

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Preying on the elderly and easily distracted, were the bands of "gypsies". Even after a year, one elderly man was still haunted by memories of his encounter with gypsies.

Along with gypsies, singular strangers were usually treated with suspicion - "the other". Most strangers were found harmless, albeit intoxicated, and sent on their way after a night in jail. Although two died without anyone knowing their names. And one was a bit of a poet.

A few others were just pickpockets, hustlers, and opportunists.

Here are their stories based on accounts between 1924 and 1949 in two local competing weeklies. (The original articles are below.)

Oscar, 57, almost lost \$27, if the town marshal hadn't tracked down and arrested the band of gypsy women.

Andy, 80, was surrounded by a band of thirty "greasy-faced" gypsies and "almost nude" youngsters, two women went through his pockets. When they left, he found his \$70 gone. After returning the money, Sheriff Bowyer escorted them out of town.

While telling his fortune, a gypsy stole \$220.

In the winter, Winamac Town Marshall Johnson always had room in the Hotel Johnson for hoboes.

A band of gypsies relieved William, 46, of \$30 from his restaurant cash drawer.

A stranger stole a bath in the basement of J.P.'s barbershop.

An unidentified hobo was discovered dead, crushed under beams displaced when the boxcar had stopped suddenly.

Rodney Bill, 70, discovered that his pockets were picked during a visit by gypsies. Sheriff Kopkey made them return the money.

Milton Lee, negro, was jailed after "flimflamming" three gypsies out of \$15.

Phil, 93, was forced to turn over almost \$600 by a gypsy couple, who got away.

Many duped into a \$15 membership in a bogus auto club.

In 1930 Harold visited the town, offering "crystal readings. Initially there were done for "a gift within your means", but a year later his "crystal readings" cost 75¢. Who would have predicted that?

One winter, John, 85, sent three strangers to his smokehouse for a shovel to dig their car out of the snow. They also left with six gallons of meat, shovel, and ax.

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Sheriff Richardson found a foreigner in pitiable condition alongside the road, placed him in the jail overnight, and started him on his way the next morning.

Nellie, 74, fought off two gypsy women in her country club kitchen and cash drawer until her husband finally appeared and the whole carload was put to flight.

A small sack of counterfeit nickels was left in the police car by some arrested transient.

Sheriff Wacknitz cautioned residents about bands of gypsies, who ask innocent favors, then pickpockets.

One winter, Lenwood, a colored transient, was discovered with badly frozen face and hands, needing the attention of a physician, although may still lose an ear.

Town Marshal Johnson reported that 181 transients were treated to free bed and breakfast during the last four months of his term.

Multiple gangs are hitting dry goods stores in the area, distracting the sole noon-hour salesperson, then stealing suits.

Jennie, 72, while distracted, had her home ransacked and meat and vegetables stolen by several women.

Town Marshal Strasser obliged when a stranger asked for overnight lodging, but the next morning was missing, having unlocked the cell door.

Although the couple was caught, Rienholt, 38, was scammed by a marriage "racket".

In 1937, Sheriff Wacknitz, alerted by police radio, picked up six gypsies and returned them to justice for pickpocketing.

Knute, visiting "Hobo Poet", regaled the local newspaper editor with his stories in exchange for a meal.

Frank found an unknown tramp hanged from a tree near the river.

For years, Richard tried unsuccessfully to make a living by fainting on the doorsteps of housewives who would give him a few pennies to get back to his starving and freezing family.

Joe, 71, discovered his pocket had been picked by a man and two women wanting to buy a goat.

William, 39, jailed for drunkenness, started beating up two transients locked in the cell with him.

Charles, 80, was held while being robbed by a band of gypsies.

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The town Centennial afforded the opportunity for pickpockets to collect more than \$100, including the funeral director who was "touched" twice.

Transient James, 38, was arrested for public intoxication, then released when he promised to leave the county.

Town Marshal Strasser reported that 'Flop' numbers were down over the same time last year.

A "Dead Man" along the road turned out to be a foreigner just sleeping.

Remember Charles, 80, robbed by gypsies last year? He may have PTSD and might need to be hospitalized.

Transients Robert and Pierre didn't give up without a fight, fueled by bay rum and rubbing alcohol.

Although blind, an Indianapolis court found Morris, 40, guilty of pickpocketing.

Hiram, 83, had his pocket picked while giving drinks of water to two men, a woman, and a child.

A peddler with a "deaf&dumb" card selling needles was asked by a girl if "These were the only ones you have?" to which he replied that he had more in his basket, then fled.

Transient James, 41, was charged with panhandling, cussing out those who refused, and public intoxication.

A band of 12 gypsies had settled into the city tourist camp when they were routed by the Town Marshal and a State Policeman.

Johanna, 50, startled by a man entering her kitchen and asking if her husband was home, but thinking quickly, said that he worked nights and was in bed. After being given something to eat, took his leave.

Transients Nailor was jailed for public indecency, and Robert was ordered to leave town after making a nuisance of himself.

Mail Carrier Jacob, about 40, was stopped by a band of gypsies and two comely girls offered to read his palms. After informing them of his government status, the band let him pass.

John, about 40, plead guilty to vagrancy, trespass, and train-riding.

Hazel Estella Crim Tuley, 43, was jailed for vagrancy. A week later she was staying at the home of her daughter and sister. She had been married and had lived in Winamac for at least 20 years, but was currently living in Kalamazoo MI.

Tom was found sleeping in a blanket in a church, having not eaten in five days. He was jailed.

And Elmer was found on a ditch bank huddled over a small fire. He joined Tom in jail.

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Velma, 30, was jailed for vagrancy.

Gypsies infest summertime Indiana

**GYPSIES GYPED
TWENTY-SEVEN BEANS—**

Over at a neighboring town one man was relieved of \$27 in cold cash last week, by smooth gypsies that each summer infest the country towns of this country. Be it said to the praise of Winamac's town authorities that these loud-mouthed red-robed robbers of the sentimental are barred from plying their trade in this city. The sooner they are driven from every Indiana community the sooner the pests will be starved out into more soft-hearted districts.

Winamac (IN) Republican 29 May 1924: 1. Microfilm.

Gypsies took too much

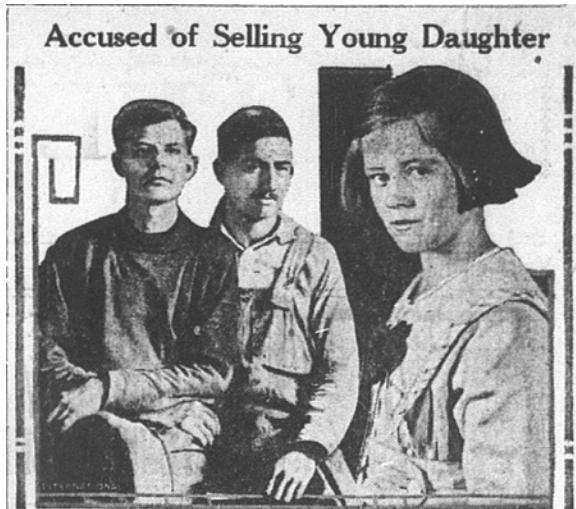
GYPSIES TOOK TOO MUCH

A band of Gypsies came to Monon last Saturday and went the rounds of the stores in pursuit of money through their efforts at fortune telling but did little business says the Monon News. They went from here to Reynolds, where they relieved August Werner of \$27 which he had in a pocket book. The town marshal was notified of the theft and then started after the women, making the arrest at Deer Creek. They were taken to Monticello and after paying Mr. Werner back his money and the expenses incurred by the marshal which totaled \$23, they were allowed to go with the understanding that they leave the state.

Winamac (IN) Republican 29 May 1924: 3. Microfilm.

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Accused of selling daughter



Henry Wald, left, father of Katherine Wald, thirteen, right, is being held at Bartlesville, Okla., awaiting trial on white slavery charges. It is said he attempted to sell his daughter to Steve Mitchell, gypsy prince, shown in center. Several months ago, according to authorities, Wald sold the girl to the gypsy, giving a deed which provided that she should become the gypsy's bride when she became of legal marriageable age. That provision, it is charged, was put in the deed in an attempt to forestall prosecution. The authorities charge that the girl was taken into the gypsy's home as a common law wife.

Winamac (IN) Republican 9 Jul 1925: 2. Microfilm.

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Jabbering Gypsies held

**JABBERING GYPSIES HELD
TILL THEY REPAY OLD MAN**

Charged with robbing a helpless old man of \$70, a band of approximately thirty greasy-faced gypsies, including a raft of almost nude youngsters, traveling in five high priced automobiles and jabbering at the tops of their voices, was locked in the Cass county jail Friday night for several hours.

Andy Fisher, living at Lake Cicott, nearly eighty years old and partially paralyzed, was the victim of the band. Two of the women approached him as he sat on the front porch. They talked to him and at the same time went through his pockets. When they left he found his \$70 gone.

About 11 o'clock Friday night, upon paying Fisher for what he had lost, the gypsies were released from jail and Sheriff Bowyer and the police escorted them from the city.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 10 Sep 1925: 8. Microfilm.

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Gypsies held

GYPSIES HELD UNTIL THEY PAY OLD MAN

Charged with robbing a helpless old man of \$70, a band of approximately thirty greasy-faced gypsies, including a raft of almost nude children, traveling in five high priced automobiles and jabbering Spanish at the tops of their voices, were locked in the Cass county jail Friday night for several hours.

Andy Fisher, living at Lake Cicott nearly eighty years old and partially paralyzed, was the victim of the band. Two of the women approached him as he sat on his front porch at the Lake. They talked to him and at the same time went through his pockets. When they left he found his \$70 gone.

About eleven o'clock Friday night, upon paying Fisher for what he had lost, the gypsies were released from jail and Sheriff Bowyer and the police escorted them from the city. They drove away without one of their cars, the motor of which would not start.

Winamac (IN) Republican 17 Sep 1925: 1. Microfilm.

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Gypsies scam bank teller

**GYPSIES ROB BANK
TELLER OF \$220**

Muncie, Ind.—A gypsy fortune teller stole \$220 from a local bank Thursday evening, while she was reading the palm of a teller. The money, in the form of eleven \$20 bills was stealthily removed, by the gypsy while the teller was learning of his future. A police dragnet has been spread in an effort to capture the gypsy band which is said to have escaped in a high powered automobile. Police say that the gypsies that operated here are members of the same gang that tried similar work in Logansport some weeks ago.

Winamac (IN) Republican 17 Sep 1925: 1. Microfilm.

Hobos have warm place at Hotel Johnson

Several hoboes have secured shelter from Marshal Johnson since the last cold snap hit this territory. The marshal always places them in the Hotel Johnson, down the alley back of the old fire station and locks the door, sure to keep them in all night.

Winamac (IN) Republican 31 Dec 1925: 1. Microfilm.

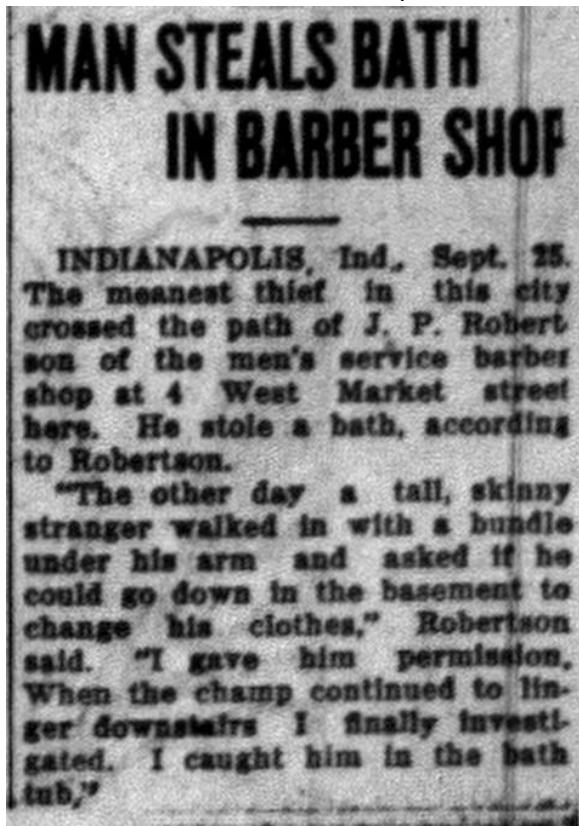
Band of Gypsies

A band of gypsies last week robbed the Wm. Fisher restaurant at Fulton, taking \$30 from the cash drawer and escaping in auto. The gypsies were later apprehended near Denver, Ind. by Sheriff Carr of Fulton county, but released when Fisher agreed he would not prosecute them upon return of the stolen money.

Winamac (IN) Republican 15 Jul 1926: 3. Microfilm.

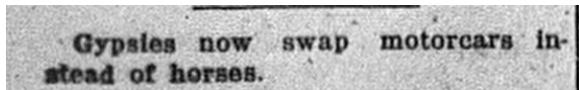
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Man Steals Bath in Barber Shop



Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 25 Sep 1926: 1. Website (newspapers.com).

Gypsies stay up with the times



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 Jul 1927: 2. Microfilm.

Tramp pays for ride with life

DEAD TRAMP FOUND ON TRAIN AT KNOX

An unidentified "hobo" lies dead in the Hite undertaking parlors at Knox, having paid his railroad fare with his life.

The man's body was found with the head crushed and right leg broken at the thigh in a gondola car on a fast Chicago-bound Nickel Plate freight when the train stopped at Knox for water. The car in which it was found was loaded with long, heavy steel, structural beams and it is presumed that the sliding beams crushed the man when the train came to a sudden stop.

His age is placed at about 30 years. He is 5 feet, 8 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds. No marks or papers of identification were found on him.

When found, he was wearing two coats, two vests and two pairs of trousers. In his pockets were all the implements of a conventional knight of the road—three razors, two pocket knives, needles and thread, string, pencils, paper and one toothbrush, carefully wrapped in paper. An Erie, Pa., newspaper was found in one pocket.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 5 May 1927: 4. Microfilm.

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Tramp pays for ride with life

TRAMP PAYS FOR RIDE WITH LIFE AT KNOX

A man's body was found Sunday with the head crushed and right leg broken at the thigh in a gondola car on a fast Chicago-bound Nickel Plate freight when the train stopped at Knox for water.

The car in which the body was found was loaded with long, heavy structural steel beams and it is presumed that the sliding beams crushed the man when the train came to a sudden stop.

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Authorities are seeking to find relatives of the dead man. The body will be held at Knox a few days and, if unclaimed, will be buried at the expense of Starke county.

Winamac (IN) Republican 5 May 1927: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Bathing dangerous, contend hobos

BATHING DANGEROUS, CONTEND THE HOBOES

"Curly" Tells Why "Road Boys" Shun Water.

Portland, Ore.—While medical authorities maintain that one should bathe to be healthy, a different school of thought prevails in the ranks of "blanket stiffis."

Bathing sometimes is a foolish and dangerous pastime; according to these gentlemen, and that opinion, strange as it may seem, is backed by well considered facts.

"Little Curly" Davis, a tight-line skinner of construction camps, known throughout many western states as a teamster who never yet has disgraced himself by feeding, watering or currying a horse, was the leader in a recent discussion in refuting the alleged bunk that warm baths are beneficial to the physical man.

Call Reasons Sound.

The supposition of hoboes preferring dirt gained new circulation recently with the publication of a story from London, pointing out that British tramps are shunning workhouses since the establishment of a rule compelling them to take warm baths.

"Those English tramps are right," said Curly, who, strangely enough, uses good English. "The objection is based on sound, scientific purposes."

"That's so," agreed a soft-voiced, "wobbly," who had just complained about the toughness of cops in the region "around the horn" in southwestern Iowa. And the hard-faced student of Huxley nearby nodded his head in agreement. So did an Irishman who had been objecting to the use of copper wire because ore at the Anaconda mine in Butte is so heavy. Aluminum wire, such as is generally used in Canada, should transmit all juice, was his idea.

But why the shunning of warm baths if hoboes prefer being clean?

Companions Agree.

"Little Curly's" explanation is that in the winter time a man's body adjusts itself to the cold and protection is furnished by an indefinite sort of gloss, which hardens the outer skin. This gives the man who is subject to extreme exposure unusual cold-resisting possibilities.

If the film is broken by warm water after one has become accustomed to its protection exposure is likely to result in pneumonia, and sometimes death, the little tramp maintains, and his companions said this was so.

"That is the reason," continued Curly, "that so few of the 'road boys' in hard circumstances freeze to death. We stand weather that would kill the average man; so does any teamster, floater, miner, or northern lumberjack.

"It also is the reason the English 'boes are shunning the workhouses under the new 'order.'

Winamac (IN) Republican 3 Nov 1927: 6. Microfilm.

Those carnies can't be trusted

CARNIVAL COUPLE CAUSES FIRE LOSS; FORCED TO SETTLE

A man and woman who were here for the carnival, giving their names as Bert and Dot King, were held by authorities at Monticello Saturday upon complaint of Mrs. Luella Coin of this city, until they settled for damages done to a room in the Coin home, which the couple occupied while here.

King is a sign painter and while working late last Wednesday night, a candle toppled over into some inflammable liquid he was using, causing it to explode. The burning fluid was thrown over the bedding and the rug, and did considerable damage before the fire was put out. They did not report the accident until some time later, when a sum was agreed upon which they should pay to the landlady. They paid a part of the sum, and after stating that they were going to Knox and would be back, left for Monticello and only settled after taken into custody by the White county sheriff.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 4 Oct 1928: 8. Microfilm.

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Those carnies can't be trusted

CARNIVAL FOLKS PAY

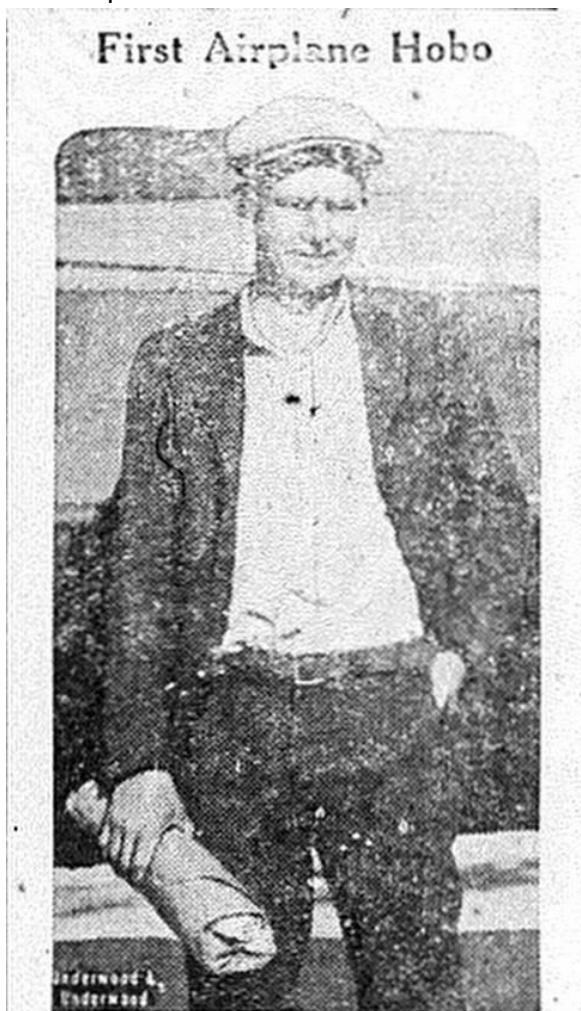
Bert and Dot King, who were with the carnival company here last week and roomed at the home of Mrs. Lulella Coin, had a fire in their room last Wednesday night, which destroyed a quilt and comfort, damaged a mattress, rug and pillow.

The couple planned to escape without notifying Mrs. Coin of the fire or paying for the damage. However, Mrs. Coin learned of the fire Friday and asked them to recompense her for the loss. They agreed to do this and left a box of what they considered of such value to guarantee the payment. Mrs. Coin learned there was nothing in the box, and that her roomers had gone to Monticello, wherefore she notified Sheriff Kopkey who telephoned Sheriff Stanley of White county and the couple were immediately given their choice of paying or going to jail. They paid.

Winamac (IN) Republican 4 Oct 1928: 6. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
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First Airplane Hobo



The first airplane hobo—Carl Ellis of Oklahoma—photographed at El Paso, Texas, after he tumbled out of a baggage compartment of a T. A. T. plane, piloted by E. C. Bowe from Big Spring. No charges were preferred against Ellis, whose novel "blind-baggage" ride amused officials of the municipal field.

Winamac (IN) Republican 2 May 1929: 4. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
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Gypsy band gives back stolen \$60, then run out of town

**GYPSY BAND, HELD
BY SHERIFF, GIVES
BACK STOLEN \$60**

A band of gypsies, traveling by auto, was held up at the edge of Winamac Sunday by Sheriff Frank Kopkey and the leader caused to return \$60 in bills alleged to have been stolen from "Rodney Bill" March, living in Indian Creek township.

A telephone call to the sheriff stated that the band had stopped at the home of Mr. March and asked for some matches. They remained about the place for a few minutes, and after their departure Mr. March found that his pockets had been picked. He was able to give the denomination of the bills which he carried.

Questioned at the sheriff's office, the gypsies denied that they had stolen the money, but under threats of arrest the leader gave in and peeled the \$60 off a roll of bills containing about \$570, the sheriff states. The band was then released.

News dispatches told of the arrest Saturday of a band of gypsies by the sheriff of Carroll county, after they had beaten a Yeoman merchant in a confidence game. Another dispatch reported that a similar band had robbed an old man at Goshen.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 29 Aug 1929: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Gypsy band gives back stolen \$60, then run out of town

Gypsies Ordered Out

A band of gypsies were ordered out of the county Sunday night by Sheriff Kopkey, after they were alleged to have taken \$60 from William March, living south of Winamac.

It was alleged that the car, containing two women, a man and a girl, drove up to the March home and the women went and asked for some matches. After they left Mr. March discovered that \$60 was missing from his purse, which he had in his pocket. Sheriff Kopkey was called and met the band at the edge of town. They were taken to the office of the sheriff, where they denied the charge. However, they paid the \$60 and were released as Mr. March did not want to prosecute.

The man was searched by the sheriff, who found \$549, in bills, in his pockets. One of the women had a hat full of half dollars, the sheriff stated.

Winamac (IN) Republican 29 Aug 1929: 1. Microfilm.

Colored swindles gypsies

SWINDLED GYPSIES???

Believe it or not, but Milton Lee Reynolds, a negro, was jailed at Indianapolis the other day charged with flimflamming three gypsies out of \$15.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Mar 1930: 8. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Gypsies get money

Gypsies Get Money
Phil Lewis, living four miles north of Kewanna in Fulton county, was robbed of \$100 in cash and \$400 in certificates Monday afternoon about 4 o'clock by a gypsy man and woman. Sheriff Clark, of Fulton county, and Sheriff Kopkey, of Pulaski county, were called and traced them as far as Logansport. They have not been apprehended. Sheriff Kopkey stated that he thinks they are the same ones who robbed a farmer south of Winamac of \$90 last summer.

Winamac (IN) Republican 27 Mar 1930: 1. Microfilm.

Gypsies rob aged man

**Aged Fulton County Man
Robbed of \$575 by Gypsies**

Five gypsies, three men and two women, traveling in an automobile, last week, held up and robbed Phillip Lewis, aged eighty, a farmer living between Winamac and Rochester, of \$175 and more than \$400 in certificates and checks, it was reported to authorities at Rochester. Lewis was doing chores when the gypsies surrounded him and forced him to turn over his pocketbook, the aged man said. He drove to Leiters Ford, where he notified a grandson of the holdup. Ora Clark, Fulton county sheriff, and several deputies hunted the gypsies, but were unable to apprehend them.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Apr 1930: 8. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
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'Gyp Artists' pretend to be A.A.A.

"Gyp Artists" Cash in on Auto Club Scheme

Further warning is issued from the Hoosier State Automobile Association that additional complaints have been received that "gyp artists" are relieving a number of owners of restaurants, lunch rooms, tourist lodging and others of \$15.00 with promises, according to these reports, to deliver most anything it takes to make the sale.

"One man from Martinsville complains that he paid a man signing his name as S. C. Weller, \$15 and this man made it appear that he was a representative of the A. A. A.," says the warning. "Now comes another party from Marion complaining that a man signing his name as R. J. Ward sold an official sign and made various promises that he was a representative of the A. A. A. The receipts given sign the name as the "Great American Automobile Association" and from the looks of the signature on some of the receipts it would appear that different names were signed by the same party."

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 29 May 1930: 6. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

'only a gift within your means'

CRYSTAL READINGS (Clairvoyance)

Be correctly advised in your business venture—
Love affair—Possibility of a proposed journey—
Sincerity of friends—finding lost articles:—

One day only, Tuesday, August 5, 1930
from 9:00 o'clock A. M. to 8:00 o'clock P. M. at
the "AILEEN" 221 N. Market Street, Winamac, Ind.

No charge made, only a gift within your
means accepted.

Ziljian Brothers

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 31 Jul 1930: 3. Microfilm.

'only a gift within your means'

Crystal Readings
(clairvoyance)

Be correctly advised in your business venture—
Love affair—Possibility of a proposed journey—Sincerity of friends—Finding lost articles.

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Ziljian Brothers

Winamac (IN) Republican 31 Jul 1930: 3. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Who could have predicted that the price was goin' up

Crystal Readings

Bring me your troubles:

Each reading confidential.
Sorry many callers were turned
away on my previous visit.

Two days, Nov. 20 and 21 at the
residence of Mrs. J. L. Burton

426 Monticello St.

Winamac, Indiana

75c Charge.

Harold Ziljian

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 Nov 1930: 4. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
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Gypsies take money and maybe pig

GYPSIES TAKE MONEY

A band of gypsies were stopped by Sheriff Richardson Wednesday afternoon at the old fair ground corner, west of Winamac, after it was alleged that they had taken \$5.75 from a farmer near there. The money was recovered.

A pig belonging to O. C. Small was stolen during last night. The animal was killed and put in an automobile.

Winamac (IN) Republican 22 Jan 1931: 6. Microfilm.

Takes advantage of hospitality

HOSPITALITY TOO GENEROUS

J. D. Fields, of Bourbon, certainly learned his hospitable trait during the war of the sixties, and it never has left him, for he "aided the enemy" last Wednesday morning about 2 o'clock in their theft of six gallons of meats, his axe and his shovel, and then almost invited them back again.

About 2 o'clock three men, claiming they were stuck in the snow on the road about 30 rods from his house, knocked at the home of the Fields' and when Mr. Fields answered the call they asked to borrow a shovel to dig out with. He told them to go to the smoke house, and they did. Presently they returned, said they could not find the shovel and asked for a flashlight. Mr. Fields accommodated them, but fearing they would be considered just a little lax in his attention, he also gave them matches, fearing too, that the flashlight did not work well. It accomplished his purposes, for they saw clearly, and the next morning six gallons of meat, his shovel, his axe and his forbearance were gone, as also were the visitors.

Winamac (IN) Republican 14 Apr 1932: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
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Picks up pitiable case

PICKS UP PITIABLE CASE

Sheriff Asa Richardson picked up a man in a pitiable condition along State Road 29 just south of Mill Creek last evening at 11 o'clock. The man, a foreigner, was seen by passing motorists sitting on the east side of the road in the path of cars, leaning against a suitcase and grain bag with a blanket around him. Sheriff Richardson placed him in jail for the night and started him on his way to Gary this morning.

Winamac (IN) Republican 4 Aug 1932: 8. Microfilm.

Tramps fight

TRAMPS IN FIGHT

Daniel McLean, 47, suffered a concussion of the brain Wednesday morning after being struck by a pick ax, alleged to have been in the hands of Frank Howard, 47, near the stockyards in Medaryville. According to the story told Deputy Sheriff Rowe of Medaryville, the two men who were tramps, remained in Medaryville over night. On Wednesday morning as they were leaving, an argument started and during its course Howard is alleged to have struck McLean with a pick ax. McLean was taken to the office of Dr. R. P. Hackley and Howard was placed in jail. It is thought, however that Howard will be released as the condition of McLean is not alarming.

Winamac (IN) Republican 23 Mar 1933: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
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Gypsies foiled

STOPS CASH REGISTER RAID

A gypsy raid on the cash register at the Tippecanoe Country Club house near Monticello was nipped in the bud when Mrs. Sam Turner, cateress at the club, pugnastically objected to the "taking ways" of two gypsy women who invaded the kitchen.

A car load of gypsies appeared on the club grounds and two women made their way into the kitchen while the two men waited in the car. One of the women walked up to the cash register, opened it and grabbed a handful of currency. Mrs. Turner called for her husband, but when he did not appear she went into action herself and the money was recaptured. Mr. Turner soon appeared on the scene and the whole troupe was put to flight.

Winamac (IN) Republican 2 Aug 1934: 7. Microfilm.

Sack with almost 60 counterfeit nickels hidden in police car

MUST A'BEEN A HOARDER

A small cloth sack containing approximately \$3 in counterfeit nickels was found last week in the police squad car at Frankfort. The sack was found when the rear seat of the car was removed and is believed to have been pushed behind the cushion by some transient while being taken to the station for questioning. Most of the coins were good imitations.

Winamac (IN) Republican 22 Nov 1934: 7. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
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Gypsies strike

Medaryville: Two gypsies entered the home of William Doll Sunday morning and cleverly got Mr. Doll's pocketbook out his pocket and left with about \$16. The sheriff was called but the gypsies made their get-away and he was not able to locate them.

Winamac (IN) Republican 7 Feb 1935. Microfilm.

'roving Gypsies or Indians'

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| <p>Sheriff Issues Gypsy Warning On Reports of Thefts From Pockets and Homes</p> | <p>The latest report comes from David Frazier of Van Buren township, at whose home three women and a man stopped last week end while he was hauling hay. After their departure he discovered that his hip pocket had been picked, \$36 removed from a purse, and the purse dropped back in the pocket. The same kind of a bunch stopped a few days ago at the Isaac Kochel home near Thornhope and asked for a little salt. They followed Mr. Kochel into the house. A pocketbook containing \$36.50, which he had hidden in the bedroom, was missing when he looked for it a little later. At D. C. Fry's in Fulton county, the man in the group asked Mr. Fry for a chew of tobacco. During the conversation his pockets were picked and \$23 taken. At the Farenbaugh home near Pulaski the visitors secured about \$30, it was reported.</p> |
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Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 10 Oct 1935: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Tramp freezes face

TRAMP FREEZES FACE

Lenwood Settles, 29, a colored transient from Reading, Pa., was nearly frozen to death near Monon Wednesday night. James Bailey, of near Francesville, noticed someone beside a small fire along the Monon railroad three miles north of Monon and telephoned the information to Monon. W. L. Henry and Clarence Stiller went out and brought Settles to town, where he was given attention by a physician. His face and hands were badly frozen and he may lose an ear.

Winamac (IN) Republican 30 Jan 1936: 4. Microfilm.

Calaboose B&B busy

Free Bed and Breakfast for 181 Transients

A register of guests at the town calaboose, kept by Robert Johnson as town marshal up to the end of his term the first of the month, shows that 181 transients were given a night's lodging between October 15 and February 4.

Their ages ranged from 19 to 86 years, according to the list which each signed. The oldest was John McVey, who gave his address as Logansport. Others gave addresses from all parts of the country, with more writing Pittsburgh than any other one place.

Mr. Johnson estimates that about 45 per cent of the lodgers were ex-service men, and a favorite topic of conversation was the probable payment of the bonus. All were white men except three colored, one Indian and two Chinamen. In one group were a man, his wife and three small children. The latter were taken to a rooming house for the night.

The largest number at any one time was eight. And all of the 181 were given breakfast next morning at the expense of the town.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 6 Feb 1936: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Ol' Carry-Out trick

Thieves Use Same Plan as Worked Here

The arrest of three men and a girl at Monticello Tuesday afternoon, just after the Goodman clothing store had been robbed of several men's suits, raised the suspicion that the alleged thieves might be the same ones who operated at the Shank clothing store in Winamac about two weeks ago.

Newton Shank, Deputy Sheriff Addison Daugherty and State Policeman Delva Masterson went to Lafayette yesterday to see the suspects, who gave their names as John Garcia, Anthony Sanchez and Frank Kunich, and the girl as Sabale Constantino. Mr. Shank identified the girl as one of the customers at the time of the Winamac robbery, but the men were not the same ones.

Messrs. Shank and Daugherty also stopped at Logansport to see some suspects arrested at Delphi yesterday, but they too proved to be not of the same gang.

Use Carry-Out Trick.

The method used in daylight robberies such as recently reported is for four or five persons to

(Continued on Page Two.)

THIEVES USE SAME PLAN WORKED HERE

(Continued from page one.) call at a store, usually near the noon hour while part of the clerks are at dinner. The visitors make some purchases, and a favorite trick is to buy something that has to be altered, thus taking the clerks' attention off the store. While this is going on, some of the visitors slip suits and other goods under loose raincoats and carry them out to a parked car, then return for more. Fourteen suits are said to have been thus secured in the Monticello robbery, and five suits in the King store at Monon on Monday.

The gang which visited Winamac two weeks ago is supposed to have followed the usual plan, doing it so cleverly while Newton Shank was on duty alone that no suspicion was caused at the time. The loss, when later discovered, was reported to the sheriff's office but kept quiet because of official knowledge that gangs have been in the habit of making return visits to places previously robbed.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 26 Mar 1936: 1&2. Microfilm.

Sounds like gypsies to me!

Get Plenty to Eat

The first floor of the George Langenbahn home near Monterey was ransacked and a large quantity of food, including meat and vegetables were hauled away Saturday afternoon by several women and children. The group drove up in front of the house and Mrs. Langenbahn went out. The ladies asked if they might have a drink of water. While one of the women detained Mrs. Langenbahn the others ransacked the house and carried the remainder of the food to the waiting cars.

Winamac (IN) Republican 2 Apr 1936: 1. Microfilm.

Girl shoplifter suspended

Two Sentenced for Clothing Store Theft

Frank Kunich, age thirty-two, of San Francisco, was sentenced to one to ten years at Indiana state prison when he pleaded guilty of grand larceny in circuit court at Monticello last week, for the "shoplifting" of six suits from the Goodman Company March 24.

Mrs. Sallie Constantino, age twenty-eight, of Chicago, who pleaded guilty of petit larceny in connection with the same case, was fined \$50 and received a suspended sentence of six months to the Indiana woman's prison. John Gracia and Anthony Sanchez, arrested for the same case, were released for lack of sufficient evidence.

At the time of the quartet's arrest they were suspected of being the same ones who had carried clothing out of the Shank store in Winamac a short time before. On visiting them in jail, Newton Shank identified the woman as one of his "customers," but the men were not the same.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 21 May 1936: 2. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Calaboose Guest Acts as If He'd Been in Before

**Calaboose Guest Acts as
If He'd Been in Before**

Marshal Oscar Strasser had an over-night guest in the town calaboose Saturday who turned out to be rather expert in picking a lock. The stranger asked for a place to sleep and was given the use of a calaboose bunk. He happened to be the only customer that night, but as usual the front door was locked after he had turned in.

When the marshal went to let him out next morning, he found that the visitor had used a piece of wire to open the lock, an old-fashioned but rather intricate device operated with a key a few sizes smaller than a stove poker.

Oscar figured that the chap thought he might be late to church.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Jan 1937: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Marriage 'Racket' arrested

Local Officers Arrest Couple Wanted for Marriage 'Racket'

A woman giving her name as Verne Breonhacs, or Booth, twenty-four years of age, and a man listed as Maurice L. Booth, thirty-six, were arrested in the northern part of Jasper county last week end on warrants that had been sent to Sheriff Hilbert Wacknitz of this county. Assisting him at the time of the arrest were State Policemen Delva Masterson of Winamac and Art Keller of Plymouth.

An official from Dodge county, Wisconsin, came here Saturday to get the arrested pair. They waived extradition to another state and went back to face charges of operating a confidence game on Reinhold Milbrot, said to be a well-to-do farmer of that county. The warrants allege that they fleeced Milbrot out of \$3,000.

As Wisconsin officials described the charges against them, the young woman met Milbrot at a dance and later prevailed him into marrying her. The ceremony is said to have taken place at Waukegan, Ill., last March 23.

Hands Over the Pocketbook.

The newly-weds then started west on a honeymoon trip, in a car driven by Booth, who posed as the woman's brother, although Wisconsin authorities assert that he is her husband. At Las Vegas, New Mexico, according to the story, Booth and the woman gave Milbrot the slip—after she had obtained the \$3,000 that Milbrot had drawn out of the bank before they started for California.

Milbrot, still waiting for the "3 o'clock next day" when his new wife was to re-appear, returned to Wisconsin and filed papers against the couple, charging that the woman was already married at the time of the Waukegan ceremony, and accusing Booth of conspiracy in the confidence game.

Late in March or early this month Booth bought a piece of land in the northern part of Jasper county, on state road No. 10 northwest of Medaryville. He secured a driver's license in Winamac, and also traded his old car in on a new one at McClure's Ford agency here. It was through a report on the old car to a finance company that Wisconsin authorities learned of Booth's whereabouts, with the result that the warrants were sent here.

Also Known as Smith.

Booth is said to have gone under the name of Smith at times, and the woman as Delores Smith. They are reported to have lived in the Calumet district previous to the experience with Milbrot.

Preparations were being made to build a new house on the recently purchased farm, and some livestock had been secured. Booth had deposited money in the Demotte bank, and the couple allegedly registered at a hotel there as man and wife. He is quoted as having made some remark about a common-law marriage contract with her.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 29 Apr 1937: 1. Microfilm.

Gypsies busted via radio

RADIO CALL HITS GYPSIES.

Six gypsies traveling south on U. S. highway No. 35 were picked up here Tuesday evening by Sheriff Hilbert Wacknitz, after the police radio had announced that they were wanted at Knox. Sheriff Frank Lough of Starke county came here to get them, and took the group back to Knox to answer charges of theft.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 May 1937: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Gypsies busted via radio

Actions in Cases

Sheriff Hilbert Wacknitz rounded up six gypsies—two men and four women—Tuesday and turned them over to Sheriff Lough of Starke county, where they are said to be wanted for lifting wallets.

Winamac (IN) Republican 13 May 1937: 8. Microfilm.

Knight of the Road Stops Here

Knight of the Road Stops Here to Dig Into His Bag of Tricks

Knute Hofus spent Memorial Day in Winamac. He says some folks call him a bum, but he prefers the more poetic title of Knight of the Road. He also says that he has been in every state in the Union, as well as in "England, Wales and jails."

Knute carries a large scrap book filled with newspaper clippings concerning him and his doings, and remarks that he has sixteen other books of about the same size. Pasted in the back of the book are photographs of his two

My home town is West Middlesex, Pa., birth place of Gov. Alf M. Landon. Yes, I'm the guy that voted for him. I am one of those folks in whom nature implanted the seed of travel and I am developing it.

I have seen forty-seven summers and a good many hard falls.

I have spent eighteen years rambling around. I am an apostle of good cheer, a disciple of optimism, a versatile philosopher who takes life in its strides, eat when I can and where I can, have

children, one of them now in Gary, but because of a constant feetitch he hasn't got to see them very often.

Further remarking, while giving The Democrat office a brief call Monday evening, that he was the possessor of fifteen cents and an appetite, he suggested that the editor might like to print a sketch that he had written during the day. It was for the editor to say whether the sketch should be considered worth the price of a meal. Anyhow, here is his contribution:

no money but a lot of fun, look ten years younger than my age and expect to wind up as happy as the chap who spends a lifetime amassing a competence—whatever that is.

Stone cutter, poet, philosopher, sage, rhyming my way across life's stage, happy-go-lucky, cheerful and gay. I landed here on Decoration Day.

"But where are the hand-outs of yester years?" lament Villous

(Continued on Page Four.)

Knight of the Road Stops Here

(Continued from page one.)

Some thirty years ago one of the first things which met one's gaze upon entering a barber shop was a set of shelves. Upon these shelves were placed rows of shaving cups individually for the patrons of the shop. That there might be no mix-up, each cup bore the owner's name, and some symbol of the business in which he was engaged. Some of these were a lumber dealer, a plow and rule; a tailor, a goose and shears; a druggist, a mortar and pestle; a hardware dealer, a collection of tools; a liveryman, a team of horses, and so on through the occupations and trades. Each cup was supplied with a brush and a cake of shaving soap and the most careful patrons were shaved with their own razors. This, of course, was to prevent infection. At time was on the individual barbers outfit vanishing and probably is found nowhere at this day and age.

It has gone by the name of the wooden Indian, the mustache cup, wristlets, ear bows, and hard-boiled shirts and oddies of other things belonging to an age referred to as horse and buggy days.

Note—The reason I mentioned this, "Pre-historic Barber Shop," is to make the following story more appreciable:

I was in a little town in Texas (Lower State State). There was no barber shop and I needed a shave badly. I was going to the centennial. A citizen of the small town told me the harness maker sometimes shaved people who were getting married or buried—so, I goes in and the old harness maker agrees to put my whiskers on paper for two-bits (twenty-five cents). He sat me on a horse or Jack (used to sew tugs on). He took a bar of Hoss soap off the window sill, spit on it several times to make a lather. He strapped it on my Waino-and-Butcher razor on the head of his horse, and proceeded to remove the whiskers. After several intermissions of wiping away the surplus of blood, the job was finally pronounced finished, and I was released. When I got to the door and was sure I could get away, I said, "say you old son-of-a-gun, do you always spit on the soap before rubbing it on your customer's face?"

"No," said the cobbler, "I took particular pains with you because you were a stranger. These home guys, I just spit on their face and rub the soap on."

"KNUTE."
Hobo Poet.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Jun 1937: 1&4. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Tramp hangs self

Tramp Hangs Self in Tree Near River

The badly decomposed body of an unknown man, presumably a "tramp," was found suspended from the limb of a tree along the Tippecanoe river bank below Leiters Ford Sunday morning at 10:30 o'clock.

The discovery was made by Frank Schmidt, owner of the farm, when he went to care for cattle which were grazing along the banks of the river.

Coroner Dean K. Stinson of Rochester stated it was probable that the hobo, who was about fifty years of age, had secured the wire from a nearby fence, and used it to hang himself.

Find Meager Belongings.

Embers from a camp fire near the river's edge indicated that the itinerant stayed over night and had prepared himself food prior to the ending of his life. A small knapsack and blanket were found at the site of the tragedy.

The suicide victim was not poorly dressed and is believed not to have been tramping for a long period. His underclothing were comparatively new and clean and the overalls and blue shirt he was wearing had been washed recently. The investigators searched for identification marks but none could be found.

An immediate burial was ordered by Coroner Stinson, as the condition of the body was such that relatives or friends could not identify him. The clothing worn by the man will be held in an effort to aid in the identification of the victim, however.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 22 Jul 1937: 8. Microfilm.

Tramp hangs self

BODY OF UNKNOWN IS FOUND HANGING

Frank Schmidt, a farmer of near Delong, found the badly decomposed body of a man about 50 years of age hanging from a tree along the Tippecanoe river Sunday morning at 10:30 o'clock. The man had used a wire taken from a fence near by. Death was due to a broken neck.

Dr. Stinson, Fulton county coroner, stated that the man had been dead approximately 10 days, and the body was in such a condition that burial was ordered immediately. Clothes and belongings, all clean and of good quality, were held by the coroner for possible identification.

Winamac (IN) Republican 22 Jul 1937: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

'City Fainter' arrested

City Fainter May Not Come to Indiana Farm

Richard Kammler has only a faint chance of retiring to his little farm near DeMotte, Ind., according to a story in one of the Chicago papers.

For years Kammler labored at his "trade," dreaming only of the day when he might settle down with his wife, her mother, and their chickens on the five-acre farm.

Every day he came nearer his goal—then police interrupted him.

Police said Kammler's "trade" was illegal. They said he collected pennies by fainting on the doorsteps of warm-hearted housewives. They said the housewives gave him money to get back to what he said was his "starving and freezing family."

When arrested Kammler pulled the deed to his chicken farm from one of the pockets in the two suits he was wearing and explained that he was a property owner, entitled to the proper respect from all law-enforcing agencies.

Police said Kammler had \$3.45 in pennies tucked away in tobacco pouches. He had more tobacco sacks for more pennies. An accomplice, Clarence Walker, had \$2.05.

Told that he would be arraigned later, Kammler sighed:

"It's all part of a business where your chances of success are faint."

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 20 Jan 1938: 2. Microfilm.

Elderly resident robbed

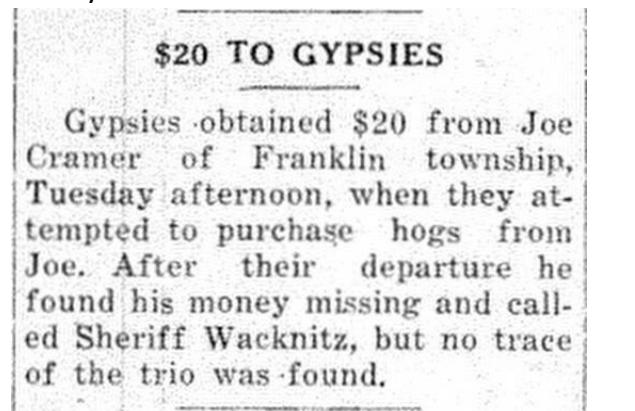
Gypsies Get Elderly Resident's Pocketbook

Joe Cramer of Franklin township was robbed of a pocketbook containing about \$20. by three gypsies who stopped at his home Tuesday. A man and two women entered the Cramer yard on pretense of wanting to buy a goat. Joe was suspicious of them and tried to get away, but they started a kind of scuffle and Joe later discovered that his pocketbook was missing. Phone lines are still down because of last week's sleet, and by the time a messenger reached the sheriff's office the gypsies had left for parts unknown.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 14 Apr 1938: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Elderly resident robbed



Winamac (IN) Republican 14 Apr 1938: 8. Microfilm.

Can we trust this



Winamac (IN) Republican 30 Jun 1938: 5. Microfilm.

Tramps beaten

Delong Man Puts on Entertaining Spree Here

William Steenberger of Delong was arrested here Saturday night about 9:00 o'clock by Night Watchman Ralph Curtis and Marshal Oscar Strasser on a charge of intoxication. His resistance was of a passive nature, and after sitting down in the middle of the sidewalk he had to be dragged to the calaboose. He weighs about 200 pounds.

Later in the evening the officers were called to the jail to rescue two transients, there for the night, to whom Steenberger had taken a dislike and had proceeded to "beat up." They were taken to the office of Dr. H. J. Halleck for treatment, and Steenberger was locked in a cell by himself.

He pleaded guilty before Justice Thomas Manders Sunday morning to charges of intoxication and assault and battery, and was assessed fine and costs amounting to \$5 on the first charge and \$9 on the second. He was given sixty days to find the money. Steenberger is thirty-nine years of age, and married.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 6 Apr 1939: 6. Microfilm.

Tramps beaten, Booze seller pinched

DRUNK GETS VIOLENT; LIQUOR MAN IN BAD

William Steenberger, Delong carpenter, was arrested Saturday night by Night Marshal Curtis, charged with drunkenness. Placed in the local jail he is alleged to have beaten up on two transients and a charge of assault and battery was placed against him by Marshal Strasser. He entered pleas of guilty to both charges, before Justice Manders and was given a fine and cost of \$5 on the former charge and \$5 fine and costs of \$4 on the latter.

Arrest Liquor Salesman

Excise officers were at Denham Thursday night where they arrested Nelson Geiselman, liquor salesman, and took him to Indianapolis for a hearing. Local officers who assisted, said a charge was placed against him for selling liquor to individuals, when the law states he shall sell only to licensed liquor stores.

Winamac (IN) Republican 6 Apr 1939: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Man, 80, robbed by gypsies

80-Year-Old Man Robbed of \$20 by Band of Gypsies

Charles Knebel, elderly man living two miles southeast of Winamac, was robbed of \$20 by gypsies this morning. He reported to the sheriff's office that members of a traveling band stopped at his place and held him while they took the money from his pocket. He is eighty years of age and was unable to fight them off.

The band had traveled on when Sheriff Addison Daugherty reached the Knebel home in answer to the phone call, and could not be traced. The Knebel home is a few rods east of U. S. highway No. 35.

The sheriff is anxious that the presence of gypsies in any part of the county be promptly reported to his office by telephone, charges collect.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 4 May 1939: 1. Microfilm.

Man, 80, robbed by gypsies

Look Out for Gypsies

A group of gypsies took Charles Knebel, elderly gentleman, for \$20 this morning at his home south of the State Road bridge.

Sheriff Daugherty requests that anyone seeing gypsies in their vicinity to phone his office and reverse the phone charges.

Winamac (IN) Republican 4 May 1939: 8. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Two bands of gypsies sighted

¶The presence of two, more groups of gypsies in the county has been reported to the sheriff's office within the last few days, one west of Winamac and one in Beaver township. Neither obtained any money, as far as known, but both disappeared while officers were on their way in answer to the reports. The sheriff was pleased that word about both groups reached the office by telephone so promptly.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 18 May 1939: 1. Microfilm.

Pickpockets find easy pickins'

SLICK FINGERS AT WORK

Pickpockets taking advantage of the huge crowd on the downtown streets Saturday night relieved citizens of this community of almost \$100. Will Lebo of Star City was the big loser, missing \$38; Fred Borders lost \$32, Raymond King, \$3, Ed Blew, \$12, Ed Trapp, \$8, and Mr. Pattison, visiting in the Charles Cramer home, \$6.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 24 Aug 1939: 8. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Pickpockets find easy pickins'

Pickpockets at Centennial

Pickpockets made a sizeable haul at the Centennial celebration Saturday night, collecting more than \$100. Urban Kennedy, who was "touched" twice, lost about \$12 the first time and \$4 the second. Other victims and the amount they lost included: W. W. Lebo, \$35; Fred Borders, \$32; Ed Blue, \$12; Ed Trapp, \$8; and Fred Pattison, \$6.

Winamac (IN) Republican 24 Aug 1939: 1. Microfilm.

Transient arrested

Transient Arrested

James Craft, 38 year old transient, who gave his home as Cincinnati, was arrested early Sunday morning by Sheriff Daugherty, charged with public intoxication, but was released when he promised to leave the county.

Winamac (IN) Republican 14 Sep 1939: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

'Flop' numbers down

Little Visits

"Use of the town cataboose by travelers wanting a place to sleep has been much lighter this year than it has been up to this time most winters," remarks Marshal Oscar Strasser.

"Last winter," he continues, "I had about 470 visitors during the six months from October to April. So far this year the number won't reach a hundred. I guess some of the younger men that used to come have found jobs."

In most towns hereabout, the marshal explains, transients asking a "flop" are given room in the fire department, usually not well heated. The word seems to have gone around that the Winamac accommodations include a good stove and running water.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Dec 1939: 1. Microfilm.

'Dead man' wakes up

"Dead Man" Seen on Highway Turns Out Quite Alive

A phone call to the sheriff's office yesterday forenoon reported that a dead man was lying on the roadside along U. S. highway No. 35 near Bethel church in Franklin township.

When Sheriff Addison Daugherty and Deputy Henry Kopkey reached the scene a few minutes later, the "dead man" was walking north along the highway. Questioned, the fifty-year-old stranger said he had slept during the night on the roadside near the church. Speaking broken English, he didn't have much more to say about the matter.

Deputy Kopkey recalled having passed the man a short distance south of the Bethel corner the night before. He was headed north, and had apparently gone only a few rods farther when he picked out the ditch bank as his downy couch.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 15 Feb 1940: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

'Since ... robbed by gypsies'

AGED MAN HAS ILLUSIONS.

Charles Knebel, eighty-two years of age, was found to be suffering mental hallucinations Monday at his home southeast of Winamac, and was taken to jail at Rochester to prevent him from carrying out threats to shoot somebody. A court hearing has been set for next Tuesday to determine whether the aged man is in need of hospital treatment. Since he was robbed by gypsies some months ago he is said to suspect all callers at the home.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 7 Mar 1940: 1. Microfilm.

Ruled sane, but (maybe) traumatized

Following a hearing on the mental condition of Charles Knebel, the court ruled that he is sane and the elderly man was returned to his home southeast of Winamac. It developed that most of the eighty-two-year-old man's troubles were based on a sense of fear dating from the time he was robbed by gypsies nearly a year ago.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Mar 1940: 1. Microfilm.

Liquored-up tramps fight

Transients Pepped Up by Own Brand of Drinks

Two transients, giving their names as Robert Black of Mt. Vernon, Ind., and Pierre S. Layton of Mississippi, were picked up Saturday because of their suspicious actions near the Crawford hatchery alongside the Pennsylvania railway tracks.

They showed fight when approached by Sheriff Addison J. Daugherty and Deputy Henry Kopkey, and were taken to jail at Rochester to await report on their fingerprints from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. They started another fight on the way to Rochester and gave the officers no little trouble during the trip.

Part of their bad acting was laid to refreshments consisting of bay rum and rubbing alcohol.

A report received yesterday from the Indiana police department showed nineteen previous arrests for Black, mostly for minor offenses but one for burglary that cost him two years in a South Dakota prison; eleven previous arrests for Layton, mostly drunkenness. There was no indication in the report that either man is now wanted, and they were released.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 4 Apr 1940: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Blind pickpocket

**BLIND MAN IS CHARGED
WITH PICKING POCKETS**

Into an Indianapolis court appeared a blind man, Morris Fields, charged with picking pockets. Police said they found nearly \$100 in dollar bills on him. The judge postponed action, ordered Fields held under \$500 bond.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 25 Apr 1940: 6. Microfilm.

'Dooryard' used frequently in Democrat

**Elderly Man
Robbed of \$41
by Gypsy Band**

A band of "gypsies" robbed Hiram W. Meek of \$41 Tuesday forenoon at his home northeast of Winamac, and escaped to unknown parts despite a search by state police after word of the robbery had been broadcast on the police radio.

Mr. Meek, eighty-three years of age, was in the **dooryard** of his home when the visitors stopped. In the group were two men, a woman and a child. The woman asked for a drink of water, and after obtaining it begged Mr. Meek to let her tell his fortune. He refused, and a little argument ensued. Mrs. Meek was present while some of the discussion was going on.

After the callers had driven away, in a black car with red license plates, Mr. Meek discovered that his pocketbook was missing. He set out in his own car to try to catch the thieves, following them northeastward across the Haschel bridge and into the Lawton vicinity, but was unable to get sight of them. Later inquiries revealed that they had gone eastward on a gravel road toward Fulton county.

The theft was reported to the sheriff's office, and from there to the police broadcasting station. Several state officers arrived here within a short time but were unable to pick up the gypsies' trail.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 1 Aug 1940: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Gypsies snatch billfold

GYPSIES SNATCH \$41 FROM HIRAM MEEKS

Gypsies relieved Hi Meeks, an elderly man living on the river road north of town, of \$41 Tuesday morning about 10 o'clock. Two women, a man, and a small boy stopped at the home and asked for a drink and, while there, they rifled his pockets and removed his billfold. Following their leaving, he missed the billfold and then started in pursuit, following them as far as Haschel's bridge, where they turned north. He then came back to Winamac and notified the sheriff, who immediately sent a message to the state police post at Michigan City, who in turn set up a blockade, and started the hunt. The trail was picked up at Haschel's bridge and followed to the OK church, where they turned east. No further trace was found of them.

Winamac (IN) Republican 1 Aug 1940: 1. Microfilm.

Gypsies stop roving

Gypsies Stop Roving.

Gypsy caravans are a thing of the past in Bohemia and Moravia, now part of Germany, where most of them originated. Every gypsy now must register a permanent residence with police authorities. Failure to do so means internment in a labor camp.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 1 Aug 1940: 3. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Deaf mute answers question!

PEDDLER FORGETS HE CAN'T TALK, FLEES AFTER SPEECH

When a peddler handed a waitress in a Bloomington restaurant a card and a package of needles, the girl asked, "These the only kind you have." The peddler replied he had more in his basket, then fled from the building. The card said he was deaf and dumb.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 5 Dec 1940: 7. Microfilm.

Moocher is Jailed

MOOCHER IS JAILED

James Boreing, 41, giving his home as Nashville, Tenn., was picked up Saturday night by Night Marshall Ralph Curtis after attempting to panhandle on the street and then cussing out those who refused to contribute. He is in the Rochester jail charged with public intoxication.

Winamac (IN) Republican 5 Jun 1941: 1. Microfilm.

Moocher released

Panhandler Is Released

James Boreing, 41, of Nashville, Tenn., picked up here two weeks ago by Night Marshall Ralph Curtis after he had made a nuisance of himself mooching on the streets, was released Friday.

Winamac (IN) Republican 19 Jun 1941: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Oscar and Delvie route gypsies

QA band of twelve gypsies, in two cars and trailers, were sent on their way Tuesday by Town Marshal Oscar Strasser and State Policeman Delvie Masterson. They were settled for a three-day stay at the city tourist camp when the officers routed them.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Jul 1941: 1. Microfilm.

Tramp scare in Star City

STAR CITY

Miss Mae Blue

Tramp Scare

Mrs. Harry Korner received a bad fright Tuesday morning when a tramp entered the kitchen by way of the enclosed back porch, without knocking. Enquiring if her husband was away, Mrs. Korner, thinking quickly, replied that he worked nights and was in bed. Opportunely her son Jim came in, and the tramp, after being given something to eat, took his departure.

Winamac (IN) Republican 22 Jan 1942: 4. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Indecency near artesian well

**Illinois Man Pays
Fine for Indecency**

Nailor Jeffery of Herrin, Ill., paid fine of \$5 and costs of \$2.50 in Justice Manders' court Wednesday after pleading guilty to charges of public indecency. He was taken into custody by Marshal Oscar Strasser while camping in the park near the artesian well.

Robert Inge of Chrisman, Ill., was ordered to leave town Monday by Marshal Strasser, who said the man was making a nuisance of himself.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 6 Aug 1942: 1. Microfilm.

Indecency near artesian well

PAYS FINE IN J. P. COURT

Nector Jeffery of Illinois was arrested Tuesday night in the park on charge of public indecency by Night Marshall Ralph N. Curtis. When arraigned in Justice Manders court Wednesday morning he paid a fine of \$5 and costs of \$2.50.

Winamac (IN) Republican 6 Aug 1942: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

'More Reminiscences of the Rural Route'

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| <p style="text-align: center;">More Reminiscences of the Rural Route By J. V. BECHDOLT</p> <p>GYPSIES!</p> <p>One day in the spring when I was traveling north on what is now state road 43, I met a band of gypsies about one and one-half miles north of town.</p> <p>I was driving one of my early Model T Fords. They had a fleet of the same make of cars, some of them more dilapidated than mine.</p> <p>The road had been graveled but was pretty badly cut up into deep ruts.</p> <p>When they saw me the whole caravan stopped in the middle of the traveled track, thus crowding me off into the ruts. Of course I stopped too.</p> <p>I was approached by three gypsies. One, a swarthy patriarch of the tribe, parked himself in front of the radiator near the choke—just in case I wasn't stuck very tight. The other two, both feminine sooth sayers, approached me from either running board.</p> <p>Now let me digress a moment to relate two incidents which were freshly engraved on my mind. This, together with my knowledge of gypsy technique, probably saved me from like fate as those of my two fellow citizens who were involved.</p> | <p>One had recently had his pocket-book blessed to the tune of thirty dollars, in order that he might enjoy a long and prosperous life. Well, that ought to help some.</p> <p>The other had just sold a cow for sixty-eight dollars and was lugging the proceeds of the sale around with him when he was accosted by two dusky maidens who informed him that he was afflicted with rheumatism. They described the symptoms to a T and said they were sure they could cure him. However, they said it would be necessary for him to close his eyes and say a prayer, while they laid their hands on the seat of the trouble, which seemed to have been in the vicinity of his hip pocket.</p> <p>Evidently the brother failed to heed the scriptural admonition to watch as well as pray. About a half hour after the healers had gone, the healer discovered that his pocketbook with all its contents had gone with them.</p> <p>So, with a vivid mental picture of these two incidents before me, I sat tight on my stamps and cash kit and calmly informed the gypsies that I was one of Uncle Sam's favorite nephews, with the implication that I was liable to tattle on them.</p> <p>An understanding glance passed from one to the other of the trio. The two brunettes immediately relinquished their holds on my palms and the cavalcade moved on.</p> <p>I finally succeeded in getting back into the beaten path of progress and went on my way intact.</p> |
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Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 29 Sep 1944: 2. Microfilm.

'Rod rider' questioned

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Held for Questioning</p> <p>John Sobraski, a transient, who gives his age as forty-two, was taken into custody Wednesday night by county authorities. He was taken to Rochester jail this morning, where he is being held for investigation.</p> |
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Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 18 Jan 1945: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

'Rod rider' questioned

Suspect Is Held For Questioning

A slovenly dressed man, who gave his name as John Sobraski and a different age to each questioner, was taken to the Rochester jail this morning for Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, as a suspected escaped German war prisoner and possible saboteur.

Sobraski was arrested last night by State Policeman Delvie Masterson, after a chase over and under freight cars of a Chesapeake and Ohio train loaded with war material which had stopped at Denham.

The train crew, noting the man "riding the rods" stopped the train and called for the state police. Sobraski was lodged in the Winamac city jail last night and questioned in the office of Sheriff James Bruce this morning by the sheriff, Mr. Masterson, Prosecutor George Collins, Deputy Walter Kelsey and Policeman Ralph Curtis.

The man gave his age to various questioners from 41 to 47 years old but he carried no selective service registration card. He wrote his name in excellent handwriting but refused to speak clearly.

Mr. Curtis spoke to him in German, but the man refused to answer although his questioners believed that he could understand the language. He gave his residence as any town the questioners mentioned.

Winamac (IN) Republican 18 Jan 1945: 1. Microfilm.

Guilty of vagrancy, trespass, and train riding

John Sobraski, 44, was brought up in circuit court Tuesday and plead guilty to vagrancy, trespass, and train riding and was given a \$50 fine and costs. He will be taken to the Indiana State Farm by Sheriff James Bruce in a few days to serve out the fine and costs. He was arrested a few days ago and has been held in Rochester jail.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 25 Jan 1945: 9. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Sobraski sentenced

Circuit Court Notes

John Sobraski, a transient who was arrested last week near the railroad at Beardstown by State Patrolman Delvie Masterson, was charged with vagrancy in circuit court this week. He pleaded guilty before Judge Robert E. Thompson and was sentenced to the state penal farm to work out fine of \$50 and costs. He was held in Rochester jail pending investigation by federal agents, who dismissed him as a vagrant.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 25 Jan 1945: 1. Microfilm.

'Rod rider' sentenced

State of Indiana vs. John Sobraski with vagrancy, trespass, and train riding. He was fined \$50 and costs of the action by the Court and committed to the Indiana State Farm until costs are paid.

Winamac (IN) Republican 1 Feb 1945: 1. Microfilm.

Local woman jailed for vagrancy!

Held for Vagrancy

Mrs. Hazel Tuley of Winamac was taken into custody Saturday night by Marshal Robert Johnson on a charge of vagrancy. She was fined \$25 and costs of \$4.25 in Justice Dennis Miller's court after pleading guilty. Unable to pay the fine, she was committed to jail at Rochester.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 25 Apr 1946: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Local woman jailed for vagrancy!

Mrs. Hazel Tuley of Winamac was taken to the Rochester jail Saturday evening where she will serve out a fine of \$25 and costs of \$4.25 assessed her in Justice Miller's court on a charge of vagrancy. Mrs. Tuley was arrested by Town Marshal Robert Johnson.

Winamac (IN) Republican 25 Apr 1946: 1. Microfilm.

Maybe related to Lady Vagrant

Local News

Mrs. Estella Tuley of Kalamazoo, Mich., who has spent two weeks here in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Clarence Werner, and sister Mrs. Charles W. Zellers, is to return home Friday.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 May 1946: 8. Microfilm.

Two picked up

Pick Up Two Men On Vagrancy Charges

When the congregation of the Apostolic Christian church of Francesville began to gather Wednesday evening for services, they found a strange man rolled up in a blanket in one of the seats. He gave his name as Tom Mourey of Columbus, Ohio, and told officers he had not eaten for five days. Marshal Scott of Francesville took him into custody on a vagrancy charge, and Sheriff Bert Bollhauve and Deputy Carl March transported him to Rochester jail that night.

Elmer Schumack, twenty-nine years old, giving his home as Aberdeen, S. D., was picked up Saturday on a vagrancy charge by Officer Love. He was found on a ditch bank northeast of Medaryville huddled over a small fire. When he appeared before Justice Dennis Miller in Winamac, he was fined \$10 and \$10 costs, and was taken to Rochester jail to serve out the fine.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 21 Apr 1949: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking Pulaski County
Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves

Fined for Vagrancy

Fined for Vagrancy

Velma Benefield, who gives her home as Oregon, was taken into custody last Thursday by State Trooper James Love in Medaryville on a vagrancy charge. She was fined \$1 and \$9 costs in Justice Don Guild's court and then taken to Rochester jail when unable to pay the fine.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 29 Dec 1949: 1. Microfilm.