

## Lanza Retreats From Las Vegas As Pact Dropped

Las Vegas, Nev. — (U.P.) — Mario Lanza planned today to retreat "by the first train" from this gambling paradise where he fizzled on a \$100,000 singing contract by failing to appear on stage.

The temperamental star lost the fattest contract he has had for six months when he left 700 newsmen, celebrities, and free spenders stranded without a star performer at the lush New Frontier hotel.

**Misses Opening**  
Lanza failed to appear for a glittering opening night performance at the newly remodeled hotel and casino Monday.

Late Tuesday the hotel announced it had cancelled his contract. A spokesman said the hotel had no plans to sue the singer for breach of contract.

Lanza let it be known only that he would take his entourage of 11 back to California by the first possible train. Those who traveled to Las Vegas with him for the scheduled two week appearance included his wife, four children, his makeup man, trainer, and maids.

**Favorable Report**  
The announcement that the New Frontier had cancelled Lanza's contract came after a tentative report from Lanza's doctor that he "is physically in shape to go on."

The official reason given for Lanza's failure to appear on Monday was "an attack of laryngitis and an upper respiratory infection" brought on by the change of altitude.

## Witnesses Tell Of Mismanagement By Helser Firm

San Francisco — (U.P.) — The Securities and Exchange Commission trotted five witnesses into federal court yesterday in its attempt to prove the J. Henry Helser and Company investment firm guilty of mismanaging client capital.

Among those was Jacob Skeen, 72-year-old retired machinist from San Bernardino, Calif. He testified his original account of \$60,000 dwindled to \$48,000 or \$49,000 after little more than two years.

**Should Double**  
Skeen said that J. Henry Helser, president of the firm, told him the account should double itself within eight or 10 years.

The government has charged that the Helser company violated certain fraud provisions of the investment and securities act and had carelessly handled client's money.

Helser has offices in Portland, Ore., San Francisco, Los Angeles and Riverside, Calif.

**Admitted Check Boost**  
Under cross examination by Helser attorney Robert E. Burns, Skeen admitted he asked the company to boost his monthly checks to \$600, and was told that that time part of his principal would have to be used.

Burns then told Federal Judge Louis E. Goodman that Skeen's account closed out at \$54,434 instead of the older man's figure. He said also that Skeen had received \$12,350 in payments during a 24 month period.

## New Homes Will Have Air Conditioning

Minneapolis — (U.P.) — One of every eight homes built in the United States this year will have central air conditioning, a leading manufacturer predicts.

Richard M. Locke, air conditioning market director (for Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co.), said studies by his firm indicate about 150,000 air-conditioned homes will be built in 1955. Last year about 75,000 new homes were provided with central air conditioning.

Locke predicted that by 1958 there will be more than a million air-conditioned homes in the country. Eventually, he said, central air conditioning will be nearly as common as central heating.

## Blighted Areas Sold To Private Developers

Chicago — (U.P.) — The highest courts in 18 states have ruled that re-development agencies may use the power of eminent domain to buy up blighted areas for re-sale to private developers.

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials lists the following states where this has been declared constitutional:



**DIGGING IN**—Nationalist Chinese troops dig in on their island outpost, Matsui, off the Chinese mainland. U. S. Admiral Robert Carney stated recently that the Reds were ready to attack the island about April 15. In Washington, a number of senators demanded that President Eisenhower make clear whether the U. S. would defend the Matsus and Quemoy.

## Gold Hill Council Approves Sanitary Authority Measure

Gold Hill—The Gold Hill city council this week went on record as favoring Senate Bill 434, which would provide legal machinery to aid in the solution of sanitation problems.

The bill was introduced into the Oregon legislature by Senator Philip Lowry of Jackson County. Cosponsors of the bill were Senators D. R. Husband and J. O. Johnson and Reps. E. H. Mann and E. A. Littrell.

The measure is permissive legislation which would leave establishment of sanitary authorities on a local basis.

In other action, the council approved purchase of a second-hand vehicle to be used by the city as a service truck. The new vehicle will replace a 1940 panel truck which has been used by the city for several years.

Preliminary work on changing the city reservoir system received approval. The council is seeking a method of assuring an adequate supply of water even when one of the two reservoirs is being cleaned.

The council also authorized investigation of the possibility of obtaining a weed burner which also could be used to heat paving material, and a study of the cost of placing a woven wire "climb proof" fence around the city sewage disposal plant.

The meeting was recessed until Monday, when the council is expected to start preparation of the city's 1955-1956 budget.

## Court Records

**POLICE COURT**  
Wallace M. Larson, no operator's license, \$5.  
Marion L. Kusel, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Dorothy I. Forrest, no operator's license, \$5.  
Buster G. Jones, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Walter D. Woodcock, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Pat Williams, 36, of 1716 North Riverside ave., driving with suspended operator's license, \$100.  
Alma L. Wooten, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Dennis V. Halsey, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Roy William Lunborg, failure to stop at stop sign, \$5.  
Donald E. Hale, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Ruth M. Stark, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Paul Robert Matheny, Robert Gordon Smith and Shirley Milton Croucher, violation of basic rule, \$10 each.

Louis Lee Porter, failure to yield right-of-way to pedestrian, \$10.  
Miriam Elizabeth Ward, failure to stop at stop sign, \$5.  
Clarence Wilton Dunham, Roy M. Baker, Albert Edsall Eltemiller, Edson C. Jerome, William Harold Reichstein and Robert Palmer Templeton, failure to stop at stop sign, \$5 each.  
Walter Caster, failure to stop at stop sign and no operator's license, \$10.  
D. W. Knight, contractors, diagonal parking, \$2.50.  
Vaughn W. Clark, parked more than 12 inches from curb, \$2.50.  
Eugene D. Wheeler, front end of car parked more than 12 inches from curb, \$2.50.  
Dore Has, parked on wrong side of street, \$2.50.

**DISTRICT COURT**  
Richard J. Borch Jr., no motor vehicle license, \$6.  
Robert L. Goodman, failure to operate motor vehicle on proper side of highway, \$10.  
Ronald R. Malson, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Kenneth A. Britlin, failure to stop at stop sign, \$10.  
Elmer William Summers, 44, prospect, driving while intoxicated, forfeited bail.  
Loren Lee Fleming, inadequate muffler, \$10.  
Carolyn McQuigg, violation of basic rule, \$7.50.  
Richard B. Harrison, no PUC permit, \$15.  
Albert F. Costelove, overload, \$140.  
Jesse D. Suttie, Fred B. Baldwin and Frank Girard, failure to stop at stop sign, \$10.  
Elizabeth Thompson, parking in private driveway, \$6.  
Donald M. Burrill, no motor vehicle license, \$10.  
Cletic Baker, inadequate lights, \$6.  
Robert L. Hamilton, one headlight, \$10.

**CIRCUIT COURT**  
Wendell L. Wyan vs. Tillie V. Wilson, appearance and divorce decree.  
Jim H. Freeland vs. Henrietta M. Freeland, divorce decree.  
Shirley M. Myers vs. Charles W. Myers, divorce decree.  
Lillice Mae Johnson vs. Earl Warren Johnson, divorce complaint.  
Alice Jane Slade vs. Eugene Francis Slade, divorce complaint.

**MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS**  
John H. Eller, 34, of route 1, box 36, Ashland, and Valeria May Calhoun, 34, of route 1, box 36, Ashland.  
James Leon Guss, 21, of Box 393, Central Point, and Gail Arden Harris, 21, of Box 193, Central Point.  
Clyde Thurmond, 23, and LaVerna Seemiller, 19, both Medford.  
Orbert DeWitt Lowery, 23, and Mary Belle Moore, 36, both Ashland.

## California Scientists Take Moisture From Atmosphere

Menlo Park, Calif. — (U.P.) — Two Stanford Research Institute scientists are working on a "basically sound" system for alleviating California's growing water supply problem by taking moisture out of the atmosphere.

Dr. Robert Eustis and retired Navy Capt. Howard B. Hutchinson said that if their plan proves "economically feasible" there may be a valuable new source of water for the state's parched farming regions and metropolitan areas swollen with new populations.

But Eustis emphasized in an interview that "all of our work so far has been purely preliminary, and we are in no position at the present time to make any sensational claims."

Eustis said he and Hutchinson have asked the institute for a \$10,000 grant to continue research. If they get the money, they should be able to determine by the end of this summer whether their system can be adapted for commercial use.

Eustis said the idea "is so fundamental it's really not a new concept." But, he added, "so far as I know it has never been tried before in this country."

"In the tests we have already made we have proved that the system is basically sound," he said.

Eustis is a mechanical engineer attached to the institute's physics department. Hutchinson, a meteorologist is in the chemistry department.

**Sheet of Metal**  
Their tests began last fall when they constructed an as yet unnamed apparatus in the Stanford foothills near here at about the 750-foot level.

The apparatus was strikingly simple. It consisted of a black sheet of metal reinforced underneath by fiber board insulation. This unit was propped up on stilts and placed in a slanting position. At the base was a small bucket. There were no motors—in fact no moving parts of any sort. The tests were conducted at night.

Eustis explained that the metal surface was painted black to heighten its condensation powers. He said the purpose of the insulation was to protect the metal from heat escaping from the ground.

The process was this: The moisture-laden air, with a temperature of about 60 degrees fahrenheit, passed over the metal, which had a temperature of between 40 to 50 degrees. As the warm air made contact with the metal, the resulting condensation produced tiny droplets of water which rolled into the bucket.

Eustis said the process was effective only at night, when the mean ratio of moisture is about 7.3 grams per kilogram of air in the test area. He said the condensation was more constant along the immediate coast, but added that the process also would work a short distance inland, if the region was not blocked from the ocean by mountain ranges.

**Soft Water**  
He said the process would produce best results in the spring, summer and fall, but very little water could be collected in the

## Youngster Hurt as Car Starts; Condition Good

Robert Melvin Little, 13, of 1900 Kings highway, was injured at about 9:45 p.m. yesterday in an accident in a downtown parking lot, according to city police.

Officers said the boy had taken hold of a handle of a door on a car operated by Lorin James Christean, 808 Agate st., when the Christean boy, who did not see him, started the car.

The Little youth was thrown to the ground. He suffered facial cuts and bruises and shock. He was treated and released at Sacred Heart hospital.

## Former Janitor Best Read Poet

Burlington, Vt. — (U.P.) — One of the best read poets at the University of Vermont is a former janitor at the school.

Sam Baron, who's also been a publicist and salesman, expects his third volume of verse to be printed shortly. His first two books sold well.

"Trailing Vines," Baron's first work, sold 150 copies the day it was published. "For Those Around Us," was his second book. Baron attributed some of the

sales to medical college doctors, around. and students who "wanted to find out what was going on in my head while I pushed a broom, reading my poems," he said.

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