

Bird Hints He'll Solve Ax Killings

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Jan. 2 (AP)—Convicted murderer Jake Bird hinted in a New Year's Day death cell interview that he would clear up several unsolved slayings of the last 20 years before his scheduled hanging at the state penitentiary here January 15.

The 45-year-old negro, sentenced to death for the ax killing of Mrs. Bertha Kludt at Tacoma, Wash., admitted killing Mrs. Marie Manners, 81, at Pueblo, Colo., last October. He gave no details, but promised to tell more later.

Bird was interviewed by Jim Schick of the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin, with Warden Tom Smith of the penitentiary present during part of the talk.

Bird said he had told Under-Sheriff Joseph Karpach of Tacoma "a lot of things and I'm going to tell him more when he comes back" next week.

"I want to talk," he added, "but I want to talk to the right people. A man can only die once, and I want to die with a clear conscience."

Karpach has not disclosed what Bird told him, but it was understood it was information given the Tacoma official that led Iowa Gov. Robert D. Blue to report that Bird had admitted a 1928 slaying for which an Iowa man has served 19 years of a life sentence. Governor Blue has ordered an inquiry.

A few hours before he gave the interview yesterday the jurist whom Bird had thanked for a fair trial after he was convicted—Superior Judge Edward D. Hodge—died at Tacoma.

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PTA Notes

Fremont
Mrs. Victor O'Neill has promised to give a talk to the members of Fremont PTA at their January meeting, Thursday, January 8, at 2:30 p. m. on the mental health of young people in relation to education. She will discuss the plight of various types of non-adjusted young people and what can be done to help them. Mrs. O'Neill's deep understanding of the adolescent and her interest in mental health for him promises a valuable experience to all mothers who hear her. The meeting will be held in Fremont school auditorium, with the music department assisting, and tea will be served. The public is cordially invited to attend.

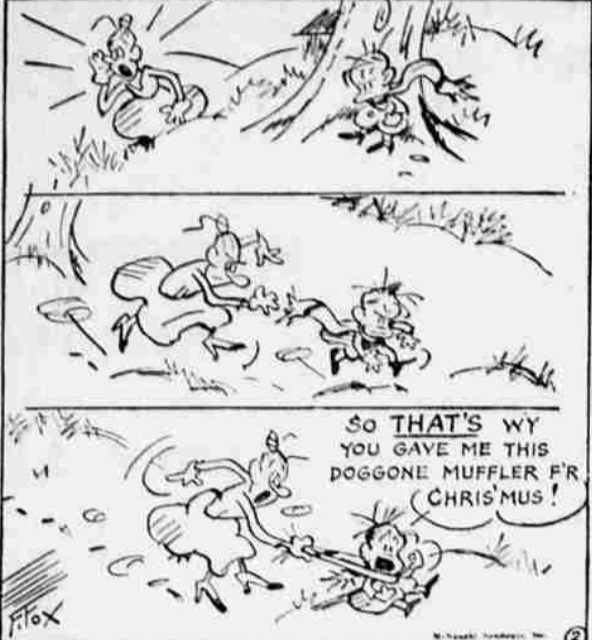
Mrs. Henry C. Gerber, membership chairman, announces a total of 2 1/2 PTA members obtained in the December membership drive. Grade 2, Martha Berg, teacher, won first prize among the lower grades with 138 per cent average, and grade 7, May Phinney, teacher, took second prize with 118 per cent average. In junior high, room 12, with Mrs. Buena Stone teacher, won with an average of 115 per cent and Mrs. Ramsey's room, room 17, took second prize with 103 per cent average. Mrs. Gerber was assisted in the drive by Mrs. Burge Mason Jr., Mrs. John W. Merryman and Mrs. Martin Ramsby, who made the hail charts. Mrs. Gerber presented cash prizes to the winning rooms from the PTA at the Christmas assembly held in the afternoon of December 19. The PTA also contributed ice cream cups to all rooms as its share in the Christmas parties held the same afternoon.

Mrs. A. A. Montgomery, president, has announced her chairmen for the year as follows: membership, Mrs. H. C. Gerber; hospitality, Mrs. O. E. Powell; publicity, Mrs. Neal Stewart; room mother, Mrs. Gus Vlahos; summer roundup, Mrs. Angelo Dover; youth, including juvenile protection, recreation and legislation, Mrs. J. W. Pinniger; budget, Mrs. Martin Ramsby. Mrs. W. Dexter Elliott is secretary and Mrs. Lawrence Bertram serves as treasurer of the association.

Mrs. Gus Vlahos, room mother chairman, has the following members as her assistants: grade 1, Mrs. Stephen Walker; grade 2, Mrs. B. K. Robinson; grade 3, Mrs. Bob Henry and Mrs. Glen Inman; grade 4, Mrs. C. J. Eastburn; grade 5, Mrs. Harry Bolvin; grade 6, Mrs. Martin Ramsby; grade 7, Mrs. W. Dexter Elliott; in junior high, room 9, Mrs. C. K. Wells; room 11, Mrs. Elmer Hamilton; room 12, Mrs. W. C. Preston; room 16, Mrs. Lela Ayres; room 15, Mrs. Burge Mason Jr. and Mrs. J. V. Owens; room 17, Mrs. John Larson Jr., and room 18, Mrs. R. G. Fisher.

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Plans For '48 AAA Program Talked By Basin Farmers

Plans for the 1948 AAA program on a reduced budget were discussed at a meeting in the county agent's office Monday.

County and community agricultural committees met with representatives from the state agricultural committee and the state college. C. W. Smith, member of the state committee and assistant director for county agents in the state, and N. C. Donaldson, executive secretary of state for AAA were here from Portland.

Smith left Monday night and Donaldson stayed over Tuesday to go further into matters with AAA officials here.

Practices to be continued in the 1948 AAA program for Klamath county with funds available for practice payments reduced from \$205,000 to \$85,000, were discussed.

The number of practices will necessarily be reduced to fit the smaller allotment but it was agreed to keep those most advantageous to Klamath county.

Among practices to be retained, subject to final approval of the state committee, are two new ones. One, to encourage growers to add legume straw combined with sulphur for mulching on alkali spots; two, mulching potato land with clover straw in the fall after potatoes are out, planting to grain the following year and spuds again the next year.

Weed control, improved pastures, residue application for soil improvement, range improvement using wells, reservoirs and range re-seeding, were other practices that will be followed in the 1948 program if approved.

Irrigation, drainage and land leveling practices at small cost may be maintained it is hoped along with lining ditches.

There will be a meeting of state, county and community committees on January 12, in the office of the county agent to definitely outline practices to be included in the 1948 AAA handbook.

Mine Disposal Expert Has Risky Job---All The Time

By MATT R. KRAMER
NEWPORT, Ore., Jan. 2 (AP)—The night-and-day gamble with death goes on for Navy Lt. D. F. Winslow just as it did in the war.

Lt. Winslow is mine disposal expert for the navy on this stretch of the Pacific shore. For him the war may go on for years—or 350 pounds of Japanese explosive may end it suddenly.

Along some 400 miles of Oregon and Washington beach, he protects Americans from themselves.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Japanese mines still bob about in the Pacific or are anchored so that storms can tear them loose. Many drift into the coastal shipping lanes, pushed across 5000 miles of ocean by the Japanese current. Coast guard cutters are kept busy blowing them up.

Occasionally one gets through the coast guard screen, and then the ever-curious beach visitor finds a mysterious horned iron ball, three feet high and filled with sudden death.

Winslow's problem is to get to the mine before the curious blast themselves to limbo. So far, he has been in time.

As soon as a mine is reported, a guard is sent to the scene and Winslow is notified at the 13th naval district headquarters in Seattle.

When he arrives, he waves the guard back and gingerly begins his inspection. Despite their long time in the water, most mines are ready to explode when one of the horns is bent.

Inside the horn is a glass vial. It breaks when the horn is bent and its liquid runs into a battery, which comes alive and provides the current that sets off the 350 pounds of explosive.

Sometimes Winslow must roll the mine over—a ticklish job—to get at the base plate. He unbends the plate, a foot in diameter, nervously listening for booby traps. He never has found one, but he never fails to listen—a habit that stems from the days when he helped the British disarm mines and bombs.

With the plate loosened, he reaches inside with pliers to snip the wires to the detonator. After that, it is simple.

A stick of dynamite goes inside, connected to a wire that he unreeles to a point several hundred yards away. There he connects it to an electric striker and blows the works.

Winslow has destroyed about 13 Japanese mines, but the busy season is just coming on—winter currents carry more mines ashore.

One week-end he got a hurry-up call from Gearhart, Ore., where a mine was beached near a small community. That one had to be disarmed and dragged by jeep two miles down the beach to a deserted spot. It was nearly midnight before he could set it off.

Then he jumped into his car and drove 40 miles down the coast highway to take care of another one drifting in there. He exploded it at 3 a. m. Before he could return to Seattle, two more were reported on beaches near here.

Winslow, who has been in the navy 18 years, got his start in this coast guard screen, and then the ever-curious beach visitor finds a mysterious horned iron ball, three feet high and filled with sudden death.

Winslow's problem is to get to the mine before the curious blast themselves to limbo. So far, he has been in time.

Kenny Backs Up Third Party Move

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (AP)—Robert W. Kenny, former California attorney general and now national chairman of the Progressive Citizens of America, said last night Henry Wallace's third-party presidential candidacy was "exactly what I've been saying should be done all along."

Kenny added, however, that the third-party announcement made by the former vice president in a radio talk Monday would not alter plans of "Democrats for Wallace," a West coast group which Kenny heads.

He explained that in the two states voters cast ballots for specific presidential candidates through convention delegates committed to those candidates, whereas "in most other states delegates are chosen by machine-controlled convention systems."

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Schuman Presents Price Bill

PARIS, Jan. 2 (AP)—Premier Robert Schuman presented a new anti-inflation bill to the French national assembly today and threatened to resign if any changes were voted in it.

The bill was designed to raise about 120 billion francs—a billion dollars.

Schuman decided to withdraw a previous anti-inflation bill approved by the assembly. That measure gave Frenchmen a choice of paying 150 billion francs additional income tax or investing the same amount in government bonds. It was designed to help pay for a big reconstruction program and to drain off excess purchasing power.

Amendments in the chamber cut the expected income from the bill by about a third. Deputies exempted several classes of French citizens from its provisions.

Compromise Bill
The premier said his new bill was a compromise and told the deputies he would accept no changes. The cabinet, at a meeting earlier, authorized Schuman to demand a vote of confidence from the assembly "as often as necessary."

After hearing the premier's statement, the assembly recessed until mid-afternoon.

Schuman told the deputies the new bill also was designed to "sponge up" excess purchasing power in France. The premier did not say whether the taxpayers could avoid taxes by buying the equivalent amount of bonds.

"The government will stake its existence on this new text," Schuman declared.

"The government recognizes its responsibilities and wants to associate the assembly with them. We will not accept a diminished responsibility either from a financial or political point of view."

"The country must know the government has behind it a parliament with confidence in it," he said.

Seed Growing Study Made

The agricultural experiment station utilizes approximately \$92,000 a year in state funds in conducting research on problems of seed production in Oregon and in operating the seed testing laboratory, according to an official summary report made at the annual convention of the Oregon Seed Growers league in Portland.

In addition, federal funds are utilized for seed work since a large number of the station projects are of regional value and are conducted in cooperation with the United States department of agriculture, the report showed.

Oregon's 1946 seed crop was valued at more than \$25,000,000, constituting a major industry that could not have been built without the introduction and testing of new crops, improvement of old strains, and investigation of weed, insect and disease problems which have all been a part of the experiment station's seed production program.

R. S. Besse, assistant director, and other members of the station staff presented the report, outlining the station's past accomplishments, current experiments and future plans for research in this field.

Major projects in forage and seed production and in disease investigations are being conducted with alfalfa, clover, soybeans, miscellaneous legumes and hay plants.

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Convict Found In Haystack

CANON CITY, Colo., Jan. 2 (AP)—James Sherbondy, 28-year-old murderer, was captured at a ranch house three miles north of Canon City today, last of the dozen in-corrucible convicts who smashed their way out of the Colorado prison Tuesday.

The killer of a deputy sheriff gave up without a fight. He was armed only with a bogus gun similar to several others made by the escaping prisoners.

Warden Roy Best said Sherbondy's legs appeared to be badly frozen from the knees down.

Best reported that Sherbondy took refuge in a hay barn on the ranch of George Smith and had stayed there ever since making his getaway.

Two of the dozen convicts were killed and four others were shot and wounded, one critically. Another was beaten on the head by a ranch wife wielding a claw hammer. Eight guards and civilians were shot and beaten.

Actress Asks For Separation

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 2 (AP)—Actress Nancy Kelly has decided to separate from her cameraman husband, Fred Jackman Jr., she announced last night.

The actress said she planned to confer with her attorney today but that she wasn't sure whether there would be a divorce action. "I hope things will work out but I'm afraid they won't," she said.

Miss Kelly, 26, and Jackman were married February 14, 1946. She and actor Edmund O'Brien were divorced in 1942.

Move Made To Improve Dairy Herd

By JIM ELLINGS
Assistant County Agent
The Klamath Dairy Herd Improvement association has completed its first month with 19 herds on test. Cow enrollment totaled 893, of which 142 are dry.

Total milk production was 231,164 pounds and butterfat production came to 12,217.2 pounds for the 19 herds. The average production for the association was 423.7 pounds of milk and 20.6 pounds of fat per cow for the month. This average included dry cows.

Results show that 27 cows out of 393 produced 30 pounds or more of butterfat for the month. The highest producing cow was a Tears and Ramsey cow that produced 78.6 pounds of butterfat. This was followed closely by two cows owned by George Relling, one of which produced 77.3 pounds and the other 76.2 pounds of butterfat.

The work of Clarence Waldo, the DHIA supervisor, makes it possible for the association members to know the milk and butterfat production of each cow. They are able to feed according to production and with the help of Waldo and the records of production and feeding, the dairyman can compute the income over cost of feed for each cow. On this basis they can cull their herds, getting rid of low producers and

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keeping the cows that bring high returns.

Other records available to the DHIA members in addition to individual cow, feed and production records, are 305-day production records for each cow, monthly herd production records including income records, records for proving herd sires, culling and breeding records, and others.

The Dairy Herd Improvement association will go far in increasing the quantity and quality of dairy production in Klamath county.

Fainting Woman Foils Kidnap Try
PORTLAND, Jan. 2 (AP)—A woman who fainted at the right moment foiled a kidnap attempt here yesterday.

A gunman robbed a service station of \$210 in cash, then walked up to Mrs. Jill Hanning, who was leaving a cafe, and said, "The cops are after me, and I can use you." She fainted in fright—and the holdup man fled.

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