

WALKER GOES TO DEATH JOKING

AKRON POLICE SLAYER SMILES AT EXECUTION

"Rather Shocking Evening"

Condemned Man Comments From Chair

CRAMER CALLED FIRST

Manes Killer Follows Brown

County Murderer In Paying Penalty

By JOSEPH SHERIDAN

Death is not a laughing matter, not even when it is longed for and welcomed, but Bert Walker, convicted slayer of Police Officer Harland Manes, made it a laughing matter as he seated himself in the electric chair in the penitentiary at Columbus, Monday night.

"Rather Shocking Evening"

"This is rather a shocking evening," he said, smiling at the crowd of witnesses grouped before him in a semi-circle. And the faintest sound of a chuckle at his witticism followed his remark, his smile continuing to light up his otherwise pale features.

Attorney Robert Azar, one of the attorneys who had defended him at the trial, was present at Walker's request. Attorney O. L. Dally, who was associated with Azar in the case, also was present.

When Walker had delivered his "death house joke," as one of the spectators characterized it, Azar, standing right in front of Walker, replied, "Well, you can be a sport about it, can't you?"

Denies Being Sport

Walker smiled again. "H'mph," he said. "No, I cannot. That's not my nature." And he laughed again at his own sarcasm, that being a sport was not his nature.

"Wisecracking to the last," was the consensus of opinion among the 60 spectators who witnessed Walker's execution and that of Charles Cramer, convicted in Brown county of murdering a farmer. And it was also their opinion that Walker had rehearsed his "shocking" remark several times over in his mind before entering the death chamber, that it was not extemporaneous.

No one seemed to feel any sympathy for Walker, the cynic. It was different with Cramer, however. The Brown county murderer was said to be 31 years of age, but he did not appear to be more than 25, rather boyish in appearance. He was brave to the last, but during the day had given way to his emotions in his cell, weeping.

Cramer Goes First

He was the first of the pair summoned from the chamber at the rear of the execution room. After the witnesses following Warden P. E. Thomas had placed themselves before the platform upon which the chair is fastened, the warden announced to one of the guards, "All right."

The little door to the rear chamber was opened by the guard. Inside that room were the two condemned men, several guards and two clergymen. Cramer emerged from the room between two guards who did not assist him. The youth, for that is what he appeared to be, stepped upon the platform.

But instead of seating himself in the chair he said he wanted to shake hands with a few of the men. Warden Thomas did not object. Beginning with the man on the extreme left of the front row of witnesses Cramer shook hands with each of them to the last man on the right end. "Goodby, goodby, goodby," he said to each of them. He did not know but two or three of them. But they were all there to see him go, and he was bidding them farewell before he passed into the great mystery.

Stares Straight Ahead

Having finished his farewells he seated himself in the chair, calmly submitting to the operation of strapping him in. He was very pale. He looked straight ahead at Warden Thomas until the black rubber veil was placed over his face, the last operation in the final preparations.

This done the guards stepped off the rubber matted platform, and at

(Continued On Page Twelve)

BERT WALKER JOKES IN GOING TO DEATH

Akron Police Slayer Makes Final Wisecrack As He Seats Self In Chair

(Continued From Page One)

a nod from Warden Thomas one of the guards knocked on the door of the dynamo room, and pressed a buzzer. It was the death signal. Immediately the current of 1950 volts was shot into the man strapped in the chair, and at the same time a red light glowed in a bulb in the wall back of the chair. While that light glowed there was current coursing through the body in the chair.

After the current had been turned off Dr. George Keil, prison physician, listened with the stethoscope at the chest of the body in the chair. There was still a slight fluttering. After the lapse of five minutes from the time the current was turned off Dr. Keil pronounced Cramer dead with the announcement, "A current of electricity sufficient to cause death has passed through this body."

Prepare For Walker

An undertaker and his assistants entered with a hospital basket and immediately removed Cramer's body to a funeral car waiting in the yard outside. The chair was then prepared for Walker's execution, fresh electrodes for the leg and head being attached. As in the case of Cramer the signal to bring Walker in was given by Warden Thomas.

The little door again was opened and Walker, unassisted, entered. He looked over the crowd of witnesses, and his face gave expression in a smile which was continued as he seated himself in the chair.

Then came his "wise-crack" about the shocking evening. None of the witnesses was heard to laugh, but every man in the room could not repress a smile. Walker's cynical demeanor was a contrast to that of the young fellow who had preceded him in death. The witnesses felt compassion for Cramer, and were thinking of his pathetic leave tak-

ing when the pale and smiling Walker made himself "the life of the party" at his own obsequies.

Turns Down Religion

Bill Denton, superintendent of the Furnace St. mission, who had labored to bring Walker to conversion, was with him to the last. Walker treated him courteously, but determinedly refused to accept any religious consolation. He, earlier in the day, had expressed his opinion of religion in a rather ungracious fashion. He admitted that the prison chaplains, Protestant and Catholic, had been to see him, but he had declined their services.

"He was hard boiled to the last," said Denton, in a whisper, while the physicians were listening for heart beats in Walker's body. Walker had requested the mission superintendent to take charge of his body, and this was done. Denton will see that it is given burial.

Walker wanted Azar to partake of the elaborate meal he had ordered for his last dinner. But the rules of the penitentiary would not permit this. Then Walker made another request, that Azar and Dally attend his execution.

Writes To Woman

Among the final acts of Walker who spent his last day reading newspaper articles, smoking cigarets, visiting with one of the other condemned men and, most of the time, wearing a black slouch hat on the back of his head, was writing a letter to a woman he thought much of.

His mail, and that of all prisoners, is censored by Miss Amanda Thomas, daughter of the warden. This letter was another proof of Walker's cynicism: "They say in books," he wrote, "that the woman always has the last word. But this is one time when they are wrong. I'm certainly having the last word this time." And he might have been, at that moment, thinking of the "shocking" remark. Miss Thomas permitted the letter to go out with the other mail from the prison.

Cramer was pronounced dead at 7:38 and Walker at 7:44. Walker's body seemed to offer more resistance to the current than did that of Cramer. The Akron policeman's slayer was swarthier than the Brown

county man. Walker's body burned at the head and leg.

Real Identity Hidden

Bert Walker, also known as Bert Randall, was neither Walker nor Randall. His real identity is known only to his attorney, Robert Azar. During his interview with Azar Monday afternoon Walker revealed his true name but exacted a promise from Azar that it would never be revealed.

"I come from a highly respected family," explained Walker. "I am the only misfit in the family. It would do me no good to drag the name of the family into this affair. On the other hand it would do great damage to my brother and sister, two of the most highly respected persons in the south."

Talks With Azar

Just for a moment, after Charles Cramer of Brown county had been executed and while the chair was being prepared for the execution of Walker, Attorney Azar had the last words with the condemned man in the little room behind the execution room.

"Bob," said Walker, grasping the lawyer's hand, "there is only one thing I can say to you now. I want you to know that I thank you for all you have done for me. I certainly appreciate all your efforts, and I am sorry I cannot pay you for what you have done."

"I am leaving this world with no feeling of animosity toward anyone, but, Bob, they got the wrong man for killing Manes. I did not kill him. I did not shoot him. The story I told on the witness stand was the truth. But I know it was my past record that influenced that jury. If it had not been for my record I feel certain that the jury would not have convicted me."

Walker was born in Cairo, Ill., May 26, 1890. When he was a year old his parents moved to Canyon City, Tex., where his father became a rancher. Bert attended grade school until he completed the grades in his 15th year. His parents then sought to provide for his education under religious auspices and sent him to the Texas State Baptist school, a preparatory institution. He quit school in his junior year, and from then on became a wanderer.

Commits First Crime

He went north from the school and traveled extensively in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma, and crossed the continent four or five times. He did not recall the year when he became enmeshed in the toils of the law the first time, but it was in Ada, Okla. He was down and out, and needing funds he committed grand larceny. On his plea of guilty he was committed to prison for a year. There he became acquainted with members of the underworld, and it was in that "school" that he learned the science of crime.

Upon his liberation, he launched into a criminal career which culminated Monday night in his execution in the electric chair. Attorney Azar had tried to interest Walker in religion, and suggested that he permit a clergyman to minister to him.

In declining the offer Walker said, "No, Bob. I have lived the romantic life for 40 years. I cannot chage it now, at this late hour. I will die as I have lived." And he did.

His body reached Akron on the train from Columbus Tuesday morning. It was taken in charge by Prentice & Co. and before noon was buried in Lakeside cemetery on the Barberton-Springfield rd. Bill Denton was the only person in addition to the undertaker's assistants, and he conducted a brief committal service at the grave.

21457

Our No. 19009 - Nathan King - O.P. No. 62986
ASSAULT TO ROB

Nathan King and Frank Mitchell pleaded guilty on November 24th, 1930, to Assault with Intent to Rob and were sentenced to serve a minimum term of twelve years in the Ohio Penitentiary. A few days later while being conveyed to the penitentiary Mitchell insisted on being permitted to use the lavatory on the train. When he had gotten in there he unlocked his hand cuffs and plunged through the glass in the window and escaped. While he was doing that King held the door so that the officers could not interfere and admitted that he intended to jump through the window in turn had he not been apprehended as he was putting one leg out the window. Mitchell never was found. The plea involved the robbery of John C. Iffland, cashier of the Farmers' & Merchants' Bank at Sylvania, Ohio, on February 25th. \$1720 was secured in the robbery. At the time of the holdup the license number of the car in which the robbers made their getaway was secured by several persons, but no clue was obtained for several weeks. On March 8th, 1930, King in company with one Bert Walker and two women, were arrested in Akron, Ohio, following an automobile accident early in the morning.

Walker was an escaped convict from ~~the~~ Jefferson City, Missouri, having an unserved balance of thirty years against him. Almost immediately when he was arrested he drew a revolver and shot one of the police officers dead, and made his getaway. King ran when the shooting started but was recaptured the next morning. The police arrested King in his room on Lodi Street, Akron, Ohio. Walker was hiding under the bed. These men had a veritable arsenal in their room, but were

Our No. 19009 - Nathan King - O.P. 62986
ASSAULT TO ROB

surprised by a large force of police officers and surrendered without a struggle. Walker was tried for the shooting of Police Officer Manes and was electrocuted. The license plates that were used on the car in the Sylvania holdup were found in the room where King and Walker were arrested. They were both identified by victims of the robbery at Sylvania. Due to the long interval of time between the robbery and the time of trial it was thought best to accept a plea of Assault with Intent to Rob rather than run the risk of failure on the part of the witnesses to make a complete identification.

These men were members of a particular ^{bad} bunch of gangsters. One member, Sam Stein, was not apprehended, but his pictures were identified in connection with the robbery. He, together with two other members, Sam Russick and Joe Coleman, were assassinated by other gangsters near Stillwater, Minnesota, last summer. Mitchell, who escaped from custody, is the only remaining member of the mob at large.

The small amount of money, \$1720, that was secured, was due to the fact that one of the employees threw the vault door shut when the robbers entered the bank and put on the time lock. For this both King and Mitchell threatened to shoot him and would probably have done so had it not been for the fact that a witness across the street spread the alarm and the fire siren near by was blown almost immediately.

King has a prior criminal record for bank robbery. We believe that this man at the very least should be required to serve the minimum sentence imposed by the court.

Date December 29th, 1930.
CS:RW

Prosecuting Attorney.

5-20-30.Mailed Fgr.P.C and Mug to C.P. at Chi .Ill -Cleveland.O.-Detroit.Mich
St.Louis.Mo and Pittsburgh.Pa.

5-29-30 Mailed 3X5 and Mug to Burns Det. Agcy Detroit.Mich.
2-13-33.Mailed 3X5 and Mug to C.P. at Wichita.Kansas.

4-25-1922-As Bob Amos # 24777 recd at Missouri State Pent'y at Jefferson
City. Mo. from Barry County on charge of Bank Robbery under
sentence of FIFTEEN (15) years.,
10-19-1929-Discharged under 7/12 rule.

3- 8-1930-As John King alias Nathan A. King # 19972 arrested at Akron Ohio.
on charge of Investigation.(was arrested with Bert Walker and
Frank Mitchell # 19983; Bert Walker # 19984 was convicted at Akron.
Ohio. on charge of Murder. sentenced to be electrocuted; King and
Mitchell turned over Police Dept Toledo.Ohio.

5-20-1930-Returned to Toledo Ohio. from Akron. Ohio.

5-29-1930-Off docket in Muny Court for robbery. taken to county jail
on Capias issued by County Prosecutor.
With Floyd #21458.

5-28-1930-Indictment # 18972 for Robbery filed;
6- 4-1930-Original Indictment # 19009 for Robbery filed;
6- 2-1930-On trial and pled Not Guilty before Judge Stuart. Case # 18972.,
6- 7-1930-On trial and pled Not Guilty before Judge Stuart. Case # 19009.,
11-24-1930-On trial in Indictment # 19009 and pled Guilty to assault to Rob
before Judge Milroy;
11-24-1930-Sentenced to Ohio State Pent'y to serve a Minnimum term of
TWELVE (12) years by Judge Milroy;
12-10-1930-As Nathan King alias Robert Langston Amos alias Bob Amos # 62986
recd at Ohio State Pent'y from Lucas County on charge of assault
to rob under sentence of 12 to 15 years.
12-30-1930-Indictment # 18972 " NOLLIED " by Judge Milroy;
8- 2-1939-Escaped
8- 4-1939-Returned to Institution as an Escape.
8- 5-1941-Transferred to Junction City,O.

CITY OF TOLEDO OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE.

BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDS.

CRIMINAL RECORD OF
ROBERT AMOS

ALIAS NATHAN KING ALIAS JOHN KING ALIAS ROBERT LANGSTON AMOS ALIAS
" BOB "

TOLEDO PHOTO NO., 21457 FINGER PRINTS (10) 1 R 000 18 REF;
19 W I 14

(10) 1 R 000 18
17 U 000 14

-
- 4-25-1922-As Bob Amos # 24777 recd at Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City. Mo. from Barry County on charge of Bank Robbery under sentence of 15 years.
- 10-19-1929-Discharged under 7/12 rule.
- 3- 8-1930-As John King alias Nathan A. King # 19972 arrested at Akron. Ohio. on charge of Investigation., (Arrested with Bert Walker # 19984 and Frank Mitchell # 19983; Bert Walker was convicted at Akron Ohio. on charge of Murder; and was convicted and sentenced to Ohio State Pent'y to be electrocuted; King and Mitchell was turned over to Police Department wanted for robbing Bank at Sylvania Ohio.
- 5-20-1930-Turned over to Police authorities from Toledo Ohio.
- 5-28-1930-Indictment # 18972 for Robbery filed;
- 5-29-1930-Marked off docket in Municipal Court and sent to County Jail on Capias on above indictments;
- 6- 4-1930-Original Indictment # 19009 for Robbery filed;
- 6- 2-1930-On trial in indictment # 18972 and pled Not Guilty Judge Stuart;
- 6- 7-1930-On trial in indictment # 19009 and pled Not Guilty Judge Stuart;
- 11-24-1930-On trial in indictment # 19009 and pled Guilty to assault to Rob before Judge Wilroy;
- 11-24-1930-Sentenced to Ohio State Pent'y to serve a Minnimum term of TWELVE (12) years by Judge Wilroy;
- 12-10-1930-As Nathan King alias Robert Langston Amos alias Bob Amos #62986 recd at Ohio State Pent'y from Lucas County on charge of assault to rob under sentence of 12 to 15 years.,

STATE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY

BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION
LANSING, MICHIGAN

When replying please
refer to Bureau # 68774

Jan. 13, 1931

Ohio State Pen.,
Columbus, Ohio.

REVISED IDENTIFICATION

Sir: The following identification is made on your 62986
Nathan King alias Robert L. Amos:

- 4-25-1922 As Bob Amos #24777 Missouri State Pen., Jefferson City, Mo.
Received from Barry Co. Mo. to serve 15 Yrs. for Bank Robbery.
- 10-19-1929 Discharged.
- 3-8-1930 As Nathan King alias John King alias Bob Amos #19972 Police
Dept., Akron, Ohio. Charge: Suspicion - changed to Material
Witness.
- 3-10-1930 Held to Grand Jury a Material Witness in a Murder Case on
Bond or \$2500. (In default of this bond he lay in the Summit
County Jail till end of trial and on May 20, 1930 was turned
over to the Police Dept., Toledo, Ohio to stand trial for
Bank Robbery. He was convicted and sentenced to the Ohio
State Pen., Columbus, Ohio to serve 12 to 25 Yrs. Enroute
to the Penitentiary this man made an effort to escape but
did not succeed.)
- 5-20-1930 Turned over to their Police Dept., Toledo, Ohio.
- 5-20-1930 As Robert Amos alias Nathan King alias John King alias "Bob"
#21457 Police Dept., Toledo, Ohio. Charge: Susp. (Bank
Robbery).
Sentenced to the Ohio State Pen., Columbus, Ohio.
- 12-10-1930 As Nathan King alias Robert L. Amos #62986 Ohio State pen.,
Columbus, Ohio. Received from Lucas Co., Ohio to serve
12 to 15 Yrs. for Assault to Rob.

Respectfully yours,

I. H. Marmon,
Supt. of Bureau.

Copy to: Police Dept., Akron, Ohio.
Police Dept., Toledo, Ohio.
Ohio State Bureau, London, Ohio.
Missouri State Pen., Jefferson City, Mo.

Any correction or addition you
can furnish us on this record
will be greatly appreciated.

JAN 15 1931

DETECTIVE REPORT

Toledo, Ohio

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Reference No.

21457

Mar. 11th 1930

Capt. Frutchy - Ser.

On the 10th at 9 Am. Det. Culver and myself went to Akron Ohio. by order of Inspt. Busch, to look over 3 suspects who were held there on killing of one of their officers. We found that they gave names Frank Mitchell alias Shultz, Jack King and Bert Walker alias Randall. This man Walker was shot through both arms at the time of their arrests. Walker also

Detective

DETECTIVE REPORT

Reference No.

Toledo, Ohio

POLICE DEPARTMENT

19.....

had girl he was living with name
Nellie Denny, they staid at Akron under
name of Coleman. Insp. O'Donnell said
as near as he can check up they all
have been around Akron since Early in
February this year. They had Sedan Car
with Ohio Lis. and also G. Mich Lis.
33409. - 1930 was found in the Car
This is the car and license used in the
Sylvania Bank job. on Feb. 5 - 1930

Detective.....

DETECTIVE REPORT

Reference No.

Toledo, Ohio

POLICE DEPARTMENT

.....19.....

I so informed the Inspt., and I feel satisfied the 3 men in custody were in the Bank stick-up, along with others. They also had a Ford Coupe, with a Cleveland issued Ohio Lis.

They had a Thompson Machine gun with one drum of bullets, 2 - 45 Cal. revolvers, 2 - 38 Cal. revolvers.

and one high powered rifle which was new, 4 ounces of Nitro glycerine, gas shells, and other Burglar tools.

Detective.....

TOLEDO, OHIO
POLICE DEPARTMENT

19

The number on one of the 45 cal. guns.
were taken off, The number on the
45 cal 7 inch barrel side wheeler was
{ 56-812 } one 38 Colts side wheeler.
H

{ 330-680 } one - 38 Cal. Colts. side wheeler.
H

171-519, Have looked up all numbers.
and we have no rap for any of them.
I feel satisfied that we should make

Detective.....

DETECTIVE REPORT

Reference No.

Toledo, Ohio

POLICE DEPARTMENT

.....19.....

A comparison of Bullets from the 38. Cal. guns of these men, and the bullet of 38 Cal. taken from Dead Watchman neck who was killed.

I also made arrangements with Sheriff Zimmerman on my return to have Bank men and witnesses taken to Akron today for identification if possible, also brought photos and finger-prints of the 3 men and

Detective.....

DETECTIVE REPORT

Reference No.

Toledo, Ohio

POLICE DEPARTMENT

.....19

one woman which I turned over to
Supt Louy.

We left at 9 Am. and returned
at 6³⁰ Pm.

I feel satisfied these men
may be connected with our Standard
Oil job. of Mch. 2-1930

Respt
Det J. Horsey.

Detective

February 17th 1933.

X21457

C. W. Wilson
Chief of Police
Wichita, Kansas.

Dear Sir:-

We are in receipt of your communication of the 10th instant., re Charles Floyd our number 21488, and John King our number 21497 who is the same John King 1872 and Bert Walker # 1934 the later two are from Akron, Ohio.

I am enclosing herewith photograph and fingerprint classification and description and record of our John King number 21497 which identical with John King # 18072 out of Akron Ohio, wish to advise that Bert Walker # 1934 was convicted at Akron Ohio, on charge of killing a police Officer and was sentenced to be electrocuted at the Ohio State Penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio, on November 10th 1930.

You will note by the enclosed record that King is now confined at Ohio State Penitentiary sentenced from Toledo Ohio, for a Bank Job at Sylvania, Ohio, which is in Lucas County.

Yours very truly.

DANIEL T. WOODS
CHIEF OF POLICE

Copy:-
2-encs:-

(ORIGINAL IN NO., 21458.,)

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Feb. 24th. 19 30

Capt. Rydman Sir.

Kindly have request go to Lansing, Michigan
on Michigan License 33-409. As to the ownership.

This is the correct license number used in the
robbery of the Farmers and Merchants Bank at Sylvania, Ohio.

Hovey,

On a Studebaker, furnished vehicle

Detective.....

July 17th, 1931.

H. A. Roland,
Post Office Inspector,
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your inquiry of the 15th inst., relative to one Bob Amos, wish to state that Bob Amos is now confined in the State Penitentiary, Columbus, Ohio, having been sentenced from this county to serve a minimum term of twelve years on Nov. 24th, 1930 on charge of Assault to Rob.

Amos had been arrested in Akron, Ohio with Bert Walker and Frank Mitchell in connection with the murder of a police officer there, for which crime Walker was electrocuted.

However, I am enclosing herewith circulars on Charles Arthur Floyd, alias Frank Mitchell, wanted for the Murder of a Police officer at Bowling Green, Ohio. Floyd previously escaped from deputy sheriffs while enroute to the Ohio Penitentiary.

Yours very truly,

L. J. HAAS.
CHIEF OF POLICE.

Louy/H
Enc.



Police Department

CLEVELAND, OHIO

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO

JACOB GRAUL

CHIEF OF POLICE



May 28th, 1930.

Louis J. Haas,
Chief of Police,
Toledo, Ohio.

21457

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the twentieth instant concerning Robert Amos your No. 21457 and Charles Arthur Floyd your No. 21458, would state

Robert Amos as John King No. 19972, was arrested at Akron, Ohio March 3rd, 1930 charge investigation.

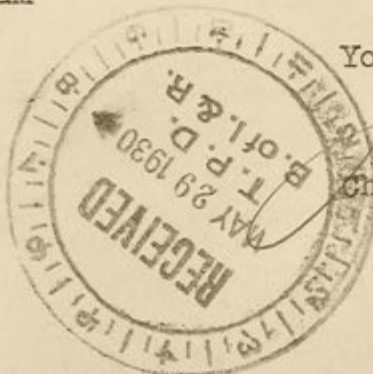
Charles A. Floyd as Frank Mitchell No. 19983 arrested at Akron O. March 3rd, 1930 for investigation. Above two men together with one Bert Walker and a woman named Nellie Denny held for the shooting of an Akron O. Police Officer who died. They had in their possession one Winchester Rifle Model 54, chambered for the 30-06 Shell, several 45 caliber revolvers, a large supply of cartridges for all arms, some nitro glycerine, caps and dropper. Also had rubber gloves, tear gas shells and one Thompson Machine Gun. We have no additional record of them. We requested that Akron be sure to furnish us with disposition of their cases there but up to this time have not received same..

I am

Yours truly,

Chief of Police.

JG:LL
Koestle.



Jacob Graul

AKRON OHIO

March 24, 1930.

** 21457*

L. J. Haas,
Chief of Police,
Toledo, Ohio.

RE: Bert Walker, Frank Mitchell,
Jack King and Nellie Denny.

Dear Sir:

As per our telephone conversation of today, I am mailing you, under separate cover, test shots from 38 Caliber Colt Police Positive Special #171519 and 38 Cal. Army Spl. Revolver #330580, found in the possession of above mentioned person held in connection with the killing of one of our officers on March 8th.

Very truly yours,

E. J. MCDONNELL

CHIEF OF DETECTIVES.

(COPY. ORIG. IN NO. *C-32195*)