

Frankie Baker, Who Said Her Man Done Her Wrong, Dies In Pendleton Hospital

PENDLETON (AP) — Frankie Baker, who said it was her man who had done her wrong, is dead. No one knows whether she really was the Frankie in "Frankie and Johnny"—the two who were lovers until Nellie Bly came along.

She said she was the central figure in that song twenty years ago. She sued Mae West and she sued Republic Pictures trying to collect money for a film about Frankie and Johnny. She didn't collect.

For nearly thirty years she talked about needing money from what she called that one part of the story of her life. It was perhaps bitterness over that which led in 1950 to her commitment to the State Hospital for the Insane here. It was in the hospital at the age of 75, she died Tuesday.

Frankie's story has been told and re-told in newspapers and magazine articles. They haven't always agreed in detail, but this much definite: she generally told the same.

She lived in St. Louis and there on the night of Oct. 18, 1899 on Targee street she took Allen Britt's pistol and she killed him with it. That was after she had gone to the home of Alice Pryor and had found Britt there.

Whether it was foot-trot-foot—a three-shot job as the song says, isn't clear. But Frankie always said the shooting was the start of the song.

Why was "Frankie and Johnny?" Well, sometimes it was called "Frankie and Albert," too, and Allen Britt was usually called Albert, she said. Nellie Bly, she said, was just poetic license for the other woman's name.

Frankie, whose teeth flashed white in her dark face, reached Portland in 1915 and that was her home from then on until brought here to the hospital. She ran a shoe-shine stand in Portland for

many years and had a strong feeling of independence. Small and slight, she sat in her off hours in Portland in a dimly lighted room playing solitaire or peering out through the curtains. Sometimes children would gather outside and chant what words they knew of "Frankie and Johnny."

They sang it with derision. She always thought there was something nice about being part of a folk song. Except there should have been money in it.

Bridges Files Trial Appeal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Attorneys have filed a 93-page brief supporting West Coast Longshore Leader Harry Bridges' appeal from a perjury-conspiracy conviction. The brief was filed for Bridges and two co-defendants in the 1950 conviction in the Ninth U.S. Court of Appeals Wednesday.

The brief asserts Federal Judge George B. Harris, the trial judge, favored the government against Bridges and "deprived appellants of a fair trial." Bridges, head of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (Ind) and Union associates J. R. Robertson and Harry Schmidt were convicted of plotting to help Bridges appear he was not a Communist at a 1945 naturalization hearing.

Oral arguments are expected to start in March. GRANTS PASS (AP) — Raymond C. Coulter who has served two terms as state representative, will not seek re-election, he reported Wednesday. He said he can't afford it.



MISSING—Mrs. George Le-May (above), 21, who disappeared while fishing with her husband in the Florida Keys is the object of a state-wide search. Mrs. Le-May, the former Huguette Daoust, was a semi-finalist in a "Miss Cinema" beauty contest held in Montreal, Que.

Wives Compare, Husband The Same

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Chatting at the market, two Mexican wives compared notes on their husbands and found they were both married to the same man. They complained to police.

The police found the wives had learned only half the story. The husband, Rafael Estrada Huerta, was charged Wednesday with taking on four wives in 11 months. He hasn't got a job either.

High Cost Of Sessions May Keep Solons Out Of Oregon's Legislature

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR. SALEM (AP)—When many legislators said at the end of the 116-day session last April that they wouldn't come back because they can't afford it, we discounted a lot of that talk. We had heard it before.

But now it looks like a lot of them weren't kidding. And that is bad for the State of Oregon. With the 1953 legislature facing the worst financial problem in its history, the state will need legislators who know the ropes.

What brings this up is that two stalwart members have said in the past few days that they won't run again. They are Sen. William E. Walsh, Coos Bay, and Speaker of the House John F. Steelhammer, Salem.

Walsh, a former Senate president, was chairman of the Senate Law Committee last session. He was on the Highway Tax, and Ways and Means Committees. All four of these are powerful committees showing that Walsh is one of the five or six senators who really made the wheels go around.

Steelhammer, like Walsh, is a veteran of six legislatures. Both are lawyers, and lawyers are needed badly. There aren't enough of them to man the two senate law committees, so they had to be combined into one committee last session.

Starting with the 1951 legislature, the lawmakers get \$600 a year. That isn't enough to induce good-salaried men to leave their jobs to come to the legislature.

"I would like to serve longer," Steelhammer said, "because it's in my blood. But I can't afford the financial sacrifice. Last session I had to borrow \$500 to live on."

The filing period for candidates ends March 7. By then we know just how many legislators won't run again.

In 1951, half the house members were inexperienced, and that slowed the session. Something will have to be done to shorten the session, and a legislative committee is studying that now.

This committee has \$5,000 to spend. It will consider many ideas, such as setting deadlines for introduction and consideration of bills, having key senate and house committees meet jointly, and getting the Ways and Means Committee to start work before the session.

Baltimore Hit By Transit Strike

BALTIMORE (AP)—The Public Transportation System of Baltimore braked to a halt early Thursday as 3,200 employees of the Baltimore Transit Co. went out on strike. Pickets started marching in a cold, steady rain before all BTC terminals. The strike against a transportation system that hauls 375,000 passengers daily began despite frantic last minute efforts by mediators and public officials.

NSL Policy To Pay \$60

WASHINGTON (AP)—Payments averaging about \$60 will go out this year to holders of National Service Life Insurance Policies.

The Veterans Administration announced Wednesday it will start dividing a 200 million dollar dividend in March. This will be the first regular dividend for veterans and servicemen, the VA having paid two special dividends in the past four years.

The VA said it is mailing out a special form which will give a policy holder the choice of receiving cash or put the dividend up as a deposit at 3 per cent interest. The deposit would be insurance against possible lapse of a policy or as advance payment on premiums.

Payments will be made after the anniversary date of each policy covering the previous 12 months.

Tax Increase Held Unlikely

WASHINGTON (AP)—The prospect of any general federal tax increase this year — unless widespread war breaks out — shrunk to the vanishing point Thursday. State of the Union message spoke only of continued high taxes over the next few years, and omitted

any mention of a possible further increase. His reference to the desirability of spreading those levies as fairly as possible among the people indicated to some top tax authorities that Congress at the most will be asked to plug existing "loopholes" which give special tax relief to one group or another. There is no certainty that the lawmakers would go even that far. The consensus at the Capitol was that any recommendation for another general increase would be a waste of White House stationery. Theodore Roosevelt was elected governor of New York in 1898.

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