

Tallulah Bankhead Denies Everything In Trial Over Checks, Dope and Sex Life

By EUGENE LEVIN

NEW YORK, (AP)—Tallulah Bankhead, playing herself in a real court drama, may take the witness stand today to answer a lawyer's statements that she was provided "cocaine, booze and sex" by her former maid-secretary.

The 48-year-old actress has a leading role in the grand larceny and forgery trial of her former employer, Mrs. Evelyn R. Cronin, 58, charged with raising the sums of Miss Bankhead's checks.

Capping a courtroom performance yesterday that ranged from tears to coughs, Miss Bankhead angrily left the trial for 20 minutes after defense counsel asked the judge to make her "keep her mouth shut."

The told newsmen she walked out because she was "disgusted with the tactics" of State Senator Fred J. Morritt, chief defense counsel.

Morritt twice complained of Miss Bankhead's "sounds and facial expressions," she said these alleged actions "might be" "not in a radio program" but not in a courtroom.

General Sessions Court Judge Harold E. Stevens refused to reprimand her, saying he saw nothing disturbing in Miss Bankhead's conduct.

The stage-screen-radio-television star, obviously angry, listened to Morritt make these statements in his opening remarks to an all-male jury.

"Reluctantly, we shall prove that the lady (Miss Bankhead) was rarely sober, Champagne, dope, booze—she lived on that scale."

"My client took care of Miss Bankhead's gigolos (she had "three lovers within three months that we know of")—that was the money for sex."

"Tallulah Bankhead taught Mrs. Cronin how to roll marijuana cigarettes."

"I want to shield the names of those who smoked them, whom she paid and the parties," (he challenged the state to ask Mrs. Cronin the names.)

"When Mrs. Cronin used to go to her for money, she used to beat her unmercifully," (Morritt said this made his client afraid to ask for money, so she paid out her own funds for Miss Bankhead.)

"The language she (Miss Bankhead) used everyday—I won't tell you. My client will."

Miss Bankhead and the state prosecutor claimed these statements were part of a plot to threaten her into not pressing the case against the white-haired Mrs. Cronin.

To newsmen, Miss Bankhead had these remarks:

"On her walkout—I should have walked out this morning."

"On her coughing—A 'natural bronchial condition'—an old affliction."

"On Mrs. Cronin—'This woman was in burlesque before I was born.'"

"On the various allegations by Morritt—I never had her buy dope for me in my life, and she never bought sex for me. Nor did I ever buy any of them for myself."

"On the trial and her career—'Do you think I would stand up in this case if it was not for blackmail, the most despicable crime in criminal law? I am old and tired. I lose everything if I lose the good will of the public.'"

Mrs. Cronin was indicted earlier this year on 32 counts alleging the check-boasting.

Assistant District Attorney Jerome Kidder said he would produce 26 checks on which Mrs. Cronin allegedly added numerals "so as to raise, for example, a check of \$27.50 to \$327.50."

1. They had made the positions of Russia on the one hand and Britain, France and the United States on the other crystal clear.

2. Some secondary differences had been removed.

This latter apparently referred to the big four agreement to set up the new commission, which is supposed to prepare a world disarmament treaty. The big four reported yesterday, however, that they were in complete disagreement on what the commission should put in the treaty.

Abortion Case Still In Court

PORTLAND, (AP)—The fourth defense motion to throw the case out of court was turned down here yesterday in the trial of H. R. Dewey, a Portland chiropractor, accused of manslaughter by abortion.

In other developments two other chiropractors—James E. Stills, Eugene and Thomas G. Burke, Portland—testified that Mrs. Ella Cowles of Eugene admitted to them that she had tried to perform an abortion on herself.

Mrs. Cowles testified earlier that Dewey performed the abortion.

Bootleg Liquor Deaths Told At Moonshine Trial

Suspect In Theft Held

RENO, Nev., (AP)—Walter R. Carroll of Reno, — former inmate of Washington state prison, Alcatraz, Leavenworth and McNeil Island federal penitentiaries — yesterday was charged with theft of \$40,000 from the Umatilla, Ore., postoffice.

Carroll, 57, is accused of taking \$20,000 in May and another \$20,000 in November, 1950, during burglaries of the postoffice, Tony Zeni, postal inspector reported.

The money was enroute from the federal reserve bank at Portland to the Island Empire bank at Umatilla.

Zeni, who with other postal inspectors, has been investigating the case for months, said that an accomplice in the burglary had been taken into custody and made a full confession. The accomplice was not named.

Carroll had only \$47.50 when arrested in a Reno gambling club. Zeni said Carroll's car was stocked with food and equipped with sleeping facilities for hiding out in the woods.

Besides the 38 deaths from the poison liquor, four persons were blinded for life and 308 others were treated at the city's hospital for illness they said was brought on by drinking bootleg liquor.

In yesterday's testimony Richard A. (Slim) Turner, 33, Negro, told Fulton Superior Judge A. A. Andrew and the jury of accompanying Hardy when he bought the alcohol, helping him to mix it and of after-dark deliveries.

Luke F. Turner, a farmer, told of renting his barn in nearby Gwinnett county to Hardy and of watching the alcohol poured into and mixed with moonshine liquor, charcoal and well water.

Willie Walton testified he bought liquor from delivery-man Weems and that he employed Willie Jones as a retail clerk. Jones said he sold some of the liquor to Blount and his wife, Annie, who also died.

DEMO VISIT

PORTLAND, (AP)—Mrs. India Edwards, assistant chairman of the Democratic national committee, will be in Oregon next weekend.

She will be principal speaker at a meeting of Democratic party officers and elected officials at the Multnomah hotel Saturday.

1. Secretary of Commerce Sawyer ordered government agencies to divert aluminum, copper, lead and zinc scrap from government stock piling to industry's needs.

2. The national production authority struck at the production bottleneck caused by a shortage of machine tools by giving machine tool makers the same priority for materials as military and atomic energy project orders get.

3. NPA slapped a 90-day inventory limit on auto wrecking firms, expected to pull up to 2,000,000 tons of iron and steel scrap — a major ingredient in making new steel — out of the nation's auto graveyards.

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Election In Alabama On Quiet Side

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., (AP)—A new move to write still voter restrictions into the Alabama constitution, with "white supremacy" backing, held a narrow lead today on inconclusive returns from yesterday's election.

The amendment, one of 24 on the ballot, would replace the old Boswell amendment, ruled out in 1949 on the grounds it discriminated against Negroes.

With 1371 of the state's 2444 boxes reported, 36,992 votes have been counted for the measure and 34,269 against.

The vote on the measure was extremely light. No public campaign was made either for or against it. The chief interest within the state was centered on a \$5,000,000 road bond issue. It was approved.

The voter amendment would give county boards of registrars wide powers in determining who could register to vote. It would not interfere with present voter lists, however.

There is no official estimate of the number of Negro voters in Alabama. The number is small in comparison with white voters.

The new amendment would require voters to be of good character, take a written questionnaire, "embrace the duties and obligations of citizenship," and sign

an anti-Communist oath.

Generally, it drew support from those who sponsored the Boswell amendment, which was adopted after its backers campaigned on the grounds that it would restrict Negro voters.

Alabama's population is about 30 percent Negro.

The new voter proposal makes no reference to any race. Its supporters contended it was not aimed at the Negro, but would exclude persons of little or no education or of low character.

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Trainman Dies In Flaming Caboose

KAMLOOPS, B.C. (CP)—Trapped in a fire-swept caboose, conductor R. L. Call of Kamloops died Tuesday when a Canadian National Railway freight train was derailed 80 miles east of here.

The caboose and three cars plunged from the rails and within minutes all were a mass of flames. Railwaymen said a broken rail caused the derailment.

Brakeman K. I. McKenzie of Kamloops escaped from the flaming caboose. He suffered from shock and minor bruises.

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