

Bomb Probers Hit Blank Wall

Ex-Capone Buddy Killed in Explosion

SAN MATEO, Cal. — (AP) — Police were "up against a blank wall" Wednesday in their investigation of the explosion which took the life of Thomas Keen, prominent sportsman and former associate of Al Capone.

The 56-year-old developer of the mechanical rabbit used at dog race tracks was blown to bits Tuesday morning when he pressed the starter of his automobile, setting off a blast which destroyed the car, shattered the garage and jolted the neighborhood.

AFTER A thorough check of the scene for possible clues, Police Chief Martin McDonald admitted he was "up against a blank wall." However, Deputy Atty. Gen. Harold G. Robinson said his office "is standing by and observing, in case there is a possible tie-in with organized crime."

Robinson, an expert on gangland killings through his years of experience with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, admitted the killing "is in the pattern—the modus operandi—of the underworld."

INVESTIGATOR A. L. Lamport of the San Mateo County district attorney's office said there was no doubt the explosive was planted. He estimated four or five sticks of dynamite had been wired to the starter of the 1947 Cadillac.

The victim, with Edward J. O'Hare, parlayed a borrowed \$10 into a fortune after they sold Mobster Capone on the idea of using their mechanical rabbit for dog racing. Keen was still receiving royalties on the gadget when he was killed.

O'Hare was shot down on the streets of Chicago in 1939. The murder never was solved.

Dennis Heads Kefauver Unit

PORTLAND — (AP) — Walter J. Dennis, state chairman of the Young Democrats, is chairman of the Oregon Kefauver for President Committee.

Other officers elected when the group organized here Saturday are Mrs. Elaine Berry, vice-chairman; Owen J. Carl, secretary; and St. Cohn, Multnomah County clerk, treasurer. All are from Portland.

State Sen. Jack Bain, who filed the original Kefauver petition will be campaign chairman.

In another development in the move to get the Tennessee senator's name on the Oregon Democratic presidential primary ballot, Mrs. Gladys Last, vice-president of the Democratic State Central Committee, said she favored nomination of Kefauver. She said she would help circulate nominating petitions.

Writer Lauds Ex-Governor

PORTLAND — (AP) — State Sen. Richard L. Neuberger, Portland, boosts former Gov. Charles A. Sprague of Oregon as a Republican vice presidential possibility in an article in the current Nation.

"If the Republicans look westward for a vice presidential nominee," Neuberger wrote, "they could do worse than pick this 64-year-old publisher, often called 'the conscience of Oregon.' Probably few men would make a stronger appeal to the independent voters."

Sprague is publisher of the Oregon Statesman at Salem.

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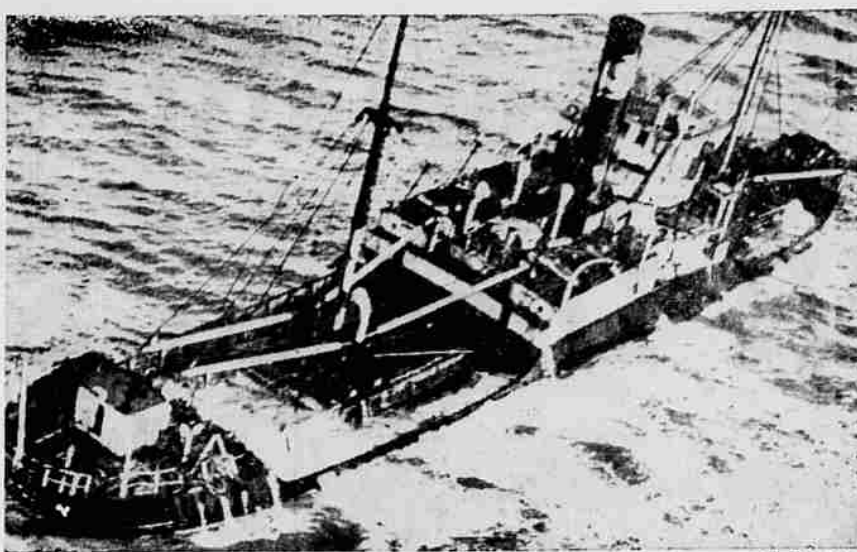
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VICTIM OF ATLANTIC STORM—The 2,600-ton freighter Miget, bound from Baltimore to Brazil with wheat, is pictured fast aground on Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. The captain and crew of 26 abandoned the ship when it started breaking in half.

Lions Engage in Bloody Battle At Beatty's Training Quarters

EL MONTE, Calif. — (AP) — Famed animal trainer Clyde Beatty narrowly escaped death Tuesday when seven infuriated lions ignored his whip and engaged in a bloody free-for-all battle.

The fight occurred here at Beatty's winter training quarters when he attempted to mix two lions with five recently arrived from Africa.

Beatty had expected trouble when he mixed the strange lions with some "old timers," but said later he had "no idea it was going to be as bad as it turned out."

A United Press-Movietone news camera crew, on hand to film Beatty with the new lions, recorded the unexpected battle.

June, one of the older lions, started the fight as soon as he entered the circular cage. The new arrivals, then leaped squarely on the back of one of the younger lions.

The infuriated roars of the two jungle beasts set off a chain

reaction in the other five who ignored Beatty's cracking whip and turned on each other.

While helpers poked long poles at the lions from outside the cage, Beatty stood his ground in the midst of the roaring fight that raged from all quarters of the 42-foot diameter cage.

Once he nearly was knocked from his feet as one of the lions brushed against him while running, he stopped for a good look at him from another.

"It was a tight spot," he admitted later, "because they were fighting all around me and my back was continually exposed."

For several minutes the entire cage was a mass of confusion as the snarling beasts rolled over the floor, sometimes in pairs and at other times in groups of four or five.

The trainer, armed only with his chair, whip and a revolver loaded with blanks, gradually separated the giant beasts by diverting their rage from another lion to himself.

Several of the lions, with blood dripping from their jaws, attempted to jerk the chair from his hands with their teeth.

After several tense minutes Beatty managed to quiet the beasts and coax them to pedestals in the cage.

At least four bore bloody wounds from the melee.

Unshaken by the ordeal, Beatty went on to complete the act which called for four Tigers, inherent enemies of lions, to enter the cage and take their place on pedestals among the seven lions.

When the perspiration-soaked Beatty finally emerged from the cage a camera man asked him why he didn't attempt to leave when any one of the excited animals might have attacked him from the rear.

"The only thing I could do," Beatty replied, "was to stay in there and try to separate them. If I hadn't some of them would have been killed, and I didn't want to take the chance of losing any."

Senators Move To Abolish RFC

Truman Nomination Blocked by Group

WASHINGTON — (AP) — A new move to abolish the RFC gained strength Wednesday amid a Senate committee snarl over President Truman's nomination of Harry A. McDonald to head the big lending agency.

Worried over its stalemate, the Senate Banking committee voted to send a three-man subcommittee to "talk turkey" with Mr. Truman about "all phases of the RFC problem."

AT THE SAME TIME, it decided to ask Democratic leaders for a Senate showdown as soon as possible on what kind of an RFC Congress wants—if any.

Some supporters of legislation to abolish the loan agency said they will push for a vote on the issue before the banking committee acts on McDonald's nomination. They included three committee members, Sens. A. Willis Robertson (D-Va.), Homer E. Capehart (R-Ind.) and John W. Bricker (R-O).

The committee postponed action on McDonald's nomination again Tuesday after five hours of stormy closed sessions that brought several developments:

1. CHAIRMAN Burnet R. Maybank (D-SC), Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) and Capehart were named to confer with Mr. Truman "as soon as possible."

2. THE COMMITTEE voted to urge the Democratic leadership to make possible a floor test in the near future on a bill to abolish the agency and, if that fails, on a measure by Fulbright to tighten and revise its administrative procedures.

3. A DECISION for Maybank to confer next week with Chairman Robert Crosser (D-O) of the House interstate Commerce committee. A subcommittee of the House group is investigating the Securities and Exchange Commission, of which McDonald is now chairman.

There were indications that Senate action on the McDonald nomination may be postponed for another week at least, although Maybank and Fulbright emphasized that they have nothing reflecting on his personal honesty or ability.

Jailbirds Get Web Wozy

CALI. Colombia — (AP) — Spiders these days are arachnida non grata in the Cali jail. Seems the boys were getting wozy on the webs.

This is the way the local cops spin out the yarn:

The inmates in a particular cell had been turning up tipsy-regularly. Smuggled narcotics were suspected. A trap produced no smuggler, and the jailbirds still got plastered.

The cops watched. They saw the prisoners form a human pyramid. The top man busily gathered cowwebs from the ceiling. These they rolled in cigarette paper, lit them and puffed themselves higher than the nearby Andes.

To keep the spiders from quitting the premises in disgust, what with their homes going up in smoke daily, the prisoners fed the succulent flies.

No more spiders, said the police, ordering a quick clean-up.

Exchange Club Sees Sugar Industry Film

Films of the Hawaiian sugar industry were shown members of the Exchange Club Tuesday by Don Low of Weyerhaeuser Timber Co.

Some of the steps in sugar manufacture closely resembled operations in the lumber industry. Huge stockpiles or cold decks of the raw cane were shown, transportation of the canes was accomplished by some of the inland companies by the use of flumes similar to the ones used here for logs.

Plush Seats Crossed Off

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Air Force typists will have to sit in the same kind of chairs as other government employees. Special super-plush seats are out.

And furthermore, the Air Force has been advised to confine its scientific research to airplanes.

A House armed services subcommittee said in a statement Tuesday that the testing of chairs should be left to the Government Services Administration whose chairs have been "fairly well researched" and proven satisfactory.

Chairs sought by the subcommittee would cost \$29 apiece but the \$16.80 to \$18 paid for selected chairs.

"How silly does a person get in order to spend \$200,000?" commented Hebert (D-La.). That's the way he figured the special would cost over \$34 million.

Books to Quebec

ST. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, Que.—(AP)—A mobile book-of-the-month club keeps hundreds of families in rural Quebec up-to-date on their reading. The mobile library, operated by the adult education department of McGill University, is a shell-lined van which visits 40 communities once a month.

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