

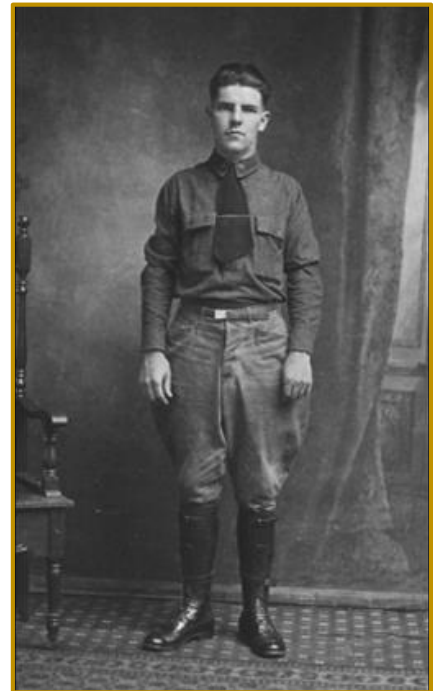
The Greatest Jewel Thief Ever

Arthur T. Barry – born in 1896 in Worcester, Massachusetts – was a master jewel thief and “second-story man” of the 1920s.

He was the subject of a March 12, 1956, *Life* magazine article and 1961 book by Neil Hickey, *The Gentleman Was a Thief*. He ingratiated himself into New York society by befriending Prince Edward, Harry Houdini and Jimmy Hines of the Monongahela Democratic Club.

Barry was instrumental in causing the Auburn (NY) Prison riot of July 1929, during which he escaped. He remained at large for three years, and was recaptured in New Jersey.

Barry was considered the greatest jewel thief of all time. He committed more than 150 robberies, stealing millions of dollars' worth of jewelry. Interestingly, he only robbed people of high society. He wore a tuxedo while committing his crime and was said to be so charming that on several occasions, when caught in the act of robbery, he talked his victims out of immediately reporting the crime.



Finally, the law caught up with Barry, and he spent 17 years in prison. After his release in 1949, he worked as a waiter at a restaurant on the East Coast, making \$50 a week. From then on, he lived an exemplary life and was a kind and gentle man, respected by family and friends alike. As evidence, he was elected to be commander of a local veterans' organization in Worcester.

A news reporter subsequently tracked him down and asked him about his life of crime. Here is how Barry summed up his life:

“I’m not very good at drawing morals, but when I was young I had intelligence, charm, the ability to get along with people and guts. I could have made something out of my life, but I didn’t. So when you write the story of my life and tell people about all these robberies, don’t leave out the big one. You can tell them that Arthur Barry robbed Jessie Livermore, the Wall Street baron. And you can tell them that he robbed the cousin of the King of England. But don’t forget to tell them that, most of all, Arthur Barry robbed Arthur Barry.”

That was the most important person Arthur Barry robbed ... himself.

(more)

So here is a question for you and for me. Could we come to the end of our lives and conclude that we have robbed ourselves of the opportunity to make our lives count? Is there a way to know that our lives really do matter?

I'm convinced that the people who work in Life Care and Century Park settled those questions when they chose a life surrendered to serving God by loving and caring for others. We may not garner headlines in the newspaper for what we do, but as followers of Christ we gain an inheritance worth far more than any jewel thief could ever count.

– Beecher Hunter

