

### Pray for Tiny Cancer Victim

El Monte, Cal., Dec. 15 (AP)—Tiny Sheila Reno's family today asked everybody in town to pray for the 10-month-old cancer victim who specialists say may not live to see her second Christmas.

Despite malignant tumors that clouded her eyes since birth, Sheila will be able to see the bright ornaments glittering on her first Christmas tree.

But her mother, Mrs. Louis Reno, said tearfully that specialists gave her daughter only a 50-50 chance to live until her second.

If anything can save Sheila, it will be prayers, she said.

"I believe in prayer, don't you?"

After Mrs. Reno first noticed Sheila's affliction three weeks ago, her family—Mr. and Mrs. Reno and their nine-year-old son, started kneeling in prayer nightly at the baby's crib.

Neighbors heeded the mother's request for prayers in their homes and churches.

"I hope many children will pray for her," Mrs. Reno said. "I know the Lord listens to them."

The Renos, however, do not rely entirely upon prayer. Sheila gets daily X-ray treatments at a leading cancer clinic, but doctors said it was too early to predict whether they can save her sight or life.



Silent Vigil—Mr. and Mrs. Louis Reno of El Monte, Calif., watch over their sleeping 10-month-old daughter, Sheila, who was born with malignant tumors on both eyes and is not expected to live until Christmas. Townspeople of El Monte have offered their prayers that the infant may live. (Acme Telephoto)

### Red Purges in East Europe Point to Stiffening Cold War

London, Dec. 15 (AP)—Purges of eastern Europe's ruling communist parties have been speeded up in a campaign apparently aimed at stiffening Red resistance to growing western military preparedness.

Since the Russian-led cominform met in November, diplomats here agree, the drive to crush independent nationalist feelings and build up Russian prestige has been turned on full blast.

The new rash of purges and government shakeups from Poland to Bulgaria promises an intensification of the east-west cold war, these diplomatic sources believe.

The purges are seen by diplomatic observers not only as an attempt to rid the parties of those who sympathize with the west or with Yugoslavia's Tito—ousted from the communist information bureau for defying Moscow dictates—but also to tighten the party discipline.

The cominform is made up of communist parties from Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, France and Italy. Last month is ordered its members to purge the party of those who fall to support the Soviet-proclaimed "peace" drive, and to boost the Soviet Union.

The observers saw as a forerunner to this announced campaign the trial in Hungary of former Foreign Minister Laszlo Rajk. He was executed on charges of spying, sabotage and plotting with Marshal Tito and the British and Americans to overthrow the present communist regime there. Rajk himself was at one time a leading member of that country's communist party.

Other events that occurred almost simultaneously with the cominform meeting appear to be no mere coincidence. They were:

1. In Poland, former deputy Premier Wladyslaw Gomulka was expelled from the central committee of the communist party for allegedly continuing an "anti-Soviet", nationalist policy. There are unconfirmed rumors he may be tried as a nationalist or Titoist (the words are synonymous in cominform vernacular).
2. Polish-born Marshal Constantin Rokossovsky withdrew from the Russian army and became boss of Poland's army. He also was given a voice in Polish political councils by election to the communist party central committee.
3. The Bulgarians suddenly began the trial of former deputy Premier Traicho Kostov, who today is awaiting sentence in a Sofia jail on charges of plotting with Tito and being anti-Soviet. Kostov's trial had been postponed twice previously. It is expected he will receive a severe sentence—possibly death by hanging—although he shocked the communist world by refusing to pour out a penitent confession of his guilt.

let; Reporter, Jimmy Mentzer. Other members are Jerry Mentzer and Raymond Jackson. Extension agent, Stanley Fansher helped organize the clubs.

### Honeymoon Comes 50 Years Late

Kansas City, Dec. 15 (AP)—A 71-year-old woman was honeymooning today with a man she walked out on almost a half century ago.

Martha Marie Ballard and Noah Paddock were married last night. He is 71 also.

Forty-nine years ago Miss Ballard left her home the night before she was to marry Paddock. She went to Denver and got a job.

Paddock didn't see her again until 1938 when she returned to Kansas City. Last August they patched up differences and then decided to get married.

"It was a misunderstanding," Paddock said yesterday. "I understand and don't hold it against her. We both have more sense now."

### Silverton Legion Joins With Unit

Silverton—The regular meeting of the second Monday in the month of Delbert Reeves post No. 7, American Legion, is set ahead to Monday evening, December 19, in deference to the holiday season when the annual Christmas party for the members of the auxiliary and children will be held jointly with the unit.

Wesley Grogan, commander, completed the appointment of his committee personnel for the coming year's work to include on-membership, Fred Evans; legislation, Joe Kaufman; Americanism, P. C. Hamzel; service officer, Frank M. Powell; entertainment, Dr. A. J. McCombs; finance officer, Kenneth Webb; community service, Lowell Paul; athletics, Norman Eastman; publicity, P. M. Powell; grave registration, Dewey Allen; boys state, C. E. Hinchelbush; ways and means, Arthur Gotschberg, C. J. Tove; Ernest Lanham, Henry Jackson, Ray David, Russell Johnson and Ed Radcliff.

Entertainment program is to be given once each month. Fines are to be imposed on each member who does not submit two members or bring two visitors. The band uniforms were voted to be given to the school group.

### Pedee Grade School Clubs Organized

Pedee—Two 4-H clubs have been organized at the grade school. Pedee Hustlers Livestock, Dewey Cummins, Leader, will meet the first Friday of each month at the school house. Officers are: President, Dewey Cummins, Jr. Vice president, Orval Stepper; Secretary, Rodney Hill; Reporter, Larry Zuber; Song Leader, Leslie Broadus. Other members are Freddy Skeels and Dennis Zuber.

Helping Hands, 4-H Livestock club, Leader, Glen Olson. Officers are: President Dennis Clark; Vice president, Bobby O'Neal; Secretary, Ronnie Ball-

### Thelma Todd Death Remains Mystery Still After 14 Years

Hollywood, Dec. 15 (AP)—Was it murder? Or was it suicide? Or did Thelma Todd accidentally die 14 years ago today? That riddle has been cause for debate in Hollywood ever since the blonde star was found dead in her garage one morning in 1935. Here's how the death occurred:

Thelma, the fun-loving ex-school teacher from Lawrence, Mass., went to a Saturday night party at the Trocadero in honor of the English comic, Stanley Lupino. A chauffeur picked her up between 2:30 and 3 a.m. and drove her back to her cafe at the beach. She appeared quiet and tired.

When she waved goodbye to the driver at four Sunday morning, it was the last time she was seen alive.

At 10:15 Monday morning, Miss Todd's maid opened the garage door and found the actress slumped in the front seat of her car. She wore a mauve and silver evening gown and mink coat, and jewels ornamented her throat and wrist. She had been dead at least 12 hours—of carbon monoxide poisoning. The ignition key was turned

on and the heavy garage doors were closed. There were no notes or other clues. A lengthy investigation ensued.

Was it murder? Miss Todd's lawyer thought so. "I believe someone knows something about this case which should be told," he said. He added that gamblers had urged the actress to put gambling in her cafe, but she opposed it.

What about suicide? Young Ida Lupino, daughter of the Trocadero's guest of honor told Miss Todd that night of being tired of the movie business and wanting to quit.

"I've been trying to do that all my life," answered Miss Todd, "but I guess there's only one way out."

But Thelma's mother said: "My daughter's death was ac-

cidental. I am convinced of that. Suicide is entirely out of the question. She was too happy for that. Murder is unthinkable. She had no enemies who would wish to cause her death."

Detective Chief Thad Brown of the Los Angeles police agrees with that theory. "The death is still accidental in my book," he told me this week.

### Macley Grange Club Has Holiday Affair

Macley—Members of the grange home economics club and their husbands held the annual pre-Christmas dinner at the grange hall.

After dinner the men worked on the installation of a gas furnace and the women made plans for entertaining the state grange conference in January.

They also planned a meeting for Thursday at the Lloyd Keene home to make Christmas decorations for the home.

During the social hour the Glad Ladies for the year were revealed and names drawn for 1950.

Officers for the coming year are: Mrs. Harry Martin, Sr., president; Mrs. Richard McKee, vice president; Mrs. Harry Prunk, secretary-treasurer.

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