

## Slot Machines Hit by Hoover

Washington, Jan. 27 (AP)—J. Edgar Hoover has endorsed a bill to forbid interstate transport of slot machines as a way to crack the gambling "nest egg of the criminal underworld."

But the FBI chief told Congress it should be combined with some kind of warning to local authorities to break off deals which protect hoodlums from the law.

"In all too many communities," he said, "the local authorities are subsidized and paid to allow certain of these things to operate."

Hoover gave Congress his position on the slot machine bill at a hearing January 13 before a house appropriations subcommittee. A record of the hearings was made public today.

Rep. Prince H. Preston, Jr. (D., Ga.), has introduced a bill to stop sending slot machines across state lines. Hoover recommended that it also include disassembled machinery.

Hoover said slot machines are "the basis for gambling and for other illegal activities," in many places. If they were stopped, he said, "it would certainly slow up the operations of those various gambling groups and syndicates."

"Gambling today is the nest egg of the criminal underworld which operates throughout the country," Hoover said.

Crime, Hoover said, is worse now than at any time in the past 10 years. All phases of criminal activity are on the upgrade except murder, manslaughter, and auto theft, he said.

## Sackett Buys Seattle Star

Seattle, Jan. 27 (AP)—Sheldon Sackett, veteran Oregon and Washington newspaper and radio station owner, has entered into a preliminary agreement for purchase of the former Seattle Star, Realtor Henry Broderick said last night.

The transaction is expected to be completed about Feb. 10, said Broderick, who added that "both sides are committed."

Sackett told the Post-Intelligencer from Oakland, Calif., he would call his new venture the Seattle World and that it would follow a liberal editorial policy. He said he did not know when publication would start nor whether it would be weekly or daily.

The reported price was around \$150,000 and includes land, presses and buildings. The property presently is owned by the Northern Publishing Co., owned principally by David Stern of Philadelphia and Tommy Stern of New Orleans.

Sackett, who told the Post-Intelligencer he planned to be married in Oakland Jan. 30, took over the Star in 1947 but let his option lapse after four months.

## Edgar Possehl Has Part in Ibsen Play

Reed College, Portland, Ore., Jan. 27 — A Salem high school graduate has copped an important part in the next Reed college dramatic production, "Rosmersholm," by Ibsen.

Edgar Possehl, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Possehl, formerly of Salem now living at 8206 S.E. 17 St. in Portland, will be featured as Ulric Brendel in the play.

"Rosmersholm" will be directed by Reed drama coach, Sanford Wheeler. Although it is not one of the playwright's better known works, it is representative of Ibsen's attitudes.

Possehl started Reed in the fall of 1947 after his graduation from high school. He is now a junior, majoring in the field of chemistry.

## 'Daylight Citizen' Tax Plan Dropped

Portland, Jan. 27 (AP)—Portland isn't going to tax its "daylight citizens."

Mayor Dorothy McCullough Lee yesterday dropped her proposal that all persons who work in the city but live elsewhere be taxed \$25 a year.

The proposal aroused strong protest. Mrs. Lee said the \$25 tax was offered as an expedient to get the city out of its financial hole, but she believed budget cuts and other new revenue sources would do the job.

The council today continued its series of budget meetings.

## Famed Apple Tree May Survive Cold

Vancouver, Wash., Jan. 27 (AP)—Vancouver's famed apple tree is a sorry sight. It looks all of its 134 years—or even older.

Last week's ice storm, it was learned today, tore the historic tree's forked trunk. The larger fork broke off. Only the straggly-looking smaller fork remains.

But a committee of horticultural experts examined the tree today and decided it may live.

The tree grows on part of the old Vancouver Barracks property, outside what was the stockade area of Fort Vancouver in the early days.

Accounts of its genesis vary, but the consensus has settled on this as the like story:

The sweetheart of Aemillius Simpson, a young British naval lieutenant, gave him a packet of apple seeds to take from England to the new world. Simpson gave them to Dr. John McLoughlin, Hudson's Bay company factor here. Dr. McLoughlin, either in person or by emissary, in 1828 planted the seed that became the tree that long has been pointed to here with something approaching mingled fondness and pride.

## Food Prices Tumble in West

San Francisco, Jan. 27 (AP)—Food prices tumbled in December in every major far western city, the U.S. department of labor's bureau of labor statistics reported today.

In Portland, Ore., food prices fell to two-year lows last month, the bureau reported.

The agency uses the figure 100 to represent the "normal" period of 1935-1939. Based on that scale, the food price index for various western cities in December included:

Portland 206.3, Seattle 203.1, Salt Lake City 196.6, Denver 196.2, San Francisco 210.1 and Los Angeles 197.2.

The December national food index was 197.3.

## Larry Parks Welcome Baby

Hollywood, Jan. 27 (AP)—Musical Comedy Star Betty Garrett, wife of Actor Larry Parks, gave birth yesterday to their first child, a seven-pound 14-ounce boy who was named Garfett Christopher.



## Morse Opponent Talks Optimism

Medford, Ore., Jan. 27 (AP)—Fred E. Robinson, Medford business man who is seeking the republican nomination for United States senator, returned from Portland with word that his candidacy has started something in the nature of a crusade among those up-state republicans who hope to oust Sen. Wayne Morse.

The Medford man already has gained considerable backing, he declared, with interest snowballing rapidly since his formal filing.

Regarding his recent statement that he would withdraw if Oregon republican leaders would center on some "true republican, a man of courage and convictions, who will fight for those convictions," Robinson said he was urged by Portland friends not to withdraw unless a candidate, who could also boast statewide prominence and backing, is brought forward.

15 Escape Death at Sea as Yacht Breaks Up—When Hawaii's worst storm in years smashed the auxiliary yacht Mokuola (right) against a Honolulu breakwater, lives of 15 persons aboard the craft were endangered. With aid of the Honolulu fire department a line was attached to rocks of the breakwater. (Left) male passengers help women leave the lunging craft by a human chain. The yacht was reported a total loss. (AP Wirephoto)

## Aged Treasure Seeker Digs For Loot in Heart of Miami

Miami, Fla., Jan. 27 (AP)—George B. Mobley, 83, is busy digging a big hole in downtown Miami and says he is looking for \$40,000,000 in gold.

So far the hole, now about 20 feet deep, has yielded a blue glass mason jar patented Nov. 20, 1858 and a wine bottle dated 1853.

Mobley gave both antiques to spectators.

"I don't want any antiques," he said. "I want the gold that's in there."

A handful of onlookers watched as Mobley demonstrated his glass, metal and wooden divining rod. It leaned toward the hole, partially filled with water.

Mobley said pirates hid the gold in springs here when they came to get fresh water in the 16th and 17th centuries, but he's leaning heavily on his rod for the exact location.

Hans Christian Andersen, Danish fairy tale writer, as a youth wanted to be a dancer.

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## Storm Toll Taken At Lebanon Garden

Lebanon, Jan. 27—High winds took their toll of the lovely country garden of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dillard. It was the setting for last year's annual herb tea of the Lebanon Garden club.

Most serious damage came to the ancient incense cedar in the front yard, admired last summer by hundreds of guests from all sections of the northwest. The old landmark, quite unlike any other cedar of the section, is divided about 12 feet above the ground into separate trunks. The north trunk was split off during the high wind.

Another casualty occurred in the Dillard's rear garden where a 12-year-old Japanese purple plum was blown over.

## INCOME TAX

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## Polk County Wildfowl Fed; Birds Need Clear 'Runways'

Dallas, Jan. 27—Starving birds, thwarted by the storm, ravenously ate feed dumped over a wide area of Polk county under the sponsorship of the Dallas Lions club, according to Virgil Long of the committee in charge.

Long and Tommy Tallon scattered 21 sacks of feed, including assorted screenings, wild seeds, rye grass screenings, oats, corn and wheat, all donated by the Farmers Cooperative warehouse.

Farmers who watched the dumps reported that pheasants, robins, quail and all manner of birds native to this country gathered in large flocks to devour the feed.

Area covered extended from Falls City on the west, Rickreall on the east, the Lewis corner north of Rickreall on the north and Monmouth on the south.

In their hungry condition, the birds were considerably tamer than normal. At the approach of a human, even the most flighty ones would merely hop off a few feet, perhaps to the nearest clump of bushes, rather than fly away.

One strange sight was observed when three pheasants approached a dump. They apparently had had their tail feathers frozen fast in the storm and attempted to fly without them. Without the feathers, needed to control ascending and descending, the birds wavered through the air in a drunken manner rather than with the usual straight, smooth flight of the pheasant.

## Three Miners Killed

St. Eloy, France, Jan. 27 (AP)—A violent underground blast killed 13 coal miners yesterday and sent 20 others to the hospital with gas poisoning. The explosion was believed by the mine director to have been set off during regular rock blasting operations. The miner who touched off the powder charge was found burned to death. The mine was reported only slightly damaged.

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