

THE STORY OF A MAN-HUNT

By GURDEN EDWARDS, Director, Public Relations Commission, American Bankers Association.

MAN-HUNTING for criminals in mountains infested with sure-shot friends and relatives of the fugitives who hold human life lightly when it comes to defending their own, calls for a particularly high degree of courage and strategy. Here is a first-hand story of such a hunt, as told in an official and confidential report accounting for his operations to his superior officers by the leading detective in the affair, and it is presented through the special permission of James E. Baum, head of the nationwide detective service conducted by the American Bankers Association to protect its members against bank criminals of all types.

A bank in the Cumberland mountains had been swindled by a notorious Guy Props by means of forged checks and the association assigned one of its most noted man-hunters to go into the mountains, get the criminal and bring him to justice. For obvious legal reasons names of places and persons are changed, but in all other respects what follows are in the words of the detective himself as set down each night during the progress of the hunt:

I called on the state bank and met the cashier who advised me of a deputy sheriff, Ned Harkness, who is familiar with the country around Ash county and had heard that Guy Props was running a moonshine still around Bald Cliff. I then met Deputy Harkness who advised of a R. Knollton who operated a general store and post office at Point where Props sometimes visits when he mails his letters. This R. Knollton advised he was talking with Props less than two weeks ago and that Props is supposed to be running liquor there.

I then saw Sheriff Jackson and we went over all details of possible ways to capture Guy Props. Jackson advised that where Props was rumored to be in the hills was in another county and that he could not cross the river, and make arrests.

Jackson advised of the reputation Props had, also his brothers with whom he sometimes lives, and then asked my plans. I advised Jackson that I would like to have Deputy Harkness and Deputy Elton accompany me and remain with me until I caught Props or returned without him. I told him the information I had was that Guy would only call at home for a supply of food, then go into the hills and live, which would necessitate lying in wait for his return to the house. We then talked of transportation, which Sheriff Jackson advised he would furnish. There had been very heavy rains but with a car which was not slung low it was thought we could drive to Point and then walk the remaining distance. Deputy Elton advised that we would return at noon, so I decided to wait so as to have him with us as I knew the caliber of person he was through working with him before; also learned that Harkness was much the same type of man.

I met Elton and then with Harkness we laid our plans. Harkness advised that the Bald Cliff country was only penetrable over trails which would follow if you are not familiar with them, as there are cross trails which would confuse one, and he did not know the route after crossing the county line, but at Point where we could get a responsible guide who also would be handy with a gun, this being one R. Knollton. We also decided on picking up Beal Knollton and his brother Luke while enroute and taking them along because we would need more men as there are twelve or more Props including the women who are dead shots with firearms. We then talked of equipment and decided on fifty rounds of ammunition apiece, each to be equipped with a flashlight and pistol, tobacco for several days, also that the writer dress in the garb of the mountain boys, such as blue denim, cap and yellow farm shoes.

I then had Sheriff Jackson engage a car from the livery man and after dinner, in company with Deputy Elton and Deputy Harkness, we departed, first circling the town, to throw off any suspicions as to where we were heading for. At Point where we picked up Beal Knollton, we left after having refreshments and made our next stop at Point where we put the machine up and took supper at R. Knollton's.

R. Knollton was requested to come along with us as a guide, but he refused to do so unless I would keep him absolutely under cover, as he was afraid of the Props family, also suggested they would burn his store and buildings down if they thought he was in our party. R. Knollton was not so sure of the trails to the home of Props but could take us to Bald Cliff post office. I then asked as to anyone else who lived close who would be in position to direct us to Props' home, also who could identify Guy, as none of our party knew him. Gans Roper's name was suggested, so as it was on our route to the river, I called a stop at Roper's home where I talked with him. He told of his fear of the Props crowd and did not care to go. I then advised Roper, from information I learned from Beal Knollton, that he could have his choice to act as guide to Props' home where I would dismiss him and give him a chance to leave as soon as I had captured Guy or that I would cause his arrest immediately on warrants he knew about in the county.

With Roper unarmed and acting as

our guide, we ferried across the river and made a stop at O. X. Standson's home and requested that he accompany us to arrest Guy Props. Standson's mother and wife cried and begged him to stay at home, but Standson, being bloodthirsty and wanting to be able to spill Guy Props' or any of the Props family blood legally to even a score of times, gave them no heed and turned witness against him in a still case, decided to accompany us.

We then, with Standson and Roper as guides, proceeded to cover the eight-mile hike to the Props home. At one point in the trail, Standson called for a halt and together with him and Harkness we proceeded very cautiously to where Guy Props hides out when not at home. At this place we found where Guy had his fire, the place where he spreads his blankets, etc. This was encouraging as it showed no evidence where Guy had slept out recently. When I then gave them all their instructions and positions to play, placing R. Knollton and Roper to cover barn, Deputy Elton to cover the left rear and Standson the right rear, both where they could command the rear and side of house at same time, Beal Knollton to cover the front and Deputy Harkness and self to enter house by front door.

We advanced on house together, each taking up position designated. At one point I knocked and called "Andy." Pell Props opened the door and Harkness and self immediately had him covered, padded him down quickly and turned him over to Beal Knollton. Harkness and self turned our lights on inside of house and covered the interior where we found seven men and an equal amount of women. As was arranged as soon as Beal Knollton saw us safely inside, he signaled the remaining guards and they entered house, and R. Knollton and Roper would depart for their homes. Harkness and self kept all in house covered until the other boys returned and covered the crowd. As was prearranged, I had Standson remain outside for fear he would want to kill some one and hide behind the law.

There was none in our crowd could identify Guy Props. I made inquiries for Frank James and was told he was not there. I then asked who all the men were and was told all seven were others. I asked how many boys in the family and was told seven, so I knew Guy was in our presence. I then searched for a person with a scar on forehead and in this manner found one. I immediately had him handcuffed to Deputy Harkness and made hasty search for pistols, finding two loaded shotguns and a rifle but no pistols.

When I started Harkness, Beal Knollton and Standson back to town and with Elton remained in the house with the Props, assembled all in one room, and told them that we arrested Guy fairly with him, but that I had ordered him to be kept covered over the entire course by two guns, also that I ordered if one single shot were heard from the hills, whether it be directed at us or elsewhere, that Guy should be dropped in his tracks. I asked if I had made myself thoroughly understood and if there was any doubt, in any of their minds as to my meaning. All answered that Guy was our prisoner and they would not interfere.

Elton and self caught up with the party and covered the distance back to R. Knollton's home, where we remained until dawn, when we had Mrs. Knollton prepare breakfast for my party and prisoner. After breakfast and at break of day, we left enroute for town, where after encountering much trouble with machine, due to the terrible condition of the roads, and after breaking the running board and tearing a fender due to falling in a rut, we arrived at 2 p. m. and placed Guy Props safely in a cell in the jail.

I then advised the court that Props advised he would plead guilty and the judge on my request arraigned him immediately. The commonwealth attorney and self held conference in the judge's chambers and agreed on a two-year sentence on each of the indictments, which at this time totaled five Commonwealth attorneys advised the judge that the bank and the state would be satisfied with nothing less than a ten-year sentence.

Props then was called before the judge who advised him that in accepting his plea of guilty he would give him the minimum of ten years. Props, who figured on getting less than one year, would not make a plea until he saw his father whom he sent for. The judge deferred the case four days and requested I try to secure more evidence in the form of checks. Also to be presented at trial as the commonwealth may want me for witness. Props asked if he turned state's evidence if he would receive a lighter sentence and on being advised in the negative, he did not mention what he intended to turn state's evidence on.

I then purchased some cigarettes and gave Guy Props a package and tried to learn what he had in his mind in regard to state's evidence, thinking it was perhaps implicating one Chris Bacheller. Politics play a very large part here in this locality. Deputy Elton advised that Props had a few friends here in the farm part of county and it would be wise to get as much on him as possible. Also the judge knows Props' father and thinks well of him and terms him a very honest man, although I know that the entire family is on the other side of the law and that Guy's brother Pell was arrested for forgery a while back and the father fixed it O. K. with the judge and Pell got out of it.

I then had Sheriff Jackson detail Elton to assist me, Elton and I then carried on an extensive search of local merchants for those holding bad checks

but were unable to find any given by Guy Props. I did, however, learn of a Jere Soars who had been heard to say he held one of Guy Props' checks. Deputy Elton called for me with his car and together we proceeded to several rural districts in search of more forgeries due to activities of Guy Props. Also met Jere Soars who had a check given him on the state bank against account of C. Young, same which the bank returned to Soars on account of wrong signature. I asked Soars to go before the grand jury and have indictment made against Props.

Being unable to find any more forged checks on Props, we returned to town where I called at the jail with another package of cigarettes and presented same to Props. I had a very lengthy talk with Props who denied he ever killed a negro in the coal mines in West Virginia but advised he had forged considerable checks in a town in Kentucky on the state bank against account of C. Young, same which the bank returned to Soars on account of wrong signature. I asked Soars to go before the grand jury and have indictment made against Props.

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I then called at the jail and had the jailer bring Props to the grand jury room and after a while returned Props to his cell where I remained and talked with him. Props feels, although receiving no promises, that he will get a sentence, due to his turning state's witness. Props also advised of the political influence his father carries as does his brother and had hoped they could do some good with the judge. Props next advised of the reform movement he had taken, advising he had secured the Bible and was going to put in his time studying to be a Methodist clergyman.

I then called on the Circuit court clerk and Props as to this person a subpoena for a certain witness so as I could find if possible location of Chris Bacheller. This was done. I next called on the commonwealth attorney and advised him of the supposed influence of Props' people, and was advised that Props is in the wrong county to bring any pressure.

At 3:30 p. m. the fire alarm sounded and we proceeded to the fire station. Elton and self rushed for jail and in event they released prisoners, we would be there to take Guy Props. The fire which was started in a cell by a drunk was confined to that cell and taken out of the building and although prisoners were turned out of cells, they were kept in the jail proper. After the fire Props was safely lodged in his cell.

Next day I met the judge and was advised that Guy Props' father and brother were in town and had called on the judge. The judge advised M. Props that the only one who could help him would be the writer and suggested that he see me. I called at the state bank and from the cashier learned that Mr. Props had called there and offered a compromise of paying the loss of the bank through forged checks if the bank would influence the writer to accept a two-year sentence, which could be arranged for with the court. The cashier asked my opinion and I advised I thought it best to make an example of the subject, calling attention to the fact that not only is the state bank being protected by placing Guy Props in jail for ten years but all banks.

The cashier then made me acquainted with the president of the bank, who was not so familiar with the case and thought it would be satisfactory to accept the bank's loss and have Props sentenced to two years. I then called his attention to the fact that Props had committed forgeries on another bank, also called his attention to the character of Guy Props and told him it was only an act of Providence that Props was taken without any of my party being shot.

I then called at the courthouse and there met Mr. Props who offered me a compromise as mentioned above. I advised Mr. Props that when Guy was arraigned last week that I had only five indictments returned against him, but since then I have had two more, making a total of seven, that sentence on each was two to ten years, that I was going to insist on Guy being tried on each indictment and advised him, if Gus were tried, the best he could hope for would be the minimum of fourteen years. Props then tried to get to the commonwealth attorney, also the judge, and on each occasion was referred back to me.

Mr. Props then suggested we don't try Guy but that he accept the two-year sentence. This message was conveyed to me by the commonwealth attorney and met with my approval. The jury was called and instructed by the judge that by mutual agreement with all concerned that Guy Props would be sentenced to ten years. The foreman of the jury, female, signed the papers finding Guy Props guilty and sentenced ten years in the state penitentiary.

Synonymous Terms.
The Porter—Lady in No. 4 wants me to tell her when she reaches her destination. I reckon she means destination.
The Conductor—Her ticket reads to Torpor City, where I used to live. It's all the same.
Explanation.
Wife (at top of stairs)—Explain yourself. Where have you been till this hour?
Husband—My dear—stop me if you've heard this one.

Brigham Young was the father of 50 children.



TEST OF THE EDUCATED MAN

"The educated man," says Dean Inge of England, "is a man with certain subtle spiritual qualities which make him calm in adversity, happy when alone, just in his dealings, and rational and sane in all the affairs of life."
But how, we would query of the good dean, does he act when company calls along about bedtime?

True Enough.
Some one remarked to Shaw, on seeing a lot of wealthy loungers hanging around a London hotel, "These rich people get me! What's the use of having money if you don't know how to enjoy it?"
"But why fret about it, old chap," returned Shaw. "Are you any better off? What's the use of knowing how to enjoy money if you haven't any?"

GOOD IN ANY ROLL



"That actor does pretty well in that role."
"A ham actor ought to do pretty well in any roll."

A Full Record.
"Though many things she's left undone Since we've been wed, I don't believe," said he, "she's left A thing unsaid."

A Good (K)night.
"Don't you think that if I had lived in the olden days I would have made a good knight?" asked the young man who had bored her for hours describing a moving picture he had seen.
"I don't care so much what you would have been then," observed the girl, wearily, "but you might try to see what kind of a good-night you can make now."

Just a Neighbor.
Art Student (boastingly)—I've studied under Gildo, the famous painter, for years.
Friend—But he doesn't seem to recognize you.
"Perhaps, but I still have the apartment below him!"

A HUNG JURY



Hubby—Well, the great murder case ended in a hung jury.
Wife—Great heavens, did they hang the jury and let the murderer go free?

Inventor's Triumph.
I eat my peas with my knife.
I have done it all my life.
I do not taste kind of funny.
But it keeps them on the knife.

Real Sensation.
"Well, what's the most startling piece of news in the paper this morning?" sarcastically asked the wife of her husband, who had read all through the breakfast and her chatter.
"An account of a man who is suing his wife for divorce for not talking enough," he snapped.

The Paradox of Pessimism.
Andy—Ironides is a hypochondriac.
Mac—What's a hypochondriac?
Andy—A person who feels better when he feels worse.

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12 ounces full-size biscuits

As Made in Shredded Wheat Factories for 34 Years
An unsalted, unsweetened whole wheat food, thoroughly baked—ready to serve—nourishing and strengthening.

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Expect a storm when you steal a man's thunder.—Farm and Fireside.

Large, Generous Sample of Old Time Remedy Sent Free to Every Reader of This Article

More than forty years ago, in a small way, good old Pastor Koenig began the manufacture of Pastor Koenig's Nerve, a remedy recommended for the relief of nervousness, epilepsy, sleeplessness and kindred ailments. The remedy was made after the formula of old German doctors. The sales were small at first, but soon increased, and another factory was added to meet the increasing demand. Today there are Koenig factories in the old world, and Pastor Koenig's Nerve is not only sold throughout the United States but in every land and clime.

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10 minutes ago-

How many people you know end their colds with Bayer Aspirin! And how often you've heard of its prompt relief of sore throat or tonsillitis. No wonder millions take it for colds, neuralgia, rheumatism; and the aches and pains that go with them. The wonder is that anyone still worries through a winter without these tablets! They relieve quickly, yet have no effect whatever on the heart. Friends have told you Bayer Aspirin is marvelous; doctors have declared it harmless. Every druggist has it, with proven directions. Why not put it to the test?

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Sold everywhere. Sample free on request. Address: "Cuticura," Dept. B3, Malden, Mass. Cuticura Soap and Ointment 25c. each.

Biggest Letter Ever Mailed

The largest letter ever sent by air mail was received recently by Postmaster General Harry New at Wash. in D. C. It was mailed by the Michigan (Mich.) Chamber of Commerce to celebrate establishment of mail service between cities of northern Michigan, Indiana and Chicago. The envelope was 8 1/2 feet long by 6 inches wide and the paper on which the letter was written was 7 5/8 feet

long by 6 feet wide. Air-mail postage for such a letter is \$5.70. The carrier, who delivered the letter on his regular rounds, did not exhibit surprise, for most everything is now being carried air mail, as any mailable matter, except perishable matter liable to damage by freezing, is handled in the mail planes.

Restoring Totem Poles

Seattle, Wash.—Totem poles—family crests of Northwest and Alaskan Indians—are being rehabilitated along

the north coast by the Smithsonian Institution. Carpenters are restoring broken noses and filling decayed teeth in the quaint carved figures, while painters with colored creosote are lifting the faces and renewing the faded carvings.

Carving of totem poles is a lost art, no new ones being cut, and the forest service is charged with guarding the remnant.

Brigham Young was the father of 50 children.