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# The Indianapolis Times

Fair tonight and probably Wednesday; rising temperature, lowest tonight about 40.

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## 'HOT CAR' CONSPIRACY JURY CHOSEN IN 45 MINUTES AS TRIAL OPENS IN U. S. COURT

Names of Five Fugitive Defendants Disclosed by Judge Baltzell; Fifteen Persons Face Auto Theft Charges.

### CASE IS OUTLINED BY WARD

Alleged to Have Disposed of Score of High-Priced Machines in Last Year; Traugott and Sussman Among Defendants.

Obtaining a jury within forty-five minutes the government today started presenting testimony against fifteen of the twenty-one defendants in the interstate automobile theft case in Federal court before Judge Robert C. Baltzell.

In making the opening statement of the case, in which the defendants are charged with having handled more than a score of stolen automobiles, Judge Baltzell for the first time disclosed names of five fugitive defendants.

They are Leo Baldwin, Chicago, said to be the brains of the gang; Joseph Hunter, Indianapolis; Roy Huffington of Terre Haute, brother of Joseph M. Huffington, head of the Ku-Klux Klan in Indiana; Frank Glenn, Indianapolis coal merchant, and Louis A. Wilkerson, Vincennes, Ind., advertising man.

Sixteen defendants were to have gone on trial today, but Louis Wyndt, Chicago engraver, charged with having assisted in the alteration of numbers on stolen cars, failed to appear.

The jury:

Joe Johnson, Martinsville, farmer; Frank McConoughy, Franklin, bank examiner; Edward Peek, Waldron, farmer; Claude Meyers, Jeffersonville, lumber dealer; Lawrence Saltzman, Mount Vernon, farmer; Nelson Phillips, Switzerland county, farmer; Fred Neill, Bloomington, contractor; Clyde Hoke, Winchester, farmer; Hugh Giles, Sullivan, transfer business; Charles Riley, Crawfordsville, druggist; Harry Trotter, Harrison county, farmer; Manford Watson, Parke county, farmer. Talesman Clyde Perigo, Warrick county grain dealer, was temporarily excused by the defense. Charles F. Dell, Columbus merchant, was challenged by the defense, and Ora Smith, Falmouth, was challenged by Ward when he said he knew one of the defense attorneys.

The conspiracy case was the first of ten involved in the general ring inquiry, set for trial. Twenty-three persons are under indictment in all the cases, but five have not been arrested.

The defendants on trial are: Edward Traugott, merchant; Harry Sussman, Traugott's partner; Wolf Sussman, jeweler; Harry's father; Elmer Sussman, Harry's cousin; Lee Smith, former Klan titan; Robert F. McNary, former Klan titan; Dr. Fred Binzer, Terre Haute optician; Bertram Libowitz, 39 North Jefferson avenue, salesmen, brother of Harold Libowitz, who died of injuries received in the "Traugott store blast"; William J. Laffey, 925 West New York street, soft drink saloon operator; William M. Jones and his wife, Mrs. Pink Jones, 5502 Winthrop avenue; Jacob Wohlfeld, furrier, 2819 Washington boulevard, and Mortimer Wohlfeld, Jacob's son, all of Indianapolis, and Ted Baldwin, Chicago, described by government agents as one of the leaders of the conspiracy; Miss Lloyd Harrison, Chicago, actress, captured in a stolen car with Baldwin.

### Ward in Statement

Albert Ward, United States district attorney, declared in his opening statement that the government would prove that the fifteen defendants in the courtroom and the six missing by words and deeds entered into arrangements to steal and dispose of valuable automobiles, such as Packards, Lincolns and Cadillacs, transport them from state to state, alter motor numbers and other identifying marks and obtain false certificates of title and license plates.

He said the government, which has subpoenaed about two hundred witnesses, would show the part which each one played either in forming the original plot or in carrying it out.

### Charges False Identity

Specific facts which he declared could be proven included the charge that Ted Baldwin stole and transported cars and that Roy Huffington, the Klan titan's brother, obtained a stolen Lincoln sedan, transferred it to Robert McNay, former Klan titan, took the car to Harrisburg, Pa., and under an alias of J. W. Garrett obtained a fraudulent certificate of title. Ward said he would show that Roy Huffington took the car back to Terre Haute and placed it for a time in possession of S. Beanblossom, secretary to his brother Joe. Beanblossom is a former head of the Evansville Klan.

The district attorney said Roy Huffington stored the car in a garage he rented under the name of Garrett and that when state policeman Charles Bridges started looking for the car at Terre Haute he was

## Auto Case Defendants Go to Court



### CHARITY FUND NOW \$441,702

Additional Pledges Reported at Luncheon Today.

With additional pledges of \$49,181 reported by workers at the Community Fund luncheon at the Claypool, the fund campaign total today mounted to \$441,702.

This was Boys' day at fund headquarters. Boy Scouts, the Boys' Club and the Y. M. C. A. were official sponsors of activities. Camp Fire Girls, Girl Scouts and the Y. W. C. A. will sponsor the Wednesday luncheon at the Claypool.

A lottery with prizes ranging from theater passes to "The Silent House," this week's attraction at English's, to women's articles recently brought from abroad on the Graf Zeppelin by arrangement of L. S. Ayres & Co., is a feature of the daily report luncheons.

Totals of each division at the last auditing of accounts Monday were as follows: Special Gifts "A," \$279,347; Special Gifts "B," \$15,573.75; Branch House, \$20,057; Mile Square, \$39,537.14; employees' division, \$24,011.22, and Women's Army, \$13,004.

Although several districts nearly have reached their quotas, only three district chairman had gone over the top at the report of the Monday luncheon. They are: Mrs. Edward M. Trimpie, chairman of district No. 7 of the South division; Mrs. David M. Choan, chairman of district No. 18, East division, and Mrs. Raymond W. Roberson, chairman of district No. 36, West division.

Walsh's testimony today stated that he is encouraged by the progress of the drive thus far. This year's quota is \$55,534 more than the total raised last year.

The man's club of the Speedway Boulevard M. E. church will have a dinner tonight in the interest of the Community Fund. F. O. Belzer, Indianapolis Boy Scout executive, will speak in behalf of the fund. At noon today the Rev. H. E. Eberhardt, director of Wheeler City Mission, spoke to the employees of the Marschke Manufacturing Company.

### Tell of Chase

Edwards also gave similar testimony concerning a LaSalle Victoria sedan stolen from Mrs. Cora M. Schwartz, Cleveland; a Packard coupe stolen from E. S. Hartman, Chicago; LaSalle coupe stolen from Abe Goldberger, Cleveland; LaSalle sedan stolen by H. J. Deusch, Cleveland, and a Cadillac sedan stolen from David Wolpaw, Cleveland, found in possession of W. Lee Smith, and a Cadillac sedan stolen from Simon Cohn, Indianapolis.

Madden testified his car was stolen from Vermont and Meridian streets, May 10, 1928. Policeman W. J. O'Connel and William L. Cox of Chicago testified that Baldwin leaped from the car when pursued in Chicago. Baldwin ran up an alley, the officers halting him with bullets while Miss Harrison sped on, the policemen said. The officers finally overtook Miss Harrison.

### Saves Life by Leap

Clings to Engine; Auto Is Crushed.

### Sold Blank Plates

Tracing the alleged methods by which the gang altered identification of the cars, the government put George C. Erbina and Ainsel J. Schumacher of the Stronghart Company, Evanston, Ill., on the stand. They testified that Louis Wyndt, the engraver bought from them 100 blank Packard name plates and 100 blank Cadillac plates. Herman Manent of the General Etching and Manufacturing Company, Oak Park, Ill., testified he delivered 100 blank Lincoln engine plates to Wyndt.

There was a chorus of objection from attorneys for defendants other than Wyndt that this had no bearing upon the cases of the others.

The court directed that objections be saved until all evidence is in.

The three manufacturers on cross-examination said they did not suspect Wyndt because he led them to

(Turn to Page 12)



Above, left to right, defendant Bertram Libowitz, salesman; Attorney Ira M. Holmes, and defendant Edward Traugott, merchant, leading figures in the interstate automobile theft ring conspiracy case, on their way to federal court this morning. Below, left to right, Robert James, head of the state automobile license division; state policeman Charles Bridges, and Carl Powell, notary in the license division, expected to be important government witnesses in the trial.

## HEAR WALSH IN STEWART TRIAL

Testifies Oil Man Denied Knowing of Bonds.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—Senator Thomas J. Walsh (Dem., Montana), noted Teapot Dome prosecutor, testified in the perjury trial of Robert W. Stewart, Indiana Standard Oil chairman, today that Stewart told the senate committee he knew nothing of disposition of the Continental Trading Company's \$3,000,000 bond.

Walsh's testimony today stated that his testimony today differed somewhat from that of his testimony in Stewart's previous trial and also that the Senator's recollection of Stewart's testimony last Feb. 2 and 3 was vague.

Hogan read extensively from Walsh's testimony in the Stewart contempt trial in an effort to show that Walsh's testimony there was that Stewart merely refused to answer the questions of the others' intention as the Senator's testimony last Feb. 2 and 3 was vague.

The two men were driving south on Harding streets. Reuter at the steering wheel, when their machine was struck by a Chicago-bound Pennsylvania passenger train.

The demolished automobile was carried more than 100 feet and hurled down an embankment. Reuter's body was found in the wreckage of his machine. McIntyre was buried free of the wreck and was found, unconscious, fifty feet from the crossing.

Unheeding of unaware of the frantic efforts of Mrs. I. B. Kennedy, crossing watchman to halt them, the two sped on the tracks and the train struck their machine in the exact center.

J. O. Culp, Jeffersonville, Ind., was the engineer on the train, and O. L. Lutz, Louisville, Ky., was the conductor.

The Stewart indictment is based on a charge that Stewart failed to answer truthfully the senate committee's questions in view of later disclosures that he received more than \$750,000 of the Continental bonds.

The defense indicated clearly it would seek to show the perjury indictment was an after thought, the charge being pressed after the contempt charge was brought.

Faced with instant death this morning when a Pennsylvania switch engine struck his automobile at Shelby street and the B&I railroad, Eubrey Hardcastle, 2143 South New Jersey street, saved his life by leaping on the engine front and clinging to a rod on the pilot until the engine stopped.

Slightly cut and bruised, he heard his automobile ground under the engine, which traveled more than 150 feet before it could be halted.

His feet seemed impossible, trainmen said.

Witnesses said Hardcastle disregarded the warning of the bell signal and drove his car in front of the train. He leaped just as the crash occurred. So slight were his injuries that he required no medical attention.

REVISE PLANS FOR CONTROLLING FLOODS

Association's Decision to Be Taken Before Next Congress.

By United Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Nov. 13.—A revised plan for alleged flood control in the Mississippi valley was formulated today by the Mississippi River Flood Control Association.

The plan may be presented to the next congress. The most important change to be suggested to congress, according to W. H. Dick, president of the association, will be a recommendation that the federal government assume the responsibility for work in the backwater areas, as well as the main stream.

The change will not affect the tax rate, which has been set at \$1.02.

Redistribution is the result of conferences between tax board members, William A. Book, representing the civic affairs committee of the Chamber of Commerce; Albert F. Walzman, business director of the schools, and representatives of the Indiana Taxpayers Association.

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