



The Indianapolis Times

HOME

Unsettled tonight, with lowest temperatures from 30 to 35. Wednesday cloudy and somewhat colder.

VOLUME 39—NUMBER 252

INDIANAPOLIS, TUESDAY, FEB. 28, 1928

Entered as Second-Class Matter at Postoffice, Indianapolis

TWO CENTS

Outside Marion County 3 Cents

STEVE READY TO HURL BANK GRAF BOMBS

Lifer to Face Grand Jury in Kokomo, in Inquiry of Financial Crash.

M'CRAY MAY BE CALLED

Sensational Disclosures to Involve 20 Officials, Prisoner-Hints.

BY CHARLES C. CARL
Times Staff Correspondent
KOKOMO, Ind., Feb. 28.—D. C. Stephenson, former Indiana Klan leader, came from the Indiana State Prison once again today to tell more of what he claims to know about various phases of Indiana political corruption.

Former Governor Warren T. McCray and Robert Bracken, Indianapolis, former State auditor, may be witnesses before the end of the week, it was reported.

This time Stephenson is to tell the Howard County grand jury an "amazing tale of banking intrigue," as part of the jury's probe into affairs of the defunct American Trust Company here.

Stephenson and his guards arrived early this afternoon. Prosecutor Homer Miller said he may not be interviewed until Wednesday. The prisoner will be kept in the Howard County jail.

Attorneys Wait Arrival

His local attorney, Olin R. Holt, also a Democratic candidate for Governor, and Lloyd O. Hill, his Indianapolis attorney, awaited his arrival at the city building, where the court sessions are being held while a new courthouse is being planned.

A writ from the court of Judge John Marshall served on prison officials and that is what brings Stephenson here.

Despite the orders of the court that no word shall get out about witnesses, the town is awaiting for Stephenson. There was a current belief that Stephenson might refuse to testify, as he did in the trial of Governor Ed Jackson at Indianapolis less than two weeks ago. Holt and Hill announced they are ready to confer with the former Klan leader and say they will tell him to "tell all."

Promises Startling Story

Visited at his cell several weeks ago by Howard County Prosecutor Homer R. Miller and Grover Bishop, one of the trust company receivers, Stephenson said he would tell the names of at least twenty public officials who he said were implicated in State-wide banking corruption.

When Stephenson gets here he will be rushed to the city building and into a six by fifteen library that is being used as the grand jury room. There he will be asked questions that may bring Howard County ahead of Marion as a probe center.

In the stuffy, book-lined room, the former Klan power will face the five men, one woman, the prosecutor and the official reporter. He will be placed with his back to a window facing the side of the Elks' Club and talk down the narrow table to the jurors. Miller will sit at the other end and file questions.

Great Secrecy Maintained

While all this goes on, the jury door will be locked tight from the outside and Bailiff Jack Burrows will exercise care that no one violates the court order.

The American Trust Company failed here last September. It was a Klan bank and W. H. Arnold, former president, is now avoiding extradition in Florida.

Eleven persons, including Thomas D. Barr and Luther Symons, State banking commissioners, and Ora Davies, former State treasurer, have been indicted.

Barr and Symons are alleged to have known of the bank's condition and failed to report it, while Davies is alleged to have received one per cent on State's funds deposited in the bank.

Stephenson entered the case when receivers found out that he had \$30,000 in cashiers' checks made out to him. Stephenson admitted in his cell that part of them were legitimate and the rest "graft."

Checks Payable to Barr

The receivers say they also learned that \$5,000 in checks were made payable to Thomas D. Barr Jr., whose mother, wife of the deputy bank examiner, was State organizer of the Kamelia, Klan auxiliary.

The Klan still is considered a political power here and plenty of persons are waiting the chance to see the lifer. Several have expressed the desire to be informed, when he comes, because "we want a look at him."

Stephenson last appeared here when he addressed a local club on "Good Citizenship" a few weeks before he was arrested for the murder of Madge Oberholzer.

In July, 1923, he and Court Asher, former lieutenant, zoomed out of the skies in a glided airplane before a crowd estimated at 100,000, composing the largest Klan meeting ever held.

At that time he was "crowned" grand dragon of the Indiana Klan and was garbed in purple robes.

Hourly Temperatures

6 a. m.	29	10 a. m.	38
7 a. m.	30	11 a. m.	41
8 a. m.	31	12 (noon)	44
9 a. m.	34	1 p. m.	45

'Sa Fact!

Texas Man Defense Toad That Slept 31 Years, Came Out for Hoover.

"I'M FROM TEXAS! Meet the horned toad—"

And Dr. H. B. Tanner of Eastland, Texas, "the town that made the horned toad famous," shows under your nose a postcard photo of the horned toad—

"The toad," he declares with conviction, "that slept in a musty corner stone thirty-one years and then came out for Hoover."

"The toad," he continues with increasing fervor, "that rocked the world! That unwittingly brought aspersions of dishonesty and untruthfulness against a judge, three Methodist preachers and twenty or thirty of Eastland's 'best citizens' who saw the disinterment!"

DR. TANNER was in Indianapolis today to attend a reunion with four others of a graduating class of the old Indiana Medical College. Fifty years ago he and his classmates, never reunited until today, proudly received their sheepskins at graduation ceremonies in the old Dickinson's Grand Opera House, where B. F. Keith's Theater now stands.

"Well, sir," said Dr. Tanner, under the skeptical jibes of his 70-year-old classmates, "I came back here to talk of old times, and I've talked of nothing but horned toads."

"If horned toads is to be the subject of this half-century old memory clinic, then I'm prepared for my subject."

"It makes me hot around the collar the way these skeptics scoff at that horned-toad resurrection. Now, I was there. I wasn't, you might say, just standing over the box, but I was in sight of it."

"Judge Pritchard—and there also a more upstanding, moral man in Texas—look of the lid and lifted out the Bible first. Three Methodist preachers were looking over his shoulder. Preachers don't always tell the truth, but I believe these did. There was Mr. Toad, still sleeping soundly, but apparently hale and hearty."

"WERE you there when they sealed the toad up thirty-one years ago?" some one dared to ask.

"Hell, no!" was the Texan's rejoinder. "I've only lived in Texas ten years and what's ten years to a horned toad?"

"Any jury would say that toad was there and had been there thirty years, upon a 'preponderance of evidence.'"

"Now there's a toad among toads," declared the doctor, rising to the enthusiasm of his eulogy. "A toad so supremely satisfied with Texan citizenship that his slumber was untroubled. A toad that does credit to that vast sovereign State of Texas, where men are men and toads are lizards. A toad that—"

"Dr. Tanner," some one interrupted. "I want you to meet—"

"Tanner's my name," the Eastlander resumed. "I'm from Texas! I was just speaking of that horned toad. Now there's a toad that—"

Autoized Frog

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 28.—Minnesota pooh-poohed today at Texas' claims to eminence because of its horned toads which live in tombs without food or water.

Minnesota boasted the world's champion modernized, motorized amphibian, a frog which—it was alleged—lived for months imprisoned in the transmission of an automobile, preserved so well in oil—it was said—that when rescued he was in perfect health.

Don Ozga was responsible for Minnesota's claims. His car worked jerkily, not to say jumpy. He investigated, and discovered the frog.

Not since last summer, said Ozga, has a frog been near his automobile.

Minnesota also is the home of the world's chewing gum champion, the world's coffee drinking champion, and the world's sauerkraut eating champion.

LOCKHART COMING HERE

Injured Race Driver Will Arrive Wednesday.

Frank Lockhart, race driver, injured when his Stutz super-special plunged into the sea at Daytona Beach, Fla., last week, will return to Indianapolis Wednesday morning. Stutz factory officials will welcome him. Lockhart still carries his arm and chest bandaged.

CHARLES BRYAN TO RUN

Agrees to Seek Nomination for Governor of Nebraska.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 28.—Charles W. Bryan today agreed to seek the Nebraska gubernatorial nomination on the Democratic ticket.

Bryan said he had "reluctantly accepted the fling for Governor made for me by taxpayers."

'BONE DRY' IS ANTI-SALOON PLANK EDICT

No Compromise Is Ultimatum of Prohibition Forces to Both Parties.

DEMAND POSITIVE STAND

Delegates From 31 Groups Agree to Fight Any Hedging on Issues.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Representatives of thirty-one organizations headed by the Anti-Saloon League and the Methodist Temperance Board met here today to unite in telling the Republican and Democratic parties this:

"You must either write bone-dry planks in your platform this year or suffer our opposition."

It was planned also to submit notice to both parties that not only their presidential candidates as well, must be dry, so that neither group might attempt an "on the fence" ticket of a dry for President and a wet for vice president.

Deeds Pickett of the Methodist Temperance Board was in the chair as the meeting opened. He recently urged church men to support the dry declarations because, he warned, if one party writes a wet plank or nominates a wet, and the other party hedges on the question, the wet party will win.

Various of the thirty-one organizations represented today already have passed resolutions demanding dry planks. But the resolutions differed in wording, and leaders suggested thirty-one hard blows on the same spot until the iron is hot.

Pickett sounded the keynote of the gathering by declaring the friends of prohibition "demand positive declarations" on the dry issue in party platforms.

Addressing the more than 400 present, Pickett declared the drys "will strive to defeat office seekers who are either negative or silent."

"We call upon the American people to repudiate all State and national party platforms that deal only in glittering generalities with law enforcement. We will oppose and vote against candidates in all parties whose promises are fair and dry, but whose official performances are wet."

Dr. Clarence True Wilson of the Methodist Temperance board launched what was regarded as a veiled attack against the candidacy of Al Smith, without mentioning Smith by name, because, he said, "to attack this man or any candidate openly might lead to greater support from the opposition."

OVERCOME BY CAR GAS

Lawrence Rose Found Unconscious in Garage.

LAWRENCE ROSE, 35, of 340 N. Noble St., was overcome by monoxide gas from the motor of his car left running in a closed garage at his home Monday night. Found unconscious by relatives, he was revived.

Inspector Dies From Wounds

EL PASO, Texas, Feb. 28.—Steve S. Dawson, United States customs inspector, died today from gunshot wounds inflicted in a battle with Mexican rum smugglers.

BRIBE TRIALS FOR COUNCILMEN SET

Trials of the six Indianapolis councilmen charged with bribery will start on March 15, with the trial of Walter Dorsett; March 20, Marion Frankfort, Indianapolis real estate dealer, included in the bribery charges; April 9, Councilman Otis E. Bartholomew; April 16, Councilman Edward W. Ferguson, and April 23, Councilman Claude E. Negley.

Motion to quash was overruled in Negley's case this morning and the judge gave his attorney, Clinton H. Givan, until Saturday to file plea in abatement, which has not yet been done in this instance. The April 23 date remained tentative.

Similar pleas will be filed by Todd's attorneys, and if overruled he will be tried one week after the Negley date.

WEATHER MAN HINTS THAT WINTER IS AT END

SPRING is here.

Listen closely and you can hear the little birdies twittering and twittering in the trees as the warm zephyrs rustle through the twigs.

The old swimming hole is warming up. It's darned near time to hock the winter overcoat, darn up the swimming regalia, rustle up a new straw hat, and burn the derby.

Spring officially arrives here at 2:45 a. m. March 20.

But, according to Weatherman J. H. Armington, it's practically here already.

Or, rather, to be exact, the chances are slim, very slim, that Indianapolis will have any more

Rhapsody

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—As the strains of Liszt's "Second Rhapsody" echoed through Keith's Theater here last night a well dressed man of about 35 leaped to his feet and beat his chest with his hands.

Then he fell back in a faint and was carried out. Spectators thought the plaintive music had been too much for him.

He died at a hospital after calling for a priest and announcing his name as "Hourahan."

ELEVEN INJURED IN SCHOOL BUS

Train Strikes Vehicle Near Rochester, Ind.

ROCHESTER, Ind., Feb. 28.—Ten children and a driver were injured near here today in a collision between an Erie railroad freight train and a loaded school bus. Two of the children were so badly hurt it is feared they will die.

Cleve Biddinger of Leiders Ford, bus driver, suffered scalp wounds. He was unable to explain the accident.

The most seriously hurt were Pearl Murray, 15, who suffered probable internal injuries and was cut about the head, and Omer Murray, 8, her brother, whose skull was believed fractured. The other children were cut and bruised. The bus was demolished.

Others injured were: Mary Jane Woolington, 10; Archie Woolington, 7; Bernice Butts, 16; Orville Butts, 14; Robert Butts, 10; Chester Bowser, 18; Donald Brugh, 13, and Joseph Bruch, 9.

They were brought to Woodlawn Hospital here on the two engines of the double header freight that hit the bus.

The crash hurled the bus thirty feet and turned it over, wrecking it.

BOGUS COPS SOUGHT

Bill Collectors Impersonate Policemen.

Bill collectors impersonating police officers and threatening persons with jail again are operating here, Police Chief Claude M. Worley learned today.

Two of them threatened Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Broadstreet, of 525 S. New Jersey St., and ran when police were called to investigate. They first came to her house last week. Mrs. Broadstreet said, and demanded that she pay a jewelry bill or go to jail.

She told them that she had paid the bill at the store and they asked a \$5 fee. She told them to return Monday night. They did and then demanded \$15.

When refused, they grabbed Broadstreet by the arm and said they were going to take him to jail. He called police.

English Lord Chancellor Ill

BATH, England, Feb. 28.—The lord chancellor, Viscount Cave, is seriously ill here of rheumatism. His condition today was said to be causing anxiety.

RUTH ELDER'S TRIAL OPENED IN DIXIE TOWN

Misconduct With Minister Is Charged Against Ocean Flier.

MAY FORFEIT HER BAIL

Dismissal of Case Seen; Accusation Is Four Years Old.

CLAYTON, Ga., Feb. 28.—Scores of curious living in this Georgia hill town congregated today about the Rabun County court house, where the case of Mrs. Claude Moody, better known as Ruth Elder, trans-Atlantic flier, vs. the State of Georgia was due to come up.

Peddled around from door to door for three years, the gossip story about a country school teacher's 17-year-old wife and a traveling evangelist appeared ready for hearing. A dismissal appeared certain.

Ruth Elder, now touring in vaudeville under \$500 bail, forfeits it by failing to appear for trial. The "American Girl" has not indicated to any attorneys here whether she would like to defend herself against the allegations or continue her tour minus \$500.

The four-year-old indictment against her of misconduct with Rev. Hubert Jenkins, was on the Superior Court docket today.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—Ruth Elder trans-Atlantic aviator, was afflicted with a throat and chest cold today and was under care of a physician.

Harry Reichenbach, her representative, told the United Press that Miss Elder's condition had improved since yesterday, however, and she soon would recover. It was hoped she could accept the invitation to appear in Albany Thursday and receive the medal of the Spanish Royal Air Legion, conferred by King Alfonso of Spain.

Plan Honor to Ruth

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 28.—Arrangements were made today for the legislative reception to Ruth Elder, aviator.

Word reached the Capitol today that Miss Elder officially would be presented with the Legion of Honor medal awarded her by King Alfonso of Spain in recognition of her flight over the Atlantic.

Presentation will be in the Senate Thursday by Senator J. Griswold Webb. Miss Elder will address the Senate on aviation legislation.

TESTIFIES REMUS INSANE

State Hospital Physician Says Madness Hereditary.

LIMA, Ohio, Feb. 28.—George Remus, former millionaire Cincinnati bootlegger, is insane, in the opinion of Dr. Kenneth L. Weer, assistant physician at the State Hospital for the Criminally Insane here.

Testifying in Remus' suit for a writ of habeas corpus in which he seeks his release from the asylum, Dr. Weer said Remus is what is known as a "borderline case," adding that his "insanity was hereditary."

"Remus is incoherent, illogical, unmoral and condones crime," he said.

TAKE ALLEGED BANDITS

Sleuths Get Drop on Two Men; Prevent Gun Battle.

Detectives Tuff and Jordan got the drop on two alleged robbers in the Western Union office, Guaranty Bldg., this afternoon and prevented the gun battle they had come prepared for.

The men arrested, giving names as M. W. Riley, 25, and Ralph Staker, 25, were wanted at Steubenville, Ohio on a robbery charge. Police had been advised the men would call at the telephone office for a large sum. Riley was armed when captured.

usually over here by Feb. 20. Only six times since 1872 has the temperature fallen to zero after Feb. 20.

But if this March is a typical March, all Indianapolis residents should buy raincoats and umbrellas and tie down all loose articles.

MARCH is the city's wettest and windiest month. On an average it rains once every three days in March. In the last fifty years 637 March days have had more than one-hundredth inch of rainfall. That is one-tenth of all the days in fifty years in which there has been that much rain.

SCHOOL BOARD'S SYSTEM OF BUYING HEAT PLANTS BRANDED GROSS ROBBERY

Likes His High Breeze



Steeplejack James P. Hutto (right, below) enjoyed the crisp breezes as he perched 160 feet above street level atop the cross of the tower of Central Ave. Methodist Church today. With his assistant, William P. Hoyt (right, inset above), he fastened the new copper, gilded casing of the cross in place. The cross formerly was glass covered and was lighted at night.

Love Theft Charges Hit Lillian Coogan

\$750,000 Suit Filed by Wife of Boy Screen Star's Manager Against Parent of Lad; Numerous Indiscretions Alleged in Mrs. Bernstein's Complaint.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 28.—Blase Hollywood, accustomed as it is to sensational movie colony divorce suits, gasped today upon learning of the charges contained in a \$750,000 allegation of affections suit filed against Mrs. Lillian Coogan, mother of Jackie Coogan, juvenile screen star.

Plaintiff in the action was Mrs. Carole Bernstein, wife of Arthur L. Bernstein, business manager of the Jackie Coogan Motion Picture Company.

At the same time Mrs. Coogan was named co-respondent in a divorce action which Mrs. Bernstein filed.

The two suits, filed simultaneously, contain almost identical charges, listed under the general charges of desertion and infidelity.

The first of a series of indiscretions which the suits allege were committed by Mrs. Coogan and Bernstein took place in San Mateo County in the fall of 1926, while the Jackie Coogan Company was filming a picture at Tanforan race track.

Mrs. Bernstein charged in both complaints that she saw her husband, clad only in pajamas, hugging and kissing Mrs. Coogan, who was attired in negligee.

Similar familiarities, the complaints alleged, took place in New York City on Dec. 1, 1926; aboard a Trans-Continental train between Los Angeles and Chicago, and Chicago and New York; in San Francisco on Dec. 12, 1926; at Mrs. Coogan's Hollywood home in September, 1927, and on a train between Los Angeles and San Diego in February, 1928.

Mrs. Bernstein, in her divorce action, asked \$1,000 a month tempo-

Taxpayers Bilked by Ban on Competitive Bids, Commission Charges.

ACCUSATIONS HURLED

Warning Against Further Payment of 'Fancy Prices' Is Sounded.

Gross robbery of taxpayers of Indianapolis through the use in schools of the C. C. Shipp ventilating and heating system was charged today by the State tax board.

No more school construction in the city will be approved by the tax board unless the specifications call for more than one heating system, so that competitive bidding may be obtained, the board dictated.

Solemn warning was served on Indianapolis school board that exorbitant and fancy prices for heating systems would not be tolerated.

The tax board, to a man, concurred in this and opened a heavy barrage on exorbitant costs.

"What has become of \$120,000 appropriated from the tax levy to construct the addition to School 47?" was the question hurled by Will Hough, of the tax board.

Tax Board Not Satisfied

Emphatic declarations that the tax board was not satisfied with the manner in which the school board is constructing buildings were made by every member of the tax board.

The charges were hurled when the question came up of authorizing a \$600,000 bond issue for a new building for School 80 and additions to Schools 47, 43 and 66. The balance of the funds was to be used for purchase of sites for elementary schools.

Efforts of Martin Hugg, attorney for the school board, and Charles W. Kern and Theodore E. Vonnegut, members of the board, to stem the tide of exhortation by members of the tax board and defend their conduct were of no avail.

The attack was opened by Philip Zoercher, tax commissioner, who charged that the school board doesn't use the money appropriated from the levy and by bond issue where it is needed, but uses the funds wherever it so desires.

Warning Is Sounded

"From now on," he declared, "money raised by tax levy for a certain purpose must be used for that specified purpose and none other, and the same rule applies to money raised by bond issue."

"I am not going to vote for another bond issue until the school board prepares the specifications for two heating systems, so that competitive bids may be obtained and that the lowest price possible be obtained."

"I am not fighting Shipp, but I want to see competition in the bidding."

Vonnegut here tried to interpose, but Zoercher continued. "This board suggested that specifications for the Shortridge High School call for more than one heating system. But you didn't do it."

Written for Shipp, Charge

"The specifications were so written that only the Shipp system could be used."

J. H. Hilkene, superintendent of school buildings and grounds, interposed to say that the law provided that the direct heating system be used.

"We had the same fight in 1924 and I took the specifications to the State board of accounts to see whether they were closed specifications, but the board approved."

All but two of the city high schools, Washington and Crispus Attucks, have the Shipp system, it was revealed.

"Other cities in the State obtain two sets of plans, one providing for the Shipp system and the other for other systems, and the architects prepare them at no extra cost," Zoercher declared.

Hot Retort Given

"No, they're square architects," Zoercher retorted.

"This scrap is caused by competitors. We found the other systems are not economical," Hugg told the board.

The tax board declared that Hugg was mistaken.

Red-faced, Vonnegut interposed with, "Are you, the board, the ultimate judges as to the systems to be used in Indianapolis schools?"

He was quieted by John Brown, chairman, who, banging his fist on the table, declared:

"Where we find that the same system is being installed over the State as substantially less cost than in Indianapolis, we say that the plans would better be changed, so that they will provide for open competitive bidding."

"This will be done or we won't allow another school building to go up."

"It's gross robbery of the tax-