

Mrs. Ledford Takes Stand

Accused Asserts She Tried to Be Good Mother to Poison Victims

ST. HELENS, Ore., March 17—(AP)—Weeping frequently, Mrs. Agnes Joan Ledford, 35, charged with the poison death of her stepdaughter, Ruth, 13, testified in her own defense today that she had done everything possible to be a mother to the girl and her sisters.

She is charged in a separate indictment with the death of Dorothy, 15, another stepdaughter.

"I didn't think any more of my own children than I did of those girls," Mrs. Ledford said.

Following her marriage to George Ledford at Grants Pass early in 1935 and the birth of a son on December 16 the same year, Mrs. Ledford testified Letha, now 10, and Ruth arrived to live with their father.

Later, she said, Letha returned to her mother, Mrs. Pearl Turner, at Los Angeles, and was replaced by Dorothy.

"I hated to see Letha go but didn't object because she wanted to," Mrs. Ledford, 11 since her arrest last October, testified.

Letha, she said, was obedient and respectful, but Ruth was "different." However, Mrs. Ledford said, "I was very fond of Ruth."

The girls, she said, were expected to do household, dishes and laundry, but only worked in the largest fields when they wanted to.

Mrs. Ledford asserted the girls were ill with summer complaint on September 4, but seemed better and begged for soda pop. She gave it to them, after which, she said, both girls became violently ill.

She testified she had purchased a poison as an insecticide on the same day. Ruth died on September 6 and Dorothy two days later.

Insurance Policy Taken
Mrs. Ledford testified that six weeks before their deaths, a \$1,000 insurance policy, covering the whole family, had been taken out, but no insurance had been paid.

Defense Attorney Glen Metsker recalled Letha Ledford to the stand to ask whether she had told a neighbor she would rather live with her stepmother than with her natural mother. Letha denied it.

Before the state rested its case, Walter Johnson, Columbia county court reporter, testified that copied statements from Mrs. Ledford contained the remark she had been ill two days before the girls died and that she observed blackberries in the substance Dorothy vomited.

The defense has contended the girls died from eating blackberries to which poison spray from a nearby potato field had been blown by the wind.

Load Restrictions On Roads Lifted

Load restrictions recently placed on sections of seven Oregon highways by the state highway commission were lifted Thursday.

R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer, announced, "Highways affected by the order are:

- Dalles-California highway, from Terrebonne north.
- McKenzie highway, from Sisters to Redmond.
- Ochoco highway, from Redmond to Prineville, retaining the load limitation from Prineville to a point six miles east.
- McKenzie-Bend highway, from Sisters to Bend.
- Central Oregon highway, from Bend to Hood River.
- Oregon Coast highway, from Marshfield to Port Orford.
- Siuslaw highway in its entirety.

Planting of Fish Army Is Advised

PORTLAND, March 17—(AP)—State Game Commissioner Lawrence Wallace advocated the planting of 100 million fish annually as a goal for the state in an address before a civic club here.

"Despite the state's foremost rank in the matter of wildlife, it is essential that Oregon take measures to replenish its depleted resources," he asserted.

The commissioner said between 50,000 and 65,000 pheasants would be released this year.

The Call Board

- CAPITOL**
Today—Double bill, "Love, Honor and Behave" with Wayne Morris and Priscilla Lane and "All-American Sweetheart" with Scott Colton.
- STATE**
Today—Four acts eastern circuit vaudeville and Claire Brook, Dorothy Moore and Berton Churchill.
- HOLLYWOOD**
Today—Double bill, Zane Grey's "Thunder Trail" and "Quick Money" with Fred Stone, Dorothy Moore and Berton Churchill.
- GRAND**
Today—"Little Miss Roughneck" with Edith Fellows and Leo Carrillo.
- Saturday—Joe E. Brown in "Wide Open Faces."
- ELSINORE**
Today—Double bill, Walter Huston and James Stewart in "Of Human Hearts" and "Hollywood Mystery" with Robert Livingston.
- Saturday—Double bill, George Brent, Olivia De Havilland, in all-color, "Gold is Where You Find It," and Frank Morgan in "Paradise for Three."

Spanish Insurgents Gaining, Loyalists Retreat



Fleeing before the insurgents' big push, Spanish Loyalists recently retreated from dotted line to heavy black line shown on map. Reports that the Spanish government was on the verge of collapse alarmed England and France when other reports were made known that Hitler was rushing 30,000 men to reinforce the 100,000 rebels, including Italian Black Arrow brigades. French warships entered Barcelona harbor to evacuate French nationalists.—IN Service.

Washington Tower Sinking, Declared

Monument Safe, Though; Pisa Found to Lean Different Ways

NEW HAVEN, Conn., March 17—(AP)—Washington monument is sinking and Pisa's leaning tower is swaying—both in very slow motion.

These reports were made today at a "clinic on sick structures" held by the Connecticut academy of arts and sciences.

Prof. Dimitri P. Krynie, research associate in soil mechanics at Yale university, reported the diagnosis.

Washington monument, he said, is safe, although afflicted with a slight foot disorder. Recently developed instruments that measure movement invisible to the eye show the monument is settling slowly.

A layer of clay, 10 to 40 feet thick, far below the monument, is compressing like a sponge.

The leaning tower of Pisa was studied with an inclinometer designed by Girometti-Bonelli.

"The results were almost incredible," Dr. Krynie said, "during September, 1934, the tower moved north; but at the end of that month turned around and moved south. This continued up to the end of January when the movement toward the north started again for a couple of months."

At the same time the tower was persistently moving eastward.

Detection of movements of buildings is a new safety factor to prevent ultimate collapse or weakening. In case of the tower of Pisa cement has been injected into the foundation through two inch holes to curb a tendency to lean ultimately too far.

Protest Renewed On Salmon Dates

ASTORIA, Ore., March 17—(AP)—E. A. Storvik, secretary of the Columbia river fishermen's protective union, renewed today his attack on a recent game commission ruling closing the river to commercial fishing from December 31 to May 1.

Replying to a letter from Game Commissioner Lawrence Wallace asking an explanation of his opposition, Storvik referred the commissioner to the record of proceedings of a joint meeting of the fish and game commissions. The record would show, Storvik said, that he did not favor closing the river for more than one month.

Wallace said it was his impression that Storvik had assured a favorable reception to the move from commercial fishing interests.

In a recent statement, Storvik charged sports fishing interests with being "hoglish and ridiculous."

Mrs. Magruder out for Clatsop-Columbia Post

ASTORIA, March 17—(AP)—Mrs. Grace Kent Magruder announced today she would seek reelection as joint representative from Columbia and Clatsop counties. She denied a report she would file for the Columbia county seat to be vacated by Henry Oleen, gubernatorial candidate.

Fishways at Bonneville Prove Successful, Report

ASTORIA, March 17—(AP)—Hugh Mitchell, director of fish culture for the state fish commission, said today the Bonneville dam fishways were working "exceptionally well," and enabled commission employees to make an accurate count of migrations.

Corvallis Leads Drive For Battleship at \$802

PORTLAND, March 17—(AP)—Corvallis, with a gift of \$802, led towns contributing to the Battleship Oregon fund today. The funds will be used to transfer the historic vessel to a permanent berth in a marine park.

Oddities in the News

DETROIT, March 17—(AP)—Judge John J. Maher jumped from his bench in records court during a trial today, seized a man standing before the bench, dragged him to the door of the courtroom, slapped his face and kicked him into the corridor.

The man was Raymond McDonald of Detroit, former welfare recipient, whose appearance in court had nothing to do with the trial in progress.

Judge Maher returned to the bench and said:

"I want to explain this incident. I sent this man to jail for 90 days when he failed to support his wife and 13-year-old daughter. Since his release, he has been going around making threats against Miss Katherine Feeney, an investigator for the Detroit welfare bureau, and myself."

"Maybe the procedure I used was entirely judicial, but you must remember this is St. Patrick's day."

WASHINGTON, March 17—(AP)—Playing cards aren't as popular as they were a decade ago.

Louis Coffin of Cincinnati, representing the card industry, said today sales had declined 25 per cent during the past ten years because of the growing popularity of other forms of amusement.

BALTIMORE, March 17—(AP)—Railroads should be required to pay commuters for time lost when trains are late, commuter George W. Schrieber told the Maryland public service commission today. He didn't mention time lost when commuters miss trains.

Manganese Plant Receives Support

PORTLAND, March 17—(AP)—Earl K. Nixon, state department of geology and mineral industries, today argued in support of a bill to support national legislation for a domestic manganese industry in Oregon.

A bill by senator Miller of Arkansas, Nixon said, provided for acquisition of a 1,000,000-ton stockpile of manganese, domestic mined.

Resolutions have been entered for tariff protection of the industry, Nixon added.

He said Oregon had manganese deposits in Jackson, Coos, Curry, Josephine and Grant counties. The stockpile suggested, he said, would require 68,000,000 man-hours of employment and a \$24,000,000 payroll for production alone.

Relief Probe to Be Opened Today

(Continued From Page 1)

bers of the relief office staff. On Saturday the grand jury is expected to issue reports on routine investigations of criminal cases. While witnesses connected with the cases of June D. Drake and Clark Anderson, Silverton men charged with larceny of a collection of old currency that belonged to the late Frank Coffman, were observed entering the grand jury room yesterday, it was not held likely that any report would be made on these cases this week.

Potato Marketing Program Favored

WASHINGTON, March 17—(AP)—Potato growers of 32 states agreed today at conclusion of a four-day conference that 1938 marketing programs for early and late potatoes should provide for close, compulsory grade inspection and cull elimination, as provided in the 1937 late potato marketing agreement.

There was no early potato marketing agreement last year, but the early producers, meeting with late producers of the late crop, decided one would be desirable for the coming season.

Long-Short Haul Act's Repeal Hit

SENATE HEARS TESTIMONY
Clause Defeat Would Ruin Water Trade

WASHINGTON, March 17—(AP)—A senate committee heard testimony today that repeal of the long and short haul clause of the interstate commerce act would defeat the government's efforts to encourage water commerce.

The Pettengill bill, already approved by the house, provides for elimination of the clause, which prohibits railroads from charging a lower rate for a long haul than for a shorter haul over the same route in the same direction.

\$60,000,000 Harbors Endangered
F. S. Davis of Boston, representing various chambers of commerce and other organizations, told the committee the Pettengill bill would tend to destroy the usefulness of 47 deep draft harbors in New England, which cost the government \$60,000,000 to develop.

Frank M. Shook, witness for the tri-state packers association of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, said passage of the bill would create "a chaotic condition" because cheap water transportation had given members of his association advantage over competitors in certain markets.

Speaking for the North Dakota railroad commission, J. C. Winter said the Pettengill bill would perpetuate "a silly war" among carriers.

Even Indian Gets Judge's Clemency St. Patrick's Day

SPOKANE, Wash., March 17—(AP)—It was a field day for the Irish in police court.

In true St. Patrick's spirit, Judge Frank Yuse suspended customary jail sentences in a series of drunkenness cases.

"Are you Irish?" the judge asked Seymour Davenport.

"No," replied the Indian. "But the Irish holiday momentum was growing too strong for judicial restraint."

"You can't be sure," his honor suggested. He suspended Davenport's sentence, too.

Man Falls 25 Feet And Gets Hearing

THE DALLES, March 17—(AP)—J. C. Syme, electrician, laughed today at bruises and cuts suffered in a 25-foot fall from a scaffolding. The accident restored the hearing he had lost years before in one ear. Physicians said the shock had broken muscle and nerve adhesions.

HOLLYWOOD 15
Today & Saturday Features
JANE GREY'S THUNDER TRAIL

And 2nd Feature
QUICK MONEY
with **FRED STONE**
Also - Mickey Mouse in "Orphans' Picnic"
News and Johnny Mack Brown in "Wild West Days"

Bob Burns - Martha Raye
in **"MOUNTAIN MUSIC"**

600 Killed by Rebels' Bombs

Caspe Captured in Drive by Franco Forces to Reach Coast Goal

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bombs on this Mediterranean seaport.

It was the worst air attack inflicted on Barcelona in the 20-month civil war.

The United States embassy's temporary quarters were damaged. A bomb landing nearby blew out the embassy windows but the only occupant, Col. Stephen O. Fuqua, American military attaché, was unhurt.

Hundreds of wounded were trapped in shattered buildings. Rescue workers dug for hours to save the wounded and recover the dead.

Weeping women and children carrying meager possessions stumbled into the explosive-pocked streets seeking some refuge from the terror of insurgent bombs.

HENDAYE, France, (At The Spanish Frontier, March 17—(AP)—Spanish insurgents driving toward dismemberment of government Spain today captured Caspe—one more objective of their march of the sea.

Generalissimo Francisco Franco's heavy reinforced armies in eastern Spain smashed government resistance that was the greatest since the Madrid-Barcelona regime lost Belchite early in the week-old insurgent offensive.

The government announced at the same time its troops had killed 4,000 insurgents in "the worst fighting of the civil war" in the sector south of Caspe.

Ingalls Boosted For Senate Post

Corvallis Editor Backed Unanimously by GOP; C. A. Sprague Named

CORVALLIS, March 17—(AP)—Claude E. Ingalls, Corvallis editor, had the unanimous endorsement of the Benton county republican central committee today for the party nomination for United States senator.

Declaring that "it is time that we quit fiddling around waiting for self-starters to give us a champion to vote for them on republicanism," Claude Buchanan, former legislator, urged last night that the committee seek similar support for Ingalls from other counties.

"As the leading republican county in the state, we should take the initiative in selecting a substantial candidate for senator and governor," Buchanan asserted.

Ingalls told the committee that he could not afford the necessary campaign, and urged a state meeting of voters to ascertain whether Henry C. Cabell, state highway commission chairman; Henry Corbett, former legislator and president of the Port of Portland commission; Willard Marks, chairman of the state board of higher education; or Charles Sprague, Salem publisher, would consent to run.

The committee instructed Earl Johnson, president of the Benton county republican club, to communicate with other clubs to arrange a central meeting.

Mazurosky Trial Opens, Portland

MEDFORD, March 17—(AP)—Selection of a jury and opening statements of counsel began the trial here today of Joe Mazurosky, Portland pawbroker, at a special term of the United States district court before Judge James Alzer Fee.

Mazurosky, charged by the government with participation in an alleged eye cure fraud, was re-arrested after a previous prosecution ended in a mistrial. A change of venue from Portland was granted on motion of defense counsel Monday.

Man Falls 25 Feet

THE DALLES, March 17—(AP)—J. C. Syme, electrician, laughed today at bruises and cuts suffered in a 25-foot fall from a scaffolding.

The accident restored the hearing he had lost years before in one ear. Physicians said the shock had broken muscle and nerve adhesions.

Starting TOMORROW
JOE E. BROWN WIDE OPEN FACES
Also: Lillian Skripworth, Lyda Roberts, Jane Wyman
Last Day
Alice Faye Jimmy Durante
Tony Martin Sally, Irene and Mary

Art Certificate No 131
This Certificate entitles you to one week's Set of Four Pictures upon payment of only 39¢ (46¢ if by mail).
Be sure to order Set No. 1—If you have that or subsequent sets, order the next numbered Set of Four.

Kills Family



Major Emil Fey, former vice chancellor of Austria, who was in power when Prince Rudiger von Starbemberg controlled the helmwehr, recently reportedly killed his wife and son, then committed suicide in Vienna.

The act was believed to be in protest against the Nazi accession.—IN photo.

Perry Supported In Home District

District Attorney Baker Endorses Candidate for Grange Post

Ralph W. Perry, Hood River fruit grower, has received the endorsement of Dist. Atty. John Baker of Hood River county in his candidacy for the mastership of the Oregon state grange, according to word received from that city. In a public letter Baker wrote of Perry as follows:

"I have known Ralph W. Perry quite intimately for the past 28 years. He was elected county commissioner of Hood River county at the general election, 1936, and is making an enviable record for the faithful performance of his duties in the interests of the taxpayer. He is an honest, intelligent, hardworking, thrifty farmer, who minds his own business—and a prominent granger to boot."

"I am informed that he is a candidate for state grange master. Unfortunately, being a lawyer, I am not eligible to be initiated into the secret mysteries of that great order. However, I wish to say that Ralph W. Perry is, in every way, qualified to perform the duties of that high office, with credit to himself and honor to the organization."

Chamberlain Will Clarify His Views

(Continued From Page 1)
sisted there was not a government crisis despite mounting reports that the cabinet and the dominant conservative party had split wide open on Chamberlain's cautious foreign policy.

The revolt piled an internal crisis on top of a nation already deeply alarmed over the dynamite-laden European situation.

Labor Problem Is Debated at Lions

A proposal to authorize the national labor relations board to enforce arbitration upon labor and capital as a means of doing away with strikes was debated before the Salem Lions club yesterday night by Lando Hiebert and Aldus Smith of the Willamette university speech department. The club voted to call it a draw. The speakers were introduced by Waldo Hiebert.

Arlington Port Proposal Gets Hearing March 22

THE DALLES, March 17—(AP)—Major T. D. Weaver of the United States army engineers will conduct a hearing March 22 at Arlington on a petition for construction of port facilities there.

Lithuania and Poland Snarl

Six Demands Mentioned; Nazi Propaganda Is Spread, Austria

(Continued From page 1)
turn out a heavy vote in favor of Austria's union with Germany in the April 10 plebiscite.

A branch of Paul Joseph Goebbels' propaganda ministry was set up in a section of the old Austrian parliament building, the Nazi headquarters, to carry out the job.

One of the initial steps was to order 20,000 radio receiving sets from Germany for distribution to remote localities so that Nazi oratory could be heard in the farthest corner of the land.

A spokesman for the plebiscite campaign organization warned against over-estimating Nazi strength.

MOSCOW, March 17—(AP)—Soviet Russia today invited world powers to consider joint action against aggressor nations and to prevent "a new world massacre."

Maxim Litvinoff, Soviet commissar for foreign affairs, indicated Germany, Italy and Japan would be ignored when the Russian proposal is offered to various capitals, including Washington.

Litvinoff, disclosing the plan at one of his rare press interviews, did not specifically arrange a conference. He said one would be held if it appeared the powers were ready to do something.

PARIS, March 17—(AP)—Premier Leon Blum's four-day old cabinet and its billion dollar program for swift rearmament won a 369 to 196 vote of confidence tonight in the chamber of deputies.

Shortly before facing the chamber the cabinet had taken two steps to hasten France's arms building.

It authorized extraordinary expenses of 4,465,000,000 francs (about \$130,000,000), mostly for new fighting planes, and decided to ask parliament for additional exceptional armaments credits.

Gale, Heavy Rain Follow Snowfall

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back and forth from Salem each day.

At the Silver Falls camp there was 30 inches of snow, and a lesser amount at Detroit.

Swelled by the recent rains, the Willamette river touched the 12.8 foot mark yesterday, a rise of 9.7 feet since Sunday. There is believed no danger of a flood without heavy continuous rainfall accompanied by melting of mountain snows.

Chamberlain Will Clarify His Views

(Continued From page 1)
sisted there was not a government crisis despite mounting reports that the cabinet and the dominant conservative party had split wide open on Chamberlain's cautious foreign policy.

The revolt piled an internal crisis on top of a nation already deeply alarmed over the dynamite-laden European situation.

O. S. Blanchard Heads Josephine Martin Club

GRANTS PASS, March 17—(AP)—Edgar W. Smith, chairman of the Oregon milk control board, announced today the appointment of O. S. Blanchard as president of the Josephine re-elect Governor Martin club.

BALLADE of TODAY

"Fall in! Right shoulder arms!" Herr Hitler orders, and thousands without questioning obey; if convenient, say when foes invade the borders, but we still prefer the democratic way.

Wholesale House Will Open Store

Mid-Valley Branch to Be Operated by Gilbert Appliance Firm

Another wholesale house is being added to Salem's commercial front this week, a mid-valley branch of Gilbert Bros., Inc., of Portland and Salem, another gap closed in the North Commercial street business row, the new unit's manager, Edward I. Geller, announced yesterday.

The firm will handle electrical and hardware goods in the wholesale trade only and also handle exclusive distribution of the Fairbanks-Morse line of home appliances.

Geller and his staff have taken quarters at 141 North Commercial street, formerly occupied by the C. J. Brewer dry-goods store. Although installation of stock and sales furnishings will not be completed for several days, the firm was open for business yesterday.

Working with Geller will be W. H. McClain, former prominent peace officer and Salem author. Platt, of Portland, as salesman.

"We will give our clientele improved service in this district through the facilities of Gilbert Bros., which has been in business in Portland for 15 years," Geller said.

Another distributor in Salem for our Fairbanks-Morse line of refrigerators, washing machines, radios and mangles."

Portland Medics Tell Fish Yarn

TILLAMOOK, March 17—(AP)—Two Portland doctors reported a fishing experience today as unbelievable as "a customer paying cash."

Dr. Willis Watson yelled "fish on," and switched to more lurid language when he hooked a finger in his reel and broke his line.

Dr. Charles Wallin chuckled and, feeling a vibrant tug, reeled in vigorously with his own tackle.

His catch was Dr. Watson's line, which had fouled on his hook. A 12-pound steelhead tackle smasher was still fast on the business end.

Dr. McDaniel Renamed Motor Association Head

PORTLAND, March 17—(AP)—Dr. E. B. McDaniel, president of the Oregon State Motor association for the past 10 years, was reelected to the post last night.

CAPITOL
Today & Sat. - 2 Hits
Continuous Saturday 2 to 11
LOVE, HONOR & BEHAVE
with John Littel - Thomas Mitchell - Dick Foran
Directed by Stanley Logan
A Warner Bros. Picture
And 2nd Hit
MORRIS LANE
College Caps! Campus Cuties! Thrills and Action
"All-American Sweetheart"

Last Times Today
\$5,000 Contest Hit "Benefits Forgo!"
"Of Human Hearts" Stadium Mystery
ELSINORE FEATURES
STARTS TOMORROW!

Gold! The deadly siren that makes men tear at the hearts of mountains... and break the hearts of women... Only the strong dared fight for gold and only the brave loved love, when the Rule of Might was the ruthless law of the land!

GOLD IS WHERE YOU FIND IT
GEORGE BRENT OLIVIA DE HAVILLAND CLAUDE RAINS MARGARET LINDSAY
Music by Max Steiner
A First National Picture
A COSMOPOLITAN PRODUCTION
The Sky's the Limit in Fun and Frolic
"PARADISE FOR THREE"
Frank Morgan Rob. Astor Edna May Reginald Florence Young Mary Oliver Owen Rice