

Thug Insists His Record Be Read in Whisper; Then Pleads Guilty, Gets 15 Years to Life

Although his criminal past is known to the police across the country, Pat Moriarty, 46 years old, is very sensitive about being publicly proclaimed the most expert safe burglar in America.

He demonstrated this yesterday in Judge Jonah J. Goldstein's part of General Sessions when he stipulated that, unless his police record of seventeen arrests in the last thirty years, including four felony convictions, was recited by the court clerk merely in a whisper he would not plead guilty as a fourth offender to carrying burglar's tools.

This stipulation was conveyed in a whisper to Judge Goldstein on the bench, and the court, also in a whisper, agreed to it. Then the court clerk accepted Moriarty's guilty plea in a whisper and Moriarty whispered "Yes" in separate admissions that he received a prison term for a burglary in Mississippi in 1919, another term as a burglar in Tennessee in 1921 and a term as a hold-up man in Massachusetts in 1928.

The clerk trooped back and forth between Moriarty and the court to whisper each answer, and when the last had been made Judge Goldstein leaned over the bench and whispered to Moriarty, "I sentence you to fifteen years to life imprisonment."

"Thanks," whispered Pat, in appreciation of something.

The burglar's tools which Moriarty had admitted possessing comprised twenty-one sticks of dynamite, with their caps and fuses, and a number of drills, files, saws and other instruments used in safe burglaries. Detective Thomas Sullivan of the Safe and Loft Squad on Oct. 21, 1939, after trailing Moriarty for two weeks, saw him place the dynamite and other articles, which were in two valises, in one of the public lockers in the subway station at West Broadway and Chambers Street.

The detective suspected Moriarty was preparing for a "job" and was not surprised at what he uncovered in the valises.