

COLFLESH TAUGHT IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pastor Says Bank Bookkeeper Was One of Best Men in Congregation

"I'M BOOB," CLERK ASSERTS

Walter Colflesh, head bookkeeper at the North Penn Bank and self-confessed fool of Ralph T. Moyer, the cashier, in altering the records of the bank to juggle a \$2,144,000 shortage, is a Sunday school teacher.

He conducts the largest class of young men at the Twenty-ninth Street Methodist Church, Twenty-ninth and York streets, and has been known as an ardent church worker for several years.

The Rev. Robert E. Johnson, pastor of the church, presided over the service today at the confessed shortcomings of the Sunday school teacher.

Mrs. Colflesh taught a class in the same Sunday School for many years.

"Walter," he said, "is one of the finest young men in our congregation. 'I was a boob,' is Colflesh's own opinion of his actions.

Colflesh has not had active charge of his Sunday school class for some time, as he has been irregular in attendance. He never resigned his position, however.

Mr. Johnson knew nothing of Colflesh's confession until asked his opinion of the young man today. He was enthusiastic over the points in Colflesh's character and the home life of the teacher.

Misses Sunday School Colflesh has not attended Sunday school since the bank crash, he said.

"Had I known what I know today, I never would have touched one of those books. The good Lord knows that I never realized the seriousness of the thing. I have been a boob."

On the witness stand in the Moyer hearing yesterday Colflesh refused to answer questions regarding his business.

When prodded by Assistant District Attorney Taulane to explain a \$200 over-draft, Colflesh said he used the money in his business, but declined to name the concern.

It was learned today that the twenty-five-dollar-a-week bookkeeper is president of the Motor Sales and Service Company, a large garage and selling station, 3707-09 Ludlow street.

His name, however, does not appear on the company cards. Winifred R. Kates, a nephew, is treasurer and his name alone appears.

Colflesh was seated in the parlor of his home at 2925 North Twenty-sixth street, where a \$200 over-draft was clock stands against the wall.

On his lap was the older of the little children. Little Fritz snuggled close to his father's face and then he looked up into his father's face with a quizzical expression. Fritz is just two years old.

Colflesh, with a gathering of friends, she held in her arms the second child, just past six months.

Colflesh showed total ignorance of the law when a conversation was had with him. It contained a small item hinting that he was marked for arrest.

The bookkeeper is just twenty-nine years old and up to ten days ago, he is of the good sturdy type, at least he was and he has no lines about his face that had no place there before.

First Time in Court Colflesh showed total ignorance of the law when a conversation was had with him.

"That was right in my mind," he said, explaining his nervousness of yesterday afternoon, "that I never had been in a court of law. I would've sworn I had been, but nervous about it? And Mr. Taulane certainly did hammer into me."

"I answered all his questions because I thought I had to, but tonight when I was subpoenaed I was bound to answer whatever they asked me. I had no idea then that I was in danger of arrest."

"And even now I cannot see what they have against me to hold me. I merely did what I was told to do. Perhaps the thing that got me into trouble was that I was told to do it, but as God is my judge I never received even a penny from it."

When Mr. Moyer asked me to change those figures I did not realize the seriousness of what he asked. I thought then that the bank was in a tight place, and that the figures were to be changed to help it over a period of hard times and that everything was to be fixed up. I had no idea of what was coming."

Colflesh was asked if he changed the books because of fear of losing his job in the bank.

"Well, I was told to do what I did. But if I was to lose a hundred jobs I wouldn't do it over again."

The bookkeeper, who even retained counsel to look after him. He expressed surprise when he was asked as to his counsel. When it was explained that it might be well for him to have legal advice he showed no knowledge whatever of lawyers in the city competent of handling his case.

Further, Colflesh said that he did not believe that Moyer profited personally through the affairs of the bank. He said he believed that the only persons who did profit were those who made the overdrafts and he could not name those, as he did not have charge of the depositors' books. He had charge of the general ledgers of the bank. Those showed only lump sums.

"The thing that worries me," said Colflesh, "is this rumor of my arrest. There is my wife and the two little ones. I don't care so much for myself. I am not of the worrisome sort, but believe me, I am worried now."

"I was a one-line fellow—a bookkeeper—and I guess there isn't anything left for me in this town. I sure have been a boob."

It also was ascertained today that Colflesh and a relative were working on plans for the erection of two houses in Merion, one of the most fashionable Main Line suburbs, and two cottages at Wildwood, N. J. The bank clerk was to occupy one of the Merion houses in winter and spend the summer at the shore cottage.

Appointed to City Civil service appointment today included William B. 2022 East Tioga street, and Edward L. Lockhead, 2732 North H Street, mechanics in the Bureau of Water at 45 a day; Helen Flanagan, 2045 Ellsworth street, assistant teacher in the Bureau of Recreation, \$900 a year; Anne McIntyre, 2740 North Fairchild street, laboratory cleaner, Bureau of Health, \$690 a year; Mrs. Mary Wallace, of 1320 South Yewland street, instructor in the Bureau of Recreation, \$800 a year.

Latest Developments in North Penn Probe

Colonel Fred Taylor Pusey and District Attorney Rotan probe deeper into case following confessions of W. O. Colflesh, bookkeeper, at Moyer hearing.

District Attorney's detectives assigned to work on clues brought to light in testimony.

John S. Fisher, bank commissioner, says many of overdrafts will be collected.

Colonel Pusey instructed to hasten account of Charles A. Ambler, former insurance commissioner, who has promised to pay his obligations.

Depositors will lose \$1,000,000 after all assets are collected, according to high official.

Bank property to be sold as an asset.

Colflesh, the twenty-five-dollar-a-week clerk, is president of an automobile concern. Calls himself "a big boob."

"He has not told all, no not by any means," said Colonel Pusey today.

COLFLESH'S WIFE DEFENDS HUSBAND

"I Will Stand by Him to End," Says Spouse of Bank Bookkeeper

"I will stand by my husband until the end," Mrs. Walter O. Colflesh, wife of the bookkeeper of the North Penn Bank, made this declaration with emphasis today at her home, 3628 North Twenty-sixth street.

Colflesh admitted doctoring accounts and reports of the bank at the request of Cashier Moyer, at a hearing yesterday in the Central Station.

Mrs. Colflesh is a young woman of medium height and pleasing personality. Her recollections made by her husband had left a trace of worry on her face, but faith in him and the belief that he committed no wrong, knowingly, has aroused hope that he will survive the trouble without a blemished reputation.

The whole affair came as a great surprise to her, she said, as her husband never discussed his business affairs at home. Her two little sons, both unaware of the shadow which has come over the home, played happily on the floor. One is two years old, the other six months.

Despite her worry, Mrs. Colflesh smiled at the youngsters as they frolicked about.

"I really do not care to make any statement," she said. "It will not make any difference."

"My husband is a home-loving man," she said. "He did everything he could to make me happy and comfortable, and was regular in his habits. I cannot believe he would willingly be a party to anything wrong or dishonorable."

"I know him to be truthful. He is candid and straightforward in everything he does and I am sure he will not be seriously involved in this affair."

She said she knew nothing of the affair at the hearing and could see no reason why her husband should be arrested.

Nothing has marred their married life. It has been one of constant harmony since their marriage more than four years ago, neighbors say.

At the hearing of determination Colflesh's wife indicated when her husband also conducts a large class.

The Colflesh home is tastefully furnished.

Mrs. Colflesh is a Sunday school teacher at the Twenty-ninth Street Methodist Episcopal Church, where her husband also conducts a large class.

Million Loss to Bank Depositors

Continued From Page One

position remains unchanged. What we want to do is to salvage the wreck—to learn what the assets of the bank really are, what securities are good, what are doubtful and what are actually worthless.

"If we go after the debtors through civil process, there will be a scurry for cover, and the assets realized may be only one-half or one-third of what might be recovered otherwise.

"If a man has been named and carefully with credit, he probably would be willing to pay to the last penny, but under a direct attack through the law he jumps to cover."

Colflesh in Auto Business

Then Colonel Pusey swung back to a discussion of Colflesh and Moyer.

"The secret business which Colflesh refused to tell of yesterday was a so-called automobile business," said the colonel.

"Is there any evidence that Moyer was sinking money in some other business?" was a question put to the examiner.

"I have no intimation of it. Moyer protests that he did not get a cent from the bank."

Rumors that the accused cashier had been speculating in munition stocks were related to the colonel. He said that no such information had been received.

Colonel Pusey ended the interview by saying that he and P. S. Cameron, deputy banking commissioner, were working on several problems today the nature of which he refused to disclose.

John S. Fisher, state banking commissioner, said today in Harrisburg that he would not venture a guess when the investigation would be completed.

"A lawyer never guesses," said Mr. Fisher, "and the almost hopeless tangle makes the work of the examiners most difficult."

Asked to speculate on the definite amount of the shortage, Mr. Fisher said neither he nor the examiners could even guess.

"But," he added, "Moyer told us that the overdrafts amounted to \$900,000. The bank examiners found the

"A Rotten Mess"—Pusey, on North Penn Case

"The whole thing is a rotten mess," said Colonel Fred Taylor Pusey, special deputy attorney general in charge of the probe.

The investigation will be pushed relentlessly, he said, "and no guilty person will be given immunity."

Colflesh Aids MacBurney

James W. MacBurney, the receiver, said accounts were so muddled that he could not "make head nor tail out of them."

Colflesh, he said, "is helping me

HAPPY TO BE ON KENSINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER'S BIG PICNIC



A thousand mothers and youngsters are spending the day at the Smith Memorial Playground, Fairmount Park, guests of the Kensington Neighborhood Center, hostess-in-chief of the outing. She distributed 1800 dozen of cinnamon buns and more than 400 quarts of milk as soon as the large party at the afternoon ice cream and cake

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Bang! Boom! Read of Battle of Bank Probe Artillery

Colonel Pusey, commander-in-chief of the state forces waging war on crooked finances, committed suicide today by slashing both his wrists with a razor blade.

When questioned regarding additional arrests he said: "I cannot say whether the evidence warrants any just now."

Worry Blamed for Suicide of Sales Agent

Elliot Bright, fifty-one years old, 1211 Locust street, committed suicide today by slashing both his wrists with a razor blade.

About 2 o'clock this morning Bright in the house heard his groans and found him in the bathroom. He was hurried to the Pennsylvania Hospital, where he died.

Mr. Bright was married and his wife and two daughters live in Cambridge, Mass.

Sheldon Hodge, who is living at the Hotel Walton, came here with him and was with him yesterday. Mr. Hodge says that Mr. Bright was overcome by the heat and went to his home. It is Hodge's opinion that his friend's despondency was caused by worry and fatigue, but he was not in financial straits.

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PROPPELLER KILLS AIRPLANE PROMOTER

Flier Slain at Roosevelt Field. Pilot Is Held Under \$1500 Bail

Major Simon, thirty-six years old, promoter of the first passenger airplane service in this city, was instantly killed last night when he walked into the propeller of one of his own machines, on the Roosevelt flying field, Northeast Boulevard and Cottman street.

The pilot, Lowell S. Harding, twenty-five years old, 2119 Rhawn street, Holmesburg, was held under \$1500 bail to await the action of the coroner by Magistrate Costello, at the Paul and Ryan streets station today. He is charged with manslaughter.

According to people who witnessed the accident, Mr. Harding's machine had come to a complete stop, was waiting to discharge its passenger and fly over to the Bustleton field where the machines are sheltered, when Simon walked into the slowly revolving propeller. His head was severely cut and his spine broken. His object in coming near the machine was apparently to assist the passenger to alight.

Mr. Harding and his passenger lifted the body of Mr. Simon into an automobile and rushed him to the Frankford Hospital, hoping that the man might be still living. Physicians there, however, said that death had been almost instantaneous.

Mr. Simon was married and had two children. He was a Mason and an Elk. He belonged to Meridian Sun Lodge, No. 158, and the Oriental R. A. C., No. 183. The funeral will be held tomorrow from his home at 11 a. m. Masonic rites will be performed at the Masonic Temple following the services.

MISSING MAN FOUND DEAD

92-Year-Old Israel Lee Fell Down Cellar Steps

Israel Lee, ninety-two years old, of 1020 North Marshall street, for whom the police had been searching since yesterday afternoon, was found dead today at the bottom of the cellar stairway at his home.

The body was discovered by his daughter Jennie. His death is believed to have been due to a fractured skull. It is believed that Mr. Lee attempted to go to the cellar to look for something during absence of members of the family and tripped and fell down stairs.

When he was missed yesterday afternoon a search through the house was made and the family then sought the aid of the police. His daughter had reason to go to the cellar this morning and found the body at the bottom of the stairway.

Dr. J. C. Kahan, of 1520 North Seventh street, was summoned. He said the man had been dead about fifteen hours. Mr. Lee was well known in the northern section of the city and retired from business several years ago. He is survived by seven children.

MARINES MAY PARADE HERE

Peace Jubilee Officials Back Move. To Ask President to Attend

Plans to have the Fifth and Sixth Regiments of United States marines parade in Philadelphia were discussed today with city officials.

J. Jarden Guenther, secretary of the peace jubilee committee, visited City Hall with Major R. B. Hogan, who has retired from active duty in the marine corps. In the absence of the city of Mayor Smith, they called upon Joseph Smith, his brother and secretary, and outlined the original plans. W. Free-land Kendrick, receiver of taxes, has promised his support to the movement. The matter was also discussed with Charles Hall, a clerk of Select Council, who is in charge of the peace jubilee funds.

In case it is decided to have the marines parade here, Major A. J. Drexel Hiddle will be delegated to call upon President Wilson and invite him to this city for the celebration. No date has been suggested for the parade.

Dead Man Identified

The body of the man who died at the home of Grace Carroll, 1123 Duxton street, on Monday, has been identified as being that of Samuel Staken, fifty-four years old, of 657 North Leithgow street. The identification was made by the dead man's son-in-law, Zarko Markovick, of 912 North Orleans street.

THOUSAND MOTHERS GIRL'S BODY FOUND ON OUTING TODAY IN RIVER; MAN HELD

Children, Too, Enjoy Picnic at Smith Memorial Play-ground

MRS. KETCHUM IS HOSTESS POLICE DOUBT STATEMENT

They left this morning—a thousand of them—mothers with children and plenty of youngsters without mothers. They have gone to spend the day at the Smith Memorial Play-ground with the guests of the Kensington Neighborhood Center.