

Innocent Man Free After Prison Stay of 27 Years

DETROIT, (AP)—This Christmas will be the "happiest ever" for a Detroit brother and sister who have lived under a grim cloud for 27 years.

For gaunt, balding Vance Hardy, it will be the first outside prison walls since a fateful day in 1924 when a bootlegger was slain here. And for Mrs. Gladys Barrett, the holiday celebration will fulfill a dream kept alive by her firm belief that her brother had nothing to do with the killing.

Yesterday the 56-year-old Hardy stepped out of Detroit's recorder's court a free man. That was the happy ending to a story full of discouragement and disappointment.

START

For the beginning, you go back to the day in 1924 when Louis Lambert, operator of a prohibition era speakeasy, was shot to death as he left a bank.

Hardy swears he never saw Lambert, but a witness identified him as one of four men who allegedly

participated in the killing. He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

Then his sister, now 53, began her long battle for his freedom. Partly through a magazine story, his case came to the attention of Detroit and state police investigators and Recorder's Judge Joseph A. Gillis. New evidence was found.

Hardy was granted a new trial, and Judge Gillis directed a verdict of acquittal, saying he was convinced of Hardy's innocence.

"I'm very, very happy," the ex-convict said quietly when he learned he was free, "but this comes as no surprise. I'm innocent and always have been."

More exuberant, Mrs. Barrett hugged her brother and cried.

"Oh, really, I get my dreams, Vance, my dreams."

Leaving the courtroom, Hardy looked around at a much-changed Detroit and remarked that he felt "like a native out of a jungle."

"Then the brother and sister went home to plan their future."

First there will be a trip through the South to visit the graves of Hardy's father, mother and wife. All died while he was in prison. There is no bitterness in Hardy's attitude now. He figures he was "just another victim of the rough tough prohibition time," and adds: "Things have changed now. I've already forgotten not to repay Gladys for all those years when she was the only one who had hope."

As for Mrs. Barrett, she feels she already has been repaid.

"This will be the happiest Christmas ever," she repeated.



'MOTHER HAS BEEN TORTURED ENOUGH'—Joe Jang, 42 (above), eldest of four sons and family spokesman, shown at his home in San Francisco, has decided to end the suffering of their 67-year-old mother under arrest in Red China, by refusing to pay \$1600 demanded for her life. "The Communists will not spare her no matter what we pay. Mother has been tortured enough, we want her to die now," He holds correspondence received from China and picture of self and mother, made prior to her return to China in 1947.

Veal Placed On OPS Black List

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Veal was placed under wholesale dollars and cents price ceilings one to one and a half cents above current prices last night, but office of price stabilization officials said the action will have little if any effect on butcher shop prices.

They explained that veal prices have been declining because of increasing demand for other meats. The new wholesale ceilings are

effective Dec. 12. OPS said they are as low as the present economic controls law permits.

OPS director Michael V. DiSalle noted that the action ends the agency's task of bringing all fresh meats sold at wholesale under dollars and cents ceilings. He termed it a "long and difficult job."

Brides who are buying kitchen equipment should remember to include a large kettle to use for making soup, stew, cooking a ham or a smoked tongue.

Unemployment Up Over October

WASHINGTON, (AP)—The number of jobless persons in the country for the week ended Nov. 10 stood at 1,828,000, an increase of 212,000 over October, the census bureau reported yesterday.

Even so, the bureau said, unemployment was still 412,000 under the figure for the comparable week last year. The decline in employ-

ment between October and November was attributed largely to seasonal curtailment of farm work and other outside activity.

Total civilian employment was put at 61,336,000, as compared with 61,271,000 a year earlier.

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Farm Union Hits Mexicans

PORTLAND, (AP)—An executive of the AFL farm labor union thinks Mexican laborers are forcing down American living standards.

Speaking here yesterday at the Catholic conference on industrial and social problems, Ernest Garza of San Jose, Calif., union vice-president, said he thinks U.S. farmers do not need additional Mexican workers.

He said reports have been sent to Washington to show that American workers are being displaced by Mexicans. No action has been taken on the reports, he said.

He accused big farmers in the California Imperial valley of paying men 40 cents an hour and in some cases paying them only their meals. The farm corporations, he said, have a great deal of political power.

Another speaker yesterday was Charles Roumasset, labor department economist. He declined to predict whether the cost of living would rise or fall.

Chaim Weizmann Said Improving

TEL AVIV, Israel, (AP)—A physician's bulletin reported today that Israeli President Chaim Weizmann, gravely ill from a lung inflammation, remained in a "general state of weakness connected with the functioning of the heart and blood circulation."

The doctors' noon report on the condition of the 77-year-old statesman added, however, that "symptoms of acute inflammation of the respiratory tracts are passing."

Cement Founder Dies In Florida

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., (AP)—The man who built the world's first concrete road, Robert Douglas Baker, 80, died here yesterday after a heart attack on his boat.

The first concrete stretch he laid was in Detroit, on Woodward Avenue.

He spent 60 years in the road-building business. In Michigan, invented several types of automatic road-building machinery, headed the R. D. Baker company and Michigan Asphalt Paving company, and was board chairman of the Peerless Cement company.

LOW DOWN

AUBURN, Ind., (AP)—Jesse Foote, a retired railroad man of Garrett, Ind., filed suit for divorce yesterday. He complained his wife, Hattie, had kept him out of all parts of their home but the cellar for three years.

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