

BAD LUCK BLAMED

Husband, Whose Wife Plotted His Killing, Still Loves Her

By HENRY MINARD

Port Orchard, Wash., Nov. 10 (AP)—Jobless Wilford Platt, 34, explained today why he "just can't get mad" at his wife, who admits plotting to kill him after 15 years of "too much loving."

Wilford, who, romantically speaking, thinks he's "only average," visited the petite, blue-eyed Margaret Susan Platt Monday, following her arraignment in Kitsap county court.

His 31-year-old wife, mother of two children, has until next Monday to answer the charge of attempted murder.

After her arraignment, Mrs. Platt, dressed prettily in a black and white figured dress and high-heeled pumps, met her husband in the jail visiting room. They kissed and hugged.

Leaving her with a sack full of apples, Wilford beamed: "She's wonderful!"

"And I think I know now what the real trouble is," he said. "It's only the way our luck's been going."

"Two years ago I wrecked my new 1947 Ford and woke up 21 days later in the hospital. After that, the roof fell in."

"This spring Margaret was operated on for the tumor. Then Jimmy, my 9-year-old son, broke his ear drum."

It was Fourth of July when Jimmy, his hands sticky from candy he was eating, lighted a firecracker, threw it and then clamped his hands to his ears. The explosive had stuck to his hands.

"Six weeks later a police dog knocked him down and bit his face," Wilford said. "Not long after that, my daughter Sherry, fell 30 feet and broke her shoulder. That was on my wife's birthday."

Seven days later Platt fell and broke his arm while apple picking in Cashmere, Wash.

"About that time is when she started acting funny. Wouldn't talk to me, reason with me," he said. "Just barely noticed me."

"Seems like everything in her snapped the next Sunday when the clothesline broke."

With her husband unable to work, she had been working two jobs—16 hours a day. Sunday was washday.

It was that week-end that Mrs. Platt met Hollis D. Scott and outlined her plot to murder her husband.

"She was just depressed," that's all," said Wilford. "Then she pulled that fool stunt soon after. That's why you can't get mad at her."

At the arraignment her attorney, Ray R. Greenwood, challenged validity of the attempted murder charge, arguing that the information as drawn up did not constitute a crime.

"No overt act was committed," he pointed out.

Prosecutor James Monroe contended solicitation to commit murder is the same as attempted murder.

Mrs. Platt's reason for her plot that failed was that her husband "wanted to make love every night for 15 years," and she said she couldn't stand it any longer.

Scott, 24, whom Mrs. Platt first approached with the idea of "doing away" with Wilford, pleaded innocent to the charge of grand larceny by embezzlement. "Triggerman" Wallis Mottern, 22, was granted a week to prepare his plea to the same charge. Both have insisted they only "put on an act." Murder wasn't their business, they assured police.

Mrs. Platt claimed Scott and Mottern "welched" on the deal after she had paid them more than \$1500 for the job.

Mrs. Platt said she sold her husband's 1948 Hudson for \$1200 and gave the money to Scott as final payment for the murder of Wilford.

U.S. Bureau of Mines engineers are making a mineral inventory of Kansas.

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Adm. Connolly For Annapolis

Washington, Nov. 10 (AP)—The navy said Wednesday Admiral Richard L. Connolly has agreed to become commandant of the naval academy at Annapolis, Md.

Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, chief of naval operations, in a statement discussing possible changes growing out of Denfeld's transfer from the naval chief's post, said Connolly had been offered a choice of two jobs. They are commander of the eastern sea frontier, a post currently held by Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid who will retire next spring, or the naval academy post, now held by Rear Admiral James L. Holloway, who is awaiting assignment to new duties.

"Admiral Connolly's choice was the latter," Sherman's statement said.

"In either case he would hold the rank of vice admiral, the highest any flag officer on shore duty except the chief of naval operations may hold in peacetime. (Connolly, who has had the eastern Atlantic command for three and a half years, holds the temporary rank of full four-star admiral.)"

"If admiral Denfeld, now on protracted leave, decides against accepting the offered command, it is the intention of the chief of naval operations to extend Admiral Connolly's tour of duty because of the importance of the duties which he is now performing."

The oldest Bible in government service is one on which every justice of the supreme court has been sworn in since 1808.

A group of sophomore girls from Salem high, directed by Howard Miller, presented several vocal numbers.

A Christmas cantata will be the principal feature of the December meeting of the PTA.

Chicago, Nov. 10 (AP)—Sigmund Swindler, sentenced yesterday to two to 10 years in prison for operating an \$8,700 confidence game at the expense of a red haired widow.

Judge George M. Fisher overruled a motion for a new trial in criminal court, but granted the aged Lothario a 60-day stay so he can appeal.

Meanwhile the self-styled lover of 1,001 women will stay in county jail.

The blue of the sapphire is due to oxides of iron and titanium.



New Rescue Plane—Air rescue tests employing the McDonnell Aircraft Corp. XHJD-1 "Whirlaway," believed to be the first twin-engine, twin-rotor helicopter, have been successfully completed. The plane, a navy experimental helicopter, was tested for the purpose recently by air force representatives at Lambert-St. Louis field. In photo, Ralph Ballard, an experimental mechanic at the McDonnell plant has been lifted from ground and is about to be taken into plane. (AP Wirephoto)

PTA Meeting at West Salem School

A joint open house and PTA meeting drew more than 300 persons to the West Salem school Tuesday night. The program was so arranged that it held the interest of youth as well as the adults.

Aged Love Swindler Given 2-10 Years

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Russian Blast Enlarges River

Berlin, Nov. 10 (AP)—The Russian-licensed newspaper Nacht Express said yesterday Soviet use of atomic energy to blast an entire mountain has opened the way for a man-made river bigger than the English channel.

A power plant 800 times the capacity of Hoover (Boulder) dam will be built in southwest Russia, to turn a desert into 75,000,000 irrigated acres for cotton planting, the newspaper said.

Nacht Express gave additional details tonight of the atomic explosion upon which it had reported Saturday. The story said the chief engineer on the project disclosed the information before Moscow institute of energy.

The Nacht Express is communist-controlled but has no official standing with the Russian occupation in Germany. Its atomic story apparently had the approval of the Russians, but not necessarily their sponsorship.

They use the Red army's Taegliche Rundschau for official announcements.

Nacht Express quoted Engineer Davydov as saying atomic explosions were used to drive a canal through the Turgai mountains between the Ural mountains and Kirgiz range.

This was done to make possible the construction of two dams to divert the waters of the Ob and Yenisei rivers toward the south. They empty into the Arctic ocean.

To receive the diverted water, the newspaper said, a channel 580 miles long and emptying into the Aral sea will be built. It will be deep enough for seagoing vessels. Another channel will be dug to conduct the Aral with the Caspian sea.

Braat Heads Local

Pleasantdale—Twelve members of Dayton local No. 222 Farmers Union met at the Pleasantdale community hall Tuesday evening.

The annual election of officers resulted in president, Arnold Braat; vice president, James Richardson; secretary-treasurer, Wayne Owens.

Lila Banished For Five Years

Los Angeles, Nov. 10 (AP)—Lila Leeds, who figured in the celebrated Robert Mithum marijuana case, was ordered today to spend the next five years outside California.

That was a condition of probation granted in superior court after her arrest on a reckless driving charge.

The 21-year-old blonde movie bit actress cried a little as Judge Clement D. Nye told her:

"You are a member of a profession which is the cynosure of all eyes. The vast majority of its members have good reputations. You have a great responsibility."

Judge Nye made it plain that he is not banishing her from California, but that she voluntarily offered to stay out of the state for the term of her probation. She was earlier granted probation on a marijuana conspiracy charge after 60 days in jail.

Her attorney, Grant Cooper, says she will start a \$1250-a-week theatrical tour in Cincinnati Nov. 21.

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