

'POISON PEN' ACTS TRAGED

W. C. T. U. Chief Denies Gossip Against Organization Told by Woman

SPOKANE, Wash., April 9.—(AP)—Miss Lettie Jourdan, self-confessed author of 200 obscene and "poison pen" letters, barricaded herself in her home today while the U. S. attorney who had freed her on \$500 bond moved to release two innocent men indicted through her activities. She is secretary of the Spokane county Woman's Christian Temperance union and through action of that organization was expected, Mrs. Ella Beal, president of the W. C. T. U. here, refused to say what would be done. She did comment on one of Miss Jourdan's statements to officers. In her confession the secretary said she obtained "ideas" for some of the improper and scurrilous letters at meetings of the W. C. T. U. and a church ladies aid society, adding "you'd be surprised at the things that were talked about by these women when they are alone".

Mrs. Beal said today: "She never said that. I know she would not say that, even if she were crazy." District Attorney Roy Fox said James M. Rainey and his son Arthur would be freed as soon as the attorney general could act. Miss Jourdan, after addressing obscene letters to herself, went before the grand jury and swore before the Rainey sent them to her, he stated, adding that perjury charges might be filed, among others. Fox declined to give out any intimation of the subject matter of the letters, saying "no decent newspaper would print them anyway."

It was known, however, that one of them threatened death to an officer and others accused public men and private citizens of law violations, including bootlegging. Brower, with whom Miss Jourdan said she liked to confer about the letters she "received" expressed the belief that she was the victim of a psychopathic condition and should be in a sanitarium. She told officers she was sane, they affirmed.

The sheriff obtained her confession after two years of the letters by going to her home and borrowing a typewriter. It was found that typing on several of the letters was similar to the work done by her machine, he said.

Following The Little Green Car

By MADALENE CALLIN

Patrick (the green car) and I started out early this morning to go places and see things. We headed for Mill City and as we neared the mountains the threat of rain passed over and the sun came out gloriously clear and warm.

Spring was in the air indeed. Three cars of sportsmen were in front of Harry Hobsons shop near Lyons and a small boy was testing a new fishing rod nearby. He swung it with the easy and sure cast of the expert.

The smoke of many small mills rose straight in the air as we sped along the mountain roads. The country along the Santiam is so much like that along the McKenzie highway that it made me homesick.

On the far horizon glistened small patches of snow and nearer the whitened trees, gaunt ghosts of last year's forest fires, stood out like warning sentinels.

A puff of different colored smoke appeared for ahead and was finally identified as coming from the freight train climbing laboriously up the grade. Patrick leaped ahead in pursuit and soon we over took the toiler and beat it into Mill City by several minutes.

Here comes youth and age—A tottering white haired man and a little girl, not more than four years old. Grandpa has the morning paper under his arm and the kiddie is enraptured with an ice cream cone.

The mill of the Hammond lumber company at Mill City is going full blast, the screech of the saws and the noise of the water as it flows over the dam can be heard a long way off.

On the way back we went out to West Stayton to see how the work is progressing on the irrigated farms there. More acres in beans and cauliflower are to be planted here this year than ever before.

The beans are canned and the cauliflower is shipped to the Portland and Southern Oregon markets.

As we came through Turner we noticed the roadsides blue with camas blossoms. Wouldn't the In-

PRUNE PRICES SAID TOO LOW

Four and Half Cents is Not High Enough in View of Conditions Now

Recent sales of dried prunes from growers at 4 1/2 c for 40's represents an unnecessarily low price in the view based on a study of the present status of prune supplies. While the movement through packers has been slow during the past quarter, in that period a lot of old crop California prunes have been cleaned up, leaving the way open for an early resumption of buying. From all reports the eastern markets are now well liquidated. Last Sunday's New York Journal of Commerce received yesterday has the following report on the situation in the dried fruit market and gives special mention of the consumption of prune stocks. Here is the quotation from the New York paper: "The leading jobbers here stated yesterday that their week's sales in dried fruits has been highly satisfactory in the major items and that in spite of pessimistic talk by some brokers business seemed to be shaping up very well for the time of the year. One jobber stated that his sales in the past two weeks showed a substantial increase over that of the same weeks in 1929. Spot stocks of dried fruits were generally reported low for the time of year."

"Prunes were reported by these jobbers to have moved out in exceptionally good volume, and it was stated that with the exception of one relatively unimportant holder, that the old crop prunes that have been disturbing the market have been cleaned up. Peaches have ruled rather quiet all week, with prices inclined to be easy, but at approximately the levels quoted below."

The following summary obtained from local sources gives a picture of the situation which ought to be encouraging to those who are still holding their prunes. "There is not to exceed 7,000 to 8,000 tons now remaining in all hands in the northwest, while in California there is about 33,000 to 35,000 tons in the hands of packers, associations, and growers. Speculative stocks in the hands of eastern dealers in all markets is said to be practically

dians have had good picking of camas roots here. Too bad the youngsters of today do not know how delicious these roots are.

nothing. The trade in general believes that the present tonnage available could be easily moved into consumption before new crop is ready for market. In fact there has in the past been as much or more tonnage on hand at the time of harvesting new crop than the present available tonnage, which has to supply the world's demand for the next six months at least."

The prune crop in the northwest is now estimated to have been one of the largest ever recorded. Already the water shipments have totaled around \$5,000,000 pounds, to which must be added the rail shipment to domestic markets, and the present stocks. This would give a total production of around 100,000,000 pounds. The volume marketed was heavy during the fall months, but the financial and employment conditions especially in European centers retarded sales in later months. Spring is expected to revive the movement. Packers are all carrying fair stocks of prunes and naturally hold off buying until stocks begin to sell again. This period of suspense depresses the market price below cost of production. The danger of accepting such low prices lies not only in getting less than cost for the 1929 crop, but in its effect on the crop now coming on. The prune tonnage now on hand is very low considering the fact that there are six months consumption to be cared for before the 1930 crop reaches markets.

GAS BOOTLEGGING IS INVESTIGATED

Oregon officials Wednesday ordered an investigation of reports that gasoline bootleggers are operating along the lower Columbia river and deriving large profits by evading the motor vehicle fuel tax laws. Both Oregon and Washington are affected by the alleged illegal operations, it was said.

Secretary of State Hoos said that while similar violations were reported previously along the state borders, the major violations followed the opening of the Longview bridge a few weeks ago. Reports indicated that the operators secure the gasoline in large tanks or drums on the Washington side of the river and convey it to their pumps in Oregon. In many instances the retailers of the gasoline fail to qualify as dealers or distributors. This makes it possible for the violators to escape both the transportation tax in Washington and the motor fuels tax in Oregon. Several truck operators are to be investigated.

EDUCATORS GATHER FOR ANNUAL MEET

SPOKANE, April 9.—(AP)—Three thousand educators of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana, Utah, Nevada and Alaska, the first quota of a contingent of 4,000 expected, arrived here today for the annual session of the Inland Empire Education association, which opens tomorrow.

In a pre-convention session this afternoon C. L. Harlan, president of the Lewiston, Idaho, State Normal school, urged a revision of standards in education; F. L. Stetson gave a statistical summary of high schools.

The opening session tomorrow will be held in the auditorium of the Lewis and Clark high school with A. C. Hampton, of Astoria, Ore., presiding. Dr. James L. Rogers, president of the department of school health and physical education of the National Education association, said that man's maddening machine age pace is driving him to an early death, and that the man or woman of 40 has less life expectancy than those of 100 years ago. Although the United States, the doctor said, is a nation of bath-tubs, diets, ventilation and sanitation, and although communicable diseases have been conquered, and child mortality decreased, still 75 per cent of its 26,000,000 school children show defects that create disease and impede the ability to learn.

Battle Lost To Officers By Recluse

SPOKANE, Wash., April 9.—The one man war waged by William Mullen, aged recluse, against the census branch of the United States government, ended today in a barrage of brickbats and statistics.

The white bearded hermit struck his colors to a federal marshal after defending his shack down by the "gas works" for three days, using barrages of epithets, stones, a broom stick, a club and an axe. Reports from the battle front described the action as follows:

Saturday lady census taker advanced. Repulsed with heavy loss of dignity, Mullen forces using broom. Sunday government forces took strategic rest. Monday lady enumerator charged again, getting in one question before Mullen troops opened fire with axe. Tuesday heavy shock troops of government, in person of hard-boiled male enumerator, attacked discharging one question, enemy hurled heavy barrage of blue words and club. Second engagement Tuesday. Newspaper observer crept up for picture but was met by fierce volley of stones, bricks and epithets of "government gratter." Observer damaged, also camera; attack failed. Enemy threatened shotgun.

Third engagement Tuesday. Deputy U. S. Marshal A. L. Dille executed flanking movement, capturing Mullen by surprise, without bloodshed. The ancient was interred in prison until he had fulfilled the terms, full answers to every single question. The government demanded an indemnity. Then "good day, gentlemen," said the patriarch, and departed not exactly with all the honors of war, but at least with his morale unimpaired.

ENTERS STATE RACE SAN FRANCISCO, April 9.—(AP)—Mayor James Rolph, Jr., of San Francisco, today announced that he would be a candidate for the republican nomination for governor of California. SHOCK RECORDED BERKELEY, Cal., April 9.—(AP)—A slight earthquake was recorded on the University of California seismograph here at 1:57 p. m., the quake was believed to be near.

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