

# This Week Anniversary Of Tracy-Merrill Escape

SALEM (AP) — It was 39 years ago this week that much of the Pacific Northwest began feeling the grip of panic because Harry Tracy and David Merrill were on the loose.

The trail ran from Salem to Puget Sound to an eastern Washington wheat field.

Three men were shot down in the break of the two men from Oregon prison on June 9, 1902.

On June 28 Tracy killed his partner near Chehalis.

On July 3 Tracy fought off a posse at Bothell, near Seattle, kill-

# McGranery Asks Report

WASHINGTON (AP) — Atty. Gen. James P. McGranery told the nation's U. S. district attorneys Tuesday to give him an immediate report on the criminal cases which have been pending longest in their cities.

McGranery said he wanted exact and detailed information on cases where no prosecution has been undertaken.

It was the first major step taken by McGranery since he was sworn in as head of the Justice Department May 27.

McGranery, a former U. S. district judge in Philadelphia, was named to replace J. Howard McGrath, who was let out of the cabinet on April 3, the same day he fired Newbold Morris as his corruption hunter.

McGranery issued his instructions to some 94 federal prosecutors assembled here to get acquainted with their new boss.

"Some matters pending as long as six months may be too long," McGranery told the district attorneys. "If no prosecution has been started I want to know your reasons."

McGranery, who has said he will head his own drive against whatever wrongdoing he finds in the government, said that among other things, he wants the prosecutors to give him detailed information on any private law practice held by them or their chief assistants.

Such practices are not forbidden by law provided the federal prosecutor gives first attention to his official duties and takes no part as a private attorney in cases involving the U. S. Government.

# Paintings Arrive For Museum

PORTLAND (AP) — Italian paintings, the gift of the Samuel H. Kress Foundation to the Portland Art Museum, were delivered Tuesday.

The collection, valued at 2 1/2 million dollars, includes works from the 14th to the 16th centuries.

**LOW BIDDER**  
PORTLAND (AP) — The Corps of Engineers reported Tuesday that H. A. Heinz Construction Co., Portland, had submitted a low bid of \$44,826 for releveling construction along the left bank of the Willamette River near Junction City.

ing three men.

Then, on Aug. 6, to end what writers since have liked to call the sixty days of slaughter, Tracy shot himself.

That end came after five Creston, Wash., men had surrounded him and one had hit him in the leg. They kept up their fire until dark and Tracy answered back. In the morning, though, his gun was silent and the men walked up and found him dead.

Tracy, then 24, and Merrill, 28, who hung around Vancouver, Wash., and Portland, were sentenced in 1899 for assault and robbery. They were something less than model prisoners and spent much time in solitary and in wearing the Oregon boot, that steel shoe and leg iron which insured limited movement.

After they had been in prison three years they made their break, using smuggled guns. One guard was killed immediately, another was killed on the wall as they went over and a third was shot down as they fled.

They left here in a rig stolen from two armed posse-men. After that they stole buggies, forced boatmen to take them across rivers, demanded food at gunpoint, and moved about with more speed and agility than was expected in those slow-transportation days.

It was never wholly clear why Tracy killed Merrill but he told a farmer Merrill was a burden, couldn't be trusted, and they had a duel. The general impression is that Tracy turned before the full count and shot Merrill in the back.

After the death of Tracy there was a rush of souvenir hunters. Historian Stewart Holbrook says five possemen watched over his coffin at an overnight stop in Portland and when it reached here a mob of the curious rushed in and hacked off splinters and police had to be called.

For that matter, reports of the day said that Tracy's clothes were pulled off and bits of hair cut off by souvenir seekers near the scene of his death.

# Farmhands Work 9 1/2 Hour Day

WASHINGTON (AP) — The hired man on the farm works about two hours less each day than his farmer boss.

The Agriculture Department, reporting this Wednesday, said hired hands average 9 1/2 hours work a day.

Farm employment continues to decline, the department said, reflecting loss of workers to the armed forces and to urban industries as well as a rise in the use of machinery and labor saving practices.

The department said farm employment totals 10,863,000, a decrease of 150,000 from a year ago. Employment at this time of the year during 1945-49 averaged 12,200,000.

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**WORLD FORESTERS**—These six foresters, from four foreign countries and the United States, studied local forest and logging operations here last week. They were guests of the KFPA and Weyerhaeuser Timber Co. Left to right, they are Harry Pelkonen, Finland; Paul Egan, New York; George Barnes, Oregon State College teacher's staff, Corvallis; Mike Stewart, England; Hubert Mauser, Austrian forest service, and Nick Mason, an employee of the British Columbia forest service.

# Cannery Strike May Be Voted

ASTORIA (AP) — A possible strike vote was scheduled here Friday by Astoria cannery workers in a dispute with employers over a wage increase.

An employer offer of a 4-cent increase was rejected by the workers, members of the Columbia River Cannery and Allied Workers.

The Astoria workers met later

with members of the Grays Harbor, Wash., local and agreed to join forces, Harry Chamberlain, union secretary, said. They "took note of increases already agreed to by packers and unions in other areas," he added.

Male workers are seeking a reclassification which would bring them an increase of 10 cents an

hour, Chamberlain said. Women workers are satisfied with the 4-cent boost offered.

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# Fixers Face Prison

NEW YORK (AP) — Three key fixers in the big college basketball scandal face possible prison sentences of from eight to 11 years, and heavy fines when they go before General Sessions Judge Saul S. Streit for sentencing on July 2.

They were accused of offering bribes to players from Kentucky and Bradley Universities and pleaded guilty Tuesday to bribery and conspiracy.

Streit already has sent another fixer to prison for eight to 16 years, and at several court sessions he has blasted college basketball as a nordic big business.

Joseph Benintende, 43, bank robber and former Kansas City hoodlum, and Jack (Zip) West, 39, a New Yorker, interrupted their trial before a General Sessions Court jury to enter their guilty pleas.

A few minutes later, Jack Rubinstein, 35, a one-time New York convicted rapist, entered the courtroom and offered his own guilty plea. He was scheduled for trial next week. One conspiracy count also charged Rubinstein plotted to bribe Toledo University players between 1949 and 1951.

Involved in the plots were players from second string all the way up to All America Gene Melchiorral one of Bradley's 1949-50 stars.

# State Engineer Named Head of Health Group

PORTLAND (AP) — Curtis M. Everts Jr., state sanitary engineer, has been named president-elect of the western branch of the American Public Health Association, the State Board of Health said Tuesday.

Everts, elected at a Denver meeting, succeeds Dr. L. S.

Goerke, Los Angeles. He will be installed as president at a Los Angeles meeting in June, 1933.

Dr. Harold M. Erickson, state health officer, was elected a delegate to the association's annual conference, and Dr. William Levin, director of the Oregon hygienic laboratory, was named to the board of directors.

# Fast Time Plan Switch

PORTLAND (AP) — A group urging state-wide daylight saving time said Tuesday it favored the present system of each community making its own decision on the matter.

The group, The Oregon State Committee for Daylight Saving Time, said it was dropping its campaign for an initiative measure to make fast time uniform throughout the state during the summer.

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