Mattoon Mad Man Is Branded Hoax

War Plant Fumes Are Blamed For Hysteria

Mattoon, Ill., Sept. 13—(UP)—Police today buried the mythical "mad man of Mattoon" in an equally mythical cemetery after branding the phantom who has terrorized this city for two weeks a hoax, whose mysterious "gardenia gas" that "paralyzed" his victims was only carbon tetrachloride fumes from a nearby war plant.

Police commissioner Thomas V. Wright and Capt. Harry Curtis, head of the state police called in to aid in the capture of the "phantom," said that after checking and re-checking the stories of his 35 "victims," they were convinced he was non-existent.

Mattoon, however, refused to let the mysterious anesthetist die so ignominious a death and the mass hysteria so evident among residents only yesterday immediately turned to mass indignation against police officials who refused to believe the stories of the mysterious attacks.

"That statement is ridiculous," said William Kidwell, state's attorney of Coles county and a resident of Mattoon. "Why, 60 to 75 feet across the street from that war plant are houses where the residents aren't bothered by the fumes. The plant has been using a cleaning substance (carbon tetrachloride) on gun shells ever since the war began and there never were any complaints before."

He admitted, however, that some of the reports of the attacks might have been the result of mass hysteria but was firm in his belief that "someone did throw or squirt gas into some of the homes."

Capt. Curtis said that in the first cases reported there probably was a house prowler and the fright, plus the war plant fumes created the imaginary anesthetist.

Mattoon's madman first made his appearance Aug. 31 when three persons reported they were temporarily paralyzed and made ill by a sweet-smelling gas, apparently forced through their windows with a spray gun.

The reports spread rapidly until a total of 35 persons claimed they had been attacked. All reported the same effects from breathing the gas. They became ill to their stomachs and were partially paralyzed until the effects wore off.

K. Of C. Picnic Netted $1,010

Francis Costello, general chairman for the Knights of Columbus picnic, held September 3 at Sun Set park, east of the city, informed the lodge members that the net profits from the affair were $1,010. He expressed his appreciation to the members and the public for their support and purchase of grand prize tickets.

Close Presidential Election Foreseen

See Close Contest For Popular Votes

Washington, Sept. 13.—(UP)—Best bet as the political campaign accelerates today is that the presidential election will be a close contest for popular votes.

Political events in Maine, Texas and Ohio variously comforted Democrats and Republicans but without producing conclusive evidence of a national trend either way.

Maine's jump-the-gun state election yesterday gave the Republican gubernatorial candidate 73 percent of the vote and a plurality of 80,000, the largest in recent state records. Democrats will find some offset to the returns in the fact that only 185,000 or so voters of approximately 350,000 qualified registrants actually went to the polls. But the returns seem to make the state safe for Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, the GOP presidential candidate.

If Maine is to be given any political barometric significance at all, the big Republican margin there suggests bigger Republican votes elewhere. But it is a fact that Maine voters this year cast 76,600 fewer ballots than four year ago when the state's election was curtain raiser to a presidential poll. This show of comparative disinterest or indicaton of a failure of absentee voters to send in their ballots offers something for all campaign managers to consider.

Politicians were interested in landslide returns from two of Maine's congressional districts to which the CIO political action committee limited its Maine election activities. The PAC-Democratic candidates were licked badly. There were pre-election reports of Democratic resentment in Maine against the PAC—a factor which may be present in oher states.

President Roosevelt's supporters won a vital first skirmish in their battle to hold Texas electoral votes for the administration. The possibility that Texas' 23 electoral votes might be cast for some Democrat other than the president disturbs the White House considerably more than anyone will admit.

The first test vote in the Dallas state Democratic convention was won by the fourth term forces by a count of 803 to 774 with 72 absentee votes unrecorded. The pro-Roosevelt total did not represent a clear majority and may be reversed, but it was sweet music at Democratic national committee headquarters here.

In convention at Cincinnati, O., president John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America called on his 500,000 followers to vote against Mr. Roosevelt in November. Lewis cannot deliver all of those votes even though the union convention might repudiate Mr. Roosevelt by resolution or even endorse Dewey. But he can deliver some of them.

ARRIVING IN QUEBEC to attend the victory conference between President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Allied military leaders, representatives of British chiefs of staffs are greeted at old Lorette airport. Left to right are Lt. Gen. Gordon MacReady, Adm. Sir Percy Noble, Air Marshal Sir William L. Welsh and Field Marshal Sir John Dill. (International Soundphoto)

SALE CALENDAR

SEPT. 14—**Glen White**, Adm. sale, 5 miles south, ½ mile west of Willshire, Ohio. 50 acre farm. 17 acre farm. All personal property. **Roy S. Johnson**, auctioneer.

SEPT. 14—**Dr. W. E. Smith**, 3½ miles Northeast of Decatur, Ind., or ½ mile East of Union Chapel Church; Pure Bred Holsteins and Farm Equipment. **J. F. Sanmann**, auctioneer.

SEPT. 15—**Mrs. James Riley**, household goods, 610 Winchester St., **Lester W. "Bud" Suman**, Auct.

SEPT. 15—**Jacob B. Steiner**, 2 miles west, 1 mile north of Berne. Country home, 2 acres, household goods. **Jeff Liechty**, auct.

SEPT. 15—**Stetler Furniture Co.**, Willshire, Ohio. Continuation Sale of New and Used Furniture. **J. F. Sanmann**, Auctioneer.

SEPT. 16—**DARREL CLAUSE.** 110 Acre Farm. Livestock and personal property, 4 miles East of Decatur. **J. F. Sanmann**, auct.

SEPT. 18—**John Mastenbrook**, 3 miles South of Kalamazoo, Mich. 100 Acre farm, Modern improvements, and Pure Bred Brown Swiss Dairy Herd. **J. F. Sanmann**, Auctioneer.

SEPT. 18—**Wm. Ohler**, 2 miles east of Decatur, 70 acre farm and personal property. **Roy S. Johnson**, auctioneer.

SEPT. 19—**Catherine E. Burk, Admrx., Joe Burk**, 2½ miles east and ¾ mile north of Pleasant Mills. Farm sale. **Lester W. (Bud) Suman**, auctioneer.

SEPT. 19—**Russel Malott**, 4 miles South of Warsaw, Indiana on No. 15, 200 acre farm and all personal property. **J. F. Sanmann**, auct.

SEPT. 20—**Charles Boring**, 1¾ miles East of Pleasant Mills, Indiana. Livestock and personal property. **J. F. Sanmann**, auct.

SEPT. 21—**Homer W. Vore**, 2½ miles Northeast of Pleasant Mills, Ind. Improved 120 Acres. **J. F. Sanmann**—Auctioneer.

SEPT. 22—**Jesse Stamm, Charles Stamm**, 4 miles Northwest of Kewanna, Ind., 150 acre and 100 acre farms, modern improvements, and Large Dairy Herd. **J. F. Sanmann**, Auctioneer.

SEPT. 23—**Luella and Gladys Bolinger**, Willshire, Ohio. Four room home and household goods. **J. F. Sanmann**, auctioneer.

SEPT. 23—**Homer Liby**, 1 mile east of Decatur. **Chris Bohnke**, Auct.

SEPT. 26—**Julius Heideman**, 2 miles west, 2 miles south of Decatur. **Chris Bohnke**, auctioneer.

SEPT. 27—**J. J. J. Moser Heirs**, 3½ miles west, 1 mile north of Berne. 160 acre and 80 acre farms, livestock, implements. **Jeff Liechty**, auctioneer.

SEPT. 30—**Charles K. Miller**, 4 miles west, ½ mile north of Decatur. **Chris Bohnke**, auctioneer.

SEPT. 30—**Showley Park**, Bruce Lake, Kewanna, Ind., 10 acre lake shore property, two modern homes, cottages, boats, etc. Completely equipped recreation park. **J. F. Sanmann**, Auctioneer.

COLD WINTER DAYS AHEAD!
BE PREPARED...

Buy Your New

CIRCULATING HEATER NOW!

We're fortunate in having a large stock of heaters from which to choose. All sizes, beautiful cabinet styles, attractive in any home.

We advise you to select your heater early while our selection is complete. Don't delay!

All moderately priced.

We also have in stock Warm Mornings, Round Oak ranges and Laundry stoves.

Schafers SINCE 1874

OTHER UNITED

(Continued From Page 1)

self appeared under way in force as a general advance continued eastward toward the Siegfried line, which on the 1st army front lies about five to 10 miles behind the frontier," the headquarters dispatch said in reporting advanced elements in touch with the last great fortified belt before Berlin.

Indications were that the Americans would be in close contact with the Siegfried line at a number of places very soon.

Headquarters revealed that bombs were dropping on the Siegfried line and its supporting bases at the rate of six tons a minute, day and night, in a mighty softening-up barrage that thundered into its sixth straight day today.

On the heels of a dramatic warning from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower that German civilians must quit the Ruhr and Rhineland or be bombed out, a great parade of American and British warplanes swarmed out over the advancing Allied armies this morning to spread new ruin through the enemy's west wall fortifications.

A blanket of security censorship obscured the advance of the American 1st army's two spearheads into Germany south of Aachen and beyond Trier, but correspondents were permitted to reveal that both columns were operating in strength and that new crossings of the border were imminent at six other undisclosed points.

At the same time, it was announced that a new American fighting force, the U. S. 9th army under Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson, has landed somewhere in France to join the million or more men already wheeling into line for the grand assault on Germany.

Another great striking arm, the newly-constituted Allied air borne army, also was ready to join in the battle for the Nazi homeland. Headquarters refused to comment, however, on a Paris radio report that the paratroopers and glider-borne infantry would soon be landed behind the Siegfried line to smash the enemy's communications and transport.

Seal Nazi Fate

Rome, Sept. 13—(UP)—French troops from the 7th and 3rd armies forged a solid line through central France today and the Allies threw two other columns across the escape routes into Germany, sealing the fate of thousands of Nazis hopelessly trapped in southwest France.

A headquarters spokesman said the junction in force of the two armies at Chatillon, 42 miles northwest of Dijon, left the Germans in southern and western France facing the alternative of death or capture.

There was no official estimate of the number of enemy troops trapped by the two Allied armies although unofficial sources said earlier this week they exceeded 20,000.

Prisoners in southern France already total 75,000 and are expected to increase swiftly as a result of the juncture, which a communique said was made "in force" on the Seine river.

There and elsewhere along the Italian front, however, the Allied forces were meeting increased German artillery fire as they closed with the gothic line fortifications.

AMERICAN DRIVING

(Continued From Page 1)

Ippolito, both 17 miles north of Florence and just west of Largnano.

Fighting was continuing through five main passes into the German's gothic line. The Allied communique failed to reveal the location of the passes, except to say the British 8th army was within a mile of one pass northeast of Florence and the U. S. 5th army within two and a half miles of another heavily defended gateway somewhere north to northwest of Florence.

8th army troops, who previously had crossed the Sieve river northeast of Florence, have advanced five miles in the last 24 hours, an Allied communique disclosed today.

FUND IS ALLOCATED

(Continued From Page 1)

many youth recreational projects sponsored here through the schools and civic organizations, will be the director of the canteen. He will have personal supervision over the place.

Work on remodeling the diner into a gathering place for high school youths got underway today and it is hoped that the center can be formally opened in a few weeks.

The street and park departments of the city will cooperate in revamping the North Ward school grounds. The site will be filled in and leveled and the $600 grant will be used in hard surfacing the area, so it can be used in spring and fall months as a roller skating rink and in the winter be flooded for ice skating.

Members of the budget committee are Walter J. Krick, R. O. Gentis, E. V. McCann, C. E. Bell and Arthur E. Voglewede.

Carl C. Pumphrey is president of the Decatur Community fund and Mrs. Herman Keller is the secretary. Herman H. Krueckeberg is the treasurer.

Democrat Campaign Committees Listed

County Chairman Lists Committees

Four additional committees to assist in the coming campaign were announced today by Adams county Democratic chairman Clyde O. Troutner.

These committees are:

Entertainment: Helen Reusser, chairman; Helen Kenney, May Holthouse, Naomi Bormann and Ruth Hollingsworth.

Speakers: Walter J. Rod[illegible] chairman; Mrs. Leonard [illegible] Everett J. Schug, August Hol[illegible] Henry B. Heller, O. N. Sut[illegible] George Krick.

Publicity: C. H. Mueelman, [illegible] man; Pete Reynolds, Harold [illegible] tox and Frank Hebble.

Arrangements: Phil Sauer, [illegible] man; Dan Tyndall, Ralph [illegible] Lloyd Baker, Norbert Hol[illegible] Bernard Clark, Charles [illegible] Gus Mann Mrs. J. A. Long, [illegible] Briggs, Robert Cole, Milton [illegible] ing, Mrs. Clara Anderson [illegible] Kenneth Hinschey.

Dates for meetings of these [illegible] mittees will be announced [illegible] the next few days.

American farms use an est[illegible] ed 1,500,000 tractors.

FIRESTONE TRACTOR TIRES

We have in stock the following sizes:
13-28 tires and tubes
500-16 and 500-15

ARNOLD & KLENK
Madison St.

Public Sale

Because of the death of my husband, the late Joseph Q. Burk, [illegible] undersigned administratrix will sell at public auction, located ¾ [illegible] south and ¾ mile west of Wren, or 2½ miles north of Willshire [illegible] ½ mile east of state line, or 2½ miles east and ¾ mile north of Pl[illegible] ant Mills, on

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 1944

Time: 12:30 P. M.

8 — CATTLE — 8

Guernsey cow, 5 yr. old, giving good flow of milk, freshen in De[illegible] Holstein cow, 3 yr. old, giving good flow of milk, freshen in Fe[illegible] Red cow, 3 yr. old, giving good flow of milk, freshen in Ma[illegible] Guernsey cow, 3 yr. old, giving good flow of milk, rebred; Guern[illegible] heifer, 1 yr. old, open; 3 Guernsey heifers, 6 months old.

3 — HORSES — 3

Sorrel team, wt. 1550 each—sorrel mare, 6 yr. old, with sorrel m[illegible] colt by side; Sorrel mare, 3 yr. old.

HOGS—Duroc sow, will farrow by day of sale.

TRACTOR AND MACHINERY

10-20 McCormick-Deering Tractor in A-1 condition; 14" bo[illegible] Oliver tractor plow; Moline, 7 on a side, tractor disc; Hoosier [illegible] drill, 10 hoe; Rock Island corn planter, with 80 rod of wire; [illegible] tooth harrow, 150 tooth, like new; 14" bottom Oliver riding plow; [illegible] bottom Oliver walking plow; smooth land roller; single row Ol[illegible] corn cultivator; 5' cut Osborne mower; Weber wagon, 3½' skein w[illegible] 15' grain bed, like new; 9' dump rake; 7 shovel plow; double sh[illegible] plow.

Plymouth Automobile, '34 model, 2 door coach, in A-1 condition, [illegible] fair tires. Also Hupmobile Coach.

MISCELLANEOUS

Set of work harness, like new; sausage grinder; lard press; [illegible] drum; DeLaval cream seperator; Iowa cream seperator, both in [illegible] condition; 2 incubators, 180 egg size; pitch forks; single trees; d[illegible] trees; many other articles too numerous to mention.

Some Household Furniture including some Antique Dishes.

TERMS—CASH.

Mrs. Catherine E. Bu[illegible]

Administratrix.

Clerk—Verlin Burk.
Auctioneers—Lester W. "Bud" Suman, phone 6761, Decatur.
Donald S. Blair, phone 21, Petroleum.

BOB HAWK, radio quiz master and comedian, thinks what a marvelous Christmas gift beautiful Lynn Gardner, his vocalist, would make for some lonely GI overseas, however — and unfortunately — Lynn wouldn't fit into the regulation-size box for sending gifts to overseas servicemen. Bob holds a correct-size box which, when filled, must not weigh over five pounds. (International)

PUBLIC SALE

REAL ESTATE

80-ACRE FARM AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

I, the undersigned, am quitting farming and will sell my 80-[illegible] farm and personal property at public auction, located 1 mile north [illegible] Bluffton, Ind., on State Road No. 1, then ¾ mile east, on

Monday, Sept. 18, 1944

Sale Starting 10:30 A. M.

REAL ESTATE

This is a good 80-acre farm, good producing soil, mostly all bl[illegible] land, located close to Bluffton, Ind. The fences are good line fe[illegible] about new. The farm is all under cultivation except 3 acres of w[illegible] and pasture, nice orchard, good drilled well, and a good water sys[illegible] electric lights in all buildings.

IMPROVEMENTS

Good 8-room house—this house is all modern, 5 rooms and b[illegible] room down stairs, 3 rooms up. All modern kitchen with nice built[illegible] cabinets, furnace with blower, thermastatically controlled, just 1 y[illegible] old, large basement, french doors, open stair way, lot of nice shrubb[illegible] in yard. Barn, 36x72. Poultry house, 40x20. Corn crib and tool sh[illegible] 30x18. Cement block milk house, brooder house.

TERMS: $1,000 cash on day of sale, balance down to mortg[illegible] when deed and abstract is delivered. $5,000 mortgage can be assum[illegible] or paid. Possession will be given on or before Jan. 1, 1945.

FARM MACHINERY, TRACTOR AND MISCELLANEOUS

Minneapolis Moline tractor and cultivator; 8-ft. McCormick-Deering tractor disc; 14-in. Little Genius tractor plow; new 13 hole John Deere Van Brunt drill with grass seed and fertilizer attachment; Rock Island side delivery; Moline hay loader; 5-ft. Bradley mower; [illegible] seeder; 4-section spike tooth harrow; Emerson manure spreader; [illegible] New Idea 4 wheel wagon with grain bed, good rubber; new 2 wheel trailer with grain bed and stock rack; 1 wagon box; new 12x16 brooder house; 1 oil brooder stove; metal chicken feeders, 5x8 ft.; water fountains; hog feeders; hog fountain; oil drum, 50 gal.; Prime electric fence; 27 rods woven wire fense, new; steel posts, new; fence stretcher; hay rope; Lantz hay fork; grindstone.

ONE COW

One Jersey cow, 7 years old, fresh.

POULTRY

240 Leghorn pullets, now laying 60 percent.

FEED

150 bu. good Columbia oats; 24 acres corn in field; few bales h[illegible]

TERMS—CASH

Alvin Honegger, Owne[illegible]

Ellenberger Bros., Auctioneers.
Amos Gerber, Clerk.

U.S. NAVY STRIKES SMASHING BLOW AT SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

U.S. WARSHIPS AND CARRIER-BASED PLANES have struck a smashing blow at the Japanese-held Philippine islands with an assault on Mindanao island, second in size to Luzon and about equal in area to the state of Indiana. A total of 89 Jap cargo ships and sampans and at least 68 Jap planes were destroyed or damaged in the smash at the southern Philippines. Five Jap airfields were hit including those at Del Monte, Valencia, Cagayan, Busayan and at Davao. Mindanao is located on the maps above. The picture shows a northern settlement on Mindanao island and will give you some idea of the difficult terrain of the area.