

Wire Tap Probe Bares Ring of Blackmailers

Extorted \$1 Million
Yearly From Wealthy
Guests in Hotels

NEW YORK, Mar. 17 (UP)—A blackmail ring which tapped phones in hotel rooms and extorted more than \$1 million a year from wealthy and prominent victims was reported uncovered today as a result of the inquiry into a plot to tap the wires of city officials.

The New York World-Telegram, a Scripps-Howard newspaper, said it had learned of the blackmail ring in high political quarters and that Mayor William O'Dwyer would confirm its existence at a conference of the city's Democratic Congressmen summoned for City Hall Saturday morning by Rep. Emmanuel Celler.

Mr. Celler's telegram to his colleagues read:

"This conference is all-important. Do not fail to attend."

The blackmail gang's activities were uncovered when police started an intensive inquiry into wire-tapping as a result of the discovery that some official phones in New York City had been tampered with and that there was an apparent plot to extend this wire-tapping to Detroit and Chicago.

How Ring Operated

"The smoothly functioning extortion gang operated mainly on the basis of information provided by staff members of leading hotels and private clubs," the World-Telegram said. "Bellhops, desk clerks, maids and other employees in a position to determine an illicit romance, or a shady business venture, provided the leads on a fee basis."

The World-Telegram said the tappers operated without the knowledge of their employers.

"If a prominent figure registered at a hotel with someone other than his wife," the story said, "that fact would be relayed immediately to the ring's headquarters and a group of highly trained technicians would be assigned to the job."

"Usually they would be able to obtain a next-door room, where they would set up the latest types of listening and recording instruments. If unable to obtain next-door rooms, they would wait for their quarry to leave his room and, by using a hotel employee's passkey, would enter to install wire recording equipment."

Worked Around Clock

They also would tap telephone wires, the World-Telegram said.

The story said the blackmailers worked around the clock and after recording enough "damaging" information would contact the victims.

"Fear of exposure led the victims to pay huge sums," the World-Telegram said. "The ring concentrated only on the wealthy, particularly those who could ill-afford to have scandal crop up in their lives."

**Churchill Will Sail
Tomorrow for U. S. Visit**

LONDON, Mar. 17 (UP)—Winston Churchill prepared to sail tomorrow aboard the liner Queen Elizabeth for the United States where he will visit President Truman.

The war-time prime minister and Mrs. Churchill will visit Mr. Truman in Washington and fulfill other engagements in Boston, New York and other cities.

**Business Card Used
For \$300,000 Will**

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 17 (UP)—A will which a wounded man scribbled in pencil on the back of a business card was filed in Superior Court today.

Raymond C. Kellogg, Pasadena, Cal., merchant, signed the tiny card May 8, 1948, after being shot accidentally on a hunting trip. He died 10 days later. His \$300,000 estate went to relatives.

In the Land of 'The Big Rich'—

Guests Loll in Long Green Daze At Texan's New \$20 Million Inn

By JIM CARROLL, Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

HOUSTON, Mar. 17—There was big doin's here today when Houston's hot-money boom, Hollywood's heart throbs and good St. Patrick all got together at the opening of Glenn H. McCarthy's \$20 million Shamrock Hotel.

They're not wearing green this day. They are rolling in it—greenbacks, that is—as the 18-story lodging house, described with typical Texas modesty, as "Houston's magnificent hotel" opened with lavish fanfare.

Dead-pant 41-year-old millionaire McCarthy is putting on a party that bids fair to take all-time honors, even in this "Land of the Big Rich."

HE HIRED a special Santa Fe's "Chief"-style train to haul 50 movie stars across the nation headed by McCarthy pals Pat O'Brien and Edgar Bergen, plus a flock of news writers.

He has steaks sizzling that were cut off the champions of the Chicago Livestock Show at \$11.00 per steer.

He has orchids flown from the South, roses fresh from Northern hot houses, and champagne flowing out of a fountain.

His "personal" guest list carries 200 gilt-edged names.

His staff of hoteliers, headed by George Lindholm who left New York's Waldorf for the Shamrock, is getting \$42 per plate for the opening from 1000 lusty-spending Texans in the "Emerald Room," and \$33 from another crestfallen 1000 who have to stay in the "pine grill" (which is the coffee shop).

NO MATTER what the take is on the opening, Mr. McCarthy figures he is spending at least \$100,000 on the party out of his own pocket.

Mr. McCarthy is getting a reputation as a party-giver—though a former radio announcer here takes exception. He has sued the millionaire for \$87,250 charging Mr. McCarthy beat him up and broke his back at a party last Christmas eve.

Handsome Mrs. McCarthy and the five little McCarthys are stepping into the limelight for one of their few public appearances. (Ten-year-

Rehearse 'Showboat' Scene



Marian Davis, Joan Hart and Martha Curtiss (left to right), rehearse a scene from "Mississippi Showboat," final act in the junior class production to be given at 8 p. m. today and tomorrow in Washington High School. The showboat scene is part of the annual vaudeville show sponsored by Washington students.

Irish the Monk's Gay Awaiting Broth of Baby

*Simian Father-to-Be Struts His Stuff
And Waves Shillelagh on St. Pat's Day*

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Mar. 17 (UP)—Irish, a 27-year-old monkey, brandished banana for a shillelagh and strutted with all the dignity of a true son of the Old Sod on this great day.

And for good reason. Not only was it St. Patrick's Day, which is reason enough for an Irishman to celebrate, but Irish was about to become a father.

The Gulben-born monkey was passing out peanuts to his friends in the San Diego zoo in anticipation of the birth of his 15th child, Irish, whose age, if turned into human terms, would be over 100, still is going strong, with one baby now in the family and a half-grown son bouncing around.

"WE NAMED him Irish because he looks and acts like an Irishman," said zoo veterinarian Art Kelley, no Swede himself. "In fact, he looks like me."

"He's got the disposition of a Mick from the Emerald Isle," Mr. Kelley said. "He knows everybody, loves to fight, likes to eat Irish potatoes and loves green lolipops."

"Irish is a model parent. Whenever he thinks his wife, Kathleen, isn't taking good care of the kids, he takes over. After slapping her down, of course."

ZOO OFFICIALS reported Irish's official designation is a weeper-capuchin, a rare type of monkey. His children have supplied most of the major zoos in the country.

But to the zoo keepers and to thousands of daily zoo visitors, Irish is Irish, and that's all.

"Just a broth of a lad," said Mr. Kelley.

SYDNEY, Australia, Mar. 17 (UP)—Twenty - two hundred persons attended a gala St. Patrick's Day farewell party today for American Ambassador Myron Clegg, who is being transferred to Manila. The crowd sang traditional songs in Sydney's town hall.

OHARA, Japan, Mar. 17 (UP)—Shure there was singing and dancing here in Ohara today. But there was nary a note from the concertina, nor an Irishman in sight to wear the green.

The Ohara celebrants were holding a spring religious festival and questioning revealed that they never had heard of the saint who drove the snakes from Ireland.

Mayor Tsuchiya Yukimasa said there wasn't an O'Hara living in Ohara.

SHANGHAI, Mar. 17 (UP)—Members of the St. Patrick's Society commemorated the day today by laying wreaths on the graves of five members of the Royal Ulster Rifles who were killed in the 1937 hostilities in China.

Royal Marine buglers from the

old Glenn Jr. has a tailor-made tuxedo for the occasion.)

And even the spirit of Sam O'Houston seems to be stepping aside for the Irish-descended extrovert athlete who "blew" his first million, then bluffed and battled his way back to where he has today some 200 million barrels of oil in reserve—at \$3 a barrel. But that still leaves Mr. McCarthy sixth on Houston's list of millionaires.

THE HOTEL visiting Irish and others are dedicating has 82 shades of green in it. It has 1100 guest rooms with radio and television. A two-block-long enclosed "promenade" runs through the lobby.

It has a private club—the "Cork Club"—that meets Texas' partially dry laws and includes an Olympic-sized swimming pool just off the hotel veranda.

Just to park your own bottle there and use the pool costs \$500 to join and \$15 a month dues.

An ex-sheriff is in charge of a staff of 200 house dogs.

A war hero doctor is running a clinic to keep the Shamrock guests healthy. (Incidentally, he also is a psychiatrist.)

The Shamrock was three years a-building. It is in a 10-acre V-shaped plot. In time, this V will be covered with business locations, but, for the opening, Mr. McCarthy had tall palms brought in on special trucks from Florida.

BETWEEN trees he had the ground sodded with carpet grass—attaining overnight a garden and yard. Azaleas, brought from Louisiana, blaze at peak glory along the Shamrock's outside walks.

Even in this city where post-war magic plus pent-up oil and gas wealth has put on a miracle boom of some \$1 billion in the nation's greatest building spurge, the Shamrock stands out like a shillelagh bump on the head.

Topping off all this—and eventually paying for part of it, Mr. McCarthy hopes—will be the world premiere of the McCarthy-made "Green Promise," a movie of the good, simple life of a farm.

In Indianapolis—Vital Statistics and Events

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Edward Thomas Young, 16, 726 Martin; Glyde H. Main Jr., 27, 2615 N. 18th; Joyce E. Lubin, 17, 725 Martin; William R. Bailey, 26, 202 Cameron; Joann Hostetter, 19, 100 W. Warren; Hazel J. W. Kelley, 21, 100 Front Hills; New York; Joanne R. Nance, 20, Park Ridge, Ill.; Owens, 21, 1952 N. Keeling; Rachel Brewer, 21, Dana; Valentine Dickman, 23, 2229 N. Meridian; Troy Canic, 21, 455 N. State; Margot Ana Schoener, 19, 1944 Lexington; Richard Earl Shaffer, 16, 811 Rosslyn;

BIRTHS

Norma Jean Clark, 15, 4270 Carrollton; Glyde H. Main Jr., 27, 2615 N. 18th; Joyce E. Lubin, 17, 725 Martin; Gloria Ann Gibbs, 24, 322 N. Walcott; Pauline Murphy, 21, 100 Front Hills; Cowier, 22, 4025 Collier; Joseph W. Kelley, 21, 110 S. Hawthorne; Betty Lou Meyer, 22, R. R. 5, Box 508;

DEATHS

At Coleman—Robert, Doris Warner; Rose, Loris Graham. Girls
At Methodist—Alice, Esther Pfeifer; Charles, Norman B. Biddle; Wayne, Mildred Cushman; Orris, Mary Bell Moore; Harold, Marjory Carson; Dale, Helen Brock; Vinson, Helen Snowberger; Wallace, June Humphrey.
At St. Vincent—Charles, Mrs. Staples, 1331 Columbia Ave.
At Methodist—John Rosemary Reinhardt; Charles, Norman B. Biddle; Wayne, Mildred Cushman; Orris, Mary Bell Moore; Harold, Marjory Carson; Dale, Helen Brock; Vinson, Helen Snowberger; Wallace, June Humphrey.
At St. Vincent—Woodson, Annette Green; Loyal, Anna King; Carl, Mary See; Alexander, Betty Stoyanovich.
At General—Villa, Mary Byrd; Carl, Gertrude Armbruster.
At General—Clinton, Luda McCormick.
At St. Vincent—Hyre, Mariana Pitts.

Film Actor Dies

HOLLYWOOD, Mar. 17 (UP)—London-born character actor Leyland Hodgson, 56, died of a heart attack at his home yesterday.

DEATHS

June Etta White, 36, at Methodist, cere-
monies off. William T. David, 60, at 55 S. Bradley,
cardiovascular.
John C. Clegg, 45, at General, tumor.
Gertha Marine, 46, at 242 Kansas, can-
cer.
Oliver Terry, 64, at 23 N. Irvington,
arteriosclerosis.
Jessie Josephine Chambers, 80, at Long,
General, pneumonia.
William X. White, 79, at 2719 Ethel,
coronary occlusion.

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