

MODEL FOR WISTER "VIRGINIAN" DEAD

Trafton Once Held Up Nineteen Stage Coaches in Yellowstone Park

DIED DRINKING A SODA

Los Angeles, Calif., Aug. 16.—(By A. P.)—Edwin B. Trafton, whose experiences in the Jackson Hole country of Wyoming were said to have formed the basis of Owen Wister's novel, "The Virginian," fell dead while eating an ice cream soda here yesterday.

Charles D. Skirfin, former traffic policeman here, was the actual character depicted in "The Virginian." In 1908 Skirfin shot and killed a youth who was a member of a gang which attacked him. Skirfin's former army officers appeared to defend him. Skirfin was exonerated. Later Skirfin resigned from the force to become head keeper of an extensive game preserve in New York State.

Edward B. Trafton, a merry highwayman of the old school, broke all previous hand records one day after noon in 1914 by holding up a single-handed Yellowstone National Park nineteen coaches filled with well-to-do tourists.

All the tourists spoke highly of adventurous Mr. Trafton's gallantry and at his trial his wife was indignant. The Government decided, however, to let the young highwayman a Federal prison for five years, his personal freedom and his wife's and the outside world not liking to pay the price for his chivalry. Mr. Trafton apparently thought it worth it.

Trafton apparently had already formed the plan of his robbery and selected his point of attack like a general. On the road along which the coaches were to go there was a place where a large rock jutted out from the side of the road which commanded the highway. There was a small level space looking quite like a park, the slopes of which were dotted here and there with small trees. None of these trees, though, was of sufficient size to offer protection to a human body.

The first coachful of tourists came rolling up. Just as they got by the rock, Trafton, wearing a handkerchief over the lower part of his face, stepped out and fired a high-powered rifle at the driver.

"Turn right at once," Trafton commanded, "and stop right there in front of me." The driver, being able to do nothing else, did what Trafton said him. "Now open up the trunk," he continued, "and hold up your hands." The passengers, with respectful looks toward the driver, who had compared the park to a nursery for safety of his coach, spread a blanket at his feet.

"Line up!" he commanded, "and march past me. As each one walks past, drop your valuables in this basket." And don't you little boys be afraid. You Eastern phony-crooks wouldn't cheat a poor Westerner, would you?" he continued plaintively. "If you do, I'll get a bullet in you."

Stunned by the unexpectedness and sheer nerve of the thing, the passengers did as they were told. Trafton kept one eye on them and the other along the road where the other coach was approaching. As it came up, the rock Trafton again bobbed up and gave the same commands. The process was repeated seventeen more times.

It was hours before the coaches could get in a place to report the amazing hold-up. As soon as they did, posse and soldiers galloped off on the bandit's trail. Scouts traced him from the scene of the hold-up to the camp of a Joseph Martinez, a shepherd. Here he spent the night and went off the next morning with a saddle horse and a male he stole from Martinez. Scouts and park soldiers trailed Trafton from the Mexican's sheep camp to a little town in Idaho called Frisco. Trafton's trail was very plain, the left hind foot of the saddle horse, which was unshod, making a peculiar mark in the soil. The stolen horses and saddle, which were recovered from Trafton, were used at the trial in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in evidence, and were identified by the Mexican and others.

Yerkes Caves In as Girl Lauds Him

Continued from Page One. date to please me only. Well, that's a rare. I never hear such good words in this country. Mind you, you're discharged."

Then the tears of the fair prisoner were suddenly turned off. She breathed a polite "thank you," and gathering up her bags, handed them to the man who turned toward the door with just a trace of lurking triumph.

But when she did raise so well. Many had to dip and drag deep, although the officers did not seem to care for a young girl's alarming bludge from oral explanations.

William Ward, fifty-three, and Pemberton, a young man, were arrested. He was wearing along with the modest slip of thirty-five miles an hour. Ward declared, however, that he was only driving with one hand as the other was out of commission on account of blood poisoning.

And Then He "Dug Down"

"If you drive fifty-three miles an hour with one hand," said Yerkes, "just imagine how fast you would go with two of them. You're probably seventy miles an hour."

"But I was going to a doctor," pleaded Ward. "You were pretty healthy at that," said the square-jawed officer. "It was paid."

When the case of T. V. Monagan, a steamer, was called, an employee answered for him. He explained that his employer was in a hospital. Monagan was charged with running two trucks under one set of taxes (whatever that means).

"Why that's almost a prison offense," said the square-jawed. "Just then his pencil broke. He gave it a new point while the court waited. This did seem to soften his demeanor. "I'll fine your employer \$20," he said.

"I only got fifteen. How about that?" said the proxy for Monagan.

"Hand Over the Fifteen"

"All right, hand over the fifteen," said the square.

When Milton Bellows, of Melrose Park, was called to explain why he didn't have his lights going full, he had little to say. He handed over a check when Yerkes said the damage would reach \$15. But the check contained a lot of extraneous words not pertinent to the question.

The square looked at it in amazement.

He handed it back to DeBourse. "Give me a check written in plain English without all that epigrammatic stuff," he said. "I accepted a check of that sort of rhetoric from a fellow some time ago and all he had in the bank was words."

DeBourse produced a brief check, which was O. K.

Principals in Killing



MRS. IVY GIBERSON WILLIAM GIBERSON Mrs. Giberson is accused of killing her husband in her home at Lakeland, N. J.

Parker Planning New Death Arrest

Continued from Page One. decision for the defense than for the prosecution.

William H. Jeffery, Mrs. Giberson's attorney, today described a visit paid to Mrs. Giberson's cell in the Essex House, New York, at 2 o'clock this morning, in which Ga Nun figured with Detective Parker, Wilford Jayne, Jr., the prosecutor, Deputy Sheriff Brown and two state policemen.

Talks of Midnight Quiz

"I had a midnight quiz with the police," said Mr. Jeffery, "to prevent any mishaps. After I had gone away, at 2 o'clock, the group assembled and went to the jail. They stood outside the cell door and Sheriff Brown awakened Mrs. Giberson.

The party stood outside her cell door for some time, talking to her. Then they asked her what they wanted. We want nothing from you, the prosecutor answered. Then Ga Nun said Mrs. Giberson, I have told Mr. Parker everything. He looked at him steadily for a moment, then replied: "Very well, Mr. Ga Nun, you don't know anything and it doesn't interest me."

Worked on Navy Hangar

Ga Nun worked in Lakeland on the construction of a naval hangar, and was a construction foreman. He knew Mrs. Giberson from January to July of last year. Mr. Jayne, the prosecutor, seemed to attach importance to letters which passed between Mrs. Giberson and him, and went to Brooklyn recently to see Ga Nun, who volunteered to return with him. The prosecutor believed Ga Nun and his wife were estranged at least in slight degree because of letters which Mrs. Giberson wrote Ga Nun.

HARDING TO DISCUSS RAILROAD STRIKE

Washington, Aug. 16.—(By A. P.)—President Harding in a message tomorrow to Congress will present to the Federal legislators and to the country the views of the Government with respect to the existing industrial troubles, particularly the railroad strike.

Arrangements for the President's appearance at a joint session tomorrow of the Senate and House were completed at a conference today at the White House between the Executive and Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, Republican leader in the Senate.

Admits Receiving Letters

Ga Nun explained that three sets of letters had been interchanged. The first was the letter thanking him for the picture. He said the letters had covered a comparatively brief period. She had written three times, he said, and had answered her letters, the last of which was the picture of August 4.

SCRANTON RAIL MEN ATTACKED BY MOB

Strike Disorders Keep City's Police Riot Squad Busy

Scranton, Pa., Aug. 16.—(By A. P.)—Numerous disorders in connection with the railroad strikers' strike kept this city's riot squad on the jump last night and early today. No one was seriously injured and no arrests were made.

Washington Hopes for Rail Peace

Continued from Page One. Harding's proposal for ending the strike, rail heads declared, all but broke their faith in the success of the suggested conference, but despite their lack of confidence executives of the Western roads approved acceptance of the proposal to meet the unions in New York tomorrow.

Although conditions on roads in the Far West were relieved by breaks in the strike of train crews, the general situation remains in a critical stage. President Harding's next expected move was to buy the whole industrial crisis before Congress.

Several Embargoes Lifted

Embargoes were lifted and trains were moved again over the Atchafalaya, Topoka and Santa Fe, the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific, the roads chiefly affected by the walkouts of the "Big Four" transportation brotherhoods.

Candler Denies Charges

When informed of the suit filed by Mrs. Byfield and its allegations, Mr. Candler said:

"I have already stated everything that took place in my petition to cancel the note Mr. Byfield held. I never touched Mrs. Byfield and nothing of any improper nature occurred. This is an attack on the character and integrity of Mrs. Byfield's past performance to get money out of me and it will be answered at the proper time."

Numerous Arrests Made

Four men were arrested at Bristol, Va., on Federal warrants charging them with instigating non-union workers in the Norfolk and Western Railroad yards.

SUES FOR ALLEGED ASSAULT ON SHIP

W. T. Candler, Son of Coca-Cola Company Head, Defendant in Action for \$100,000

WOMAN'S CHARGES DENIED

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 16.—Damages of \$100,000 were asked of Walter T. Candler, son of the millionaire head of the Coca-Cola Company, filed today in DeKalb Superior Court at Decatur, Ga., as a result of an alleged attack upon her by Mr. Candler in her stateroom aboard the steamship Hibernia on the night of July 18 last.

She alleges that as a result of the attack she has been forced to keep to her bed much of the time since, her condition finally necessitating an operation, which was performed here Monday.

Mrs. Byfield is the wife of Clyde K. Byfield, local automobile dealer, charged by Mr. Candler in a suit filed Monday in Superior Court here with having extorted \$25,000 from him while aboard the liner enroute to France.

Mr. Candler's petition asked that Mr. Byfield be restrained from realizing on a note for \$20,000 which, with \$2500 in cash, he said was given by him in the month of May last, for \$25,000 which he gave Byfield when he was found in Mrs. Byfield's stateroom. In his petition Mr. Candler states that he could not account for the note, and that the stateroom and denied any improper conduct.

The petition then recites actions of the party on the night of the sixteenth. At dinner she set forth champagne was partaken of sparingly by all, but "nobody became intoxicated," she adds, "and all were in full possession of their faculties."

"Candler opened the door, tore the bed clothing off her, disrobed her, and she fled to her room in her arms. Pettitioner says she screamed until her husband rushed in and engaged in a terrific fight with Candler."

The struggle with Candler and the fight in the stateroom between him and petitioner's husband, petitioner's husband, made her ill, and she has remained ill from that day until the present.

Pittsburgh Coal Men Won't Meet Miners

Continued from Page One. tions with anthracite operators at Philadelphia tomorrow, predicted that Pittsburg coal men would not accept the agreement made here, and held out hope for an early quarterly production.

Two Pennsylvania associations of operators were asked to meet the union chiefs in session after a Friday. An invitation went to the Freeport Thick Vein Operators' Association, and the other to the Pittsburgh Coal Producers' Association. The Southwestern Interstate Operators' Association, including members in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas, was asked to meet with the union at Kansas City on Tuesday. Illinois operators were invited to Chicago on Friday, while the Indiana Operators' Association was solicited for a conference at Terre Haute, also on Friday.

The general agreement, concluded here Monday while the railroad union leaders in Washington continued in session preparing for the conference, which the railroad executives, have obtained from the Association of Railway Executives in New York tomorrow. They left for New York at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Warren S. Stone, chairman of the meeting, said that he and the heads of the brotherhood group of train service men not now on strike would be the only ones to meet the committee of railroad executives but that they desired the heads of the striking crafts and the officers of other railroad unions to be on the ground.

"We might need them for conference at any moment there," Mr. Stone said, "and we want to have everybody at hand while the discussions are continuing."

and adopted by the union as a basis for supplemental agreements throughout the coal fields, continues the old wages and working conditions, including the check-off of union dues, to April 1, 1923, and provides machinery for negotiating but not arbitrating next year's scale. The agreement also calls for a national convention of operators and miners of the bituminous territory, to be held in this city next October 2, for selecting a fact-finding commission to investigate the coal industry.

Officials Empowered to Act

Under the policy laid down by the union the district officials may conclude new with any soft coal operators either as individuals or as associations. Whatever success results from this policy for resuming work, union officials pointed out today, it leaves them facing the problem of dealing with the strikers of the Connellsville and other Central Pennsylvania fields, which were without unions until the strike started. State officials, however, non-union men, officials said, have enlisted in the union ranks in these fields, and the union's plan contemplates the financing of the strike theory, with funds coming to the union from the workers going back to the mines in other fields.

In a way, union officials regarded yesterday's settlement as a historical repetition. In 1909 John Mitchell, as president of the United Mine Workers, was confronted with the breakdown of the central committee of the same situation that arose here. Mitchell won the strike as far as getting the miners' wage demands met by operators by separate agreements with the union. Mr. Lewis' plan, adopted by the Union Policy Committee, is similar, except that it regards the general settlement as a basic one for all soft coal fields, with separate contracts to supplement the general agreement entered into here.



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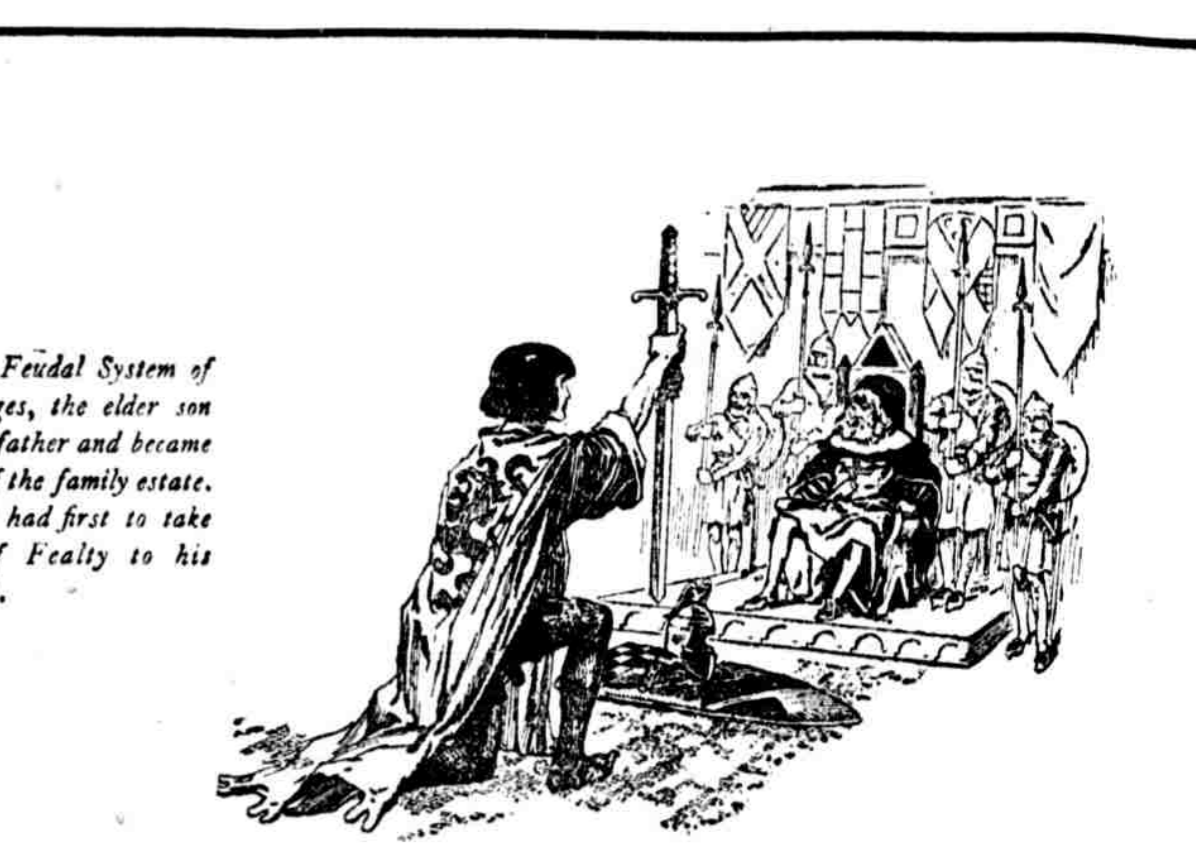
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