

# HAMMER SLAYER DESCRIBES FIGHT IN L. A. BUNGALOW

## Pudgy Matron Admits Beating Elderly Common Law Mate To Death In Course Of Quarrel During Spree.

By THERON WRIGHT (United Press Staff Correspondent) LOS ANGELES, Dec. 10.—(AP)—Pudgy, middle-aged, Franca's Mabel Willys, squatting complacently on the edge of a jail cot, ask night blindfolded told police how she battered to death her elderly "common law" mate with a claw-hammer "because he was getting too old."

With ferocity that rivaled the celebrated Clara Phillips "hammer murder" case of a decade ago, the plump, 39-year-old matron, weighing 190 pounds, slew her anemic, 130-pound husband, Dr. Walter F. Hammond, prominent dentist, left the hammer imbedded in his skull and telephoned the police.

"I killed him because he was about through," she explained. "He was pretty much through and so am I."

Tells of Death Battle.

In rambling, disconnected discourse, the plain-faced woman, stringy black hair bound tightly in a knot on her neck, calmly described the death battle in which she chased the 62-year-old dentist around a blood-spattered bungalow, cornered him as he struggled to crawl to safety under a bed and shattered his skull with blows of a hammer.

She was charged with murder immediately after her confession. Heavy-set and phlegmatic, she seemed undisturbed by what had happened, and even urged newspaper reporters to "see that she got as much publicity as Clara Phillips."

"I beat him to death with the hammer, and as I beat him I kept thinking of the Clara Phillips case," she said.

Clara Phillips, sentenced to life imprisonment for slaying Albert Moadone, pretty stenographer who she believed stole the love of her husband, Armour Phillips, was released from the state women's prison at Tehachapi, Cal., last summer after serving 12 years of her sentence.

Together Eight Years.

Mrs. Willys said she had lived with the bald, frail dentist for eight years as his common law wife. Her explanation of the struggle which preceded clubbing him to death with the hammer, was incoherent. At times she indicated it was over a mysterious \$5,000 which "he accused me of having buried in the back yard."

Finally she said it was because he was too old.

"At 62 he is pretty much through," she repeated, compressing her thin lips. "We quarreled frequently, and he beat me."

She told in ghastly detail how the quarrel started on the back porch, and she pursued him into the bedroom, sent him sprawling on the bed with one blow and then "I hit him four or five times when he was on the floor, crawling away."

"He was talking to me all the time I was hitting him," she said. "He crawled back and forth. . . . He was the hardest person. It did not seem to me that he had much energy."

She said once her husband wrenched the hammer away and struck her with it. She got it back and the two fought, both on the floor, the dentist flailing her with his fists and the heavier woman smashing his face with the claw-hammer.

Kept Talking to Her.

"He kept talking to me," she said. "He got out into the hall once and then crawled back towards the bed. That was where he died. He kept talking to me right there while he was crawling around. He said—"

"What were his last words?"

"You don't have to have that, do you?" she hesitated, then mumbled: "I told him I could not live with him or without him. I killed him because he was about through."

The woman said she lost consciousness after she had beaten her mate to death, and then "woke up and saw what I had done." She "washed up" sat through the night and at dawn notified police.

She said she and Dr. Hammond had been "drinking steady for about three weeks." After freely giving her confession, and announcing she was "not crazy — not a bit of it," the women begged for a drink.

"Come on, you're a good guy," she told a detective. "One more drink — if I swing for it."

# THROUGH EXPECTED AT BALL TONIGHT

Advance sale of tickets indicates a large attendance at the annual charity ball to be held tonight at Oriental Gardens under sponsorship of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

As in past years, funds raised by the dance will be used in providing Christmas baskets for the needy of Jackson county.

Archie Lang's recording orchestra, which has appeared here once or twice in the past, will provide music for tonight's dance. This band has proved a popular attraction wherever it has played.

Fred Powell, general chairman, today emphasized the Eagles' aim to make this the most successful dance ever sponsored by the fraternity so that the needy family will go in want at Christmas. Tickets may be obtained from members of the order or at the gardens tonight.

BANDON Ore., Dec. 10.—(AP)—Members of the Bandon Chamber of Commerce re-elected the entire slate of officers, F. M. Bennett is president.

# "DEFINITE OBJECTIVE IN MIND"



When Washington interviewers concentrated on getting Senator Borah, Idaho Republican, to say whether he would be a candidate for the presidential nomination, he replied he had a "definite objective in mind" but was not ready to talk about the nomination. (Associated Press Photo)

# STUDENTS IN PEIPING DEMAND WAR ON JAPS; ACT BRINGS PROTEST

PEIPING, Dec. 10.—(AP) Lieut. Col. Tien Takahashi, Japanese military attaché at Peiping, made strong representations against a demonstration in which 6,000 Chinese students demanded war on Japan and suppression of the north China autonomy agitation.

Takahashi made his protest in a formal call on Mayor Cain Teh-Cium. Thirty students were arrested and many hurt when the demonstrators clashed with police.

Re-forming after being dispersed once, the students marched into the main shopping district carrying banners and shouting slogans against the separation of north China from Nanking.

They were met with an icy drenching from fire hoses, and the demonstration was eventually broken up.

From action of the authorities in closing the city gates prevented the entry of another 1,000 students who had walked to Peiping from neighboring institutions.

# PANGBORN CONVINCED JAPANESE HAVE PLAN SEIZE UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—(AP)—Clyde Pangborn, only aviator to fly both the Atlantic and Pacific non-stop, told the congressional committee investigating patent laws today that both New York and Chicago were within cruising distance of Japanese bombing planes.

The aviator, who was arrested by Japanese for flying over their territories, testified before the committee on patent revising that Japan "has one object in view:

- 1. To seize the United States; 2. To seize Russia; 3. To seize the rest of the world."

The committee is concerning itself with possible handouts to American aviation through alleged pooling of patents under the present laws.

The Japanese have planes capable of from 200 to 300 miles per hour, Pangborn said, placing Chicago within comparatively short flying time by way of Alaska.

He recommended establishment of a strong air force and anti-aircraft base in Alaska.

"The day the ocean was spanned by airplane," he said, "was the day the United States became vulnerable to attack from the air."

He told the committee that he "definitely knows" Japan has developed a bomb capable of being controlled by a man inside the bomb, and that "thousands of Japanese have volunteered for the honor of dying as pilots of these destructive weapons."

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# V. F. W. ANNUAL DANCE SET NEW YEAR'S EVE

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Crater Lake post No. 1833, will hold their annual Guild Chevron ball in the Oriental Gardens New Year's eve.

Money derived from this event, Commander Geo. Coddling points out, is used for relief and Christmas expenses for newly veterans. Strupp's eight-piece orchestra will be on hand to furnish peppy music and it will be a carnival dance.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars dance last year was a huge success and the public is assured by post officers that this year's dance will be bigger and better.

Tickets are now on sale and may be procured from any member of the post or auxiliary. Fred Knox, senior vice commander has charge of the dance.

McKenzie Open BEND, Ore., Dec. 10.—(AP)—The McKenzie highway remained open despite the recent storm in the Cascades. Highway crews are on hand to clear the road in case of further snow.

# 1794 BLUE LAWS BEING OVERCOME IN PENNSYLVANIA

## Movies, Sports And Milk Delivery Now Legal But Business, Hunting And Fishing Are Still Taboo.

PHILADELPHIA (UP)—Pennsylvania Puritans' "Blue Law" structure, built in 1794, is crumbling away. The commonwealth that kept the Sabbath for 141 years now has sports, movies and delivery of milk on Sundays. Such violations of the old code were made legal by acts of modern legislation.

Parts of the blue law, however, still remain in force, or on the statutes. It is yet illegal to patronize a drug store, ride a trolley car, or "do any form of business, except for charity or necessity of life" on Sunday.

But the backbone of the blue law is broken, and the act itself is winked at to the extent of permitting drug stores, delicatessens, gasoline filling stations to remain open on the Sabbath.

Streets in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, formerly deserted and forlorn on Sunday, teem with people again. Hotel business over the week-ends is improving and the "kids" have been taken off the street corners and placed on playgrounds, in theaters or on a sand-lot athletic field.

Hunting Still Barred The modified blue law does not satisfy the fisherman or the hunter, however. Fishing and hunting still are barred on Sunday in the Keystone state.

Francis J. Walsh, an attorney, who led an organized campaign against the blue laws, traced the history of the fight in an interview with the United Press.

"Before 1926, there was no concerted effort against the blue laws," Walsh asserted. "It was political au-

ding for a public official to commit himself against the ancient laws, and except for some individuals we had no organization."

Walsh pointed out that advocates of the old laws always were well-organized, and "left no stone unturned in their fight to preserve the closed Sunday." He added that religious persuasion had little to do in the battle.

Playgrounds Opened "Our first aim was to open the public playgrounds and swimming pools for the children," Walsh said. "We accomplished this after showing that country clubs for years had operated their golf courses, tennis courts and swimming pools on Sunday."

"Then we went after the law because it prohibited delivery of milk after 9 a. m. on Sunday and after 5 p. m. in the evening. All the while we were campaigning to permit Sunday sports."

Walsh said one of their strongest arguments was that modification of the law would be most beneficial to the working man, who was employed six days of the week and needed at least one day of recreation.

Law Signed In 1933 "As a result, the Sunday sports

bill was passed by the legislature and we had baseball, tennis and other forms of athletics on Sunday," Walsh said. The sports bill became a law on April 25, 1933, when Gov. O'Flaherty signed the measure in the face of protests.

By that time, according to Walsh, public sentiment against the blue laws was crystallized, and his organization went out of existence.

The "wave of liberalism" continued on, however, and during the 1935 legislature, a bill providing for referenda in communities for Sunday entertainment was passed and signed by Gov. George E. Earle.

The referenda held in the November elections resulted in most of the state's larger cities, including Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton and Erie, approving Sunday movies. Harrisburg, the state capital, voted "no."

Gets Sunday Movies The ancient law had been flouted for more than a year in Erie and residents there voted 10 to 1 for legal Sunday movies.

There has been some movement for similar votes on local option for Sunday beer sales, but even the most ardent advocate of an open Sunday believes it has little chance to make headway.

However, it does appear certain that a new drive for Sunday fishing and hunting will be opened and that "liberals" will continue their efforts until they achieve their ultimate goal—complete repeal of the 1794 blue law.

# INDIANS LOSE CLAIM AGAINST GOVERNMENT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—(AP) The Klamath and Modoc Indian tribes of Oregon lost their \$2,800,000 claim against the federal government today.

The reservation tribesmen argued that in 1908 the government took 87,000 acres of valuable timber land from them.

The United States supreme court ruled unanimously today that in 1909 the Indians accepted \$108,750 from congress to settle the controversy. The opinion by Justice Butler upheld the decision of the United States court of claims last April 8.

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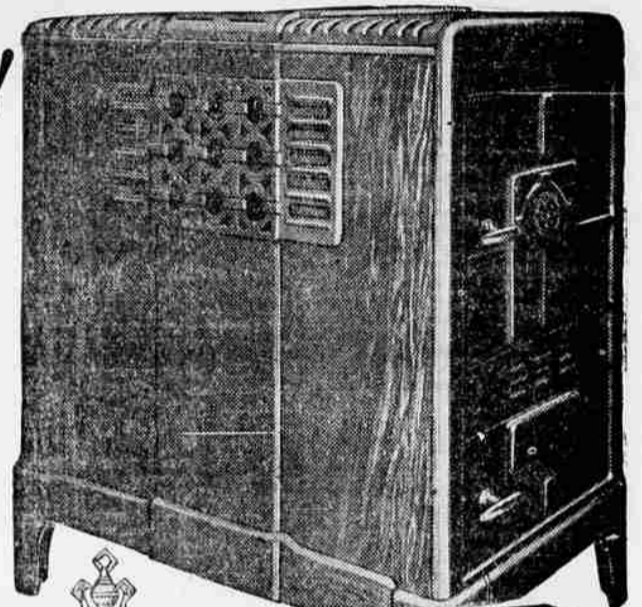
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