

SIDNEY MURRELL ONCE MORE IN MIDDLESEX JAIL

SIDNEY MURRELL, ESCAPED BANDIT AGAIN BEHIND BARS OF LONDON JAIL TO AWAIT TRIAL ON MURDER CHARGE

Desperado Arrives From San Francisco In Charge of Two Officers.

CAME TO ST. THOMAS

Swift Car With Escort Brings Prisoner To Cell In London.

Sidney E. Murrell, Melbourne bank bandit and alleged slayer, is back in his cell in the Middlesex county jail this morning.

With almost as much secrecy as was attached to his getaway on that dark September night two years ago, the young desperado was taken from a M.C.R. train at St. Thomas, hurried to a big touring car, and whisked away to the London jail at a mile-a-minute pace.

While county officials and jail guards waited at the side entrance to the jail, with the door ajar, ready to receive their prisoner, two St. Thomas cars came to a stop on Dundas street just below Ridout street.

Provincial Officer Devlin of St. Thomas leaped from his own car, which had acted as an escort for the one in which Murrell rode, and ran to the side entrance of the courthouse.

Taken to Cell.

At the sight of the uniformed visitor, Governor Byron Dawson and Sheriff Donald A. Graham hurried into the courthouse and closed the door behind them. In less time than it takes to take a photograph, the two men, accompanied by William H. Stringer and Charles H. Ward, took their man from the car and rushed to the front of the courthouse. By the time they reached the end of the corridor leading to the jail, the door had been opened. The party fled through and shot the bolt.

Turnkeys from cells below, ushered the visitors to the lock-up. Murrell was taken into No. 1 cell from which he escaped on September 2, 1921.

The handcuffs which secured him to Inspector Stringer were unlocked. Murrell relieved himself of his cap and his coat.

Thanks Officers.

Turnkeys locked him in the night cell, but before he was confined in his sleeping quarters he offered his hand to the two officers who had accompanied him on the long journey from San Francisco.

As they shook hands he remarked: "You certainly treated me all right, what I mean."

The officers thanked him for his compliment and left for the governor's office to get their receipt. No sooner had they gone than Murrell crawled into his bunk. He did not even bother to pull a cover over him. In a few minutes, he was sleeping the sleep of exhaustion.

A special guard was assigned to his quarters. The iron door leading from the cell to the night cell was locked.

Well, it was not played over the face of the sleeping prisoner. One shaft of light came from the corridor, through the porthole, through which he expects to see the face of his mother today. His face was half turned in that direction, almost expectantly. Between him and the narrow opening is a barred partition. The bars cast thin striped shadows across his weary form. It seemed the very shadows sought to mark him a prisoner, now securely in the clutches of the law, which, tricked once, had learned a lesson and tightened its grip upon him.

Not Disturbed.

But Sidney Murrell did not seem to care. Thoughts of his trial for his life in the gloomy courtroom above



PRISON DOORS AGAIN CLOSE ON HIM.

Sidney E. Murrell is again a prisoner in the London jail, brought here from San Francisco to face a charge of murder. Safe in a special cell, the authorities will make every effort to make a second escape of this daring desperado impossible. Special guards will watch his cell day and night. Again the long arm of British justice has spread out and gathered in an offender of the state.

Two months hence did not disturb his slumber.

On the main floor, iron gates clanged, bolts creaked into place, and the heavy double doors met, serving as a reinforcement for the windowed ones at the main entrance.

To spectators in the courthouse hall, none of this could be heard. To them the heavy doors appeared merely as curtains being drawn across the windows in the doors by some invisible hand, signifying the close of the drama of the night.

It was 10:30 when Murrell reached the jail. By midnight all lights except the one which left him visible to his guard had been extinguished.

Realizes Position.

"Murrell realizes what he is up against," stated one of the officers who brought him back to the city. "There is no doubt but that he appreciates that he is in a tight fix and that there is no chance for a second escape from the jail."

Filled with relief that their long and arduous journey, which took them across the continent to bring back a desperate man was over, the officers had but one thought, that of getting to bed as soon as possible. For four days and nights they have been on the qui vive against any attempt their captive might make to elude them. For that period neither of them have known a moment's freedom from worry or anxiety. And they felt entitled to a rest.

Since having Sidney Murrell turned over to them the two members of the provincial force have traveled night and day. Expected that they would travel by way of the Canadian Pacific from Vancouver to London, via Toronto, the route taken by them was to the contrary. Leaving San Francisco the party traveled through the Sierra Nevadas to Ogden and Chicago, thence to Detroit and St. Thomas, where they arrived at 9:58 last night.

Reach St. Thomas.

Leaving the train at St. Thomas the

men might have been heard to breathe a sigh of relief at the thought that they were within sight of their destination and would soon be relieved of the responsibility which was theirs—that of safeguarding Murrell and turning him over to the governor of the jail.

At St. Thomas a high-powered car was waiting them, and with Murrell handcuffed to one of the officers, the other sitting beside the chauffeur, the trio started on the last lap of a 3,000-mile journey. With but 20 miles to go, the time was not long before they had handed over their prisoner and received a receipt for his arrival.

The car containing the prisoner and officers, escorted by a second car containing two provincial officers from St. Thomas, drove up on Dundas street and stopped just west of the corner of Ridout.

Arrives at Jail.

As the car stopped Murrell could be seen casting a look of reflection at the building from which he and his brother William escaped two years ago.

Was he thinking of the possibility of making another and more successful escape this time, or was he come out alive?

The thoughts which passed through his mind must have been dark, in that, for not one word did he speak, for not one word did he speak.

No word of greeting or recognition for those who awaited him—the governor, sheriff, turnkeys, or guards. He walked into the massive building, still handcuffed to the officers in whose company he traversed the continent, and there the doors closed on him, not to open until he is placed on trial for his life in the courtroom upstairs.

Glad It Is Over.

"I'm glad that's over," one of the officers was heard to remark, as he came out of the jail and deposited his handcuffs and revolver belt in the motor which was waiting to

carry them to the hotel where they will stay for a couple of days. "So am I," replied the other, "Now for a good night's sleep."

"How did Murrell behave on the train?" asked an Advertiser representative.

"He was not the slightest bit of trouble. He seldom spoke, and did not appear to be worried, although he knew that he was in serious trouble. He seemed to take an interest in the journey and the places through which we passed. He was not a difficult prisoner to manage, and gave us absolutely no trouble. I guess he realized that it was no use."

"Did he eat well and seem to enjoy his meals?"

"Yes, he did. He has a good appetite, and in addition to this sleep well at night, although, of course, one of us was constantly on guard. His slumbers were deep, and he rested well. The thought that he was being brought back to stand trial did not affect him in that way. Only or absorbed in deep thought."

at times we would catch him brooding

Story of Crime.

More than two years ago—on April 1, 1921, to be exact—Murrell, with his brother William and two pals, Robert Ernest (Pat) Norton, and Henry Jack (Slim) Williams, entered the Melbourne branch of the Home Bank of Canada and ordered the staff to turn over the cash at the peril of their lives.

A slip of a girl employed in the institution brushed by the gruff intruders and summoned the villagers to aid. The bandit gang, their escape cut off by the poorly armed townsfolk, began shooting. In the battle which followed Russell Campbell, a young garage proprietor, and a verger of the world war, was killed. In his body was found a .45 calibre bullet. Sidney Murrell claimed the only .45 calibre gun the desperado had carried. To his account the crime was charged.

Tied To Post.

The Murrell boys and Williams were found tied to a telephone post that day when London police arrived. Norton, alleged master mind of the gang, had escaped. He has since eluded the authorities. On the day of the slaying the London police found the three gunmen in a state of nervous collapse, surrounded by a mob of hostile villagers.

Once safe behind prison bars the trio began to show signs of bravado, holding mock trials and "cracking jokes" with their guards.

They were committed for trial on the murder count.

Three weeks before their trial was scheduled the Murrells quarreled with Williams and forced Williams to leave their cell. A few days later, just after darkness fell, the brothers made a sensational escape from the jail, leaving only sawn bars as mute testimony of their resourcefulness.

Swallowed Up.

After they had jumped over the jail wall, with a good half hour's start on the pursuers, they seemed to have been swallowed by the earth. Not until a few months ago was trace of either of them found. Then it was reported that Sidney was in jail in California. Finger print records clinched the identification. Then the jail-breaker admitted his identity.

After two years, he had been caught with a stolen auto he had purchased. Then he told of his escape from the jail, of his journey by freight to the Atlantic seaboard, his trip to the West Indies and finally of his venturing into the United States.

He secured work in Nevada. His work, his battles in the ring under the name of "Kid" Brooks and his lack of cards, netted him a few hundred dollars. He bought a car. The auto proved his downfall.

Fought Extradition.

Desperately he fought extradition, and remained cheery until the order for his return to Canada arrived. The sight of provincial officers caused him to wilt.

Upon his brother he laid the blame for his plight. "He is the only one who says I done it," he kept repeating, in referring to the Melbourne crime.

But William had not turned king's evidence. William could not be found. He is still as free from the hand of the law as the elusive "Pat" Norton. "Slim" Williams is in Kingston Penitentiary, a confessed gunman. He, too, will face a murder trial.

Placed in irons for the return home, Sidney Murrell assumed an attitude of complete resignation, which later grew into one of almost natural indifference. He ate well and slept well,



PLACE LIFE OF MELBOURNE BANDIT IN JEOPARDY.

These are the finger-prints of Sidney Ernest Murrell, which clinched his identification when he was arrested for having a stolen car in his possession at Susanville, California.

and seemed to enjoy his trip thoroughly.

Older and Wiser.

Today Murrell is older and wiser. Although he has not lost in weight, the youthful bandit's eyes, once so bright and carefree, are dimmed by defeat. His spirit of bravado has deserted him. He has run the whole gamut of human emotion.

War aroused in him the worst desires, he claims. Perhaps it did. At any rate his life of crime seemed to feed this flame; final defeat has subdued it.

This morning Murrell is a meek man. He does not look the gunman of two years ago. He admits his wrong. Curbed by the law, he is waiting for the law to do what it will with him.

The law charges he is a slayer. The forces of the law are massing evidence to prove the terrible accusation. Meanwhile Murrell waits—and sleeps.

Wants To See Son.

In the hopes that he will be allowed to do so, he is going to ask permission of Governor Dawson. "Surely they will have no objection," he said, "if he is locked up securely and guarded there will be no harm. All I want is to see him and hear him say, 'Mother, do you think they will mind?'"

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Mother Says She Is Glad Murrell Is Back In Prison After Officers' Long Hunt

"Is he back?"

These were the words which greeted The Advertiser as a reporter knocked at the door of the Murrell home, 219 Clarence street, shortly after midnight.

"Yes, they brought him in about an hour ago," replied the reporter.

"I am glad," declared his mother: "glad for my sake because I will be able to see my son again, but sorry for the boy because of what he must go through."

Mrs. Murrell seemed to know that Sidney would arrive in the city last night. She told The Advertiser that this was the reason she had not retired for the night, and was waiting when told that she had been correct in her surmise and that her boy was sleeping peacefully in the county jail, the first question that arose to her mind was whether or not she would be able to see him today.

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