

SOLDIER CAR THIEVES LEARN COPS CAN SHOOT

Patrolman Rayburn of Winnetka Force Sends Quartet Scurrying in Hail of Shots

Ralph Rayburn, a member of the Winnetka police department since last July, administered his first baptism of fire, Friday night of last week, demonstrating a degree of accuracy in his aim which places him in the runner-up class for marksmanship honors which his Chief, W. M. Peterson, was awarded a few days ago.

Chief Peterson received his award on the rifle range and Patrolman Rayburn was accorded his, by the Chief, for his quick thinking and good shooting which resulted in the capture of four men, charged with the theft of an automobile and assault and battery upon the owner, Edward Uhler, of 1502 Walnut avenue, Wilmette.

Patrolman Rayburn put two out of five shots into the rear of the automobile whose driver had refused to obey the policeman's command to halt, and, with the spattering and singing of the leaden pellets, went a convincing fear that it was unsafe to remain longer in the car and that flight was safer.

Bullets Scatter Thieves

There were four occupants of the car, and, like the cuckoos in the nursery rhyme, "two flew east and two flew west."

Rayburn executed a few lively paces on his own behalf. He summoned help from the station and in thirty minutes he and Chief Peterson arrested the two men who had flown east at the Glencoe village limits, and a half hour later Police Sergeant Ed Cummings and Patrolman Carl Bishop came in with the two who had flown west.

The latter had been traveling in a street with a dead-end in the Skokie marsh, the vast area which has so long baffled even old timers on the north shore.

"Bout face," seemed to be the proper order at this time, so they turned about and hastened east and into the arms of the law.

The quartet proved to be Fort Sheridan soldiers, Sergeant John Chanko and Corporal Karl Steenberg, of Company G, Second Infantry, and Privates Norman Staples and Adcock.

Soldiers Commandeer Car

Coming through Wilmette on their return from leave of absence they were "given a lift" by Uhler, whom they endeavored to persuade to drive them to the Fort.

Uhler refused, and when the car reached Winnetka he was thrown out, but his coat was caught in the door of the car and he was dragged a block or more on the pavement.

Rayburn was at Pine and Lincoln streets when he saw the car approaching at about a 35 mile per hour pace, zig-zagging from one side of the street to the other, and with a man dragging from the side of the car.

He stepped to the street and commanded "halt." Instead, the soldier driver "stepped on the gas."

As they whisked by, with an oath, Rayburn pulled his trusty "six shooter," and fired five shots at the rapidly disappearing car.

Narrow Escape from Death

A few feet beyond Rayburn, the car door was opened sufficiently to release the clothing of Uhler who rolled to the roadside, where he remained unconscious.

The car stopped at Humboldt and Lincoln and the men scattered.

Two of the bullets from Rayburn's gun had passed through the rear of the car, ten inches apart. Two of the

fugitives were occupying the rear seat. Neither was hit, but with such marksmanship they felt it was safer to flee than to remain and chance the next barrage.

Uhler was removed to the police station where he was given medical attention by Dr. Gilbert M. Loewe and removed to his home. He will recover. He identified the four soldiers when they were brought to the station.

The soldier prisoners were turned over to the Provost Marshal at Fort Sheridan, where they will be court marshaled and returned to the Winnetka police for prosecution on charges of stealing an automobile and assault and battery.

First Army-Navy Ball to Be Held on Campus

Northwestern's first Army-Navy ball will take place Wednesday, Nov. 23, and will be the first formal affair on the university social calendar. Officers of the Great Lakes Naval Training station and the commanding officers of Fort Sheridan have been invited to attend.

Plans for the ball are progressing with the recent election of sponsors for the army and navy units. June Fellows, 848 Ridge avenue, has been named sponsor of the navy unit and Lois Dickie, of the army. Other sponsors chosen, one for each of the companies, were Gudrun Holmquist, Katherine Blair, Helen Olsen, for the navy; and for the army, Mildred E. Parker, Elizabeth Baxter, Esther Lynd.

Sponsors will be given the honorary title of the commanding officers of the companies or battalions they represent at the Army-Navy parade this afternoon at 1, and in turn the colors of the companies and battalions will be decorated by the sponsors.



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