

The Weather

FORECAST
Increasing cloudiness to-night and Wednesday, not much change in temperature.
TEMPERATURE
Highest yesterday 51
Lowest this morning 24

Christmas Money
Why not pick up some extra Christmas money by selling off articles around the home you no longer need? Let the Classified Ads. help you. These Ads are widely read and they cost so little.

Thirty-Third Year No. 227

LIFE SENTENCE FOR BASSITT'S SLAYER

The Capital Parade
By Joseph Alsop and Robert Kintner
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PLEA OF GUILTY BY MRS. SMITH WINDS UP TRIAL
Dramatic Development Comes As Mother of Victim Urges Against Death Penalty for Aged Woman

Chamberlain Voices Cautious Warning to Aggressors

Eden, Mrs. Vanderbilt Chat



Anthony Eden, who spoke out emphatically in New York for the preservation of the democracy which "we in England and you in America cherish most," is shown as he chatted with Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt following his address to the National Association of Manufacturers. (A. P. photo.)

SEATTLE, Dec. 13.—(AP)—A jury decreed life imprisonment today for Mary Eleanor Smith, 73, shortly after she pleaded guilty to the first-degree murder of James Eugene Bassitt, who disappeared here 19 years ago.
The jurors took only 19 minutes to decide against the death penalty. The dramatic, swift, moving development of prosecution and defense attorneys and that of Bassitt's widowed mother, Mrs. Marion Bassitt, Annapolis, Md., and Society Hill, S. C., who took the witness stand and testified she did not want the death penalty inflicted.

The jury had only two choices—life imprisonment or death. The dramatic, swift, moving developments apparently closed the case, one of the northwest's greatest mysteries.
Mrs. Smith, changing her plea suddenly from innocent to guilty, cried that her slaying confession last spring was not made voluntarily and it was such a terrible thing to my son—and defendant, Decatur Earl Meyer, 44, habitual criminal who killed himself Sunday in the county jail.

Now it would seem that the justices have got in their licks before being confronted with the handiwork of Messrs. Corcoran and Cohen. A week ago, they were recorded as giving its "first set-back" to the national labor relations board. In an opinion by the chief justice, they reversed an NLRB order voiding a contract between the Consolidated Edison company of New York and the A. F. of L. Hasty detractors of the bench jumped to the conclusion that the court was once more living up to the celebrated remark of Mr. Dooley.

Actually, as one or two shrewd observers have pointed out, the really striking section of the chief justice's opinion was a long argument virtually destroying the precedent of Hamer vs. Dagenhart. It can now be positively said that the court has abandoned the extreme states' rights view. Only Justices McReynolds and Butler, who dissent in the Consolidated Edison case, still hold to the ancient theory that, however needful certain legislation may be, it can be enacted only by the states. A broad interpretation of the general welfare powers now prevails.

Two or three couples have called at the courthouse the past week to inquire about the workings of the new law, but the first move rests with the physicians, who fill out the blanks and make returns to the county clerk. After this is done, the license is issued.

PLACER MINERS GLOOMY IN COLD AND DROUGHT
GRANTS PASS, Dec. 13.—(AP)—The mercury dropped to 16 degrees this morning.
Some gold miners who started up placer operations with the rain several weeks ago were gloomy. It had not rained since then and rivulets in the mountains are frozen dry.

ELEVEN HONOR PUPILS AT JACKSONVILLE HIGH
JACKSONVILLE, Dec. 13.—(Sp.)—Eleven Jacksonville high school students were on the honor roll for the last six weeks of study. They were: Seniors, Anell Gunter, juniors, Jerry Akers, Dick Hall and Dolores Smets; sophomores, Peggy Daley, Kenzie Kent, Mary Kent and Dan Wyan; freshmen, Alma Ayres, Mary Rixley and Wilda Woodward.

Anthony Eden in Capital Denies Official Mission
WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—(AP)—Anthony Eden, smilingly denying he had any official mission in Washington, began a two-day visit in the capital today with the assertion he expected to see "numerous officials informally."
These officials included President Roosevelt. His talks were expected to include what he had earlier described as a hope to learn "something of the American outlook on foreign affairs."
The dapper ex-secretary for British foreign affairs refused to discuss reports he might soon re-enter the British cabinet.
"I hadn't seen the reports from London, and wouldn't know about things there," the debonair Englishman said as he stepped from a train in crisp sunshine which caused Mrs. Eden, who accompanied him, to remark at the difference between Washington and London weather in December.
"I am here unofficially and have absolutely no mission," Eden said smiling. "I had always wanted to visit to the state department to meet summer wells, acting secre-

HEARTSTRINGS RACKET HALTED BY ARREST ON MAIL FRAUD CHARGES
DENVER, Dec. 13.—(UP)—A nation-wide "heartstrings" racket ended here today when federal postoffice authorities arrested Roy B. Bryant, 52, former convict and relief client, on charges of using the mails to defraud mothers who sought their missing sons.
Calling him "the most heartless perpetrator of mail frauds in the country," Postoffice Inspector J. B. Robertson arrested Bryant after the ex-convict fell into a trap set when the man called for his Colorado relief checks. Robertson said the man made a full confession.
Bryant admitted obtaining the names of his victims from advertisements in religious and other publications. Then he would write numerous letters to the women, giving long, heart-rending stories of "hard luck" and grief and ask for transportation "home."
Officials said his letter never contained enough information about himself to cause suspicion and that they had first been alerted only by the case of women who had sent Bryant money, and had become worried because their "son" didn't arrive.

ERROL FLYNN EXHIBITS FIGHTING PROWESS AT HAYMOW PARTY BRAWL
HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 13.—(UP)—Errol Flynn, who learned about boxing on the Irish Olympic team, said today he was "very sorry" he had knocked out Aiden Roark, polo-playing motion picture executive, at a party last night given by Mrs. Jock Whitney, but he defended himself on grounds he had been "attacked."
The screen lover placed most of the blame on an unidentified Pasadena man who entered the bout without invitation and turned what might have been another Hollywood "one-puncher" into a 16-minute battle.
"I would very much like to find out the name of that Pasadena," Flynn said, rubbing a split lip. "I'm sorry the incident happened and I'm sorry about Roark, but he started it. Also, I was attacked."
The brawl was witnessed by some 50 film celebrities who had gathered for a haymow cocktail party in the Whitney barn. It supposedly started when Roark made a disparaging remark.
The best version of the bout said Roark failed to land a single punch, but that the Pasadena split Flynn's lip with a haymaker while the actor was being held by Bruce Cabot after connecting with Roark's chin.

MRS. HEIDER HURT CROSSING STREET
Mrs. Mary Heider, of 522 West 10th street, was slightly injured last night about 7:15 when struck by an automobile driven by Loren Keith Gregory, 18, of Central Point, at the Main street and Riverside avenue intersection.
The accident occurred, city police reported, as Mrs. Heider stepped from the sidewalk in front of the Rogue River Chevrolet company preparatory to crossing to the west side of Riverside avenue. The machine, traveling west on Main street, turned north on Riverside avenue, and Mrs. Heider walked into the right rear fender of the car and was knocked to the pavement, police said investigation revealed.
The injured woman was taken to her home by Gregory. Later, when her husband, R. H. Heider, came home, a physician was called.
Police absolved Gregory of any blame, stating that investigation showed Mrs. Heider was "jay-walking" toward the pedestrian crossing when struck.

BIKE SAFETY CLUB TO BE ORGANIZED
A bicycle safety club will be organized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars at a meeting in the Jackson county courthouse auditorium at 7:30 tonight. It was announced by William Cooney, chairman in charge of the project for the veterans.
Prize winners in the recent bicycle safety parade will be announced at the meeting, Mr. Cooney said. All bicycle riders from 7 to 17 years old are asked to attend the meeting.
National organization of Veterans of Foreign Wars has made bicycle traffic safety a major project and the Jackson county chapter launched the project here with the bicycle parade. Since then all the necessary blanks for organizing the club and enrolling members have been received and the chapter is now ready to proceed, Mr. Cooney related.

SKIDDING TRUCK KILLS ELDERLY PEDESTRIAN
PORTLAND, Dec. 13.—(AP)—The projecting bed of a freight truck last night struck and killed Mrs. Alma Campbell, 74, Portland, when the vehicle skidded out of control on Interstate avenue.
The driver, Harry M. Gregory, 38, Vancouver, Wash., was charged with involuntary manslaughter. Accident investigator George Phillips, in his report, said the truck apparently had been traveling too fast.
A growing shrub of Oregon grape, the state flower, was expressed today by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt at her Hyde Park home.
The shrub was sent to Mrs. Roosevelt as a Christmas remembrance because she expressed interest in Oregon grape when she saw it growing at the municipal airport when she stopped there recently.
The shrub was donated by Miss Helen Carlton and was prepared for shipment by N. S. Bennett of the Eden Valley nursery.
All life came from the sea.

OREGON GRAPE SENT TO MRS. ROOSEVELT
CLEVELAND, Dec. 13.—(AP)—Business will be better in 1939, Col. Leonard P. Ayres predicted today.
But before prosperity can return, "pump-priming recovery" must change into a "long-term recovery" carried forward by business," he emphasized.
"The coming year now promises to be a period of better employment, rising national income and increased volumes of industrial production," the Cleveland statistician said in his annual forecast.
Specifically, he listed these "probable developments" for 1939:
Industrial production averaging higher than 1938, lower than '37; national income above '37; wholesale prices slowly advancing, but commodity prices not changed greatly; freight loadings up 10 to 20 per cent from '38; iron, steel, motors output up 30 to 50 per cent; most new construction since 1930; department store sales nearer '37 than '38; mer-

Improvement in Business Seen Next Year by Ayres
CHANDISE imports greater than exports; stocks higher than '38; power than '36; new high records in power, oil refining, tobacco products and average hourly factory wages.
Colonel Ayres prepared his predictions for a Cleveland Chamber of Commerce meeting.
"The advance in business activity can be relied upon to continue as long as the out-flow of public spending remains undiminished, but we know such spending can not go on indefinitely," he said. "That fact raises serious questions about the probable course of business in the third and fourth quarters.
"It is as futile for us to believe that we can spend ourselves rich as for us to suppose a man can drink himself sober. The fatal weakness of such a recovery is that everyone feels it may be only temporary. Merchants enhance their stocks but not their stores. Everybody tries to play safe."

Radio Highlights
By Associated Press
(Time is Eastern Standard)
Tonight (Tuesday): Talks—WJZ-NBC 8:00, Rep. Martin dies discussing work of the congressional committee investigating un-American activities; WABC-CBS 10:45, Pan-American congress.
What to expect Wednesday: WRAP-NBC 6:00, our American schools; WABC-CBS 2:30, School of the Air; pickup from Lima, Peru.

TIRE SALESMAN BARES MULCTING OF MOTOR FIRM
G. M. C. Official Obtained Thousands for Supposed Payment to High Army Officials Is Testimony
DETROIT, Dec. 13.—(AP)—William S. Knudsen, president of General Motors Corp., said today testimony by Frank E. Speicher in a Washington, D.C. federal court that learns more about a top-flight smuggling plot which ranged from Paris to New York and Hollywood.
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