



The Indianapolis Times

VOLUME 42—NUMBER 231

INDIANAPOLIS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1931

Entered as Second-Class Matter
at Postoffice, Indianapolis, Ind.TWO CENTS Outside Marion
County 5 Cents

BUTLER STORY IS TRUE, SAYS VANDERBILT

Charge Against Mussolini
Upheld in Letter to
Friend in West.

CITES HIS VISIT IN 1926

Writer Admits, for First
Time, He Is Source of
Information.

BY LEICESTER WAGNER

(Copyright, 1931, by United Press)
LOS ANGELES, Feb. 4.—"Sure, the story is true," Cornelius Vanderbilt Jr. said in a letter received today regarding the Butler-Mussolini incident.

The former publisher, writing a close friend in Los Angeles, said that a visit he had with Premier Benito Mussolini in 1926 formed the basis for assertions made by Major General Smedley D. Butler, for which the latter is to stand court-martial.

Vanderbilt, for the first time, disclosed himself as the source of General Butler's information to the effect that Mussolini's automobile killed a child and moved on without stopping.

Recipient Shows Letter

The letter from the young author and former newspaperman, who now is in Phoenix, was exhibited exclusively to the United Press correspondent by the recipient. The latter is a writer of national prominence.

No reference was made to the remark attributed to Mussolini by Butler, and for which the United States government subsequently apologized.

"What is one life in the affairs of the state?"

There were extenuating circumstances of the asserted accident, which occurred, the letter said, while Vanderbilt was in the car with Mussolini.

One of these was that the dying child was cared for by occupants of an official car accompanying that of the premier, the letter said.

Told Under Secrecy Seal

The incident, now almost five years old, had been related by Vanderbilt to Butler at a meeting of leading bureau heads and under a seal of secrecy, the former publisher said.

Direct quotations from the letter, which was written at Phoenix on Sunday, were forbidden, for the time being by the friend to whom the communication was addressed, except for the phrase with which the epistle opened:

"Sure, the story is true."

It asserted that Vanderbilt had called upon Mussolini in Rome in 1926, when, in June and July, he made a tour of continental Europe and interviewed Pilsudski, Clemenceau, Doumergue, Plisudski, Foch, Pershing, King Alfonso, Lloyd George, Baldwin, Trotsky, the former Kaiser and Mussolini.

Interview Is Admitted

The Italian government at first denied that the premier ever had met Vanderbilt or had taken any American as a guest on a motor tour, but subsequently amended the assertion by saying that Mussolini had granted Vanderbilt a brief interview.

Substantiating his assertion that he had interviewed Mussolini, despite the original denial, Vanderbilt wrote to Los Angeles friend that he had in his possession a letter from Il Duce, thanking him for the interview and the pleasant publicity consequent upon it.

Stimson Gets Letter

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The state department has received from Cornelius Vanderbilt Jr. a letter bearing upon his asserted part in the criticism of Premier Mussolini of Italy which led to the court-martial of Major-General Smedley D. Butler, United States marine corps.

The letter was forwarded by Vanderbilt from Tucson, Ariz., where he now is, to Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson. It reached the state department Tuesday. The department has refused to reveal its contents.

General Butler and his counsel, Major Henry Leonard, had a long interview about the pending proceedings in the privacy of the Metropolitan Club here today.

**OPENS ELEVATOR DOOR,
YOUTH'S HEAD SEVERED**

Boy, 17, Killed Because He Is in Too
Big a Hurry.

By United Press
CHICAGO, Feb. 4.—James J. McCormick, 17, was on the second floor of a Wells street building and in a hurry to get to the first.

He forced open the doors to the elevator shaft to see if an elevator was coming down.

It decapitated him.

Garrison opened the car door.

GUN ACCIDENTALLY DISCHARGED; CITY FIRM HEAD KILLED

Picture on Page Two.

Shot through the head when one of two rifles he attempted to take from his car exploded today, James C. Patten, 54, president of the Chromeloy Corporation, died shortly before noon at city hospital.

Today was Patten's birthday. Police said the shooting was accidental.

According to friends and business associates, Patten, a major in the air corps was an expert with guns and well known as a hunter and target shooter.

The tragedy occurred in front of the company offices, 401 West Michigan street. In addition to the widow, he is survived by a son living in New York.

The bullet passed through Patten's head and narrowly missed Wales and Morton Gould, who were in the company offices. Both men had been joking with Patten about his birthday a few minutes before the shooting, they said.

Patten was a member of the Indianapolis Athletic and Country clubs and the Kokomo Country Club. He was a pilot in the war, having been taught to fly by Lincoln Beachey, famous ace.

FIGHT IS LOOMING ON PRIMARY BILL

Secret Voting Clause in Repeal Measure Is Opposed;
Referendum Up for Debate in Senate.

Prohibition referendum, primary repeal and a bill to displace state and local school attendance officers by township trustees are scheduled for debate in the senate today, all but one being placed on divided committee reports.

Although the primary repeal bill will have a majority report for passage it will be opposed by at least two members of the elections committee.

The Niblack bill providing for special wet and dry referendum next November will have a minority report from the same committee for passage, but may be amended to put the questions on the regular election ballot in 1932.

Prolonged debate on the attempt to abolish the state and local attendance officers is scheduled and the oratory got under way before adjournment at noon. A minority committee report favors adoption of the measure.

The primary repeal bill was introduced Tuesday with a bi-partisan gesture of approval secured by the author, Senator Joe Rand Beckett (Rep., Marion). This was brought about by seven Democrats signing with seven repeal Republicans as sponsors of the bill.

It provides for direct election of a precinct committeeman and delegate to a county convention by each party. The county convention will elect delegates to the state convention, one for each 1,200 population. One delegate would be elected to congressional district conventions, legislative district conventions and judicial district conventions for each 600 votes for secretary of state. The measure would be effective in 1932.

All convention voting would be secret and delegates would be given an expense account and 10 cents a mile.

The secret voting will be opposed by Chairman James J. Nejdl of the elections committee, he said, but agreed to sign the majority report. Senator Tholle W. Druley (Dem., Wayne) also agreed to sign the report, but oppose the measure.

It is being opposed by the Indiana League of Women Voters and other direct primary advocates.

Coauthors signing with Beckett were Republican Senators Huff, Rowley, Clements, Berkey, Hoffman and Southworth and Democratic Senators Cuthbertson, Ketchum, Perkins, Lockard, Raber, Kehoe and Holman.

ASKS TO AID DAISY

Millionaire Ex-Escort of
Clara Offers Funds.

By United Press

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb. 4.—Resources of a millionaire were offered here today in an effort to win a new trial and eventual acquittal for Daisy De Voe, former secretary to Clara Bow, who is awaiting sentence on charges of misappropriating the screen star's personal funds.

Telegrams offering financial assistance and affidavits intended to prove the secretary's innocence were dispatched to Los Angeles from Milwaukee by Thomas O. Payne, Dallas (Tex.) oil man, former escort of Miss Bow.

The "peculiar financial arrangements" that existed between Clara and Daisy "never have been revealed and carefully were avoided during the trial," Payne declared.

The dead: Mrs. Ellen Clark, Gloria Clark, 3, their daughter, and Jack Anthony, Mrs. Clark's brother.

MAN SLAYS THREE

Kills Wife, Daughter and
His Brother-in-Law.

By United Press

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 4.—Laverne Clark, 25, today shot and killed his estranged wife, their daughter and his wife's brother. He then shot himself and was believed dying.

The dead: Mrs. Ellen Clark, Gloria Clark, 3, their daughter, and Jack Anthony, Mrs. Clark's brother.

QUIZ SUSPECT IN POLICEMAN KILLING

City detectives today were questioning William Brown Jr., of 447 North Alabama street, held in the state reformatory at Pendleton as a suspect in the slaying of William Garrison, 34, a Rushville policeman, Tuesday night.

Under heavy guard Brown was taken to the reformatory after his capture this morning a mile from the scene of the murder, because Lieutenant Al Romeo of the state police and Rush county authorities were apprehensive of mob violence from Rushville citizens.

Garrison and Police Chief Levi Crull, Rushville, investigated the report of a drunken motorist a mile south of the city and found the automobile in front of the home of Louis Fritts.

The car driven by the slayer was stolen here Tuesday from A. N. Patterson, 1220 College avenue.

Garrison opened the car door.

AMOS PARRISH WILL KEEP TIMES READERS IN STEP WITH FASHIONS

FASHION is an accepted style—a style accepted by a considerable number of people," says Amos Parrish, whose articles on "What's in Fashion?" will appear daily exclusively in this newspaper, starting next Monday.

The present fashions are the result of gradual development. The basic trends go back to shortly after the war, when a reaction began against the boyish, unfeminine styles.

"The public taste and the acceptance of preferred styles is the basis of fashion.

"Fashion trends move slowly,

KIDNAPED MAN BURIED ALIVE BY HOODLUMS

Crippled Chicago Salesman
Tortured, Tied to Cross
in Cemetery.

MOANS BRING RESCUE

Victim Terribly Beaten;
Seven Arrested; Call
Him Stool Pigeon.

By United Press

CHICAGO, Feb. 4.—George Wittbrod, 34, a crippled salesman, was rescued today from a rough coffin in which he was placed by seven men, who kidnapped him, beat him, let him hang on a cross in a cemetery, and then buried him alive.

A farmer passing the cemetery before daybreak heard stifled moans and called police. Wittbrod's coffin was found in a deep ditch, where he had been tossed after a night of torture unequalled in the history of Chicago crime. He was suffering from cold, exposure, the beating and fright.

Officials to whom Wittbrod confided that he often had been the object of "practical" jokes by neighborhood hoodlums because of his affliction, hardly could believe such an attack as this had been intended as a "joke."

Seven men named by Wittbrod as having participated in his ill-treatment were arrested. Several were said by police to have confessed, accusing the salesmen of being a "stool pigeon" who carried tales about their street corner conversations to the authorities.

The salesman said he was on his way home from a poolroom late on Tuesday night when the seven men seized him in an alley and knocked him unconscious.

When he awoke, he said, he was in an automobile with the seven men. They taunted him and told him they were taking him for a "ride." His feet and hands were tied.

Jack Dillon was a marvelous piece of fighting machinery. And his career makes a marvelous story. Read the first of six installments in the *Links* this afternoon, and on the sports pages in the earlier editions.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of

strength and endurance.

Jack Dillon was a marvel of