

British Gangs Want Control Of One-Arm Bandits

By TOM A. CULLEN
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.
LONDON (NEA) — When slot machines become legal in Britain on Jan. 1, their control may be in the hands of underworld syndicates.

So far there has been no open violence. No machines have been hijacked. No one has been beaten, no acid thrown. The syndicates are too smart for that.

But thousands of these "one-armed bandits" have been imported, primarily from West Germany in preparation for the new year. Fourteen London clubs have been broken into recently and \$15,000 worth of slot machines stolen. Nothing else has been touched.

Usually a syndicate "salesman" appears the morning following the robbery, offering to install his own make of one-armed bandits for a "share" in the profits.

Meanwhile, the underground here seethes with rumors that some of Frank Costello's former associates will organize the slot-machine racket along American lines.

Lending color to these rumors was the FBI seizure of \$250,000 worth of slot machines in Brooklyn last month. The 420 gambling machines on the Brooklyn docks awaiting shipment to a firm in Birmingham, England, were seized by G-men acting on a tip from Scotland Yard.

King of Britain's one-armed bandits is Bill Webster, a 231-pound, florid-faced pub owner, who alternately threatens to go to his rivals, and pool-pools the chance of Americans muscling in on the trade in "fruit" machines, as they are called here.

"No tuppenny thug is going to muscle in on this territory," shouts Webster, banging his fist on the counter of his pub.

Fiery Singer Ends Her Exile

MILAN, Italy (UPI) — Fiery Maria Callas ends 30 months of Milan musical exile tonight when she makes her self-proclaimed comeback at the La Scala Opera House before the upper crust of Europe.

Scalpers were getting \$84 a ticket.

A capacity audience, including Uruguayan President Benito Nardone, the widowed Begum Aga Khan and Greek millionaire shipowner Aristotele Onassis, was expected to attend the opening performance of Gaetano Donizetti's "Poliuto," starring Miss Callas as "Paolina."

It promised to be a social event almost unprecedented since the Gay '90s for Milanese opera enthusiasts. They have been clamoring for Miss Callas' comeback since she walked out with her chin raised in a defiant gesture after her last performance here May 31, 1958.

Ship Rescues 48-Man Crew

NEW YORK (AP)—The merchant steamer Mary Ellen Conway headed for a South American port today after rescuing 48 of the 50-man crew of the Liberian tanker Sinclair Petroleum which sank after an explosion and fire in the Atlantic.

Two crewmen were reported lost. One of the 48 rescued was injured.

Webfoot Aces Get Bowl Bids

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Two Oregon backfield aces will be on the 24-member major school team which will play in the third annual All-American Bowl football game here Dec. 26.

Quarterback Dave Grosz and Cleveland Jones, a halfback, were on the squad named Tuesday.

The team has stars from Wisconsin, Auburn, Air Force, Iowa, Tennessee, Michigan State, UCLA and Purdue. The other quarterback named was Stanford's Dick Norman. Fullbacks are Jim Cunningham, Pittsburgh; and Art Baker, Syracuse.

Former Irish Flash Ailing

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — E.P. (Slip) Madigan, 65, former Notre Dame star under Knute Rockne and later a colorful college football coach, was hospitalized Tuesday after a heart attack. His condition was listed as critical.

Madigan coached St. Mary's Gaels to national prominence.

For the past decade he built homes in the San Francisco area in partnership with his son, Edward.

THE TEXAN

LONG BEACH, Calif. (UPI) — A Texan escaped from the city's honor farm Tuesday and nearly got away except for one thing — his true-to-Texas form of transportation.

Frankie D. Goad, 22, of McAllen, Tex., serving a 32-day sentence for impersonating a police officer, was easily spotted and corralled as he galloped along a highway on a rented horse.

Big Bill Webster adopts the soft gangsters, but businessmen. Big sell when speaking of slot machines as "social amenities" (the shudders at the term "one-armed bandit").

"This is a legitimate business," he explains, adding, "if Capone and Lucky Luciano were operating today, they would not be gangsters."

Despite this soft patter Britons are not reassured. They view the coming of the slot machines on Jan. 1 with fear and apprehension, remembering the stories of bribery, protection rackets and murder that followed in the wake of the one-armed bandits in America.

NURSE MIPPED

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Mrs. John F. Kennedy's nurse, Miss Luella Hennessey, is miffed — to say the least.

A weekly magazine and some news dispatches have described her as a "practical nurse." The blue-eyed nurse said, somewhat perturbed, "I am an RN (registered nurse) and I earned it."

Stamp Issued To Honor Late John F. Dulles

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Post Office Department issued a four-cent memorial stamp Tuesday honoring the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles who died May 24, 1959.

COSTLY BILL

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) — L.C. Paskell found half a \$100 bill Monday night in a radio promotion stunt. En route to the station to collect the other half, he wrecked his borrowed car, causing \$500 damage.

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