

Custody Case Of Susan Smith May Be Over Tuesday

San Jose, Calif. — (U.P.) — The judge hearing the legal battle over custody of three-year-old Susan Smith has warned both sides that the case must be finished Tuesday or he will have to postpone it.

Judge M. G. Del Mutolo explained the action was necessary due to other business on the court calendar.

Late Friday the little girl's mother, Mrs. Marjorie Smith, 34, of Portland, Ore., began her case against charges that she is not a fit mother for the child.

The charges were brought by the child's aunt, Mrs. Ellen Hightower, 38, of Los Gatos, Calif., who testified earlier in the day.

Took Child
Mrs. Hightower told the court how she went to Portland last April after her brother, Kermit Smith, was murdered in an auto-bombing. She said she took Susan home when Mrs. Smith was arrested for complicity in her husband's death.

Mrs. Smith was acquitted of charges and obtained a court order for the return of her child, but Mrs. Hightower refused to give up the girl on grounds Mrs. Smith was an unfit mother.

On the stand Mrs. Smith, nearly in tears, denied that she had anything to do with the death of her husband or that she had ever been intimate with Laurence Wolf, the man convicted of the slaying.

She said that if granted custody of Susan, she would take the child back to Portland and provide for her to the best of her ability.

Chicago Juvenile Terror Continues

Chicago — (U.P.) — The family of a teen-age gang victim lived under a 24-hour police guard Saturday after receiving a death-threatening letter in the latest phase of juvenile terror here.

The poison-pen letter was turned over to the FBI for investigation.

The letter was received by Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Stevens whose son, Donald, 18, is hospitalized with injuries from a beating with a tire wrench by a teen-age gang.

Four teen-age boys are under indictment for beating the youth. The letter, released by Police Capt. Phillip Breitzke, said:

"You've got one shotgun. We have three. You might as well order a coffin for your son now. I'm gonna draw the short straw to do the job."

The letter was signed, "The Future Killer of Your Son."

The shotgun apparently referred to one kept handy by Stevens for protection following the attack on his son.

Services Are Held For Frank Putnam

Tonasket, Wash. — (U.P.) — Funeral services were conducted here Saturday for Frank Putnam, pioneer Washington newspaper publisher, who died Jan. 19 in New Mexico at the age of 78.

Putnam settled at Conconully in 1905 when it was the Okanogan county seat. He established the Okanogan Record and in 1914 founded the Tonasket Times. He sold that paper in 1952 and moved to Truth Or Consequences, N. M.

Oregon Airman Gets Peacetime Award

Anchorage, Alaska — (U.P.) — Airman 1st Class Norman L. Teague of the headquarters command, Alaskan Air Command, has been awarded the Soldiers Medal, the nation's highest peacetime award, for saving the life of another serviceman last August, the Air Force announced Saturday.

Teague, of McMinnville, Ore., was one of four persons aboard an Air Force plane which crashed and sank in near freezing waters in Alaska's Chinitna bay last Aug. 16.

After reaching shore with two other men Teague saw Staff Sgt. Richard E. Thompson floundering in several feet of water. Although he was very cold and near exhaustion, Teague left the shore to assist Thompson and towed the semi-conscious sergeant approximately 40 yards to safety.

Teague is presently at the Alaskan liaison office in Seattle.

Team Completes Relocation Survey

Portland — (U.P.) — A survey team looking for sites for relocation of the Portland airbase left here for Washington, D. C., Saturday after studying about a dozen sites in the Willamette valley and Clark county, Wash.

Col. Wilson H. Banks, an Air Force officer who headed the team, said that until his group studies its findings it will not know what sites, if any, it will recommend to Air Force headquarters for further study.

He said no announcement of a final choice of a new site is likely until the selection is made by higher officials. Banks is head of the base selection branch in the office of the assistant chief of staff for several months.

Moss Claims Secrecy Tends To Dictatorship

Washington — (U.P.) — Chairman John E. Moss of a House information subcommittee said Saturday the present trend toward government secrecy could end in a dictatorship.

The California Democrat called for a line to be drawn on information the government conceals. "And it should be drawn on the liberal side," he said.

Moss' subcommittee has been scrutinizing different government agency information policies. He has indicated the subcommittee will propose specific legislation to write new "ground rules" for the release of government information to Congress and the press.

Claim Planes Shot Down Over China

Tokyo — (U.P.) — Peiping Radio claimed Saturday that Chinese Communist anti-aircraft guns shot down two Nationalist fighter-bombers and damaged two others over mainland China Friday.

The broadcast said the downed jets were among a group of 16 F84 planes that raided Fukien province opposite Formosa at 9:30 a.m. Friday. Late Saturday, a Nationalist Air Force communique said planes dropped leaflets over a wide area of the Communist coastal sector Friday night but all planes returned safely.

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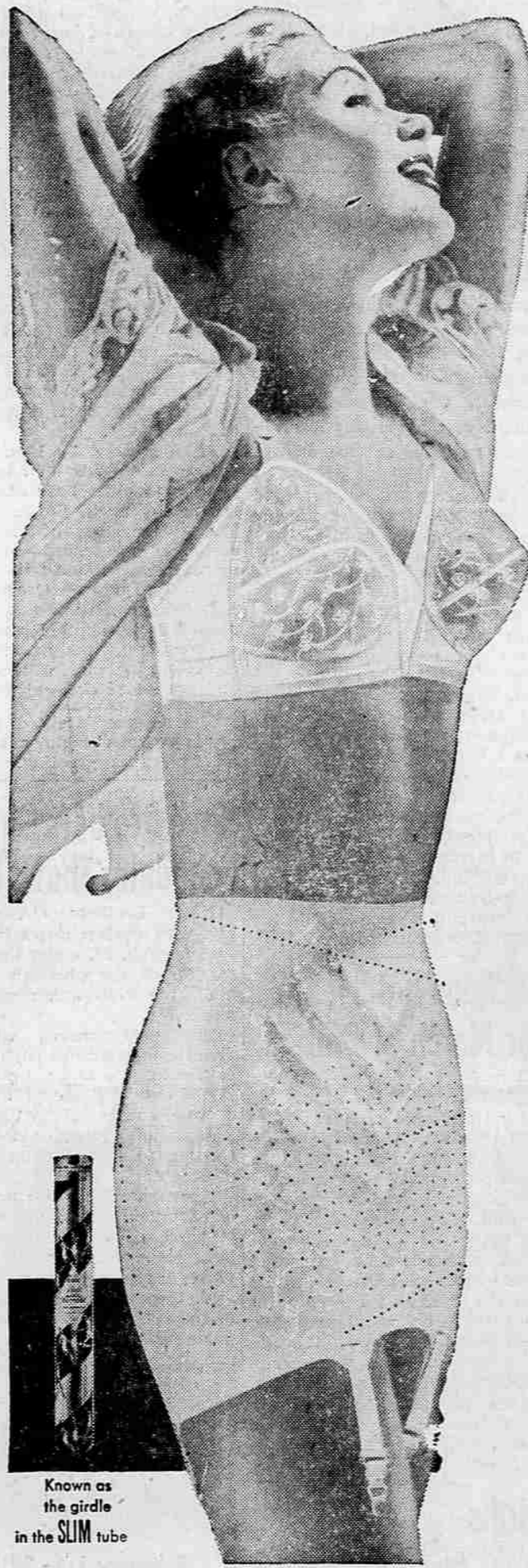
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