

## MAIL PLANES ROBBED BY NOTORIOUS GANG

### Mail Planes Dash Away on Modern Pony Express

#### OFF FROM SAN FRANCISCO

#### First Leg of Journey to Nevada With Loss of One Minute; Mail Carried Every 200 Miles

Eugene, Aug. 21.—At 5:50 a. m. this morning, Pacific time, the mail plane, piloted by William J. Blain, launched his first attempt to carry the mail on the modern pony express. The plane, piloted by Blain, dashed away from San Francisco at 5:50 a. m. today, carrying the mail on the modern pony express. The plane, piloted by Blain, dashed away from San Francisco at 5:50 a. m. today, carrying the mail on the modern pony express.

#### Miss Helen Wills of Berkeley, 17 Year Old Women's Tennis Champion of America



The new American tennis champion is seen here shaking hands with Miss Kathleen McKane of England, just before their match at Forest Hills, N. Y., in which Miss McKane was defeated. A little later Miss Wills (on the right) played and defeated Mrs. Mollie Mallory, seven times champion.

#### MURDER 'FOR GOOD OF FAMILY' IS CONFESSED

Newman, Ga., Aug. 21.—John W. Minter, father-in-law of Millard Trouton, who was killed on the night of August 10, confessed to the slaying, officials announced last night. In his confession Minter took all the blame for the slaying. He said mistreatment of his daughter, Trouton's wife, which he said she had received at the hands of her husband, preyed on his mind until finally he called his sons and sons-in-law into conference and planned the killing as "the best to settle the matter."

#### Flagship Is Floated Off Sand Bank

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 21.—The cruiser Seattle, which went aground in Puget Sound at 2:30 this morning, at Marrowstone point, was floated shortly after noon. Five navy tugs pulled the flagship off the sand and are towing her into Seattle. The hull of the flagship was not damaged, reports said, but her engines stopped when it grounded and remained idle as the tug worked to refloat her.

#### Caving of Mud Bank Causes Water Famine

Omaha, Neb., Aug. 21.—A serious water famine was caused here today when a mud bank in the Missouri river caved in, cutting off the intake pipes at the Florence pumping station filling all city mains with muddy water. The mud was so thick all laundries in the city were forced to close down. Many other industries will be forced to suspend. A near riot occurred at Elmwood park where several thousand persons gathered around the seven artesian wells there for drinking water. Police reserves were rushed to the park to maintain order.

#### Grounded in Fog

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 21.—The cruiser Seattle went ashore early this morning on Marrowstone point, near Fort Flagger, in Puget Sound, in a heavy fog. Reports from the Bremerton navy yard say that the big cruiser is not in danger and will be floated at high tide.

#### Soldiers in Tulsa Relax Martial Law

Tulsa, Okla., Aug. 21.—Military authorities, believing they had obtained most of the facts available in their investigation of whippings and floggings here, relaxed today in the enforcement of martial law regulations. Twenty officers and men, left for their homes at Muskogee, persons were again allowed on the street after midnight without being questioned. Five business men of Broken Arrow, Okla., were questioned today by military officials regarding the many whippings and floggings here recently. The five were taken into custody after the arrest and questioning of Marshall Moore, deputy sheriff of that place. Moore was charged with plotting for his alleged part in a whipping.

#### Firpo Signed for Buenos Aires Bout

New York, Aug. 21.—Luis Angel Firpo this afternoon signed a contract with Tex Rickard to fight Harry Wills in Buenos Aires, next April, regardless of whether Firpo wins or loses in his bout with the Polo Grounds champion on September 14. Rickard has been assured that any bout in which Firpo meets a good man will draw \$1,000,000. Firpo should be the best of the signers. The signing for the Wills fight was by Rickard's office. Wills has not yet been consulted regarding the bout.

#### EASTERN FLYER LEAVES MINNEOLA AT NOON SHARP

#### Second Zone of Trip Westward Will Be Made During Night With Aid of Strong Beacons all Along Line.

Mitchel Field, Minneola, L. I., Aug. 21.—The modern pony express takes the air today, carrying 500 pounds of important luggage. A United States mail plane will leave here on a trip that is expected to terminate safely in San Francisco in 28 hours, carrying letters from coast to coast in the fastest time on record. An east bound plane hopped off from San Francisco at 5:50 this morning.

#### Flight to Continue at Night.

The second zone of the trip—from Chicago to Cheyenne—will be flown in the night. Strong beacons of light which will mark the path to fields are provided all along the line. Over the plains of Iowa and the central west the mail will be hurried while the nation sleeps. As dawn peeps over the shoulder of the westward bound carrier he will be in the territory which Indians and bandits were enemies of the original pony riders.

#### Westbound Plane Starts at Noon.

Minneola, L. I., Aug. 21.—The Minneola plane with a cargo of letters destined to reach San Francisco in 28 hours by rapid relays, left here at noon sharp. The first scheduled stop will be Cleveland at 4:45 miles. C. Eugene Johnson was the pilot of the plane, which circled the field once and then headed into the west. He was scheduled to set the plane down in Cleveland at 3:45 eastern standard time.

#### WOOD'S APPOINTEE IS DECLARED EX-CONVICT

Manila, P. I., Aug. 21.—Native newspapers opposed to the regime of Governor General Leonard Wood today tossed a bombshell in the democratic party's camp with the claim that Eulogio Rodriguez, Wood's appointee as mayor of Manila, is an ex-convict. According to the claims advanced by these newspapers, Rodriguez was known as "Convict 1037" in Bilibid penitentiary. He was convicted in 1900, charged with leading a band of ladrones in the abduction of a woman, and being accessory to the murder of an American soldier. Rodriguez was sentenced to one year in the prison and a fine of \$1,000. He served the full sentence, two petitions for pardon being refused. Manuel Quezon, president of the senate, today wired Secretary of War Weeks at Washington requesting the claims of the daily papers and advancing the plea for an order to Governor Wood requesting the mayor's resignation "because of the opposition of public opinion."

#### Governor Bryan May Undersell Coal Men

Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 21.—Governor Charles W. Bryan, a brother of William Jennings Bryan, today notified coal dealers that unless their prices are lowered he will furnish coal to the public at \$8.25 a ton and protect the public like in the "gasoline combine." Bryan also directed his ultimatum at the Lincoln municipal coal yard which expects to sell coal costing \$2.50 a ton by railroad in carload lots at \$9.50. He said it is not costing the city more than \$2.50 a ton to deliver the fuel. Great quantities of coal are being stored throughout the country and an investigation reveals a movement by operators to force a strike to make possible exorbitant prices, the governor asserted.

#### COAL MEETING FAILS TO STAVE OFF WINE STRIKE

#### Miners Refuse to Continue Present Agreement and Plan to Strike; Aid Is Asked of the President.

Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 21.—The coal conference called at the request of President Coolidge to prevent an anthracite strike September 1, broke up without a decision being reached this afternoon. "It's all off, boys," said President Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America as he came from the conference. Lewis said there would be a suspension of work in the anthracite field starting September 1. The rock on which the conference split was the question of wages. The miners demanded 20 per cent increase. The operators then suggested the present working agreement be continued until April 1, but the miners voted this down. It was stated after the meeting was adjourned that the matter be referred to the United States coal commission, made also by the operators was voted by the miners. The conference then adjourned subject to the call of the secretary. This is a formality and there will be no further session unless the government again intercedes.

#### May Demand Washington Meet.

Washington, Aug. 21.—The operators and miners who failed to reach an agreement at their Atlantic City conference may be asked to meet here to compose their difficulties, John Hays Hammond, chairman of the United States coal commission, indicated today after a half hour conference with President Coolidge. Hammond called a meeting of the entire coal commission immediately after leaving the executive offices. He said the next step by the government would be after the whole commission had discussed the situation.

#### Hammond Sees President.

Washington, Aug. 21.—John Hays Hammond, chairman of the United States coal commission, on being informed today by the United Press of the breakup of the Atlantic City conference between anthracite miners and operators declared that he would go at once to the White House to confer with President Coolidge. Hammond went into conference with President Coolidge late today. Upon the meeting will depend the first moves of the administration to avert the threatened strike September 1.

#### Operators Resist Cut.

Ambassador Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 21.—Anthracite miners and operators have reached another deadlock on the first question brought up for discussion in their renewed negotiations—the wage scale. The demand for a 20 per cent increase for cutters and a \$2 a day raise for laborers met with strong resistance from the operators. Samuel D. Warriner, chairman of the policy committee of the employers, announced today that his conferees could not possibly accept the wage demands as presented. John E. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, said the increase must be granted if a suspension of mining September 1 is to be avoided.

#### No Progress Yesterday.

A report on developments sent to the United States coal commission for transmission to President Coolidge by the secretary of the joint conference stated that wages were discussed and no progress made in the first meeting, held here yesterday. The two factions resumed their deliberations here at 10 o'clock this morning in state suite on the tenth floor of the Ambassador Hotel, high above the rolling street, where vacation crowds are frolic-ing. The suite is luxuriously furnished with plush purple lounges and easy chairs. The indications are that the factions will continue to fight on the wage question for several days. Lewis has advanced statistics claiming that the anthracite mine workers are mining under conditions that must be improved. This hazardous occupation should pay the miners better, Lewis contends. His position is that the 20 per cent increase must be granted or the men will automatically walk out of the mines in eleven days.

#### Kills Wife: Takes Body to Sheriff

Charleston, Ill., Aug. 21.—With the bullet riddled body of his wife in the back seat of his automobile, Bruce Weiman, 40, drove up to a farm house near here today and asked occupants to call the sheriff. Weiman told authorities that he found his wife with another man in a Decatur hotel and after inducing her to go for a ride, killed her. He drove aimlessly for hours before stopping. He is quoted as saying:

#### Hall Crashes Down on New York Firemen

New York, Aug. 21.—Two firemen were killed and 47 injured today when the old Masonic hall in Brooklyn collapsed while burning. The dead men are Raymond Farrell and James Sullivan. Within the walls and roof fell 40 firemen were buried in debris or hit by flying missiles. There were many remarkable escapes and rescues. The building covered a city block and was being used as a dance hall at the time of the fire. The old Masonic was a Brooklyn landmark. Fire was discovered in it shortly after midnight. After the blaze had been fought for two hours, the structure collapsed. When the roof went down in a cloud of sparks many firemen went with it. Others were caught beneath showers of bricks as portions of the walls toppled into the street. First reports were that 50 had been killed. The rescue squads began pulling out the victims and found that most of them were alive. Some were found huddled beneath heaps of fire apparatus which had served to shield them when the walls fell into the street. Others were discovered under heaps of hot wreckage which had fallen in such a way as to form a sort of canopy and save them from being crushed to death. Weak and singering, smeared with blood and grime, other firemen retreated to report to their superiors. The rescue gangs worked at feverish speed through the dark hours before dawn while a big crowd watched from behind the fire lines and ambulances and dead wagons stood waiting.

#### 16 CENT GASOLINE SOLD IN SEATTLE

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 21.—Gasoline is being sold at 16 cents a gallon in scattered spots about Seattle, although the price remains unchanged by the four big distributing companies here. The North Park garage and the James Feed store, across the street, are selling at 16 cents, following the precedent set by James recently, after which the garage met the cut. Other garages around the city are reported to have given the lower rate to customers purchasing a certain amount daily. The men selling at this figure are making no profit, however, as this is the price at which the big companies sell to the retail trade. The majority of filling stations in the city maintaining their price at 19 cents cash or eighteen cents in books, although reports of cuts of one or two cents were current this morning.

#### Parks Finds Eugene Above Average City

After visiting all cities of the size of Eugene and larger in western Washington and in British Columbia, Mayor E. B. Parks believes that this city is much better improved than some and has a total debt below the average of those on which he collected data, while hobnobbing with mayor and city officials to secure information about their municipalities. With Mayor Parks on the six-weeks tour were Mrs. Parks and their children, Lawrence and Dorothy. On the trip Mayor Parks attended the session of the Northwest Association of Sheriffs and Police in Seattle, happening into that city the first day of the affair. In this line, Parks saw the brake testing places in operation there for the first time. Down in the manufacturing district he saw cars and trucks traveling along at fair speed suddenly check in the middle of a certain block as though they were about to collide with something. Investigation proved it to be two broad lines across the street at a certain distance apart at which a vehicle should be stopped when traveling at fair speed, if the brakes were in good condition. Those who neglected to test their own vehicle brakes were liable to have the city police do it, at some cost if found defective.

#### Japanese Submarine "Kobe" Flounders

Tokio, Aug. 21.—The new Japanese submarine Kobe has floundered at sea in a gale and the entire crew of 130 men and officers are believed to have perished, according to radio advices to the Japanese navy department here today. The Kobe was the newest type of Japanese submarine and had been in commission but a short time. She was on a trial trip.

#### Court Enjoins New York K. K. K.

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 21.—The Ku Klux Klan and the Kamelia, its sister order, were today permanently enjoined from continuing as membership corporations in New York state when the final order of Supreme Court Justice Stryker was filed in the office of the county clerk here.

#### SPENGER'S BAND SLUG TRAINMEN AND STEAL MAIL

Bartlesville, Okla., Aug. 21.—Al Spenger's notorious "Will of the Wisp" gang was credited by authorities today with the daring hold-up and robbery of Missouri, Kansas and Texas passenger train number 23 near Okesa at midnight. The robbers, after slugging four members of the train crew, disappeared into the fastness of the Osage county hills with 20 packages of registered mail. The bandits slugged Fireman B. D. Towers and Engineer W. O. Miller over the heads with revolver butts as the train rolled to a stop. A volley of bullets was then sent through the door of the mail car, forcing entrance. C. D. Weiss and W. Burke, mail clerks, true to the traditions of their service attempted to hold off the robbers but were severely pummeled. After rifting the car the bandits fled westward through the hills, snatching a parting volley of shots from the train crew. Train in Desolate Country. The train was nearing the end of a long grade and curve, moving slowly through a desolate country one mile east of Okesa when the engineer saw a red lantern waving across the track a short distance ahead. Brakes were applied with a jar and the train jolted to a dead stop within a few feet. A dozen masked men, all heavily armed, began firing as they covered the engine crew, express messengers and mail clerks. The express and mail car was cut from the train and the engineer, with a revolver pressed against his back, obeyed the bandits' orders and drove the engine about 300 yards from the coaches. The spot picked for the hold-up was ideal in every respect for the hold-up. The country around has few settlers. Several outlaw gangs make their hiding places in the rocky hills that extend for miles on either side of the railroad tracks. Autos are unable to go close to the scene of the holdup, back from Okesa, because of the rocky roads. Robbery Through. Able to work without fear of interruption, the bandits took their time and carefully went over the contents of the car. No official estimate of the loot was obtainable but it was said to include at least a score of packages of registered mail. A constant revolver firing was maintained while the hold-up was in progress. After obtaining their loot from the mail and express car, the bandits apparently were satisfied and did not further disturb the passengers. They warned the engineer to take his time about coupling onto the main part of the train again and disappeared into the darkness. Authorities believed the robbers have a well stocked cave hidden in the recesses of the hills where they took refuge. As soon as the train, bound from Kansas City to Oklahoma City, reached Bartlesville the alarm was spread and a quick pursuit was organized. Sheriffs of surrounding counties were called upon for assistance. Roads Being Guarded. All roads surrounding the hilly country where the bandits are believed to be hiding were guarded. Deputies were stationed at quarter mile intervals. The authorities believed there would be little use in attempting to storm the robbers' stronghold immediately. The hold-up men have undoubtedly fortified their position well and are prepared to resist an attack. Plans were made to keep the outlaws bottled up in their den until they attempt to leave for provisions; to cash in on their loot or to separate in order to avoid detection. Railroad detectives who arrived on the scene early today were confident that it would be but a short time until the robbers become tired of their desolate surroundings and attempt to make a break for Bartlesville or Okesa. Al Jennings Gives Advice. Wichita Falls, Texas, Aug. 21.—"Look for local talent," was the advice Al Jennings, famous reformed train robber, today gave authorities hunting for robbers who held up Missouri, Kansas and Texas passenger train number 23 at Bartlesville, Okla. "They worked like amateurs," said Jennings. "They stopped the train in regular old time style, but after that much of their procedure was a violation of the professional ethics of train robbers. They slugged the train crew, for instance, in our days we always showed the greatest consideration and had a sympathetic feeling for the train crew."

#### Bandits Flag Train Among Hills In Osage Co., Oklahoma.

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The express and mail car was cut from the train and the engineer, with a revolver pressed against his back, obeyed the bandits' orders and drove the engine about 300 yards from the coaches. The spot picked for the hold-up was ideal in every respect for the hold-up. The country around has few settlers. Several outlaw gangs make their hiding places in the rocky hills that extend for miles on either side of the railroad tracks. Autos are unable to go close to the scene of the holdup, back from Okesa, because of the rocky roads. Robbery Through. Able to work without fear of interruption, the bandits took their time and carefully went over the contents of the car. No official estimate of the loot was obtainable but it was said to include at least a score of packages of registered mail. A constant revolver firing was maintained while the hold-up was in progress. After obtaining their loot from the mail and express car, the bandits apparently were satisfied and did not further disturb the passengers. They warned the engineer to take his time about coupling onto the main part of the train again and disappeared into the darkness. Authorities believed the robbers have a well stocked cave hidden in the recesses of the hills where they took refuge. As soon as the train, bound from Kansas City to Oklahoma City, reached Bartlesville the alarm was spread and a quick pursuit was organized. Sheriffs of surrounding counties were called upon for assistance. Roads Being Guarded. All roads surrounding the hilly country where the bandits are believed to be hiding were guarded. Deputies were stationed at quarter mile intervals. The authorities believed there would be little use in attempting to storm the robbers' stronghold immediately. The hold-up men have undoubtedly fortified their position well and are prepared to resist an attack. Plans were made to keep the outlaws bottled up in their den until they attempt to leave for provisions; to cash in on their loot or to separate in order to avoid detection. Railroad detectives who arrived on the scene early today were confident that it would be but a short time until the robbers become tired of their desolate surroundings and attempt to make a break for Bartlesville or Okesa. Al Jennings Gives Advice. Wichita Falls, Texas, Aug. 21.—"Look for local talent," was the advice Al Jennings, famous reformed train robber, today gave authorities hunting for robbers who held up Missouri, Kansas and Texas passenger train number 23 at Bartlesville, Okla. "They worked like amateurs," said Jennings. "They stopped the train in regular old time style, but after that much of their procedure was a violation of the professional ethics of train robbers. They slugged the train crew, for instance, in our days we always showed the greatest consideration and had a sympathetic feeling for the train crew."

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#### Weather

Oregon: Fair east portion, showers west portion tonight and Wednesday, moderate easterly winds.

