

### Couple Sentenced To Prison Terms

San Diego—Mrs. Wanda Brogdon, 33, and her lover, Kenneth Merriam, 36, have been sentenced to life imprisonment without possibility of parole for strangling her two small sons because they were "a bother."

The former Rockford, Ill., couple, both found legally sane but of subnormal intelligence, expressed concern about their fate Sunday when the verdicts were rendered.

"I don't care," said Mrs. Brogdon. "I don't have anyone to live for anymore. I don't have my kids or anything."

Each faced a possible death sentence.

The same jury of six men and six women which earlier convicted her and Merriam for the May 2 strangulation of

### Sparkman Wants Small Firms to Get Bids

Washington—(UPI)—Chairman John Sparkman (D-Ala.) of the Senate small business sub-committee today demanded that the Defense Department "cut out waste" by giving small firms a better chance to win defense contracts.

In a prepared speech, Sparkman told the Senate the Pentagon practice of "non-competitive, sole-source" purchasing has proved itself wasteful, but said he has received no indication that the department "plans to take the lead in mending the error of its procurement ways."

### HONEYMOON "NO FUN"

Miami—(UPI)—Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Mininson ended their two-week honeymoon in an underground bomb shelter over the week end, agreed it was "no fun," and planned to leave today for Mexico for a more conventional one.

Virgil Jr., 5, and David Brogdon, 3, Sunday sentenced her to two life terms in prison without possibility of parole.

But the panel was unable to agree on a verdict for Merriam after two days of deliberation. Superior Judge William P. Mahedy took the matter in his own hands and imposed the same sentence on Mrs. Brogdon. He explained he saw no difference in guilt between the two prisoners.

## The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice. It merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

**Graham B.**—My wife doesn't want me to give my son the money.

**Bertha B.**—The boy expects too much from his father.

**Graham B.**—I am in a terrible dilemma regarding my 30-year-old son.

Frank recently lost every penny in a foolish business venture. He has two young children and is desperate. He wants me to set him up in a new business. I can only do this by drawing on money that was invested for my wife and me in our old age. Of course, Frank assures me that every penny will be repaid.

I would be willing to do as he asks, but my wife objects. She is my second wife. Frank's mother died six years ago. My second wife is not a selfish woman but of course she can't feel for Frank as I do.

**Bertha B.**—I realize that I'm in a bad position to offer objections. People may accuse me of being a selfish stepmother and say I just married Graham for security. I do want security, but that isn't the only reason I advise Graham against giving the money.

I feel that Frank expects too much from his father. Graham is 60 years and his health isn't too good. A healthy man of 30 shouldn't come to his father for money. It

isn't right.

I also feel that Frank hasn't a good head for business. Graham doesn't agree, but I'm sure it's true.

**The Council:** We don't think that Bertha is out of line in offering advice on this subject. It concerns her and it is part of her responsibility to her husband to give an honest opinion on matters he discusses with her.

The mere fact that Graham has discussed this with Bertha is an indication that he wants her views and we think it very likely that he wants her to voice precisely the arguments she has given.

It is very hard for a parent to turn away a child who is in need and it is hard for a parent to think ill of his own child. In this case, we are afraid that Graham is putting this burden on Bertha.

Graham knows the fact that his son has made one "foolish business venture" is not exactly an indication of his having a good business head. He also knows that the young man shouldn't be coming to him at this stage of his life for financial aid if there is any possible way of avoiding it.

The common sense thing to do is very often the kindest thing as well. If Frank's new business idea is a good one, it should be possible for him to get a bank loan or other financial backing. If it is not a good one, the quicker Frank is forced to recognize this the better.

A refusal from his father at this time may be just what Frank needs to pull himself together. When he comes to his father he is saying in a sense, "I'm a helpless child. I can do nothing but depend upon you."

Graham's answer should be, "I have confidence in your ability to come out on top in this thing. You don't need me because your earning potential is far greater than mine. The future lies with you—not me."

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### Pushbutton Phones Being Developed

New York—(Science Service)—A pushbutton telephone device, which may replace the rotary dial, is being developed at the Bell Telephone Laboratories here.

The tiny transistor, because of its ability to amplify electronic signals while using little power and producing no heat, makes the pushbutton calling possible.

Each telephone contains a transistorized oscillator that generates two coded musical tones for each of the phone's ten buttons. The tones are similar to those sometimes heard while a long-distance connection is being made.

Simultaneously, the tones are transmitted to a central switching office, from where the call moves on to the recipient. This routing is similar to that of present switching systems, which, however, do not understand the "two-tone language." To make use of existing switching systems, Bell has developed a machine to translate the tones into usable signals.

### Morning Star II Launched Sunday

Tillamook—(UPI)—The Morning Star II, a replica of the first ship registered in Oregon, was launched Sunday in the waters of Tillamook Bay at Garibaldi, north of here.

The ship, Tillamook county's major contribution to Oregon's Centennial celebration, will be outfitted and will then sail up the coast to Astoria and on up the Columbia river to the Centennial Exposition in Portland.

Mrs. Lena Vaughn Goodspeed, daughter of one of the builders of the original Morning Star, smashed the symbolic bottle on the bow of the boat in christening ceremonies.

The ship will sail in a week.

More than seven million U.S. families own more than 10 million parakeets, according to French's Pet Bird Institute.



**OFF TO MOSCOW**—Vice President and Mrs. Richard Nixon wave goodbye as they board their plane at Friendship Airport, Md., for their flight to Moscow. The vice president will preside at formal opening of the American exhibition in Moscow, meet Prime Minister Khrushchev, and visit a number of Russian cities.

## Dehydrated Hay Booming Business In Nebraska Area

Cozad, Neb.—(UPI)—They're really making hay these days in central Nebraska.

Dehydrated hay, that is. Taking most of the water content out of alfalfa grown in lush fields of the Platte River Valley is a big business, a business that's getting bigger every year.

The thousands of tourists who annually drive along U.S. Highway 30, particularly in Dawson county from Lexington through Cozad and Goshen, can't miss it.

The "de-hy" plants—trucks streaming up to them, green dust spouting from the stacks, huge storage elevators and strings of hopper cars being loaded—are easy to spot. And they're even easier to smell.

The odor of the dehydration plant has a character all its own. It smells something like a pile of sun-decayed lawn clippings, mixed with burnt toast. Some folks like it. Others say it makes 'em sick.

### Diameter of Pencil

Last year, America's processing centers turned out slightly more than one million tons of dehydrated alfalfa pellets—green pellets the diameter of a thick pencil and varying in length from one-quarter to a full inch.

Nebraska topped the nation with a production of about 300,000 tons. Ohio was next, with Kansas right along in the running.

The process of fire-drying alfalfa so its nutritional values would be preserved longer was started at Leland, Miss., not long after World War I.

In the early 1920's, the pioneer plant was moved to the Kaw River Valley of Kansas. Word of its success spread north and Nebraska's first plant was constructed near Elm Creek, 35 miles east of Cozad, in the mid-1920's.

Nebraska now has slightly under 100 plants—most of them in this area.

The Platte River Valley, according to Jack Dillard, owner and operator of the Nebraska Alfalfa Farms, Inc., at Darr, near Cozad, is particularly good for growing alfalfa because of its soil structure.

### Overlays Gravel Bed

"We have a loam-type soil," Dillard explains in a voice still sweet with the drawl of his native Dixie, "that overlays a bed of gravel. The gravel is only five feet below the surface on the banks of the Platte, ranging up to 18 feet under up by the hills.

"This gives us a tremendous sub-irrigation system. Alfalfa roots sometimes go down as deep as 35 feet in their search for water. Here, they find plenty of it, most of the time."

The industry was started not only as a means of improving winter feed for livestock but as a way of leveling off the alfalfa market, and finding a summertime use for natural gas brought through

### Newspaper Says 2,000 Killed in Massacres

Cairo, U.A.R.—(UPI)—The Damascus newspaper Al-Jamahir reported Sunday that "about 2,000 persons" were killed in the "Kirkuk massacres" in Iraq two weeks ago when Communist elements

rebelled against the government. The newspaper said the death figure came from an "official source" and that the figure was arrived at by a commission sent to Kirkuk to study the causes of the uprising. Previous death toll estimates ranged from 20 to 500.

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