

Knives come out in separate downtown incidents

Knives as weapons turned up in two stories that the editor of the *Bloomington Evening World* thought were definitely front-page material in the summer of 1921.

The first one appeared on July 15. One of the participants was a man by the name of Fred Cates, who had the nickname of Tuffy.

According to the newspaper, Cates' claim to fame was that he was barber to World War I General J.J. Pershing, who commanded the American troops. On the day of the 1921 event, the *Evening World* suggested that Cates was "tanked up on hair tonic." (It should be remembered that the prohibition amendment to the constitution was in effect.)

Anyway, Cates walked into the Hayworth restaurant near the Harris Grand theater and did not confine his talking to placing an order for food. He had some additional words for Robert Henderson, an Indiana University student, who worked in the restaurant part-time.

The newspaper explained that Cates engaged in some name-calling, which offended Henderson. The names were "slacker and some unprintable epithets."



LOOKING BACK

By Rose McIlveen

Apparently Cates decided to eat elsewhere and took his patronage to Jimmie Campbell's restaurant, where he opened his mouth only for bites of food. His mistake was to stroll back past Hayworth's, where he found Henderson standing in front. The student demanded a retraction, and a fight ensued.

The *Evening World* described the action. "... Henderson knocked him (Cates) down a couple of times." Unfortunately, Cates cut Henderson with a knife.

Bystanders separated the two, and Henderson was taken to the hospital in an Allen Funeral Home ambulance. He was expected to recover.

Cates, on the other hand, went to jail and

was charged with assault and battery with intent to kill, his bond set at \$5,000.

The bail was duly paid for, but Cates was too rubber-legged to turn loose on the world. Deputy Sheriff Fred Stotts put the prisoner back into a cell.

Guns and knives

What would have caused E.D. McMurtrie armed with a butcher knife and "several hundred men, women and children" to run through "a crowded part of the city Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock ...?" Who were they chasing?

Prior to July 30, 1921, the Bloomington police had circulated the description of a bad check passer. A man matching that description had written a check at Shaffer & Wylie's store at 220 North Walnut St.

The *Evening World* didn't describe what happened after that in the store, but the man started running away. His flight certainly attracted attention.

The man ducked into the Curry flats, but was flushed out during a room-by-room

search. He jumped out of a second-story window and headed west.

On Rogers Street, police chief James Browning fired two shots at the fugitive. Thomas Baugh's livery barn was his next objective.

One of the advantages of a crowd of pursuers is that it has the capacity to surround a building, and that's what happened. A methodical search of the barn didn't turn up the fugitive until an employee, Thomas Stoute, turned over a pile of sacks. Stoute was rewarded for his find by being bitten through the right hand and receiving a blow to his face.

Capture was inevitable. The man said his name was Harvey Fauh from Lebanon. It is supposed that he immediately proclaimed his innocence.

What did the law do with these two men? Does it really matter? It could be said that Cates had no business provoking a fight and using a knife to even the odds, and if Fauh was transacting a legitimate check, why did he run?

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