

Transcript of edited excerpts.

OTWAY, LORCAN

“Lorcan Otway, L-O-R-C-A-N O-T-W-A-Y, and we're sitting in the auditorium at Theatre 80, which used to be the Speakeasy Scheib's Place, back during prohibition.

Scheib believed there to be \$12 million dollars in two safes in the basement that were the property of his boss, who was the real owner of the speakeasy back during Prohibition. Scheib was the front man for a Bavarian gangster by the name of Frank Hoffman....

My father and I began to build Theatre 80... In the process, Dad comes across the two safes, and he calls up Walter Scheib and says, “I’m too curious to leave these safes closed, but I’m too cautious to open them without you,” which probably saved all of our lives.

Scheib showed up with a safecracker and, in the middle of the night, we spent hours opening the first safe. It was, as I say in the book I’m writing, a complete Geraldo Rivera moment—it was absolutely empty. Scheib presumed that Hoffman had been back and emptied the safes, and he was half right.

Just to make sure, he told us to turn the other safe over on its side, and he had the safecracker peel the bottom, where you cold chisel the thin underside of the safe, peel it back, and you chop through the concrete inner lining. As soon as we got into the inner safe, the smell knocked us all back. It was this horrific smell. Scheib reaches in, and he pulls out a blackened mildewed packet of newspaper, rips it open. It’s hundred dollar gold certificates. He finds \$2 million. Didn’t give us a dime of it; used it to build the Promenade Hotel in Miami Beach.”

(Otway p. 1-3)