

The Indianapolis Times

HOME

Increasing cloudiness and slightly warmer tonight; lowest temperature about 32; Friday cloudy and warmer with probably rain at night.

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INDIANAPOLIS, THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1931

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GUN FOUND IN BROWN COUNTY MURDER RUINS

New Clew Investigated in Attempt to Clear Up Death Mystery.

FINGER BONE DUG UP

Riddle of Third Body Still Unsolved; Lukewarm Search Made.

A fingerbone and a rusty .25-caliber automatic pistol today were viewed by state authorities as new clues into the murders committed on the fruit farm of Lee Brown at Nashville, Ind., in December.

The pistol, found by Roland Brown, the dead farmer's son, lay in a jar of coal oil at the home of Arch Ball, ballistic expert of the city police department, awaiting examination late today.

The pistol was brought to Indianapolis by Virgil Quinn and Charles Bridges, deputy state fire marshals, after a private search of the farm home ruins by Brown disclosed the weapon within four feet of the spot where the corpses were found in the funeral pyre.

Snow Delays Search

Little importance is attached to the fingerbone, deputy fire marshals said. They believe the bone may be that of Lee Brown or of the body found near his side, which is thought to be that of Paul Brown, his son. The bone was turned over to Joshua Bond, Brown county coroner.

Bunge served as guide to the farm home. He pointed out the spot where Lee Brown's body lay. He seemed nervous and excited as he conducted searches on the ruins. Charles Bridges, deputy state fire marshal, said.

Quinn asserted today that drifted snow would make it impossible to search the ruins thoroughly for a third body until the first of next week.

While awaiting Ball's report, on the pistol found by the murdered man's son, Quinn plans to seek expert advice regarding the possibility of Mrs. Brown's body being consumed in the open fire of the farm home.

"I haven't had enough experience with bodies burned by fires to know whether it could be burned totally," he said.

Cremation Takes Hours

Morticians of Indianapolis today told Times reporters that it takes two and one-half hours of a torchlike flame to cremate bodies and, even after cremation, bones of the bodies cremated were found.

"No heat is severe enough to obliterate bones. Acids are the only means of destroying every vestige of a body," said one undertaker.

Last week two Indianapolis physicians declared the bodies were that of two men. Quinn and other officers say the bodies are Lee Brown's and his son Paul.

But Chester Bunge, hired hand of the Brown family and the only eyewitness of the crime, charges that Paul Brown killed his father and his mother and wounded Bunge, after chasing him a quarter mile.

Suicide Is Theory

Supposition of Quinn is that Paul Brown, after wounding Bunge, returned to the family home, fired the house and out-buildings, and re-entering the home, committed suicide.

But the weak link in Bunge's story is that he says Mrs. Brown was wounded and that she was in the home. Yet her body has not been found.

Despite this knowledge, Brown county officers and Quinn persistently have refused to question Bunge again regarding his story. Bunge now is employed as a truck driver in Martinsville.

Charles Bolte, investigator for the state bureau of criminal identification, desired to re-examine Bunge, but was balked at every turn. It is known.

Cling to Bunge Story

"Let's look over the ruins again and see what we can find," was the plea of the officers defending Bunge's tale.

And now Bolte is out of the case. He has been placed on another investigation by E. L. Osborne, chief of the bureau.

"I've no other men to send down there," Osborne declares.

Brown county officers accept Bunge's story and even Prosecutor Howard Robinson of Franklin, definitely says, "I've heard his story and I don't care to talk to him any more. The best thing that could happen in this case would be for it to end as a double murder and a suicide."

Probers Handicapped

The bureau of identification is reportedly handicapped in probing Bunge's story by lack of cooperation of the officials of Brown county.

"We have no right to detain a man unless county authorities are willing. But if necessary I'll go to the attorney-general's office in an effort to get Bunge questioned again," Osborne said.

The state police can not act in the murder due to their limited powers which permit arrests merely in automobile theft cases.

Albert Fowler, deputy fire marshal in charge of the arson division, said his department might subpoena Bunge to appear at the statehouse for questioning after all angles of the case had been considered.

Fowler admitted that Brown county officials hindered the probe. He said Quinn had been withdrawn temporarily from the investigation to probe a fire at Portland, Ind.

Winks Tell

NEW YORK, March 12.—Pinky, black alley cat, stood on the witness table before Magistrate Michael A. Ford.

"Come, Tom, jump!" an exhortation repeated fifteen times with more than ordinary fervor by John Bonner, Negro, who said the cat was his Tom, brought no more than the blinks of a cat-around-town who had been out for a night of it.

"Pinky, wink at the judge," Miss Catherine Borrio, who likewise claimed ownership of Pinky, alias Tom, commanded in an effort to prove her point. She previously had explained Pinky was somewhat of a mouser, and also an amateur pianist.

Pinky, who winked at the judge, first one eye, then the other, and the judge succumbed.

"It's your cat," he told Miss Borrio.

TRACE CLEW IN CHILD KILLING

Search Hills for Elderly Brooks Murder Suspect.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., March 12.—The behavior of an elderly man who talked incessantly of the disappearance of Virginia Brooks several hours before her dismembered body was found cast suspicions on him today as police and deputy sheriffs searched the hills for him.

The hunt started when Bill Williams and L. O. O'Dell, living near Escondido, reported that an elderly man they picked up near the Poway bridge Tuesday night, who talked incessantly of the disappearance of Virginia Brooks, started down the Murray Canon road, near where the body was found later that day.

"I won't go down that road under any condition," the man said, apparently in fear.

It was this same man, Williams and O'Dell said, whom they saw near Oceanside nearly three weeks ago with a small girl bundled up in blankets.

The men were positive of their identity in telling their stories to deputy sheriffs.

200 DIE IN BLAST

Careless Chinese Soldiers Blamed for Blast.

SHANGHAI, March 12.—Two hundred passengers lost their lives today in an explosion aboard the river steamer Pachi, the Shanghai harbor master officially announced. The Pachi was a total loss.

The accident occurred Wednesday night off Big Tree beacon, sixty miles from Shanghai.

One hundred soldiers were said to have boarded the ship at Woosung and virtually took possession. The captain asserted cigarettes, carelessly thrown by the soldiers caused the fire and the explosion.

LET'S PLAYMATE, 5, FIRE GUN: BOY, 11, IS SLAIN

Child's Finger Slips on Trigger and Older Lad Falls Dead.

MILFORD, Ill., March 12.—It was a proud moment for 5-year-old Francis Borror when Lawrence Goodhue, 11, said he would let Francis fire a .22-caliber rifle.

Lawrence placed the gun in Francis' hands and started to explain how to shoot a cap off a nearby fence.

Francis' finger slipped, discharging the rifle, and Lawrence fell, wounded fatally. Neighbors found Francis hiding in a coal shed.

FIREBUG MANIAC IS SLAIN BY TROOPERS

Set Three Buildings in Flames; Tried to Hamper Blaze Fighters.

MORRISTOWN, N. J., March 12.—An unidentified maniac, who set fire to three buildings on a farm here and then tried to prevent firemen from extinguishing the blaze, was slain today by state troopers who fired to frighten him.

Damage to the farm buildings was estimated at between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

SCRIPPS URGES RECORD CUT IN LABOR'S HOURS

Shorter Working Day 'Than Ever Dreamed of' Seen as Future Need.

WEALTH SHIFT IS VITAL

Advocates Drastic Change for More Equitable Distribution.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Warning of serious consequences—even dictatorship—unless ways are found to relieve permanently the present economic situation, which permits of cycles of depression, was given today by Robert P. Scripps, president and editorial director of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, in an address at the progressives' conference here.

Two basic reforms were put forward by the speaker. They were: 1. Shorter hours of labor than ever have been dreamed of.

2. A much more wide distribution of wealth—through wages or otherwise—to permit increased luxury consumption, and increased luxury employment.

"As I see it, gentlemen," Scripps said, "the alternative is the goose-stepping of one way or another, and Lenin or Mussolini makes mighty little difference."

Views Usually in Harmony

"For two reasons I am especially grateful for having been invited here," said Scripps.

"In the first place, I am happy to meet again and talk with men who have been my friends, and whom I have admired for a long time.

"In the second place, I am happy to be able to register the keen and particular interest of the Scripps-Howard newspapers in the problems here under discussion, and in the sort of legislation that can be expected from the so-called maverick legislators here assembled.

Editorially, we do not agree with all of them all the time, but the fact is we find ourselves plugging for most of them most of the time.

The special question of this session—unemployment and industrial stabilization—is one I have been writing a lot about lately, and I am not going to bore you by rehearsing twenty or thirty columns of material already printed. However, I do want to relieve myself of one thought.

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SENATOR WILL SEE PHILIPPINES

Arthur Robinson to Probe Independence Plea.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Senator Arthur Robinson of Indiana, ranking Republican member of the senate territories committee, will leave here Friday for a thirty-five day stay in the Philippines, investigating conditions there.

Robinson said after a call at the White House today that he intended to inquire into the proposals for Philippine independence, now pending before the territories committee.

"I want to study the economic situation there," Robinson said, "to see if the islands have reached the point of economic independence. I want to find out whether they can resist immigration in case we pull out."

"They have by far the highest standard of living in Asia," Robinson said. "I want to find out if independence would not sink them to a lower standard."

"I also want to see what possible injustices might be wrought upon our own people in the islands, if they were cut loose."

Robinson said he would sail from Norfolk, Va., stopping at Guam and Hawaii and perhaps going on to China and Japan after visiting the Philippines.

500 ARE EXPECTED AT BEEFSTEAK DINNER

Columbia Club to Honor 25-Year Members' With Annual Fete.

More than 500 members are expected to attend the forty-first annual beefsteak dinner of the Columbia Club tonight at the club in honor of members who have belonged more than twenty-five years, it was announced today by Wallace O. Lee, assistant chairman of the entertainment committee.

The toastmaster will be Governor Harry G. Leslie, who will introduce the speaker, Edwin P. Morrow, former Governor of Kentucky. Special dancing and singing acts will be presented.

CHURCH CAMP BEACH 'COVERED' BY BOTTLES

Fleeing Rum Runner Throws away Cargo of 'Silver Dollar.'

OCEAN GROVE, N. J., March 12.—Clam diggers dashed into the surf of this Methodist camp meeting association community today. Motorists who heard the good word flocked to the beaches, and residents rushed to the beach, nearby.

High tide had scattered numberless bottles of "Silver Dollar" and "Golden Wedding" thrown over by a rum runner evading coast guardsmen. The sands had been picked clean within a few hours.

WOLF 'RACKET' CHARGED

Kill 'Tame' Animals in Minnesota for Bounties, Is Claim.

ST. PAUL, Minn., March 12.—The Wisconsin state senate, 17 to 16, today a resolution asking the Governor of California to pardon Thomas Mooney and Warren K. Billings, convicted of murder in San Francisco's preparation day riot in 1916. The house had adopted the resolution.

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Hunt Booze Mansion's Tenants



Nearly \$3,000 worth of excellent liquors confiscated by deputy sheriffs Wednesday night when they raided a mansion on Eighteenth street, west of College avenue, were guarded today at the county jail. John B. Boyce, chief jailer, and Herman Rikhoff, road patrol chief, comprised the first guard staff. The liquors are shown ranged on shelves. The variety includes intoxicants ranging from beer to cognac.

MAN CRUSHED IN ELEVATOR SHAFT

Newton Brown Dies at New Power Plant.

Newton Brown, 1531 Madison avenue, was killed almost instantly today when he was crushed by an elevator in a shaft used in construction of the Indianapolis Power & Light Company's South Harding street plant.

Fellow employees told Coroner Fred W. Vehling that Brown, who was standing on a ledge on the elevator shaft, fifty feet high, leaned in the shaft as the elevator descended. His head was crushed. He plunged to the bottom of the shaft.

The body was sent to the undertaking establishment of Coroner Vehling pending attempts to locate relatives, believed to live in Crawfordsville.

WOMAN IS BURNED

Naphtha Fluid Explodes; Garages Destroyed.

Ignited by friction, naphtha burned the hands and face of Mrs. Charles Gardner, 129 South Drexel avenue, the flames following its explosion destroyed two private garages with a total loss of about \$14,000.

Mrs. Gardner was using the fluid to clean clothing in her garage. After the explosion she ran screaming into the yard, her arms enveloped with liquid flame that she stifled by wrapping her apron around them. Her face was burned slightly, and after first aid by neighbors and firemen she was treated by a physician.

The Gardner garage burned to the ground, with a quantity of household furniture in it. A garage next door, owned by Otis Dyer, 127 South Drexel avenue, caught fire and was damaged \$400.

YOUNG GIRL TAKEN ON 'PARTY,' IS CHARGE

Uncle One of Four Men Held on Delinquency Counts.

Four men were held by police today after they are alleged to have been involved in a drinking "party" in which a 15-year-old girl participated late Wednesday.

According to Sergeant Harry Smith, neighbors found the girl in a stupor at the side of a house at 573 Jones street. Authorities allege the girl was brought there by her uncle, Otto Powell, 29, of 570 West Morris street.

The men, in addition to Powell, all of whom are charged with vagrancy and contributing to delinquency, are Le Roy Highfield, 19, of 852 Bradshaw avenue; Woodrow Dalley, 18, of the Jones street address, and Edgar Dalley, 28, of 530 West Morris street.

The girl is held at the detention home.

DOG RESCUED FROM DEATH WINS PRIZES

Two Weeks Brings Greyhound From Pound to Show Honors.

ST. LOUIS, March 12.—Two weeks ago E. J. Burke saw an unkempt greyhound in the humane society's "death chamber," liked the dog, obtained her, named her "Patches," and took her home.

Today the same dog, now called "Patches Queen," was on exhibit at the Mississippi Valley Kennel Club's show and had three blue ribbons decorating her cage.

JOHN W. HANAN DEAD

Federal Judge in Wilson Regime Succumbs at Lagrange Home.

Word was received here by friends today of the death of John W. Hanan, in his home at Lagrange, Mo.; prominent politically in the state, was a federal judge in the Panama Canal Zone during the Wilson administration. Funeral services are to be held in the Lagrange home Sunday.

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ARGUMENTS ARE ENDED IN TORCH DEATH TRIAL; CASE TO JURY THIS AFTERNOON

Electric Chair Demanded for Schroeder; Mattice Makes Final Plea for Conviction of Mobile Man.

HOLMES ASSAILS STATE EVIDENCE

Winkler Branded Liar; Other Witnesses Forced to Testify in Exchange for Protection, Attorney Says.

BY EDWARD C. FULKE

After nine months' waiting, Harold Herbert Schroeder, 35, former Mobile (Ala.) garage man, this afternoon will have his fate placed in the hands of twelve criminal court jurors, who may either convict or acquit him of the torch car murder.

Schroeder, stoic as the last stages of the trial progressed, may know in a few hours whether he must pay with his life for the alleged murder and burning of an unknown man. The charred body of the victim was dragged from Schroeder's flaming sedan on the High School road early on May 31.

When court adjourned at noon the desperate battle that has lasted fourteen days was ended.

State's final argument was completed at that time and the jury was prepared to receive the case before 3 p. m.

In the spot where hundreds before him had sat through tense moments of waiting, Schroeder was to hear Judge Frank P. Baker read his instructions and surrender the case to the jurors.

Mattice Attacks Story

Floyd Mattice, chief deputy prosecutor, stood before the jury from 9:30 a. m. until noon, making the state's last attack on Schroeder's story that the unknown man died of a broken neck in an accident.

"There never was a case in the history of the court where a defense attorney had so little to work on to save his client's neck," Mattice declared.

"All the evidence of guilt that was smeared on the countenance of this convicted man has been smeared by him," Mattice said.

"Schroeder's scheme was a nefarious one, and the factor of his undoing was the fact that his friend was discovered while his fleeing tracks still were hot," Mattice said.

Reverted to Shams

"He had no defense. He resorted to shams—cast suspicion on the authorities who arrested him, and lied before and during his trial."

Mattice closed his final argument shortly after 12:45 p. m., not making a plea that Schroeder be sent to the electric chair. He said the state is not "apologizing" for receiving the case from the former administration.

Mattice displayed the knife with which, he said, Schroeder stabbed the unknown man whose body was found in the car.

Airplanes that zoomed over the courthouse in the closing minutes of the state argument caused Baker, at one time, to rap for order.

Through the entire session Wednesday, attorneys reviewed evidence heard from the stand for the last thirteen days. Prosecutors completed the first half of their closing argument, and Schroeder's attorney, Ira Holmes, finished his argument at 4:45 p. m.

Holmes argued four hours in an effort to shatter the wall of circumstantial evidence laid around the Mobile man by almost two score state's witnesses.

Schroeder's fate goes to his peers with the testimony of two alienists that he is not and was not insane May 31 when he fired his sedan that contained the body of a man.

Jurors Wednesday heard Prosecutor Herbert Wilson demand the death penalty for Schroeder "and nothing else."