

The Statesman's staff of correspondents throughout this section of the Willamette valley are working faithfully to serve you.

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe" From the First Statesman, March 28, 1851.

Salem, Oregon, Wednesday Morning, January 2, 1929

WEATHER Rain today. No change in temperature; 8 on the r. y. winds. Max. temperature Tuesday 50; Min. 27; Rain-fall .27; River 11.4; Wind south.

SEVENTY-EIGHTH YEAR

PRICE FIVE CENTS

THREE GIRLS DIE IN FIRE

Women Students Of Normal School Killed by Flames

Six Others Escape Death Only by Leaping to Safety From Second Story of Rooming House; Independence Trucks Rush to Help of Local Department in Fighting Blaze Started by Illumination on Christmas Tree

MONMOUTH, Ore., Jan. 1.—(Special)—Three women students of the Oregon Normal school, Evelyn Ohman of Portland, Florence Graham of Newport and Margaret Hemmers of Gresham, were trapped and burned to death here tonight in a blaze which destroyed the student boarding house owned by Mrs. Minnie Mack on Jackson street.

Two of the girls, Miss Ohman and Miss Graham, were burned to death in their beds at the rear of the second floor. Miss Hemmers apparently attempted to escape but was suffocated.

Six others escaped by jumping down over a blazing stairway from the second floor; Gladys McCumey, Wilma Baker, Benah Thomas, Alice Wallace, Irene Stevens and Lillian Ribbeck.

It was feared at first that other students might have been caught and burned to death, as no one knew how many of the tenants had returned today to resume their studies; but a thorough search of the ruins late tonight revealed only the three bodies.

Christmas Tree Candle to Blame The fire spread from a lighted candle on a Christmas tree. It ignited the tree, which had been in the house for two weeks and was dry; Mrs. Mack, alone in the room, attempted to drag the tree outdoors and was badly burned in doing so. From the tree the fire caught in the room, quickly spreading and in an almost incredibly short time the entire house, old and dry as tinder, was a mass of flames.

Dr. F. B. Bowersox, a near neighbor, turned in an alarm and Professor H. C. Stansbough of the normal school, who saw the fire first, sent one on about the same time, after running several blocks to a telephone. Calls for help to nearby towns were delayed by the demoralized condition of telephone service following the count down storm. The Independence firemen, who were called to the scene of local volunteers, but the boarding house was doomed from the first, and the firemen had a hard fight to prevent spread of the fire to adjoining buildings.

One of Victims Seen at Window C. C. White, one of the first men to arrive on the scene, saw a girl standing in one of the second story windows; he called to her to jump, then saw her fall back, apparently overcome by the smoke. This was believed to have been Miss Hemmers.

Why it was that the girls did not become aware of the fire is time to escape could not be learned tonight definitely, but the rooming house was large and had been built years ago; it had no fire escape. The three who were burned were in the back part of the house, far from the stairway. The six girls who escaped were all on the verge of hysteria last night, and their house mother forbade their being questioned.

The building was a total loss, together with the belongings of all of its tenants.

King's Condition Is Mending Again LONDON, Jan. 1 (AP)—A note of hopefulness sounded by Queen Mary in a New Year's message which she sent to the lord mayor of London today received confirmation tonight.

Rabbi Herman Beck Quits As National Chaplain of Veterans' Organization POTTSVILLE, Pa., Jan. 1.—(AP)—The Pottsville "morning paper" will tomorrow carry an announcement by Rabbi Herman Beck of the local Ohb Zedek reformed congregation that he has tendered his resignation as national chaplain of the American Legion to vice national commander Edward S. White.

Rabbi Beck, who was elected national chaplain of the American Legion convention in San Antonio last September, said he had asked White to place his resignation before September, said he had asked White to place his resignation before the executive committee of the Legion when it meets in Indianapolis on Jan. 14.

"When commander White happened to be in Pottsville last Sunday," the Rabbi's announcement reads, "he visited me at my home and I took advantage of the opportunity to present my resignation to him.

"Without seeking any office I have successfully been post chaplain, state chaplain and national chaplain of the American Legion. This work makes many heavy demands upon me and my health has for some time not been of the best. Though my congregation has generously granted me many privileges in connection with the position I feel that this is an opportunity to relieve myself of some of these arduous duties.

"I have been assured that my successor will be another Jewish Rabbi and therefore the recognition given by the American Legion to the many valiant soldiers of Hebrew faith who fought in the world war will not be lessened by my resignation. I appreciate the honor of my election and regret that my health will not permit me to give the fullness of attention which the office carries with it.

Rabbi Beck came to this country from Russia as a child and studied for a time at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan seminary in New York.

Lost in Grand Canyon



No word having been received from them for more than a month, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hyde, who set out on a voyage down the treacherous Colorado river in a scow, are believed lost in the Grand Canyon, where they may have perished. Their boat has been located by an army airplane but no trace has been found of the missing couple other than a man's footprint. Photo shows Mrs. Hyde, left, and Hyde.

MRS. NORTHCOTT RECOUNTS MURDER OPEN HOUSE EVENT SAID LARGEST EVER

Confessed Slayer Tells Details of Gruesome Crime; Shields Youth Ducks Win Hoop Game From Indian School Quintet; Program Held

SAN QUENTIN PRISON, Cal., Jan. 1.—(AP)—Shielding her son to the last and picturing his accuser, Sanford Clark, as a "dirty rat who ought to get it," Mrs. Sarah Louise Northcott entered San Quentin prison today under a heavy guard to recount the murder of young Walter Collins.

Less than an hour after she had been registered and assigned a cell, she was an appreciative spectator at the New Year's vaudeville show in the women's quarters and welcoming the result of the prison, apparently her unexpected confession yesterday.

Then as convict No. 46906, the grey-haired, 61-year-old muddress, entered upon the prison routine which is to be hers for the balance of her life.

Mrs. Northcott reiterated her belief that the boy she confessed to killing was not young Collins. "He was older," she said, "and he told me he was a New York bootblack. But, whoever he was, I killed him."

Then she calmly recited the details of the killing. The boy, she said, had come to the Wineville farm and asked for lodging. The next day he was to be driven to San Bernardino under her son but the automobile was disabled and they didn't leave.

"That night I went to the woodshed where the boy was sleeping, and I found him unconscious and bleeding," she related. "I knew he was dying so I picked up an axe and cut him out of his misery."

Gordon, she declared, had nothing to do with the murder. "He was in the house fixing the radio all the time," she asserted. She refused to discuss her husband or talk about a statement she is said to have made in Riverside that Gordon Stewart Northcott is an illegitimate son of an unnamed British lord.

FOX BREEDERS TO MEET HERE FRIDAY The Oregon State Fox Breeders association will hold its midwinter meeting at the Salem chamber of commerce rooms Friday, with the sessions opening at 10 a. m.

The association will not hold a pet show at this meeting, but the officers have asked members who have pets to exhibit to bring them for the benefit to be derived from exchange of ideas concerning pets.

The program, which will be followed by a business meeting, includes: Mrs. A. J. Bier, "Aftermath of the Show," W. S. Pemberton, "Feeding Foxes to Hold Color in Fur," W. L. Churchill, "Mating of Foxes," F. W. Newman, "Pelting of a Fox," C. H. Larson, "Sale of Breeding Stock vs. Pelts," Eugene Finlay, "Laying Out a Fox Ranch," C. M. Anderson, "Proper Location for Fox Ranch," Roy Newport, "Findings on Inspection Tour," Dr. O. A. Welsh, "Reporting on the Show."

Scientist Head Refutes Barnes NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—(AP)—Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American association for the Advancement of Science, tonight characterized as an "unwarranted intrusion" of the scientific meeting the paper suggesting a revision of the concept of God which was read before a sectional meeting last Saturday by Dr. Harry E. Barnes of Smith college.

Sport Briefs WALLA WALLA, Jan. 1.—(AP)—The Walla Walla college Bobcats defeated Whitman college, 45 to 42, in a spectacular basketball game here tonight.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 1.—(AP)—Babe Morrison, who started at forward on the Portland hockey team this season, was sold to the Seattle Eskimos of the Pacific Coast hockey league today. The announcement was made by Bobby Rowe, manager of the Portland team.

Rowe said the Portland club would receive \$1,000 for Morrison, who came to Portland from Detroit at the start of the season.

Governor Won't Probe Lynching JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 1.—(AP)—Unless the courts take a hand, the curtain has been rung down on the crimes of murder, abduction and lynching that have rocked north Mississippi since Thursday. Arriving here tonight, Governor Theodore G. Bilbo announced that no investigation of the burning at the stake of Charles Shepherd, convict slayer and abductor, would be made at his instigation. "I have neither the time nor the money to investigate two thousand people," he said.

BOTH PARENTS DRAW ENMITY OF NORTHCOTT GIRL'S SLAYER SOUGHT AFTER CORPSE FOUND

Kidnaping and Murder of 12 Year Old Rivals Edward Hickman Crime

All Night Search Results in Discovery of Body Near Edge of City

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 1.—(AP)—An all night search for 12 year old Hunt Nelson was turned into a hunt for her slayer when her body was found today in a shallow water course in the edge of this city. A physician's examination revealed that she had been brutally attacked and choked.

Northcott was to go to trial at Riverside tomorrow for the alleged slaying of three of the boys. He said tonight, according to Captain Bright that he will plead guilty in court there tomorrow. Bright refused to receive a confession without the presence of his attorneys and they, headed by Herbert Savay, were immediately summoned.

The alleged "murder farm" owner told reporters this afternoon that he expected to hang and that he would take several others to death with him.

Northcott, today alternately raved at his mother and pledged himself to vindicate her by taking his father to the gallows with him, as he awaited here the beginning of his trial in Riverside, Cal., tomorrow.

"When I hang—sure they'll hang me. I'm going to take the old guy that claims to be my father with me," the 22-year old Wineville chicken rancher said. "I want to see him swinging at the end of a rope, that is all I ask."

Then turning his ranting upon his mother, who yesterday pleaded guilty to the murder of Walter Collins, and today entered San Quentin prison to serve a life sentence, the youth said, "She's crazy. She is a fool. What did she want to plead guilty for?"

Mother Takes All Blame on Self Mrs. Sarah Louise Northcott made a valiant attempt in court yesterday, when she entered an unexpected plea and asked for immediate sentence, to shift the entire blame for the slayings upon herself to protect her son.

Mrs. Christine Collins, mother of Walter, for whose death Gordon Stewart will be tried, today said that she "did not want to believe" that her boy was dead, but hoped "that it was some other boy mistaken for Walter."

Faulkner Hurt As Stage Hits His Automobile At four o'clock Tuesday afternoon a collision between a north-bound Oregon stage driven by Thomas Larkin and a Ford sedan driven by Charles Faulkner of Salem occurred near the intersection of South Commercial and Mission streets. The front bumper of the stage was torn off and the rear axle and rear window of the car were broken, but no serious injuries were reported.

Both vehicles were headed north, according to eye-witnesses, and the small car was traveling close to the curb and was 30 feet from the intersection when hit by the stage. The driver, Charles Faulkner, was taken to their home on North Cottage street in the Golden ambulance.

Mr. Faulkner suffered a severe blow on the back of the head, the seriousness of which the attending physician could not determine Tuesday night. His wife and mother, the other occupants of the car, suffered principally from shock.

This State Has Unusually Dry Year is Report PORTLAND, Jan. 1.—(AP)—J. Pluvier would do well to mind his own back during 1929 for Oregon is in a fair way to stand a substantial annual loss of moisture if 1928 is to be taken as a criterion.

The fact is this: There was a shortage of 7.10 inches of rainfall in Oregon for the calendar year of 1928. Edward L. Wells, meteorologist for the United States weather bureau here, is the author of the statement.

"The year 1928," Mr. Wells said in explaining the deficiency "which had a cold start and a rather wet finish, was, on the whole, a mild, dry year."

Burglaries Are Numerous Here New Year's Morn Three burglaries occurred in Salem in 1929 before the sun shone on the new year, and one of them was of the ultra-bold variety. At the home of B. C. Lienallen on Hoyt street, an unknown number of burglars in an automobile drove up into the family driveway and left their engine running while they made a hurried search for valuables in the house, getting a small amount to money.

The other thefts were at the Eric Butler home, 379, Richmond street, where food was the only thing taken and at the J. H. Bots home, 557 Richmond, a small amount of money being stolen.

Hoover To Decide Upon Own Cabinet Mr. Work Insists

Suggestions of Help From Many Sources Resented by Party Head

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—(AP)—The growing speculations as to possible appointments by President-elect Hoover to the cabinet and other offices caused chairman Work of the Republican national committee, to issue a formal statement tonight in which he declared that Mr. Hoover had named no one to advise him on nominations. Mr. Work's statement in full read:

"I regret the publicity given to confidences entrusted to officials of the party, that has been given to probable presidential appointments of the next administration.

"Those who know our next president best, thoroughly understand because of his very wide acquaintance at least an independent mind that he needs no referee to advise on appointments, and that, of a certainty, no one has been so designated, no party official would publicly express his views or wishes as to presidential appointments, and not at all, unless requested to do so confidentially by the appointing power. There has been no basis at any time for any other assumption."

Since the departure of Mr. Hoover on his Latin American good will tour upwards of a dozen men have been mentioned as either selected or as having strong backing for cabinet posts. The woman is Mrs. Alvin T. Hert of Kentucky. Nothing, however, has been forthcoming from Mr. Hoover on the subject.

Hotels Say Night History's Liveliest Chicago hotels which entertained 14,000 guests and the night clubs and cafes which entertained probably as many more, characterized the celebration as the liveliest in the city's history.

Mr. Yellowley said fewer arrests were made this year than any previous year and said several places would be observed further as a result of evidence obtained by his men last night.

In his annual report released today, Mr. Yellowley observed that "definite and advanced results, in enforcement of prohibition had been accomplished in the last year, adding that diversion of bonded liquor has been reduced to a minimum and that smuggling from Canada is one of the problems faced by agents now. However, he said less than two per cent of the liquor seized in this district has been found to be real whiskey.

MONKEY LAWS DRAW SCIENTISTS' ATTACK

Restrictions Placed on Freedom of Teaching Resented by Professors

By COLEMAN B. JONES Associated Press Science Editor NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—(AP)—Action to combat the spread of anti-evolution legislation and other efforts to restrict the freedom of teaching was taken today by scientists and university professors in session here.

The American Association of University Professors authorized a special committee to cooperate with the American Association for the Advancement of Science to prepare a circular to contend for such freedom, and the latter was placed definitely on record as deploring anti-evolution laws and regulations.

"I am convinced," said the scientists' resolution, "that any legislation attempting to limit the teaching of any widely accepted scientific doctrine is a profound mistake, which cannot fail to retard the advancement of knowledge and the welfare of our people."

Freedom of Thought and Teaching Stressed "It is only by the maintenance of freedom of teaching that we can create conditions under which truth comes most rapidly to prevail. Therefore, we wish to make known our opposition to all legislation and administrative interference with the presentation of the facts and theories of science."

Asserting that "what is taught in science should be determined in a quiet and dispassionate manner rather than by popular clamor," the resolution stated: (Turn to Page 2, Please.)

MILK PRICE CUT PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 1.—(AP)—Leading dairymen of Portland tonight announced a one-cent reduction in the wholesale price of milk.

EFFECTIVENESS OF PROHIBITION IS INCREASING

People Becoming Reconciled Chicago Administrator Announces

Respect for Laws Growing More Satisfactory, Says E. C. Yellowley

CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—(AP)—E. C. Yellowley, prohibition administrator for the Chicago district, today declared that the New Year's celebration indicates the city and country are becoming reconciled to prohibition, and are not finding it so very painful.

"A certain few," he said, "persisted in trying to drink, but they were in isolated cases. Reports from my men showed a very satisfactory respect for the prohibition laws."

Only one raid was made by the prohibition officials who turned the city New Year's eve and only three arrests were made. Prohibition agents in hotels and cafes mingled with the guests and confiscated or ordered the management to confiscate bottles or flasks openly displayed but made no arrests and made no effort to find hip flasks nor on tables.

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YANK SUPERVISION PRAISED BY NATIVE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Jan. 1.—(AP)—General Jose Marie Moncada, in his inaugural address as president of Nicaragua today, praised American supervision of the election and said that he favored the construction of an inter-oceanic canal across Nicaragua.

He asked for the establishment of schools, the construction of highways and railroads and promised that all political and civil rights would be respected.

"In the election," he said, "the Nicaraguan people responded magnificently to the hopes which we conceived for their welfare and it is only just that we render fervent homage to them for the splendid part which they took in the elections.

"In the same manner we compiled only with our duty in giving thanks to the people of the United States, their government and their commission headed by general Frank McCoy as well as to Admiral Sellers, General Dogan Feland, the United States Marines and the Nicaraguan National guard for having conducted the election in the most honorable manner that could possibly be conceived."

Congressional Committee To Study Prohi Situation Is Suggested by Durant

NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—(AP)—W. C. Durant today suggested the appointment of a congressional committee "to discover and inform the country and Mr. Hoover as to why the 18th amendment has not been satisfactorily enforced.

The suggestion was made in a statement in which Mr. Durant disclosed that his offer of \$25,000 for a practical plan for enforcement of the prohibition amendment was promptly accepted by the United States government.

"I am sure that the taking of an oath of allegiance to the United States and the taking of a passport before a trip to Europe last summer. Enroute to Europe, he said, his thought reverted to our country's greatest domestic enemy, the bootlegger, and he felt that something more should be done to bring about better control." He said that while he did not wish to

pose as a reformer, he submitted the prize offer "in the hope that public interest might be aroused and a great national movement inaugurated that would to some extent correct the distressing and dangerous conditions which we face."

In suggesting the appointment of the congressional committee, Mr. Durant recalled that President-elect Hoover, in his speech accepting the republican nomination for the presidency, had said that "common sense compels us to realize that grave abuses have occurred" and that "an organized, searching investigation of fact and causes can alone determine the wise method of correcting them."

Durant said that this fact-finding committee "would gather such information that the President needs and that the people want."