

'VIRGINS' AT SHILOH TELL JUDGE 'HOUSE OF DAVID' SECRETS

USE OF SCHOOLS IN GOOD WILL RACE IS UNDER BOARD'S EYE

Officials Investigate Rumors Children Were 'Exploited' in Activity of Contest.

Investigation of the manner in which the recent Good Will contest to raise funds for devastated France and select representatives from Indianapolis to visit France was conducted in the public schools of the city will be made by E. U. Graft, superintendent.

The investigation was ordered by the school board Tuesday night after a heated debate. Adolph Emhardt, Dr. Marie Haspel and Bert S. Gadd voted in favor of the investigation, while Charles L. Barry and W. D. Allison opposed.

Complaints have been received, Emhardt said, that school children were solicited to purchase tickets for various entertainments for the fund in violation of rules of the board.

Reflection on Teachers

Barry insisted the investigation would be an unjustified reflection upon teachers.

"They went into this contest from patriotic motives," he said. "Rumors that rules were broken arose in quarters opposed to the drive. There was no evidence to show rules were violated, much less that the method of conducting the campaign," Emhardt answered. "If the rules of the board were violated the board ought to know."

Poppy Sales Refused

Permission to have high school pupils sell poppies for benefit of the disabled service men May 24-26 was denied by the board on the ground it would be a violation of the same rule.

Permission was asked by Frank E. Livingston, State commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The vote on this was also three to two, Barry and Allison voting aye.

"This puts the board members in an embarrassing position," Gadd said. "But to grant the request would be opening the way to a flood of similar requests."

"The action is a disgrace to the board," Allison declared after the vote was announced.

School Plans Ordered

Further steps toward inaugurating a school building program for new school buildings and additions and improvements at nine buildings were taken. Estimated cost of the work will be \$1,493,265.88. Preliminary plans and estimates were approved and the architects were instructed to prepare complete specifications and working plans.

That the State tax board will withdraw its opposition which resulted in bringing the last building program to a standstill two years ago was indicated by Jacob H. Hilkene, inspector of construction.

Pay Discontinued

Miss Alice Cullen, school teacher, one of the successful candidates in the Good Will contest will not receive her salary as teacher while in France. The board unanimously voted to discontinue her salary during her absence after an opinion had been received from Frank B. Ross, attorney for the board, that the salary could not legally be paid.

DAVIS TO ASSUME DUTIES ON JUNE 1

New Head of Water Company Has Engineering Record.

Carleton E. Davis of Philadelphia, new general manager of the Indianapolis Water Company, will arrive in Indianapolis about June 1 to take up his work. It was announced today.

Davis will succeed Clarence L. Kirk, who recently resigned as general manager of the water company to become head of the Citizens Gas Company.

For the last eleven years he has been general manager of the water company at Philadelphia.

Davis is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, receiving his degree in 1893.

He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Engineers Club of New York and Philadelphia, and of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

MARC PLAYED HOOKEY SO ABE BROKE PARTNERSHIP

Inside of Klaw & Erlanger Split Is Told in Court Action for \$270,000 Accounting.

NEW YORK, April 25.—The main reason why Marc Klaw and Abe Erlanger broke up their big theatrical booking and backing partnership was, according to the unhappy Abe himself, that Marc used to play hookey from the office and leave him to do the work.

Broadway had waited a long time to hear the "inside" of the bust-up which parted the two famous monarchs of the American theatrical box-office. They seemed to be an institution like ham and eggs, chills and fever or frank and earnest. Then suddenly, a few seasons back, they split.

Erlanger took the stand in the Supreme Court, here Tuesday to

Jewish Colony Completes English Study



IMPROVEMENTS ON OHIO RIVER TO BE RUSHED BY ARMY

Allotment of \$5,375,000 Made for Work by War Department.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—Improvements on the Ohio River will be rushed by Army engineers, President Harding and Secretary Weeks decided today.

Brigadier General Taylor, assistant chief of Army engineers announced a minimum of \$5,375,000 had been allotted for the Ohio River. Five million is to be used for the lock and dam work and \$375,000 for open channel improvement.

In addition an allotment of \$350,000 has been made out of a balance from last year's appropriations.

"If weather conditions permit, a sum greatly exceeding the \$5,375,000 will be spent on the Ohio this year," General Taylor said.

"This work is to be pushed with all possible speed and we are hopeful weather will be favorable in order that at least seven million dollars can be used on the river from Pittsburgh to Cairo."

Army engineers have allotted, and Secretary Weeks has approved, \$40,000,000 of the \$56,000,000 authorized by Congress for river and harbor improvement.

The War Department is determined to make the Ohio River a real artery of transportation.

Allotment of \$217,000 was made for Indiana Harbor, \$23,800 for Michigan City harbor and \$160,000 for Calumet harbor.

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CABARET 'SHEIK' HUNTED IN WEST AS EMBEZZLER

Model Cashier Charged With Theft of \$75,000 of Firm's Money.

CHICAGO, April 25.—Ernest B. Schwab, model cashier by day and alleged cabaret habitué, sheik and "Prince of Spenders" by night, was sought throughout the West today on embezzlement charges involving \$75,000.

Abraham Warsaw, president of the Weedon Silica Company, one of the four firms for which Schwab acted as cashier, swore out a warrant for the fugitive after an initial shortage of \$18,000 was discovered.

Detectives declared Schwab was known as the "sheik of the bright-light district."

Schwab disappeared April 5, his employers believing he had gone on a vacation. His accounts in the Weedon Silica Company and the three other firms in the same suite of offices were checked after it was said at his home that his wife had gone with her two children to California.

Pinkerton operatives announced they traced the cashier as far as Memphis, where, they assert, he was seen frequently about night cafes with a pretty woman.

From Memphis, the operatives believe, the trail leads to California.

Accessories Missing

W. G. Williams, 1931 S. West St., reported to police his motorcar valued at \$15 is missing. S. L. Lloyd, 1336 Keating Ave., said his motorcar, tire and spot light were stolen.

The hi-jackers intercepted Herman Diekhoner, watchman, on his regular beat, and hid him up in the warehouse, captured and bound John Rosenthal, watchman of an adjoining firm, and then consumed three hours in loading the whisky on a truck.

Diekhoner, who freed himself this morning, told police the men drove away in the truck shortly before 5 a. m. The leader of the bandits, he said, wore a blue uniform with brass buttons and a patrolman's cap.

The warehouse, now under Government supervision, was formerly the Garrett & Co. wine dealers, storage house.

Fifty Barrels of Whisky, Valued at \$10,000, Stolen.

ST. LOUIS, April 25.—Seven bandits, their leader disguised as a policeman, early today raided a Government warehouse here, bound and gagged two watchmen, and escaped with fifty barrels of bonded whisky, valued at approximately \$10,000.

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'Baby Brides' and Juvenile Husbands Declare 'King' Benjamin Is Clean and Moral Leader of Colony at Benton Harbor.

By United Press. ST. JOSEPH, Mich., April 25.—A score of children, legally married under civil law, but whose religion teaches they must never live as man and wife, today told inner secrets of the "House of David."

Boys with long hair covering their shoulders and a white fuzz as the only proof they abided by the cult's orders against shaving, admitted to Judge Harry J. Dingeman, conducting a "one man" grand jury investigation, that they were not celibate husbands as required by the cult's teachings.

Girls, confessed they did not observe the regulations of purity either before or after marriage.

All, however, denied any wrong on the part of "King" Benjamin Purnell, ruler of the colony, who styles himself the "seventh angel, the young brother of Jesus Christ and the immortal Prophet."

Instances of transgressions of the rules of the colony were declared by witnesses to be isolated instances and not in any manner connected with its teachings or ceremonies.

Playing together in an outer room of the city hall council chamber, the boys and girls gave the appearance of any other normal group of school children, with the exception of queer costumes.

Boys Carry Bibles

Boys carried Bibles under their arms and quoted texts to support teachings of their cult with the utmost facility. All wore long trousers, although many appeared around 14 years of age and were still in the awkward stage. Voices switched from high to low as they talked.

The entire group had been married in one wholesale ceremony last week. Although applications for wedding licenses stated all were over the 16 years required by Michigan law, several appearing before the inquisition have admitted more tender years.

Andrew Dougherty, attorney general for Michigan, conducting the questioning of witnesses, is seeking to determine truth of charges brought in civil suits that leaders of the colony, after "using" the girls for their own purposes, marry them to hand-picked husbands in order to protect themselves against prosecution.

One girl witness was asked by Judge Dingeman:

"Have you abided by the rules and had no relations with your husband?"

"No," she answered.

"Did you break the rule of virginity before your marriage?"

"Yes."

Other girls who contended they had observed the rules may be examined by State physicians.

Teachings Are Observed

From the testimony, the following facts regarding the history and teachings of the House of David were learned by the investigators:

The colony, owning some of the richest farm lands in Berrien County, has its headquarters on the outskirts of Benton Harbor.

The 800 members live in three huge buildings—Bethlehem, houses, the women, Jerusalem, the men, and Shiloh, "King" Benjamin and his retinue.

The House of David code has provided for marriages among its children since 1910, but decrees that until the "gathering of the colony from the four corners of the world is complete and the blood of the children of Israel is cleansed of inherited sin, there must be no marital relations—no children."

As far as known children have never been born in the colony.

Most of the time of the colony workers is spent on the large farms, which produce most of the income for the upkeep of the organization.

Owens Lumber Camp.

The House of David also owns High Island, a lumber camp in Lake Michigan, which has been a fruitful source

of revenue. When punished some members are sent to the island.

A baseball team, which despite whiskers and long hair is one of the crack amateur clubs of the Mid-West, also produces considerable money for the upkeep of the colony.

All revenue goes to the colony leaders, the "seven pillars" and the workers take no wages—being given only their board and lodging.

John R. Tucker, looking more like a girl, with hair down his back in two braids, than his child wife Rosa, stoutly defended the name of Benjamin. John said he was 19, but his chin didn't even show fuzz. Rosa claimed she was 17, but school records say she is 15.

"The king is clean," John and Rosa both declared before the investigators.

THINKS "KING" IS DEAD

Elijah Purnell Says Has Not Heard From Benjamin Since January.

By United Press. NEWCASTLE, Ind., April 25.—Belief that Benjamin Purnell, head of the House of David at Benton Harbor, Mich., is dead was expressed today by Elijah Purnell, a brother of "King" Benjamin.

Benjamin has not heard from his brother directly since the first of the year, he said. "Queen" Mary, wife of Benjamin, wrote in January that the "King" had had an attack of influenza and was traveling for his health.

Elijah owns a small grocery store here.

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He's New Manager of Local Water Co.



CARLETON E. DAVIS

The new general manager of the Indianapolis Water Company, Carleton E. Davis, of Philadelphia, will take charge June 1.

At Twelfth and Lafayette Sts. a woman leaped from the automobile as it turned the corner. Police continued to follow the speeding automobile. The car turned at an alley near Twelfth and West Sts., and collided with a shed.

The driver, a colored man, jumped out of the wrecked automobile and huddled a fence. Four policemen jumped the fence