

Bob Mitchum Fired From Picture Filming for Dunking Co-Worker

Sausalito, Calif.—(U.P.)—Movie bad boy Robert Mitchum was fired yesterday from the picture "Blood Alley" for dunking a 250-pound co-worker in the icy waters of San Francisco Bay.

His dismissal came after he refused to apologize for "creating disagreements among the production staff" and after he was first given an opportunity to resign from the cast.

The firing was announced by Bob Fellows, co-producer with actor John Wayne of the Warner Bros. movie. It followed a closed door 45-minute session between Fellows after receiving a letter from "Blood Alley" director William Wellman citing the dousing and other "disagreements" between Mitchum and the production staff.

Wellman, in his letter, had recommended "some disciplinary" action be taken against the he-man movie hero "for delaying production" on the \$2,500,000 picture.

But as they sat out the "waiting period" in their quarters at the swank Bermuda Palms motel in San Rafael near here the principals in the real-life incident disclaimed that anybody was slugged, shoved, or doused in the Bay.

Principals Silent

George Coleman, the hefty "Blood Alley" company transportation manager who was reported to have been shoved into the bay by Mitchum, had a single, terse comment: "Nobody shoved me."

Mitchum, questioned by the press in his room where he was found in bed wearing blue and white striped shorts and sipping on a glass of red wine, said: "Me push anybody? Who told you that?"

Mitchum said that the incident, which he termed "horseplay," all began when a ferry boat being used in the shooting of the war story became lost in heavy bay fog.

After spending several hours "kidding around" on a barge tied to Angel Island off the coast of Sausalito, Mitchum said he suggested to Coleman—when shooting was finally called off—that he get a bus and run the company into San Francisco.

Coleman, he said, declined because "it would cost 25 bucks."

Went Into Drink

Mitchum said that he then offered to pay the \$25 himself and as he was boarding, via a gangplank, a launch to take him to shore he turned and told the others to "Hold that man on the barge." And as far as Mitchum is concerned, that was the end of the incident.

But witnesses said it progressed further, with Coleman finally going in the drink.

They say that as Coleman started to follow Mitchum, who

weighs 215 himself, up the gangplank the actor started bounding the plank. And as Coleman began teetering on the board, Mitchum raced back and gave him a healthy shove, with Coleman tumbling into 12 feet of cold water.

Wellman, who said he elicited a promise from the "playful" Mitchum prior to leaving Hollywood that he would "behave on set" during the filming of the picture, then upbraided Mitchum publicly and in front of some 150 Chinese extras, co-star Lauren Bacall and the production staff.

Mitchum's Firing Climaxes Years of Pranks, Troubles

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Robert Mitchum's firing at Sausalito, Calif., for pushing a fellow worker into San Francisco Bay climaxed years of his behind the scene pranks and troubles.

He often set up a bar in his dressing room.

Fist Fight with Soldier

Mitchum had a fist fight with a soldier three years ago on a movie location at Camp Carson, Colo. The actor claimed the GI needed him into the fight, and Mitchum was released by authorities.

He hit world headlines when

he was convicted in 1949 on a charge of smoking marijuana. He served a 60-day county jail sentence.

Most of Mitchum's set antics were regarded as harmless and seldom delayed production. He constantly teased his co-workers and staged practical jokes. But sometimes there was property damage.

Salty Language

Mitchum delights in shocking reporters, set visitors and his co-stars with his salty language. Often he will bring a saxophone or trumpet to work and practice loudly.

For "Night of The Hunter," another recent picture, he booted Shelley Winters in the behind because, co-workers said, "she wouldn't settle down to work."

Bank Announces Personnel Changes

Chester Irish, who has been with the Medford branch of the First National bank for the past 11 years, has been promoted to commercial loan officer. C. E. Hedberg, bank manager, announced today. Irish has served the local branch in various positions, and more recently was an installment credit loan officer.

Lowell Edwards, an employee at the bank for eight years, will take Irish's former position, and Orth Miller is being promoted from a field representative to the position formerly filled by Edwards.

Irish will replace W. H. Pratt, who has been with the Medford branch for the past two years as assistant manager. He is leaving the bank Jan. 15, and has accepted a position in the administrative department of the First Western Bank and Trust company, San Francisco. He will be an assistant vice-president.

Clerk's Receipts Total \$53,459.47

Receipts in the Jackson county clerk's office for 1954 totaled \$53,459.47, according to Mr. S. Bereth Hopkins, county clerk.

The receipts were for the calendar year. The office's fiscal year budget, ending next June 30, totals \$50,877.70, or \$2,581 less than last year's receipt.

The 1954 receipts were received by the two divisions, with recording, \$22,838.82 and clerk's department, \$30,620.65. Under the latter, dog licenses returned \$7,258.58 and marriage licenses \$1,323.

Of the total receipts, \$45,503.72 was retained in the county treasury, and the balance turned over to the state treasurer and earmarked on a percentage basis for salaries for the circuit judge and district attorney, with a small percentage to the law library.

As of Jan. 1, the office had handled \$88,914.15 in child support and alimony payments for 283 cases.

Hells Canyon Brief Deadline Extended

Washington — (U.P.) — Examiner William J. Costello yesterday extended until Feb. 4 the deadline to file answering briefs by all parties in the Federal Power Commission's Hells Canyon case.

The answering briefs had been due Jan. 10. However, this was suspended by the examiner and the commission, when an attorney for interests seeking a single high federal dam at Hells Canyon asked the FPC to deny applications of the Idaho Power Co. for a license to build three low dams on the Snake river.

First briefs on the Hells Canyon hearing were filed Nov. 24. The answering briefs now will be due Feb. 4, with a final brief from Idaho Power due Feb. 21.

Veterans' Pensions Eligibility Rule Told

Veterans and widows receiving non-service connected pensions should promptly report any increase in income which make them ineligible for the VA pensions, according to Charles Holbrook, county service officer.

By prompt reporting, the beneficiary will not be penalized retroactively, even though he will cease to receive further pension payments, the officer said.

To be entitled to non-service connected pension, the income limitation of a veteran or widow without dependants is \$1,400 annually; with dependants, it is \$2,700.

Holbrook emphasized the importance of the tightened regulations and urged any recipients to contact his office at the courthouse, third floor, for aid in the matter.

O & C Timber Sales Top All Records During 1954

Portland — (U.P.) — O & C timber sales during 1954 topped all records for volume, stumpage value and prices received, according to a Bureau of Land Management report.

The report listed 519 timber sales during the calendar year, for a total of \$15,845,833 and averaging \$21.76 per thousand feet. An estimated 728,254,000 board feet were sold.

HOPE FOR FUTURE

Providence, R. I. — (U.P.) — A newsman trying to reach the attorney general's office dialed the wrong number. "Is this the attorney general's office?" he asked the secretary. "Not yet," she replied.



A. C. JAMES
Operators of new Texaco station at Kings Hwy. and Stewart



LEONARD DUSENBURY

Opening Scheduled For New Station

Grand opening of a new Texaco service station at the intersection of Stewart ave. and Kings highway will be held from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, it was announced today.

Proprietors of the station are A. C. James, the owner, and Leonard Dusenbury, lube and tire specialist.

Gifts, refreshments and favors will be given out during the two-day opening, which is being held with the cooperation of Ken Teter, Texaco distributor here. Prizes will include tires, gasoline, lube jobs and others.

From John Day

James came here from John Day, Ore., where he owned a Marshall-Wells hardware store. Prior to that he operated a Texaco station in Eugene. He and his wife and two daughters moved here recently. He has had more than 25 years experience in service station and automotive business.

Dusenbury, a native of Medford, has had 15 years experience in the business. He operated a Texaco station in Crescent City, Calif. for five years, and more recently was with Dick Kaye's Texaco service station on Court st., and with a station at Ninth st. and Central ave. He and his wife and daughter live in Medford.

Northwest Building Sets All-Time Mark

Portland — (U.P.) — Construction in the Pacific Northwest during 1954 reached an all-time high dollarwise, according to incomplete figures compiled by Equitable Savings and Loan Association from building permits of 47 cities.

Permit valuations in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia were \$336,422,597, the partial compilation showed. This is nearly two and one half million dollars above the 1950 record. The association said the major boom was in the state of Washington.

Nineteen reporting municipalities in Oregon reported \$5,449,974, which is 44 per cent better than last year.

Talent Councilmen On Fire Committee

Talent — Two Talent city councilmen were appointed last week by Mayor Keith Thoreson to a committee to reorganize the Talent Volunteer Fire department, according to Recorder Nona McAbee.

Named were Leo Jacobs and James C. Henry. Other committee appointments for 1955 by Thoreson were Jacobs and Clarence W. Cooper Jr., finance; Wayne Reichstein and Henry, streets, and Richard Bradford and Rudy Conner, water.

Conner was also reelected council chairman. Department heads reappointed included Jim Perdue, water superintendent, and John Baldwin, police chief.

The meeting was the first of the new year for the group. Henry and Cooper are new councilmen and the other four were reelected. Thoreson is beginning his second term as mayor.

Boy Scouts

Troop 8 Members of Boy Scout Troop 8 will meet Saturday, Jan. 15, at 8:30 a.m. at their meeting hall for a hike to the Girl Scout day camp and return by 2 p.m. At a meeting Jan. 11, the members discussed a board of review for Tuesday, Jan. 18, and a "snow coming" also was discussed for sometime in February or March.


Gene Harvey, Scribe.

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OFFICE OF DEPUTY CORONER

One of Nation's Most Wanted Men Caught

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — Walter James Wilkinson, 30, one of the nation's 10 most wanted men, today was arrested on federal charges of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution on charges of armed robbery, burglary and kidnaping in New York State.

Wilkinson, posing as a bus boy under the name of Walter Rogers, was arrested last night by six FBI agents who quietly surrounded his room in the basement of the exclusive Fox Hills Country Club in nearby Culver City.

The suspect did not resist arrest although a loaded .32 caliber automatic rested within arm's reach in a suitcase on the top of his bed.

The FBI said it found Wilkinson because an alert citizen, who was not identified by the agency, recognized the fugitive from a widely publicized photograph and notified the FBI.

New Family Arrives At Central Point

Central Point — Mr. and Mrs. Davis R. Offutt and their three daughters arrived recently in the valley. On Jan. 1 they assumed ownership of the Ross motel at Central Point.

The family for the past five years lived in South America where Offutt was employed as an electrical engineer, for a time with American Smelting company, and also for the Bethlehem Steel firm. He is a member of the American Electrical Engineers institute and is a Montana school of Mines graduate. They lived in Bolivia, Peru and Venezuela.

The daughters are Rena Mary, 9, who is attending Central Point Grade school; and twin girls, Cleresse and Chesesse, who are 5 years old. The motel sale was handled through the Medford Realty company offices.

New Zealand has more than two and a half cattle for each of its 2,088,000 people. Its sheep outnumber her people almost 17½ to one.

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