

Gunman's Mistake Ends In Arrest At Nogales

Two gunmen who waited on customers while robbing a southside grocery Tuesday evening were located by sheriff's investigators yesterday morning—in the Nogales jail on federal charges.

Sheriff's Investigators Lon Chapman and Joseph Muffly, who traced the pair's identity through California authorities, said the men made one grave mistake:

In the haste of escaping, one bandit tossed his own wallet out the getaway car's window—believing then that he was discarding the rifled billfold of one of his victims. The wallet contained California parole papers.

The pair—identified as Eugene James Fellows, 27, and Jack Allen Crose, 19, both of San Fernando, Calif.—calmly confessed stealing two cars and holding up the Food Spot at 5256 Nogales highway after locking the two owners and their wives in a frozen food vault.

Crose, on parole from Los Angeles county for second degree burglary, and Fellows, a navy veteran estranged from a wife and six children, were picked up on the border Friday by Nogales police when they tried to sell stolen revolvers and couldn't account for the car they were driving. Muffly and Chapman took their signed confessions yesterday morning and said they may be returned to Pima county tomorrow to face armed robbery charges. The FBI questioned them and filed two counts of Dyer act violation against them.

Chapman and Muffly said the two stole a car in San Fernando on Jan. 2 and drove to Grand Prairie, Neb., where Fellows once worked. After a day there, they headed south. Gears went on the blink near Amarillo, Tex., so they ditched the California car and stole a Texas vehicle.

Spending the next night in Gallup, N. M., the pair burglarized

a sporting goods store of five revolvers and \$2 cash, the investigators said.

They arrived in Tucson about 3:45 p.m. Tuesday, Fellows and Crose told the officers, and stopped at the Food Spot market for some lunch meat. They cased the place, returned at 7:30 p.m. to hold it up.

"Sure, we put four people in the deep freeze and sold some whisky to a couple customers when they blundered in on our little heist—why not?" the investigators quoted Fellows.

Both, however, claimed they got only \$207 from the till.

The store owners—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hong and Mr. and Mrs. Benny Lim—reported \$500 taken in the robbery.

Before leaving, the gunmen snatched a wallet containing about \$15 from Harry Hong, 45.

Speeding away, Crose inadvertently tossed his own billfold—loaded with personal identification—out the car window south of the store and pocketed that of Hong.

Later, Hong and a Southside fireman, Richard Vitinghoff, found the gunman's wallet and turned it in to the sheriff's office.

They fled, then, south of the border and hid out in the Nogales, Sonora red light district, they said. Getting low on funds Friday, they tried to sell some revolvers from the Gallup burglary.

The two had \$47 between them at time of arrest, plus three guns and the Texas car with "new" license plates, stolen and attached the preceding day.

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