

THUGS GIVEN STIFF TERMS

Edison Robbers Plead Guilty And Receive Long Sentences

Two bandits who fought off pursuing Pontiac police in a running gun battle through Birmingham, today are starting long terms in state prisons following their sentences this week by Judge Frank L. Covert in circuit court. Both pleaded guilty to robbing the Detroit Edison company's office in Pontiac of \$2,000 on Aug. 15.

William Borecz, 24, of Hamtramck, was sentenced to the Michigan State Prison at Jackson today for from 20 to 40 years. His companion, Casmer Halman, 20, also of Hamtramck, was given a sentence of from 18 to 30 years and

the Michigan Reformatory at Tonia.

Warning Given

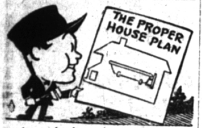
The heavy sentences are warnings to all bandits to stay away from Oakland County, Judge Covert said in passing sentence. When the two were asked whether they had a statement to make before their sentences were passed, Borecz said in a faint voice, "We were drunk at the time. I am sorry for the crime."

Judge Covert declared the crime had long been prosecuted and indicated the shooting of the thugs on an innocent boy, to show officers of their trail, was a factor in the stiff sentences.

Both men admitted having short criminal records and that they had returned to Pontiac with the idea of robbing the Edison company.

Chased as Speeders

After the hold-up, Pontiac police chased the two as speeders, unaware that the robbery had been committed. The speeding car swerved out of Pontiac after the shots were fired at the boy, and led police a thrilling chase to Birmingham where the thug car was wrecked.



Around the tub you draw a plan To please the modern girl or man.—from the proverb of Mr. Quack.

PLUMBING HEATING

DAN ROBERTSON
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Judge Frank L. Covert Monday after Pontiac's registered bootlegger was found guilty the second time of violating the prohibition law.

He was severely lectured by the court and the indication was that if he had pleaded guilty, instead of standing trial, the sentence would have been lighter.

Gordon was arrested two months ago after sheriff's deputies raided his home on the Elizabeth Lake road and confiscated a large quantity of valuable liquors. The house was long reputed to be the most exclusive blind pig in the city and the meeting place of many of Pontiac's business and professional men who gathered for night—last when he came to the station.

Gordon served five months in the Detroit House of Correction in 1927 after a conviction on the same charge in Pontiac.

(Concluded 8 from Page 1)

Starting about half past eight.

Q. You mean Gorman?

A. Yes.

Q. What is his first name?

A. Ray.

GORDON GETS STIFF TERM

Thomas J. Gordon, formerly of Birmingham, today starts a sentence of from 18 months to the Michigan State Prison at Jackson imposed by



The Golden Years

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Q. Since last November.

A. And you never had any trouble between you?

A. No.

Q. Did he say anything?

A. Never said a word all the time.

Q. Did he ever live at your home?

A. Yes.

Q. How long ago?

A. I think he came down in January—last January. He left in June or July.

Q. Never had any trouble while he was living there?

A. No.

Q. Were you good friends there for night—last when he came to the station?

A. Yes.

Q. How long was it after he left the station that he pulled out his gun?

A. We left the station about a quarter to nine and about five minutes to nine or nine he pulled out the gun.

Q. Did he say anything?

A. No.

Q. Did you have any money with you?

A. A hundred and some dollars.

Q. Did he make any effort to take the money away from you?

A. No.

Q. You don't know what his reason was for pulling the gun?

A. Absolutely not.

Q. Had you had anything to drink?

A. Some medicine in Allen's house for a cold.

Q. Did you notice whether or not he had been drinking?

A. No, he doesn't drink.

Q. You were sitting in the same place?

A. Yes.

Q. And you were driving?

A. Yes.

Q. Not a word was said—just pulled out his gun?

A. No.

Q. Didn't he say anything?

A. No.

Q. Has he been in the habit of coming to your gas station?

A. Quite a bit.

Q. He visited you on different occasions?

A. He did, yes.

Q. And had you gone home on previous nights together?

A. No.

Q. This is the first time you had ever gone in a car together?

A. No, when he first got better I used to take him around in my car. I took him in a while if he was at the gas station I would take him as far as Floyd Street and he would get out and walk home.

Q. You weren't on the way to any blind pig that night were you?

A. No.

Q. Did you have any conversation about going and getting any drinks?

A. Yes, earlier in the evening.

Q. What was that conversation?

A. I told him I was going to stop at Allen's and get some wine, it would make me perspire—good for a cold. He poured me a glass about that big.

Q. Did he make any protest about going to Allen's?

A. Said he wouldn't go in and sit in the truck while I went in.

Q. Did you want him to go in?

A. I didn't care.

Q. You didn't lay your hands on him at all?

A. No, not until after I went after the gun.

Q. Where did he have the gun?

A. Yes, way up in the head.

Q. He didn't say a word—just pulled the gun and aimed?

A. Yes, way up in the head.

Q. While you were riding?

A. Yes.

Q. Or had you stopped?

A. No, we were going west.

Q. Had there been any trouble to your family Mr. Townsend?

A. Over what?

Q. Between you and your wife?

A. When?

Q. Any time?

A. Might had a little battle now and then—all blew over.

Q. Any trouble an account of this man staying at your place?

A. I didn't want him there.

Q. You didn't want him there?

A. No.

Q. Why didn't you want him there?

A. I didn't like him—never did.

Q. Had he been forcing any attentions on your wife?

A. I won't say that, no.

Q. There wasn't any trouble of that kind at all?

A. No.

Q. After you left the gas station was there any conversation carried on between you and Gorman?

A. No, I made a remark I was going to stop at Allen's—I wasn't there a minute; he asked me to drive him home—he would show me where he lived.

Q. Was Allen's house on the way to his home?

A. Between Ann and Lincoln.

Q. How far from your gas station?

A. About a three minute walk.

Q. And when was it that he pulled out his gun? Before you got to Allen's?

A. No.

Q. After you got back in the car?

A. Yes.

Q. How far had you gone?

A. From Allen's; from George to Floyd to Lincoln; Lincoln to Pierce and went down Pierce about a mile and turned south.

Q. The only conversation you had you said, you were going to stop at Allen's?

A. Did you ask him to go in?

A. Yes.

Q. And he said he preferred to stay in the car?

A. Yes.

Q. Was there any conversation when you came out of Allen's?

A. No much, that's when he asked me to drive him home.

Q. Where did Gorman live?

A. I couldn't tell you—I don't know yet.

Q. You don't know why he did this?

A. No.

Q. Haven't the least idea?

A. None in the world.

Q. Has his mind been affected at all since he had this sickness?

A. I should say it had but I am not in a position to judge.

Q. Have you noticed anything peculiar about his actions?

A. Sort of erratic.

Q. And you had no conversation that led up to the time he pulled his gun out after you left Allen's place?

A. No.

Q. Didn't say anything?

A. No, the explosion drew my attention to it.

Q. Just pulled it out and shot you?

A. Yes.

Q. After he shot you what happened?

A. I took the gun from him.

Q. What did you do?

A. Threw it away.

Q. Then what did he do?

A. Sort of passed out of the picture. I remember getting some vallops over the head. For a while I don't remember anything. I know I started out driving and he finished up. We turned on Telegraph Road and he hit me on the head and tried to choke me and dragged me over in some place. I figured I was gone and got in the car and went away.

Q. He went away?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you conscious at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. Who found you there?

A. I walked from there to Maple.

Q. What did you do then?

A. Sat down until a car came up.

Q. Someone picked you up?

A. They sent for the ambulance—Wiley Bell picked me up.

Q. You are positive there wasn't any trouble between your wife, yourself and this man?

A. I don't like to say—I worked nights on the police department and I didn't like the man; didn't have any there at all but he was sure he couldn't be moved and didn't have any money. As far as anything between this man Gorman and my wife there is nothing to it.

Q. This man Gorman owes you some money?

A. Oves Mrs. Townsend around three hundred dollars.

Q. That's for board and room?

A. Nursing attendance.

Q. You say you didn't like him and didn't want him in your home?

A. Yes.

Q. What was your reason for not liking him?

A. Didn't you ever dislike a man for no apparent reason. He used to tell me he was a graduate of West Point and he was putting two and two together it wouldn't make four by a long ways.

Q. You know him before he had this accident?

A. Never saw him.

Q. How did you get acquainted with him?

A. Up to the hospital.

Q. Through your wife nursing him and taking care of him you got acquainted and later on took him in your home?

A. Yes.

Q. How long did he live in your home—how long did your wife nurse him?

A. She started up here in October or November.

Q. Did he die?

A. Yes.

Q. And he was in the hospital how long?

A. Until about January.

Q. And then he came to live with you in Birmingham from that time on?

A. Yes.

Q. He lived with you up until what time?

A. Until July—early part of June or July.

Q. Did you ever ask him for the money he owed your wife?

A. Never had any talk with him about it. He brought it up himself; said he would get a job and pay it back a hundred dollars a month or something.

That's all.

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