



# The Indianapolis Times

HOME

Partly cloudy and somewhat cooler tonight and Friday.

VOLUME 40—NUMBER 152

INDIANAPOLIS, THURSDAY, NOV. 15, 1928

Entered as Second-Class Matter at Postoffice, Indianapolis

TWO CENTS Outside Marion County 3 Cents

## U. S. QUIZ OF SEA TRAGEDY IS LAUNCHED

Loss of 114 Lives Stirs Officials Toward Drastic Action.

50 SUBPOENAS ISSUED

British Board of Trade Also to Make Thorough Investigation.

By United Press  
NEW YORK, Nov. 15.—The United States government set out today to discover what sent the British steamer Vestris to the bottom, with the loss of probably 114 lives.

The tragedy has stirred officials to make every effort to find out if the Vestris was unseaworthy, if the lifeboats were unfit for service, as charged by passengers, if the sending of an SOS call was delayed beyond the point of safety, and if there was blundering and needless confusion in launching lifeboats.

The principal investigation was in the hands of Charles A. Tuttle, United States attorney.

Fifty or more subpoenas already have been issued, and federal officials informed the United Press that anyone who may be presumed to have any knowledge of the cause of the disaster would be summoned.

One of the principal stories to be checked is that a coal port in the side of the Vestris, just above the water line, was so defective it admitted water.

Members of the stoker crew of the Vestris said that water poured through the port, flooding the interior of the ship.

Evans Hampden, a fireman, was quoted as saying:

"The whole trouble was that the coal port on the starboard side, which was four feet above the water line, was not entirely closed when we left port. It couldn't be closed and locked and the water poured through it in the first heavy sea."

The reported shifting of the cargo, in which it was said that several hundred automobiles and trucks crashed through the water-tight compartment, making it impossible to clear the ship of water, also will be investigated.

Other angles were:

1. The charge made by survivors that Captain William J. Carey sent out an SOS call on Sunday and then rescinded it, delaying the sending of another call until the ship was sinking.

2. The charge that the lifeboats were fragile, that some had holes in them, and that the davits were not in proper shape for launching the boats.

3. Statements of passengers that the lifeboats were launched improperly, causing the first two, containing women and children, to be smashed.

4. Statements of survivors that some members of the crew thought more of their safety than that of the passengers, and even refused to pick up struggling people from the water, in the fear that their boats might be overcrowded and their own lives endangered.

The investigation will be extended to officials of the Lamport and Holt line, and to federal steamboat inspectors who inspected the Vestris before she left New York. Both the owners of the Vestris and the United States steamboat inspection service are making investigations of their own.

The British board of trade in London will also investigate the disaster. The Vestris is a British ship, and the inquiry normally would center in London, but officials here took the view that if the Vestris had been permitted to sail from an American port in an unseaworthy condition, jurisdiction lies in this country as well as in England.

Leo J. Mintzer, head of the criminal division of Tuttle's office, said he had received unofficial information that the British board of trade would abide by any decision reached by American authorities if the investigation made here were "comprehensive."

Mintzer said criminal prosecution could be brought if it were found that lives had been lost through wilful negligence.

A formal hearing was scheduled for this afternoon before Francis O'Neill, United States commissioner.

## WED WHILE DANCING

Judge Jogs Too and Unites Marathon 'Hoofers.'

By United Press  
NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 15.—Stephen Hildebrandt, 24, and Miss Aline Marlborough, 19, wanted to get married, but Miss Marlborough didn't want to interrupt the dance marathon in which she started twelve days ago.

Hildebrandt brought to the dance hall Judge A. P. Ducros. While the bride charioted on with her partner, the bridegroom, the judge and the ring-bearer jogged in step. The bride can't have her honeymoon till the dance marathon is over.

The telephone is your gateway to the world. Basic rate to CHICAGO only \$1.05—Advertisement.

## Twenty Children on Liner—And Not One Rescued

NEW YORK, Nov. 15.—All the twenty children and all but eleven of the women who sailed on the Vestris have been lost, it appeared certain today.

Fate played a cruel trick when it caused the old sea law of "women and children first" to operate indirectly to cause the deaths of those it was designed to protect.

The lifeboats that did not survive were those that were put off the Vestris first, and they held the women and children.

Through the stories told by

survivors, a thread of painful memory ran constantly of the deaths of the helpless children.

"I had a child in my arms, but it was dead,"

"The body of a woman with a child in her arms swept by our boat."

### Save Ship's Cat



NEA

## LAST VICTIMS HEAD TO PORT

Stories of Heroism Are Continued by Sunken Ship Survivors.

By LOUIS F. KEEMLE  
United Press Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, Nov. 15.—Stories of heroism, of suffering and of tragedy were continued today as the final chapters in the sinking of the steamship Vestris were written.

Into New York, the port from which the Vestris sailed on its happy voyage to South America last Saturday, today had been brought 205 persons who were miraculously saved from death when the Vestris listed and foundered.

The latest survivors to arrive were fifty-seven—eight passengers and forty-nine members of the crew—who came in on the French oil tanker Myrtille this morning.

It is believed only one group of survivors remain to reach port. It was composed of those saved by the battleship Wyoming, which is steaming toward Hampton Roads.

Reports say that eight survivors are aboard the Wyoming and advice to Washington said many of them needed hospital care.

Last Survivors to Port  
That will bring the total of rescued to 212. The rest of that passenger and crew personnel of 339 persons are missing and there are few who are optimistic enough to believe any will be found alive.

The Wyoming should reach Hampton Roads by 3 p. m., the navy department announced and that will mean all the known survivors of this harrowing epic of the seas are safe.

The first person to walk off the Myrtille was Mrs. Cline Slaughter of Chicago, whose husband, rescued by the American Shipper, awaited her at the East river pier in Brooklyn. She had reached safety on her twenty-first birthday.

Captain Carey Death  
It became apparent when T. R. Edwards, a steward, talked that Captain Carey voluntarily had chosen to go to his death with his ship rather than attempt rescue.

"Just before leaving I saw the captain and Second Mate Watson standing on the bridge. They were gripping hands as if saying good-by. Then they walked to the rail. The captain looked out over the water. He and Watson again gripped hands and just as the Vestris started to sink, Watson leaped into the water. I never saw the captain again."

## HOOVER AIDED BUSINESS

Mellon Says His Election Caused Expansion of Activities.

By United Press  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 15.—The election of Herbert Hoover has had a good effect on business in general, Secretary of Treasury Mellon said today in a press conference.

## URGE PARALLEL PARKING ON WASHINGTON STREET

Flat-to-curb parking on Washington street will be provided in the new traffic ordinance which probably will be introduced in city council Monday night.

Parallel parking was in effect from White River to Noble street. Elimination of angle parking was recommended to council by Traffic Captain Lester E. Jones. It will allow another line of automobiles at downtown intersections, aiding of drivers to clear corners faster.

For the present, the council probably will not change the pedestrian regulations, which gave the person who walks a forty-five-second period, with motor traffic halted from all directions. Some objections to the "go period" for pedestrians have been presented to council and the plan may be abolished if a satisfactory method of rerouting street cars can be devised.

Robert E. Springsteen, council chairman, said he had received numerous letters requesting the council to reroute street cars to eliminate congestion and right turns on Washington street, enlarging the business loop.

Springsteen proposed that north side lines loop on Ohio to Illinois streets and back to Massachusetts avenue on New York street, as a means of eliminating the heavy downtown car traffic. Traffic ex-

"I could hear a woman calling, but we could not reach her."

ONE survivor told how a stewardess, holding a child in her arms, was thrown from a capsizing lifeboat and carried away by a wave.

Miss Helen Cuhlin, of New York a survivor, told how a boy and girl had clung to her for protection. They were torn from her when the lifeboat capsized, she said, and she never saw them again.

Mrs. Earl Devore, who was saved while her husband was lost, described the swamping of the lifeboat in which she and several other women were seeking safety.

"I heard women around me wailing," she said, and one, who I knew was Mrs. Raphael, cried, "Oh, my God, the lifeboat's leaving us." She went down and that was the last I saw of her."

## \$800,000 FOR YULETIDE JOY

21,000 Christmas Club Members to Receive Checks.

Indianapolis banks will pay about \$800,000 in checks Nov. 30 to Christmas Saving Club members for 1928. More than 21,000 city residents availed themselves of the systematic savings plan sponsored by a majority of downtown and neighborhood banks.

Total savings reported by the clubs is considerably below the \$1,000,000 which was deposited in the same institutions last year. About 35,000 persons deposited weekly savings in 1927, when banks paid interest on the Christmas Club deposits.

Drop in the total this year was attributed to the decision of most banks not to pay interest to Christmas club members.

## Operated at Loss

Majority of banks last year agreed to continue payment of interest, declaring they had operated the savings plan at a loss. Some banks said they made no effort to increase the club lists, but "took what came" from customers.

Several bankers estimated that more than half the club savings were redeposited in the bank in regular saving accounts. The Christmas plan provides for periodic deposits ranging from 25 cents upward.

Record Christmas distribution of about \$550,000 will be made by 8,000 financial institutions of the country, according to announcement of the Christmas club, 45 West Forty-first street, New York city.

Eight Million to Benefit  
More than 8,000,000 members will participate in the distribution. The sum is reported to be 10 per cent. larger than last year's distribution. The amount is five times the total in 1920.

Herbert F. Rawll, Christmas Club president and founder, estimated the nation's merchants will receive about \$213,000,000, the remainder, flowing into permanent investments, year-end commitments, installment payments, insurance premiums, mortgages, education, taxes, education and charity.

It was estimated that Indiana will have a total of \$13,100,000 an increase of 3.1 per cent.

## Clubs and Amounts

List of clubs and amounts saved: Fletcher Savings and Trust Company, 9,650 members, \$280,000; Fletcher American National Bank, 1,087 members, \$85,400; Union Trust Company, 500 members, \$177,000; Peoples State Bank, 700 members, \$28,000; Fidelity Trust Company, 800 members, \$70,000; Farmers Trust Company, 150 members, \$5,000; Indiana Bank and Trust Company, 1,000 members, \$60,000.

Marion County State Bank, 800 members, \$31,282; State Savings and Trust Company, 500 members, \$20,000; Continental National Bank, 1,000 members, \$35,000; Washington Bank and Trust Company, 770 members, \$22,750; Meyer-Kiser Bank, 1,200 members, \$30,000; Bankers Trust Company, 1,000 members, \$35,000 and United Land Bank and Trust Company, 100 members, \$5,000.

## AL REACHES GEORGIA

Stays in Savannah Tonight; Bound for Mississippi on Vacation.

By United Press  
SAVANNAH, Ga., Nov. 15.—Governor Alfred E. Smith, Mississippi-bound for a vacation, arrived here today for an overnight stay as guest of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Espy, close friends of the New York city executive.

G. GLADIANOS, a member of the crew, who was in one of the first two lifeboats, told how his boat was smashed by a falling boom.

"I saw a child in the water and made for her," he said, "but I found my arm was broken. I grabbed her anyway and straddled a spar. Then I found the child was dead."

Such stories were many. In most of them, the helpless terror of the children and the bravery of the women were emphasized.

"The women were calmest," one passenger said. "They showed no panic and set an example to us all."

## 'BLACK GOLD' RUSH

Oklahoma Scene of Stirring Race

By United Press

MAUD, Okla., Nov. 15.—Oklahoma, scene of stirring races by home-headers, a generation ago, today witnessed the greatest race for "black gold" that the world has ever known.

Long before dawn, a shot rang out and the spudding bits of ninety-two oil well drills smashed into the ground. The "chug chug" of oil field engines mingled with the cursing of workers. The race for oil was on.

Lifting of drilling restrictions became effective and the "lid" was off. The limited production rule to keep the rich Mission-Maud area of the greater Seminole oil fields from flooding the market with crude oil passed into history.

"Spudding in," the first bit of drilling in an attempted oil well, will continue throughout today.

By Friday the ninety-two big rotary drills will begin boring through the earth in an effort to prove the contention that the mission area constitutes one of the largest oil pools in the greater Seminole district.

It was months ago that drilling limitations in this region were imposed as a result of astounding production of the greater Seminole pool which went wild and gushed forth 528,000 barrels of oil a day.

Interest was intense, although the frenzied activity of other pools in this state, when the oil industry was young, was not so pronounced.

For more than a month major oil companies had prepared for the lifting of the lid on the Mission pool. Heavy pipe and tools were hauled over dirt roads and fields and set up on staked locations. Rigs were built, boilers set up; everything was ready for the race that started the minute the restriction ceased.

It was a timely and orderly "take-off." The ninety-two wells started this morning entail a cost of approximately \$4,000,000. Each well, it is estimated, will force the expenditure of more than \$40,000.

One concern, the Gypsy Oil Company, started thirty-one of the ninety-two wells.

The first drill to reach oil will have an advantage in draining the great pool of oil that is believed to lie beneath the soil.

## GET \$850 IN LOOT

Clothing Firm Robbed by Band of Burglars.

Clothing valued at \$850 was carted away from the Hoyle & Rarick Clothing Company store at 29 East Ohio street, Wednesday night by a band of burglars who entered the store through a rear window and ransacked the interior.

Garments of every type were taken, clothing dummies were stripped and window displays were wrecked.

The burglars apparently used a large truck, which they drove to the store's rear entrance, police said. Al Goodman, manager, made the loss estimate.

## WOMAN SAVED BY DOG

VALPARAISO, Ind., Nov. 15.—Mrs. Charles Smith owes her life to her pet dog. With wet hands she attempted to turn on an electric light and the contact of water and electricity held her fast. She swooned to the floor. The dog pulled the wire from her.

## \$555,610 TOTAL REACHED IN COMMUNITY FUND DRIVE

The Community Fund campaign today has raised to \$555,610 by today's pledges reported at the workers' luncheon at the Claypool. The day's total was \$47,589. The workers hope to reach the goal of \$781,800 by Monday, when the campaign officially ends.

Local health agencies affiliated with the Community Fund sponsored the report luncheon today. Prayer was offered by Rabbi Morner Feuerlicht, Fred Hoke, an active leader in the campaign, spoke. Entertainment by Miss Dennis Gray and Miss Alice Glendenning of the Burton Theatrical agency completed the program.

Employees of the William H. Block Company held a meeting this morning in interest of the fund. Drawing for the L. S. Ayres & Co. Graf Zeppelin prize and theater passes for "The Silent House" will continue at the luncheons throughout the drive.

a spar. Then I found the child was dead."

Such stories were many. In most of them, the helpless terror of the children and the bravery of the women were emphasized.

"The women were calmest," one passenger said. "They showed no panic and set an example to us all."

## Creeping Death

Scientist Dies of Radium Poisoning; Five Women Victims Despair.

By United Press

NEWARK, N. J., Nov. 15.—The hope of life of the five New Jersey women, slowly dying from the effects of radium paint, was shaken when Dr. Sabin A. Von Sochocky, inventor of the paint, died Wednesday.

The five women had found courage in Dr. Von Sochocky's emphatic statement of only a few weeks ago that he had cured himself of the radium poison induced by his own invention.

The women were employed painting luminous watch dials with the radium paint. Using small brushes, which they licked often with their tongues, they gradually became poisoned.

Thirteen blood transfusions were made by physicians in their efforts to save Dr. Sochocky, before he left the Newark city hospital to die in his home, in East Orange, N. J.

Dr. Von Sochocky was former president and technical director of the United States Radium Corporation in whose East Orange watch dial painting plant the five poisoned women and thirteen others who already have died were employed.

Dr. Von Sochocky submitted to the test used on the women only to learn that he had absorbed as much of the death-dealing poison as they had licked from their tiny paint-brushes.

Dr. Harrison S. Martland, chief medical examiner of Essex county, who first correctly diagnosed the poison in the five women, discovered the ailment in Dr. Sochocky's system.

He described Dr. Sochocky's death as due to aplastic anemia, produced by the radium rays, which destroyed blood resistance and marrow tissue.

The condition of the five women was found unchanged Wednesday. The poison slowly but surely was eating their tissues.

Each has been awarded \$10,000 in cash and a \$600 annuity in return for approaching death.

## Hourly Temperatures

6 a. m. ....	62	10 a. m. ....	64
7 a. m. ....	61	11 a. m. ....	65
8 a. m. ....	61	12 (noon) ...	65
9 a. m. ....	62	1 p. m. ....	65

## REST GOVERNMENT CASE IN 'HOT CAR' CONSPIRACY TRIAL; DEFENSE WITNESSES HEARD

First Break in Solid Wall of Resistance Up Against Federal Charges Comes When Engraver Pleads Guilty.

MOTION FOR DISMISSAL IS LOST

Prosecution Uses 135 on Stand to Build Up Its Evidence Since Fifteen Went Before U. S. Court Tuesday.

The government rested, the defense lost a move to dismiss the charges against all defendants, and defense testimony was started today in the federal court trial of the fifteen persons charged with being conspirators in the interstate automobile theft ring.

Jacob Wohlfield and his son, Mortimer, local furriers, and Bertram Libowitz, 39 North Jefferson avenue, were given first opportunity to present their denial that they were involved or had knowledge of the "hot car" traffic.

The first break in the solid wall of resistance the defendants have put up against the government's charges came today, when Louis Wyndt, Chicago engraver, charged with having aided the alleged conspirators to get blank number plates with which to hide identity of stolen cars, pleaded guilty. He is the only defendant who has admitted guilt.

135 Witnesses on Stand  
The government rested at 10:10 a. m. after having put about 135 prosecution witnesses on the stand since the trial started Tuesday.

The fifteen defense attorneys filed separate motions asking dismissal of the indictment, on the grounds that the government had not presented sufficient evidence against any of the defendants.

Judge Robert C. Baltzell overruled the motions and all took exceptions.

Plea for Wolf Sussman  
Attorney George Barnard presented a special plea for Wolf Sussman, local jeweler, declaring there had been a particular lack of evidence against him. He asked evidence of checks given by Sussman to the clothing firm of his son, Harry, and Edward Traugott, also defendants, be stricken out. The money was for use in the clothing business, Barnard said.

"The money may have been used to finance these cars, if Traugott was dealing in these cars," Judge Baltzell pointed out.

Jacob Wohlfield took the stand in his own defense and told of the events which led to purchase by his son of one of the twenty stolen cars, handled by the alleged ring, state police and government agents have recovered.

Wohlfield told of meeting a man who gave him name as Charles Medcalf, but whom he identified from a picture as Leo Baldwin, one of the alleged theft ring leaders, at a boxing show.

Tells of Car Deal  
The man came up to his fur shop at 437 Occidental building a few days later and left a fur coat he said was his wife's to be repaired. Wohlfield said. Later Medcalf, or Baldwin, came back for the coat and said he had lost a lot of money gambling and could not pay for the repairs, unless he could sell Wohlfield his Cadillac coupe for \$2,200. If he would buy the car, Medcalf also offered to buy his wife a new fur coat he had been admiring in the shop.

He inspected the car parked near the statehouse, but because he already had two cars he refused, Wohlfield said.

But he discussed the Cadillac coupe with his son, Mortimer. Later Medcalf returned and it was arranged for Mortimer to give Medcalf \$1,100, two new fur coats, a fox scarf and the repairs on the old coat for the car, he said. He valued the furs given in the transaction at \$915. Medcalf was given a check for the \$1,100 and the furs and they were given the car, he said.

Two days later Medcalf called him up and asked for the Ohio license plates on the car, he said. He replied he would give Medcalf the plates as soon as they got new plates and a certificate of title, he said.

Arranged for New Plates  
Harold Libowitz, youth fatally burned in the explosion and fire at the West Washington street clothing store of Edward Traugott and Harry Sussman, Aug. 26, was sent up by Medcalf to arrange for the new plates, he said. Libowitz brought up a paper, the transfer of title application, which Mortimer signed and brought back a title and Indiana license, he said.

On cross-examination by Albert Ward, United States district attorney, Wohlfield said he had known Traugott for twenty years. He identified checks for \$125 and \$100 made out to him by the Edward Traugott & Co., but said they were checks he had cashed for Traugott as he often did. "The checks were dated March 21 and 30. Earlier evidence had shown the car purchase was on March 8."

He said Medcalf or Baldwin, had

show him a bill of sale on the Cadillac showing Baldwin had bought the car in Illinois, but did not see anything suspicious in the fact it carried Ohio license plates or in Medcalf's desire to get the Ohio plates back. According to Wednesday's testimony the car was stolen from Cleveland, Ohio.

Ward brought out that when Wohlfield first saw the car it was parked across the street about 100 feet from Traugott's store. Mortimer Wohlfield took the stand and told virtually the same story of the car purchase as his father had. He admitted he made no attempt to find out where Medcalf got the car and said he didn't see it until after he had bought it.

Six character witnesses testified for the Wohlfields. They were Clifford K. Gray, vice-president of the Pettis Dry Goods Company; R. Wal-Jarvis, city park superintendent; Dr. Charles R. Sowers; Samuel Rubins, merchant, 628 South Illinois street; Joseph N. Jackson, overall manufacturer, and Joseph Regan, wholesale jeweler.

Libowitz Gives Evidence  
Bertram Libowitz, brother of Harold Libowitz, told of buying a Buick car, which has been established as a stolen car, from a man who gave him name as Sam Goodman, in February. The man followed him from a used car place on North Meridian street and offered him the car. He bought it the next morning. He never had seen the man before and has never seen him since, he said.

He bought the car for \$900 and sold it six months later to Joe Hunsicker, one of the men indicted in the theft case who now is a fugitive, he said.

He declared he knew nothing of any of his brother's activities and did not know his brother had been using the name Monowitz which the government has showed Harold Libowitz used and which figured in one "hot" car transaction.

Eleven Witnesses on Stand  
The government put eleven witnesses on the stand this morning before resting.

Three department of justice agents testified they were unable to find a number of persons whose names were listed on bills of sale and certificates of title of some of the stolen cars. Those men they were unable even to find the addresses given for some of the purported sellers of the "hot" cars.

Frank E. Drummer, clerk at the Marrott hotel, testified hotel records show no men of the names of Robert Palmer, Charles H. Medcalf or Charles Wilson were registered at the hotel in December. Those men were purported to have sold some of the "hot" cars to some of the Indianapolis defendants and to have given the Marrott as their address.

Corroborative bits of evidence were given by John Bowser, Terre Haute policeman, and H. C. Powell of the Indiana auto license bureau.

Huffington in Court  
G. H. Hennegar, local department of justice chief, told a conversation he had with Wolf Sussman regarding Sussman's connection with a stolen La Salle coupe found in possession of his son, Harry. Robert Palmer originally came to him and asked for borrow \$1,000 on the car. Hennegar testified Sussman said. Sussman said he called his son Harry, in to pass on the value of the car and the certificate of title and made the loan, having Palmer transfer the title to Harry.

William H. Remy, Marion county prosecuting attorney, was in court, subpoenaed by Edward Traugott's attorneys. He had with him a sheaf of checks and other private documents belong to Traugott which had been taken from the safe in the wrecked Edward Traugott & Co. store following the mysterious explosion Aug. 26.

Take Turns in Defense  
Defense attorneys, after a conference, announced that the remaining defendants will present their defense in this order: Wolf, Elmer and Harry Sussman, Traugott, Dr. Fred Binzer of Terre Haute, W. Lee Smith and Robert F. McNay, former Klan leaders, are to follow.

Last will be Mr. and Mrs. William Jones and William Lafayette, also local residents, and Miss Lloyd Harrison and the Baldwins of Chicago.