

(13 September 1919)

Two Alleged Thieves Nabbed by Detectives on Tip Given by Girl

Maxwell S. French, Said to Be Son of Former Onondaga County Penitentiary Official, and Robert Moynihan, Both of Syracuse, Confess Robberies, Say Police -

MISS FUHRMEYER FOLLOWS PAIR TO TRAIN

Through the clever sleuthing of Miss Mary L. Fuhrmeyer, stenographer of the Binghamton Phonograph Company, and fast work on the part of the police department, Maxwell S. French of Syracuse, a returned soldier, who the police report, says he is a son of a former assistant superintendent of Onondaga Penitentiary, and Robert Moynihan, believed by the police to be prominently connected in Syracuse, were arrested last night about 8:40 o'clock at the Lackawanna station as they were leaving this city on charges of committing two daring daylight robberies in this city late yesterday afternoon.

During an examination at police headquarters this morning the young men, both confessed to a string of robberies in this vicinity, which would do credit to professionals, according to the police. According to the authorities they have admitted robberies in Cortland and also to two thefts in this city, one of which was the store of the Binghamton Phonograph Co. at 381 Washington street, where the cash drawer was reported robbed of about \$19, while the clerk, Miss Fuhrmeyer, was busy waiting on them. The second covers the theft of \$64 which was stolen from the safe at the Binghamton Cigar Company office at 6 Wall street.

According to the detectives the two young men were seen by Miss Fuhrmeyer last night in the Arlington Hotel as she was passing down Chenango street. Positive that the two were the same who had earlier in the day robbed the store where she was employed the young woman trailed them to the Lackawanna station and then telephoned police headquarters for aid. The two men were apprehended by the officers just before the train left the station.

Attempts to Escape.

One of the men, Robert Moynihan, eighteen years old, it is believed, would have escaped if it had not been for the nerve and daring said to have been displayed by Miss Fuhrmeyer, who followed the detectives onto the train. When they passed Moynihan on the train while looking for French, the young woman is said to have grasped Moynihan by the arm and literally dragged him off the train and handed him over to the policeman who was standing on the platform. She then returned and brought out a grip which he had left in a rack over the seat and handed it to the police.

French, who says he is twenty-three years old and Moynihan, who is said to be eighteen years old, told the police that they came to this city from Cortland on Wednesday afternoon and have been stopping at the Arlington Hotel since that time.

Yesterday afternoon about 3 o'clock the two young men, according to Miss Fuhrmeyer, entered the music store of the Binghamton Phonograph Co., of which Carroll G. Smythe is the manager, and asked to have several of the latest song hits played for them. She says they danced around the inside of the store and finally asked her if she would find them some needles. The store was empty except for the two boys and the clerk. Miss Fuhrmeyer declares as she went to look for the needles, French asked her if he might use the telephone. He stepped into the office in the rear of the store and while Miss Fuhrmeyer's back was turned, she says, must have opened the cash

drawer and abstracted the money. They purchased two packages of the needles and then left the store. Almost immediately the robbery was discovered and an effort was made by the young woman to see if she could see the men in the vicinity, before summoning the police.

Shortly after leaving the music store, the two men appeared at the office of the Binghamton Cigar company. It is said, and asked to purchase some cigars, telling the clerk that they wished to open a cigar store. Before leaving French is reported to have asked to have a \$5 bill changed. The bookkeeper willingly accommodated them and shortly afterwards, one of the boys asked permission to use the telephone. Two women clerks in the place were busily engaged in their duties and it is thought that while one of the boys was busily using the telephone the other deftly helped himself to the bills in the safe. The money was missed as soon as the two boys left and police headquarters were at once notified, and a description of the two was given. Chief Detective Loren W. Rummer and Detective Sergeant John J. Crawford and Detective Jeremiah Donahue were at work on the case until last evening shortly after 8 o'clock when they received the telephone message from Miss Fuhrmeyer that the two men were at the Arlington hotel.

The police were in communication with the Syracuse police department this morning in an effort to obtain information regarding French and Moynihan in an effort to determine whether they also may be connected with some of the automobile thefts which have kept the Syracuse police department on the jump for some time.

When examined by the detectives both are reported to have said that they had nothing to do with any other robberies in this city except the two yesterday afternoon. The detectives report they admitted they were registered at the Arlington Hotel under assumed names. The police assert they have had considerable difficulty with the two as they persist in telling different stories as to their movements and at first refused to tell their real names.