

Barrow's

B

1909

Dec. 8, 1909.

Received today a letter from Mr. Guy L. Shipps, of Chicago, formerly in charge of the playground of Louisville Neighborhood House, in answer to inquiries of mine as to his knowledge of the messenger service in Louisville.

Mr. Shipps gave me the names of Tiny Cecil, a newsboy known at the Neighborhood House, who, he said, could put me in touch with the boy friends of his who could undoubtedly give me the information I wished. Under his direction I went to 4th & Green Streets, where I found Cecil selling papers. On hearing that I was a friend of Shipps'; he immediately handed his papers over to another boy and volunteered to spend the rest of the evening at my disposal. Other newsboys, hearing that I was a friend of Shipps', crowded up and expressed the wish that I would come back again before I left Louisville. Cecil and I went to supper together and I talked with him about street life in Louisville and about the messenger service. He told me of two other ardent disciples of Shipps';-Jimmie Devine and Tommy Ryan, both of whom had been night messengers for several years and both of whom, he said, could be relied upon to give absolutely straightforward testimony to any friend of Shipps'. We went to the Neighborhood House together and in a short time managed to locate both Ryan and Devine. With a fourth boy named Mose Schapoff, we went to a theater together and afterwards repaired to my room at the Galt House, where the boys freely and frankly gave a great deal of information concerning street life in Louisville. All this talk of the boys served to verify the accuracy of the statement which Devine and Ryan gave me later. Their description of scenes and events in the streets all tallied, and the circum-

cances in which I obtained them prevent any possibility of collusion even had there been any reason for deception. Again, they are all plainly under Shipps' influence and showed a keen desire, at all times, to be of practical service to any friend of his. Cecil and Schapoff left and for two hours Devine and Ryan talked openly and frankly of their experiences in the night messenger service. Without attempting to go into details of the conversation, the statements of the two boys, pretty generally as they gave it, follows:

4 "The night messenger service is a mighty tough proposition here in Louisville." began Devine. "The boys are out on the street everywhere at night and Louisville is a mighty tough city you know. Then most of the calls they get are to whore houses and the boys lots of them, get to lying around there when they are off duty. Sometimes when they are on duty. They have a good deal of leisure and lots of time to look around and see what is going on. Of course messengers take all this as a matter of course. Going to whore houses is a part of the night's work with them, and as to his having so many calls there, where else should he have calls. Go down in the street now and you will find nothing open except whore houses and a few saloons and gambling houses."

I asked him about the training for future work which the messenger boys receive.

"They don't get any training," broke in Ryan. "I was a messenger for about two and one half years. At the end of that time I couldn't find a decent job, and haven't been able to find one since. That was about three years ago. I've tried hard to get a job that would pay a man to take. I'm twenty now - but I can't find anything. I haven't any trade, and while the ladies at the Neighborhood House are very good and always offering me jobs, none of them

pay more than four dollars a week, and I want to earn more than that!" I asked him how he came to quit. "Fired," he said laconically. "That's the way most of the boys quit. I was caught drunk on duty. Jimmy there, pointing to Devine, quit to learn the baker's trade."

"You see my stepfather was a baker," said Devine, "and when he gave me a chance to learn his trade I thought I had better take it. I've quit half a dozen times since I began to learn it three years ago because somehow I can't stand it to be shut in steady, but it's a good trade and I think I'll stick to it." I asked them about the after work of some of their companions in the service. "Scattered and gone everywhere," said Ryan. "Some of them are driving wagons. Some are in saloons and pool rooms. One of my friends is bar tender in a saloon here, and one of them a saloon keeper in Arizona. One of them learned the tailor's trade, and has a half interest in a little shop here. He is doing pretty well. Most of the night messengers I know never amounted to anything afterwards."

✓
Bryson
"About three years ago" said Devine, "a family named Bryson moved here from a little Indiana town. There were two boys, Eddie and John, about fifteen and sixteen years old in the family, quiet, dandy fellows, when they came here. Miss Ingram knows them - Eddie got a job with the Western Union as night messenger. As a messenger, he went down the line for the first time in his life. It was wonderful to him, and he talked about it a lot in the office, and soon got to spending most of his time and his money in whore houses. Then he got his brother John on the Western Union too, and in six months time, both boys were completely on the bum. They spent night after night over in the tenderloin, and took to drinking. They lasted with the service about a year. One of them got fired,

and the other was being supported by a woman over on Seventh Street, and he was only working now and then anyway. And to this day both those boys are simply pimps and saloon hangers-on. John, I think, is in Cincinnati, but you can go into the whore house district and find Eddie around there almost any night. I'm telling you this case because I think it is the most direct case of what the messenger service can do to a fellow, than any I know of. But you can see its effect in lots of others. That I am sure of."

"More than one boy," Ryan added, "finishes by being kept by some woman down in the tenderloin. Lots of newsboys go that route too. You see we get so many calls to whore houses that pretty soon we get to know the places and the girls. Almost all the boys are glad of a chance to go down the line on calls,, just to get to see the girls. If they don't, they want the big tips. Then after you get to know the girls, and know the best houses, it is easy to find some excuse to stay out a while when you are sent out on a call. A good many of the fellows go back when they are off duty for the night, and spend the rest of the night with a girl there. Other times they will go to these houses on calls, a girl will invite him to come to bed with her, either for the money he can show or because she takes a fancy to him, and the messenger sends back word to the office that he has suddenly been called home on account of sickness or something like that, spends the rest of the night with her. The last year I was a messenger, this thing got so common that when a boy went on a call into the red light and sent back word that he was sick or had to go home, the manager would simply send a boy to the house where he was called, after him. Generally the boy found him there. Lots of times a boy would have a message to deliver and would either neglect, or else hurry through

it and then would go and spend part of his time and go back to the office and claim he had trouble in knocking up the people or something like that. A common trick is to sign the receivers name to a receipt without waiting to call him up during the night, and then go and spend the extra time with some girl. Most of the boys used to go over there a good deal on pay nights. Very few would get next to those girls for nothing, that is, the high classed girls. Most of us could get some cheap ones, if we wanted, and once in a while one of the real things would take a fancy to one of the older boys and he could have all he wanted out of her until she was tired of him."

I asked them about messenger boys drinking.

"We used to get a good deal to drink," said Ryan, "particularly in whore houses. They used to send us out after drink a good deal, and when we can back they used to set 'em up to us. "We never had the least trouble getting it at saloons, although a good many of us were minors. At the office they never cared how drunk we got, as long as we did not get too drunk for duty, in which case we didn't just show up."

"One time we got a lot to drink was when we were showing some stranger the town. I don't think I ever got through a trip like that without being soused, and most of the time I would land in a whore house half before the night was over, and I wouldn't come back until the next day. It seemed to me that was what the strangers always asked for first. "Take me to a whore house" was always their first request, and we would always stop at a couple of saloons on the way".

I asked them about sodomy, particularly the form which the street boys call cock-sucking.

"Tommy can tell you all about that game", said Bevins.
"He has been up against that game himself." "Yes" said Ryan,
"I have been up against it. For about six months, when I was a
messenger, I let girls and then men suck me off. I cut it out
finally on my own accord because I could see what was happening
to other boys who were standing for the same thing. I have known
boys who have been getting sucked off regularly for years so that
they were simply crazy over it. The ordinary way of going after a
woman never appealed to those boys after that at all. They didn't
have any interest in it. I have known boys to tell me that all they
cared about was to be sucked and that they wouldn't waste time
having just ordinary intercourse with a woman."

"As for myself it was a straight money making proposition
at first, and then I got to like it. In Louisville a good looking
boy can earn a lot of easy money for standing for it among men. All
the messenger boys find this out very early, and then it is up to
them what they want to do about it. I used to stand for it and earn
a dollar and a half or two dollars a time for it. Jimmy here would
get raving mad every time a man put it up to him and would throw
anything at the man, or hit him with anything he had in his hands.
With the boys who did stand for it it was a purely money making
proposition. They never did that among themselves. What was the
use when you could get so much money by doing it with others. This
city is full of cock suckers at night that follow you around where-
ever you go, and all you have to do is to make a sign and they are
right with you. You cross the street and he follows you, then you
duck down an alley, or into any dark place, and he comes after you.
You unbutton your pants as if you were going to pee, and then
he'll turn to you every time and make the proposition. Other men
will call you to their rooms in hotels and once they get you in

there they put it up to you. These are respectable business men, too, some of them. There are boys in this town that I know are being kept today by men just for the purpose of sucking them off. The newsboys do a lot of this kind of thing too, probably more than the messengers because they are on the streets all the hours of the night, but they are not thrown right into it like the messengers are. I don't believe that there is a night messenger here that is not given a chance to earn some money that way before he has been on the job a week. Of course there are lots of boys sucked off by woman too, over in whore houses but the boys just stand for that because they like it. There is no money in it. But there is money in it among the boys I know, if any one does, for I frankly confess that I have been there. This is a thing that I wouldn't tell to a living soul but you or Shipps, and I am telling you this as straight as though I were talking to Mr. Shipps himself."

I asked them what the messenger boys did with their time when they were not out on calls.

"There was nothing we could do", said Devine, "you can go into the office and sit down and loaf, or you can go outside and stand up and loaf. The night manager never cared what you did or what became of you as long as you were within calling distance. In our company - I was with the Western Union - we were never permitted to smoke in the office. Any boy caught smoking in the office was fired. It was the same in your office, wasn't it Tommy?" Ryan nodded. "We would sit around the office and tell stories or just doze. There never was anything else to do. Very few messenger boys quit. Most of them are fired: but its generally for being drunk or for staying away too long, or for over charging. The company don't care what we do or what becomes of us so long as we do the work. There is some gambling among the boys, but that's a thing we have

5526

to do on the quiet, usually somewhere outside. Sometimes we get a poker game started that will last a long time. Sometimes we play seven-up for money, but shooting craps was the commonest form of gambling. I don't know, though, how much of that is going on now-a-days. The messenger service has changed, just as the city itself has. Of the gang that I used to be with, almost all of them quit at one time, and they've got a bunch of little kids in now who aren't worth a damn. We had to take a good many calls to gambling houses, and, of course, some of us played the ponies a bit; but the worst gambling was done among ourselves."

I asked them about promotion. "Nothing to it", said Ryan, "unless you are the right kind of a guy. You can get to be a check boy or a file boy after being in the service a year or two if you are wise and stick to it; but, ordinarily, nobody wants to stick to it. When a guy is in earnest and wants to get promoted they always give him all the help they can in the office, and encourage him to be around and help do things that teaches him the office work. They will give a boy every chance to get on and encourage him to keep on trying. If they see he wants to earn money, they give him the biggest number of calls. When he comes in off the calls they will take his call book and stick it on top of the pile so that he will be the next one out; and that will let him earn more than the others, and the messengers themselves are always willing to help boost a guy who wants to be square. They don't make any kick when he gets more than his share of calls, and they are careful not to queer him with the manager. Most of us just think 'Hell, what's the use'; we're in the service for the money, and that's all we do care about. And you can get more money by mixing in down the line and playing for the big tips than by just being on the job steady."

Day Service
I asked them about the day service. They said it was carried on by small boys and had few of the temptation of the night service. Their calls to houses of prostitution are very few; there is no sodomy; and the boys have little time to loaf. Few night messengers ever stay permanently with the company. The average length of service is only a few months. A few stay only a day or so, and only a few stay on more than a year, as did Ryan and Devine.

"I threw up my job a half a dozen times," said Ryan, "but I'd always come back again. I like that kind of night work well, anyway, because you have so much time for base ball and things like that in the day time, that other boys can't have. If you go on the job at six o'clock you can always manage to get ~~in a few hours sleep~~ in a few hours sleep before daylight and you will have all the afternoon and sometimes most of the morning to enjoy yourself in. I always got restless after I had been on day jobs for a while and I would quit and come back to the messenger service. But that don't pay enough for me now, and since I don't know any trade, I somehow don't seem to get started again."

These conditions both boys repeatedly said apply to all messengers in the night service that either of them ever knew. The managers of the companies are fully aware of it, and the boys themselves know this. Nothing was ever done, that these boys know of, to check, regulate, or discriminate in any way in the sending of messengers to houses of prostitution, gambling houses, or in sending them out after drinks.

Edward F. Brown, Agent,
July 30th 1910
Night messenger investigation--Louisville, Ky.

Called at the office of the Western Union Telegraph Company in the Seelbach Hotel about ten thirty to-night, and asked the operator to ring for a messenger. On a bench next the operator's desk sat a young man to whom the operator beckoned when I made my request. "Do you want to make the service?" the operator asked the young man. He answered in the affirmative. I told the young man I was a stranger in town and wanted to see the points of interest. "I'm not a messenger any more", he began as soon as we had started. "I'm an operator at the main office. I came around to see the operator at the Seelbach and as long as I had nothing else to do I thought I would make this service for you. I've been working for the Western Union for thirteen years. When I was six years old I used to come into the main office and wipe the dust from the desks and instruments and got one dollar a week for you. When I grew older I was made a messenger and worked both on the day and night shift. When I was nine I was a messenger and worked six years as such. Then I took up telegraphy and since then I have been an operator working half a week during the day and the other half of the week I work at night."

↓
Sheffert is now nineteen years of age,--an overgrown and wasted youth who has a colorless and irregular face. Speaking of the messenger service, he said: "There was something in that job that I could not resist. I had offers of good positions and I would not consider anything while I was messenger. I made good money, and the work was fascinating. Even now, whenever I get a chance and I am not on anything else, I would rather do messenger work than anything in the world."

7255

I knew my first women while in that business: I got my first disease there; I first learned how to gamble there, and if I never got in the business I would be a fine fellow. It drew me down a whole lot. Even now you can see little fellows in knee pants on the night job who could tell you more about the red light in town than any policemen. They go right up stairs and they see the women just as they are; they are offered drinks and smokes, and later they commence to go to women themselves. If it were not for that district in this town, half of the night shift would be dismissed. They need one boy to get the messages from the L. and N. station and on his way he can collect the "produce report". The way it is run now they have about four or five boys on until midnight and two boys running all night. The whorehouses in town pay the company one hundred dollars a month for special messengers--two of them-- who are supposed to answer on their calls. The company pays the boys twenty dollars a month, and on the side the messenger can make twenty five per month. There are good tips down here. The messenger will be sent out to bring in a supper for two, or more people. The boy goes to the cheapest place, foots the bill himself, and then charges them whatever he wants. If the patron of the house kicks on the charge, the whore will tell him thats the price and make him pay. The women must keep in with the messengers because they need each other. The boy gets them liquor on Sunday, and sometimes when the whore has a man that wants to be 'sucked off' she sends for a messenger if she don't want to do the job herself. When I was a messenger most of my money came from the dope fiends. I would buy up a lot of opium, and whenever I was sent out for

97-55

any, I would take it from my stock and charge pretty well for it. Besides that I always got my tip. I have home a fine layout that was given me by a chinaman from whom I bought the dope. I value it very highly".

We had already come to the district on Green Street, and from the peculiar face of Sheffert, and his rambling talk I was sometimes led to the belief that he himself was a victim of the opium habit. He denied this, of course. We went into the back room of a saloon where women in scant attire would sing and dance, and after the performance the women would go through the audience offering herself to any of the men who cared to pay her price. Sheppert was a heavy drinker,--for he let only a few minutes pass between each new order for the cheap beer dispensed here.

"I remember when I was a messenger there was a house run by a negress. She was almost white, and the name of her place was "Snowball". The messengers would go in there and pay a quarter each. Then the women would undress entirely and perform dances. If we would chip in another quarter she would take a cigar and place it in her private parts and smoke it there. Then--if we paid something more--she would take a dog and in our presence have intercourse with it. There was a donkey there too--but the police cut that out. They would not allow those exhibitions to go on any longer. Sometimes we would get the whole force of messengers to take that in. After that we would go around drinking and seeing the women we knew. Those who had money would stay with the women and we would wait for them outside. There was a crap game every week in the office. Some of the fellows would lose all they had and would go to borrow money from the

women they knew. I know lots of messangers wh^{ere} kept by women while they worked. They would get through work and spend the night with these women. They would get money from them, and whenever they wanted to get o f they would ask the women to ring up for them, and they would pay the company for the time they spent out.

This town is full of sexual perverts. You can find them on every corner. The messangers know them all too. Some of the boys take them up, but there are some who will arrange to meet one of them in an alley, and then get the other fellows to go around and beat him up. Sometimes they take the money from
 ^ him.

We had gone into a Chili Parlor, into one of the private compartments, where Sheffert continued.

"Many a time while I was a messenger I would come into these places and get meals for the women in the houses. I remember once taking a little girl in here and having intercourse with her on the floor. She was not a prostitute--just a factory girl who went around once in a while. I met her often--she worked in a box factory, and I think now she went into the business altogether."

Sheffert smoked cigarettes nervously all the night. Speaking of gambling houses, Sheffert told me he could get me into two places that kept cigar stores as blinds. "I gamble once in a while myself, but the company don't pay me such a lot now, and I cut

it out.

Sheffert is a thorough degenerate who seems to lay the blame of his suffering on the night messenger service. His physical appearance bespeaks his wayward life. "There is a fascination in this whole telegraph business that one cannot easily resist. I would like to get out of it, but I can't. I have no trade--only telegraphy, and while that don't pay much I appreciate I am unfit for anything else. I am not strong and have no education".

The Filson Historical Society

1913

NIGHT MESSENGERS

In LOUISVILLE, KY.

DECEMBER, 1913.

Investigation Made By

Herschel H. Jones, Special Agent,

National Child Labor Committee.

GUIDES TO HOUSES OF PROSTITUTION.

Louisville, Ky., December 1918.

Introductory Note -- In the following report the conversation is in practically the same words as were used except that for the sake of decency some omissions were made. What is given here is sufficient to show the familiar contact with the vilest life of the city, into which these boys are brought. For a more full account of the part the messenger boy is called upon to play in this villainess, the reader is referred to two reports of previous investigations made by Mr. Brown and Mr. Barrows for the Child Labor Committee.

On the night of December 31st. Mr. H. H. Jones of the National Child Labor Committee and Mr. Frank Westendick of Louisville went to the Galt House about 11 P. M., and put in a call for a Western Union messenger.

John Meyer, messenger No. 29 responded to the call. He readily agreed to "show us around" and said that he knew where all the "houses" were and which were the best ones.

He said that he was 18 years old, but he wore short trousers and was undersized for a boy of that age. His shoulders were stooped and he had a dull, almost sullen manner.

He took us first to a place on Main St. and asked us if we didn't want to go up, then from there we went to Green St. Here he seemed familiar with every house and told us the price at each as we went along.

"Do you know many of the women", he was asked.

"Yes, a good many of them. We gets lots of calls down here."

"That's the best place over there (pointing to 709 W. Green St.) That's where I go myself. It's a dollar house."

"How often do you go?"

"About once a ~~month~~ week, whenever I feel like it. There's Creols in this house here (opposite from 709). There pretty good. Some fellows like 'em better than any".

"Do you go inside when you have a call at one of the houses?"

5526

2. Night Messengers in Louisville, December 1913.

"Yes, sometimes. You get to see sights too."

At the corner he stopped and wrote out for us the addresses of several houses that he ^{had} thought were particularly good, on a telegram receipt blank which he took from his cap.~~et~~

"Agness Knight's is a swell place. (And he wrote the name and address down on the blank). That's where they have mirrors all around. It's a five dollar joint. I'll take you around there if you want to see it."

As we turned the corner we passed a woman that John pointed out as one of them who stays at one of the houses we passed. As we came to another house he told us that two sisters ran that, but "they only have one name on the door!" He showed complete familiarity with the whole vice district, but after he had been asked some questions about supplying dope to the women, which he said was prohibited, he was reticent about answering further questions.

He said his father was living (Henry Meyer, 1638 Melwood St.) He had been in messenger service four years and didn't know what else he would do if he left. He is on night shift steady all night.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH CO.

After parting with John Meyer in the center of the vice section we went to the Tyler Hotel and summoned a messenger from the Postal Telegraph Co. It was now about fifteen minutes till 1 A.M. The boy who came was No. 7 who gave his name as Dewey Harrod. He was much brighter and "wiser" than our former guide and was far more professional in his immediate assurance that he could "show us the sights"

"I know where all the houses are," he said. "There's a good one up on this here street!" (Jefferson St.)

"Do you have many calls to go to these places"?, he was asked.

"Yes sir, we have lots of them."

3. Night Messengers in Louisville, December, 1913.

"Where do you usually take those that want to go to a house?"

"Most of 'em like this place better 'cause its clean, so I take 'em up here usually. We go up there every night with orders from the Seelbach. They telephone down there for sandwiches and stuff to eat and we bring it up.

"Do you go inside when you have calls to the houses?"

"Sure, we go right in. Nobody stops us."

"Doesn't the company have any rules about your going in?"

"No they never say nothing about these places, but they make us go in by the side door at the Seelbach. Sometimes when we go in, they are sitting around, or there's men talking to them. You get to see them sometimes without much clothes on. They don't care about being dressed when messengers come. But they wont let you in their rooms when they are doing business."

By this time we had arrived at the house to which Dewey preferred to take his patrons (102 E. Jefferson St.)

"Do you know any of the girls up here?", he was asked.

"Yes I know one. They call her Anna. She's the one that runs the place. That ain't her right name tho. I don't know the names of none of the others."

When we told him that we wanted to get around and see things first before going anywhere, he told us of a good place on Main St. and took us there. From this place we went to Green St. and had all the houses pointed out to us.

"That's a good place over there with the brick front-NO. 606 It's a dollar house," he volunteered.

As we walked along he pointed out to us each house as our previous guide had done and told us the prices at each. At our suggestion he stopped at the corner and wrote out for us the addresses

4. Night Messengers in Louisville, December, 1913.

of the "best" places on a piece of paper which he dug from his pocket. "Number 128 South Eight is the best one", he said, and checked it off with a pencil mark. Clara Jacobs is a good place, too. I can take you around there if you want to go."

"They have a 'circus' at number 620," he told us.

"What is a 'circus'?"

"Oh it's a show they put up. I never seen it but some of the other boys have and they told me about it. The women do stunts with each other, and show themselves off."

"How many other boys are there on the night turn?"

"Five of us. We go on at six and stay to two in the morning. I'm the youngest one but they ain't none of them very old. I'm sixteen years old. I'll be seventeen on the 6th. of July." He was stunted in growth and dwarfed mentally. There was little of the boyancy of the ordinary school boy of his age left in him. His body was small enough for a boy of 15, but his face was old enough for a man with years of dissipation to his discredit.

"Do you work every night, including Sundays?"

"Yes sir, every night. We start at 6 P.M. and work till 2 o'clock."

"How much do you make a week?"

"\$4.50 The Company don't pay us much but we get tips sometimes. We get paid every two weeks. The most I ever drawed was \$15.00 for two weeks."

"Do you like the work?"

"Yes. I like the 'privats' best."

"What do you mean by 'privats'?"

"Oh, that's like what I am doing now--taking people around to the houses and answering calls for the women. Most of 'em have boxes in the houses so they can ring for us. The one gets to go whose turn's next."

Dewey wrote his name "Dewey Harrod" Mess.#7" on the paper with the list of houses of prostitution and asked that when we wanted to go to a house to ask for him when we called. He said he lived at 27 Portland St. He goes the long distance home in the early morning hours on his wheel. His father is J.A. Harrod, a carpenter. He had been a messenger two years, having started on day work.

As he took us to still another house which he said was more expensive than the others on Green St, he told us that there were from four to seven women in most of the houses tho some of them had only three.

"How long do you expect to stay in the night messenger job," he was asked.

"I don't think I will stay much longer, but when you've been in this so long you kind'er hate to quit."

"What do you ^{do} while you are waiting for calls?"

"Just sit around. Sometimes we read the same thing over and over again just to keep awake". "No, we don't have no chance to learn telegraphy. They don't teach us. Sometimes when there ain't much business we call each other on a ticker in the back of the office."

Soon after, Dewey took his pay and left us for the office. The streets by this time were entirely deserted except for a few "druks" who were hilariously making their way homeward, or somewhere. It seemed almost sickening to think of this boy still on duty at this hour, and on duty to that takes him into the worst and most degrading environment that the hours of night in an evil city could afford.

Herschel H. Jones, Special Agent,
National Child Labor Committee.

Frank Westendick

1914

Edmund Brown, Agent,
July 2nd 1914
Night messenger investigation - Louisville, Ky.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF NEW YORK) ss.

Edward F. Brown, being duly sworn, deposes and says that as Special Agent of the National Child Labor Committee, he made an investigation of the night messenger service in the City of Louisville, Kentucky, during the months of July and August, 1910; that the reports of the interviews had with messenger boys as recorded in the attached memoranda are true.

Sworn to before me this)
Fifth day of January, 1914)

Edward F. Brown

W. J. Stewart

*Notary Public 3629
N.Y. County N.Y.*

Shaffert is now nineteen years of age, an orphan, and an
wanted youth who has a colorless and irregular face. Speaking
of the messenger service, he said: "There was something in that
job that I could not resist. I had offers of good positions and
I would not consider anything while I was messenger. I made good
money, but I was not satisfied. I was not, however, I was a
wanted youth and I was not in the world."

1914

July 30th 1910
Night messenger investigation---Louisville, Ky.

Called at the office of the Western Union Telegraph Company in the Seelbach Hotel about ten thirty to-night, and asked the operator to ring for a messenger. On a bench next the operator's desk sat a young man to whom the operator beckoned when I made my request. "Do you want to make the service?", the operator asked the young man. He answered in the affirmative. I told the young man I was a stranger in town and wanted to see the points of interest. "I'm not a messenger any more", he began as soon as we had started. "I'm an operator at the main office. I came around to see the operator at the Seelbach and as long as I had nothing else to do I thought I would make this service for you. I've been working for the Western Union for thirteen years. When I was six years old I used to come into the main office and wipe the dust from the desks and instruments and got one dollar a week for you. When I grew older I was made a messenger and worked both on the day and night shift. When I was nine I was a messenger and worked six years as such. Then I took up telegraphy and since then I have been an operator working half a week during the day and the other half of the week I work at night."

Sheffert is now nineteen years of age,--an overgrown and wasted youth who has a colorless and irregular face. Speaking of the messenger service, he said: "There was something in that job that I could not resist. I had offers of good positions and I would not consider anything while I was messenger. I made good money, and the work was fascinating. Even now, whenever I get a chance and I am not on anything else, I would rather do messenger work than anything in the world."

EDWARD M. BARROWS, District Representative
KENNETH G. SMITH, ASSOC. PR. CH. ENGR.
DIST. REP., FIRST DIST.
301-303 ENGINEERING BUILDING
133 SECOND STREET, TEL. GRAND 3883
MILWAUKEE, WIS.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION DIVISION
LOUIS E. REBER, DEAN
DEPT. OF CORRESPONDENCE-STUDY
DEPT. OF INSTRUCTION BY LECTURES
DEPT. OF DEBATING AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION
DEPT. OF GENERAL INFORMATION AND WELFARE

1914
DISTRICT
KENOSHA, MILWAUKEE, OZAUKEE, RACINE,
WALWORTH, WASHINGTON, AND WAUKESHA
COUNTIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

State of Wisconsin,) ss.
County of Milwaukee)

Edward M. Barrows, being duly sworn says
that the attached statement, which is an account of
his work as investigator for the National Child
Labor Committee in Louisville, Kentucky, December 4th,
1909, December 5th, 1909 and December 6th, 1909 is
correct and true.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th
day of January A.D. 1914.

My commission expires Dec. 2, 1917

Maud Currie

Notary Public



EDWARD M. BARROWS, Investigator.
December 4, 1909.
Re Night Messenger Service, Louisville, Kentucky.

Registered tonight at the Galt House in company with E. N. Clopper of the National Child Labor Committee. At 11:30 we called the hotel clerk through the house 'phone and asked him to send an American District Messenger to our room at once. Gave no intimation as to why we wanted the boy or for how long we wanted him. In response there came messenger No. 29, who later gave his age as sixteen years. He was a youthful looking boy in knee trousers, with a treble voice, much undersized for a boy of sixteen. He said he had been a messenger two years, most of the time in night work. After a little questioning I told him we wanted him to take us out and show us the town.

"What do you want us to see?" he asked.

"Well," I said, "What do men usually want to see when we go out to see the town at this time of night."

He smiled and made no reply. We went down to the street and I made some enquiries as to enforcement of the saloon laws. He said that most saloons were open till about two in the morning, that the sale of liquors to minors was forbidden, but that messengers, nevertheless, were often obliged to buy drinks for other people.

"Then it would have been possible," I said to Clopper, "to have had this boy bring us a drink up to our room, after all."

"Sure," interrupted the boy, "I often have to do that."

"Where do you get it," I asked.

"O, at the nearest saloon where I know them, or

sometimes where I am not known," he said. "I can get it almost anywhere in town."

"Where are you sent out for it most? Hotels?"

"Hotels and whore-houses."

"Do you mean that you have to go to those places in your work?"

"Why, sure. A messenger has to go wherever he's sent, no matter where."

"Do you have to go in them often?"

"Yes, a good deal; in fact, most of the late night calls come from those places."

"Suppose you didn't go. What would they do?"

"I don't know. Never heard of anyone refusing to go. But if they'did, I suppose they'd get fired. A messenger is supposed to go wherever he's sent."

We asked him to show us some of the houses of prostitution he had been sent to lately. He took us to the district bounded by Fifth, Eighth, Broadway and Main Streets. The character of the district was evident on the surface. It was the typical "Tenderloin" district of the average American city. Saloon on every corner, houses of prostitution, with red door panes, brilliant lights behind drawn curtains, and occasional moving silhouettes showing through the curtains, lined the streets on both sides, varied by an occasional saloon and dance hall from which laughter and strains of music came, and of a darkened shop. A few men and women were going in and out of the houses and saloons. In this scene the boy was perfectly at home and at his ease. It was plainly very familiar to him. He took us down Seventh Street while two men,

one in front and one behind us carried on a shouting exchange of obscene inuendo. The conversation ended with a laugh, and the boy laughed appreciatively. At 217 South Seventh, he pointed out the bright lights on the second floor.

"There's one," he said, and under our questions he gave this account of this place.

"They call this Nellie Tailor's. (The spelling is his. E. M. B.) I've been there many a time and know several of the girls there. It's a swell place and an expensive one. I have to go there to deliver notes, and buy soup and lunches for the girls at the hotels, and buy drinks for them and lots of calls like that. It's finely furnished, and they treat you swell up there. It's a safe place, too. It's on the square."

While we were talking about this place, a group of young men came singing down the street and filed in one by one, showing conclusively its character. We turned back up Seventh Street to Green, the boy telling us, in response to hints and direct questions, of the place as he saw it.

"There are a lot of these houses, " he said, "some of them mighty swell. They range in price from a dollar up to seven or ten. One across the way here charges three, five and seven dollars. Here is a house (710 Green Street) that I know pretty well too. One time last summer, I had to deliver a hat there. 'Twas about nine o'clock at night. The madam, one of the girls and a man were going out to the Park together, with a nigger servant girl. They invited me to go along with them, but I had to tell them I was on duty and couldn't go. I'd like to have gone."

"They don't ~~often~~ bother the messenger boys much, though they are mighty nice to us and give us big tips, and give us drinks when they send us out for them. Some of the fellows get a stand in with the girls and come back and spend the night with them. I never would do that. I let them alone mostly, except to talk with them, and whistle to them or kid them a little on the streets. One night I had a message to a girl in a room near the place I showed you on Seventh Street. She took me into her room and put her arms around me and said, "Say, kid, don't you want to do the biz?" I said there was nothing doing, and beat it. She was a cheap girl and she showed it. Any of these girls are liable to ask a messenger for it, and we can get to 'em any time we want. But we don't want to. The high class ones won't pay any attention to you in that way, unless you have a stand-in. I never had a stand-in and I never knew any boy that had, though I heard tell of it many times. Of course, the nigger houses would be easy too, but we never have anything to do with them. We never have any calls there."

He said there was another similar district the other side of Fourth Street he would show us, and we walked in that direction, the boy pointing out various objects of interest as we went. As we passed the old abandoned building of the Courier Journal, he said:

"A nigger has tried to get me at this corner two or three times lately. He may be around here tonight."

"What do you mean by that?" I asked.

"Why, he wanted to suck me off. I was going by here late one night last week, when I saw him loafing around here. He followed and spoke to me, but I didn't pay any attention to

him. I knew what he wanted. Then a couple of nights later, I met him again at the same place and he tried to stop me but I wouldn't stop. The next night I found him waiting again and this time he walks up in front of me and says, 'You're lookin' fine tonight, kid. How yo' feelin'?

"What do you mean by lookin' fine?' I says.

"I mean you've got something in yo' pants that looks mighty good to me,' he says, 'an' I want to have it sometime,' he says.

"Where do you want to take me for it?' I says stopping.

"O, just back in the alley a piece,' he says, "'come on.'"

"What's your price?" I asks him.

"O, a dollah, or a dollah an' a half,' he says, 'come on.'"

"I wouldn't go back in that alley with you for fifty dollars,' I says, and walks on. And I wouldn't either. That alley was darker'n anything, and if he could have got me back there he could have done anything he wanted to me."

↑
I asked if he could take us to a Chinese restaurant, but he said he did not know of but one in the city and that was far away. I asked if he knew then where the girls got their dope. He looked puzzled and said he didn't know. I explained that I meant morphine and opium, and he said that he hadn't any idea where they got it, unless at the regular drug stores, though he knew some of them used it. He suggested that we go to a "Chili Parlor" which seems to be a substitute for Chinese

restaurants here. We told him to take us to the Chili Parlor he liked best, and he took us to the Mexican Chili Parlor on Market Street. This place closely resembled the lower Chinese restaurants of other cities, but instead of Chinese, they served Mexican dishes, as Chili con carne and spaghetti. The place was deserted at the time we entered. It was a dirty, ill smelling room, the rear of which was used as a kitchen, and half the front divided into small curtained booths. In these booths, our guide said, men came with women, though they were open to anyone. We each had a bowl of Chili, and afterward, Clopper suggested a drink. It was now almost one o'clock, but the boy volunteered to show us a place that was still open. We walked one block nearer the river and he led us to a better grade saloon which as yet had made no pretense of being closed. We lined up before the bar. Clopper suggested soft drinks to the boy and then he and I ordered beer. But the bartender after he served us asked the boy "What will you have?", showing a perfect willingness to serve him anything he wanted. The boy followed Clopper's suggestion and took a phosphate.

On the street again, I commented on the absence of street-walkers. The boy said there were a good many out earlier on the streets but not here. I asked him if they ever molested him. "No," he said. "I just have fun with them." Sometimes I can tell them when I see them, and I just whistle at them or say, 'Hello, kid' at them, but I never have much else to do with them."

On the way back to the hotel, I expressed some anxiety lest the damp night might give me an attack of neural-

gia and on this ground appealed to the boy to get me some cocaine if he knew any possible place to get it. He said he could easily get me some at a nearby drug store, he thought, though he had never tried, as he had never heard of anyone having any trouble buying it. He offered to try it, but the store had closed and we did not insist upon his trying another.

I asked him in some detail about his work. He said he preferred night work to day, because it was more interesting and because it wasn't so hard. One could sleep a good deal of the time after midnight. He himself was off at two. He got fifteen dollars a month wages, he said, but was able to make a good deal more on the side. He had no idea what he would do when he left the messenger service, but he said positively that there was little chance of advancement in the service and that there was no definite attempt made to teach the boys anything during their service.

Before we finished our tour, the subject of the negro's attack on the boy came up again, and we asked if messenger boys were not more or less subject to this kind of thing.

2 V "Well," he said, "a messenger's got to be wise and look out for himself, that's all. Of course, he has to go to all kinds of places and he can have all the chances to get a suck-off he wants; the streets are full of men nights who are willing to pay him to do it. They say that if you go to Room 7, Prospect Hotel, any night there is a man who will give you five dollars to let him suck ^{you} ~~him~~ off. I know a messenger in our office who has been to him. He says that man made the offer square to him. I've no doubt the boy did

it, too," he laughed.

Shortly after one o'clock we returned to the hotel
and paid the boy off.

The Filson Historical Society

EDWARD M. BARROWS, Investigator.
December 5, 1909.
Re Night Messenger Service, Louisville, Kentucky.

Called up the Williams Messenger Service from the Galt House at ten o'clock this evening but could get no response. Tried the Louisville Messenger service with similar results. Went around the offices of these two concerns and found them locked and dark.

I then went to the corner of Sixth and Walnut Streets, the very heart of the tenderloin district, went to Reker's saloon on the corner and called the American District Telegraph company. I asked to have a messenger boy sent to me at this saloon, giving instruction to have the boy report to the bartender, who, I said, would tell who called for him. This was absolutely all the information I gave, and no other information was even asked. The answer came promptly, "All right, we'll send one right up. Twenty minutes later, there arrived ^{on} a bicycle a refined looking boy of sixteen, apparently, who asked if I was the party who had called a boy from Reker's saloon. I told him that I was and asked if he could show me around the district a bit. He said he could not as he had only recently been put on night duty and he had so far very few calls into this district. I expressed some surprise and questioned him enough to assure myself that his ignorance was genuine and not feigned, for he was plainly nervous, over his situation, and evidently suspicious of me. Then it suddenly occurred to me that the boy undoubtedly was down here on one of his first trips and that he probably suspected me of having the same designs on him as did the negro on our guide of the night before. So I promptly tipped him and let him go.

55-26

EDWARD M. BARROWS, Investigator.

December 6, 1909.

Re Night Messenger Service, Louisville, Kentucky.

Asked the elevator man of the Galt House if I could get drinks served in my room today (Sunday). He replied that the bar was closed Sundays, and that the only way to get drinks served here was from the outside.

"How do you get it brought in from outside," I asked.

"Send a messenger boy after it," he said.

Went to the Louisville Y. M. C. A. today with a letter of introduction from Mr. Robinson of the International Y. M. C. A. to Mr. Montague, boys' secretary of the Louisville branch. Told Mr. Montague I was interested in the problem of the messenger boys, and what the Y. M. C. A. could do for them. I asked to be recommended to the heads of the two national messenger companies with a view to discussion of this problem from the Y. M. C. A. stand-point. Mr. Montague expressed much interest in my plans and after some talk it developed that he was five years ago night manager of a local company furnishing messenger service in Lexington. I told him some of my experiences in other cities, not mentioning Louisville, and he said that conditions were exactly similar in the messenger service in Lexington when he was there. He introduced me to Mr. McNair, the general secretary and the latter immediately made a telephone appointment for me with Charles Smith, manager of the Western Union office of Louisville. Following this Mr. Montague and I went to lunch together, and in a subsequent hour's conversation he gave in brief this description of the night

79-55

BE AT THE MESSENGER SERVICE' COMMISSION' KENTUCKY.
RECEIVED 3' 1903.
MAILED 3' 1903. INDEXED 3' 1903.

messenger service as he saw it in Lexington.

"Of course, this all happened several years ago, and the service I was with has since shut down and they've tried to reform Lexington. But they'll have their troubles doing that, and I expect that, and I expect you'll find it the same old game.

"We had a small messenger service connected with the big public service corporation of Lexington, which has since changed its name, and I can't recall it now. We had from three to five boys on at night, and a tough set of kids they were, too. If they weren't at the start they soon got so. I never had any idea of Y. M. C. A. work then, but I was pretty straight even then and just tended to my own business of getting the boys out on calls and in again as soon as possible, and never gave a thought to the moral side of the work. And the queer thing is that until you put it to me as you did today, despite the fact that religious work with boys is my profession now, the dangers of messenger life never once occurred to me. It was just a part of the day's work then and I've never considered it any other way since. But there's no doubt that the moral influence of a messenger's life is about as bad as they could be on earth. There's not an evil aspect of things that those boys aren't thrown right into and in fact paid to mix into. I know the game if anyone does, and I will gladly take any active part I can in a campaign for reform.

"About the worst thing the boys there went up against was prostitution. The town was wide open and life was fast at night. About half past nine, the calls to come in from these houses and they kept it a-going lively till after midnight

53-26

and often it would become quiet and the boys would have nothing to do but talk over what they had seen. But from nine thirty till midnight practically all the calls were from these houses or from hotels or gambling dens, just those three. Most of the calls were for doing light errands and delivering notes to men and other women in the city. They had to buy some liquor occasionally but not a great deal, as most of the houses there had liquor licenses. I never heard of any of them mixing into the dope trade and I don't believe any of them did. Of course, the girls used it but where they got it I don't know. I never paid much attention to them or their problem. There were some calls to gambling houses but not many, but gambling was so open there that no one thought it wrong for a messenger to go there anyway.

"Those houses had a very bad influence on the boys. Some of them got acquainted with the girls and I suppose some of the older ones might have mistresses among them, but there was little of that I believe. But the mental effect I can see now, was bad, rotten. In the first place, they knew they ought not to go there and felt that they were privileged characters for being tolerated there. If a girl talked to one of them, or if he managed to see something indecent - they were always watching for that - that boy would come back elated and he and his companions would talk it over with great gusto. They learned the names of the girls and prided themselves with their familiarity with them. They had plenty of time to think these things over after midnight and let their already excited minds dwell on what they had seen, or imagined, during the night's work. That was the worst of their work as I see it now. Of course, they shot

53426

craps, but that's no crime in Lexington, and they smoked too, as every boy of their size did down there. And it was the suggestiveness and sexually inflaming nature of the work that worked more harm with them than actual contact with the girls. They were of a bad age anyway, for such work. About fourteen to eighteen, mostly.

"No one ever considered this side of it though. I was too busy with my own work to supervise the boys' morals, I thought, and as for our boss, why that man himself was the worst moral influence in the place. He was a married man with a family, and the boys knew it. But he used to call his own messenger boys to his houses of prostitution where he was spending the night with a girl, and send him back with a message to his wife saying that he was called out of town, or something like that. Fine example for a boss to set wasn't it. This man, though, was an exceptionally rotten one and finally he was caught short in his accounts and just barely escaped arrest for embezzlement.

"I used to hear stories of sodomy in connection with the boys too, but in those days I never paid much attention to them. I thought they were just stories. I know differently though, now. I have seen so much of that kind of thing in Louisville that I know it was practiced on the messengers up there, for I can understand the significance of what they used to say. I have to fight it all the time here in Louisville, and the streets here at night are haunted with men, just walking around and waiting their chance with the boys.

"Well, the messenger service at night is a mighty vicious proposition and I am glad someone is taking hold of

it at last. It's a hard nut to crack, though, I'm afraid. It's no boy's job: I know that if anyone does, but it don't pay enough to keep a man and his family. What can be done I don't know, but it ought to be something."

Went this afternoon in company with Mr. McNair of the Y. M. C. A., to the Western Union Telegraph office and there met Charles Smith, manager of the Louisville office. Mr. Smith is a middle aged, sharp faced man, rather narrow, a "good Catholic," I am told, but exceedingly shrewd and cautious in his conversation. He was very reluctant to make a single direct statement in regard to any feature of the messenger work. He preferred generalities every time. Mr. McNair, who is enthusiastic over the possibilities of the Y. M. C. A. connection with the messenger service, did most of the questioning of his own accord so that I got the benefit of it all without having to commit myself in the least. Some of my companion's questions were bold, to put it mildly, and caused visible embarrassment to the manager, who tried to dodge them. Without going into the conversation in which my only part was constantly to bring the subject back from the generalities into which Mr. Smith was always trying to escape. His statement of the messenger service was in effect as follows:

"We employ about forty boys on both day and night service, normally. There are about thirty on today. The day boys average about fourteen years of age, and work about twelve hours. The night boys are older. We have seven boys who work from six to twelve; three more boys who work from six to two a. m., and two boys who work the night through, from six to six. These boys are all over sixteen, and we have

one man over twenty-one, who is supposed to take all calls of a questionable nature. We never send the other boys out on such calls. Both day and night forces are changing continuously. It would be a matter of several days' work going over our pay-rolls to learn the exact number of boys employed per year, but the total would be between ninety and one hundred; that is, the average length of service of a messenger boy is about five or six months.

"We have great difficulty in keeping boys, because as soon as we have them trained, the demand for their services as office boys is so great that they soon leave us. The discipline of our service is considered excellent training for office boys. Then the boys themselves are constantly getting places with brokers, lawyers, and offices in banks: there they make a favorable impression and very soon are given an opportunity to go into the service of these places. We have to discharge a few boys, but not many.

"This work offers many opportunities for promotion to boys who are ambitious and interested in the work. We have no provision at all for teaching the boys any details of the work, but the boys are encouraged to ask questions and to observe, and any time we see that a boy is genuinely anxious to make progress, we help him all we can, but the boys themselves must take the initiative. We make no attempt to keep them or to interest them in the work. We only see that such as are interested get full opportunity to go as far as they like.

"All of the minor employees in this office, checkers,

bookkeepers and operators have been promoted from the messenger service. The boys who show a willing disposition are first made check boys. They distribute messages among the operators and are thus given a chance to learn to send and receive themselves at odd moments, though no time is set apart for them to study. There are also two file boys who have charge of the filing of messages. An average of about five promotions a year are made from the messengers to the check boys. In other departments, we promote four or five more, so that an average of about nine or ten a year probably are promoted in the service. While openings for only one boy out of every ten might seem a small opportunity for promotion, it must be remembered that the force is constantly changing, and that a great majority of the boys never make any attempt to gain promotion.

"The day boys are kept very busy, as a rule. Seldom that any of them are in the office more than fifteen minutes successively, and there are rarely more than five or six in at one time. Generally only one or two boys are here. With the night work, however, it is different. The boys are kept fairly busy up to ten or eleven o'clock. After that there is little to do; they sleep a great deal of the time. We have no separate room for the boys when they come in from calls. We have a place in the corner of the main room where they may sit and wait for new calls, but that is all. Our day boys are paid by the message. It is possible for a day boy to earn as high as sixty dollars per month, but few of them ever do that. The night boys are given a guaranteed salary of eighteen dollars per month, as their calls are not numerous enough to make

work only a short time, either leave or are discharged, then reappear and seek employment again: so that the same boys will be employed sometimes several times a year. This makes it impossible to learn the total number of different names on the payroll without an extended search. I would say, though, that we employ an average of thirty or forty boys a year, and that their average length of employment is five or six months. The night boys do not have a great deal of work to do, and messengers in general do not seem to prefer the night service. Most night calls are for messages in private houses and for hotels. Sometimes we receive calls from houses of a more questionable nature, but the boys are never allowed to enter those houses: they must answer their calls and come right back. The night boys are all over sixteen years of age and I do not think these calls influence them much.

"There are many chances of promotion in this office, and though we make no attempt at all to give the boys any instruction or to fit them for promotion, still we always prefer to recruit from the ranks of the messenger boys, and to such boys as show willingness to work and learn, we offer every encouragement. In the past year about four have been promoted to be check or file boys and we promote one or two a year to the clerical force in the business office. Those are about the only positions open to the messengers but those are steps toward higher promotion.

"While waiting for calls the boys are provided with a small room with benches, but no other furniture. They are supposed to sit quietly there, and smoking in the office is positively forbidden. A great many prefer to wait on the

street outside. I do not see what service the Y. M. C. A. could do for these boys. The day boys work hard and prefer to go home rather than to take up the instruction work of the Y. M. C. A. in the evenings. We do not employ enough boys to make any work here among the boys practical; besides, the boys are never together at any one time."

I suggested the possibility of the W. M. C. A. putting a table in the messengers' room, equipped with interesting books and periodicals of the better class, with the notice, possibly, that it was loaned by the Y. M. C. A. to the messenger boys, who were to be responsible to the Y. M. C. A. for their care. Mr. Distler thought that the plan would be an excellent one to try, as he thought particularly the night messengers would get considerable benefit from it, although he said it had never been tried in any messenger office, to his knowledge. He said he thought that the manager, Mr. James, would be interested in such practical work and was anxious I should see him on his return to the city a few days later.

6526

Dec. 6, 1909.

Received today a letter from Mr. Guy L. Shipps, of Chicago, formerly in charge of the playground of Louisville Neighborhood House, in answer to inquiries of mine as to his knowledge of the messenger service in Louisville.

Mr. Shipps gave me the names of Tiny Cecil, a newsboy known at the Neighborhood House, who, he said, could put me in touch with the boy friends of his who could undoubtedly give me the information I wished. Under his direction I went to 4th & Green Streets, where I found Cecil selling papers. On hearing that I was a friend of Shipps'; he immediately handed his papers over to another boy and volunteered to spend the rest of the evening at my disposal. Other newsboys, hearing that I was a friend of Shipps', crowded up and expressed the wish that I would come back again before I left Louisville. Cecil and I went to supper together and I talked with him about street life in Louisville and about the messenger service. He told me of two other ardent disciples of Shipps';-Jimmie Devine and Tommy Ryan, both of whom had been night messengers for several years and both of whom, he said, could be relied upon to give absolutely straightforward testimony to any friend of Shipps'. We went to the Neighborhood House together and in a short time managed to locate both Ryan and Devine. With a fourth boy named Mose Schapoff, we went to a theater together and afterwards repaired to my room at the Galt House, where the boys freely and frankly gave a great deal of information concerning street life in Louisville. All this talk of the boys served to verify the accuracy of the statement which Devine and Ryan gave me later. Their description of scenes and events in the streets all tallied, and the circum-

in which I obtained them prevent any possibility of collusion had there been any reason for deception. Again, they are all mainly under Shipps' influence and showed a keen desire, at all times, to be of practical service to any friend of his. Cecil and Schapeff left and for two hours Devine and Ryan talked openly and frankly of their experiences in the night messenger service. Without attempting to go into details of the conversation, the statements of the two boys, pretty generally as they gave it, follows:

"The night messenger service is a mighty tough proposition here in Louisville," began Devine. "The boys are out on the street everywhere at night and Louisville is a mighty tough city you know. Then most of the calls they get are to whore houses and the boys lots of them, get to lying around there when they are off duty. Sometimes when they are on duty. They have a good deal of leisure and lots of time to look around and see what is going on. Of course messengers take all this as a matter of course. Going to whore houses is a part of the night's work with them, and as to his having so many calls there, where else should he have calls. Go down in the street now and you will find nothing open except whore houses and a few saloons and gambling houses."

I asked him about the training for future work which the messenger boys receive.

"They don't get any training," broke in Ryan. "I was a messenger for about two and one half years. At the end of that time I couldn't find a decent job, and haven't been able to find one since. That was about three years ago. I've tried hard to get a job that would pay a man to take. I'm twenty now - but I can't find anything. I haven't any trade, and while the ladies at the Neighborhood House are very good and always offering me jobs, none of them

more than four dollars a week, and I want to earn more than that?" I asked him how he came to quit. "Fired," he said laconically. "That's the way most of the boys quit. I was caught drunk on duty. Jimmy there, pointing to Devine, quit to learn the baker's trade."

"You see my stepfather was a baker," said Devine, "and when he gave me a chance to learn his trade I thought I had better take it. I've quit half a dozen times since I began to learn it three years ago because somehow I can't stand it to be shut in steady, but it's a good trade and I think I'll stick to it." I asked them about the after work of some of their companions in the service. "Scattered and gone everywhere," said Ryan. "Some of them are driving wagons. Some are in saloons and pool rooms. One of my friends is bar tender in a saloon here, and one of them a saloon keeper in Arizona. One of them learned the tailor's trade, and has a half interest in a little shop here. He is doing pretty well. Most of the night messengers I know never amounted to anything afterwards."

"About three years ago" said Devine, "a family named Bryson moved here from a little Indiana town. There were two boys, Eddie and John, about fifteen and sixteen years old in the family, quiet, dandy fellows, when they came here. Miss Ingram knows them - Eddie got a job with the Western Union as night messenger. As a messenger, he went down the line for the first time in his life. It was wonderful to him, and he talked about it a lot in the office, and soon got to spending most of his time and his money in whore houses. Then he got his brother John on the Western Union too, and in six months time, both boys were completely on the bum. They spent night after night over in the tenderloin, and took to drinking. They lasted with the service about a year. One of them got fired,

the other was being supported by a woman over on Seventh Street, and he was only working now and then anyway. And to this day both these boys are simply pimps and saloon hangers-on. John, I think, is in Cincinnati, but you can go into the whore house district and find Eddie around there almost any night. I'm telling you this case because I think it is the most direct case of what the messenger service can do to a fellow, than any I know of. But you can see its effect in lots of others. That I am sure of."

"More than one boy," Ryan added, "finishes by being kept by some woman down in the tenderloin. Lots of newsboys go that route too. You see we get so many calls to whore houses that pretty soon we get to know the places and the girls. Almost all the boys are glad of a chance to go down the line on calls, just to get to see the girls. If they don't, they want the big tips. Then after you get to know the girls, and know the best houses, it is easy to find some excuse to stay out a while when you are sent out on a call. A good many of the fellows go back when they are off duty for the night, and spend the rest of the night with a girl there. Other times they will go to these houses on calls, a girl will invite him to come to bed with her, either for the money he can show or because she takes a fancy to him, and the messenger sends back word to the office that he has suddenly been called home on account of sickness or something like that, spends the rest of the night with her. The last year I was a messenger, this thing got so common that when a boy went on a call into the red light and sent back word that he was sick or had to go home, the manager would simply send a boy to the house where he was called, after him. Generally the boy found him there. Lots of times a boy would have a message to deliver and would either neglect, or else hurry through

And then would go and spend part of his time and go back to the office and claim he had trouble in knocking up the people or something like that. A common trick is to sign the receivers name to a receipt without waiting to call him up during the night, and then go and spend the extra time with some girl. Most of the boys used to go over there a good deal on pay nights. Very few would get next to those girls for nothing, that is, the high classed girls. Most of us could get some cheap ones, if we wanted, and once in a while one of the real things would take a fancy to one of the older boys and he could have all he wanted out of her until she was tired of him."

I asked them about messenger boys drinking.

"We used to get a good deal to drink," said Ryan, "particularly in whore houses. They used to send us out after drink a good deal, and when we came back they used to set 'em up to us. We never had the least trouble getting it at saloons, although a good many of us were miners. At the office they never cared how drunk we got, as long as we did not get too drunk for duty, in which case we didn't just show up."

"One time we got a lot to drink was when we were showing some stranger the town. I don't think I ever got through a trip like that without being soused, and most of the time I would land in a whore house half before the night was over, and I wouldn't come back until the next day. It seemed to me that was what the strangers always asked for first. "Take me to a whore house" was always their first request, and we would always stop at a couple of saloons on the way".

I asked them about sodomy, particularly the form which the street boys call cock-sucking.

"Tommy can tell you all about that game", said Bevins. "He has been up against that game himself." "Yes" said Ryan, "I have been up against it. For about six months, when I was a messenger, I let girls and then men suck me off. I cut it out finally on my own accord because I could see what was happening to other boys who were standing for the same thing. I have known boys who have been getting sucked off regularly for years so that they were simply crazy over it. The ordinary way of going after a woman never appealed to those boys after that at all. They didn't have any interest in it. I have known boys to tell me that all they cared about was to be sucked and that they wouldn't waste time having just ordinary intercourse with a woman."

"As for myself it was a straight money making proposition at first, and then I got to like it. In Louisville a good looking boy can earn a lot of easy money for standing for it among men. All the messenger boys find this out very early, and then it is up to them what they want to do about it. I used to stand for it and earn a dollar and a half or two dollars a time for it. Jimmy here would get raving mad ever time a man put it up to him and would throw anything at the man, or hit him with anything he had in his hands. With the boys who did stand for it it was a purely money making proposition. They never did that among themselves. What was the use when you could get so much money by doing it with others. This city is full of cock suckers at night that follow you around wherever you go, and all you have to do is to make a sign and they are right with you. You cross the street and he follows you, then you duck down an alley, or into any dark place, and he comes after you. You unbutton your pants as if you were going to pee, and then he'll turn to you every time and make the proposition. Other men will call you to their rooms in hotels and once they get you in

they put it up to you. These are respectable business men, some of them. There are boys in this town that I know are being kept today by men just for the purpose of sucking them off. The newsboys do a lot of this kind of thing too, probably more than the messengers because they are on the streets all the hours of the night, but they are not thrown right into it like the messengers are. I don't believe that there is a night messenger here that is not given a chance to earn some money that way before he has been on the job a week. Of course there are lots of boys sucked off by woman too, over in where houses but the boys just stand for that because they like it. There is no money in it. But there is money in it among the boys I know, if any one does, for I frankly confess that I have been there. This is a thing that I wouldn't tell to a living soul but you or Shipps, and I am telling you this as straight as though I were talking to Mr. Shipps himself."

I asked them what the messenger boys did with their time when they were not out on calls.

"There was nothing we could do", said Devine, "you can go into the office and sit down and loaf, or you can go outside and stand up and loaf. The night manager never cared what you did or what became of you as long as you were within calling distance. In our company - I was with the Western Union - we were never permitted to smoke in the office. Any boy caught smoking in the office was fired. It was the same in your office, wasn't it Tommy?" Ryan nodded. "We would sit around the office and tell stories or just doze. There never was anything else to do. Very few messenger boys quit. Most of them are fired: but its generally for being drunk or for staying away too long, or for over charging. The company don't care what we do or what becomes of us so long as we do the work. There is some gambling among the boys, but that's a thing we have

quiet, usually somewhere outside. Sometimes we get a poker game started that will last a long time. Sometimes we play seven-up for money, but shooting craps was the commonest form of gambling. I don't know, though, how much of that is going on now-a-days. The messenger service has changed, just as the city itself has. Of the gang that I used to be with, almost all of them quit at one time, and they've got a bunch of little kids in now who aren't worth a damn. We had to take a good many calls to gambling houses, and, of course, some of us played the ponies a bit; but the worst gambling was done among ourselves."

I asked them about promotion. "Nothing to it", said Ryan, "unless you are the right kind of a guy. You can get to be a check boy or a file boy after being in the service a year or two if you are wise and stick to it; but, ordinarily, nobody wants to stick to it. When a guy is in earnest and wants to get promoted they always give him all the help they can in the office, and encourage him to be around and help do things that teaches him the office work. They will give a boy every chance to get on and encourage him to keep on trying. If they see he wants to earn money, they give him the biggest number of calls. When he comes in off the calls they will take his call book and stick it on top of the pile so that he will be the next one out; and that will let him earn more than the others, and the messengers themselves are always willing to help boost a guy who wants to be square. They don't make any kick when he gets more than his share of calls, and they are careful not to queer him with the manager. Most of us just think 'Hell, what's the use'; we're in the service for the money, and that's all we do care about. And you can get more money by mixing in down the line and playing for the big tips than by just being on the job steady."

I asked them about the day service. They said it was carried on by small boys and had few of the temptation of the night service. Their calls to houses of prostitution are very few; there is no sodomy; and the boys have little time to loaf. Few night messengers ever stay permanently with the company. The average length of service is only a few months. A few stay only a day or so, and only a few stay on more than a year, as did Ryan and Devine.

"I threw up my job a half a dozen times," said Ryan, "but I'd always come back again. I like that kind of night work well, anyway, because you have so much time for base ball and things like that in the day time, that other boys can't have. If you go on the job at six o'clock you can always manage to get ~~in a few hours sleep before daylight~~ in a few hours sleep before daylight and you will have all the afternoon and sometimes most of the morning to enjoy yourself in. I always got restless after I had been on day jobs for a while and I would quit and come back to the messenger service. But that don't pay enough for me now, and since I don't know any trade, I somehow don't seem to get started again."

These conditions both boys repeatedly said apply to all messengers in the night service that either of them ever knew. The managers of the companies are fully aware of it, and the boys themselves know this. Nothing was ever done, that these boys know of, to check, regulate, or discriminate in any way in the sending of messengers to houses of prostitution, gambling houses, or in sending them out after drinks.

EDWARD M. BARROWS, Investigator.

December 8, 1909.

Re Night Messenger Service, Lexington, Kentucky.

night and only one boy (himself) on after ten o'clock.

Postal Messenger No. 3, known in Lexington, as "Griffith", age about seventeen, took me to houses of prostitution on MacCowan Street and neighborhood. At one large house on this street he is the special messenger for the house, taking messages, doing errands, carrying money to the bank (fifty to one hundred dollars per day) knows the girls' names there, but so far has little else to do with them. Is always asked for personally at the office by this house because he has a "stand-in with them. They think he's honest and can trust him."

Has other calls to gambling houses with messages, but not many. Is very conversant with tenderloin life in Lexington. But he has been only a messenger three months and he has only been in Lexington seven months. Is a high school graduate from an Alabama town.

Says there are not many night calls to houses of prostitution now, though the town was formerly wide open, he understands, and then there was a good deal of night messenger work. Characterized Lexington as the toughest place in the United States after night. Says that only calls for messages are notes to men and women in these houses. Messengers there don't buy drinks, as the houses have liquor licenses. Don't get lunches as they are too far from restaurants and have their own cuisine. Knows the girls use dope but don't know where they get it.

There are four boys employed by the Postal, and about

six by the Western Union in Lexington. No night service after midnight and only one boy (himself) on after ten o'clock. Western Union also has one. Pays fifteen dollars per month.

The Filson Historical Society



Seven Studies in all

Suit of Night Messenger Service Reports -
Property of Nat. Child Labd Com.

- (1) It is from the point of view of the child as a future power for good or evil in the state that this inquiry proposes to deal with the night messenger service.
General statement - made from studies in various states
- (2) ^{Ingram, No 2.} Study made in Sou. Ky. - July + Aug 1910 - ^{Edward F.} Brown
Edward F. Brown, Agent July 30th 1910
- (3) Night Messengers in Sou. Ky Dec 1913
Herchel H. Jones - Special Agent
N. C. L. Com
Frank Westendick

4.

~~4~~ Ingram - Dec 6, 1909 -

- 2 studies of Barrows.
- (a) Edward M. Barrows - Dec 6, 1906
(Friend of Guy S. Shapps)
 - (b) - Dec 6, 1909 - Ingram No I
Edward M. Barrows

These are to be returned
to the Nat. Child-Social
Com

THE NIGHT MESSENGER SERVICE.

PROPERTY OF
NATIONAL
CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

PROPERTY OF
NATIONAL
CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

S T A T E M E N T .

It is from the point of view of the child as a future power for good or evil in the state that this inquiry proposes to deal with the night messenger service. To understand fully what are the forces affecting childhood in the night messenger services as organized in our greater American cities, we must consider:

- 1st. The nature of the work,
- 2nd. The environment,
- 3rd. The use messengers make of this environment,
- 4th. The effect upon messengers and thru them upon the state.

Broadly speaking, the messenger service is an organization which supplies laborers for indiscriminate light work. This differs from the outset from the preconceived idea of the messenger service which usually pictures a small boy running with a note or telegram to its destination. There are some messenger services in which the delivery of notes plays but a minor part, and delivery of messages or telegrams no part at all. In such offices a staff of boys, and often men, is organized to perform any kind of light service for any person who wishes temporary aid. "MESSENGERS FURNISHED DAY OR NIGHT FOR ANY KIND OF SERVICE" reads a sign in front of a western office of one of the largest national

55246

messenger services in America. This is liberally interpreted in actual practice. Among the various duties of day messenger boys in the last six months in one state, of which I have personal knowledge are waiting on table, buying a woman's corsets in a department store, wheeling an invalid, taking care of a baby, assisting a woman at her toilet, carrying business reports to cities nearly one hundred miles distant, purchasing candy, flowers, cigars and liquor, staying in a house in the absence of its owner, folding circulars and sealing envelopes in an office, acting as door boy at a reception; acting as escort of a woman at night. The diverse nature of the messenger boy's work becomes apparent when this, by no means complete list, is studied.

Certain necessary characteristics of the messenger service will be realized when this brief list is studied. The necessity for inviolable secrecy regarding the messenger's work is apparent. The messenger boy must be relied upon to perform faithfully what he is told to do, and under no circumstances to discuss the nature of the work he has been called to perform. I have been assured by managers of these concerns that the boys are taught to keep the nature of their various errands secret even from the management itself. The testimony of the boys themselves bears out this statement, and it has been checked further by hearing the reports of the boys to their respective managers. The messenger must give a complete account of his whereabouts during his absence from the office in order that the manage-

ment may be assured that he was not idle, but the boy is instructed never to tell exactly what he has been doing, or for whom he has been working when out on an errand, according to the statement of messengers. The necessity for this secrecy is obvious. Important business secrets are often entrusted to these messenger boys, who, in the main, have proved faithful to the trust confided in them. They are often used to transfer large sums of money. They are often used to carry notes which arrange for secret conferences of important moment. Messengers will be entrusted with matters which their patrons dare not, for perfectly legitimate reasons, entrust to the telephone. The existence of a safe, accurate and reliable means of the execution of errands, which, while harmless in themselves, might be embarrassing if publicly revealed, has become almost a city necessity. The possibilities of a dishonest and illegal exploitation of this necessary secrecy are apparent to any keen observer and with this phase of the messenger we will deal later. What must be emphasized here is the fact that the messenger service in its best possible form offers to the public an absolutely confidential medium for the performance of all kinds of service which do not take a superior intelligence or strength to accomplish.

The discussion of the messenger service necessarily resolves itself into a discussion of the environment in which the messenger works; for the work is unique in this respect. That it is not the character of the office or of his employers which settles the educational value of the night messenger's work, but it is the character rather of the service to which his employer caters.

Logically then, a study of the messenger service as a training school for youth involves a study of the cities in which the messengers work. In such a study we are struck at the outset by the difference in the character of American cities by day and by night. If the average man who knows only the substantial business life of his city were to study the life of this same environment late at night, he could easily imagine himself in another and entirely different community, so different in character and manners are the citizens who are most active in the middle of the night. The reason for this is not hard to see. As day is given up to industry in most cities, so the forces of pleasure and recreation hold chief sway at night. The chief business at night are those which supply amusement and relaxation to the general public which must work by day. The earlier part of the evening namely up to ten or eleven o'clock is usually given over to the legitimate forms of amusement; theatres and other public entertainments, balls, receptions and similar social functions. But late at night the character of the amusements offered changes radically.

WHERE THE CALLS COME FROM.

Night messenger calls are for the most part to

- Group 1
- (a) business houses open at night,
 - (b) newspaper offices,
 - (c) hotels,
 - (d) private home calls,
 - (e) hospitals.

- Group 2
- (a) houses of prostitution,
 - (b) Raines law hotels,
 - (c) gambling houses,
 - (d) Chinese restaurants,
 - (e) police station houses.

Among the boys who are so unfortunate as to engage in work which keeps them on the street late at night, its influence is irresistible - often fatal. Newsboys, messenger boys, postal delivery boys in scores have confessed that the attraction of the night work has seized upon them in an impressionable boyhood and woven about them a net of mysterious allurements from which they never escape.

MESSENGERS ANXIOUS TO WORK LATE AT NIGHT.

The lure of the night shift is two-fold.

- 1st. The tips at night are large and numerous;
- 2nd. The glamour of the night life offers everything that youthful instinct craves.

POLICE REGULATION OF VICE IN ITS RELATION TO THE MESSENGER.

There are almost as many different methods in vogue in attempting to regulate night life in the tenderloin so-called, as there are different cities. These attempts proceed in four general lines.

- 1st. Refusing absolutely to countenance the existence of such districts by systematically raiding and prosecuting all those who attempt to make money through its existence;
- 2nd. By licensing and restriction of prostitution and liquor selling and all kindred vocations;
- 3rd. By a careful/ though unofficial police regulation;
- 4th. By a system of "protection" whereby the authorities levy a tribute from the purveyors of vice in consideration of police immunity.

In the cities where the authorities refuse absolutely the existence of prostitution, the messengers were always

found sufficiently informed of the places to guide the investigators to the covers under which the law is systematically violated.

In other cities where the authorities license and restrict to certain districts houses of prostitution, the messengers, when asked to show the investigators the sights of the city, invariably first turned to the segregated district, exhibiting an unusually intimate knowledge of the places and reciting incidents commonly notorious there.

Where there exists a complete subrosa understanding between the houses of prostitution and the police, the messengers admit freely as to the knowledge the police have concerning the traffic between these houses and the messengers, in spite of the statutes that make it a penal offense for minors to enter such resorts.

In cities where the regulation of prostitution is left entirely to the discretion of police officials, it is notorious that a tribute is levied in consideration of remaining unmolested in the violation of the law. In most instances messengers were found to be entirely familiar with this form of crime, which from their own statements bred in them an indifference for the law and a contempt for authority?

THE MESSENGER IN NEW YORK STATE.

The following salient features of the night messenger service were found to be uniform throughout the state:

1st. Inmates of houses of prostitution call for messengers for the purpose of

- (a) sending messengers to purchase lunches, and also to purchase liquors during legal and unlawful hours;
- (b) (b)sending messengers to purchase opium, cocaine, and other narcotics;
- (c) sending messengers with notes to patrons of houses of prostitution;
- (d) having intercourse with those, who, by reason of their physically diseased condition, are unable to attract other men;
- (e) inviting messengers to indulge in vicious sexual practices by depraved prostitutes and their patrons.

2nd. Messengers are called to Raines' law hotels for the purpose of

- (a) assisting prostitutes with their toilets;
- (b) having intercourse with prostitutes;
- (c) carrying notes to men making assignation;
- (d) purchasing opium, cocaine and other narcotics

3rd. Messengers are called to gambling houses for the purpose of

- (a) cashing checks;
- (b) purchasing liquors during legal and forbidden hours;
- (c) purchasing lunches for the habitués.

4th. Messengers are called to Chinese restaurants for the purpose of

(a) carrying lunches to

- i. houses of prostitution,
- ii. Raines Law Hotels,
- iii. gambling houses.

(b) carrying opium to the patrons of these restaurants;

5th. Messengers are called to police station houses for the purpose of

(a) carrying notes from arrested prostitutes to their pimps, asking for aid; thus bringing the messenger into intimate contact with men who live upon the earnings of this unfortunate class of women.

VICES MESSENGERS ARE BROUGHT IN CONTACT WITH IN PARTICULAR CITIES.

The cosmopolitan character of New York City makes it a centre of every form of vice which is prevalent in other parts of the state, but in other cities of the state, one particular form of vice is more accentuated than others.

In New York the messengers are used as agents for the purchase of cocaine, opium and other narcotics; for purchasing liquors during lawful and unlawful hours; they are called by patrons of their company to indulge in the practice of pederasti; it has been found that certain messengers were used for the purchasing of drugs which when so purchased were used to make insensible the patron

of a prostitute, thus giving her an opportunity to rob her customer and decamp. Messengers are frequently used to New York carry notes from the cells of prostitutes when they are arrested, to their pimps, informing them of their plight. They are used to satisfy the sexual desire of prostitutes who find it impossible to find other men willing to have commerce with their diseased bodies.

Albany In Albany, the prevalent evil with which messengers come in constant contact is, among others, all the forms of vice attendant upon visits to houses of prostitution, of which Albany has an unusually large proportion. Among these may be mentioned, invitations to cohabit with prostitutes; invitations to indulge in depraved sexual practices; calls to Chinese restaurants where prostitutes and pimps congregate. His visits there tend to familiarize the messenger with a scheme of life whereby an easy living is made upon the earnings of unfortunate women.

Utica is the city in which the messenger is quite frequently used as an agent in the cocaine traffic. It is here that a sub rosa understanding exists between a number of unscrupulous physicians, who, for 25¢, 50¢, or 75¢ sell to messengers a regular doctor's prescription known as a "D. P." On the strength of this the messenger is enabled to secure cocaine from the various drug stores in the city. The consumers of cocaine evidently know that

the uniform of the messenger is a guarantee for the secrecy necessary in this violation of the law. It is evident that the drug stores carrying on this traffic in cocaine are fully cognizant of the unprofessional use of these prescriptions, for upon two packages of cocaine obtained by the investigator through messengers, no druggist's label was attached to the package, although by law they are required to do so, adding the name of the physician upon whose prescription the drug was made up with directions for its use.

Utica is also known as a place of much sexual perversion. In this regard it has been found that many messengers were used in these debaucheries.

In Syracuse, the chief patron of the messenger service after ten o'clock at night is the house of prostitution. Commercial hotels furnish a great deal of the patronage in calls for messengers used by a great many travelling men for lewd purposes. It was found in this city that a good part of the patronage of houses of prostitution came from messengers of the city.

In addition to the usual run of evils with which messengers are familiarized, in Rochester, it appears, that a number of the messengers are addicted to the habit of gaming. They freely admitted to the investigators their gains and losses in their numerous games of chance, which range from matching pennies, to cards and craps.

Buffalo

The City of Buffalo may be classed with Syracuse as a place where the night messenger service after ten o'clock is mainly given up to calls to houses of prostitution for the purpose of buying lunches for prostitutes and their patrons, buying liquors, etc.

THE MESSENGER IN MASSACHUSETTS.

There are two dominating evils with which the night messenger must contend in this state. They are the problem of prostitution and the liquor traffic. Prostitution assumes the proportions of a problem only in the larger cities of Massachusetts. The liquor question is present even in the smaller communities. It is found that in Massachusetts there is a greater proportion of legitimate calls than elsewhere.

Boston

Hotels, houses of assignation, rooming houses which harbor prostitutes, Chinese and other all night restaurants, saloons and regular houses of prostitution form the bulk of the night calls. But the number of legitimate calls is large when compared with other large cities.

New Bedford

In New Bedford, aside from calls to houses of prostitution and disreputable hotels, the night service is used but sparingly. Messengers are known to be sent to different parts of the city for girls for the purpose of making assignations. They purchase lunches for prostitutes. Like in Boston, messengers are used for the purchase of drinks during lawful and unlawful hours.

In the City of Springfield, messengers are used quite frequently for the purpose of purchasing drinks after the

Spring-
field

closing hours for prostitutes and their patrons, commercial travellers, guests of the hotels, and others. Messengers are sent to houses of prostitution where they are known to have intercourse with the women.

Worcester

Worcester has the reputation of being the largest no-license town in the United States. Like Springfield, prostitution in Worcester is not organized, but is carried on largely by individuals in disreputable hotels, and the messengers, therefore, are used to a great extent as go-betweens in carrying notes from the prostitute to her paramour.

Lynn

In Lynn, it was found that messengers were used to answer calls to houses of prostitution mainly for the purpose of carrying notes from prostitutes to patrons.

In general, the messengers in Massachusetts are mostly employed to carry notes, telegrams and messages, to and from regular houses of prostitution, where they exist, and are frequently used as go-betweens among men and women seeking illicit intercourse. Like the cities of other states the calls to these places embrace a large variety of duty, all of which, messengers are expected to perform, both by their patrons and by their office managers, no matter what the nature of the work may be. It is also found that messengers are habitually used at night to break the liquor laws wherever possible; that immoral women in employing these boys not only make no attempt to conduct themselves in a proper and decorous manner,

which would give less offense to the little servitors, but many attempt to seduce the messengers themselves.

It is evident that some of the local managers of these messenger service companies are fully aware of the nature of the calls on which they deliberately send their boys.

THE MESSENGER IN CONNECTICUT.

The general situation in Connecticut as regards the night messenger service is similar as to that of the states of New York and Massachusetts. Messengers are used as go-betweens by men and women seeking illicit intercourse; they are invited to have intercourse with prostitutes; they purchase drinks during legal and unlawful hours, and in some of the cities of Connecticut messengers were found who gambled away their earnings.

In New Haven, it was found that messengers were used to carry notes to and from students seeking to make assignation with girls of the city. This, with calls to regular houses of prostitution, constitutes the bulk of the business of the night messenger in New Haven. Calls are also frequent to and from Chinese and other all night restaurants for the purpose of conveying refreshments to prostitutes and their patrons.

New
Haven

Hartford

In Hartford, the investigators found a number of messengers who were confirmed gamblers. Investigation discloses the fact that prostitutes call messengers to their rooms for the purpose of having intercourse with them and also for companionship.

Messengers have corroborated each other in the recital of stories concerning alleged misdoings in the local office of the messenger service in this city.

In Bridgeport, disreputable hotels, houses of prostitution, and private apartments harboring prostitutes find Bridgeport frequent occasion to utilize the night messenger service, especially for the purpose of purchasing liquors and refreshments.

THE MESSENGER IN RHODE ISLAND.

There is nothing peculiar in the situation in this state. Like others, messengers are used as a medium of communication between men and women seeking illicit intercourse. Calls are numerous from disreputable hotels, Providence saloons and rooming houses harboring prostitutes. As in other cities calls to houses of prostitution vary in number according to the extent of police surveillance. At the time of the investigation, houses were severely under the eyes of the authorities, and as a result calls were few from them.

THE MESSENGER IN VERMONT.

Vermont, like the other New England states uses the night messenger service for the purpose of performing indiscriminate light work for prostitutes and their patrons. There is nothing exceptional in the situation in Vermont.

THE MESSENGER IN PENNSYLVANIA.

In Pittsburgh, as in Syracuse (N. Y.) the houses of prostitution here count among their patrons a good number of messengers. Calls to houses of prostitution for the purpose of purchasing liquors, refreshments, as well as for the purpose of having intercourse with the prostitutes.

In Pittsburgh, messengers are not allowed to go upstairs

Pittsburgh further than the first floor of the house. It was found that most disorderly houses were situated on the ground floor, where the messengers are privileged to enter, and where they see the prostitute scantily clad, and the walls decorated with suggestive pictures. The messengers are especially loose in their morals in this city.

THE MESSENGER IN MARYLAND.

In Baltimore, there is a district reserved for prostitutes, where, unmolested they ply their trade. A number of messengers were asked by the investigators to act as guides to them about the city. Without suggestion from the investigators, they instinctively turned to the segregated Baltimore district, and showed a marked familiarity and knowledge of the district. Messengers in every case called out the number of the house and the name of the mistress of the house of prostitution long before we reached them. They also related many stories, later confirmed by the investigators, of happenings in the segregated district.

After nine o'clock at night, the messenger service is given over almost entirely to calls to houses of prostitution, for the purchase of liquors, refreshments, as well as conveying notes from prostitutes to their patrons. It is notorious that Baltimore's segregated district holds a number of prostitutes who are thieves. Whenever the police are called in to make arrests of prostitutes for such crimes as larceny, the messenger is used by the prisoner to call her friends to secure bail for her release. It has been found that some messengers are used for the purpose of finding bailors. The Chinese restaurants in Baltimore are no different from those in other cities. They cater to the prostitutes of the segregated district, and the messenger is used as the conveyor of the foods. There is a prohibition against minors entering houses of prostitution, but this law is openly violated, and no attempt is made to enforce the provisions of the law. Messengers were sent by the investigators to seek suppositious friends in the houses of the segregated district, and in every case they returned stating that they were inside the house, and related what they saw. Women sit about the windows of the houses, some dressed in short skirts, and others in long silk kimonos and no undergarments. They smoke cigarettes and it is in these houses that messengers are called. Baltimore is notorious as a place of much sexual perversion, together with gambling. It has been found that a number of messengers were used as parties in the commission of pederasti, and are addicted to the habit of gaming. The messengers of Baltimore are younger than the boys of other cities covered in this work.

THE MESSENGER IN VIRGINIA.

In Virginia the three predominating evils the messengers come into contact with are, calls to houses of prostitution, calls to gambling houses, and invitations to become parties to the debaucheries of sexual perverts. It

Richmond was found that messengers receive calls from houses of prostitution, rooming houses harboring prostitutes, and regular houses of assignation. They are frequently called to gambling houses where they furnish the habitues with lunches, cash
Norfolk their checks, carry notes generally, and besides purchasing liquors.

THE MESSENGER IN KENTUCKY.

The messenger service of Louisville was found to be one endless chain of demoralizing influences. Boys are not infrequently parties to the commission of sodomy and kindred acts of perversion. Cocaine was found to be much used here, not only among the messengers, but among the people quite generally, and the sale of it was found to be

Louisville open and notorious. Boys are called to houses of prostitution for the purpose of purchasing lunches for the inmates, and also for the purchase of liquors during lawful hours, and during hours by law proscribed.

In Lexington, gambling houses and houses of prostitution furnish the major part of the night messenger work. In fact there is little other demand for night messenger service. Both of the companies close shop about midnight.

THE MESSENGER IN OHIO.

It was found that most of the calls after nine o'clock at night in the cities of Columbus, Cleveland, Toledo, and Cincinnati, came from houses of prostitution, low class restaurants, saloons, theatrical boarding houses and questionable hotels.

Under the guidance of a messenger in Cleveland, the investigator was conducted through a district commonly known as "Coke Alley." The messenger guide explained that it was a colony of opium and cocaine fiends. From statements of the messengers of the cities of Ohio, it appears that the boys are parties to a great deal of the perversion common throughout this state.

THE MESSENGER AND HIS WAGES.

The compensation messengers receive for their services may be divided into three classes, namely,

- 1st. A regular monthly wage.
- 2nd. A guaranteed sum to be earned,
- 3rd. A percentage of the fees earned.

The first two are usually applied to the night messenger service, while the third is generally applied to day messengers.

Under the first subdivision, messengers earn in the larger cities from \$21. to \$25. per month, while in the small-cities, they usually earn between \$16. and \$18. monthly.

Under the second subdivision, messengers are usually guaranteed by the company to earn approximately \$18. monthly.

Under the third subdivision, messengers have been found to earn usually between 33 1/3% to 50% of the fee charged. In the latter system, the wages of some of the messengers rarely ever exceeded \$18. per month.

The tip is an important factor in the messenger's income. Indeed, in most cases where messengers work late at night, the tips received far exceed the wages they draw from the company. The tips of the night messenger are large and numerous, for he is not infrequently called upon to perform an act which is in violation of the law, such as purchasing drinks after closing hours, purchasing opium, cocaine and other forbidden narcotics; especially are the tips large in the case of prostitutes sending messengers to purchase what is commonly known as "red pills," -- a drug, which when administered makes the victim insensible, thus giving the woman an opportunity to rob her customer and decamp. In securing a box of "red pills," through a messenger, the investigator paid a premium for the service.

AGE OF MESSENGERS DIFFER IN DIFFERENT CITIES.

It was found that the messengers in the northern states were somewhat older than those of the states further south. Perhaps Maryland, Virginia and Kentucky employ the youngest boys. In two separate cases in Baltimore, Maryland, it was found that messengers started work at the age of nine years.

In New York City there are a number of very young boys in the night messenger service, but there are also some older boys in the service. In Albany, New York, some mere children were found in the service, while in Syracuse, New York they were much older. In Utica, a boy of fifteen years, then two years in the messenger service, secured for the investigator a box of cocaine from a drug store in that city. It is to the credit of Massachusetts, that much older boys are employed in the night messenger service than in other states.

INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITIES OF THE MESSENGER.

Unlike the day messenger, whose work brings him in contact with business men, the night messenger, for the most part moves only in the circles of the underworld. Thus is he barred from the many opportunities likely to fall across his way were he brought in contact with legitimate business interests. Promotion in the messenger service is slow, and there is no systematic attempt to instruct the messengers in any useful trade.

OFFICE MANAGERS OFTEN FAMILIAR WITH CONDITIONS.

There are some managers of local offices of the messenger service companies who are fully aware of the character of the calls coming into the office, and upon which they deliberately send out their boys. In a local office in Baltimore, Maryland, it was found to be the custom of the night manager to shout out the name of the house in the

segregated district desiring a messenger, the boys immediately scurrying to the place. It is unlikely that when the manager calls out "Bertha's", "Kitty's", or "Belmont's," etc., that he does not know the character of the source of the call, the office lying in the centre of the segregated district.

The local manager of a messenger service company in New York, when asked to give an investigator the direction to a disorderly house, called up on the telephone another manager, and from him secured a list of the houses of prostitution in the city.

DISTRICT OFFICES NOT INFREQUENTLY CENTRES OF VICE.

The calls at night do not require much use of the telegraph wires. This leaves the operator and night manager with much time on their hands. Some cases were found in a number of cities where prostitutes were invited to the office for the purpose of having intercourse with those in charge. When calls at night are few, the messengers in some places were found to indulge in games of craps, cards, matching pennies, smoking cigarettes, and relating loose stories and jokes.

MESSENGERS AS DISSEMINATORS OF VENEREAL DISEASES.

It is common, as we have shown above, that prostitutes desirous of satisfying their sexual passion, yet so diseased in body as to preclude their having intercourse with others, invite messengers, who, through ignorance and lack

of control, have intercourse with them, thus becoming infected with loathsome and infectious diseases. While thus infected he continues his loose life and is a source of infection of other prostitutes and women not to be classed as prostitutes. This creates a clientele for the quack doctor.

THE IMMUNITY OF THE MESSENGER'S UNIFORM.

The uniform of the messenger service to pass the boy otherwise he would not be admitted. Thus he may go un molested into houses of prostitution, houses of assignations, saloons, gambling houses, and through other forbidden doors.

THE RESPONSIBILITY.

Small messenger service companies are much to blame for the conditions existing in the night messenger service. The two national companies carry business on such an immense scale that it becomes almost impossible for the responsible officials to acquire personal information concerning these demoralizing circumstances. Smaller service companies, whose apparent policy is to rake in as much money as from their service, regardless of the nature of the work the little messengers perform for their patrons, have a greater opportunity to see the kind of work they are called upon to assist in. That they stand by in silence imputes to them a knowledge of conditions, which, with a little care could be easily avoided.

1
ABBREVIATED OUTLINE OF C. P. A. HISTORY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC.

C. P. A. has known the Peters family since 1918. For the past two years efforts have been made by F. S. C. thru summer camp, Neighborhood House and C. P. A. to give Mike living conditions approaching normal.

Nothing known of grandparents as David Peters, his wife, Delia Peters, and their son, John, born 3/9/07, came to America in 1909 from Syria. It was understood that the family had lived in Siberia for a while before coming to America. Alfred Peters, a son, born 11/20/06, did not come with his parents to this country. David Peters is a cook and has worked at the various hotels and restaurants in the city. At the Watterson Hotel he was paid \$75.00 a month in addition to his board. He is not employed in the kitchen at the Brown Hotel and earning about the same wage. He rarely remains at one place more than six months. Mrs. Peters died 9/25/19. Cause unknown. The family had been largely dependent upon Mrs. Peters' earnings as a peddler.

Brothers and sisters: Alfred was mentioned above. John, born 3/9/07, lives with his father at 005 W. Jefferson st. He is attending Manual Training High School, doing shop work in the Louisville Railway Co. shops as a part of the school work. He receives \$5.00 a week for the two weeks of each month allotted for this work. Mary, born 1/13/13 and ~~4/1/14~~ Sammie, born 5/22/14, are in the L. & J. C. C. Home, where they were placed after their mother's death. Sammie's ~~left~~ feet were both deformed but operations have remedied this defect.

The Peters' home now consists of two rooms on the second floor of 105 W. Jefferson St., a dark building occupied chiefly by Syrian families. George Baick, known as the "King of the Dope Peddlars", lives on the third floor of this house. His place has been raided several times by Police. This is the house which such notoriety last July when reporters for newspapers watched it and noted various drug addicts who went in and out. Regarding income, John and Mike averaged from \$4.00 to \$6.00 a week selling papers. John makes \$10.00 a month for his shop work. Mr. Peters is now earning about \$75.00 a month in addition to meals. He has just recently obtained this position. For several months he was not working. Abraham Peters, ~~his~~ a brother of David, has sometimes shared the home. He is not living there at present. He conducts a barber shop at 527 S. Third St.

Mr. Peters who is said to have been very cruel to his wife has whipped Mike with canes, ropes and straps when the boy has displeased him by failing to bring to him the expected amount of money derived from sale of papers. Frequently the boy did not return home because he had spent some of his money and feared a whipping or else he has run away to escape one. Sometimes he has remained away from home a week or more at a time. Mrs. Sand, a Syrian woman living at 431 S. 1st St., has taken the boy into her home on several occasions. He has also spent some nights at Neighborhood House. While spending the summer of 1923 in the home of Miss Peak, a worker at Neighborhood House, who lives at Vine Grove, Ky., Mike took a plain gold ring and a small watch.

Name John David Peters, born in Syria, March 9, 1907.
Address: With father and step-mother, 105 West
Jefferson Street

PERSONAL HISTORY

John came to children's Bureau, October 27, 1924, sent by his father. He had lost his job, and had been expelled from school. Reason give - 1. Father had kept him home to do work. 2. Training for amateur boxing match at Elks Club.

EDUCATIONAL

John has supported himself and kept himself in school. Is starting second year of Co-operative Course at Dupont Manual. Works two weeks at the L. & N. Shops and attends school two weeks. Is paid \$5.00 a week.

Plan

Mr. Walter Thomasson, supervisor of Co-operative Course, Mr. Zoll, Manager at L. & N. Shops and Mr. Bill Carson, foreman.

John has been given many chances and due consideration has been given his family, history and environment. Consensus of opinion is that he is losing interest in school and at work and is becoming to greatly interested in gambling, horse-racing and prize-fighting. He can do good work, but it fluctuates and is not steadily good.

Plan

1. John to be given last chance. One days' absence will cause his permanent loss of school and job.
2. Close co-operation of interested individuals, Teacher, Employer, Foreman, Mr. Hardy, Christ Church Cathedral, and Children's Bureau.
3. Physical examination with reference to possible drug habit.
4. Psychological examination, and followed up.

November 1, 1924 - Medical examination - City Hospital.

Medical examination not finished. John to return next Saturday.
Wasserman, Negative.

Undoubtedly he has special ability in mathematics. But the question of his possible success as a mathematics teacher must be studied before he is encouraged to be too ambitious in this direction.

John was given the Social Intelligence Test in order to get some insight into his social reactions. He received a score of only 42. The highest possible score is 160 and the median score for college freshmen is 98. The lowest median score given is for "lower grade industrial workers" and is 65. While John's low score is partly caused by his extreme slowness, examiner believes that he would have to decide quickly what to do in these social situations. The fact that he is slow about them would hinder him from adjusting in these same situations.

March 27, 1927

3

HOME VISIT

The home consists of four rooms, a front bed room, a living room, another bedroom and a kitchen. Apparently the family stay in the second bedroom and the kitchen which are heated by gas grate. Worker was received in this bed room; it was crowded and rather untidy in appearance. This might be attributed to the presence of a young child who was playing and scattering her playthings about.

Mrs. Peters was a rather attractive woman who is somewhat pale and lethargic in her actions. She was friendly toward worker and showed no hostility toward patient. When her husband was present she did not make any attempt to offer an opinion.

Mr. Peters came in during worker's visit. He also was very friendly in his attitude. He explained the difficulty as being caused by noise at home. The front bed room is entirely away from the part occupied by informant; it is furnished with a bed and desk; it is a large light room. However, there is no way at present of heating the room. This was John's room but he was unable to study there because of the cold. For this reason it was necessary for him to study in the bedroom where all the rest of the family were gathered. There was considerable noise, as informant realizes. Now that the weather is becoming warmer, John could use the front room without heat.

Mr. P. said that he felt badly at having patient away from home as he was always his favorite son and he wanted to give him a home. He said every day he has visited him. He has told John that he can come home whenever he wants to and will have to pay only \$2.00 a week for his room and board. He feels it is too extravagant for John to be living away from home and paying room and board when he could be living at home. He claims he is very proud of John and anxious for him to go on to college if he wishes to.

Informant has been out of work for two months. He had been working at the Labor Temple but was laid off when the change of control went into effect. He then got a job at the Brown Hotel, substituting for another man, when the man returned, informant was out of the job. Since then he has been unable to get anything but hopes to go to work tomorrow at the Merchant's Ice & Coal Co.

When the subject of an interview with Dr. O'Brien was brought up, he said he thought perhaps Dr. O'Brien had been unwise in advising John and not consulting him about the plans for patient. He felt that Dr. O'Brien had advised John to leave home without really looking into the conditions at the home. It was explained to the father that Dr. O'Brien was under the impression that Mr. P. was out of town. He was easily pacified about this and said that he would be glad to talk with Dr. O'Brien. He appreciated that Dr. O'Brien is interested in John and knew he would do anything for him. He said he would come to the Clinic if he is not working. If he does not get to come then, he will phone in the near future for an appointment.

IMPRESSION

Mr. Peters was undoubtedly anxious to make a good impression and it was evident that much he said of John was what he thought we would wish him to.

November 30 - December 5, 1928

The following should be taken up with John

~~1. Social adaptation needs, a. & b. Training in course~~
~~"Do"~~

1. Social adaptation needs, e.g., calling Miss Crounse "Dorothy."
2. Doing flagrant things as a means of convincing himself of the school progress made, pointing out the necessity of humility and great need for further general social experiences.
3. His emotional over compensation thru aggressiveness.

In future plans for him, Miss Ulvin's suggestion as to whether he should take up something special such as accountancy in view of his unusual mathematic ability if he is not able to do full college work, should be considered. However, there is a marked need of helping him adjust his personality more satisfactorily.

December 28, 1928

His over-compensatory tendency was also shown by his being destructively critical of people. This is the first time John has done this. He referred to Ray Baer as not being very bright and to another person as being dumb. He spoke critically of his teachers' approach, social manners, etc., This also was gone into as evidence of his getting satisfaction by criticising unfairly other people, pointing out that Ray Baer could not be very dull and have graduated from The University of Michigan, further because he was not wearing his abilities on his sleeve as John had in his mathematical interests, it did not mean he was not bright.

John appreciated this and was apparently affected emotionally by the interpretation but by no means resentful.

John resists working Saturdays. One excuse he gave was that he did not get out of school until 12:00 and secondly, that he must study as he had to go to Church on Sunday. However, we see no reason why he could not work on Saturday.

He claims he is averaging four hours a day studying which is really too much if he is applying himself properly unless the work is beyond his ability. He is finding French especially difficult and apparently biology.

Last evening he danced for the first time at Neighborhood House and after dancing about ten minutes his face was wet with perspiration. He collected the money at the door until about 10:30 when most every one had arrived and then he went in to dance.

He is playing basketball with Ray Baer and some other boys and they have won the first three games they played. John is also out for the freshman team but is not very hopeful of making it as there are so many bigger men than he who are out. Advised that height was by no means the only necessary requisite for basketball.

His over-compensation thru destructive criticisms and of demonstrating his own abilities to people must be watched closely as well as his lack of social background.

October 1929

5

He has been with the playground group and doing satisfactory work. Mr. Marvin has commented on his work on two or three occasions. He conducted an evening recreation program for adults during the spring and in the summer was on one of the playgrounds and did excellent work.

During this past year Mike has attempted to get married, a point which concerned John a great deal and he felt very happy when the plans did not go thru.

John has improved wonderfully from a personality angle. He is less shut-in, talks with greater ease and takes a more active interest in social and school activities. In general his progress is very satisfactory.

During the rest of the year the following should be considered:-

1. Encouraging him to study and get better grades.
2. To contribute more to the home if this is possible.
3. That he keep a well balanced attitude toward his father and brother, Mike.

December 18, 1929

John came to the Clinic by appointment.

This interview brought out the following - that John was seemingly taking the line of least resistance regardless of what it meant in terms of sacrifice to his personality - that by accepting this hospitality from Mr. Leo he was jeopardizing his own self-respect - that John should not have gone into that home on the invitation of the son alone but should have had a talk with the father. John has a room on the third floor to himself and the two Leo boys have the next room. John eats two meals a day at the Leo home.

It was pointed out to John that even if the home situation was difficult, it was still home and he had some responsibility toward it. This is especially true since his father has not been able to find work. John stated that his father wanted the room as he could get more money for it and he left the general impression that John was not wanted. Inasmuch as the change had been made this was not gone into further.

John saw the advisability of discussing the whole situation with Mr. Leo and said he would do so this evening

1. Give the boy's age, the nationality and education of his parents and his parents and his own educational background.

2. Did the unemployment of his parents lead him to leave school? *NO*

3. Has he been employed? *yes*

a. State whether he has ever found work through any public or private employment agency. *NO*

b. Regular work. *NO*

c. Part-time or odd jobs. *{ Instructing Games, Tutoring, office work
Soliciting subscriptions, Refereeing Box Ball Games.*

d. What does he do with his wages? *Pays his way thru school*

e. What is his attitude toward the job? *Favorable*

4. If working, did he secure the kind of work on which he had planned? *NO.*

5. If unemployed, where and how does he spend his time? *IN school studying*

a. Does he look for work? Where and how? *YES, In ads, thru friends, and acquaintances of the city.*

b. What does he do for recreation? *Plays Ball Games, swims, visits movies*

c. Has he become accustomed to loafing? *No.*

d. Does he spend time at home, the settlement, pool room, street corner, speak-easy, library or school? *at Home, Library & school.*

6. If of the older age group, did the depression keep him from getting married?

7. If married, how has his marriage been affected by the depression?

8. What does he think of the world in which he finds himself?

"Life is what I make it" is his philosophy

9. Have you noticed any change in his attitude toward recreation, work, crime, sex, toward society? *NO*

10. Is there any change in his health, efficiency, self-confidence? *NO*

Whenever possible get the boy to write or dictate his own story or use his own words in retelling the story.

J Peters

The Elson Historical Society

55716

Goodwill Industry -

Newsday for → \$18.75



Mayor Harrison - Inducted

Allowed city to pay
for changes several
cooper

What arrangements with
At need of help - *

The being agreement

Community

Mayor \$1,000

Seely \$25,000

Which date am

Registration at Justice

Registration

Prosser {Master
no day for aid -

Volunteers of America

The Filson Historical Society