

PENELOPE LYONS CASE ENDS WITH VERDICT OF \$150

Montana Man Enters as Inter-Pleader, and Carries Off Bulk of Reward for Sykes' Arrest

LED WAY TO CABIN

Assisted Government Agents in Finding Home of Bank Teller Who Fled With Nearly \$26,000

A compromise between Mr. S. Gaunt, of Montana, interpleader in the case, and Evans, the Penelope Lyons, who was arrested yesterday, resulted in speedy disposal of her suit in Superior Court here yesterday afternoon, with Justice Henry A. Grady, of Clinton, presiding. For two weeks, term devoted to civil actions only, began Monday morning.

Penelope Lyons was seeking no \$1,000 reward plus 10 per cent of the amount recovered through her disclosure of the whereabouts of J. D. Sykes, Jr., bank teller in the First & Citizens National Bank here, who departed on the Sunday before Labor Day, 1922, with approximately \$26,000 of the bank's funds. The Lyons woman disappeared from Elizabeth City about the same time.

She returned to the last spring of 1923. She was taken into custody, and was questioned lengthwise to the whereabouts of Sykes. She refused steadily to talk until Sykes' mother pleaded with her. Then she agreed, with the understanding, in effecting that she was to receive the reward, and that she would use it in Sykes' defense.

It was at this juncture that Gaunt, the interpleader, stepped into the picture. Government agents in Montana were informed where Sykes' mountain cabin was situated, but they didn't know the lay of the land. Gaunt had in a nearby town, and knew the country. He led the way to Sykes' cabin. Then, later, he claimed the reward.

The Fidelity & Deposit Company, of Charlotte, Sykes' bondsmen, were the defendants in the suit yesterday. They appeared quite willing to pay over the \$1,000 reward which, together with 10 per cent of the \$26,000 recovered from the original \$26,000, amounted to a good-sized sum. But, naturally enough, they wished assurance they were paying it to the proper individual.

Penelope Lyons was represented by Aydlett & Simpson. They expressed the opinion that if she had been able to pay the expense of gathering the proper evidence in Montana, they could have beaten Gaunt. She was not, however, and hence was left somewhat in the position of being compelled to accept whatever compromise measure Gaunt would agree to. Hence it was that, instead of receiving some \$2,700 for disclosure of Sykes' whereabouts, she only got \$150.

Sykes was apprehended in June, 1923, and was tried the following October. He was sentenced to three years in prison, and, with the usual allowance for good behavior, will be freed, the latter part of next month.

The unexpected sudden ending of the Lyons case occurred early in the afternoon. Anticipating that it would require all afternoon for trial, attorneys in either case on the docket were caught unprepared, and Judge Grady adjourned court to this morning.

Penelope Lyons was not present at the trial. She is said to be living in Norfolk now.

WAS TALKING TO LADIES AND DIDN'T SEE CAR

Winfield, Dec. 26.—S. P. Jessup was struck by a Ford car driven by Herman Layden of Belvidere Sunday. Mr. Jessup went across the street in front of Mrs. W. L. Jessup's to assist in fitting a tire on J. C. H. Ehrlingson's car. He started around the side of the car to speak to the ladies and did not notice the approaching car. Medical aid was rendered by Dr. G. E. Newby of Bertford. His condition is reported as better.

ANDESON BACK AS COUNTY FARM AGENT

Hertford, Dec. 26.—L. W. Anderson, who two years ago gave up the job to become manager for White & Company, local merchants, is to again take up his work as county agent beginning Monday morning, according to announcements made by the chairman of the county commissioners, who elected Mr. Anderson at their December meeting of the county commissioners.

COTTON MARKET

New York, Dec. 26.—Cotton futures opened today at the following levels: Jan. 20-26, March 19.94, May 19.49, July 18.97, Oct. 18.11.

BANDITS ROB BANK IN MIDST OF CROWD

Kansas City, Dec. 26.—Four bandits obtained about \$17,000 in silver and currency today in the daring hold up of the Argyle State Bank in the downtown business district. Scores of persons passed the bank during the robbery.

INTERNAL REVENUE COMMITTEE MEETS

Washington, Dec. 26.—The special Senate committee investigating the Internal Revenue Bureau met today in executive session to discuss the amortization section preparatory to drafting a final report.

THREE AIRPLANES ON WAY TO FLORIDA

Dayton, Ohio, Dec. 26.—Three all metal airplanes are en route from Detroit to Miami, where they are to be placed in freight and passenger service between Miami and Tampa. They left Wilbur Field shortly after 11 o'clock for Nashville, Tennessee.

The theater would occupy perhaps a third of the half square at the rear of the Hinton Building, in the square recently acquired by the Carolina Banking & Trust Company, were discussed at a meeting of the bank's directors Tuesday afternoon, but no definite action was taken.

Tentative plans for the theater call for an entrance on Main Street at the main doorway to the building, in its rear, which would be an arcade to the theater, with attractive entrances and display facilities for the stars, on both sides. The present interior would be replaced probably by two ones of which would be on each side. The whole would give a strikingly attractive contrast to the theater and would impress the general interior of the Hinton Building.

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