

The Weather	
Forecast — Cloudy, and probable rain or snow	
Highest yesterday	43
Lowest today	19

# MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

Weather Year Ago	
Maximum	49
Minimum	30

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1928.

No. 271.

## Today

By Arthur Brisbane

Vanished Darien.  
Interesting Graveyard.  
To Fight the Flu.  
Man, Queer Animal.

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SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 18.—The Savannah Press says President Coolidge will probably visit Sapelo Island, off the Georgia coast not far from here, just after Christmas. Howard Coffin has invited him to use his magnificent residence on the 25,000-acre island which Coffin owns.

If the President goes he will be glad of it. Georgia will welcome him from one border to the other. He ought to come by motor and see the beautiful state as a closeup.

The drive would take him through this fine old city. And, at Darien, 90 miles away, reached by as fine a stretch of highway as any on earth, California included, he would stop and muse on vanished greatness. He would pass the Bank of Darien, once the biggest south of Philadelphia, with a capital of \$1,000,000 now a tiny country bank of \$25,000. Once thousands of ships came to Darien for Georgia pine and cotton, bringing as ballast stone that now lines the shore. Darien, which gave its name to Keats' Darien at Panama, settled by Scotchmen that came first to Georgia, would not let the railroad come in. "The river is good enough," said Darien, and died, in spite of its fine harbor.

Wise Savannah, that knew better, now has both harbor and railroads.

It's impossible to see everything in America, but everyone ought to see Sapelo Island, its beautiful forests, ancient forts 400 years old, ruins of Spanish missions of oyster shell 10 feet five by six feet, fleets of shrimp boats bringing in hundreds of bushels at a load, and freehee negroes, possessing their own special language, suspected by other negroes, "because they talk queer."

The President, in his walks on the north end of the beautiful island, would visit with reverence the graveyard of the negroes, and admire the practical and religious side of the negro character. On each of many graves he would see a lamp, an alarm clock and a cup. The clock is to awaken the spirit at the right time, the lamp to light his way, the cup for drinking after such a long sleep.

On one gravestone, written in the concrete when it was soft, he would read, "In memory of my first husband, Carl Hilry, born April 25th, 1857; died September 11th, 1889; age 32. At rest." On another, "Cesare Jackson, he died in faith. Sleep on, son."

More than 400,000 new cases of influenza in 20 states, the epidemic moving eastward. The best remedy for influenza is oxygen, fresh air. The blood must fight the germ and oxygen is the food and strength of the blood.

Strange is the nature of man. In New York a young man confesses to strangling a 15-year-old girl whom he loved. He says she wanted to kiss him. That is his excuse.

At Brunswick, Ga., Walter Rawlins, in prison, saw his wife whose complaint had him jailed for wife beating. He seized a carving knife, dashed from the prison, overtook his wife, stabbed her several times. His excuse is, "I loved my

## MANY HURT IN LONDON GAS BLAST

War Reminder in Explosions — Pavement and Shops Wrecked — Pedestrians Flung to Ground — Confusion Reigns — Firemen Battle Shooting Flames.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—(AP)—West and central London were given a startling reminder of wartime air raids today when exploding gas mains caused a miniature earthquake that piled up long stretches of streets and caved in shop fronts.

The explosion started when a workman entered a manhole to remove an electric blower used to remove foul air from passages leading into a large inspection chamber below the roadway outside of the post-office depot in Broad street.

This first explosion was followed by a series of shocks along the street, flinging pedestrians and shattering shop windows. One manhole lid was hurled high into the air and crashed onto a motorist, cracks appeared in the road, wooden blocks were heaped up and the streets along which the explosions took place looked like a jagged trench.

Twelve persons were injured seriously enough to be sent to hospitals, while many suffered minor hurts, being treated at the scene or returning to their homes.

Shaftebury avenue, near Oxford street and streets in Bloomsbury were the principal ones affected and the damage extended over more than a mile of pavement.

Worse Than Bombs. The crash of the explosion was worse than bombs during air raids said the occupant of a flat nearby who was blown off his feet.

"I thought there had been an explosion at the base of the building, which shook like tissue paper," he said.

Smoke rose to a height of 30 or 40 feet after the first explosion, the residents of nearby dwellings dashed into the streets and fire engines appeared from every direction. Their services were not greatly needed and they soon departed.

There was much confusion as to exactly what had happened when the workman entered the manhole where the original explosion took place. There was a sudden scream, a spurt of flame and a terrific explosion. The workman struggled from the manhole with his clothing afire, but he was quickly rescued and taken to a hospital.

A horse was killed and a taxi cab turned over, its driver being taken from the shattered vehicle to a hospital. A green grocery cart carrying palm trees was overturned and the branches of the palms snapped by the detonation.

Fire brigades played their hoses on flames shooting from one spot in the street while the gas company's emergency crew wearing gas masks, worked vigorously on the mains.

Eye witnesses expressed astonishment that the casualties had not been worse. Flames were drifting through the district this afternoon and traffic was diverted from the affected area.

Those who were injured suffered from shock, the gas fumes and minor injuries to their limbs.

Soon after mid-day another explosion took place some distance from the original trouble. Flames cascaded through the roof of the house, through a bed where a man was lying and on into the room below. E. Robertson, occupant of the bed in the upper room said he had heard his alarm clock buzz away and had rolled over "to stop its row," when the manhole cover tore through the part of the bed on which he had just been lying.

Just this afternoon, the number of casualties had risen to 17.

## COMMITTEE PLANS HOOVER INAUGURATION



The inaugural committee is making plans in Washington for the inauguration in March of President-elect Herbert Hoover. Seated, left to right: Edward F. Colladay, William T. Gallier, Irving T. Glover, U. S. Grant, III, chairman; Dr. Hubert Work, Mrs. Virginia White Speel. Standing: C. C. Glover, Jr., Robert Fleming, district commissioner; Corcoran Thom, Theodore P. Noyes, Edward C. Graham, Joseph C. Hines, David Lynn, Sidney Tolavero, district commissioner, and Joshua Evans, Jr.

## AUTHOR OF PEG O'MY HEART IS DEAD, NEW YORK

J. Hartley Manners, Actor, Playwright, Passes in Riverside Drive Home — Laurette Taylor With Husband Who Brought Her Fame.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Broadway today mourned J. Hartley Manners, playwright and actor, best known as the author of "Peg O' My Heart," one of the most popular plays ever produced in America.

His wife, Laurette Taylor, the actress, who rose to fame as Peg in her husband's play, was with him when death came last night at his home on Riverside drive. He was 38 years old.

Born in London, Mr. Manners started his career as an actor in Melbourne, Australia, in 1892.

It was not until 1912, however, that he achieved wide fame. In that year he wrote and produced "Peg O' My Heart," starring Laurette Taylor, an obscure actress, whom he had married that same year. The play had a run of 692 performances on Broadway and established both Manners and Miss Taylor in the theatrical world.

It has been estimated that "Peg O' My Heart" has been played more than 500,000 times on various stages and has been translated into almost every known language. It is estimated to have earned its author more royalties than any play in the history of the theatre with the exception of "Able's Irish Rose."

Mr. Manners has written or collaborated on more than 30 plays. Miss Taylor appeared in the leading roles of most of his plays.

Manners had not been active in the theatre in recent years. He explained he could not compete with the sex dramas that flooded New York and he advocated a return to a clean theatre.

## PARKING LIMIT DRIVE SNARES AUTO OWNERS

With 127 automobiles tagged yesterday and 25 up until early this afternoon, the drive begun yesterday morning by the police department was still going strong today, with the expectation that another 25 cars would be tagged before midnight for violating city traffic rules, principally parking over the one-hour limit in the business section.

Half of one dollar each was deposited by the majority of the car owners this forenoon at the police station, the only exception being car owners who were in Medford from rural points of some distance such as Applegate and Wimer.

Motorists appeared at the police station in cheerful moods and had no excuse to make, indicating that they had expected to get by the one hour limit. The majority claimed they had been shopping and business men declared it was a matter of forgetfulness. Motorists in Medford from rural points were not required to put up a dollar bill, but were warned by the police to be careful in the future in parking their machines while in Medford. A perusal of the list tagged reveals the names of many well known local citizens.

## UPWARD TREND IN CONDITION ANNOUNCED

Chest Condition Improved — Heart Gathering Power — Future Course of Illness Difficult.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Clyde B. Aitchison of Oregon, who has been re-nominated as a member of the interstate commerce commission, appeared as a witness today before the senate interstate commerce commission here, and was promptly told by Senator Wheeler, Democrat, Montana, that complaints had been made to him that the commissioner had neglected valuation cases assigned to him.

The commissioner, who was called at the request of Wheeler, was asked what the commission had done about telephone company valuation which was authorized by congress in 1915, and when Aitchison replied that the commission had been too busy with other important cases, Wheeler said: "I will be frank with you, complaints have been made that valuation cases assigned to you have been neglected for an unreasonable time."

"All that I can say is that I have not been conscious of that," the commissioner replied. "I believe that the opinion of the commission is that my work has been kept up."

Aitchison told the committee that he had been assigned to revise the commission's statutes, but that he had not been relieved of his other work.

Upon request from Senator Wheeler, the commissioner agreed to submit data giving a list of the cases assigned to him personally when hearings were assigned, when they were held and when the cases were disposed of, and the reason for the delay, if any.

Aitchison had testified that the telephone valuations had not come up because the commission has been too busy with railroad valuations and that "we have taken up within the limits of our appropriations the things of vital importance."

Wheeler asked why, if insufficient money and facilities were at hand to take up the telephone case, the commission had not come to congress for relief, and Aitchison replied that the commission "is forbidden by law to ask for money."

Senator Smith, Democrat, Georgia, a member of the committee, interpolated: "Oh, yes, this is the age of economy."

## WOMAN FLIER SETS RECORD IN ENDURANCE

ROOSEVELT FIELD, N. Y., Dec. 20.—(AP) Miss Viola Gentry came down out of the rain-filled skies at 1:31 o'clock this afternoon after establishing an endurance solo flight record for women of eight hours 6 minutes and 37 seconds. She made a perfect landing despite the heavy rain and showed no fatigue from her hours in the air.

Her plane carried 100 gallons of gasoline and she hoped to remain in the air until 7 o'clock tonight. No endurance record for women is now officially recognized. The biography was sealed by Harry Booth of the National Aeronautical association.

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LONDON, Dec. 20.—(AP) An official bulletin issued late this afternoon stated that King George's progress was established on a firmer basis.

The condition of the right side of the chest was stated to have improved and the heart is slowly gathering power. The exhaustion continues profound but the general strength is slightly improved.

The text of the official bulletin, timed 3:40 p. m., was as follows: "A re-examination has taken place in order to make a comprehensive survey of His Majesty's present progress and to discuss the lines along which treatment in the immediate future had best proceed."

"The condition of the right side of the chest has improved and there is evidence of more normal respiratory functions."

"The healing of the empyema with its severe local infection, the satisfactory result of necessity be a lengthy process."

"The heart is slowly gathering power and while the exhaustion remains profound a slight accession of general strength is noticeable."

"The future course of the illness must from its nature be slow and not without difficulties, but we are happy to state that the king's progress is now established on a firmer basis."

(Signed) "Hewitt, "Bighy, "Buzard, "Rollston, "Dawson."

## FORMER MINISTER PLEADS GUILTY TO MANN ACT CHARGE

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 20.—(AP) Arthur Clow, 46, former Methodist minister at Livingston, Mont., pleaded guilty in federal court here today to violation of the Mann act, and was sentenced to 12 months in McNeil Island prison.

Clow was arrested here Oct. 13 charged with bringing Irene Reynolds, Milwaukee, Wis., waitress to Portland. Clow's attorney told the court that there had been a reconciliation between Clow and his wife who is living in Seattle with Clow's six children.

## ECONOMY DELAYING VALUATION

Commissioner Aitchison Tells Senate Committee Work Hampered By Lack of Funds — Denies Neglect of Cases.

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## WEIRD INDIAN CEREMONY FOR MEDICINE MAN

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Dec. 20.—(AP)—Hanging over a kettle in which was drawing a prophylactic decoction of roots and herbs, and appealing to the Great Spirit for comfort and guidance in his trouble, Josie Billie, Seminole medicine man, charged with slaying a squaw of his tribe Sunday, began the last of a four-day ceremonial penance today, as required by the custom of the Seminoles.

Still clad in the torn and bloody garments which gave evidence of the battle he fought with three jealous Seminoles who attacked him Saturday night, Josie Billie said, "No can change clothes, no can eat, no can tell about fight for four days."

Every member of the Blind Pass community performed ritual purification yesterday — each taking a strong draught of herbs as a symbol that all Josie Billie's clansmen suffer vicariously for the misdoings of any member.

Soon after Christmas, Josie Billie will journey into the far Everglades to appear before Ingram Hill, great chief of all of the Seminoles. He will be accompanied by W. Stanley Hanson of Fort Myers, who is leader and padrone of all the Seminoles. Then he must wait for the time of the green corn dance in June, when all notable infractions of Seminole discipline and custom, and all serious misdeeds are judged, sentence passed and execution carried out. In the case of Josie Billie, it may mean death.

The squaw that Josie Billie is charged with slaying was taken to a Miami hospital by the Indians. Seminole law will be allowed to take its course by the white authorities, both state and federal.

## Will Rogers Says:

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Well, I finally stopped us from being marines to every war we could hear of. They are having one in Afghanistan. The thing will be over before congress can pronounce it, much less find out where it is located.

It seems the king over there thought he was adopting modern ideas by limiting his subjects to one wife per each. No wonder they threw him out. He was just old fashioned and didn't know it. He wasn't modern, he was just queer. Yours, WILL ROGERS.

## DEATH WARNING GIVEN WITNESS IN GANG TRIAL

'Black Spade' Turned for Mike Devito — Ranieri Kidnaping Witnesses Report Threats of Testimony Given.

CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Following a hectic day in which the life of the trial judge was threatened and 10 state witnesses were reported missing, the state closed its case this afternoon in the trial of three defendants accused of the kidnaping of little Elly Ranieri, from whom the prosecution has demanded the death penalty.

CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—(AP) The black spade lay face up before Mike Devito today.

It was Angelo Pettiti, one of three men on trial for kidnaping Billy Ranieri, who declared the death card had been turned, Judge Robert Gentzel was told.

"The defendant, Pettiti," said Assistant State's Attorney Mueller, told a bailiff who was guarding him: "Mike Devito will be the next to die."

The first to die was Ole Scully, assassinated Monday. Scully, like Devito, was an important witness for the state in its effort to convict Pettiti, Andrew Capellano and Tony Capellano. Scully was shot down the day before he was to have testified.

The assistant state's attorney quoted Pettiti's alleged statement during a hearing on petitions to release three men held in connection with the Scully killing: "Your honor surely does not want to release these men to kill Devito," Mueller said.

Mueller then read to the court an indictment charging Pettiti with extortion.

"And Scully was the only witness against him on this indictment," he said.

Mueller followed with the reading of an indictment charging extortion against Pasquale Caputo and Salvatore Mastroianni, two of the three men held in connection with the Scully slaying.

"And Devito is the only witness on this indictment," he said.

The third man held is Fred Pettiti, brother of Angelo.

As a result of Mueller's statements Judge Gentzel postponed until Saturday the hearing on the habeas corpus writs for the three being held.

## MAY FIND DIABETES CURE HERE

Professor Reimer of Talent Experiment Station Makes Important Announcement — Seeds of Siamese Tomato to Be Planted Here — Local Sufferers Urged to Assist in Experiments.

By F. C. Reimer, Southern Oregon Experiment Station.

A year ago an article appeared in Science, written by Mr. H. M. Smith, at Bangkok, Siam, telling of the remarkable results obtained in the control of diabetes by eating the fruit of a native solanum in that country. I recognized the importance of this discovery and since that time have made repeated efforts to obtain seeds of this plant. I am now pleased to report that I have just obtained a very small quantity of seed for trial at this station.

According to Mr. Smith the discovery of the preventative value of this plant was made by a doctor in Siam. One of his patients was seriously afflicted with this disease, but he observed that the amount of sugar eliminated varied in a striking manner, at times being entirely absent. It was suggested that this fluctuation was due to a variation in diet. By a process of exclusion he found no sugar was eliminated for a period of 20 hours after the patient had eaten the fruits of this native solanum.

Since that time extensive tests have been conducted with many natives in Siam with similar results. Mr. Smith also reports the case of a European, however, seriously afflicted with this disease, who experienced complete relief and was vastly improved in general health by the use of this fruit. It should be added that diabetes is very prevalent in Siam, probably due to the heavy starchy rice diet used in that country.

When this article appeared, some of my friends who were concerned with diabetes, and who knew of my work in collecting plants in the Orient immediately beseeched me to obtain seeds of this plant. Since the plant botanically is related to our cultivated tomato, I suggested to one of these friends that a patient of his who was afflicted with diabetes try a diet of tomatoes. This was done, the small yellow tomato, well known to all gardeners in America as the yellow pear tomato or the yellow plum tomato, being used. Remarkable results followed, the sugar immediately disappearing from the patient's eliminations. It is possible that the common red tomato may give similar results.

Efficiency Proven. The effectiveness of the Siamese plant in the treatment of this disease has been well established. The number of cases treated so far, by the use of the American tomato is too small to conclude that this fruit will prove equally potent; this can be determined only by extensive trials. The evidence, however, indicates that it may prove beneficial in many cases. Since the tomato is a highly desirable food, rich in valuable vitamins, certainly no harm will result from giving this remedy a trial.

At present it is not known just what quantity of tomatoes will be required in the treatment of the disease in abeyance. Until this is determined I would suggest one-half tomato at each meal.

The experiment station has an extremely small quantity of seed of the Siamese plant and all of it will be required for the test at the station the first season. As soon as any seed is produced it will be supplied to patients for trial.

However, the most urgent thing is to determine the value of the common tomato in holding this disease in check. If this does not give relief, it would be advisable to try the small yellow tomato as soon as that can be obtained. I hope that our tomatoes will prove as potent as the Siamese plant in the treatment of this disease. That would, as my tomato matter very much, as our tomato is easily grown. The Siamese plant is a perennial and since it comes from the tropics it will probably need protection during the winter in this climate.

The scientific name of the Siamese plant is solanum anti-wonsoni. It belongs to the same family which includes the tomato, eggplant, pepper, and the ornamental house plant known as Jerusalem cherry.

## ESCAPED CONVICTS CAPTURED QUICKLY

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 20.—(AP)—The two convicts who staged a cleverly planned escape from the United States penitentiary at McNeil Island during early morning devotional service yesterday were captured on the south point of Eagle Island, near here, this morning.

The two men, Josie Watkins, 25, serving a life sentence for murder committed in San Francisco in 1927, and Alvin Hodges, 29, of Phoenix, Ariz., serving a year's sentence for automobile theft, were found concealed in a clump of dense undergrowth by two penitentiary guards.

Opprate On Bean. SALEM, Ore., Dec. 20.—(AP)—Louis E. Bean, member of the state public service commission for the last two years, will undergo a major surgical operation today at a Salem hospital. Bean has been ill for several weeks. His home is at Eugene.

(Continued on Page Four.)