

# Collins Gets Year, Day On Money Count

Garbristo "Bris" Collins, 46, former tavern operator, yesterday pleaded guilty to a three-year-old charge of possessing counterfeit money, and received the minimum sentence, a year and a day.

Collins was scheduled to go to trial a third time on July 12 on charges of possessing and selling bogus money.

Two juries failed to agree after hearing the government case against Collins in September, 1951, and November, 1953.

Collins entered his plea before Federal Judge J. Leroy Adair. A request for a stay of sentence until Sept. 1 was granted.

## Attorney's Statement

His attorney, George F. Callaghan of Chicago, then told the court that it was their (his and the defendant's) understanding that in consideration of the guilty plea three remaining counts of the four-count indictment would be dismissed by the government.

Assistant U. S. Attorney John M. Daugherty agreed that was the plan, and moved for dismissal. It was granted.

Collins' plea concerned the alleged possession of \$900 in counterfeit bills. A second count charged him with selling them to Benjamin C. Kelley, East St. Louis man who served a term for the same transaction.

The other two counts charged Collins with possessing and selling \$13,700 in counterfeit money to Lavelle "Jack" King, former Peorian. King pleaded guilty in Omaha and served time after he was arrested with phoney money in his possession.

## Principal Witnesses

King and Kelley were the two principal government witnesses against Collins at both trials.

In passing the minimum sentence, Judge Adair said he was taking into consideration the fact that Collins was saving the government the expense of a third trial, and expressed doubt that prosecutors could have gotten a conviction.

"The government had to prosecute on the testimony of two confirmed criminals. I heard them and I can find no fault with the juries. I sincerely doubt that if I had heard the case without a jury that I would have found him guilty."

Collins was sentenced to two years in Leavenworth in 1931 for violating the federal narcotics act, but was paroled in May, 1932.

In 1944, Collins was sentenced to serve four months in the workhouse at Quincy for violating the internal revenue act, but that sentence was set aside and a fine of \$400 imposed.