 12 noon 42  
11 p. m. 42  
Yesterday's Temperatures.  
High 57  
Low 38  
Boston 44  
Buffalo 44  
Chicago 43  
Denver 40  
Detroit 41  
Kansas City 40  
New Orleans 66  
New York 44  
Philadelphia 43  
St. Louis 43  
St. Paul 40  
Seattle 40  
Tulsa 41  
Valencia 68