

Jury Near Completion for Trial In Blowing Up of United Airliner

Denver — (U.P.) — Selection of a jury to try John Gilbert Graham on charges that he blew up an airliner in order to kill his mother for insurance may be completed today.

The widely publicized crime so shocked the nation that court observers thought it might take weeks to select a jury acceptable to both prosecution and defense.

But by late yesterday, both sides had agreed tentatively on a panel of 13 jurors—eight men and five women. But both sides are allowed 15 peremptory challenges, and each had 14 left after yesterday.

Could Discharge All

Thus, without explanation or argument, either side could discharge all 13 of the jurors tentatively selected.

Forty-four persons died last Nov. 1 when a United Air Lines DC6B exploded in the air near Longmont, Colo., 11 minutes after taking off from Denver, and fell on frigid beet fields. The shattered plane was painstakingly re-constructed, and experts found clear evidence that a bomb had been planted in a luggage compartment.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation accused Graham, a 24-year-old Denver restaurant operator and father of two, of the crime. The FBI claimed he confessed that he fashioned a bomb with a cheap kitchen timing device and 25 sticks of dynamite, and hid the bomb in his mother's luggage before she boarded the doomed plane for Portland, Ore.

The FBI said Graham wanted to collect trip insurance on his

mother, and that she paid for some of the policies he bought at the airport while the bomb was ticking away.

The trial began Monday. Six hundred prospective jurors were summoned to court.

Seventy-four of these had been questioned and excused for various reasons by adjournment yesterday. One was an expectant

U.S. Becomes Full Member of Baghdad Economic Committee

Tehran, Iran — (U.P.) — The United States has become a full member of the Baghdad Pact economic committee, it was announced today.

This was a step short of full American adherence to the Baghdad pact as asked by the member nations. But it indicated clearly American backing for the pact as a whole.

U. S. membership in the economic committee was announced by a spokesman for the Baghdad Pact council, meeting here to study economic aspects of the alliance.

Refrains from Joining

The United States, one of the prime movers of the "northern tier" defense alliance, has refrained from joining the pact which links Britain, Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan.

But the United States sent an observer-delegation to the current meeting of the five-nation economic committee. The delegation is headed by Loy Henderson, deputy under-secretary of state.

The pact members urged the United States to become a full

time member of the alliance when they opened their meeting here but Henderson pledged only "full American support."

Already Supplies Aid

The United States already supplies much of the military and economic aid for the pact members.

The pact began as a defense treaty between Iraq and Turkey, signed in Baghdad on Feb. 24, last year. In November, the two countries were joined by Britain, Iran and Pakistan to form the Baghdad pact itself. The United States sent an observer to the inaugural.

The pact nations stretch across the southern borders of Russia, and the Soviet has attacked it as a threat to peace. The Arab non-members led by Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia have denounced it as a blow to Arab unity.

Musicians To Be Questioned

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — A subcommittee of the House Un-American Activities committee has ordered several Hollywood musicians to be questioned tomorrow about possible Communist affiliations.

The investigators yesterday temporarily recessed a week-long hearing to fly to Washington to vote on a proposal to override President Eisenhower's veto of the farm bill.

Rep. Morgan M. Moulder (D-Mo.) ordered all subpoenaed witnesses to be on hand when the session resumes tomorrow. Many witnesses in the two previous days of the hearing have hidden behind the First and Fifth amendments in refusing to disclose any Communist activities in local music circles.

The congressmen yesterday heard five hours of testimony from a former Soviet spy, Nikolai Khokhlov, 34. He described how the Communist party tries to control the minds of its citizens through the arts.

Committee counsel Frank S. Tavenner said he had the Russian appear to show how the Communists use the arts to promote their own interests. Testimony in the hearing so far has revealed that 70 to 75 Hollywood musicians were under Communist influence as late as 1949.

Lincoln Interested In Weapons of War

New York — (U.P.) — Abraham Lincoln's curiosity and mechanical turn of mind made him deeply interested in new and improved war weapons.

In the Civil war the North was experimenting with rockets, and, at a trial of the Hyde rocket on Nov. 15, 1862, Lincoln's life could have been snuffed out.

The President drove to the Navy Yard with Secretary of State Seward and Secretary of the Treasury Chase to see the new weapon. Rear Adm. John A. Dahlgren was with them. Down by the river the eminent visitors gathered around the perforated-iron-cylinder launching tube at which Lt. Cmdr. Mitchell was setting up the test.

When the rocket was ready the onlookers stepped a few paces, prepared to see the new weapon zoom up over the river and burst, pocking the water's surface with fragments.

Instead came a blast and a puff of fire—the rocket had exploded in its stand.

Not a word of the incident appeared in any public print, possibly due to censorship. The story is brought to light in "Lincoln and the Tools of War," a new book by Robert V. Bruce (Cobbs-Merrill).

Dr. Bruce found mention of it in a laconic official report and an undated, unsigned memo inadvertently left between the pages of a Navy Ordnance bureau manuscript volume entitled "Examination of Inventions."

HIGH SCORER

Connard, N. H. — (U.P.) — New Hampshire's 1956 "Queen of the Fair" also reigned over a basketball court. Patty Bateau, 17, a Lancaster High School senior, scored 1,004 points in four years on the girls' basketball team.

South Dakota ranked among the top 10 beef producing states with over 2,500,000 million head produced in 1955.

Two Central Oregon Projects Win Support

Washington — (U.P.) — Two central Oregon reclamation projects, the Crooked river and Wapinitia, received support yesterday before a Senate irrigation subcommittee.

Residents of the Prineville, Ore., area said the proposed \$6-600,000 Crooked river project was needed for irrigation purposes. Solons also were told the Juniper division of the Wapinitia project in Wasco county would provide needed water for irrigation.

The subcommittee also heard a request for a measure to authorize a survey for possible fencing of a government-owned

Scientists Probe Chemical Blast

Pasadena, Calif. — (U.P.) — Scientists today began an investigation into a chemical explosion that injured a student and rocked the chemistry building at the California Institute of Technology.

School officials said Marc Silver, 22, student from New Rochelle, N.Y., was conducting a "highly dangerous" experiment yesterday when the explosion ripped through the third floor of the building. The student

canal at Klamath Falls where several persons have drowned.

Wednesday, April 18, 1956

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—SEVEN

miraculously escaped injury and was treated at Huntington Memorial Hospital for cuts on the head, face, arms and hands.

Physicians removed a small piece of glass lodged in one of his eyes. Doctors believed that his eyesight may have been saved by the fact that he was wearing glasses when a flask containing chemicals exploded.

Cal Tech is a center of highly secret work in atomic and jet propulsion research. The school, however, reported that the blast did not involve any materials used in atomic research. Damage was limited to the experiment room, where windows were shattered and bottles broken.

Siskiyou Jail Escapee Identified by Boots

Yreka — Fred A. Smith, an escapee from the Siskiyou county jail since April 10 was identified as the owner of a pair of cowboy boots left yesterday in a Hunter's Gulch cabin.

Clothing, a shotgun, and food were taken from the cabin owned by Lester E. Black, Yreka.

Smith is believed to have stolen the clothing to prevent identification, and is described as wearing a gray hat, glasses, laced boots, and carrying a pack sack.

About 90 per cent of the world rice crop comes from Asia.

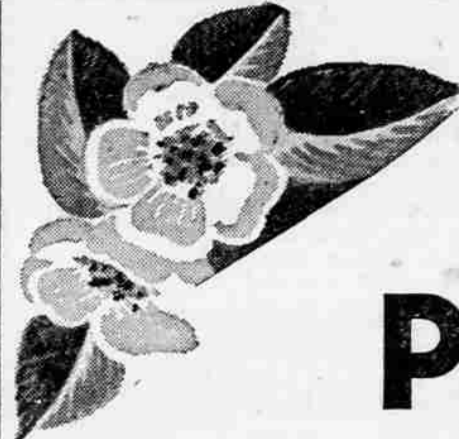
Inmate of Stockade Lays Trail Too Well

Bartow, Fla. — (U.P.) — There's one stockade inmate the Polk county sheriff will never call on again to help train his bloodhounds.

Henry Thomas Lott, 32, serving 60 days in the county stockade, was asked to lay a trail for trainer Carl Andrews' bloodhounds to follow. Lott was told to lay the trail, then climb a tree and wait for the hounds to find him.

The prisoner did as he was told, except for one thing. Instead of climbing the tree, Lott hitched a ride and headed for parts unknown.

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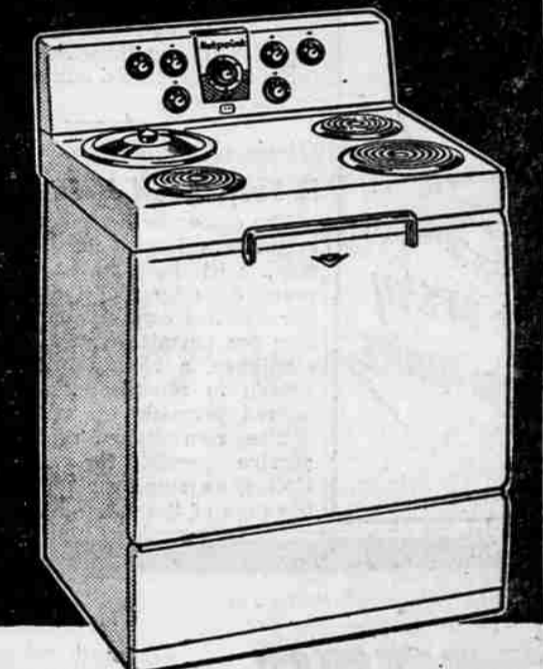
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