

Salem High Grad Assigned To Molecular Research Post

A grant of \$2500 for research in the structure of molecules is being awarded Willamette university by the Research Corporation of New York, Dr. Robert W. Fenix, vice president, announced here Saturday.

The grant, one of several set up by Chemist Frederick Gardner Cottrell, will permit Willamette to purchase special equipment and offer advanced students opportunities for original research.

Young DP Foils Armed Robber

Cleveland, Dec. 31 (AP)—A 19-year-old lad who came to the United States two years ago from Croatia was a neighborhood hero today. He boldly attacked an armed robber in his father's beverage store.

John Badovinac, Jr., 12, is the hero. Last night a robber, his face covered by a stocking, pointed a .38 caliber revolver at John and ordered him to open the cash register in the store.

"I don't know how," the youngster replied. As the gunman repeated his demand, Clarence Lavan, 27, a driver for the store, picked up a carton of canned beer and headed it at the masked man. His aim was wild, and the carton crashed on the floor.

But while the robber was distracted, young Badovinac knocked the revolver from the intruder's hand and leaped on his back. He was thrown off, but he snatched the man's mask from his face.

By 3:30, came time John Badovinac, Sr., 38, came out of a stockroom and kicked the robber in the stomach. That was enough for the disarmed gunman who fled through the plate glass door—without opening it. Two detectives arrested him a short distance away. They identified him as George A. Green, 24, unemployed.

Alexis Smith in Doghouse

Los Angeles, Dec. 31 (AP)—Alexis Smith is in Warner Brothers' doghouse. The studio sued yesterday to cancel its contract with the actress and asked for the return of \$40,000 allegedly paid her just before she is said to have refused a picture assignment last Oct. 15.

Former Jacque Mercer Spurns Challenge by Mrs. America

Litchfield Park, Ariz., Dec. 31 (AP)—Miss America of 1949 said today she wasn't interested in entering any more beauty contests. Former Jacque Mercer, now Mrs. Douglas Cook, made the statement in declining a second challenge to compete in an "open" beauty contest with Mrs. America, Mrs. Francis Cloyd of San Diego, Calif.

The 18-year-old college student, contacted at her parents home here, said she still felt the way she did when Mrs. Cloyd challenged her after she won the Miss America title at Atlantic City in September.

"I am proud of the title I won," Jacque said, "and I am not interested in any more contests."

Mrs. Cook, who married her school days sweetheart in a surprise ceremony here Tuesday night, returned from a short honeymoon Thursday night. She said she and her 20-year-old art student husband planned to remain at her parents' ranch here for several days before deciding where they will make their home.

They will go to California next spring where Cook will study art and Jacque pursue a film career. The dark-haired beauty said she wasn't interested in meeting Mrs. America "for any title." In a telegram to Miss America, Mrs. Cloyd suggested they could now meet on "common ground" since Jacque's recent marriage.

Mrs. Cloyd, who extended her latest challenge through Bert Nevins, director of the national Mrs. America contest at Miami Beach, Fla., told the Arizona beauty that "no woman is truly beautiful until she is married." But Mrs. Cook stuck by her guns and refused to be baited.

Jacque and her husband refused to say where they had spent their two-day honeymoon. "That's our secret," Jacque said.

Their wedding came as a surprise to Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Mercer, the bride's parents. Only last week, the young couple had announced they would be married next July 4 but decided not to wait "because we don't like being separated."

Government statisticians estimate that the rat population of the United States is at least 140,000,000, about equally divided between farm and city.



Professor Robert L. Purbrick, Willamette university physicist, who has been assigned to the project of research in the structure of molecules. A grant of \$2500 for the project has been awarded Willamette by the Research Corporation of New York.

New Year's Eve Idea Is Old World Stuff—but Not Hangover

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS

Washington, Dec. 31 (AP)—We inherited the idea of a New Year's eve celebration from the old world, but the business of a hangover on the next day is our own invention.

Here, we lift a cup, kiss all the ladies in the party at the stroke of 12 and wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

Next day we vow never again to mix Scotch, bourbon, wine, gin and beer. Perhaps to ease the pain, we tune in on a bowl football game.

Research shows that although some American observances are unique, others are just copies of celebrations held abroad.

Take France and Scotland for instance. Over there, New Year's day has been an important festival of the year. It's a time for exchanging gifts, cards and visits with kinfolk and old friends.

The Scot in the long ago pitched tradition to the winds and called his New Year's eve, "Hogmanay," grouping it with New Year's day as the "daft days."

"Hogmanay" still is the cry of Scottish youngsters who flood the streets on the eve of the new year and demand cakes and fruits from the neighbors. Everyone has a gay time.

On New Year's eve in Spain, a dozen grapes are a part of the celebration in the Puerta del Sol, which is the Times Square of Madrid. At the stroke of midnight, the grapes are held high and eaten for luck—one grape for each month of the year.

Britain follows still a different custom. There, a glass of wine and a slice of bun loaf are rewards for visitors who "first-foot." That is, those who arrive first at a home following the start of the new year.

Sometimes they call a "first foot" a "lucky bird." The honor is supposed to bring this person the symbols of warmth and prosperity. That would be coal, bread and salt.

This fellow is welcomed in England because he "lets in" the new year. But he represents the old year, too. So he leaves by the back door.

Apart from lifting a glass to "Auld Lang Syne," America has its New Year's traditions, too.

There are the "mummers' parade" in Philadelphia each year, and the Mobile, Ala., carnival.

The "mummer's parade" is a fourth cousin of the old English mummer's plays and had its start in the city of brotherly

90 of 435 House Members Have Relatives on Payroll

Washington, Dec. 31 (AP)—At least 90 of the 435 members of the house of representatives have relatives on the congressional payroll.

Nine congressmen had two relatives each on their November payroll, the latest available for inspection, which was examined by United Press reporters. One congressman—Rep. Norris Poulson, (R., Calif.)—had three daughters on the list.

Senate payroll records are not now open for public inspection, but Senate Secretary Leslie L. Biffle has announced that they soon will be.

Employment of relatives by members of congress is perfectly legal. Wives or other members of the family in many notable instances have been key figures in running important congressional offices.

President Truman had his wife working for him when he was a member of the senate. John Nance Garner was notably assisted by Mrs. Garner when he was vice president and former speaker of the house.

Members of congress now get an annual salary of \$12,500 plus a tax-free expense account of \$2,500 and allowances for telephone, telegraph and stationery expenses.

Each congressman is allowed a maximum of roughly \$20,000 a year to pay office help. No one employe can be paid more than \$7,700.

Regardless of the amount of work done, a congressman can put any relative he desires on the payroll without in any way doing anything illegal.

It is a violation of law, however, for a congressman to take a kickback from one of his employes. That's what Rep. J. Parnell Thomas, (R., N.J.), went to jail for.

Rep. Usher L. Burdick, (R., N.D.), has called for an investigation of reports of other alleged cases of kickbacks. He proposed that a special house-estate committee be established to make the investigation.

Members of congress are reluctant, however, to investigate

Beery's Ex-wife Attacks Last Will

Los Angeles, Dec. 31 (AP)—Wallace Beery's ex-wife has filed court claim to \$1,524,300 of the late actor's estate, estimated in excess of \$2,000,000.

Mrs. Mary Areta Beery Foyt, 51, wed 15 years to the actor until their divorce in 1939, charged that he defrauded her in a property settlement. She said he induced her to take \$7500 cash and an interest in a \$92,000 trust fund when they parted, revealing only assets of \$200,000 to her. Later, she claimed, she found he was worth nearly \$3,000,000.

Under Beery's will, his adopted daughter Carol Ann, nephew Noah Beery, Jr., and a brother, William, were to have the major shares of the estate. The brother recently died. The actor, 64, died last April 15.

Snyder Will Direct Linn Mercy Drive

Albany—T. M. Snyder, local oil products dealer, was named this week to head the 1950 Red Cross fund campaign, according to an announcement released by W. R. Thomas, chapter chairman.

Snyder has been a member of the chapter executive committee for several years, serving as chairman of the disaster division, and as chapter chairman. Thomas reported that a quota of \$17,200 has been set for the spring drive of the chapter, 76 percent of which will be used within Linn county.

Linn County Scouts Named for Jamboree

Albany, Dec. 31—Four Linn county Boy Scouts have been chosen to attend the National Scout jamboree in Valley Forge, Pa., June 30 to July 6, Erick Soderberg, district executive for the organization revealed Friday.

So far registered to attend the affair are Jim Waggoner and Gerald White, of Albany Methodist men-sponsored troop 21; Harvie Rose, Lebanon, IOOF.

Newport to Have 3 Mail Carriers

Newport, Ore., Dec. 31 (AP)—This coastal city, which has been distributing its mail only through postoffice boxes, will start the new year with three postmen.

The carriers will be making house-to-house deliveries Tuesday.

Gangster Faces Murder Charge

Chicago, Dec. 31 (AP)—A charge of murder was made by police last night against Julius Jones, 52, member of a prohibition era kidnap gang, in the "mistake" slaying of his wife.

Police Lt. John Hennessy also ordered a charge of assault to commit murder against Jones in the shooting of his friend, John Fitzgerald, 50 year old news vendor.

Police said Jones admitted he fired six shots from a .32 caliber pistol at his wife, Grace, 45, and Fitzgerald as they entered the Jones' South Side apartment about 4 a.m. yesterday. But, police quoted Jones as saying, he was "in a trance" from alcohol and fired in the belief they were gunmen seeking vengeance because his evidence helped convict three companions in two kidnappings.

The higher up a mountain one goes the lower the temperature of water will be when it starts to boil.

HOLLY SAYS: Best Wishes for the New Year

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Happy New Year!

To Our Friends and Customers

We extend our heartiest good wishes for the young New Year to grow old through the months with best of everything for you!

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