

Playwrights Win Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—The Ford Foundation announced today that plays of eight American playwrights will be produced next fall at foundation expense.

The grant program for playwrights, totaling \$110,000, is the last in a series of grants to creative artists. The programs have aided poets, writers, painters, sculptors, theater directors and musical artists.

The works of the eight playwrights will be staged at professional, community and university theaters.

The playwrights, their plays, and the theaters that will produce them are:

Kenneth Cameron, New York, "The Physician For Fools," Margot Jones Theater, Dallas, Tex.

Josh Greenfield, New York, "Clandestine on the Morning Line," Arena Stage, Washington, D.C.

John B. Harding, Malibu, Calif., "Kinderspiel," Boston University Theater, Boston.

Sidney Michaels, Los Angeles, "The Plaster Bambino," Actor's Workshop, San Francisco.

Phillip Pruneau, New York, "The Morgan Rock," Omaha Community Theater, Omaha, Neb.

Mrs. Seyril Schochen, Ithaca, N.Y., "The Moon Besieged," Stanford University Theater, Palo Alto, Calif.

John Vlahos, Westport, Conn., "The Golden Age of Pericles Pappas," Tulsa Community Theater, Tulsa, Okla.

Lionel Wiggam, New York, "Inside Emily Payne," Erie Playhouse, Erie, Pa.

"DENNIS THE MENACE"



"DON'T WORRY 'BOUT THAT OL' CAT CHASIN' YA. I WON'T TELL ANYBODY."

Florida Couple Arrested For Murder Conspiracy

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—A 41-year-old woman and a young preacher were arrested Monday after a detective said he posed as a professional killer in an alleged plot against the woman's husband.

Beatrice Gurley, mother of three grown children, and John A. Walker, 25, the preacher, were booked for investigation of conspiracy to murder Hugh Ernest Gurley, 45.

Detective Jack Metcalf, who said he played the killer-for-hire,

Second largest marble dome in the world adorns the state capitol in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Delaware was the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution, doing so on December 7, 1787.

Crude glass lamps were made in Peabody, Massachusetts as early as 1638.

U.S. Judge Found Dead

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—William Denman, 86, retired federal judge who said life was difficult after the death of his wife, was found dead Monday night with a bullet in his head.

Houseboy Fred Woo told police he discovered the body of the retired chief judge of the Ninth U.S. Court of Appeals lying on the floor of the study in the Denman home with a .38 caliber automatic pistol in one hand.

Clara Denman, a niece, quoted the judge as saying life had been unbearable following the death Feb. 8 of Mrs. Leslie Denman, his wife of 52 years. The couple was childless.

Judge Denman retired in 1957 after 22 years on the circuit court bench. He had been chief judge nine years.

He had served as chairman of the U.S. Shipping Board during World War I and had been a member of the Emergency Fleet Corp.

Space Vehicle Need Cited

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States must first in developing a space vehicle that can deliver nuclear weapons, Sen. John Stennis (D-Miss.) said today.

He told the Senate in a prepared speech that if an adversary outstripped this country in that respect, "the threat to our security could be disastrous."

Stennis spoke in support of a bill to authorize \$48,354,000 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for use by July 1. The total includes \$20,750,000 for Project Mercury, NASA's initial manned space research program.

Another 70 million for the project has been asked in a \$485,300,000 program for NASA starting July 1, and Mercury's total cost has been estimated at 200 million dollars.

But Stennis said that is only a start.

"If Mercury is successful—and it is essential that it be successful—we can soon expect to be spending billions of dollars a year on various types of space vehicles, unless there is a drastic change in the world situation," Stennis said.

"We must make no mistake about this—space flight is of the highest importance and of the highest practicality."

Stennis said with both the United States and the Soviet Union placing more and more reliance on ballistic missiles "at best we can hope that this results in a nuclear stand-off."

Stamp Goes Well With Envelope

SOMERSET, Pa. (AP)—Doris Koscan entered the Somerset Post Office Monday with a green envelope with brown lettering.

"I want a stamp that will go well with this envelope," Mrs. Koscan told postal employees.

The employees laughed, but when she insisted, they showed her all the stamps they had.

She found one too—a four-cent conservation commemorative, colored green and brown.

Tennis Court To Be Fixed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Come spring, confused tourists hunting for the White House lawn may think they've found an athletic club instead.

Peering through the gates, a visitor, if he's lucky, might spot President Eisenhower putting golf balls on his green, his grandson, David Eisenhower, 10, swishing basketballs through a hoop, and White House aides smashing tennis balls over a net.

The putting green and basketball hoop are there now. White House press secretary James C. Hagerty told newsmen Monday the President had authorized restoration of an old tennis court.

The court, built in 1902 when tennis player Theodore Roosevelt was president, last was used in the administration of President Harry Truman, whose daughter, Margaret, played tennis occasionally.

Hagerty said the repairs were requested by some tennis enthusiasts on the White House staff. He said they would share the small cost of restoration.

Haiti Hit By Famine

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP)—Famine again is taking its toll in Haiti. Half of the four million persons who live along Haiti's arid north-west coast face starvation if rain does not come soon.

Most of the people are living at the minimum subsistence level. Tuberculosis, liver ailments and other diseases are decimating the population.

Dr. Dudley Nelson, who has been operating a clinic in Haiti since 1946, says there is virtually no money in circulation and the people cannot afford medicine even at cost price.

Nelson says conditions are the worst since Hurricane Hazel hit in 1954, ravaging plantations and killing livestock.

The parched coastal region has had virtually no rain since Hazel struck. The northwest plateau is the only place that has grass. Peasants gather it up and bring it back by donkey to sell for 20 cents a load. It takes 8 to 10 hours travel time to make each sale.

Trees stand stark and leafless. Even the weeds are gone. The animals have nothing but the points of acacia branches to lick on.

Donkeys which used to bring \$8 to \$14 now sell for under \$2 because there is nothing to feed them.

Winds and low tides have fouled the salt basins, ending salt making by the people.

Old Glory Flies Again

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Old Glory is flying again in all its glory from the top of the Capitol.

A steeplejack climbed the flag pole of the State House Monday and removed a mangled Stars and Stripes which had been flopping in the breeze for weeks after winds all but tore it from its moorings.

One steeplejack had tried repeatedly to rescue the flag, hanging by a single rope, but was forced to give up by bitter cold and fierce winds.

The rescue by steeplejack Bill Bradley was done with the help of special equipment and an assistant.

Cigarette Began Fire

HOUSTON, Tex. (AP)—A federal judge ruled Monday that a carelessly discarded cigarette or match likely caused the freighter fire which triggered the death-dealing 1947 Texas City disaster.

The decision by U.S. Dist. Judge Ben C. Connally followed nearly 12 years of legal maneuvering.

It favored the United States government in its efforts to collect some 70 million dollars from the French government and the French Lines.

Judge Connally said neither the French government or the ship firm is entitled to exoneration from or limitation of liability in the fire and resulting explosion aboard the S. S. Grandcamp.

The French blamed spontaneous combustion for the fire on the French Line vessel loaded with fertilizer grade ammonium nitrate.

The judge said the most plausible explanation for the fire was a carelessly discarded cigarette or match. He found the French negligent and the ship unseaworthy.

The Grandcamp caught fire and exploded April 16, 1947. It touched off another explosion aboard another freighter, the S. S. High Flyer.

More than 500 were killed and more than 3,000 injured when the fires spread through the small city on Galveston Bay.

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Film Marriage Ends In Divorce

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Actress Doris Dowling's marriage to movie executive Robert Blumofe, 48, has ended in divorce.

Miss Dowling, 34, who was once married to handleader Artie Shaw charged crusader. She and Blumofe, vice president of United Artists Corp., were married April 27, 1956.

Miss Dowling will receive \$25,000 and \$600 a month alimony for two years. She said she will resume her acting career.

Stalemate Marks Strike

HARLAN, Ky. (AP)—Harlan County's coal strike moved into its second day today with no prospects of a settlement.

There has been no sign of trouble as United Mine Workers Union members struck holdout independent operators who have refused to sign the new UMW contract.

Only a few pickets showed up on a rainy Monday, first day of the walkout.

Speculation here was that it may be two to five weeks before there is any break in the situation.

The new UMW contract provides a \$2 a day wage increase for miners. The holdout maintain the increase would break them.

The strike had idled about 1,100 of the 5,000 men who work in the 200 or so small truck mines and 28 larger holdout companies. Six have signed new contracts.

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\$100,000 Suit Leveled By Star

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Actress Hedy Lamarr is asking \$100,000 damages from a motorist whose car struck her son while he rode his bicycle.

The suit, filed Monday, named Frank J. Burnell, 55, Los Angeles as defendant. It alleged Burnell was driving negligently.

John Anthony Loder, 12, was seriously injured in the accident Dec. 9. He is Miss Lamarr's son by a former husband, actor John Loder.

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EXERCISE PARTICIPANT

Corporal Dennis W. Pugh of Lakeview who is stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, recently took part in the first major amphibious exercise of the year off the coast of California. He is serving with the First Marine Division. Pugh is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Pugh of Lakeview.

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