

Father Accused of Beating Child Held for Action by Grand Jury

Portland—(U.P.)—Glen Denessen, 34-year-old longshoreman accused of beating his 13-year-old daughter, Janet, over whom a Benton county custody fight once raged, was held for the grand jury today.

He is charged with assault and battery while unarmed but with force sufficient to cause great bodily harm.

Preliminary Hearing
A preliminary hearing was

held yesterday. Sgt. Ralph S. Kennedy, county juvenile officer, said he saw the daughter at the women's protective division and was present when photographs showing bruises and abrasions were taken.

Mrs. Grace S. Cole, member of the women's division, testified she observed bruises and abrasions on the girl's back, face and legs.

Denessen's attorney, Burton J. Fallgren, asked dismissal of the charge for failure to show who inflicted the wounds upon the girl. District Judge Ray D. Shoemaker denied the motion.

A second warrant, signed by County Detective Dan Bailey, charging Denessen with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, was served after the preliminary hearing.

Mother Present at Hearing
Present at the hearing were the girl's mother, Dorothy Denessen, 31, and the maternal grand-

mother, Mrs. Anna Taylor of Corvallis, with whom the girl lived the first 10 years of her life.

Mrs. Taylor vowed after yesterday's preliminary hearing to "fight to the Supreme Court if necessary" to regain custody of Janet.

She said she was given the child by Mrs. Denessen when the girl was only a baby. Later, she said, she learned that the parents wanted her back. She said she went to Chicago to visit them and decided afterwards to keep the child.

Appealed to Supreme Court
Denessen filed a custody suit in Benton county and won the case. Mrs. Taylor appealed to the State Supreme Court but the high court ruled against her.

Later Mrs. Taylor was held in contempt of court by Circuit Judge Fred McHenry for refusing to disclose the girl's whereabouts. She had placed her in a Stayton foster home. The operator of the home read about the custody battle and notified police of Janet's whereabouts and the child was turned over to the Denessens.

Two Men Confess To Eugene Bank Robbery

Salem—(U.P.)—Two men have confessed to the \$2000 robbery of the West Eugene branch of the First National Bank of Portland, State Police Capt. Ray Howard said here today.

Capt. Howard said the men had been identified as Charles Edward Simmons, 40, Springfield timber faller, and Don Howard, 23, Eugene. They were being charged with bank robbery by the U.S. district attorney in Portland.

Alertness Credited
The alertness of State Police

Lt. Farley Mogan was credited with solving the Monday holdup. Lt. Mogan was driving south on the Salem by-pass yesterday when he noticed a northbound taxicab occupied by a man, woman and 17-year-old girl.

Mogan stopped the cab and identified the occupants as Simmons, Maudie Honeyman of Springfield and her niece. They were on their way to Vancouver, Wash., where Simmons and Miss Honeyman planned to be married.

Mogan said he became suspicious when he found nine \$20 bills on Simmons. Several \$20 bills were included in the currency taken from the Eugene bank. Mogan said Simmons confessed after two hours of questioning.

Arrested at Hopewell

State police and FBI agents arrested Howard later at the home of his father in Hopewell, northwest of Salem. The cab driver was Ewald Graaf, 41, of Springfield. He told Capt. Howard that Simmons gave him three \$20 bills to cover the cost of the trip to Vancouver. Capt. Howard said Graaf had no knowledge of the crime.

Portland Raked by Howling East Wind

Portland—(U.P.)—Howling east winds which have been common here for the past week picked up in intensity yesterday and resulted in damage throughout the city.

Gusts up to 42 miles per hour were recorded at the weather bureau but there were reports of stronger gusts elsewhere in the city. Gusts up to 62 miles per hour were reported in the Columbia gorge east of here.

The fire department reported seven flue fires within three hours last night. Several burglar alarms were touched off, apparently because of the wind causing shorts in electric circuits. Part of Beaverton had a power failure, apparently because of a tree falling over power lines.

The winds blew Christmas decorations into the street in downtown Portland, blew down signs and knocked limbs off trees.

The forecast through tomorrow: More east winds.

Wilson Considers Cut in Air Force Strength for '57

Washington—(U.P.)—Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson today was considering how much to cut the Air Force beneath its 137-wing goal. The decision probably will be his toughest in drafting next year's military budget.

The 137-wing goal was set in 1953 as part of the administration's "new look" military program. The goal, under present plans, was to have been reached next June. The Air Force now, however, is resigned to a cut.

Budget Presented
Air Force officials, it was learned, presented to Wilson Tuesday a budget for the coming fiscal year that would provide for less than 137 wings. The presentation was made at a budget conference at the Pentagon.

Wilson, at the close of the presentation, was said to have left open the question of whether he will make still further cuts in the Air Force strength goal. He was said to have explained to Air Force officials that he was aware of Air Force needs but also had to consider how big a military establishment the national economy can carry.

Spending Half of Dollars
The Air Force is spending almost half the tax dollars allotted to the military. How much it gets is a key factor in how large the general defense budget will be, and that in turn, is the key to whether the government's overall budget will balance.

In the current fiscal year, the Air Force will spend \$16.5 billion.

Venezuela Plane Wreckage Probed

Caracas, Venezuela—(U.P.)—Investigators searched the wreckage of a Venezuelan airliner today for some clue to the trouble which caused the pilot to flash an SOS almost minutes before the plane crashed, killing all 25 persons aboard.

Ten Americans, including an entire family of five, died when the LAV, Linea Aeropostal Venezolana, Constellation crashed and exploded on a mountain peak only 10 miles from the Caracas airport Tuesday.

The plane was carrying 18 passengers and a crew of seven on a flight from New York. Officials said the pilot radioed a distress signal 35 miles from the airport but gave no reason. The Maquetia International Airport was closed in by rain and low ceiling at the time.

Minutes later, the huge luxury airliner smashed into the north side of the Avilla Mountain Range surrounding the airport. The explosion scattered bodies and debris over a wide area some 1,800 feet from the top of a peak.

Walter Schumann III In Hollywood Hospital

Hollywood—(U.P.)—Walter Schumann, well-known musical director-composer, was reported in "satisfactory" condition today at Cedars of Lebanon hospital after suffering a heart attack. Schumann, composer of the Dragnet theme, was stricken Tuesday.

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Rare Heart Surgery Due for Salem Youth

Seattle—(U.P.)—A team of 10 physicians was to perform a rare heart operation today that may allow a 16-year-old Salem, Ore., boy to return to a nearly normal life.

Harvey Thurlwell Jr., was admitted to Virginia Mason Hospital yesterday. He has a heart defect that fails to give him an adequate supply of oxygen.

The boy will be kept alive by a mechanical heart and lung during the operation which will, in effect, plug a hole between lower chambers of the heart.

Mother Earth Helping Athletes at Olympics

London—(U.P.)—A British scientist said today Mother Earth is helping athletes set new Olympic records down in Australia.

Dr. J. C. Evans of the National Physical Laboratory said the gravitational pull at Melbourne is 1/500th less than at the last Olympics site, Helsinki, Finland. He estimated the lesser gravitational pull should add about 0.2 per cent to field performances like the shotput, discus and javelin.

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