

'Brilliant' Hoosier Admits Trying To Kill Wife's Ex-Suitor

Denies Plots Prompted by Jealousy

Times Special
DENVER, Colo., Jan. 26—A "brilliant" Hoosier war veteran has been outsmarted into confessing he twice tried to kill his wife's college boy friend, federal authorities said today.

Donald R. Rankin, formerly of Richmond, Ind., has confessed he shot at and then tried to booby-trap James McCray, 27, of Bowling Green, O.

Denies Jealousy

But he denied the plots were prompted by jealousy or had anything to do with the fact that his wife was wooed on a few dates in 1944—by Mr. McCray.

And the attractive Mrs. Rankin, 26, refuses to discuss the bomb plot except to say she'll stand by her husband. She told reporters she won't reveal—at least until the trial—what she told her husband that set him after Mr. McCray.

Rankin, 27, described as a "brilliant" veteran of the Korean War, also confessed he planned a third attempt against Mr. McCray's life, postal authorities said. He planned to shoot him last December, but didn't follow through, according to the confession.

The bomb plot involved 15 sticks of dynamite mailed in a package to Mr. McCray in Bowling Green, O.

"Rankin denied his wife had anything to do with the plot," said Postal Inspector R. B. Dunbar.

"He claimed he was hired to kill McCray for a fellow named Al. That's all he would say."

Mr. Dunbar said Rankin confessed after a "psychological trick" was played on him. Rankin was placed in a cell with a pencil and paper and was "completely ignored" until he finally noticed officials he wanted to confess.

Mr. Rankin was then taken before U. S. Commissioner Harold S. Oakes for arraignment on charges of mailing the dynamite. He waived a hearing and said he will also waive indictment by a federal grand jury. Rankin asked to have his case transferred to Denver for hearing from Cheyenne, Wyo., where he mailed the lethal package.

"He told us in detail how he drove to Richmond Dec. 7," Mr. Dunbar reported. "Then, early on Dec. 8, drove to McCray's home. When McCray answered the door, Rankin said, he fired four shots at him. One bullet struck McCray in the shoulder."

"When this attempt failed," Mr. Dunbar added, "Rankin told us how he planned the next attempt with the package of dynamite. The bomb plot was discovered when McCray took the package to County Attorney Floyd Collier."

Used Army Technique

Mr. Dunbar said Rankin told officials he learned the technique for making the "booby-trap" in his military demolition training.

When the second attempt failed, Rankin said he was planning a third attempt to kill McCray. Mr. Dunbar said, "Rankin had already made arrangements with a local pawnshop to purchase a high-powered rifle and telescopic sight. He was going to stalk McCray and shoot him at a distance of 500 yards."

Rankin admitted he never saw the Ohio man until he fired the four shots at him, Mr. Dunbar said.

The postal inspector still refused to offer his idea as to the motive for the fantastic murder attempt.

"Let people draw their own conclusions," he said.

Find 2 More Bodies From Airlift Crash

SANDSPIT, British Columbia, Jan. 26 (UP)—Two more bodies from last Saturday's crash of a Korean airlift plane were washed ashore yesterday reducing to 23 the number still missing.

One of the bodies was that of the pilot of the military-chartered DC-4, Northwest Pilot John Pfaffinger, 39, of Kent, Wash. The body of a soldier was also found but not identified immediately.

Rains Slack Off On Pacific Coast

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 26 (UP)—Storm-driven rains diminished over California and western Nevada early today, bringing hope that more widespread flooding might be averted.

The respite came after a second storm whipped over northern California from the Pacific with torrential downpours that spilled flood crests over San Joaquin Valley levees and threatened farmlands in Merced, Madera and Tuolumne Counties.

Manhattan Police Busy

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (UP)—Traffic officers in congested Manhattan passed out a total of 453,099 summonses for parking violations in 1951, an increase of 93,358 over 1950.

Crash Probe Set

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (UP)—An on-the-scene congressional investigation will begin Monday into two plane crashes near the Newark, N. J., airport which have claimed 85 lives within five weeks.

Bogarts Expecting

HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Jan. 26 (UP)—Actress Lauren Bacall, wife of screen tough guy Humphrey Bogart, expects her second child in August, the couple revealed today. They were married May 21, 1945.

TONSILINE

Teen-Ager in \$18,000 'Baby-Sitter' Theft May Be Crippled for Life



TEEN-AGE TRIO—The above photo taken at the time of their arrest shows (left to right) Eileen Jeffries, Roberta McCauley and Marilyn Curry.

By United Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Jan. 26 (UPI)—Shepherd here by a rope of knot

—One of three young girls who went on an \$18,000 stolen-money spree in New York last fall may be crippled for life after falling under a serious spinal operation Monday, but was reported "resting comfortably" at a hospital.

Eileen Jeffries, 17, of Lynn, Mass., oldest of the three girls in the "baby-sitter" case and the only one sentenced to a penitentiary as a result of the escapade, apparently was attempting to escape from the House of Good

On the first floor of the building, the owner found a bolt 10 inches long wrapped in friction tape, evidently the burglar's blackjack.

Sgt. Leucht could not be reached for an estimate of loss from the burglary and the fire.

Sgt. Jefferson said the fire appeared to be purposely started, but there was a possibility the burglars may have started it by accident.

The Fire Prevention Bureau was investigating for arson.

Army Checks Gen. Lowe's Messages

By Scripps-Howard Newspapers

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26—The Army is checking its files to determine what messages it received from Maj. Gen. Frank E. Lowe, President Truman's personal representative, while he was in Korea, and what was done with them.

General Lowe said yesterday that cablegrams he sent from Korea might have prevented a break between Mr. Truman and Gen. Douglas MacArthur, but never were delivered to the President.

Dr. Albert H. Conner, 51, of Nahant, victim of the theft, committed suicide 11 days after the looting of his home.

Indeterminate Sentence

Eileen and her companions, Roberta McCauley, 15, Nahant, and Marilyn Curry, 16, Lynn, spent some \$3000 of the money on a tour of exclusive shops and nightclubs in New York and claimed they were "taken" for the rest by "sharpies."

Convicted of larceny in Lynn District Court Dec. 26, Eileen was given an indeterminate sentence in Framingham Women's Reformatory. However, the judge stipulated that she was to spend the first year in the House of Good Shepherd here.

The White House had no comment.

General Parks said the Army did not plan to comment on other charges by General Lowe, since they were an expression of personal opinion.

The White House had no comment.

Sale of Trigger Looms Despite Fans' Protest

By United Press

WHARTON, Tex., Jan. 26 (UPI)—Roy Roger's horse Trigger, whose speed and palomino beauty have thrilled millions of moviegoers small fry, may retire from the silver screen.

Oilman-rancher J. B. Ferguson said he and Rogers will meet today to discuss a \$200,000 offer for the actor's famous horse, now 19 years old and known to have a younger successor standing by in Rogers' stable.

Ferguson's rich offer for Trigger came on the eve of Rogers' appearance today at the Houston stock show, rodeo.

Telephone calls, telegrams and letters from Roy's and Trigger's young admirers deluged stock show headquarters yesterday.

One boy threatened, "If you sell ole Trigger, I'm gonna switch to Gene Autry."

Canada Pulp Business Hits High in 1951

By United Press

MONTRÉAL, Quebec, Jan. 26 (UPI)—R. M. Fowler, president of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, told the annual meeting here yesterday that Canada's booming pulp and paper industry hit an all-time production high in 1951.

The output of all grades of pulp and paper reached \$9.6 million tons in 1951, Fowler said, an increase of nearly 9 per cent over 1950 production.

Soldier Arrested

By United Press

FRANKFURT, Jan. 26 (UPI)—The FBI and local authorities prepared today to turn over William M. Slaton, 24, formerly of Evansville, to military authorities at Peru. The FBI said Slaton deserted from the U. S. Army at Indiantown Gap, Pa., last August. He was arrested yesterday.

Mr. Barkley blamed his sudden illness on a salt-free diet. He said he also drank two glasses of water too quickly at the end of his talk.

The Vice President later telephoned his wife in Washington and informed her, "I am all right." He was arrested yesterday.

Spain OK's McVeigh

By United Press

MADRID, Jan. 26 (UPI)—The Spanish government has approved the appointment of Lincoln McVeigh as U. S. Ambassador to Madrid, replacing Stanton Griffis. Mr. McVeigh is expected to arrive in Madrid early in March.

WATCH REPAIRING

By United Press

ALL WATCHES TUNED ON DEE'S TIME-O-GRASS

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