

# Defendant Called 'Insurance Eccentric'

MINNEAPOLIS (UPI) — Eccentric is the word for Tiller Eugene Thompson. Regarding insurance, that is.

In the middle of the little criminal lawyer's trial for the murder of his wife Tuesday, while the state was piling up evidence the defendant had amassed \$1,055,000 in life insurance on his wife in 11 months prior to her bludgeoning slaying, the defense asked an interesting question.

"Would you say that Gene was an eccentric regarding insurance of all kinds?" Defense attorney Hyam Segell asked a agent who had procured \$700,000 in life insurance for Thompson in little over a month.

"Yes," said the witness,

James Richard Treanor, a commissioned agent for Travelers Insurance Co. He was the fourth prosecution witness, called during the second day of testimony.

Then, on cross examination, Treanor began elaborating on the 35-year-old Thompson's purchases.

He had \$100,000 liability insurance on his home—for things like tripping on rugs—at a time when \$10,000 was considered normal and \$50,000 way up there.

Extensive Auto Insurance

And take the matter of auto insurance, he said. Thompson had \$10,000 property damage, \$3,000 medical, a total disability auto accident policy that provided \$50 a week until death or recovery, an accidental death that provided \$10,000 on death in operation of a land motor vehicle, full comprehensives on two autos, \$25 towing and labor, and some others.

"He had everything we could write for him in very substantial amounts," Treanor said, referring to auto insurance.

However, his driving may have been somewhat eccentric too: "His accident loss record was such that Travelers canceled him out."

Treanor, a friend of the Thompsons, also testified that Thompson "induced his wife a bit" that "the two got along very well," and that Thompson "would have done anything to keep her happy."

Thompson's wife stood to inherit a fortune from her parents estimated up to \$1 million. Around Feb. 6, 1962, Thompson began pressing for huge amounts of insurance on his wife, plus double indemnity for accidental death, with such a "sense of urgency," Treanor testified, that he sent a letter to the company home office.

Jury Hears Letter

Striking for the defense, Segell read the letter to the jury. It said the company should realize that "Carol Thompson is the only child of wealthy parents, with their estate estimated from one-half to one-million dollars." Should she die, Thompson felt, it said, that her estate would go to their four children and "bypass him."

Segell asked: "One reason why Thompson might want all this insurance on Carol is to provide a hedge against the bypassing of an estate—wouldn't this be one reason for a large amount of insurance on a healthy young woman?" Treanor said yes, it would.

Thompson is charged with first-degree murder in what the state contends was a three-man plot, masterminded by the husband, to do away with Carol, 34, a choir singer, ardent church worker, devoted housewife and mother.

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# FRB Hikes Requirements On Credit Stock Purchases

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Effective today stock market traders will have to put up at least 70 per cent in cash for the purchase of securities.

In an announcement released Tuesday the Federal Reserve Board (FRB) increased the margin requirement from the 50 per cent to which it was lowered in July, 1962, when the market was recovering from a serious slump.

Because the announcement came on a New York market holiday, and was issued after the Midwest Stock Exchange at Chicago was closed, the Pacific Coast Exchange was the only one still active when the announcement was made public.

There, trading activity almost doubled the moderately active pace it had shown earlier in the day. An official said "all hell broke loose as soon as the news came out."

Avast Reaction Today

Trading in Wall Street today, coming after an overnight opportunity to digest the FRB ruling, probably will reveal more significant clues to the impact of the margin increase on investors.

The board's action, described as precautionary, came at a time when the amount of credit used to buy stock had risen by 43 per cent from where it stood a year ago July, to the current figure of \$6.971 billion.

It acted under authority of the 1934 Securities and Exchange Act, which empowers the board to raise margin requirements to prevent the excessive use of credit.

It noted that since July 9, 1962, when the cut from 70 to 50 per cent was made, nearly \$1.8 billions of the \$2.1 billion additional credit was in customer net debits of brokerage firms.

Reaction is Mixed

Wall Street reaction was mixed on possible effects of the cut.

Possibility of a rise in the margin requirement had been considered on Wall Street for some time, although the holiday timing caught some persons by surprise.

Some sources expressed the belief that the move may slow the market momentarily but others recalled that "the street" had been through the whole thing before.

Wall Street quarters also were divided as to effect of the move in the small investor. Although a few brokers have reported rising numbers of accounts since the first of the year, most traders say that "the public" has not returned to the market in anything like the numbers represented before the big shakeout in the last days of May, 1962.

# Superintendent Rules Out Carols And Nativity Scenes

BEAVERTON, Ore. (UPI) — Beaverton School District Supt. Thomas Woods Monday night proposed policies which would outlaw religious carols and nativity scenes in Christmas programs in schools.

Three policies would eliminate the religious aspect, which Dr. Woods said is in line with U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

One would prohibit the distribution of religious literature of any kind to students.

The second would permit religion to be the subject of instruction where teaching factually about religion would be distinguished from indoctrination.

And lastly, holidays would be observed only in terms of their cultural aspects and without religious impact or character.

The school board is to take action on the proposal at its Dec. 2 meeting.

Dr. Woods said that Christmas carols would be considered religious hymns and "a Christmas observance with carols would be objectionable."

**Medford Man Dies In Crash**

MEDFORD (UPI) — Jerry Francis Bowling, 29, Medford, was killed in a one-car accident here shortly before midnight.

Police said Bowling, who was alone in the car, was traveling south on South Central Avenue when the car struck a utility pole. He apparently died instantly.

# California Bus Crash Kills Seven

TRUCKEE, Calif. (UPI) — A gay gambling tour to Reno ended in tragedy for a group of Californians Tuesday when their chartered Greyhound bus overturned in a storm near the Nevada line, killing seven persons and injuring the other 32 aboard.

The California Highway Patrol said some of the survivors were so badly injured that the death toll may rise.

The loaded bus, which had encountered both rain and snow during its trip over 7,000-foot Donner Summit, skidded on the four-lane intercontinental freeway, struck a divider strip and flipped over one and one-half times, scattering passengers along 100 feet of highway.

Mrs. Peter H. Roberts, 3546 South Sixth Street, reported to the Herald and News that her mother, Anna Sheldon of Mount Shasta, was a passenger on the bus and is now in the Tahoe Forest Hospital in Truckee.

Exact extent of her injuries has not yet been learned, but hospital officials told Mrs. Roberts that her mother "was among those less seriously injured."

Some of the victims, nearly all from Sacramento, were pinned beneath the wreckage of the bus when it finally came to rest. Heavy tow equipment was called from Truckee, five miles west, to free those still alive.

"There were people flying all over the bus," said Thomas Sconyers, 60, Sacramento, as he received medical aid at the scene of the accident.

Sconyers said he was sitting in the center of the bus and the persons killed were sitting in the same general area, either to the front or back of him.

"It was some kind of miracle I wasn't killed along with the others," he said. "I think the good Lord must have had his hand on me."

The dead were identified as Ferris Hegardt, Ontario, Calif.; Roy Tyler Smith, North Sacramento; and John Bart, Edward Morgan, Gus Tascato, Sidney Wade and Walter Kessler, all of Sacramento. Their ages were not immediately available.

Five of the victims were killed outright, and two others died later at nearby hospitals.

The driver, John Grafic, 39, Sacramento, was unable to explain what caused the bus to go out of control. He suffered minor head injuries.

# Referral Promised

PORTLAND (UPI) — Representatives of the Oregon AFL-CIO and the Oregon Tobacco Distributors Association said Tuesday that the state cannot count on any revenue from a proposed cigarette tax.

State Rep. Morris Crothers, R-Salem, said Monday that he will introduce a 5-cent-a-package cigarette tax bill when a special session of the Oregon Legislature opens Monday.

James T. Macr of Portland, executive secretary of the state AFL-CIO, said his organization "will support the referral of any sales, cigarette or other regressive taxation measure."

Attorney David Barrows, legislative representative for the tobacco association, said enactment of the bill would result in a referendum which labor would support.

# Mixers To Host Spaghetti Feed

Merry Mixers will sponsor the group's annual spaghetti feed at Pelican School from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 9. The public is invited. Charges are \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children. Money is to be applied on a new furnace for the Merry Mixer Hall in Pelican City.

The dinner will be followed by a dance in the club hall at 35 cents per person. Bill Mayhew will call. For further information call Mayhew at TU 4-9067.

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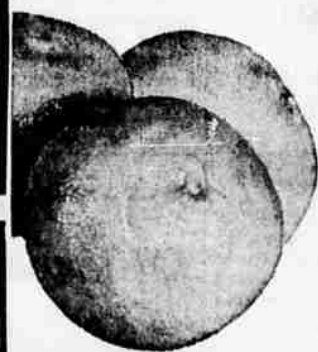
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