

## New Castle Man Convicted Of Slaying Wife

NEW CASTLE, Ind. (UPI)—A 12-man Henry County Circuit jury Monday night found New Castle barber Warren H. Byrd, 36, guilty of first degree murder in the March 12 arsenic poison death of his wife.

The verdict in the 4-week-long trial came after four hours and 35 minutes of deliberation and stunned the more than 200 persons packed into the stuffy courtroom. The jury recommended life imprisonment.

When announced there was a loud cry of "Oh no!" from Byrd's daughter, Linda, 14, who sobbed openly. Byrd, who previously stated he didn't have anything to worry about because "God is on my side," stood with his head bowed and gave no outward sign of emotion.

Byrd's son, John, 16, and his mother, Mrs. Mary E. Byrd, also were in the courtroom. Mrs. Byrd wept.

Judge Wesley W. Ratliff said he would sentence the handsome barbers Friday and Henry County Sheriff Warren H. Davis said Byrd would be taken to the Indiana State Prison at Michigan City either Monday or Tuesday.

**Possible Appeal**

Indications were Byrd's attorneys, Clarence Benadum of Muncie and Lois Green of New Castle, would file an appeal for a new trial, according to Davis. Benadum was not present when the verdict was read, but Green rushed to a phone and apparently called him with the decision, he said.

Byrd was arrested three hours after the burial of his second wife, Lois, 33, and was subsequently charged with her death. He also faces a first degree murder indictment in the death of his first wife, Loretta, in 1959.

The body of Loretta Byrd was exhumed following the death of Lois, and authorities said tests indicated she also had died from arsenic poisoning.

After the jury foreman read the verdict, a group of Byrd's friends crowded around him. But sheriff's deputies quickly ushered him out of the courtroom.

Davis said late Monday night several hours after Byrd was returned to his cell that "he hasn't said word since the jury came in."

Davis said Byrd was "a good prisoner and reads most of the time. But," he said, "he's like a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

"One minute he is very religious acting, and the next he's just filthy," Davis said. "It's like he

## ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY! AFTERNOON

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AMERICA'S SECOND LARGEST  
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2:30 P.M.  
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## Local Aviatrix In Powder Puff Derby

Mrs. Josephine Richardson, operator of the Decatur Hi-Way Airport, east of Decatur, with her husband, A. W. Richardson, will compete again this year in the Powder Puff derby for women pilots of the United States.

Mrs. Richardson will be flying solo in this year's derby, the second time she competed in the cross-country flight. She will be flying a 1955 Cessna, under sponsorship of the airport.

The Decatur aviatrix, who has logged 1,200 hours of flights, is a member of the Flying Farmers of Indiana and the National Flying Farmers.

A week ago Sunday, Mrs. Richardson competed in the 12th annual air meet at DuPage county Airport at West Chicago, Ill., and finished second in the cross country race. Virginia Coffey of Lockport, Ill., was her co-pilot in the event which had 30 women competing.

**Indiana Entrants**

Other Indiana entrants in the Powder Puff derby include: Helen Graham and Pat Patterson, Indianapolis; Ethel Knuth and Delta Sanders, Indianapolis; Margaret Ringen and Berta Marolf of Grinnell; Margaret Petty of Muncie and Jill McCormick of Lafayette; Sophia Paton and Rae Cawell of Indianapolis.

The 15th annual Power Puff derby will get underway Saturday, July 8, with nearly 100 airplanes taking off from Montgomery field, San Diego, Calif.

Flying during the race will be during daylight hours and under FAA visual flight rules only. The



Josephine Richardson

deadline to cross the finish line at Atlantic City, N. J., will be 1 p.m. EDT Wednesday, July 12.

The race course of 2,700 statute miles will cover a route via Yuma and Tucson, Ariz., El Paso, Midland, Abilene and Dallas, Tex., Shreveport, La., Jackson, Miss., Montgomery, Ala., Greenville, S. C., Lynchburg, Va., and Hagerstown, Md.

A purse of \$2,500 will go to the five top winners, the pilot and co-pilot each receiving attractive trophies as well. Additional awards will be given for the best score made by each "class" or airplane, for the best score on different "legs" of the race and also for many special categories.

**"Love Potion" Fatal**

Lois Byrd's mother testified that Byrd had given her daughter a malted in that cup when she was ill at her parents' home.

During his closing arguments, Henry County Prosecutor Dwight S. Beckner told the jury "your conscience will hurt you until the last day of your life if you do not bring in a guilty verdict."

"Do not put this man back on the street with his charm," he said, apparently referring to the cup Byrd gave to Lois which Beckner termed as a "token of love that contained a potion of death."

Green, in his final statement, said "nowhere has the state presented any indication of malice. The state is trying to make a mountain out of a molehill."

The prosecution concluded its case Friday and the defense presented its total case Monday.

Byrd, appearing relaxed and confident dressed neatly in a white shirt, took the stand in his own defense Monday and said he was willing to take a lie detector test to prove his innocence.

### Agreed To Test

Davis said this was contrary to his earlier decision that he would not submit to a lie test. But Byrd said he would take the test to prove "I never gave arsenic to my wife or anybody in my life."

During the 30 minutes he was on the stand, he told of his great affection for his second wife. "All my life, dreams and hopes left me when Lois died," he said in a broken voice. He said they often walked hand-in-hand in public and that he was devoted to her.

Lois was buried in a New Castle cemetery, an empty grave away from Loretta. Byrd said the middle plot was for him. He said before the death of Lois, she told him she would "meet him in Heaven."

During the course of the trial the prosecution produced a bottle labeled "poison" which was found behind the furnace in Byrd's home. It was found among 10 or 12 other bottles and was the only one without dust, ashes or soot on it, according to the testimony. The bottle allegedly contained arsenic.

Byrd claimed he never purchased any arsenic "to my knowledge." But under cross-examination he admitted he had bought some ant poison which may have contained arsenic.

Also introduced into evidence was a cup which Lois Byrd allegedly drank from shortly before she died. Dr. Robert Forney, Indianapolis, state toxicologist, testified that the cup had traces of arsenic poison.

Forney also testified that Lois Byrd's body tissues bore up to 100 times the normal amount of arsenic.

## DRIVE IN

TONIGHT,  
WED. & THURS.

STORMING THE  
BATTLEMENTS  
OF LOVE  
AND WAR!  
KEIRIN TINA  
MATHEWS-LOUISE  
THE WARRIOR  
EMPEROR.  
COLUMBIA PICTURES  
PRESENTS  
CHAS. EASTMAN COLOR

PLUS—"THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE"  
Atomic Fall-Out Makes Him a Living Bomb—It's Fantastic!  
Coming Sun.—ELVIS PRESLEY, "Wild in the Country" Color.

## Former Decatur Man Is Held In Wyoming

John Lough, about 25, a former resident of Decatur, is in the custody of F. B. I. authorities in Wyoming, it was learned from the Indiana state police this morning.

Lough has been held for about three days, charged with the Dyer act, transporting stolen vehicles across a state line.

## Michigan City Man Is Named Manager

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI)—The appointment of Vernon C. Jacks, Michigan City, as manager of the Dunes Park hotel and pavilion was announced today by Indiana conservation director Donald E. Foltz.

Jacks was chosen to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Ted Peters of Gary after he was identified as a reluctant witness before a Senate rackets committee hearing on Lake County gambling in 1959.

## 45 Motor Vehicles Employes Dropped

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI)—Indiana Motor Vehicles Bureau commissioner Alva H. Brewer today announced the discharge of 45 employees at the end of this month and said they were all Democrats.

Brewer said the action was taken, effective June 30, in compliance with Democratic Governor Welsh's request for a five per cent reduction in personnel as an economy move.

## Statement of Condition of the SECURITY LIFE AND ACCIDENT COMPANY

BOSTON, MASS.—(UPI)—On the 31st day of December, 1960, BYRON K. ELLIOT, President GERHARD D. BLEICKEN, Secretary Amount of Capital paid up to May 31, 1961 \$ 0 ASSETS OF COMPANY Bonds (Schedule D) \$ 3,703,977,269.46 Stocks (Schedule D) \$ 348,169,597.36 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate (Schedule B) \$ 1,564,955,947.57 Real Estate (Schedule C) \$ 103,301,822.03 Premium Notes \$ 194,350,858.09 Collateral Notes \$ 0 Agents' balances or uncollected premiums \$ 87,378,996.23 Other assets \$ 81,857,057.33 Total Assets \$ 6,127,322,504.45 LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS Aggregate reserve for life policies and contracts \$ 1,773,994,809.00 Aggregate reserve for accident and health policies \$ 18,151,519.00 Supplementary contracts for life policies and contracts \$ 164,847,067.00 Policy and contract claims—Life \$ 18,843,954.98 Accident and Health \$ 9,619,318.00 Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued \$ 25,197,511.00 All other Liabilities \$ 581,057,747.70 Total Liabilities \$ 5,591,711,956.68 Contingency Reserve \$ 23,815,000.00 Contingency Reserve for Fluctuation in Value \$ 64,400,000.00 Special Surplus \$ 0 Capital Paid up or Statutory Deposit \$ 0 Unassigned Funds \$ 447,395,547.77 Surplus as regards Policyholders \$ 325,610,547.77 Total \$ 6,127,322,504.45 STATE OF INDIANA, Office of Insurance Commissioner I, the undersigned, Insurance Commissioner of Indiana, hereby certify that the above is a correct copy of the Statement of the Condition of the above mentioned Company on the 31st day of December, 1960, as shown on the original statement and that the said original statement is now on file in this office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix my official seal, this May 15, 1961.

SEAL Harry E. McClain, Insurance Commissioner June 20, 1961.

Harry E. McClain, Insurance Commissioner June 20, 1961.

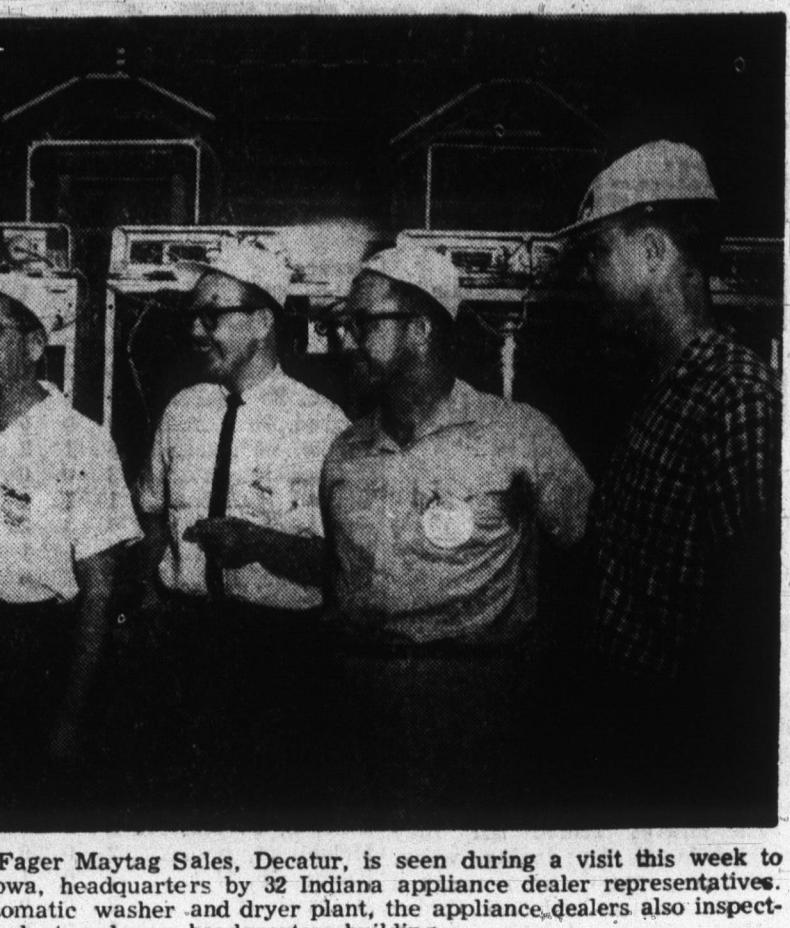
## Diane Franz First In Reading Program

Dianne Franz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Franz, who reside at 803 N. Third street, was the first young reader to complete 12 books in the summer reading program at the public library. She will be a third grade pupil at Northwest elementary school this fall. Six others also completed the first step in the reading program Monday. They are Carol, Dennis, and Joan Shady, Margaret Smith, Sandra Andrews, and Stephanie Sutton.

In keeping with the 125th anniversary of Adams county, a flag is placed on a township as soon as one book is completed. The next goal is to place stars on towns, earned at the rate of one star for every five books read.

A total of 654 youngsters, ranging from preschoolers to eighth graders, have enrolled for the program, which this year stresses quality rather than quantity. Although the enrollment number is lower than in previous years, a larger percentage of children has started to read than ever before, in the 12-year history of the program. The summer reading extends until August 31.

**DECATUR**



RAY FAGER (second from left) of Fager Maytag Sales, Decatur, is seen during a visit this week to the Maytag company's Newton, Iowa, headquarters by 32 Indiana appliance dealer representatives. Shown touring the company's automatic washer and dryer plant, the appliance dealers also inspected the company's wringer washer plant and new headquarters building.

## New Storage Chests

(Continued from page one)

10 feet of water. One body was found about 70 yards away, the other two closer.

Mrs. Bodiman told authorities she was the only person in the boat who could swim. Her daughter had been with them, but refused to go boating. She said the

boat sprung a leak in the bottom and went down quickly. Authorities, however, stated it appeared that the boat had overturned. There was no trace of a leak in the boat when it was found. It appeared that two of the men had gone swimming, as the bodies of Bell and Thomason were nude when found.

## MICHIGAN

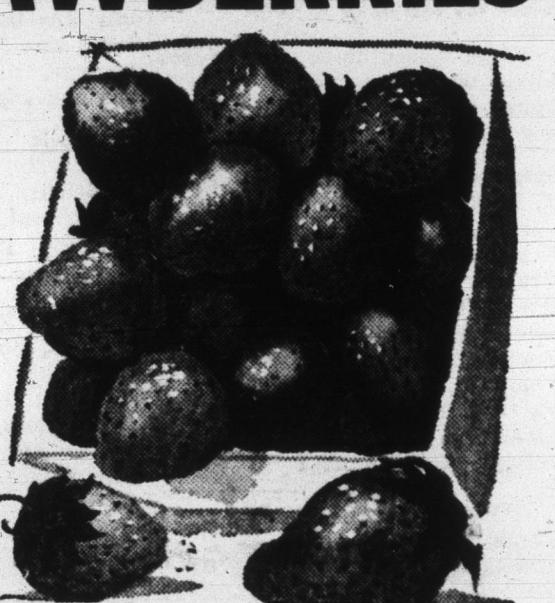
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\*Price comparisons based on manufacturers' suggested factory delivered prices.

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