



The Indianapolis Times

NOON

VOLUME 42—NUMBER 275

INDIANAPOLIS, SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1931

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

MYSTERY SHIP SOS APPEALS HINT TRAGEDY

Vessel Believed Down in
Atlantic After Crew
Takes to Boats.

HOAX IS SUSPECTED

Confusing Radio Messages
Lead to Belief of Rum
Runner Plot.

By United Press
NEW YORK, March 28.—Naval communications operators who listened to an SOS early today from a ship off Barnegat light which refused to reveal its identity, told the United Press they believed the ship's operator "deliberately was sending poorly."

This opinion lent strength to an opinion expressed by commercial operators that the distress signals were a well-arranged hoax to deceive the coast guard.

It was suggested that the signals might have been transmitted by rum runners attempting to draw coast guard vessels to a certain point while they were landing contraband liquor on the coast.

Liner's Search Futile

By United Press
NEW YORK, March 28.—The Munson line steamer Pan-America notified the Radio Marine Corporation early today that it had arrived at the spot off Barnegat light where an unknown vessel was reported sinking. The Pan-America was searching the vicinity for traces of the ship or lifeboats.

Ship's Name Untold

By United Press
ASBURY PARK, N. J., March 28.—An unidentified ship carrying fifteen passengers in addition to her crew was believed to have gone down in a choppy sea off the lower New Jersey coast, today.

An operator who had sent out distress signals for two hours summoned aid for the sinking vessel reported just before signing off at 2:05 a. m. today that the passengers and crew had lowered lifeboats in the darkness and were deserting the ship.

The coast guard vessels which sped to the scene on receipts of the SOS reported at 6:20 a. m. that they were searching for the lifeboats.

No Trace of Boats

No trace of the passengers, crew or ship was immediately apparent, the coast guard officers said.

Persistent appeals were made to the operator of the ship to report its name, but to no avail among the SOS calls.

Although he was in communication with land stations along the coast and in New York for almost two hours and was asked repeatedly what ship needed aid, he would reveal only the location of the vessel, frequently adding the pica to "hurry aid."

As he signed off he reported that water had crept up into his cabin, and it was believed the ship had gone down after his radio transmitter became silent.

Shortly before sending his last message at 2:05 a. m., the radio operator aboard the mystery ship said water was rising in his cabin. His final words were: "leaving now; goodby."

Perplexed by Messages

Commercial operators in land stations were perplexed by the strange nature of the messages, and the apparent unwillingness of the operator to send the name of the sinking vessel.

The first SOS came from the ship at 12:25 a. m., followed by a steady succession of distress signals.

"We are off Barnegat light," the operator messaged.

At 12:36 the naval station in New York asked, "What ship is off Barnegat?"

There was no reply. After several minutes the distress signals were resumed, slowly and falteringly, as though the operator was confused and very nervous.

Water in Radio Room

In his next message the operator said his ship was thirty miles off Barnegat. Again the naval station inquired the name, and no response came.

At 12:56 the operator wirelessed: "Water in radio room. We have fifteen passengers aboard. We are thirty miles off Barnegat."

Further inquiries about the ship's name brought only the reply: "Hurry! Water rising."

The land operators persisted in their effort to learn the ship's name, but the distressed ship was silent. Finally it was asked, "Are you still with us?"

The reply was: "Taking to boats."

The New York naval station wirelessed a request to "send dashes if possible" but there was no reply. To send dashes means for the operator to hold the key down for long periods, so compass dashes can be taken.

At this time the steamship Lion came in and informed the naval station it was sixty miles from Barnegat and headed for Rio De Janeiro. Asked if it was going to the aid of the unknown ship, the Lion's operator replied in the affirmative.

"Are you still with us?" the distressed ship again was asked.

"Yes, old man," replied the operator. "Radio room is filling with water, but set clear."

The ship was advised that aid was being rushed to the scene.

Hourly Temperatures

6 a. m.... 47 8 a. m.... 42
8 a. m.... 46 9 a. m.... 40

CLOSED BANK HEAD KILLED BY GAS OF MOTOR CAR ENGINE

Coroner to Determine If
Edward Morris Died
by Accident.

Coroner's investigation was under way today to determine whether death of J. Edward Morris, 52, president of the defunct Washington Bank and Trust Company, was accidental.

Mr. Morris' body was found in his garage at his home, near Eighteenth street and College avenue, late Friday. Carbon monoxide from the exhaust of an automobile, motor of which was running, caused death. He died only a day after Herbert E. Wilson, Marion county prosecutor, announced he would begin grand jury investigation of the bank's failure Oct. 28, 1930. Brandt C. Downey, receiver, recently had declared that affairs of the bank would permit no payments to depositors for some time.

"I do not know whether the probe of the bank's failure will be continued," Wilson said today. "However, I believe that it probably will be carried on."

INNERS RECEIPTS FOUND

Reposing on a blanket on the garage floor, the head pillow on a door mat, the body was found by Mrs. Helen Johnson, sister of Mr. Morris. She called Dr. D. R. Lee, of Broad Ripple, who notified police. Mr. Morris apparently was dead when his sister entered the garage, according to Coroner Fred Vehling and Drs. Emil Winters and Henry Alburger, deputy coroners, performed an autopsy at city hospital, but beyond stating that carbon monoxide gas caused death, reported nothing from the post-mortem.

Mr. Morris' pockets were found several insurance receipts, all of which had been paid during the past month, according to the coroner. There was also a small amount of money in the pockets.

The coroner said he probably would return a verdict Tuesday after a formal inquest.

WAS REAL ESTATE DEALER

Mr. Morris was born on a farm near Broad Ripple, and at one time taught public school in this country. For a number of years he was connected with several telephone companies, and in 1910 formed a real estate business.

In 1914 he was chairman of a committee of realtors that organized the Indianapolis Real Estate Board, and was president of that organization. Later he was named president of the Washington bank, which had numerous real estate holdings.

Mr. Morris belonged to Broad

way M. E. church, Chamber of Commerce, Indianapolis Athletic Club, Murat Temple of the Shrine, Scottish Rite, Kiwanis Club and the Columbia Club.

Survivors are: The widow, Mrs. Morris; two daughters, Miss Isabelle Morris and Miss Asberene Morris; two brothers, Irvin and Oscar Morris, and the sister, Mrs. Johnson.

QUESTIONING OF COLE TALES MEN CONTINUES

Tedious Process Will End Early
Next Week, Attorneys Hope.

By Times Special
ABOARD U. S. S. ARIZONA, at
RUSHVILLE, Ind., March 28.—Tedious questioning of talesmen in an effort to obtain a jury to try Mrs. Marie Cole, alleged to have lured her husband to his death Oct. 13, continued today.

Attorneys hoped to select a jury early next week.

Mrs. Cole is charged with being an accessory to the slaying of her husband, Raymond Cole, in a lane near Greenfield. Frank Jordan, paramour of Mrs. Cole, now is serving a life sentence for the crime.

William L. Vandever, United States district attorney of Kansas City, said the federal government sought possession of Burke in connection with the theft at Toledo, O., of interstate shipments.

Burke and two companions were charged with robbing an express truck of jewelry there in April, 1928.

HOOVER RUSHING HOME

President Likely to Be Back in
White House by Sunday Night.

By United Press

On March 28.—The battleship Arizona pushed rapidly toward Norfolk today in an effort to arrive ahead of schedule and permit President Hoover to reach Washington Sunday night.

After warm weather in the West Indies, a stiff wind and choppy seas forced the President to wear an overcoat on the last stages of the trip.

16 BOYS, GIRLS ARE FIRED FROM I. U.

Tedious Process Will End Early
Next Week, Attorneys Hope.

By Times Special

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., March 28.—Betty Coed was in rather a stew about things on Indiana university campus today.

Sixteen of her boy and girl friends were sorting their socks, shirts, and other clothing from roommates' trunks, ready to depart, because deans learned too much about recent social functions in fraternity houses.

The fraternity houses were penalized and probably will lose their social privileges for the remainder of the year. Whether any further action will be taken against miscreant students is problematical, since it was known Friday that the committee on student affairs had touched other alleged wild parties than those because of which the sixteen were expelled.

Names of the ex-students, and of the three Greek letter organizations found guilty by the committee of having sponsored dances at which co-eds drank and dined, in other inscriptions were withheld by the committee, which, in the past two weeks, has expelled two co-eds who attended the parties.

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