



The Indianapolis Times

Unsettled and warmer probably with occasional rains tonight and Wednesday; lowest temperature tonight near freezing.

HOME

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INDIANAPOLIS, TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1928

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at Postoffice, IndianapolisTWO CENTS Outside Marion
County 3 Cents

PLAN TO RAID OHIO CONVENT LAID TO STEVE

Ordered Klansmen Army to
Free Girl in Distress,
Gilliom Told.

'EMPEROR' IS VISIONED

Bemenderfer, Ex-Official of
Muncie, Tells How Dragon
Controlled Vote.

The Ku-Klux Klan was pilloried
today as a "gigantic swindle," by
Samuel Bemenderfer, former Klanlif, or
vice president, of the Delaware
Klan.

Bemenderfer, now president of the
Protestant Knights of America, testified in the second deposition
taken by Attorney General Arthur
Gilliom in his suit to cancel the Klan
charter in Indiana.

With meticulous detail, Bemenderfer
painted the picture of D. C.
Stephenson aspiring to make himself
"Emperor of Indiana" through
use of the political machinery of the
Klan, and then the witness described
"Stephenson the Conqueror," who would raid an Ohio con-
vent to free an "unwilling captive"
behind the stone walls.

Planned Raid on Convent

Not a city block in the State of
Indiana was without its agent of the
Klan, who sought to control the
votes of his neighbors, said the
witness.

Stephenson sat before his gigantic
map of the State which carried
counties, township and cities divided
into blocks with the name and
telephone number of his representative
written in so that within thirty
minutes by private and direct wire
Stephenson could change the vote
of the State, according to Bemenderfer.

The march on the convent located
in a little town over the Ohio line
from Portland, was planned by
Stephenson in 1923, Bemenderfer
said.

The Muncie Klan received a letter
from a California woman saying
that her daughter was kept prisoner
in the convent and that only by
force could she be set free.

Ordered to Recruit Army

The Muncie officials forwarded
the letter to Stephenson and in a
few days the grand dragon, accom-
panied by the woman and piloted by
"Terrible Tommy," his chauffeur,
came to Muncie for a conference,
the witness declared.

The Klan chief at Muncie was
told to recruit a strong force of men,
about 175, and Stephenson warned
him that they were to be "properly
armed," and that they would march
on the convent and take the girl by
force. The date of the attack was
set for two weeks ahead.

In the meanwhile, Bemenderfer
says, he found out that it was a
frame-up by organizations opposed
to the Klan through telegrams sent
by the alleged mother to California,
and he warned Stephenson that it
was a frame-up, but the grand
dragon would not believe it, and said
that in a few days he would give
the order for the assault.

Muncie Klan Recedes

The order never came, however,
and the march on the convent was
not staged.

Bemenderfer described how State
national Klan offices received more
than \$100,000 from the Delaware
County Klan and turned back but
\$300 to be used for Christmas
baskets.

The Muncie Klan seceded when
financial difficulties with the State
office arose, he said.

Bemenderfer told of making an
investigation in several States which
convinced him Catholics had
too much to do with controlling the
Klan and he wrote a letter to Hiram
Wesley Evans, imperial wizard, demand-
ing a clean-up. When no satisfactory
answer was received and Evans issued a mandate barring
Bemenderfer from visiting other Klav-
erns, the Muncie Klan seceded, Bemenderfer said.

Klan Opposed Walb

He described how in 1924 Stephenson
sent a mandate from his Columbus (Ohio) headquarters urging the
Klanists to oppose the selection
of Clyde Walb as State chairman
of the Republican party.

Bemenderfer also told of being
urged by Stephenson to organize a
Horse Thief detective association in
Muncie, "which would do the work
that the county officers refused to
do," but he said he refused to organize
such an organization.

Practically every Protestant
preacher in Delaware County joined
the Klan in 1923, Bemenderfer said.

E. R. Stilson of Anderson, regalia
manufacturer, said Stephenson ordered
482,000 robes for Klan members
in the fall of 1922. Stilson told
Gilliom he received \$3,70 each for
the first 10,000 robes and \$3.30 for
each additional one.

The Klan was represented at the
taking of the depositions by Charles
Orbison, Indianapolis attorney, and
J. H. Connaughton of Washington.
Gilliom was assisted by Judge Fred
Gause.

Meanwhile, Circuit Judge Harry
O. Chamberlin had under advisement
the demurral of the Klan to
Gilliom's petition for revocation of
the charter, following a three-hour
argument Monday.

Indiana Banker, Missing With \$100,000, Still Eludes Law

COWS' TEETH GOLD Buyer's Looking for Pasture

BY G. D. CRISSEY,
United Press Staff Correspondent

PORTLAND, Ore., March 6.—In mythological Greece, lambs had golden fleece. In Fairyland geese laid golden eggs, and in the Pacific Northwest cows have golden teeth.

"If you don't believe it, take a look at these," said Bert Edwards, prominent Salem cattle buyer, today while he pulled a handful of gold-plated bovine molars from his trousers pocket.

Edwards recently bought eight head of cattle in the Portland stockyards. When they were slaughtered it was discovered that each of the cows had teeth covered with a gilt substance.

Edwards rushed the teeth to a jeweler.

"Pure gold," he quoted the jeweler as saying.

That silenced the scoffers. But it also created a scientific mystery which never before in sheer unusualness has been equaled in this corner of the United States.

EDWARDS personally is of the opinion that the cows spent most of their lives grazing on a plain virtually carpeted with gold under the grass. Thus, in eating, he believes, the cows inadvertently got the gold in their mouths from time to time and the gold, in some unexplained manner, stuck to their teeth.

Another theory concerns a kind-hearted rancher who, on seeing his eight cattle suffering with toothache, had their teeth filled with gold.

But that idea promptly was dispelled when examination disclosed the teeth all were in perfect condition. The gold simply covered them in a thin glittering layer.

EDWARDS personally had nothing to say. Several dentists grinned and refused to be quoted.

Edwards bought the cattle from the stock firm of Kidwell & Caswell, which originally obtained the animals from John Dechaney, breeder of Star, Ohio.

So certain is he that he is right and that the cows got their teeth plated by chewing gold along with grass that Edwards plans to go immediately to Star to stake out a gold claim.

3 INDIANA FURNITURE MANUFACTURER FINED

AMONG 213 COMPANIES PUNISHED FOR
ANTI-TRUST LAW VIOLATION

BY UNITED PRESS

CHICAGO, March 6.—Cases against 140 members of the National Alliance of Furniture Manufacturers, charged two years ago with conspiracy to violate the Sherman antitrust act, were disposed of today when Federal Judge Adam C. Cliffe assessed fines aggregating \$100,400.

Charges against officials of the accused companies involved were nolle prossed.

The companies involved in today's cases and the fines assessed against them included the following in Indiana: Showers Brothers Company, Bloomington, \$3,500; Western Furniture Company, Batesville, \$500, and Brookville Furniture Company, Brookville, \$500.

LOWDEN TALKS POLITICS

"CATCHING UP" ON SITUATION FOLLOWING VACATION IN STATE

BY UNITED PRESS

CHICAGO, March 6.—Former Governor Frank O. Lowden conferred informally today with political associates, "catching up" on the political situation he lost touch with while on a month's vacation in Arizona, but he insisted he was making no definite plans for an active presidential campaign.

He planned to go to his country estate at Oregon, Ill., tonight or Wednesday, and it was indicated he might have definite plans to announce after further conferences there, he said, however, that he planned no active speaking campaign.

RAIN FORECAST HERE

CITY MAY GET TASTE OF MARCH SHOWERS TONIGHT OR WEDNESDAY.

BY UNITED PRESS

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The Senate Interstate Commerce Committee today voted 10 to 7 against confirming the nomination of John Esh for reappointment to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

An unfavorable report on the nomination will be sent to the Senate.

REPORT AGAINST ESCH

SENATE COMMITTEE VOTES NOT TO CONFIRM APPOINTMENT

BY UNITED PRESS

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GATHER 'JOBLESS' DATA

LABOR DEPARTMENT IS MAKING SURVEY OF UNEMPLOYMENT

BY UNITED PRESS

WASHINGTON, March 6.—Figures on unemployment in the United States are being gathered by the labor department in cooperation with municipal and State statistical agencies.

Passage by the Senate Monday of the Wagner resolution for an unemployment survey is not expected to cause any enlargement of the present inquiry unless Congress provides additional funds, department officials said.

LEVINE FLIES FROM GOTHAM TO HAVANA

BY UNITED PRESS

COLUMBIA FLYING FIELD, HAVANA, March 6.—Charles A. Levine's Bellanca monoplane Columbia, arrived here at 1:35 p. m. today after a 1,600-mile flight from Mitchell Field, L. I.

With Levine in the famous plane—the one that Clarence Chamberlin and he flew to Germany—were Wilmert Stultz, pilot, and Miss Mabel Bellanca, of Rochester, N. Y., and Paris, France, called the "Queen of Diamonds," because of her jewel collection.

For Miss Bellanca the flight was the culmination of nine months' effort to crash into the long-distance flying honors list. Last summer she tried to get Levine and other trans-Atlantic fliers to try to fly back to the United States with her as passenger.

They had left Mitchell Field, after

INDIANAPOLIS, TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1928

SON SLAYER
IN TEARS AT
DEATH SPOT

James M. Lang, Sullivan, Last Seen at Ponca City, Okla.: Associates Shocked by Fall of 'Fresh Air Kid.'

BY UNITED PRESS

SULLIVAN, Ind., March 6.—Despite his past, James M. Lang, 73, missing president of the Citizens Trust Company of Sullivan, has succeeded in eluding police and escaping with \$100,000 of the bank's funds, it was believed today.

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HER HOPE—TO WALK Stakes All Against Knife Risks



Miss Daisy Brushwiller

TUMBLING from a walnut tree into fifteen years of invalidism, Miss Daisy Brush