

BOWLES AND MRS. LOUCKS ARE INDICTED

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 31. (AP)—From cells in the county jail Nelson C. Bowles, 34, Portland millionaire, and his former secretary, Irma G. Loucks, 28, today faced a grand jury indictment accusing them of the first degree murder of Bowles' wife, Mrs. Leone C. Bowles.

The indictment returned yesterday after an investigation extending over several weeks, charged the two "did . . . purposely and of deliberate and premeditated malice, kill one Leone Bowles by stabbing, cutting and slashing . . . with a sharp instrument."

Mrs. Bowles was stabbed in Miss Loucks' apartment November 12. Bowles and Miss Loucks who said they were in the apartment at the time, told police Mrs. Bowles stabbed herself. They were arrested on first degree murder charges ten days later when Dr. Paul R. Cooper, who had attended Mrs. Bowles, allegedly told police his statements concerning the case had been false in some vital matters.

A coroner's jury found Mrs. Bowles died from a wound "inflicted with murderous intent" by Bowles, or Miss Loucks, or both.

Mrs. E. W. Howard, said to be one of the state's principal witnesses, was before the grand jury yesterday and her testimony was believed to have been largely responsible for the jury's action.

Mrs. Howard had been under constant police protection since December 2, when an unidentified man entered her home, beat her severely and threatened her with death should she tell what she assertedly knew of the case.

Several witnesses who had appeared before the grand jury previously, were recalled yesterday. They included Mrs. Emma L. Glover, Yakima, sister of Mrs. Bowles.

The grand jury investigating the case was in session on 16 days and called 49 witnesses.

News of the indictment was broken to Miss Loucks by Judge Wallace McCamant, her attorney, and to Bowles by his uncle, W. Lair Thompson, McCamant's law partner.

Miss Loucks was seen to cry when she was told of the outcome of the hearing. Bowles expressed astonishment at the news but displayed no emotion.

Great Northern Official Arrives To Inspect Work

J. B. Smith, general superintendent of transportation for the Great Northern, arrived here Tuesday evening from his headquarters at St. Paul. This morning, accompanied by C. B. Hard, resident engineer, and C. A. Mantie, superintendent, he left for Bieber, Calif., to inspect the construction work being done there.

From Bieber the railroad men will go to McCloud, Calif., where the Great Northern line connects with the McCloud Lumber company railroad.

Post Office Force To Observe Holiday

Announcement was made by Postmaster John McCall today that the post office would be closed all day New Year's, one of the few holidays granted them.

Postmaster McCall and Assistant Postmaster Griffith will remain at the office throughout the day working on the annual report.

All men who were temporarily employed by the postal department during the holiday may obtain their checks at any time by calling at the office, it was stated.

Small Theatre Is Wrecked by Blast

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 31. (AP)—Three violent explosions early today destroyed the Valentino Theater, a small motion picture house, and damaged five other buildings.

The blasts threw people from their beds for blocks around. The theater was empty at the time.

GROWING ALASKA

JUNEAU.—As the production of mineral resources of Alaska grows, so grows the population of the territory. The annual report of Governor George A. Parks shows that the mineral resources increased \$2,000,000 during the past year and the population increased 4800.

So Pauline Cooks for Herself



When Pauline Frederick, noted actress, was restored to the single state recently by her husband, Hugh Chisolm Leighton of Los Angeles, who had their marriage annulled, it was charged that she was quite lacking in domesticity. However, she likes to cook—and when she arrived in Seattle the other day for a theatrical engagement she insisted on having an apartment where she could prepare her own meals, which she is shown doing here.

MANY PUPILS VISIT MERRILL

MRS. JOHN GIACOMINI

MERRILL, Ore., Dec. 31. (Special)—Practically all the college students arrived home during the week and to spend the holiday vacation with friends and relatives.

Miss Helen Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Anderson, arrived from Corvallis, where she is a junior at the Oregon State college.

Miss Louise Dalton is home from the University of Oregon at Eugene.

Alfred Carleton, a sophomore at the Albany college, is spending his vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Carleton.

Fred Beason, accompanied by Enis Roland, who will be remembered as the teacher of the Merrill grade school last year, and who is now attending college, are visiting Fred's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Beason.

Miss Fay Jinnette, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Jinnette, arrived from Albany for the holiday season. Miss Jinnette is a sophomore at the Albany college, and is quite prominent on the campus.

Miss Barbara Hannicutt, who is a freshman at the Southern Oregon Normal school at Ashland, is visiting for the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Hannicutt.

Zelda Murphy, sophomore at Oregon State at Corvallis, is visiting with Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Hall.

Geneva Briethaupt, a freshman at the Willamette college, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Briethaupt.

Richard Bogue, University of Oregon student, is spending the holidays at the home of his parents, the N. H. Bogue.

Ray Beasley, student at the Albany college, is spending the Christmas holidays visiting at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. Beasley.

Dayton Finchum, graduate of the 1929 Merrill high school class, and who is attending Oregon State college this fall, arrived home for the Christmas vacation.

Midnight mass was held Christmas eve at the Holy Cross church of Merrill. Rev. Timothy Casey officiated and the choir from the Sacred Heart academy of Klamath Falls rendered its services, which was greatly appreciated by the parish. The attendance was large, despite the cold weather.

Mr. and Mrs. Redolph Kattenhorn plan to move into their recently purchased home, the former R. H. Anderson residence.

The high school students gave a dance Christmas night in the community hall. A well-conducted crowd of young people attended.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Rhodes have returned from a vacation spent visiting relatives of Mrs. Rhodes at Orville, Calif. Mr. Rhodes is with the Standard Oil company at Malone.

Mr. and Mrs. Jess Whitlatch, Vern Whitlatch and Joyce Whitlatch were guests at a Christmas dinner given by Mr. and Mrs.

He Stole \$8,000,000, But He Didn't Spend a Penny of It on Himself

BEESMEYER, ARCH EMBROIDERER, LIVED LIKE \$800 A MONTH BANKER IN HOLLYWOOD

By Jack Campbell
NEA Services Writer
HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Dec. 31.—A man who took \$8,000,000 of other people's money but did not use a cent for his own personal pleasures or for his family—that is the unusual description that is being applied today to Gilbert Beesmeier, head of the defunct Guaranty Building & Loan Association, who has been sentenced from 10 years to life on each of 10 counts, with the sentences running concurrently.

Beesmeier, dubbed "a modern Ponzi" by the 20,000 investors who lost their money when his company crashed, was a reserved and mysterious figure before the crash. Now that his immense defalcations have been discovered his path is more mysterious and involved than ever.

Most large-scale embezzlers live high while it lasts. Not so Beesmeier. With his wife and his 17-year-old son Elmer, he lived the modest life of a man on a salary of \$500 a month. He drove a medium-priced automobile and provided his son with a small coupe. A small one-story bungalow, precisely like countless others in Hollywood, was his home. It was quiet and comfortably furnished, and never was the scene of wild parties or lavish entertainment. Beesmeier neither smoked nor drank.

He arose every morning at 6, and almost always he was in his office by 7. He worked through the entire day until evening, and very often he would rush through his dinner, go back to his office and spend the entire evening there. He did not mingle much, and when his office work did not claim his evenings he spent his time at home with his family.

Yet few men have ever been accused of a greater embezzlement than the one which he confessed following his arrest.

Blames Speculation. Apparently unwise investments and speculations accounted for most of the missing millions. The thefts started four years ago, when Beesmeier lost \$25,000 in a department store investment. He took more money in an effort to recoup, invested it badly, lost it and took more. The stock market crash, it is believed, hit him very hard. He is known to have sunk \$2,000,000 in an oil company that failed after producing five dry wells.

When first arrested he seemed contrite, and said he worried only about the prospect of returning the money to people who had entrusted it to him.

"If I am sentenced to a long term in prison," he said, "I believe my knowledge of finance will enable me to carry on from behind the bars. I intend to do everything possible to repay the people and get a fresh start. I hope the confidence of the people in other building and loan companies will not be impaired."

Later, however, his attitude changed. He is now fighting for his liberty, and has retained LeCompte Davis, noted criminal lawyer, to handle his case. He asserts his speculations were so intricate that only he will be able to untangle things and recover part of the losses for the investors; and he has pleaded not guilty to the indictments against him. From the beginning he has maintained that if he had been given another week he would have pulled out of the mess successfully.

20,000 Investors Lose. The 20,000 investors whose money he took are stunned by the catastrophe. The newspapers here are full of harrowing tales. One typical case is that of a man who put his life savings into the company a few days before the crash. He had just \$2.18 in cash after the crash.

Beesmeier was highly regarded, both as a business genius and as a man. He attended the Presbyterian



church regularly, and contributed in large amounts for the upkeep of the church. Many of the investors who lost in the Guaranty crash were his fellow church members.

Member of Many Clubs. Although he took no active part in society life, Beesmeier belonged to many of the leading clubs and fraternal organizations in Hollywood and Los Angeles. He was a member of the Hollywood Country club, Lakeside Golf club, Hollywood Athletic club, the Writers, the Masquers, Lions, Breakfast club, 233 club, Uplifters and Santa Monica Swimming club. He was also a Shriner. His favorite recreation was in watching a football game or a polo match.

Among his business associates Beesmeier was looked upon as a financial genius and one of the pillars of strength upon which Hollywood is built. He was always ready to come forth with a substantial amount of cash for any business venture that seemed to spell progress for Hollywood. His own personal fortune was tied up in various theaters, hotels, mines, aircraft companies and oil companies. Following his confession of defalcation, he immediately signed over all his personal property to the Guaranty.

Grew Up With Hollywood. Beesmeier was born in 1885 on a small ranch in what is now the center of Hollywood. As the city grew and prospered so did he. His elementary education was completed in Hollywood and he entered the Southern California Business college. It was at this institution that he gained his financial training.

His first job was an office boy in a bank. Later he worked as a cashier in the Hollywood National Bank for 15 years. In 1921, he became interested in building and loan work and since that time has specialized in this field.

At the time of his arrest he was in complete charge of the Guaranty Building & Loan Association and was a director in the United States Guaranty Corporation, California Mutual Building & Loan Association, Ventura Guaranty Building & Loan, Harbor Building & Loan, Bank of Hollywood, North American Bond & Mortgage Co., and several smaller organizations.

Two-thirds of the persons in the world afflicted with leprosy live in China and contiguous regions.

CALL TROOPS INTO BOGOTA

BOGOTA, Colombia, Dec. 31. (AP)—Cavalry and infantry units marching into Capitanesjo, department of Santander, today were believed capable of quelling political antagonism which yesterday developed into fighting in which eight persons were killed and 11 wounded.

Bogota newspapers described the fight as between members of the conservative and liberal parties whose antagonisms are approaching open enmity as the February congressional elections approach. The rioters battled in the village plaza, turning together on 16 policemen who attempted to disperse them.

Governor Galvis of Santander requested aid of the national government and President Enrique Olaya Herrera, after conference with the head of the cabinet and minister of war sent troops to the village from Bogota and Malaga.

An English railway is conducting the first extensive experiment in that country with steel cross ties, which heretofore have been found to interfere with electric signaling.

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