

La Grande Evening Observer

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOLUME XXV

SECTION TWO

LA GRANDE, OREGON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1921

NUMBER 44

ALLEGED SLAYER PLEADING THAT HE WAS INSANE

Arthur C. Burch, Said to
Have Slain J. Belton
Kennedy in Love Tangle,
Will Not Take Stand.

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 26. — Arthur C. Burch, on trial for the alleged murder of J. Belton Kennedy, spent Thanksgiving Day in jail without the usual Thanksgiving Day feast but with plenty of time on his hands to reflect on the chances of being freed by the 12 men and women who will decide his fate.

He is not expected to take the stand in his own defense because his lawyers allege that he has been insane for the past three years. Burch will either be found insane and placed in an asylum for safekeeping, hang, spend his life in San Quentin penitentiary or possibly be given his freedom.

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 26.—Insanity is the defense offered by counsel for Arthur C. Burch, indicted jointly with Mrs. Madalynne Obenchain for the alleged murder of J. Belton Kennedy.

When counsel secured a continuance of Burch's trial to November 22 in order to prepare this defense, they made the additional statement, in affidavit form, that they did not believe Burch killed Kennedy, which the prosecution contends he did at the instigation of Mrs. Obenchain.

Kennedy was shot to death on the night of August 5 last while standing in front of a cottage owned by him at Beverly Glen, a residential suburb. She told the police that "two foreign looking men" jumped from the shrubbery and one of them fired two shots from a shotgun, one of which struck her companion in the back of the neck. Then they disappeared.

Woman Wounded.
District Attorney Thos. Lee Woolwine's investigators reported that Mrs. Obenchain, who had divorced her husband, Ralph R. Obenchain, of Chicago, had besought Kennedy to marry her, and failing to do so had wired Burch to come to Los Angeles from Chicago. Burch did so, and left Los Angeles for the east the morning after Kennedy was shot. He was arrested at Las Vegas, Nev., and was brought back to this city.

Later it was announced by the investigators there was evidence Burch had been out on the night of the slaying on an unexplained mission, and had carried a long object wrapped in newspapers from the hotel where he was registered. His rooms in this hotel overlooked the office of Kennedy on the opposite side of Broadway, Los Angeles' principal business street.

Visited Burch.
Another discovery claimed was that Mrs. Obenchain had visited Burch at his hotel and that they were out driving together shortly before the shooting.

Mrs. Obenchain, held first as a material witness, was indicted less than a week after her arrest, Burch being named in the same indictment. Both pleaded not guilty and the trial was set for November 1. Mrs. Obenchain's divorced husband came to her assistance and was admitted to the Los Angeles bar as her attorney. Burch's father, the Rev. W. A. Burch, of Evanston, Illinois, also came to Los Angeles and secured attorneys Paul W. Schenck and Richard J. Kittelle, of

Los Angeles, to defend the young man. Schenck and Kittelle also represented Mrs. Obenchain for a time, then announced that they had withdrawn from her case. Charles Erbstein, a Chicago lawyer, was their successor.

A battle for separate trials was started by the dependants, terminating when District Attorney Woolwine consented to the severance. Meanwhile a new angle was afforded by the publication of an alleged statement by Burch to a newspaper man that he shot Kennedy. This statement was submitted to the district attorney who laid it before the grand jury. Burch flatly denied he had made any such statement.

On November 1 Burch's attorneys sprung their first surprise by demanding a trial to test his sanity before the murder trial was proceeded with. This resulted in a six-day delay to argue the application, and Mrs. Obenchain's counsel protested against her case going over, demanding immediate trial. The district attorney declined to proceed and was upheld by trial judge Sidney N. Reeve. At the end of the six days the judge refused to grant a sanity trial but continued the murder trial to the 22nd to give the defense time to take depositions in Chicago, which, it was claimed, would tend to show changes in Burch's mental condition. It was on this occasion that the attorneys announced an insanity defense would be offered.

Mrs. Obenchain's attorneys demanded a dismissal of the indictment against her on the ground that trial had not been started within sixty days as provided by the California statutes. Judge Reeve refused the dismissal, holding the defense had consented to such continuances as had been granted, and set this case for the 22nd with the understanding it would follow the Burch trial. An appeal from this ruling was taken to the District Court of Appeals which was asked to order a dismissal of the indictment or an immediate trial.

FRANCE WANTS A NEW FUEL

PARIS, Nov. 26. — A "national fuel" for automobiles and internal combustion engines, that will make France less dependent upon other countries for gasoline, is being sought by government and private laboratories. Many tests with denatured alcohol and benzol added in small quantities to gasoline have given good results.

A week of competition with various formulae will be held at Beziers in February, 1922. Private interests have contributed 400,000 francs to the fund for these tests. Another fund of a like amount has been made available by parliament for laboratory and road tests under the supervision of a preliminary commission.

Alcohol is available in France from sugar beets principally but it is planned to develop other sources of supply.

So far it has not been found that there is any great economy in using alcohol but it is believed that, with increased use, the alcohol industry might produce at lower prices. The principal advantage sought in the national fuel, however, is independence of foreign oil supplies. During the war there were at times dangerous shortages of fuel for airplanes and automobiles.

One of the problems to be solved is the effect of any new mixture on engines and their lubrication. Another difficulty is the necessity of some redesigning in motor construction to get easy starting and the greatest efficiency.

SPRING REIGNS IN ARGENTINE

Fashions Just Two Seasons
Ahead of Those Found in
New York Say Society
Women.

BUENOS AIRES, Nov. 26.—While New York's Fifth avenue shops are displaying the latest modes in furs and new creations in winter hats and while Miss New Yorks cheeks tingle in the chill autumn winds, the shops in the Calle Florida of Buenos Aires are showing the latest confections in the millinery of spring, and the smartest designs in summer gowns and Miss Argentina's cheeks are rosy with the warmth of spring sunshine.

Calle Florida, like Fifth avenue, has its daily morning shopping parade of fashionably dressed women and in these first days of the southern spring when winter's raiment is being replaced both by nature and by humans, it is an especially lively one.

Miss Argentina arrives in the shopping district in luxurious automobile and like her northern sister, proceeds afoot to "window-shop" from store to store, the chauffeur following his mistress as she progresses.

There are half a dozen large department stores on the Florida and numberless specialty shops, and in them she finds anything a feminine heart could desire in any city of the world, costly gowns, hats, lingerie and dainty footwear from Paris practical household implements from the United States and jewelry, furniture and art objects from the four corners of the globe.

The fashions, so American women residents of Buenos Aires declare, are just two seasons ahead of New York. American women arriving in Buenos Aires in the spring, they say, can buy hats, gowns and shoes which they will find on returning six months later to the New York spring are "just coming in."

"Buenos Aires from the beginning has kept about three inches ahead of New York in shortening skirts," says the wife of an American business man who makes frequent trips with her husband between the two cities. "The first time I came down here three years ago, I was quite shocked

ed at the shortness of the skirts the Argentine women were wearing. But when I got back to New York a few months later I found American women had also shortened theirs.

"They have been wearing almost knee high skirts in Buenos Aires for more than a year, but it was only on my last trip home this summer that I saw them as short in New York as here. Argentine women refuse to be behind anybody in dress and I think the Parisian style dictators, recognizing the opposition of the seasons, give them a six months' advantage."

CO-EDS USED FOR EXPERIMENTS

NEW YORK, Nov. 26.—Thirteen exceptional Barnard College students have been selected for an educational experiment which aims to make of them scholars and specialists in their chosen subjects. Instead of having them kept at work on the prescribed courses with their 700 less brilliant sisters.

Dean Virginia G. Gildersleeve, who recently returned after making a study of European university methods, announced the new course of the English universities. Too much time has been spent in the past on poor students and not enough on good ones, she said.

"This plan," she explained, "is an effort to avoid some of the faults characteristic of our American college system; for example, that of forcing a student to spend a great deal of her time in class rooms listening to lectures and running to and fro from various college engagements."

"It also attempts to counteract the tendency to think of scholarship in terms of courses, grades and points rather than subjects or fields of knowledge and that unfortunate American tendency to split up one's knowledge into half yearly fragments which are forgotten quickly after the midyear and final examinations."

J. T. Burke of Seaside is the owner of a relic of old-time shipping days on the Pacific coast. It is a ship's bell that was found recently on the ocean beach off Tillamook and bears the inscription "Ville de Lyon, 1847."

POET LAUREATE VERY POPULAR

Krendin's Favorite Poet
Much More Popular Than
Robert Bridges.

MOSCOW, Nov. 26.—Dmitri Bedni, the poet laureate of the Kremlin, is far more of a popular favorite than Robert Bridges, the British poet laureate.

Bedni is his family name and Bedni means "The Poor." But he is far from being poor in the generally accepted sense. He has a good apartment at the Kremlin, travels on special cars and enjoys great distinction.

He was well known as a poet before the revolution but rides Pegasus so skillfully under orders and is so successful as a writer of propaganda verse and so good an orator that he has been very useful to Trotsky and other leaders. He frequently travels about with prominent Bolshevik chieftains and has found much favor with the Red army, to which he reads his political verses.

Bedni is a robust, typical Russian of 40, who has great physical strength and personality and is not compelled to rely on eccentricities of dress or manner to attract attention. The revolution brought out a large crop of new poets and near-poets, who cast aside all the traditions of old Russian verse-makers and announced that art would throw off its shackles. They immediately scrap-

ped Pushkin and the other old favorites of the Russian public. They went in for vers libre. But the public failed to follow.

The imagist poets have their own cafe. They call it "The Stall of Pegasus." Long-haired bards with low-necked shirts and soulful eyes read their poetry there. But foreigners who don't understand Russian make up a majority of the audiences. Cherebnevitch and Yessyn are probably the best-known of this group. There is also a group of proletarian poets headed by Alexander Gorky.

But on the whole rhymeless, rhythmless poetry hasn't been a great success and the average man insists upon having rhymes. He may be a Communist or a Bolshevik in politics but in literature he clings to old writers and in art to old painters.

Vereschagin and Repin still hold their own in the art galleries in spite of struggling artists who have tried to convince the public that it must abandon everything old in order to live up fully to the new freedom.

Gorky and Chekhov have not been driven from the theater by the flood of propaganda plays which have offered. The failure of the new regime to produce any especially notable novels, poems, opera or plays is attributed by the Bolshevik leaders to sabotage on the part of workers in various artistic lines.

Garden Rotation Needed.
A three to five year rotation for garden and truck crops is advisable from the standpoint of pest and disease control, finds the department of botany and plant pathology. Potatoes particularly should be put on different ground each year or some of the most destructive potato disease will be present to attack the new crop. Lack of rotation has probably caused a greater decrease in garden yields than any other single thing.

—O. A. C. Experiment station.

Some superstitious wives, when their husbands go forth to play poker on their night out, stick a pin in the lapel of their coats to bring them luck. A split of the winnings, if the pin helps, is the reward.

The Columbia Grafanola

E-2 at

\$85

Formerly \$125.00

IS THE BIGGEST
AND BEST BUY
ON THE MARKET
TODAY.

Sold On Easy Terms

The Columbia Records for December
Now On Sale

W. H. BOHNENKAMP CO.

ELK'S DANCE

Tuesday
Nov. 29

A good time assured all BRO. "BILL'S" by
the "New" Social Committee.

Eats 'n everything—Don't forget the date

It's Second Nature With Us!

To Make Clothes That Satisfy

Hand Tailored
For You

Ask any man whose
clothes are gracefully
becoming.

You'll favor us—and
yourself by investi-
gating our values.

The Wardrobe

WOOD W. BERRY

—Dry Cleaning a Specialty—

Every Boy Wants It

If you could realize how much that boy of yours, or that young relative or friend in whom you are interested, craves the healthy, well balanced reading matter he will get in THE AMERICAN BOY, never for a minute would you deny him this pleasure. For a Christmas present, or birthday gift, a subscription to THE AMERICAN BOY is unexcelled. It lasts the whole year through—and its influence is of the best.

THE AMERICAN BOY
"The Boy of All the World"

In the next twelve numbers there will be serials by such famous authors as Melville, Davidson Post, Ralph D. Paine, William Heyliger and Clarence B. Kelland, the short stories are by authors of equal note, and the big departments which are edited by experts, are devoted to every legitimate interest of boyhood.

Price Reduced

THE AMERICAN BOY is now only \$2.00 a year. Make some boy happy—fill out the coupon and mail it TODAY!

Mail this Coupon to the publication in which
this offer appears.

For \$2.00 enclosed send a Year's Subscription to THE AMERICAN BOY, beginning with the _____ Number to

Name _____

Address _____

Thor Thor Thor

A servant in
your house



Electric
Washer

Just received a new shipment of Thor Washers—Just the Xmas present for the housewife. Get her away from drudgery. Come in and let us tell you about our easy payment plan.

Also a Westinghouse Electric Range would be a welcome and a suitable gift.

Eastern Oregon Light & Power
Company