

## CROOKED OIL MEN SWINDLE YET STAY IN BOUNDS OF LAW

Fake Promoter, Whose Only Interest Is in the Selling of Stock, Doesn't Want Petroleum and Often Squelches Small Producers.

By ROY J. GIBBONS.

NEA Service Staff Writer

FT. WORTH, Texas, Nov. 21.—Within the law!

That typifies the attitude, striving effort and blunted psychology of the crooked oil promoter.

He is to be entirely differentiated from the legitimate non-borrowing operator who never advertises in pages of lurid promises.

Nor is he to be classed along with that group of promoters who are honest in their intentions.

The crooked promoter has no dealing with the latter two. He hates them for being honest.

And they in turn naturally regard him with intensified loathing for dishonoring their business.

First and foremost, the crooked promoter who greatly outnumbered his honest competitors in the big Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma fields, was out for himself.

### Knew No Geology

In a majority of cases, as substantiated by Government investigation, when he first became a promoter he knew nothing about oil whatever nor the manner and means by which it is obtained.

In other words, he was a greenhorn—an inexperienced yokel—who foisted himself off upon the public by subsidized news accounts in promoter-owned publications, as a bona fide oil expert.

His primary and sole interest was to sell stock—and do nothing else but sell stock—in a company of his own creation with never the thought of actually producing oil.

By hook and crook, lying statements and overdrawn promises the crooked promoter advertised and circularized his "sucker lists" stating any and all manner of roseate inducements to part the prospect from his investment contribution.

### Doesn't Want Oil

Bearing in mind, all the while, that the crooked promoter is not out to get oil at all you next find him out on undeveloped, unproven territory—or "wild cat" acreage, as it is called.

Perhaps from his stock sale campaign he has sold \$10,000,000 worth of shares, certificates, titles or whatever else he calls them.

He wants to keep within the law. And at the same time he wants to stay crooked.

Hence you find him sinking a well on the "wild cat" land, down to whatever depth he vaguely promised he would sink it.

But having made virtually certain before operations were begun that the "hole would come in dry," he pays the driller a few thousand dollars for his work and then uses the balance of the million for his own purposes.

Such tactics were the rule and not the exception during the peak of the oil boom days.

They were permitted under the State law of Texas where no blue sky statute was in effect at the time.

### Use Legal Kinks

Promoters operated under what was known as a declaration of trust.

This legal instrument gave them absolute power over the money of their investors. They could drill for oil under its terms, or go hunting for elephants if they so choose, under its broad and drastic powers.

Any show the crooked promoter made of trying to produce oil was one of pretense entirely.

Drilling a well on land which he knew was non-oil-bearing constituted in his mind discharge of obligation to his stockholders. He kidded himself into believing that he was playing a game, and that the public was big enough fool to play with him, it would continue to be stupor.

If he drilled wells, as he said he would when advertising, the Government couldn't read his mind and see that he planned his wells on territory which he knew beforehand would come in dry.

Instances are on record in cases still to be investigated where wells, which actually did start to produce, were squelched by being pushed down to suit water levels.

Had they "nursed" them along, as the saying down here goes in the oil fields, they might have become paying propositions.

Fake promoters promised dividends in their companies ranging upward from 100 per cent.

### Paying "Dividends"

Hence their reason for snuffing out small wells that accidentally were struck.

Profits received from such a well when distributed over a list of 5,000 "suckers" might probably be a few cents each.

That would quickly knock out the promoter's chances. But sometimes he did pay big dividends, for the purpose of baiting on additional victims.

Money for the dividends distributed by crooked promoters was not received from oil sale profits, but from sources as fake as the promoter himself.

Yes, he promised rivers of oil. But instead came rivers of tears and teacups of oil.

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Further trickeries practiced by fake oil stock promoters and brokers are explained in Gibbons' next article.

**Bids Received on State Land**  
Bids on twenty-two acres of lowlands around Bass Lake in Stark County were received by the State Tuesday, Oscar B. Smith, Knox, Ind., offered to buy the land for \$127.50 and to turn it over to the State department of conservation. Another bid of \$250 by Helen B. Bloom, Chicago, was private. The land had been appraised at \$27.50. The sale must be approved by the Governor, the auditor and the treasurer.

**Alleged Fugitives Held**  
Two alleged fugitives, arrested today, are John Duncan, 32, 513 E. Thirty-First St., wanted in Chicago on a grand larceny charge, and Robert E. 41, colored, 419 W. Sixteenth St., wanted in Gallatin, Tenn., on a charge, according to police.

## Methods Used

Without any legal authority the "association" would attack some probably legitimate oil concern. It would send notice to the firm's investors that the concern was unsound. For a fee of \$5 or more, the "association" formed to protect stockholders would look after the investors' interests.

Fearful of loss, 50 per cent of the investors came through with the fee. The "association" would then wait about a year and send out a stereotyped report on its findings.

Usually, this report contained nothing of value, and at most, cost the "association" two cents for mailings. Big margins were thus made.

## COOK JURY DELIBERATES

By United Press

FT. WORTH, Texas, Nov. 21.—The jury in the trial of Dr. Frederick A. Cook, former Arctic explorer, and associates in promotion of oil companies, accused of using the mails to defraud, deliberated throughout the night.

## Hello! This Phone Girl's Happy



LEFT TO RIGHT—MISS MARGARET COOPER, MRS. MYRTLE FLEMING AND MRS. F. J. STEINMETZ.

Today Miss Margaret Cooper, 20 N. Bosart Ave., for forty years an employee of the Indiana Bell Telephone Company, is cherishing memories of a beautiful day Tuesday when hosts of friends showered her with flowers and gifts in appreciation of her years of service with that company.

"Words fail to express my feelings," said Miss Cooper. "I have seen the telephone develop in Indianapolis from a crude affair to the wonderful system in effect now. I hope I'll be able to spend many more years here among my friends."

Through serving people Miss Cooper has made friends too numerous to name.

"There is a joy that can only be realized through serving, and a host of friends are one of the rewards," said Miss Cooper.

In the picture are shown Mrs. Myrtle Fleming, 8600 College Ave., and Mrs. F. J. Steinmetz, 3107 Broadway, friends who called on Miss Cooper Tuesday.

**'NATIONAL TRUTH' IS LATEST SPECIAL WEEK**

Better Business Bureau Leaders Announce Plan for City.

Tentative plans for observance of National Truth week, beginning Feb. 22, were made today at the closing conference of the board of directors of the National Better Business Bureau Commission at the Lincoln.

Local luncheon clubs, civic clubs, patriotic societies, public schools, churches, stores and other organizations will be asked to cooperate. A similar occasion was observed successfully in Providence, R. I., last year.

Members of the commission were guests today of G. F. Olwin, manager, Indianapolis Better Business Bureau, at the Kiwanis luncheon at the Claypool.

**RELEASED FROM JAIL**

James M. Sims and Cashier of Hope Bank Furnished Bond.

By Times Special

COLUMBUS, Ind., Nov. 21.—James M. Sims of Indianapolis, president of the defunct Republic Refining Company, and R. K. Ferry of Hope, cashier of the Hope State Bank, were released from the Bartholomew County jail today Tuesday after surety bond in the amount of \$10,000 had been provided for each.

The two men are charged jointly with having defrauded and conspired to defraud the Hope bank of approximately \$50,000. Sims has been in jail for over two weeks, unable to provide bond. Date for their trial is not set.

**POLICE WATCH FOR LOOT**

Mohawk General Store Robbed—Local "Fences" Under Observation.

Detectives today checked up on pawn shops and other possible outlets for goods stolen in the Dobbins Bros. general store robbery at Mohawk, Ind., Tuesday night.

Ten watches, six dozen shirts, several pair of shoes, sheep lined coats and many other articles were stolen, police said today.

**SLOT MACHINES REMOVED**

Authorities Act Upon Complaints by Parents of High School Boys.

By Times Special

NOBLESVILLE, Ind., Nov. 21.—One hundred nickel-in-the-slot machines, which have been in operation in the business houses of Noblesville for several months, were removed yesterday afternoon on orders from Mayor Brown and Prosecutor Waltz. This action was taken by the authorities because of complaints made by parents of high school boys.

**Pedestrian Is Injured**

Lawrence Quinn, 55, 1151 Marlowe Ave., was bruised about the body today when he was struck at Pine and Washington Sts. by an automobile driven by F. W. Steinberger, 409 E. New York St., who reported the accident to the police after taking Quinn home. Steinberger was not held.

**Woman Faces Theft Charge**

Mrs. Thelma Erst, alias Rust, 27, of 702 E. Georgia St., is slated at city prison today on a charge of petit larceny. Detectives Brodley and Finerman allege that she stole \$10.50 from a locker at a downtown store.

**Thomas Springer Reappointed**

Governor McCray today reappointed Thomas B. Springer of Sullivan a member of the board of control of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. His term expired several days ago.

## Shaken

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21.—Falling from a skyscraper, Albert Karlson, 51, suffered no broken bones and told doctors he "felt just a little shaken up." The shock killed him four hours later.

**HOLD-UP SUSPECT SOUGHT**

Information on Extradition Is Awaited by Police.

Additional information from the police at Kansas City, Mo., relative to whether Dick Day, alias Joe Roach, 40, wanted here on a Juvenile Court charge and for investigation in connection with the Bamboo Inn hold-up, Nov. 5, would waive extradition, was awaited today by John Mullin, detective inspector.

Mullin said today that he would attempt to get a grand jury indictment against Roach.

**TRAIN FOR AUTO SHOW**

Indiana Manufacturers to Boost Hoosier Goods at New York

A special train to the New York automobile show in January is the first objective of the Indiana Automotive Manufacturers' Association, reorganized Tuesday night at the Lincoln. Revival of the organization was made to promote sale of Indiana products.

Cot. William H. Brown, Nordyke and Marmon Company, Indianapolis, was elected president; Lon R. Smith, Smith and Smith, Inc., secretary; and George T. Bryant, Robert H. Hassler, Inc., treasurer.

**TRAFFIC TRUCKING QUIZ**

Survey by City Is Planned to Eliminate Congestion.

The traffic survey being conducted by the city plan commission under the direction of J. Rowland Bibb, expert consultant of Washington, D. C., today turned toward trucking problems on city streets.

The commission will attempt to find the route taken by heavy trucks during the business hours by sending blanks to truck owners and operators. Survivors have shown that many trucks operate on thoroughfares which should be used for high speed traffic, thus slowing motorists and causing congestion.

**New Uniforms for City Band**

Fifty members of the police and firemen's band will appear in their new uniforms Saturday. The uniforms are modeled closely after the style worn by police sergeants, with white coverings for the caps. Members will not wear their badges, but the police and firemen will wear their own collar insignia. Leather puttees will be worn.

**Sewing Machine Stolen**

A sewing machine was included in loot stolen in a raid on a shed at the home of Mrs. Bessie Crosby, 1145 Vincennes St. today. Tools and electric fixtures, the total value \$100, were taken, according to police.

**Driver Alleged Intoxicated**

Leonard Harris, colored, 593 Agnes St., was taken to city hospital today under charges of driving an automobile while intoxicated after the car he was driving struck a car owned by Raymond Evans, 944 S. West St., parked at that address. He was sent and released.

**Gin, Whisky in Car, Charge**

In filing a charge of operating a blind tiger against James White, 28, of 924 Bellefontaine St., police say they found twelve quarts of gin, one quart of whisky and five gallons of grain alcohol in his car at 1818 Bellefontaine St. Claude Martin, 54, of 415 W. Washington St., and Loney Mitchell, 22, of 136 N. Alabama St., are charged with possession of liquor.

**United States Holds Four Men**

Four men were held by Federal authorities today after their arrest Saturday in investigation of the theft of tobacco from a freight car at Walker, Ind., a year ago. The men face charges of stealing from an interstate shipment. They are: Carl Bradford, Walkerton, bond \$1,000; William Foster, La Porte, bond \$1,500; Benjamin Kneisley, La Porte, bond \$1,000; and William Sinclair, Walkerton, bond \$1,000.

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## PROVERB PICTURE NO. 21—NOV. 21



The answer is .....

My name is .....

I live at .....

City ..... State .....

### FIRST PRIZE \$1,000 CASH

Second Prize .....	\$500 Cash	4 Prizes .....	\$50 Each
Third Prize .....	\$250 Cash	6 Prizes .....	\$25 Each
Fourth Prize .....	\$100 Cash	5 Prizes .....	\$15 Each
Fifth Prize .....	\$75 Cash	5 Prizes .....	\$10 Each
		20 Prizes .....	\$5 Each

### RULES GOVERNING CONTEST

Prizes will be awarded for the best and most appropriate answers from among those submitted by contestants. First prize will be awarded to the person submitting largest number of such answers; second prize to the one submitting the second largest number of such answers, etc.

In the event of a tie, care and neatness displayed in preparation of answers will be considered.

Contestants must submit complete set of 60 proverb pictures in order to qualify for any prize.

Answers are not to be sent in until the entire 60 proverb pictures have appeared in the Times.

Only one answer may be submitted for each proverb. Where more than one answer is submitted to any proverb all will be thrown out.

Only one set of answers may be submitted by any one person and only one member in any one family can win a prize.

Each answer must be plainly written upon coupon published with each proverb picture. Any illegible will be thrown out.

The last proverb picture will be published Jan. 5, 1924.

Answers must be submitted in one set to The Proverb Contest Editor on or before noon Jan. 19, 1924.

Employees of The Times or members of their families cannot participate in this contest.

The Indianapolis Times will deposit each drawing and correct answer with Mr. Ralph K. Smith, vice president and cashier of the Fletcher American Bank in advance of each publication.

The judges will be Edward J. Gausepohl, president of E. J. Gausepohl & Co.; Judge James A. Collins of the Marion County bench, and George Buck, principal of Shortridge High School.

The decision of the judges will be final in all matters related to the contest.

Watch The Times for further information to be published daily

## FROM FAR AND NEAR

A buxom boy born Monday to Mr. and Mrs. Frank D'Sole, Newark, N. J., bears a name sounding like a railroad ticket. According to birth certificate, his official cognomen is "Frank Washington Boston Stop Newark D'Sole."

Former Governor Charles E. Osborn of Michigan, and his wife have agreed to separate. He denied rumors of a divorce.

Cost of living in United States on Oct. 15 was 64 cents per week, according to figures July 1914. Industrial conference figures show.

Johan Swenson, owner of a New York apartment, pays a bounty on all babies born to tenants in his apartment. Boys bring \$50 and girl babies \$25. Swenson has paid \$800 in baby bounties. "Do it again, I like it," he says.

"Nations succeed in proportion to the adequacy of their plumbing," said W. G. Archer, Evansville, Ind., in addressing convention of master plumbers at Dayton Tuesday.

Mrs. Calvin Coolidge today received 1,200 delegates to the thirtieth annual convention of United Daughters of the Confederacy.

"The nude on the stage is destructive to refinement, sentiment and imagination," declared Wolf Hopner, veteran comedian, De Wolf today in Kansas City.

Oklahoma City traffic rules have been revised to read, horse-drawn vehicles must not exceed a speed limit of ten miles an hour.

The American co-ed is larger around the waist, heavier and has bigger feet than several years ago, Miss Lydia Clarke, head of women's department of physical education at Ohio State University, declared today.

Francis C. Matson, Salt Lake City, resigned today as deputy commissioner of Internal Revenue. He will practice law in New York.

**Artists to Sketch Ad Club**

"Artists' Day" will be observed by the Advertising Club of Indianapolis at the Chamber of Commerce, Thursday noon. Six commercial artists from the Herron Art School will sketch the club members while they are eating.

Several club members "will be done in" by Miss Edna M. Shover, instructor, will speak. Lester Meyer and Hank Williams are leading in the membership drive.

**Woman Faces Theft Charge**

Hazel Evans Vernon, whom police say is also known as Vail and as Morford, was arrested on grand larceny charges Tuesday on complaint of Mrs. Hattie Meadows, colored, 614 Fulton St., who said Miss Vernon stole \$300 on one occasion and \$200 on another while visiting her, according to police. Miss Vernon gave her address as 611 E. Tenth St., but police say the address is false.

**Guard Officers Honored**

The War Department has authorized attendance of Col. A. P. Melton, Gary, commander of the 118th Engineers of the Indiana National Guard at the war college course which opens in Washington, Jan. 30, 1924. He will participate in the supply course. Adj. Gen. Harry B. Smith said Colonel Melton will be the third Indiana officer to enter the war college.

**Columbia Club to Move**

Temporary headquarters for members of the Columbia Club will be opened Feb. 1 in the Denison Hotel while the old building on Monument Pl. is being wrecked, preparatory to construction of a new \$1,000,000 building. It will be completed in a year.

**Hunters Make Appearance**

John H. Flagg, 746 Union St., and Lincoln Cummings, 1814 Martindale Ave., who left home Monday morning to go hunting, but who did not return at night, causing relatives to fear for their safety, are home at last. Their automobile broke down in the woods near Martinsville.

**Shucks!**

Challenged!

The title of Indiana corn husking championship has been officially contested. Homer Thayer, Bartholomew County, has been challenged by an Indianapolis man to defend his record of 160 bushels in an eight-hour day.

In a letter to The Times, O. T. Duval, 3515 E. Sixteenth St., of the Marion County State Bank, writes:

"I note in The Times that some bird says he can shuck 160 bushels of corn. I hereby declare that he is not the champion, for I can shuck 161 bushels every time he shucks 160."

"I would like very much to engage in a contest with this would-be champion."

How about it, Homer?

## BOYD M. RALSTON IS HURT IN AUTO TRACTION SMASH

Democratic Candidate\* for Mayor in 1921 Has Narrow Escape.

Boyd M. Ralston, 63, of 2326 N. Talbott Ave., Democratic candidate for mayor in 1921, narrowly escaped serious injuries in a collision of the automobile he was driving and a Union Traction Company freight interurban at College Ave. and Twenty-Second St., Tuesday night. He was cut by flying glass.

Ralston told police he turned north while driving east of Twenty-Second St. and was struck by the northbound interurban.

The auto was badly damaged. Earl Campbell was motorman.

James Saunders, colored, 21, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was painfully hurt while attempting to board a freight train on the Belt Railroad. James Maddox, colored, 22, also of Cincinnati, fell top, but escaped injury. He is held on a vagrancy charge.

Jesse L. Clevenger, 134 W. Pratt St., suffered a broken right arm and severe cuts and bruises about the body today when the steering apparatus on the car he was driving locked in front of 823 N. Pennsylvania St., overturning the car. He was taken to city hospital.

**HUSBAND KILLS WIFE, THEN TAKES OWN LIFE**

Seventeen-Month-Old Daughter Survives Double Tragedy.

By United Press

MONTEZUMA, Ind., Nov. 21.—Marvin Watson, 21, shot and killed his wife and then killed himself here last night.

Watson, who had been working in Streator, Ill., returned to this city yesterday. After an argument with Mrs. Watson at her mother's home, he fired four shots at his wife. The couple is survived by a 17-month-old daughter.

**IT'S A CONCRETE FACT!**

Indianapolis Leads Other Cities of State in Production.

Indianapolis leads all other Indiana cities in the production of concrete products, O. H. Gosswein, field engineer, Universal Portland Cement Company, declared today at the ninth annual convention of Indiana Sand and Gravel Producers' Association at the Lincoln. Other Indiana cities, leading in concrete products production, are: South Bend, Ft. Wayne, Evansville and Terre Haute.

The convention closed at noon with a luncheon at the Lincoln. Speakers were: H. F. Clemmer, engineer, Illinois State highway commission, and L. S. Trafton, district engineer, Portland Cement Association.

Albert M. Brown, 4168 Broadway, was re-elected president of the association Tuesday. Other officers: R. L. Witte, Terre Haute, vice president; J. A. Shesser, 3530 Ruckie St., secretary-treasurer.

**FOREST MOVE APPROVED**

Chamber Indorses Referendum for National Tree Project.

A referendum sent out to Chambers of Commerce seeking protection of headwaters of national rivers and rehabilitation of forest and waste lands has been approved by the Indianapolis Chamber following recommendation of a committee headed by Richard Lieber, director of the State department of conservation.

The national chamber would have the government "acquire, reseed and replant waste land