

American Women Shot In Saigon

PARIS, March 8 (AP)—A French communique from Saigon announced today the slaying of two American women employed at the U. S. consulate general in Indo-China.

The bodies of the women, Jeanne R. Skewes and Lydia Ruth James, were found last night in a dry river into which they had driven a jeep. They had been shot to death.

"The two bodies bore bullet wounds, particularly in the head," said the communique, reported by the French press agency.

"Before withdrawing, the attackers had set fire to the car."

"There has been no explanation of the reasons which led these two girls to such a distant spot, un-frequented by Europeans."

Outside Zone

The location was given as near the village of Tan Son Nhut, some three miles from Saigon and outside the security zone maintained by the French in their struggle with nationalist Viet-Namense forces. Mrs. Skewes was director of the U. S. information service in Saigon. Miss James was secretary at the consulate general.

The state department at Washington, D. C., said Mrs. Skewes' husband, Lawrence E. Skewes, lives in (614 8th St.) Seattle and her mother, Mrs. E. H. Workman, in Phoenix, Ariz. Mrs. Skewes, a 32-year-old native of Paris, worked for the office of war information in San Francisco during the war.

Department records listed Miss James as a 30-year-old native of Hillsdale, Ind., where her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otto James, now live. She served with Wacs in the Southwest Pacific and in Washington before taking the consulate job.

Lee Refuses GOP Post

PORTLAND, March 8 (AP)—State Senator Dean Walker believes college facilities and operating budgets deserve as much attention as the state's building plans on the campuses.

The legislator told the 8th annual convention of the Oregon Young Republican federation Saturday that the public must be cautious about "impulsive" changes in the Oregon tax structure. He said he was alarmed by the "rash of initiative measures" aimed at earmarking funds.

Steve Anderson, Salem attorney, was elected federation chairman. A change in election rules barred the nomination of Carl H. Francis, Dayton, a member of the legislature. The rule prohibits any elective officeholder or candidate from holding office in the federation. Paul Lee, Klamath Falls, was a second choice nominee but ruled himself out because he was past age 40.

Other officers: National committeeman, Kenneth Abrahams, Hood River; committeewoman, Jane Rodman, Eugene; assistant chairman, Ruth King, Eugene; vice chairman-at-large, Jim Thayer, Carlton; treasurer, Richard Wicks, Salem; district 1 vice chairman, William May, McMinnville; district 4 vice chairman, E. M. MacBeth, Klamath Falls; district 2 vice chairman, John Patterson, The Dalles. Executive committee members include Ray Coulter, Grants Pass.

Charity Groups Not In Tax List

PORTLAND, March 8 (AP)—A circuit court has ruled here that charitable corporations are not subject to an Oregon excise tax on their earnings.

Judge Walter L. Toose ordered the state tax commission not to collect the tax from a Methodist publishing house. The church firm uses the profits for pensions to disabled or retired ministers and dependents.

Isaac Singer patented the first practical domestic sewing machine in 1851 and is credited with placing it in the home.

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CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



"I sez no! I don't want nothin' to do with anything that has anything to do with a doghouse!"

Merrill Irish To Cut Loose With St. Patrick's Dance

MERRILL, March 8—The Irish will be at it again, come Wednesday night, March 17, when folks from everywhere are invited to the 42nd annual St. Patrick's ball. If you go it will be fun you'll be havin', according to young Bill Falvey and his co-chairman, young Tom Lacey. And half the funds they'll be providing to the Merrill young people's recreation hall.

Dancing will be from 10 until 2 and supper will be served by the Altar society of St. Augustine's church around midnight. Baldy's band will play in the community hall.

The contribution from the dance committee will help finance the recreation building program and face lifting to be given the city park where the building is located.

The project, sponsored by the Service club, is partly completed. Part of a school building from the WPA center, 54 by 154 feet, was moved here some time ago and already around \$10,000 has been collected for remodeling. About 90 per cent of the amount has been donated by individuals and organizations.

Cash left from the 1947 potato festival after all expenses were paid also went into the building.

Provided for are a large meeting and banquet room, finished in knotty pine, a room for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, one for teenagers where ping-pong tables, pool tables and room for dancing will be provided, a kitchen, and a room for little folks. Tentative plans call for future location of the city library in the building.

Bob Drago and Henry Homes are co-chairman of the recreation committee.

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Freedom of the Press

By EARL WHITLOCK

Every good American ought to thank God, frequently, for the privilege of the free press which this nation enjoys. I am not sure but what world-wide freedom of the press is the solution and the only solution to the problem of war. It would be difficult to put any nation in a world-conquering mood, if that nation and its people could read about the world it was itching to conquer.



Earl Whitlock

But we must remember one thing in this connection—the free reader is just as necessary to progress as a free press. I mean the sort of reader who is free of prejudice and ignorance and superstition so that he can read between the lines which the press lays before him and so that he can detect the fishy odor of propaganda which sometimes pervades the printers' ink.

A press that is unfettered is all important to America and to the world. But so is unfettered reading—freedom from the old idea that if a thing is printed it must be so. Too many folks still retain that ancient and outworn superstition.



Next Monday Mr. Whitlock, of the Earl Whitlock Funeral Home, will comment on "In Time of Crisis."

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