

Louisiana Judge Rules Criticism Press' Right

Lake Charles, La. —(U.P.)— A Louisiana judge has ruled that criticism of public officials is the right of the press. The judge said there was no evidence of "actual malice" in freeing five newsmen Friday of charges that they defamed 16 parish officials and three admitted gamblers.

Indictments Thrown Out

The verdict by Judge J. Bernard Cocke threw out indictments against William H. and Thomas B. Shearman, co-publishers of the Lake Charles American Press; Managing Editor Kenneth Dixon, City Editor James W. Norton and Court Reporter Carter George.

The indictments were returned by a grand jury called to investigate vice conditions in Calcasieu parish after a People's Action group backed by the newspaper launched an anti-gambling crusade.

Right of Press

Judge Cocke, who was appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court to hear the case, said it is the right of the press and sometimes the duty to comment upon public actions of public officials and "criticism of the public acts . . . may well

rebound to the benefit of the public."

The newsmen were charged with defaming 13 members of the Calcasieu parish police jury. District Attorney Melvin H. Wetherill, Sheriff Henry A. Ham Reid and the three gamblers—E. J. Miller, Sam Smith and Claude Williams.

Knots Help Trees

Solve Knotty Problem

Kent, O. —(U.P.)— Knots generally are not wanted by home craftsmen or carpenters, but they help the tree solve the knotty problem of self-preservation. So says Martin L. Davey Jr., tree expert, who points out the knots are merely the gnarled growth provided by nature in healing over the wounds where branches were shed.

As branches grow and crowd each other, trees do some self-pruning and shedding of branches, he explained.

The first transcontinental telegraph line was completed on October 24, 1861, nearly eight years before the continent was crossed by rail.



REBELS AGAINST FLYING—Lt. Verne Goodwin (left), first of 13 reserve flying officers to be court-martialed at Biggs Air Force Base, Tex., for refusing to fly, was sentenced to two years in prison. Goodwin testified he refused to fly because he feared his nervous and pregnant wife would lose her baby. Mrs. Goodwin (right) holds the 2-month-old Roger, born two months prematurely when she heard her husband was to be court-martialed.

11-Cent A Gallon Synthetic Gasoline Reported Possible

Washington — (U.P.) — Secretary of Interior Oscar L. Chapman is "very encouraged" by an engineers' report indicating synthetic gasoline can be made to sell for 11 cents a gallon.

He said the report by Elbasco Services, Inc., New York, showed that the Bureau of Mines is working in the right direction and should continue research in converting coal into oil and chemicals.

Dispute on Costs

The report was made for Chapman because there was a dispute between the bureau and the National Petroleum Council over how much it costs to produce a gallon of gasoline by the coal hydrogenation coal-to-oil process.

The bureau said the cost should be slightly less than 11 cents a gallon for motor fuel, but the Petroleum Council said a truer figure would be about 41 cents a gallon.

Dead line on Classification Act 3:30 p.m. for following day, 10 a.m. Monday noon Saturdays for Sundays a.m.

Ex-Convict Sentenced On Kidnaping Charge

Kansas City, Mo. —(U.P.)— A 28-year-old California ex-convict faced a 50-year federal prison term Saturday for the kidnaping of a 12-year-old Jasper, Mo., girl he promised to take to town to buy a birthday present.

Judge Albert A. Ridge, who passed sentence on Warren S. Campbell of Los Angeles, told the Californian he probably would have received the death penalty if a jury had heard the case.

Campbell pleaded guilty and admitted gaining confidence of the girl's father, a tavern keeper, then kidnaping and raping the child after promising to buy her the present.

New Zealand, deep in the southern hemisphere, abounds in fish and trees imported from North America. A natural shortage of game fish resulted in the "planting" of brown and rainbow trout from Canada in the streams. Forest depletion called for new timber, and such trees as Douglas fir and Monterey pine were brought in to build up reserves.

Auks and murre lay but a single egg; hummingbirds, two; robins, three to five; grouse, eight to 15. The number is probably an adaptation to the dangers to which the eggs and young are subjected.

If the Territory of Hawaii becomes an American state, 15 of more obscure islets will join the Union along with the larger, better-known islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Oahu, Lanai, and Kauai.

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Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY United Press Correspondent

Hollywood — (U.P.) Television furrowed the brows of the mighty theater.

It caused an even greater crisis at a tiny theater on a quiet side street in Hollywood.

This movie house is the one in the world that shows silent pictures exclusively. When TV started running some antique films, the theater played to some empty seats.

"Those old films that television started with were horrible," says John Hampton, owner of the silent theater. "They gave a lot of people the idea that all old movies are like that."

"Television hurt us, but we're still plugging away."

No Double Features

This theater has no double features, usherettes in fancy uniforms, popcorn or glittering marquee. Hampton paints the neat posters out front and carefully assembles lobby displays that tell whether Mary Pickford or Rod La Rocque is appearing. The walls inside the 250-seat theater are a sober brown.

Hampton and his wife, Dorothy, from Oklahoma, opened "The Movie" 10 years ago this month. Mrs. Hampton sells the tickets. Her husband runs the projection machine and synchronizes recorded music to the action.

Not To Be Laughed At

To the Hamptons, silent movies are a serious art form and are not to be laughed at. They call their theater a shrine to talk-less pictures. A sign out front says it's "dedicated to those who cherish the movie as the living history of your changing styles, manners and customs."

"Sometimes new customers get too boisterous and we ask them to leave," says Hampton. "But most get over that laughing at the different styles in acting and clothing. Sound was a great step forward, but there's still a place for silents. They're virtually another medium."

Old-Timers Drop In

Old-timers like Mack Sennett and Harold Lloyd drop in to see their early works. Gilda Gray was a customer last week for her "Piccadilly."

This week: Jean Harlow's first movie, a Laurel and Hardy comedy, "Double Whoopee," and Constance Talmadge in "A Pair of Silk Stockings." As you sit in

the quiet theater, the images float across the screen, larger than life, with the strange, disembodied poetry of the silent film. The actors, unhampered by earthbound dialogue, exist in their own dream-like medium that talkies have never fully recaptured.

Next week: Eric Von Stroheim's "Merry-go-round," and "Tillie's Punctured Romance," with Marie Dressler and Charlie Chaplin. Bring the kiddies.

Spectacular Plane Reported Success In Maiden Flight

Fort Worth, Tex. —(U.P.)— The nation's most spectacular new aircraft—the ultra-secret all-jeet YB-60 global bomber—was pronounced a success after a maiden flight which only "modestly" tested its capabilities.

"It rides like a Cadillac," said one of its pilots.

Only top Air Force and Consolidated Vultee Aircraft officials were allowed to observe the YB-60 streak off the runway and land again at Carswell Air Force base after 1 hour and 8 minutes in the air.

Spectators Line Runway

But several thousand spectators, including Air Force personnel from Carswell, the home of the B-36, lined the left side of the runway, the roads outside the base and stood on rooftops for a from-a-far glimpse at a mighty big, queer-looking airplane whose details still are top security matter.

The needle-nosed, secretly-built craft is almost triangular-shaped with swept-back wings, almost as big as a giant B-36. Its eight jet engines trail plumes of vapor and there's a shrill, whining overtone to the deep roar of the engines.

Puerto Rico May Get New Legal Holiday

San Juan, P. R. —(U.P.)— This island, which has 18 legal holidays every year, will get another if a bill now before the insular house of representatives is approved.

The proposal calls for annual commemoration of March 3, 1952, as the day on which Puerto Rico's home-written constitution was ratified in a referendum.

Besides Christmas and New Year's days, Puerto Rico enjoys a mixture of U. S. and local holidays.

HE SHOULD KNOW

Milwaukee —(U.P.)— J. Arthur Butler won first prize in the liars' contest of the Milwaukee Round Table Club. Then Butler noticed how late it was and asked, nervously, "What will I tell my wife?"

Weaving is one of man's oldest crafts, but man probably made felt cloth before he made any woven fabric.

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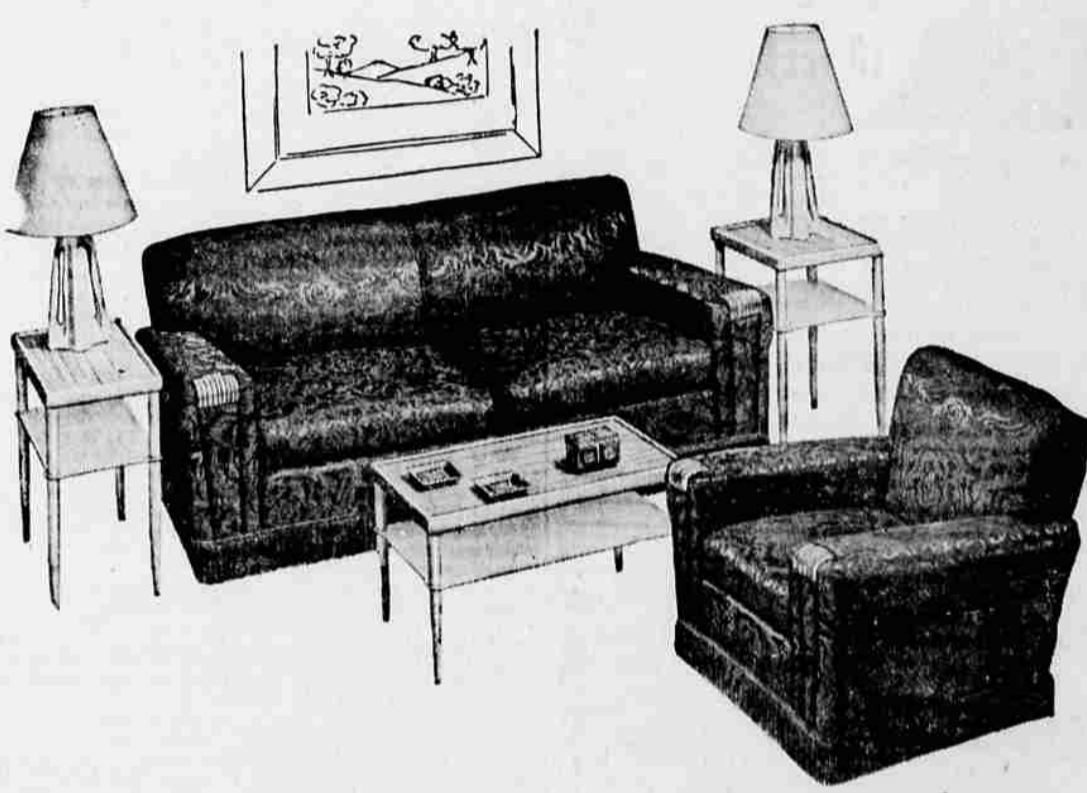
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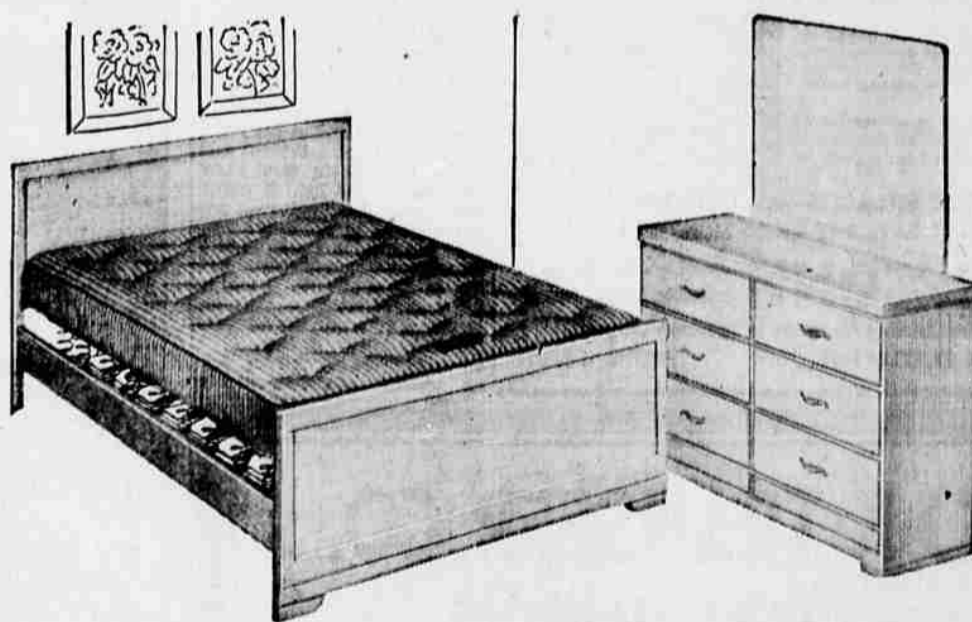


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