



The Indianapolis Times

NOON

Cloudy tonight and Sunday, probably rain changing to snow,

colder Sunday; lowest temperature tonight about 35.

VOLUME 42—NUMBER 252

INDIANAPOLIS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1931

Entered as Second-Class Matter
at Postoffice, Indianapolis, Ind.TWO CENTS Outside Marion
County 3 Cents

KEYSTONE OF SCHROEDER'S DEFENSE TO BE INSANITY PLEA, PROCEDURE SHOWS

Defendant Held in City Hospital Ward Today
for Searching Examination by
Two Alienists.

GIRL KEY WITNESS GOES ON STAND

Ruby Blue of Greencastle Tells How She and
Her Escort Picked Up Suspect
Near Scene of Fire.

BY EDWARD C. FULKE

Fighting grimly to establish an insanity defense to the alleged slaying of an unknown man in the High School road torch car tragedy, May 31, Harold Herbert Schroeder of Mobile, today was being examined by alienists at city hospital, while his trial in criminal court was recessed for the week-end.

Under the watchful eyes of Dr. Rogers E. Smith and Dr. Charles D. Humes, Schroeder today is held in the confines of the hospital's psychopathic ward.

Results of the examination will show whether Schroeder is a victim of mental derangement. Ira Holmes, defense attorney, has stated that both Schroeder's mother and his grandmother were confined in the Iowa state hospital for the insane.

In criminal court Friday Schroeder watched the state begin its fight to send him to the electric chair.

Before the jury, Schroeder heard state witnesses narrate a simple, straight-forward story of events the night of the alleged crime.

Key Witness Testifies

Miss Ruby Blue, 28, of Greencastle, state's key witness, told the jury she and Jack Allen, Clayton, saw Schroeder on the night of the crime less than a mile from High School road, where Schroeder's car and its human cargo were enveloped in flames.

"Schroeder stepped to the center of Rockville road and waved his hand for us to stop. We saw him in the gleam of the headlights," Miss Blue testified.

"Do you see in this courtroom anyone you saw on Rockville road, that night?" Miss Blue was asked.

"Yes," she said, "it was Harold Herbert Schroeder."

Rode with Couple

She told of Schroeder getting into the car with her and Allen.

"I asked him if he had seen the burning car," Miss Blue testified. "Schroeder said 'what car?'—'No, I hadn't seen it,' she continued.

"Did he tell you where he was going?" she was asked.

"Yes," he said he was going to Detroit by way of Cleveland, and that he hitch-hiked from Terre Haute that day.

"He was dressed in dark trousers, a light shirt, a raincoat and carried a blanket. He was not wearing a hat or glasses," she testified.

At Senate avenue and West Washington street, Schroeder asked to be let out of the car, she said.

Failed to Tell Police

He said his appearances were such that I'd rather not be seen in town," Miss Blue continued.

Cross-examining the witness, Holmes attacked Miss Blue's failure to report the incident to police. Miss Blue identified a tan blanket which Schroeder carried when he was picked up. She and Allen had watched the car burn for several minutes before continuing to the city, she said.

Harvey Shipp and Charles Bell, former deputy sheriffs, were on the stand preceding Miss Blue. They told of arriving at the flaming car at about 1:30 a. m.

The sedan and its cargo was on the west side of the road, headed south, the two right wheels in a ditch at the roadside. The inside of the auto had been enveloped in flames while the two rear wheels and a spare tire also were burning.

Charred Body Found

It was not until the flames had subsided that the charred body of a man was found slumped on the front seat.

"Firemen ripped the side of the car out with axes and we dragged the body from the car, which still was red-hot," Shipp testified.

Near the front wheels of the blackened hull of the sedan lay a coat in which were the initials "H. H. S." A pocketbook containing a card with Schroeder's name was found in the lining, Shipp stated.

Schroeder's raincoat later was found in an alley south of where he left Miss Blue and Allen.

It was almost three weeks later before authorities, tracing minute clues, captured Schroeder in a weed patch near his Mobile home.

Laugh for Both

An amusing incident of Miss Blue's appearance on the stand occurred when she was asked by prosecutors what license plates the burning car bore.

"Mobile, Ala., license," she answered quickly, then hesitated. Spectators were amazed to see her suddenly look directly at Schroeder, sitting at the defense table. Miss Blue broke into a laugh. Schroeder laughed with her.

"I want Alabama license," Miss Blue re-stated.

Judge Frank P. Baker at this point rapped vigorously for order, threatening to exclude spectators unless quiet was maintained.

Evidence to Last All Week

Prosecutor Herbert Wilson, who petitioned for the sanity examination of the Alabamian, said Friday,

BATTLE TO ADMIT 'CONFESSION' HOLDS GIN TRIAL'S STAGE

Lawyers in Near Fist Fight as Defense
Attorney Quizzes State's Witness.

By Times Special

VALPARAISO, Ind., Feb. 28.—Legal warfare over admissibility of the purported confession of Virgil Kirkland that he attacked Arlene Draves supplanted fistcliffs and morbid details of her death as court opened today in the murder trial of the Gary youth.

Lawyers of the prosecution and defense, who Friday neared blows as a witness told how Kirkland washed blood from his hands in a lunchroom, sought today to prevent Kirkland's alleged admissions in a Gary police station to be brought before the jury. The judge was to rule on the confession's admissibility today.

Lieutenant Paul Thixton of the Gary police, the first witness called to the stand today related details leading up to Kirkland's purported confession that he and other youths had attacked the 17-year-old high school girl.

The pugilistic squaring-off of attorneys came late Friday when defense Attorney Barrett O'Hara was cross-examining Victoria Leonard, waitress in a hamburger stand known as "John's Place," on the details of Kirkland's washing his hands following the alleged attack.

"Blood All Over Hands"

She said he left the unconscious form of Arlene in a car parked outside the stand and entered the place with two other youths.

"There was blood all over his knuckles and he washed his hands. Then I heard him say to Barton (one of the youths accused in the alleged attack) 'Go out and get your chance now,' she testified.

"After Barton went out I heard Kirkland boast to Thompson (the other youth) that he had attacked the girl."

O'Hara asked a question concerning the blood on Kirkland's knuckles, then apparently interrupted her reply.

The prosecutor broke in, "Let her answer."

O'Hara angrily replied, "You're interrupting—let your own witness testify. She may be giving your testimony through her lips."

"I want you to withdraw that remark," retorted Underwood.

Menace Each Other

The attorneys menaced each other as they squared off for pugilistic action but the gavel of Judge George Grunpaker and interference from the part of other attorneys halted the near melee.

Later O'Hara apologized to Underwood.

Prior to the testimony of the witness, the packed courtroom was furnished another peek of the jazz-age girl party that ended in the death of a girl when Richard Sturbridge, 26, former De Pauw football star, testified.

He told of the bootleg liquor carousing at the party and how the party was broken up by police. He said he saw the party go on and that he saw the party go on.

"Did you see Arlene Draves and

JURY CLEARS MOB ACCUSED

Acquittal Voted at Marion
After 18 Hours.

By Times Special

MARION, Ind., Feb. 28.—A jury returned a verdict of not guilty this morning in the case of Charles Lennon, second defendant brought to trial on charges of taking part in the lynching of two Negroes here Aug. 7 last.

The jury, which was under sequestration for eighteen hours, and it is reported that from the time balloting started until the verdict was reached, the vote was 11 to 1 for acquittal.

A small crowd in the Grant circuit courtroom began applauding when the verdict was reached, but quickly silenced by Judge O. D. Clawson.

Throughout the night a strong guard was on duty at the courthouse, Sheriff Bert White declaring that although he had heard no threats of violence, the milling assembly of persons about the courthouse was foreboding, hence "to be prepared" he placed fifteen patrolmen and deputies about the building. It also was learned that he had arranged for reinforcements from neighboring cities.

Indian Model Freed

Murder Trial Ends With
'Not Guilty' Verdict.

By United Press

BUFFALO, Feb. 28.—Lila Jenson, half-blooded Seneca Indian woman, was found not guilty of the murder of her husband, Mr. Clotilde Marchand, by a supreme court jury today.

As the foreman of the jury pronounced the two words freeing the former model of Henri Marchand of the charges which had been placed against her almost a year ago, Lila who was standing to receive the verdict, leaned forward, and in her excitement, almost fell over a chair.

Rain, Snow, Freezing
Forecast for Sunday

Unsettled Weather Predicted for
State Over Week-End.

Week-end break in the balmy spring weather was forecast today by the weather bureau with the prediction of rain or snow Sunday, with temperatures around freezing.

The mercury started its upward jump early today, but is expected to start descending early tonight to reach 35 degrees before midnight.

Unsettled weather is expected throughout the state Sunday.

AGREE ON SEA PACT

Britain, Italy in Under-
standing on Principle.

By United Press

ROME, Feb. 28.—British and Italian officials conferring here on Franco-Italian naval problems reached an agreement in principle on questions left outstanding at the London naval conference, it was announced officially today.

So sensational was the killing, so strongly did it recall the revelations in the famous Rosenthal-Lieutenant Becker police-racketeer alliance of 1912, that Rabbi Stephen Wise today issued a public statement arraigning the New York City police and judicial "alliance with crime."

"The murder was notice that expose of organized criminality will meet with swift and awful punishment," Rabbi Wise said.

"The affairs of New York," he continued, "are for investigation from top to bottom, beginning or ending with the office of mayor."

He called for an investigation to be ordered by Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, whom he praised for the

LAST TOUCHES ARE ADDED TO ROAD REPORT

Senate Committee Meets
to Complete Findings
on Commission.

BROWN HITS CRITICS

Highway Director Expects
Criticism for Failure
to Get U. S. Aid.

Members of the state senate highway investigation committee met this morning to put the finishing touches on their report of failure of the state highway department to collect federal aid in 1930 while borrowing money to complete construction.

That there may be a minority report from commission defenders was the outlook when the committee convened in executive session.

Senator Anderson Ketchum (Dem., Bartholomew, Decatur, Franklin and Union) drafted the report regarding the federal aid collections failure.

Would Abolish Commission

Ketchum and Senator Charles L. Strey (Rep., Kosciusko and Wabash), committee chairman, are co-authors of a bill abolishing the present state highway commission and providing for a new commission to operate on a full-time basis. The bill is pending passage in the senate.

This would mean the abolition of the office of director, now held by John J. Brown.

Brown, anticipating that the committee report will contain considerable criticism of his admitted failure to collect federal aid in 1930, appeared before a luncheon club Friday and criticized his critics and members of the general assembly generally.

Mishandling is Charged

Of the latter he declared: "It is demonstrated now by the men over there in the legislature that there is very little understanding of the greatest science of government—taxation."

He charged that the senate committee mishandled the probe by not having auditors go into federal aid accounts and predicted that the report will record "no crookedness in my department."

In opening his address, which was given before the Round Table Club at the Lincoln, Brown condemned "slop slinging" regarding men in public life, but said he welcomed "constructive criticism."

Brown admits ignorance

Brown served two terms as chairman of the Indiana tax commission, and is rated by some as a taxation expert. In testimony before the senate committee he admitted knowing nothing of the details of his department's collection of federal aid.

It was the failure to collect some \$5,000,000 in federal aid and the borrowing of \$1,600,000 and going into debt more than \$2,000,000 while this money lay idle at Washington, D. C., that caused the investigation to be launched by resolution of Senator Strey.

The federal aid would have aided in solution of drought and unemployment problems in the state, Strey charged.

Hourly Temperatures

6 a. m. 39 8 a. m. 45
7 a. m. 40 9 a. m. 49

State Finals March 20, 21

At Indianapolis
FRIDAY MORNING

1. 9:00—Winner at Auburn vs. winner at Muncie (1-2)
2. 10:00—Winner at Vincennes vs. winner at Anderson (2-3)
3. 11:00—Winner at Bedford vs. winner at Evansville (3-4)

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

4. 2:00—Winner at Ft. Wayne vs. winner at Lafayette (1-5)
5. 3:00—Winner at Evansville vs. winner at Greencastle (2-6)
6. 4:00—Winner at Marion vs. winner at Rochester (3-7)

FRIDAY NIGHT

7. 7:00—Winner at Rushville vs. winner at Valparaiso (2-8)
8. 8:00—Winner at Columbus vs. winner at Bloomington (3-9)

SATURDAY MORNING

9. 8:30—Winner of game 1 vs. winner of game 2 (1-10)
10. 9:30—Winner of game 3 vs. winner of game 4 (2-11)
11. 10:30—Winner of game 5 vs. winner of game 6 (3-12)

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

12. 2:30—Winner of game 7 vs. winner of game 8 (3-13)
13. 3:30—Winner of game 9 vs. winner of game 10 (4-14)
14. 4:30—Winner of game 11 vs. winner of game 12 (5-15)

SATURDAY NIGHT

15. 8:00—Winner of game 13 vs. winner of game 14 (5-16)
Officials will be announced after regional tournaments.

STATE H. S. NET MEET SCHEDULES ARE DRAWN; TITLE FAVORITES CLASH

Re-Enact Bridge Killing Scuffle in Death Stand



Principals in Kansas City's dramatic "Murder at Bridge" trial are shown here. Mrs. Myrtle Bennett, upper right, is charged with shooting her husband, John G. Bennett, in a quarrel over the wife's bridge game bidding.

Mrs. Alice Adkins, upper left, mother of the defendant and was present at the killing.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hoffman, below, were the Bennetts' opponents in the fatal game.

PICK GOLF WINNERS

Ten Girls Are Chosen for
Second Lesson Series.

A new class of ten girls will start their free golf lessons Monday at 6 p. m. at the Smith-Nelson Golf academy, second floor Board of Trade building. The Times judges announcing the second group of ten winners in the golf essay contest this morning.

The ten lucky ones are:

Edith J. Meyer, 822 Middle drive, Woodruff place.

Isadora Mason, 52 North Fifteenth street, Beech Grove.

Mrs. George Young, 604 Lemcke building.

Elsie M. Shelley, 417 West Sixteenth street.

Nellie Truitt, 2654 Allen avenue.

Cecile M. Bauer, 2724 Bellefontaine street.

Ella Barricklow, 319 East Sixteenth street.

Mrs. Dorothy H. Gross, 6178 Norwalk street.

Mabel G. Rider, 3765 Central avenue.

Mollie Riggs, 309 North Sherman drive, Apt. 2.

Jim Reed's Dynamic Voice Stilled in Favor of Pantomime's Power.

By United Press

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 28.—A stately, gray-haired attorney who was considered one of the most dynamic orators ever in the United States senate resorted Friday to pantomime in an effort to prove his client, a comely widow, not guilty of murdering her husband during a quarrel over a game of bridge.

Attempting to prove that Mrs. Myrtle Bennett might have shot John Bennett accidentally and that the shots were fired at close range, former Senator James A. Reed stilled for a time his famous tongue to enact for judge and jury a silent courtroom drama.

The dramatic changes to stage tactics was made during the testimony of Deputy Coroner Stanley M. Hall, and its purpose was to refute the state's contention that Mrs. Bennett shot her husband deliberately from a distance of eighty feet.

Silently the elderly attorney and an assistant grappled and tugged each other about the courtroom, just as Reed contended Mrs. Bennett and her husband grappled on the night that Bennett was shot.

An automatic pistol, introduced in evidence as the one Bennett was shot with, was gripped in the attorney's hand as he wrestled.

Accused Wife Weeps

His purpose was to prove to Hall, the judge and jury, that during such a struggle the pistol might have been discharged accidentally and Bennett have received just such a wound as that Hall had described.

The pantomime over, Reed returned to his questioning and obtained from Hall an admission that the defense contention was possible.

Important evidence was offered both by state and defense while Mrs. Bennett, who had appeared unmoved during earlier sessions, wept frequently.

Mrs. Annie Rice of West Frankfort, Ill., a half-sister of the defendant, offered the state's most important testimony.

"I know why I did it," Mrs. Rice quoted Mrs. Bennett as telling her sixteen months after Bennett was shot.

Policewomen Hurd Defense

"Only me and my God know," she continued to quote. "When this is all over, I'll tell you. Then you won't feel so bitter toward me."

Another witness for the state was Mrs. Frances Trowbridge, police-woman.

"I shot him," she quoted Mrs. Bennett as saying at police headquarters. "I went into the bedroom and got a gun. I went into the den and he was packing his grip. He said he was going to leave me. I shot him."

Charles M. Hoffman testified earlier he was playing bridge with Mr. and Mrs. Bennett the night Bennett was shot.

Bennett, he said, opened a bid in spades. Mrs. Bennett raised him. He went set and she called him "a bum bridge player."

Bennett then slapped his wife, Hoffman testified, and the shooting followed.

Sectional, Regional and
Final Tourney Pairings
Are Announced.

REAK FOR DARK HORSES

Muncie, Frankfort, Other
Topnotchers Are in
Top Bracket.

Indiana's annual state high school basketball tournament continues to grow. In announcing schedules for the sectional events on March 6 and 7; regionals on March 14, and final tournament March 20 and 21 today, A. L. Trester, commissioner of the I. H. S. A., complete for the title an increase of five over last year's entry list in the classic.

Indianapolis sectional fans likely will see the two favorites in the final game next Saturday night, with Technical in the upper bracket and Shortridge in the lower. Muncie and Washington also are in opposite frames. The local sectional draw:

FRIDAY MORNING

1. 9:00—Oakland vs. Tech (1-2)
2. 10:00—Washington vs. Castleton (2-3)
3. 11:00—West Newton vs. Lawrence (3-4)

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

4. 2:00—Southport vs. Valley Mills (1-2)
5. 3:00—Shortridge vs. Broad Ripple (2-3)
6. 4:00—New Bethel vs. New Augusta (3-4)

FRIDAY NIGHT

7. 7:30—Ben Davis vs. Beech Grove (1-2)
8. 8:30—Aston vs. Manual (2-3)

SATURDAY MORNING

9. 8:30—Winner game No. 1 vs. Winner game No. 2 (3-1)
10. 9:30—Winner game No. 3 vs. Winner game No. 4 (1-2)
11. 10:30—Winner game No. 5 vs. Winner game No. 6 (2-3)

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

12. 2:30—Winner game 9 vs. Winner game No. 10 (1-2)
13. 3:30—Winner game No. 11 vs. Winner game No. 12 (2-3)

SATURDAY NIGHT

14. 8:00—Winner game No. 13 vs. Winner game No. 14 (3-1)
Officials—(1) Ralph Foster.
(2) Clarence Croghan.
(3) Charles Jensen.

Indianapolis sectional winner will go to Anderson for regional play. The draw there indicates Anderson and the Indianapolis winner will meet in the final game.

The Anderson regional schedule follows:

AT ANDERSON

F. M. Saturday, March 14

2:00—Winner at Evansville vs. Winner at Danville (1-2)
3:00—Winner at Anderson vs. Winner at Tippecanoe (2-3)
8:00—Winner of 2 p. m. games vs. Winner 1 p. m. game (1-2)

Names of regional officials will be announced after sectionals.

Chances for a dark horse victor in the state finals at Butler fieldhouse on March 20 and 21 were boosted with the announcement of the drawings for the titular classic.

Several good teams who otherwise might have held just an ordinary night to waste through the rugged sixteen-team struggle were conceded better than even chances when it was learned that Muncie, Anderson, Washington, Logansport and Frankfort regional winners all would be in the upper bracket.

In the lower frame are Shelbyville, Connersville, Gary and other regionals from which dark horse contenders are anticipated.

How the Market Opened

By United Press

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—Stocks were irregular at the opening on the New York Stock Exchange today. During early trading leaders slipped lower in fairly active trading.

United States Steel opened up 1/4 at 143 1/2, and then slid below the previous close. Other small gainers at the outset included American Smelting, Standard Brands, Union Carbide, Auburn Auto, and Gold Dust.

Worthington Pump dipped to 96 1/2, off 2 1/4; United Aircraft 34 1/2, off 1/2; Du Pont 98, off 1 1/4; Kennecott 29 1/2, off 1/2; Sears-Roebuck 59 1/2, off 1/2; Fox Film A 34 1/2, off 1/4; Vana-dium 85 1/2, off 1 1/4; and Public Service of New Jersey 87, off 1.

General Motors held steady and other motor shares made only small changes. Oils were quiet and steady. Mail order shares met profit-taking and armaments were sold. New York Central lost 1 1/2 to 127 1/2 in the railroad group, which was quiet and easier.

Trading quieted down after the opening and the market was without trend. A few issues firmed up, including J. I. Case which made up its initial loss. Steel dipped to 145 1/2, off 1/4 from its previous close.

Bank Receiver Chosen

HAMMOND, Ind., Feb. 27.—Judge Clyde Cleveland of Lake superior court here appointed A. Murray Turner and W. C. Belman receivers for the \$700,000 First Trust and Savings Bank of Hammond, which closed Feb. 4. Until a year ago, Turner and Belman were directors of bank. They withdrew after selling their stock to the Meyn interests. It was understood depositors will be paid in full.