

Business Pace Quickens

First Yule Reports Show Volume Near Last Year's Record

By G. A. PHILLIPS
NEW YORK, Dec. 10 (AP)—Business activity, steady to moderately higher this week, featured a strong upturn in retail sales and sharp rise in building construction. Reports from key cities from coast to coast indicated the Christmas shopping season was on in earnest; first results were up to expectations in most places.

The consensus is that when the final dollar has been counted on the

Cheers Greet Acquittal Of Murder

LA CROSSE, Wis., Dec. 10 (AP)—Wild cheering from a packed courtroom greeted a jury's verdict last night acquitting Arnold Larson, 35-year-old auto salesman, of slaying the Larson family physician.

Larson, beaming as the verdict was read, ran forward and thanked jurors, 11 men and one woman. The jury, which had a choice of two verdicts — guilty of first degree murder or acquittal — deliberated five hours and 10 minutes.

The crowd, overflowing into courtroom halls, applauded and screamed when the verdict was announced shortly before midnight. Circuit Judge Ronald J. Steine, who had presided against any demonstration, pounded with his gavel.

Larson was charged on a charge of first degree murder in the November 14, 1947, slaying of Dr. James McGloone, prominent La Crosse physician.

Larson, grinning happily, told a reporter: "The first thing I'm going to do is to go see my daughter." Larson's five-year-old daughter has been living with his estranged wife, Nola, who testified against him during the trial.

Larson was arrested at Minneapolis last October and charged with fatally shooting Dr. McGloone on a highway near La Crosse. McGloone was the physician who treated Larson's two-year-old son, Jimmy, when the boy died of a bowel obstruction in 1944.

The state claimed Larson brooded over the boy's death and this provided the motive for slaying.

Larson denied he held any ill will toward the physician. He said he and Dr. McGloone were on good terms after the child's death—that McGloone went so far as to say he did not expect to be paid for his medical services.

Larson's pretty brunette wife testified her husband confessed the slaying to her last August. She testified Larson, in the presence of a number of relatives the day of his son's funeral, had threatened to kill McGloone. She stated Larson was away from home most of the evening of the slaying.

Larson denied all of his wife's accusations.

New Tree Climbers Released

A multiple-spur tree climbing device has been patented and released to the public according to the Pacific Northwest forest and range experiment station in Portland.

The device has five short spurs instead of the one long spur of the conventional tree and pole climbers. It can be used on trees like Douglas fir without puncturing or damaging the wood.

In order to prune trees of lower limbs to produce clear lumber for eastern markets, climb to heights of 30 or 40 feet. These multiple-spur tree climbers have been used experimentally for several years by the forest service in pruning 40 to 60-year-old firs on the national forest reserve.

The multiple-spur device was invented by Thornton T. Munger and Theodore Kachin of Portland.

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night before Christmas, the national total will be on a favorable footing with the amount spent in the Yuletide season last year—a record high.

Home furnishings of all descriptions, television sets and other items that call for sizable sums of money were reported moving in excellent volume in most areas. This lent support to the theory that the pattern of spending is finally developing its normal character after uncertainties brought on by the recently concluded industrial strikes.

Leaders
Dun & Bradstreet's retail trade review said there was a high demand for major appliances; toys were going well and there was a pickup in specialty gifts such as chinaware and lamps. Of all the major geographical areas of the country, Boston and other New England cities reported the best business. Economists considered this to be a natural reaction to the strong upsurge in the textile industry which appears destined to continue through the final weeks of this year and on into 1950.

Jobs
Unemployment sagged as working forces in various manufacturing plants were enlarged and stores took on the usual army of extra Christmas help.

The sustained improvement in the job situation was officially recognized in Washington when Ewan Clague, commissioner of labor statistics said the general picture looks better to him now than at any time in the past year.

Dark Spot
One dark spot in an otherwise promising employment scene stems from the increasing number of layoffs of railroad workers and others directly affected by the three-day work week in the coal fields. A thousand employees of the Louisville and Nashville have already been furloughed and reductions in working forces are certain to be ordered by such big coal-carrying roads as Chesapeake & Ohio, Norfolk & Western, Virginian and Baltimore & Ohio.

Money
Money in circulation expanded to \$27,899,000,000, highest since last January, reflecting the quickened pace of business at the store and places of amusement. This compared with \$27,542,000,000 in the previous week and \$28,415,000,000 a year ago. Bank clearings and demand deposits both rose over the previous week and business loans were a little higher.



WELL-EARNED—Federal Judge Harold R. Medina, who presided at the year-long trial of 11 Communist leaders in New York, boards a Pan-American Clipper with his wife at Idlewild, N. Y. The couple flew to Bermuda for long-delayed three-month vacation.

Pioneer Community

Mr. and Mrs. Halleck Donelson and Bugs spent Thanksgiving week-end here. They returned on Sunday to their home on the coast.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Orcutt are moving to Seattle. Mrs. Orcutt is the daughter of Mrs. Zylphia Herrick.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hurlbut and family spent Thanksgiving week-end at the Simpson ranch at Fort Jones.

Carl Phillips and Charles Owens, cattlemen from the state line area stopped at T. G. Clemmens while looking for cattle this week-end. Other cattlemen in our area the past week were Charles Green of Dorris and Clyde Laird of Pull Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hensig of Shoal Creek, Calif. stopped en route home from attending the Shrine ceremonials at Klamath Falls. They reported a good time. W. L. Frain also attended on Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Sweet and son William of Medford had dinner on Sunday with the Clemmens. The Sweets are former residents of Klamath Falls.

David Griffith expects to leave this week for Biswick where he will be employed on the Hensig ranch.



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Long, Tough Trial Ahead For Bridges

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 10 (AP)—After four tumultuous weeks of the Harry Bridges perjury trial, government prosecutors estimated today they are about one-third through their half of the bitterly-fought case. It looks like a long trial ahead.

"I'm hoping to wind up the government case by mid-January," said Chief Prosecutor F. Joseph Donohue.

The prosecution so far has scored with what it calls its "Sunday punch" witness, backed by some corroborating testimony in its effort to prove that Bridges, left-wing CIO longshore labor leader, was and is a communist.

The hard-slugging defense team of Vincent Hallinan and James Macinnis has fought every step. Courtroom noise sometimes threatens to drown the simple charge: that Bridges, a native of Australia, lied under oath when he was naturalized in September, 1945. He said he was not and had not been a member of the communist party.

So far only five of some 25 available prosecution witnesses have testified. The government says this time it "has the goods" on Bridges. Twice before, but in deportation, not criminal, proceedings, the government failed to make the communist label stick.

Also on trial are Bridges' two witnesses at his naturalization proceeding, Henry Schmidt and J. R. Robertson, charged with helping him obtain citizenship by fraud. All three are charged with conspiracy.

Every trick in the bag popped out in defense tactics. "I'm entitled to trap lying witnesses by any trick I can—I make no apology for my method," snapped Hallinan once. He is under a six-month jail sentence for contempt, slapped on early in the trial by Federal Judge George Harris, based on courtroom conduct and flouting of court rulings.

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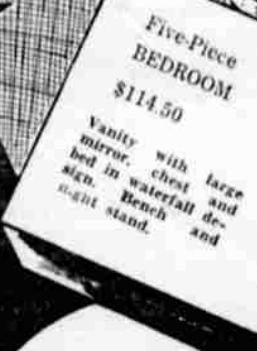


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