

1883 post office scam went awry

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commission out west (where communication was primitive) and using it to set up his own post office. Such a scheme might have worked for a time.

How did Connor get caught? He was either not particularly sophisticated or his mind had been befuddled by alcohol. Law officers were quick to put the pieces together.

The way the *Courier* described it: "Saturday morning as the South-bound freight train passed through Ellettsville, there was found on board a man who had been seen lurking about Ellettsville the night before. It was the same man who had a long, black bottle filled with whiskey at one of the temperance drug stores, and the same bottle was found by the window of the post office where the entrance was effected."

When searched, Connor's pockets contained, as the *Courier* put it, "enough supplies to start a post office," plus the essential commission.

After confessing, Connor was given into the custody of a U.S. Marshal, and his get-rich-quick scheme had an unhappy ending, for him, at least.