

FORGE EVIDENCE CHAIN AT 'HOT' CAR RING TRIAL

Government Attempts to
Link Traugott, Sussmans;
12 Testify.

Step by step, the government Tuesday afternoon attempted to build a solid wall of evidence connecting Edward Traugott, his partner, Harry Sussman, and the latter's cousin, Elmer Sussman, with the interstate motor theft ring responsible for theft and sale of more than twenty expensive automobiles in five midwestern states.

Trial of the fifteen defendants in the motor theft conspiracy case, started Tuesday morning with presentation of evidence by Albert Ward, United States district attorney. More than five months was spent by the government in building the case in which twenty-three persons were named in ten indictments.

Twelve witnesses gave testimony to form the basis of the government's case against the three Indianapolis men.

Tells of Recovering Car

The barrage started with A. D. Collins, Packard automobile factory executive, Detroit, who read factory records of three stolen Packard cars, including one stolen from Mrs. Elizabeth Parrish, Cleveland, who testified also.

Robert James, state licensing bureau title division head, testified a certificate of title and license plates for the car were obtained on an Ohio bill of sale.

Charles Bridges, state police lieutenant in charge of the state's investigation, told of recovering the coupe from Max Goldberg, 567 Highland drive, July 25, and finding all numbers except the body number falsified.

Goldberg said Bridges confiscated the car five minutes after Elmer Sussman delivered it to him. He identified his check for \$950 which he said he gave Sussman in payment for the car.

Sold for \$1,200

Continuing to trace the car, Clayton McGregor, Terre Haute, was called to the stand and testified he came to Indianapolis in December, 1927, to buy a car meeting a "Walter Russell" in the Claypool lobby.

Learning of his mission, Russell, he said, offered to sell him a Packard coupe for \$1,200. McGregor said he paid \$300 down, and drove the car to Terre Haute that night after having his brother, Wylie McGregor, former local insurance agent, obtain certificate of title for the car.

Clayton McGregor identified the picture of Leo Baldwin as resembling the "Walter Russell" who sold him the car.

Next day, he said, he decided not to buy the car and brought it back to Indianapolis, telephoning the brother to return it to Russell at the Edward Traugott & Co. store and get the \$300.

Talked With Libowitz

Wylie McGregor testified he went to the Traugott store and couldn't find Russell. He said he told Traugott he was returning the car because his brother believed it was "hot."

After returning several times, he met Harry Sussman, he said, who gave him \$300 and took possession of the car and title.

Several months later, he testified, Traugott telephoned him and asked for a duplicate title, saying the first was lost. Going to the Traugott store, McGregor said, he met Elmer Sussman, who went with him to the statehouse, where he procured a duplicate certificate of title.

McGregor testified that several months later, while in the Traugott store, he was asked by Harold Libowitz, who died as a result of burns sustained in the Traugott store blast of Aug. 26, to notarize the certificate of sale by Charles Medcalf to Mortimer Wohlfeil, a defendant in the conspiracy indictment of a Cadillac coupe. Medcalf wasn't there, but I knew Libowitz, so I did it," McGregor declared.

Sussman Has Car

Possession of a stolen La Salle coupe by Harry Sussman was disclosed in evidence by Bridges, who was called to the stand for the third time.

R. A. Schwartz of Cleveland, testified that a La Salle coupe was stolen from him Jan. 12, 1928. In August the car was brought back for identification, by three men, one of whom he knew to be a government agent, and the other an insurance agent.

He did not recognize the third man, and when George Barnard, attorney for the Sussmans, asked if it was Harry Sussman, he was unable to declare so, although Sussman rose to his feet to be recognized.

Bridges declared that Sussman called him up and told him that he was in possession of a La Salle coupe believed to be stolen. Bridges checked the car July 27, 1928 and later traced it to Schwartz.

The title for the car, while in Sussman's possession was made out in the name of Robert Palmer, who gave his address as the Marrott hotel.

Keys Found in Car

Sussman repurchased the car from the insurance company after turning it over to Bridges, the latter declared.

P. E. Dunnemeyer, clerk at the Marrott hotel, declared that no Ralph Palmer had been registered at the Marrott hotel during the period in which the car was sold to Harry Sussman.

Leo Baldwin was arrested in Adrian, Mich., under the alias of L. A. Bell while in possession of a Buick coupe containing a "load of liquor." He was accompanied by a Miss Gladys Moore. In the Buick, which was found to be stolen, was a bundle of 169 Buick keys. Arch Wilson, sheriff at Adrian, testified. Baldwin and the girl escaped after giving \$2,000 bond. C. R. Yarkin, former deputy, said.

Fate Lifts Salesman to Riches, Hurls Him to Death in Jail Cell

BY MARBEN GRAHAM
United Press Staff Correspondent

DETROIT, Nov. 14.—Fate has played the last of several ironical jests on Donald C. Prentiss.

Prentiss was beaten to death Monday night in a Cleveland jail by a cellmate.

No more promising young man ever came to Detroit and entered the motor field than Prentiss. He brought with him here a few years ago supreme confidence;

ambition, fired by a beautiful wife; a national reputation as author of several salesmanship books, and several years' experience as a teacher of philosophy at the University of California.

He went to work as assistant to the sales manager of the Packard Motor Company. His spare time he spent at home with his wife, Madeline, studying the new field.

General Motors gave him a contract at \$25,000 a year, pronounced him one of its best pros-

pects and sent him to Lansing to manage sales promotion for Oldsmobile.

PROSPERITY, quietness after

humble, hours to burn, country club dances, cocktail parties, wanting of the love for his wife and their two children followed.

Drink and more drink brought

warnings from his executives.

January brought discharge, but with a \$12,000 bonus.

Even then, less than a year ago,

he was prosperous. Still certain of his prowess, Prentiss moved to Detroit, took a ten-room apartment and tried his luck on the stock market.

He sold stock short and, his friends said, lost his fortune within a month. He told his wife he hated her. She went back to her home in California for a change. She came back last March and found he had disappeared with the two children and a 15-year-old nursemaid.

Mrs. Prentiss found them in a cottage on Lake Ontario. He denied any wrong, the maid was discharged, and Mrs. Prentiss remained at the cottage while he went back to work.

He sent no money home. Mrs. Prentiss returned to Detroit and found her husband with the nursemaid again.

Penniless, she was forced to ap-

ply for aid. Authorities in-

vestigated. She was found insane and was on the verge of being sent to an asylum, when a friend intervened. A rehearing was obtained and she was found sane.

Prentiss recently was arrested in Cleveland, when he and the maid sought mail at the postoffice.

He pleaded guilty to violating the Mann act and was serving his sentence when he was killed by his cellmate, John T. Nevins, who wanted "to burn rather than go back to Atlanta."

COMPROMISE ON WATER METERS FIGHT EXPECTED

Maximum Charge or Free
Installation Suggested
as Solution.

Free meter installation by the Indianapolis Water Company, as suggested by Commissioner Calvin McIntosh of the public service commission, may result in a compromise whereby the company may set a maximum charge of \$3.75 for meter servicing.

This would mean that a plumber must meet this estimate, or the company would do the work.

The proposed compromise came as the result of a conference of Howard S. Morse, water company manager, with McIntosh at the statehouse Tuesday.

Refused to Install Meter

Further discussions are to be held before any definite plan is put into effect, the commissioner said. He will go to Morse's office this week to inspect some charts compiled by the company regarding meter installation.

The suggestion for free installation by the company to the some 26,000 unmetered clients was made by McIntosh when he held an informal hearing on a controversy between a citizen whose water had been shut off and company officials. The shut-off was the result of refusal to install a meter.

Free Service Protested

Figures were presented at that time showing plumber charges for meter service had been as high as \$15.

Tuesday Morse presented a survey of twelve plumber's charges, showing the highest to be \$5.50 and lowest \$3 for the service. The average was \$4.46.

McIntosh asked if the company still would be willing to stand by a suggested price of \$3.75 and this is to be a matter of further discussion.

Free service was objected to on the grounds that thousands already have paid. McIntosh is of the opinion that the cost to the company would be repaid in increased good will.

DECRIES 'BRAG PRAYER'

Pastor Urges More Spiritual Confidence in Churches.

Too many boastful prayers instead of spiritual contact with Jesus Christ comprise church ceremonie; today, the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, pastor of University Christian church, declared in an evangelistic sermon Tuesday night.

"Why is God concerned about me and my soul?" queried the speaker.

"The answer is, God is love. This is the mystery of Christianity and the gospel."

At the service tonight Floyd Jones, tenor, will sing "The Christ of the Cross." Evangelistic services will continue through the week.

DROP BUS REQUEST

Railroad Abandons Petition After Service Is Assured.

Petition for a bus line to be operated by the Indianapolis & Southern railroad, between Greensburg and Madison, was dropped by officials at a public service commission hearing today.

The officials declared they had no desire to operate the line, since assurance was given them that William Brown, bus operator between Madison and Versailles, will extend his line to Greensburg.

TOTAL IN FUND DRIVE EXCEEDS \$500,000 MARK

Workers Are Heartened by
Good Showing; Day's
Pledges \$65,852.

Workers of \$65,852 reported by workers at the Community Fund luncheon at the Claypool boosted the total in the campaign to \$507,402.

The workers seek to reach the goal of \$781,000 by next Monday. They were enthusiastic at being far past the halfway mark, with the campaign only half through.

Walter O. Marmon, general chairman, stressed the necessity of concentrated effort in the last days of the drive.

Marmon Stresses Need

"It is always easy to raise the first half of our quota," explained Marmon. "The hard part will be to complete the total within the next few days. Every worker must double his efforts to put the fund across."

Reports from the employees' divisions indicate that in a number of instances the employees of local firms have greatly exceeded their subscriptions of last year. Employees of the E. C. Atkins Company subscribed more than \$200 above their total in the 1927 drive.

Indiana Bell Telephone Company employees exceeded their former contribution by \$500, while the Presto Lite Company employees have raised double their 1927 subscription.

William Laurit Company average \$4 an employee and the Ford Motor Company employees almost doubled the amount they contributed last year. The fifty employees of the Colonial Furniture Company have given \$159 and the employees of Klein & Kuhn Company, heretofore not organized for the fund campaign, have raised \$350.

Musical Program Given

Wednesday's luncheon was featured by a musical program given by the Rulek ensemble, one of the city's most popular musical organizations. The Rev. H. E. Eberhardt, director of Wheeler City Rescue Mission, asked the invocation.

Girls' Work day was observed

with sponsors from the Y. W. C. A., the Camp Fire Girls and Scouts. The address was made by Mrs. E. C. Rumper.

Chairman Marmon Tuesday announced an unexpected donation of \$428 from the East Washington Merchants' Association. The gift was derived from an auction sale of seventeen unclaimed prizes offered during the association's recent fall festival.

The fund total Tuesday was approximately \$1,900 short of the amount raised at the corresponding date last year. A little more than 56 per cent of the \$781,000 goal had been reported Tuesday night.

Over Her Quota

Frank V. Mills, chairman of district No. 53 in the Mile Square division, and Mrs. Ethel P. Clarke, chairman of District No. 38 in the West division of the Women's Army, were reported "over the top" at the Tuesday luncheon.

Speaking to Community Fund workers at today's luncheon, Walter C. Marmon, campaign chairman, sounded a warning against an overconfident attitude on the part of the public, and declared that far more serious consideration should be given to the Community Fund "as an accurate measure of civic vision."

"It is rather difficult sometimes," said Marmon, "to account for the lack of imagination which characterizes many otherwise admirable people. This lack accounts for anything less than intense concern for full success of the present Community Fund campaign."

Marmon emphasized the necessity for every man and woman able to share with less fortunate neighbors joining the Community Fund. Responsibility, he said, rests alike upon all citizens, and no one should be content until he has done his full share toward maintaining the city's thirty-seven social service agencies supported by the fund.

"In many cases, those persons inclined to adopt a nonchalant attitude toward success of the fund appeal are the first ones to be highly outraged if a single child dies of hunger or neglect."

"Protecting helpless children is one of the vast works of mercy supported through the community

Mill Girl Attains Opera Fame, Dream of Years

BY MARIAN HALE,
NEA Service Writer

NEW YORK, Nov. 14.—Two characters really participated in Clara Jacob's debut as a Metropolitan opera star.

One was the dramatic soprano the audience heard and applauded as "Leonora" in II Trovatore. The other was a plucky little mill worker whose dreams had come true. Miss Jacob was the story of a gifted and ambitious little factory girl at Lawrence, Mass., before she was a professional singer.

She was born in Lawrence the seventh of eight children of an Italian grocer. When they had Italian celebrations, Clara sang solos. She sang in church, too. She sang whenever and wherever asked.

"I was crazy for singing," the grown Clara recalled. "I didn't want to know anything else. When I was 12 some neighbors took me to Boston and I heard Tetrazzini sing. I made myself a promise as I sat in that gallery seat that I'd be an opera singer myself."

Five years of intensive study in Naples proved Clara's talent. A Metropolitan contract was her ultimate reward.

While she was studying in Italy, her mother, whose encouragement had meant everything, died.

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AL CALLS ON PARTY TO SEEK 1932 VICTORY

'Carry On,' Is Message of
Smith to Democrats in
Radio Speech.

By United Press

NEW YORK, Nov