

REPRIEVES SAVE PAIR FROM ROPE

Dramatic Events Attend Louisiana Lovers Doomed to Die — Courts In Conflict, and Sheriff in Quandary — Entire Town Awaits Climax — Condemned Pair Numbd by Worry.

FRANKLIN, La., Jan. 5.—(AP)—The end of what the law had decreed should be their last day to live, Mrs. Ada Bonif and Dr. Thomas E. Dreher tonight began another week of uncertainty after twenty-four hours during which the thumb of fate turned first up, then down and then up again with intermittent periods of doubt.

The final decision of Governor Huey P. Long to grant the couple convicted of murdering the woman's husband, James LeBonif, a stay of execution until Saturday came four hours before the final time set for the hanging at three o'clock this afternoon. Even when word of the governor's decision reached here, Sheriff Charles Peot, passive recipient of the numerous orders and counter orders of courts and executives, did not dismiss the New Orleans executioner nor disturb the new rope which hung taut above a 700-pound test weight. It was not until the governor had actually signed the reprieve order that the local officials and the 5,000 residents of Franklin felt certain there would be no hanging.

The day's developments between the chief justice and four other members of the state supreme court, so stirred the citizens of Franklin that business was at a standstill. Shops, homes and offices were deserted while the townpeople, most of them descendants of the hardy yeomen immortalized in Louisell's "Evangeline," stood around the little red towered jail and awaited the latest news.

The occurrences of the day on which they were sentenced to die were as spectacular as the circumstances of the crime for which the couple were convicted. The jury which convicted them had believed that they, along with James Beadle, a trapper, had conspired to kill LeBonif because the latter objected to Dr. Dreher's attention to Mrs. LeBonif and that they had lured the husband out in a rowboat on a lake at night, killing him from another boat and sinking the body in the lake.

Judge James D. Simon, 30-year-old jurist, who sentenced the couple on this testimony, stuck to his opinion that they should die until the last, refusing to hold them insane yesterday afternoon, but other agencies of the law intervened.

Chief Justice O'Neill of the supreme court granted a stay of execution in the face of a refusal of the other justices to act, and at 2 o'clock this morning, eleven hours before the time for the hanging, the sheriff was the sole judge of which portion of the court he should obey. The governor joined the majority of the justices when the sheriff appealed to him for advice.

An hour later, however, came a long distance call from Baton Rouge. The governor had granted a reprieve. The word was carried to the prisoners, sleepless in jail because of worry and because a fierce storm was raging.

Lightning flashed as the sheriff told them what had happened, and thunder drowned out his voice at intervals. A few hours later came another telephone call, and the sheriff was told that the governor had withdrawn his reprieve. The county official locked himself in his office and used his telephone for hours, asking advice from everyone he thought could help him. The advice was conflicting and only the second reprieve saved him from choosing between notifying the chief justice on the one hand and the governor and a majority of the members of his state's highest court on the other, with the possibility of becoming a murderer if he took the former course.

The two persons around whom all of this activity and controversy evolved had gone through so many emotional crises that one of them—Dr. Dreher—was almost indifferent to his fate or anything else. It was said at the jail tonight, before the last message was taken to him he was in such a condition that he merely "stared, muttered and stared" each time he received news, those who saw him reported.

Mrs. LeBonif was far enough from realizing to rise from her cot and moan or smile, according to the nature of the message. It was said at the jail. She was almost constantly attended by her confessor, Father J. J. Rousseau, and repeated over and over again, "I'm in God's hands."

Dr. Dreher, who had been visited frequently by a Methodist clergyman, showed as little interest in spiritual as material matters tonight. Jail officials said.

Doomed Lovers In Grim Legal Drama



Mrs. Ada Le Bonif and Dr. Thomas E. Dreher, chief actors in series of thrilling events, that give them week of grace from hanging.

MAYOR IS STILL UNCERTAIN UPON HIS APPOINTMENTS

There is much public interest in the appointments to be made by Mayor A. W. Pipes, who assumed the reins of the city government last Wednesday night, and so far as can be learned he is uncertain yet as to just when he will make and announce them, except that it will be soon, or the matter may possibly be delayed until the next city council meeting a week from next Tuesday.

FEDERAL LABOR BUREAU FOUND WORK FOR 4955

The local branch of the United States free employment bureau in 1928 found employment for more men than it had since its establishment over three years ago, according to figures compiled by Chris Gottlieb, manager of the bureau. Carefully kept figures revealed that 4955 men and women were given work through the efforts of the office with the greatest bulk coming during the harvesting of the fruit crop.

Since its establishment in 1925, the office has found employment for approximately 16,856 people, a remarkable record for a city of this size.

The biggest week last year came on September 3 and continued to the 8th, with 274 laborers served. Fruit picking called the majority and utilized the services of many women, not being desired by many orchards in the belief that men are more efficient. However, Mr. Gottlieb expressed the opinion yesterday that women are equally as efficient as men and often better in using greater care in picking.

PEACE RIVER, Alta., Jan. 5.—(AP)—Heavy firing heard at sea, near Jacksonville and the failure of coast guard vessel 294 to report to its base at Fort Lauderdale, caused fears that the vessel had not the worst of it in an encounter with rum runners, but it turned out that the 294 was merely sinking a confiscated rum runner. Heavy weather has delayed the government boat's arrival at its base.

MOVIE AIR STAR WILL FLY PLANE ON MAIL ROUTE

The play is not the thing for Pilot Harry Crandall, aeronautical performer in "Hell's Angels," and he has quit to fly the air mail "straight and level," as war time instructors used to put it.

Crandall has joined the pilot staff of Pacific Air Transport, Seattle-Los Angeles air mail route, and will fly the Medford-Oakland division with Arthur Starbuck and Ralph Vidlen.

The newly appointed air postman has been flying at Rogers field, Los Angeles, and went barnstorming in Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. He then engaged to fly for various motion picture companies, and took part in "Lulu Time," "Ghosts and Kelleys in Paris," "Hazardous Valley," "Around the World," "Air Circus," and "Hell's Angels."

BUSINESS WOMEN TO MEET TUESDAY

The Business and Professional Women's club will hold a dinner meeting at Hotel Medford Tuesday evening at 5:30 and present one of the most interesting programs planned by this organization so far.

Miss Fay Woolsey, city librarian and Walter Laverette, local realtor and former president of the Medford Realty board, will be the principal speakers of the evening.

The program in the order of its presentation follows: "New and Interesting Books for the Winter Evening" by E. Fay Woolsey. Songs, selected. Mrs. Margaret Huntoon Williamson. Vocational talk on "Real Estate" by W. H. Leverette. Community singing by the club. "Oregon, My Oregon" Novelty dance. Frederick McKeen Community singing. Business.

Glaring headlights often reveal glaring indiscretions.

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REV. HOPKINS ARRIVES FOR REVIVAL SERVICE

Rev. F. W. Hopkins arrived in Medford Saturday at 10:40 a. m. to begin a revival at the Church of God, North Holy and Haven. He will be welcomed, not only by the people of Medford, but also by friends from Grants Pass in the Sunday services.

Despite the very tiresome journey from Grand Junction, Colo., he arrives feeling fine and in good trim for the very beginning of the campaign.

Not Until Married.
NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—(AP)—A girl becomes owner of an engagement ring when married and not until then. Such is the ruling of Massachusetts' highest court in a girl's complaint against a young man who stole a ring that the girl refused to return.

Central Point Grange to Meet Wednesday Night

The Central Point Grange will meet Wednesday night, January 9, for the purpose of installing their officers.

Mrs. Hawk of East Point, with her assistants, will be there to install. This will be an open meeting and the public will be cordially invited.

The meeting is called by John Anderson, master of Central Point Grange.

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JACKSONVILLE GRANGE MEETS FRIDAY EVE.

The Jacksonville Grange will hold its next regular meeting the second Friday of this month, June 11th, with the new officers taking their respective places.

The installation of officers was held at Eagle Point at which time nine new officers took their obligations. Those taking part in this year's program are John Neldner, master; Theodore Slus, overseer; C. D. Tompsoa, lecturer; Geo. Wendt, treasurer; and Henry Neldner, secretary.

Further meetings are to be held in the I. O. O. F. hall and are to begin promptly at eight o'clock. The new members are especially urged to attend.

Science now claims there is no sin, but forget to add, except when caught.

General Beeson Dead

DE MOINES, Ia., Jan. 5.—(AP)—General Byron A. Beeson, 96, Iowa Civil war veteran and former treasurer of the National Soldiers Home at Hampton, Mo., is dead here.

Curtis to Get Auto

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—(AP)—Senator Curtis will have a new automobile when he becomes vice president on March 4. President Coolidge has recommended that congress appropriate \$5000 "for the purchase and exchange of an automobile for the vice-president."

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