

MYSTERIOUS BURGLAR CAUSES NIGHT ALARMS IN WEST PHILADELPHIA

Residents Engage in Bloodless Battle With Elusive Thief. Frightened Janitor Sole Prisoner. POLICE JOIN IN WAR. Vigilance Committee Turns Out in Force and Seek Peering Face and Elusive Feet.

The "mysterious burglar" of West Philadelphia was uncovered for a brief moment last night. He robbed four houses in the section between 49th and 50th and Walnut and Chestnut streets, during the two previous nights. The "thief" or whoever he was, was discovered last night by the vigilance committee that had been formed for protection. The "mysterious burglar's" white face was seen. There was a fullness of shots. The face disappeared and the burglar is still at large today.

After the first robbery, Monday night, the vigilance committee was formed, with Dr. Linwood L. Righter, 4324 Chestnut street, as "chief." Every member of the committee is pledged to sit up all night, each in turn, to be ready to spread the alarm in case the "mysterious burglar" is seen prowling about. Last night it was the turn of "Chief" Righter. Just before dawn, a scared and trembling voice on the phone implored the "chief" to rouse his band.

"He's out on the tennis court," whispered the voice. "Hurry up." Doctor Righter buckled on his trusty 44, and with a companion, dashed to the tennis court used by the section. It is below 50th street, between Chestnut and Walnut streets. Before they got to the tennis court, a scared and trembling voice on the phone implored the "chief" to rouse his band.

When Doctor Righter and his companion came to the tennis court they saw a man scaling a fence. They opened fire on him. Some one else shot at him from the window. He disappeared. A little later shots, a couple of blocks away, rang out. Scared faces appeared all along the block as lights flashed on. "Minute right" the vigilance committee appeared scantily clad. But the only "culprit" uncovered was a colored janitor, who was flattened out on a porch. He was as white as a sheet.

"Lawdy, Lawdy," he chattered. "Ah-h-h though Ah was a 8-goner, what." He had \$40, and thought all the shooting was an attempt to make him surrender his roll. While the vigilance committee were shaking the janitor into coherence, several more shots sounded a few blocks away. "Some one" was heard running but after that the committee could hear nothing but the gentle patter of the rain-drops.

Policeman McMillan, of the 32d street and Woodland avenue station, was found and said he had fired the last shots. He said he heard a soft whistle in an alley at 42d street and Chestnut avenue. Two men stepped out from behind a bulk window and joined another man. The three then fled. A detail of police clattered up to the scene of the excitement in a patrol, but a thorough search failed to uncover any suspicious character.

Only one man is thought to be responsible for the thefts that have stirred the neighborhood. He robbed the home of Mrs. H. J. Fehr, 4922 Chestnut street, and the house next door of Mrs. D. E. Duer, 4924 Chestnut street. He also robbed the home of M. Selsert, 448 South Parratt terrace, and that of Dr. Linwood L. Righter, the head vigilante. At the home of the latter he took 160 grains of cocaine. From this latter fact the man is thought to be a cocaine fiend.

He was heard walking around in Doctor Righter's house, but every one thought he was some other member of the family. He even went to the bathroom, let the water run, and he thought to be taken in a section of "dope" there. The "dope" tendencies of the mysterious burglar make him all the more dangerous to the police, say, for he probably does not care what he does.

Two hardware dealers in the immediate neighborhood said today that they completely sold out their supply of revolvers to residents yesterday. Even shotguns are now in demand.

ACCIDENTS HOLD UP TRAFFIC

Camden Man's Leg Broken When Trolley Car Hits Him

Traffic on Market street, between 11th and 12th streets, was virtually at a standstill for half an hour before noon today as a result of two accidents. Scores of persons near 12th street saw a trolley strike Stanley Chudimski, 69 years old, of 233 Lansdowne avenue, Camden, as he was crossing the street. At the Jefferson Hospital it was said that his right leg was broken.

The other accident occurred at 11th and Market streets. The rear axle of a heavy truck owned by the Lifter Ice Cream Company broke and several hundred pounds of freezing salt was scattered over the street.

Twenty minutes elapsed before the truck was removed from the path of traffic.

Want Big Postoffice at Atlantic City WASHINGTON, March 15.—A subcommittee of the Public Buildings Committee of the House heard a plea today for enlarging the postoffice at Atlantic City. Representative Bacharach said that an adjoining piece of property, worth \$60,000, should be purchased. The plan was introduced this session, the Atlantic City item would be included.

Camden Man, Hit by Auto, Dies William S. Ware, 63 years old, of 444 Linwood avenue, Camden, died today in the West Jersey Hospital of injuries sustained two months ago when he was struck by an automobile at 2d and Market streets, Camden. John P. Wholey, of 422 Windsor avenue, this city, driver of the automobile, is being held in \$1000 bail for a further hearing before Recorder Stackhouse on March 22.

Neutrality of Belgium The United States has never been a signatory to any treaty guaranteeing the neutrality of Belgium. The treaty of 1819, providing that Belgium should form an independent State of perpetual neutrality, was signed by Prussia, France, England, Austria and Russia, as guarantors of a treaty concluded on the same day between the King of the Belgians and the King of the Netherlands. A similar treaty had been signed by the Powers in 1831. What the United States signed was The Hague Convention declaring the territory of all neutral Powers inviolable.

Antwerp's Defenses Antwerp was defended by two chains of strong forts (an outer and an inner circle) and by ramparts. The Belgian army also made use of an armored train, armoured and armed with electrical barbed wire.

A "Swan Song" The modern use of the term "swan song" is derived from the fable that once a swan sings a beautiful song before it dies. The word is properly applied to the last musical work of a composer.

WILLIAM H. FRANCIS DIES

Noted Engineer, Ill Two Years, Succumbs to Pneumonia. William H. Francis, a noted engineer of this city and New York, died at 6 o'clock this morning of pneumonia. Mr. Francis had been ill for two years. He died in a sanitarium in New York State. He was 64 years old and unmarried. He is survived by a brother, H. C. Francis, who has apartments at the Bellevue-Stratford. Mr. Francis was a member of the Union League and lived there during his residence in Philadelphia.

Mr. Francis was a partner in the electrical engineering firm of Francis Brothers & Gellert. He was a 32d degree Mason, a member of the 7th Regiment and the Crescent Lodge, New York. The funeral services will be held on Saturday morning at the church at St. Luke and the Epiphany. Interment will be private.

FRENCH ATTACKS HALT FOES WEST OF MEUSE

Continued from Page One of Le Mort Homme (Dead Man's Hill), northwest of Verdun. It was officially announced by the German War Office today. Capture of the heights is one of the hardest blows dealt the French lines on the front northwest of Verdun.

Four French counter-attacks were launched, but the official statement of the War Office announced that all were repulsed. Twenty-five officers and more than 1000 French soldiers were captured by the Germans.

Advanced English positions in the region of Neuve Chapelle have been blown up with mines, the British suffering heavily. British artillery is again bombarding Lens very violently.

The following is the text of the official report: We blew up advanced English positions in the region of Neuve Chapelle, together with their occupants. The English are bombarding Lens heavily.

French artillery has been very active against our positions at Ville Aux Bois (northwest of Rheims) and also in Champagne.

On the left bank of the Meuse (west bank) Silesian troops have pushed forward our lines west of Corbeaux Forest to the heights of Le Mort Homme (Dead Man's Hill).

Twenty-five officers and more than 1000 men were captured. Four French counter-attacks against our lines were all unsuccessful.

On the right bank of the Meuse there has been a bitter artillery duel on the eastern slopes of the hills. From the Vosges southward French reconnoitering parties were repulsed.

An English biplane has been shot down at Bapaume. Two more French aeroplanes have been shot down, one at Vincy and the other at Siry. The occupants were dead.

At Haumont a battleplane was shot down and the occupants were made prisoners.

PARIS, March 15. Counter attacks by French troops during the night resulted in the recapture of part of the trenches taken by the Germans on the west bank of the Meuse yesterday, according to the official communique issued by the War Office this afternoon.

The French won their success in hand fighting near Hill 265, using the bayonet and grenades to drive the Germans from the trenches.

The text of the communique follows: West of the Meuse the enemy made no new attack during the night on our front between Bethincourt and Cumieres. Counter-attacks with the bayonet and with grenades enabled us to recapture part of the trenches occupied yesterday by the enemy in the direction of hill 105.

We held Bethincourt, the heights of Le Mort Homme (Dead Man's Hill), the south border of Cumieres forest and the village of Cumieres.

The bombardment has continued with intensity in the entire sector, our artillery replying energetically to that of the enemy.

No important development was reported on the right bank of the Meuse or in the Woivre region, where the cannonade has been intermittent on both sides.

The night was calm on the rest of the front.

It was announced today that the French losses at Verdun have been only one-fourth of those inflicted upon the attacking Germans.

ART STUDENTS WORK ON LAST LAP OF PRIZE CONTEST AT ACADEMY

Locked Behind Closed Door, 15 Competitors Are Putting Finishing Touches on Statues. JUDGES TO ACT TODAY

Behind closed doors and guarded, 15 students of the sculpture classes at the Academy of the Fine Arts, Broad and Cherry streets, are working today on the last lap of the Ed-mund Stewardson prize contest in an effort to win the \$100 cash award offered each year.

The students went into the guarded room Monday morning, when they worked three hours under guard. At noon they ate. Then they went back and worked again under guard. On Tuesday they continued the same program. Today they are working on the last lap of the 18-hour competition. They are not allowed to talk about the contest outside the guarded room.

There has been no instructor with them. Their teacher is no less an authority on sculpture than Charles Grafly. But even he is barred from the room where the statues are being made. The students, the model and the guard are the only ones admitted.

No names are given out in connection with the contest. At the curator's desk today the information is given out that 15 were in the locked room. When the students started the competition they drew numbers by lot. These numbers the students do not tell to each other.

They are placed in separate sealed envelopes by the students and handed to the curator. After the contest is closed and just before the judges enter the room where the statues are each student places his or her number on the base of the study.

The judges do not see the students. They see the work and they judge by number only. Then the judges open the sealed envelopes and announce the winner.

The subject of the study in the Stewardson prize contest is a full length figure from life. The students cannot make their studies more than three feet in height or less than six inches.

The judges are always eminent sculptors. Those chosen to decide upon the winner in the contest this afternoon at 4 o'clock are Samuel Murray, 3526 Lancaster avenue, Philadelphia; Herman J. McNeil, Brooklyn, and Herbert Adams, New York. Mr. McNeil telegraphed today he would be unable to be here and a substitute will be obtained by Mr. Grafly.

SNOW FOLLOWS RAIN

Makes Walking Uncomfortable—Will Be Colder Tonight

After a sleet of muggy rain the monotony of both water in the air and under foot was changed shortly before noon today, when a light snowfall made walking conditions uncomfortable.

Sleet will be needed tonight if the forecast of the Weather Bureau is correct, for a drop in the temperature to 15 degrees is predicted, along with the stop in the snow. The snow and rain are due to a storm coming up the Atlantic coast, a mild March storm, that the weatherman says is not dangerous to ships on the broad, blue sea.

\$100 ON ALLEGED MILK THIEF

Crisp Bank Notes Found in Prisoner's Pocket

Crisp gold certificates amounting to \$100 were found tucked away in the vest pockets of Peter Knecht, 49 years old, of 2749 North Hicks street, when he was arrested today, accused of stealing a 19-cent bottle of milk. Knecht neither gave an explanation about his hidden "wealth" nor how the milk, which was left on a doorstep, came into his possession.

Arrest was made by a private watchman at 15th and Seltzer streets. Knecht was locked up in the Ridge and Midvale avenues station, where he will be given a hearing before Magistrate Price.

Rocking Chairs for Blockley Women

The old straight-backed benches and chairs used by old women inmates at Blockley will become a relic of the past. Comfortable rocking chairs, purchased from a fund which is being raised by Dr. William P. Wilson, director of the Commercial Museum, will be installed. Several weeks ago Doctor Wilson noted the old women's discomfort while sitting on the straight-backed benches. Later he told him that they would feel more comfortable if they had a rocking chair. Doctor Wilson brought the matter before the members of the City Club and contributions toward the purchase of rocking chairs followed.

Cynwyd Club Elects

Frank H. Sykes last night was elected president of the Cynwyd Club, to succeed William B. Kraft. Other officers elected were first vice president, Frederick C. Newbourn, Jr.; Clarence Garner, second vice president; treasurer, J. Randall Williams; secretary, John H. Faunce.

Fed Umpires Land Jobs

CHICAGO, March 15.—Two former Federal Baseball umpires, Harry McCormick and Joseph O'Brien, are included in the American Association staff announced by President Livingston L. Smith today. Mr. McCormick, of William E. Field, George H. Johnson, Louis W. Knapp, H. County, and H. Gochler, the latter of the Central League.

OO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

HELP WANTED—FEMALE CHAMBERLAIN or mother's helper, white; Protestant; neat housework and assist with child; ref. req. Phone German 1-3600.

DRESSMAKER Waiter to take charge of workroom in dressmaking establishment; permanent position and good salary to one capable of doing French models; good references required.

APPLY 2012 WALNUT ST. HOUSEWORK—Thorough houseworking woman; must be good cook and cleaner. 700 S. 24.

MAYOR'S SON-IN-LAW GETS CITY HALL JOB

Continued from Page One mission and to do everything in my power to benefit the city. Robertson, who cheerfully admitted that he is a "loyal Republican," is an active member of the Germantown Republican Club. He is a member of Hiram Lodge, No. 81, F. and A. M., and is a Shriner. His home is in the 23d Ward. His father was the late James G. Robertson, Sr., a mill foreman.

JOB FOR FORMER BUTLER

Another personal appointment made by the Mayor, that of Herman Smith, his former butler, to the position of city elevator inspector, satisfied the appointee. Smith said he was not anxious to get out of "service," but wanted to return to his trade, elevator construction.

"I just took up this work to get my health back," he said, referring to his services in the Smith household, "six years ago I was working in Pittsburgh for an elevator construction firm. That is my business. Then I fell eight floors in a building there and broke myself up. I looked around for work that would not call for much strength and finally became a valet for a relative of the Fricks in Pittsburgh. I've been with some good people. I've been with the Smith family for some time." He would not say how long.

"I thought I'd rest up in this work and then get back at my old business," he explained. "I took a preliminary examination last Friday, and I'll have to pass another before I can get the job."

Smith showed no enthusiasm about the prospect of changing the character of his work.

"I'm used to this and it's fine," he said of his occupation for the last six years. "But, knowing the elevator work, I want to get at it again."

The Civil Service Commission today issued the following statement relating to Smith's record:

Herman Smith is 33 years old and was educated in the schools of Easton, Pa. He was an elevator constructor in the employ of the Otis Elevator Company at Pittsburgh from 1906 to 1911. Later he worked in different machine shops at Easton, Pa., before coming to Philadelphia.

CON O'DONNELL'S HOPELESS FIGHT ENDS WITH DEATH IN HOSPITAL

"Alcoholism," Say Men of Medicine Who Tried to Save Human Derelict, but Sympathetic Cops Attribute Tragedy to Commercialism

The world is supposed to be full of prosperity, but there was none for Con O'Donnell. He looked old, his clothes were ragged. Employers who figure only in dollars and cents, despised at a glance that he would be a bad investment. So the one chance he asked was denied him.

Today O'Donnell trudged through the rain trying to seek shelter. He was wet all through. Under the Richmond street bridge of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway he saw a couple of old bags. He lay down and wrapped them around his body. Wind and rain lashed around the bridge and seemed to spend its wrath on the sleeping man who wanted a chance.

An hour later Con was found unconscious by a policeman. The sympathetic cop shielded the storm-tossed human form until the arrival of the wagon. A quick run was made to the Episcopal Hospital. The physicians did all in their power to revive the spark of life which was struggling faintly.

The odds were too great. O'Donnell died in half an hour. "Alcoholism" said the doctor.

But those who would ruthlessly add his name quickly to another victim of drink, would do well to pause and consider if it would not be as fair to lay his death to commercialism. Briefly, that's what the police think about it.

He tried and was admittedly weak in will. Con had just been discharged from the House of Correction where he had been sent at his own request last December. He figured on getting out when the weather was somewhat milder. Con also believed there would be better opportunity for work.

He spruced himself up as well as he could. The best he could land was a few jobs here and there. Two or three cops to whom he confided said "Con was trying to do the right thing." But employees looked at his clothes and general appearance and drove him out. His spirit was crushed. Then he started to drink again, and wandered about until fate led him to rest under the bridge which proved to be his tomb.

AUTO CRASH VICTIMS IMPROVE

U. of P. Students Plunged 30 Feet From Bridge to Railroad Tracks

James R. Neal and Howard R. Winter, University of Pennsylvania students, are rapidly recovering today from serious injuries received when the automobile of the latter plunged down a 30-foot railroad embankment yesterday.

Both the students, who live at 3706 Locust street, are hazy regarding what happened after the plunge. Joseph F. Peral, a private watchman, said he found Winter under the Hunting Park bridge over the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, a mile from the scene of the accident, at Northeast Boulevard and 61st street. A boy called his attention to Winter, who had crawled along the track, looking for assistance. Neal's injuries are a fractured collarbone, two broken ribs and a badly lacerated head, besides general bruises. Winter received general contusions and shock.

Made Lieutenant in National Guard

Grenville D. Montgomery, a banker, with offices in the Morris Building, has been appointed first lieutenant of company H, of the 2d Infantry Regiment of Pennsylvania, by Governor Brumbaugh. The appointment has met with great favor. Lieutenant Montgomery has been with the regiment, which is in command of Colonel Hamilton Turner, for six months. He served with distinction in the Spanish-American War and in the insurrection in the Philippines. His home is at Wynne-wood.

INDICTMENT AGAINST OSBORNE, EX-SING SING WARDEN, DISMISSED

Prosecution Failed to Produce Evidence Showing Wilful Perjury, Justice Tompkins Rules

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., March 15.—The indictment against Thomas Mort Osborne, former warden of Sing Sing prison, charged perjury, was dismissed today by Supreme Court Justice Tompkins before the defense was to begin presenting its case. A wild demonstration by Osborne's friends, who jammed the courtroom, followed the announcement from the bench. Spectators surged to the front of the room to witness Osborne's hand, while others cheered, unmindful of the frantic rapping of the bailiffs. When order was restored the jury was dismissed.

Justice Tompkins held that the State had not produced any evidence showing wilful perjury on the part of the defendant. The motion to dismiss the indictment was made yesterday by George Gordon Battle.

"Before Doctor Diedling's investigation began he knew there were cases of immorality among the convicts and he knew that Mr. Osborne was also aware of them," therefore, Mr. Osborne could not have deceived him, as charged," ruled the Judge.

PROBE CALLED ILLEGAL

Collieries Resume on Full Time POTTSVILLE, Pa., March 15.—All collieries in this section, which have been idle because of the freight embargo, have resumed work on full time.

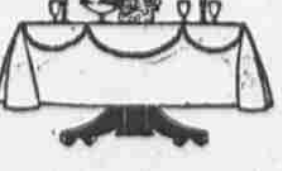
Two Hits



Her hair, dressed according to The LADIES' HOME JOURNAL, was newly arranged and "lovely." Everybody said so at the dinner party.

But Also

was the dinner party itself wonderful; every woman said it was "new," that was also arranged, every detail, according to The LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.



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