

FIRE TRAGEDY INVESTIGATED BY STATE MEN

No Inquest Planned; "Purely Accidental" Says Polk County Coroner

Bodies of Three Victims Sent to Homes; Identification Difficult

Investigation by the state fire marshal's office of the boarding house fire which took a toll of three lives at Monmouth Tuesday night, disclosed few new details of the tragedy Wednesday. It was announced that night. Deputy Taylor had not yet submitted a written report to his superior, Claire Lee, but outlined his findings in a telephone conversation.

The lighted candle which caused the fire was not on the Christmas tree, which had been lighted electrically, Taylor reported. Mrs. Minnie Mack, owner of the boarding house, was lighting the candles, a gift from one of the girls who died in the fire, and was planning to set them on pedestals near the tree to add a cheerful welcome which she had planned for the girls; when one of them ignited the cotton which had been placed beneath the tree to resemble snow.

Mrs. Mack attempted to drag the burning tree out of the house, but was so badly burned that she was forced to drop it beneath the stairs, which soon caught fire. Screens held not cause of death.

The sleeping porch at the back of the building was screened, but the investigator reported that the three girls who were trapped and burned to death could have escaped in the same manner as the others if they had not been too quickly overcome by smoke, so that the screens could not be blamed for the tragedy.

Students of the normal school who live in Salem said a report was current on the campus Wednesday that Mrs. Mack was in serious condition from burns and shock, and might not survive.

Voyager



Her earnings as a stenographer have enabled Miss Beatrice Berndt, 22, to travel half way around the world and back home to San Francisco. She plans other world trips in the near future. At each port Miss Berndt worked until she had enough money to journey farther.

NORTHCOTT'S MOTHER SAYS STORY WRONG

Repudiation of Previous Confessions Attempted After Plea Made

Sanford Clark Murderer of Boys, She Now Tells Newspaper Men

SAN QUENTIN, Cal., Jan. 2.—(AP)—Mrs. Sarah Louisa Northcott this afternoon repudiated all confessions she has made in which she admitted killing boys on her chicken ranch at Wineville, Cal. The repudiation was made in the presence of Warden James B. Holohan and a reporter for the San Francisco Call.

"Others tried to make it appear my son killed this boy," said Mrs. Northcott.

"Sanford is the murderer. My son is innocent.

"I was railroaded into a plea of guilty for Sanford's crime when I was sick with influenza and half crazy with grief," she said.

"They told me if I pleaded guilty it would save my son but after I entered the plea they did not give me a chance to tell my story.

"They did not give me a chance to say that Sanford was the murderer but just put me on the train and brought me to San Quentin."

Ignorance of Situation Claimed by Woman

"I suppose I will spend the rest of my life here although I am an innocent woman and my son is an innocent boy.

"I sent that telegram this morning because I thought my boy was accused of only one murder and I said in the telegram that I was guilty of any crime of which they accused my son. I thought he was on trial for one murder and did not know he was charged with four.

"I want to go back to Los Angeles to tell my story. I hope to God they let me."

Warden Holohan made no comment on the woman's statement but returned her to the women's quarters of the prison.

Mrs. Northcott said the victim of the murder was a New York boy whose name was unknown to her. She said he arrived at the ranch hungry, tired and sick, and put to bed in a chicken house.

Disposal of Body Unknown to Her

She carried him a lantern later, she added, and insisted that she found him dead, with Sanford.

(Turn to Page 2, Please.)

Salvation Army Divided Into Two Opposing Camps

Removal of General Bramwell Booth Anticipated by His Opponents

LONDON, Jan. 2.—(AP)—For the first time both parties within the Salvation Army openly admitted today that the high council which will meet shortly is split into two opposing camps.

Officials at the International headquarters and at the headquarters of Ebenezer Booth, the American commander, freely made pronouncements on the probable lineup on next week's voting when the questions of removal of General Bramwell Booth as commander-in-chief and reorganization of the army will come up.

An official of the Evangelical Booth group stated that after a careful canvass the group was satisfied that more than the necessary three-quarters majority of the council will vote the removal of the general and for reorganization of the army.

HOOVER WANTS HIS CHANGE TO TACKLE DUTIES

President-Elect Anticipates Plunging Into Round of Conferences

Battleship Carries Good Will Delegate North Through Sargasso Sea

U. S. S. UTAH, Jan. 2.—(AP)—Thoroughly rested after his strenuous good will tour through Latin America, President-Elect Hoover is enjoying a last week of recreation on board the Utah before plunging into a round of conferences in Washington on the selection of cabinet members and the program of his inauguration.

These conferences will begin almost immediately after his arrival at the capitol next Sunday and he also expects to call at the White House some time during the week in order to acquaint President Coolidge personally on his observations during his tour of Latin America.

The good will ship had another day of perfect weather today as it steamed along the edge of the Sargasso sea, the legendary resting place of many derelicts. Dense patches of seaweed were passed by the educational republic, "sea" where the accumulation is much thicker.

1355 Miles of Trip Still Remains Ahead

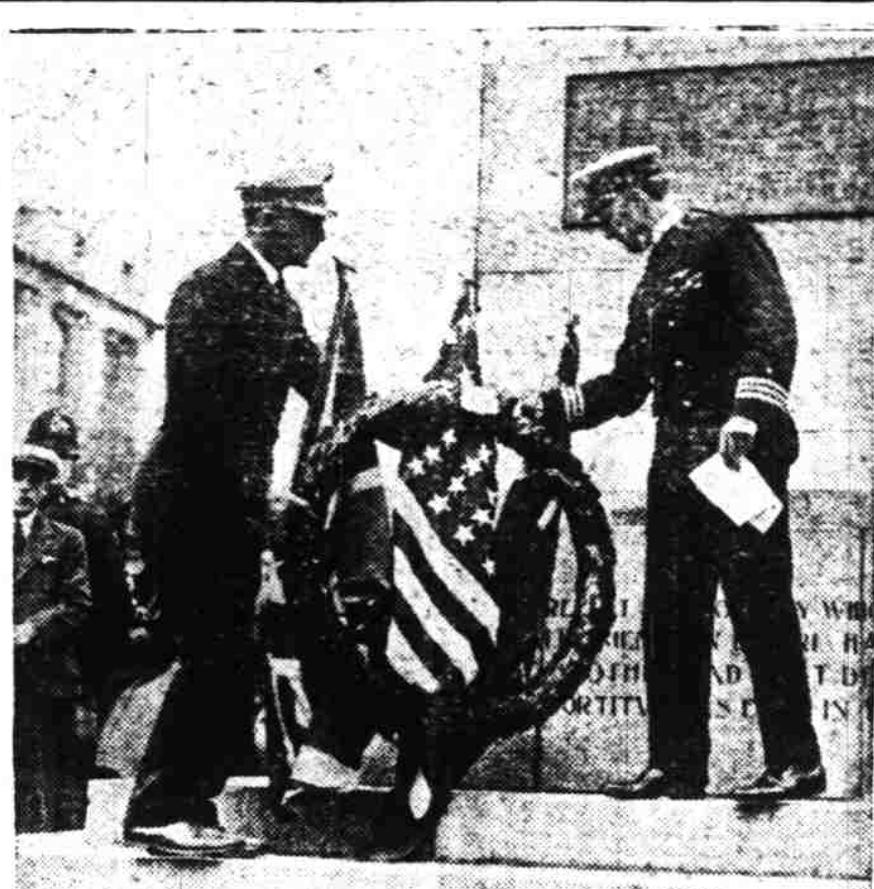
The Utah at noon today was approximately a thousand miles east of Cuba and 1,355 miles from Hampton roads.

The sun was probably hotter today than on any other of the ten days since leaving Rio De Janeiro, but the wind tempered the heat and it was not uncomfortable on deck.

The president-elect commented upon the weather, remarking that he had had practically perfect conditions throughout his campaign and not a single bad day during his visits ashore either in Central or South America. During the 28 days that he has been at sea in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans during this trip, he has encountered only one storm, that crossing Tehuantepec bay, off the coast of Mexico. That storm lasted only one night and part of a day.

The last outdoors event on board the Utah was held tonight on the quarterdeck. It consisted of a vaudeville show and three bouts of boxing. The light, welterweight and middleweight candidates that the Utah is putting forward as contenders for the championships of the scouting fleet.

Honors Childhood Hero



While on his long voyage to the Antarctic, Commander Richard E. Byrd, leader of the Byrd expedition to the South Pole, stopped long enough to pay tribute to the man who he says inspired him in shaping his own career. He laid a wreath at the monument of Capt. Robert Falcon Scott, English explorer, who lost his life in the Antarctic. Photo shows Commander Byrd taking the wreath from his aide, Chief Yeoman Charles Loggren.

County Superintendents Elect Roy L. Cannon as Association President

Howard's Program Suggestions Approved by Convention Votes

Election of Roy L. Cannon, superintendent of Multnomah county schools, as president of the Oregon County School Superintendents association, was a concluding feature of the annual convention of that organization here Wednesday.

Cannon succeeds the late W. C. Alderman as president. An educational program suggested by C. A. Howard, state school superintendent, was endorsed by vote of the association. This program includes suggestions for enlargement of school administration units wherever possible, by a vote of the people, as well as the following features, among others:

Reorganization of the daily program of one and two room rural schools to provide for individual instruction.

The development of standards and a program of studies adapted to the requirements of the small rural high school.

Definite provision in the high school program for maintenance of skills and for development of "command of fundamental processes."

Continuation and enlargement of provisions for developing an undertaking and appreciation of Oregon among children or the state.

A substantial state contribution to public school education to be distributed so as to equalize educational opportunities.

Superintendent Howard discussed a number of measures proposed by the state tax conservation commission. Special reference was made to the measure relating to the cooperative purchase of school supplies through the office of the county superintendents. The county superintendents promised to back this measure, although it was said that several counties would not. Special help would have to be provided to care for the extra work entailed.

The legislative committee, composed of A. E. Gronewald of Wasco county, E. A. Sayre of Union county and Mrs. Mary Fulkerson of Marion county, presented the report of the Oregon State Teachers' association. This committee (Turn to Page 2, Please.)

PLANE PASSES CRUCIAL TEST OF REFUELING

Question Mark Now Believed Reasonably Certain to Make Record

Flyer Receives Spray of Gasoline in Face While Transfer is Made

METROPOLITAN AIRPORT, Los Angeles, Jan. 2.—(AP)—While the crucial first 24 hours of continuous flight safely behind it, the army refueling endurance test plane Question Mark, tonight was nearing the time record set in the only previous American refueling endurance test. Already having remained in the air 35 hours, The trimotored Fokker at 8,400 feet here today will have passed the mark of 37 hours, 15 minutes, 40 seconds, made in August, 1923, by Lieutenants Lowell Smith and Paul Richter, in an army plane at Rockwell field, San Diego. The present world record, 60 hours and 7 minutes, was made by two Belgian army flyers at Tirrenum, Belgium last June.

Steadily purring over a less course between here and San Diego, the Question Mark late this afternoon swung about the Metropolitan airport. A message was dropped requesting that Rockwell field's supply plane be notified to meet the big Fokker along the coast near San Diego with 250 gallons of gasoline. The plane's schedule calls for refueling at 4 p. m. at midnight, and at 8 a. m. daily according to a plan adopted by Major Carl Spatz, commanding officer, and dropped here today.

Refueling Process Decried as Easy

Declared easily made, a copy of which was dropped in sections here, reported today that night refueling "is easy." The declaration was made after the first night refueling was accomplished over San Diego at midnight with Captain Eaker, pilot, who handles the controls during the refueling contacts, as its author. However, Major Spatz, who handles the receiving end of the gasoline hose, was obliged to make a varying report when he recorded that the first aid kit was used as the result of the retreating hose spraying his face with a shower of gasoline. "The retreating hose gave me a gasoline shower which was distributed over the face and eyes principally," Major Spatz's message read. "The first aid kit was used and zinc oxide applied. Nothing serious."

The overflow filled the cabin with gas fumes which had not all departed by 11:30 p. m. Our clothes have proven amply warm. I have taken off my leather jerkin for comfort.

Flyer's Eyesight Not Badly Impaired

Assurance that Major Spatz's eyesight was not affected by the gasoline drenching he received in (Turn to Page 2, Please.)

PORTLAND GASOLINE PRICE STILL FALLS

Dealers Unanimously Pass Buck in Rate War; Figure Goes Below 17

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 2.—(AP)—With all dealers disclaiming responsibility for the price slashes, Portland's gasoline price war continued unabated today. And motorists, who seemed to be the only ones obtaining any satisfaction, from the situation, continued to purchase the fuel at as low as 16 1/2 cents a gallon.

The cause of the conflict, with its probable result, could tonight be determined with no degree of accuracy. The oil companies charge the independent dealers with starting the price war. The independent dealers reply that the oil companies themselves prompted the move.

In the meantime gasoline can be purchased here from 16 1/2 cents up to 21 1/2 cents, the top price. Several Associated oil stations this morning displayed 16 1/2 cent signs as they had on Monday and Tuesday, but by noon most of these had been taken down and the price was boosted to 21 1/2 cents.

In the cases of Standard, Shell and Union stations, there was a marked discrepancy. All company-operated pumps were selling fuel at the top price, while the leased stations were selling between the high and low marks.

F. C. Eastman, assistant district sales manager for the Standard Oil company, said today that "it is purely an independent war."

INSANITY DEFENSE DENIED NORTHCOTT

COURT ROOM, Riverside, Calif., Jan. 2.—(AP)—An attempt to enter an insanity defense for Gordon Stewart Northcott failed this afternoon when Superior Judge George R. Freeman denied a motion of Norbert Savay, Northcott's counsel, to enter a supplementary plea of not guilty by reason of insanity. At his arraignment last month Northcott pleaded merely not guilty. Judge Freeman denied also a motion of Savay for continuance until January 7. On the first motion the court found affidavits submitted by Northcott's attorney to be insufficient and on the second motion Judge Freeman declared it his opinion that Savay had had sufficient time to prepare. Court was adjourned until tomorrow after the judge rendered his decision. Savay had asked for continuance of the case citing inability to obtain reports of alienists in time to make proper preparation and the plea of guilty entered by Mrs. Sarah Louisa Northcott to the murder of Walter Collins as having upset his plans for defense. He asked time to meet the new situation.

JAMES LISLE DIES WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Prominent Civil War Veteran and Mason Passes at Age of 87 Years

Dr. James Lisle, active in Methodism since he was ordained a minister at the age of 18 years and oldest but one in Masonic affiliation in the Northwest, died at 9:45 o'clock Wednesday night at the home, 1641 South 13th street. He had been ill a week of the influenza and bronchial pneumonia.

Dr. Lisle was 87 years old at the time of his death and was one of the few remaining Civil War veterans. It was 62 years ago, during the Civil War that he became a Mason. He had been chaplain of Pacific lodge No. 50, A. F. & A. M. of Salem for years, and held the same position in the department of Oregon, Grand Army of the Republic.

James Lisle was born in Delmont county, Ohio, June 16, 1842. He received his early education in the public schools and academy at Barnesville, Ohio. The family moved from Ohio to Iowa in 1860, the year in which he was (Turn to Page 2, Please.)

Sport Briefs

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—(AP)—The New York American will say tomorrow that Jack Dempsey definitely has agreed to enter the ring in quest of the heavyweight championship he lost to Gene Tunney in 1926. Promoter Tex Rickard is expected to announce the Manassa Mauler's return next week from Miami.

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Jan. 2.—(AP)—After battling almost on even terms for nearly three quarters of the game, the Whitman defense crumpled under a brilliant Montana State college offense, and the Bobcat football team won 45-0 here tonight. The score was tied at 18 at half time.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Jan. 2.—(AP)—For the second successive night the Vancouver Lions defeated the Victoria team, when they won 2 to 1 in the Pacific coast hockey league fixture here tonight.

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Jan. 2.—(AP)—Tex Rickard, New York fight promoter celebrated his 56th birthday today, like other patients in the Allison hospital here, obeying orders of nurses and physicians.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 2.—(AP)—Bob Meyers, ex-national amateur wrestling champion in the welterweight division, won on a foul from Tom Alley, Outlook, Mont., in a light-heavyweight match here tonight.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 2.—(AP)—Frank Brooks, 18 months old, was reported well on the road to recovery tonight after surgeons had successfully removed from his throat a toy motorcycle, an inch and a half in length which he swallowed eighteen days ago.

Toy is Removed From Throat of Suffering Youth

Chinaman Jailed After Gardener Found Murdered

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 2.—(AP)—G. C. Chew, Chinese, was in city jail here tonight, held incommunicado, in connection with the slaying yesterday of Ling Sing, 75, Chinese gardener, found at a cemetery here. Ling's head had been crushed and his body rolled to the bottom of an 80-foot embankment.

FRAGAL SCOTCHMAN Obtains Fine Boat Service, and How!

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—(AP)—A Scotchman who crossed the ocean with 25 stewards to wait upon him and him alone, headed by a chief steward, an assistant chief steward and a diningroom captain, arrived today.

PLYMOUTH, Eng., Jan. 2.—(AP)—The Dutch lifeboat Schuttevaer which has been tied up here since last May after leaving Rotterdam on a proposed trans-Atlantic voyage, left today en route to New York by way of Lisbon and the Azores.

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 2.—(AP)—Spurred on by one of the most baffling murder mysteries in this city's history and by a \$1,500 reward offered by state and county, peace officers continued their efforts tonight to run down the slayer of little June Nelson, whose mutilated body was found in a creek near here yesterday.

\$1500 Reward Put up for Capture of Fiend Slayer of Twelve Year Old Girl

Discovery of the 12-year-old child's shoes and palaces in the road stream where her body was discovered yesterday, shed little light on the case today. They were some two miles downstream, but their condition led officers to the belief that they had been thrown there, probably from the road that skirts the stream and from which the child's body had been cast.

Her hat and other articles of her clothing are still missing, and search was continued for these.

A possible clue to the identity of the slayer was uncovered today when residents of the neighborhood of the home of the girl's parents, told of being accosted by a young man, hatless and with sleek

INFLUENZA CONFAB TO BE NEXT WEEK

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—(AP)—Surgeon-general Cummins to day set January 10, as the date for convening the public health service's national conference on influenza.

Decision to hold the conference at that time was announced after a conference between the surgeon-general and Secretary Mellon of the treasury. Secretary Mellon, whose department has jurisdiction over the health service, was said, "heartily favored" the conference, particularly the opportunities it would provide to outline intensive research in the disease.

Reports from 32 states, public health officials said, indicated that influenza declined in prevalence during the holidays. They repeated their belief in the probability that the peak of this wave of influenza has been reached, but still saw the possibility that cases not yet reported might be reported during the week ending December 15.

A total of 132,682 new cases in 32 states during the week ending December 29 was reported today. Officials estimated this indicated at least 663,410 cases actually existing in these states. They estimated more than a million and a quarter cases in 42 states for the week ending December 15.

Officials said the conference to be held here would be the largest ever held to study influenza. They noted that little could be done to cut short the present wave, but that information gained from this may assist in curbing the spread in the future.

BOLIVIA TO ACCEPT ARBITRATION OFFER

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 2.—(AP)—La Paz dispatches to La Nación tonight said that the Bolivian minister to Washington had been authorized to sign, with certain modifications in the text, the protocol for arbitration of the dispute with Paraguay.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—(AP)—Word of Argentine's refusal to take part in the Pan-American conference's effort to conciliate the Paraguayan-Bolivian dispute was received tonight as something of a shock by the delegates for 20 of the American nations.

The action withdraws from the field one of the five neutral nations invited to sit in at the conference, liable to inquiry into differences between the two republics. The other neutrals are the United States, Cuba, Brazil and Uruguay. Of these Brazil alone has not replied thus far to the invitation.

Argentina withdrawal has not the state department. It is the opinion of many delegates to the as yet been received officially by conference that the invitation to take the place made vacant by Argentina will be extended to either Mexico or Panama.

Liteboat Making Its Way Toward U.S. Over Ocean

PLYMOUTH, Eng., Jan. 2.—(AP)—The Dutch lifeboat Schuttevaer which has been tied up here since last May after leaving Rotterdam on a proposed trans-Atlantic voyage, left today en route to New York by way of Lisbon and the Azores.

The boat is described by its inventor, John P. Schuttevaer as "unsinkable" and the object of the trip is to demonstrate this.

Schuttevaer, who is captain of the craft, is 70 years old. His crew comprises C. C. Van Lean, mate, and P. Meyer, boatswain.

The voyage will be made entirely under canvas.

State Hospital Visitors Barred Because of 'Flu'

Because of an outbreak of influenza in the Oregon state hospital here, no visitors will be admitted to the institution until further notice. Dr. R. E. Steiner, superintendent, said that approximately 100 patients were under the care of physicians.

Exact Analysis Effected Of Mysterious Endocrine Glands; Reward Is Given

By COLEMAN B. JONES Associated Press Science Editor NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—(AP)—A chemical achievement which promises to reduce the age-old mystery of childbirth and help save the lives of surgical patients and victims of severe burns, was recognized with its highest award today by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

It was the isolation and analysis of the two hormones of the posterior pituitary gland by Dr. Oliver Kamm, head of chemical research in the laboratories of Parke, Davis and company, at Detroit.

For his achievement Dr. Kamm was awarded the annual "association prize" of \$1,000.

This is the first time that science has been able to obtain from any of the mysterious ductless endocrine glands of the body two specifically different hormones, the chemical messengers which enter the blood stream as it passes through the glands and enables them to perform their functions of controlling life processes throughout the body.

The pituitary "teins," as the hormones isolated by Dr. Kamm are called, have been named alpha and beta. Although they are almost identical in chemical structure, he told the chemical and medical sections of the association, they control vastly different

planes carrying anti-toxin tubes

EDMONTON, Alta., Jan. 2.—(AP)—An angel of mercy with shining silver wings started today on a 650 mile flight, carrying life in little glass tubes for the men, women and children of Fort Vermillion and Little Red River, where it was feared diphtheria has raged unchecked for 18 days. The airplane piloted by Captain "Wop" May, and carrying Victor Horner, was forced down at McLennan, Alta., this afternoon.

hair, on Monday evening shortly before the girl disappeared.

One woman as she alighted from a street car, was seized by the man, who fled when she screamed. Another woman said she found a man of the same description in her apartment in that neighborhood when she returned home last Friday evening. She said she ran when she screamed. Other residents of the vicinity saw a young man there Monday night who they said acted suspiciously.

Police also revealed today that a youth has been frequenting public houses here since this winter, inveigling young girls into his automobile on pretense of arresting them, and then attempting to attack them.

The cause of the girl's death was strangulation, a city physician reported today after he had performed an autopsy.

Her face was underneath the water when her body was found, and it had been thought she might not have been dead when she was thrown there, but had drowned before she could descend herself to the bank.