

INDIANAPOLIS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1932

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## Hexeria

Voodoo Symbol Carved on Brow of Slain Church Worker.

By United Press  
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Jan. 21.—A voodoo symbol of a murdered church worker, may change a fatal stabbing case into a crime of mysticism, another Pennsylvania "hex murder."

Evidence of "hexeria," a strange belief in signs to ward off the evil, was discovered about twelve hours after Norman R. Bechtel, 31, was found dying in a roadway, his heart encircled by stab wounds.

A careful examination of the body by Detective Captain Harry Healy revealed the mark of "hexeria."

Two small crescents were cut into the flesh of the victim on each side of the forehead. A horizontal slit about an inch long was under each crescent. Then in the center of the forehead, extending in a vertical line from the hair line to the bridge of the nose was another cut.

Extending from this one diagonally up and across the forehead toward the crescents were two more straight cuts. Each incision was just deep enough to cause a blood flow.

BECHTEL was stabbed with a long, thin-bladed knife as he sat at the wheel of his motor car with his slayer at his side. He evidently regarded the killer as his friend, police believe.

The first stroke of the knife was delivered with such force that it ripped through the victim's overcoat, his coat and penetrated a spectacle case before it plunged into the heart.

After the first thrust the killer opened Bechtel's two coats and circled the heart with seven more plunges of the knife. Then the dying man was hurled from the car into the street, where his groans brought a policeman.

"Hexeria," as found in southern Pennsylvania, is a combination of superstitions which Negroes brought with them from African jungles, the teachings of Indian medicine men and the medieval belief in witchcraft brooded by the Incas and Holland by Dutch settlers in Pennsylvania and by Hessian mercenaries hired by the British to fight for them during the Revolutionary war.

THE three schools of supernatural belief met in southern Pennsylvania where the Indians already were established. To that region, the Hessians retired to join with Dutch settlers after they were discharged by the British toward the close of the revolution. The country was just over the boundary from the slave holding south. Freed or escaping Negroes came here and mingled their superstitions with those of the Dutch, Germans and Indians, forming a cult found nowhere else on earth and which has persisted despite all efforts of teachers, the clergy and the law to remove it.

In many towns of southern Pennsylvania, ancient handbooks on the black art, revised to fit the beliefs prevalent in that region, are on sale.

They tell how some people are endowed with powers of witchcraft, how burial of a lock of hair will break the witch's spell; give strange incantations to ward off evil, to bring the blessings of parenthood, or to win the love of a sweetheart.

LITERALLY hundreds of children in that region are given the benefit of "powwow" doctors at birth to insure health and happiness through life. A few incantations and some odd practices, such as measuring with bits of string which afterward are buried, usually make up the service of the "powwow" doctor.

Only occasionally does the belief break out in violence such as murder. "The feeling is that the life does not end the spell of the victim—that the powers merely pass to the body of a relative. But there are cases where murder has been done and the weird signs carved on the victim are believed to have some power to prevent the flight of the evil spirit from the dead body to one that is living.

SAVES WOMAN FROM TRAIN, GIVEN MEDAL

Pennsylvania Employee in Indiana One of Five to Be Honored.

E. J. Ewing of Winamac, Logansport division station clerk for the Pennsylvania railroad, was one of five employees awarded company heroic medals during 1931, it was announced today by R. V. Massey, vice-president in charge of personnel.

Ewing received the award for saving the life of Mrs. August Adam, who wandered on to the track in front of the station at Winamac. Ewing snatched her out of the path just as the train rushed past. The locomotive brushed Ewing's coat.

DELEGATES TO PARLEY

Moose Officials to Attend Two Sessions at Philadelphia

William A. Anderson, supreme councilman of the Loyal Order of Moose and secretary of Indianapolis Moose lodge No. 17, will attend the midwinter conference of the order and the legion convocation at the Bellevue-Stratford, Philadelphia, Friday and Saturday.

En route, he will be a guest at a testimonial meeting in Pittsburgh in memory of Joseph G. Armstrong, past supreme dictator.

Old Store to Close

LA PORTE, Ind., Jan. 21.—The Kriedler Clothing Company, which has operated here since sixty-three years, announces its closing. The store was founded by Matthew Kriedler Sr., grandfather of the present owner, Elmer Kriedler.

## URGE BALL TO CONTEST VOTE FOR CONGRESS

Democratic Leaders Want Attorney to Question Vestal Election.

FRAUD EVIDENCE CITED

Incumbent's Margin Only Nine Ballots; Probe Plea Is on File.

Claude C. Ball, Muncie attorney, who was nosed out in the election for congressional representative from the old Eighth district in 1930 election by nine votes, was solicited today by R. Earl Peters, Democratic state chairman, to wage a contest for the seat.

Such a contest was instituted by Ball soon after the election, when it was learned that Albert Vestal, Republican incumbent, had been re-elected by only nine votes.

Investigation by The Times revealed many mutilated and discarded ballots in one Delaware county precinct.

Circuit Judge L. A. Guthrie then called a night session of the court and ordered the mutilated ballots impounded, and the reopening of the envelopes containing the tally sheets.

Papers Forwarded

Ball then properly signed and forwarded the necessary papers to Washington for contesting of the election.

For some unknown reason, no further actions was taken although the contest still is on file with the congressional committee on elections.

Attention was redirected to the situation at the recent Indiana delegation dinner in Washington when Speaker John Garner demanded to know why the fight was halted.

The Democratic state committee then sent a representative to Muncie to discuss the matter with Ball.

As a result of this, Chairman Peters today sent a letter to Ball saying:

Cites Fraud Belief

"Democratic leaders in Washington exceedingly anxious that this contest be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. There is a prevalent belief that frauds were committed in the reporting of the ballots cast in that election."

Peters advised Ball that under the federal law, a fund not to exceed \$2,000 would be available to the contestant.

"We at state headquarters have at all times been most eager that this contest be prosecuted," the chairman continues. "Despite the limitations of our financial resources, we have been most eager and willing to raise any funds necessary to that end."

"Until a few weeks ago, we were under the impression that whatever evidence there was available indicating fraud, a fund had been procured and placed in the hands of the election committee in congress."

Evidence Not Presented

"On the occasion of my recent visit to Washington, I was advised that the evidence had not been presented, but that there still is an avenue through which we may attack the purported election of Vestal."

"I am informed that if the proper evidence is procured and presented and the house of representatives is convinced that the election of Vestal was clouded by fraud, a special election ordered for the purpose of choosing a successor to him."

Peters in his letter also declared that any attorney Ball may select to aid him in the contest will be placed at his services by the state committee.

So great an interest has developed in the situation that Mayor George Dale of Muncie has announced his intention of going to Washington to confer with party leaders on the matter.

DEMAND HEAVY RANSOM

Chinese Bandits Seek \$50,000 for American's Release.

PEIPING, China, Jan. 21.—Bandits holding James Baker, demanded \$50,000 gold today for his release. American Vice-Consul Edmund Crow, aboard the gunboat Oahu, sent to Baker, negotiated with representatives of his captors. Baker and six of his Chinese crew were seized on the Yangtze river and are held at Pailochi, twenty miles west of Hankow.

Hog Carried Lodge Pin

PRINCETON, Ind., Jan. 21.—A hog butcher at the farm of J. M. Austin, six miles southwest of here, is believed to have carried a lodge emblem pin imbedded in its body. Mrs. Austin lost the pin several weeks ago. While cooking the feet of the hog she noticed the pin in the broth.

## America's Children, Hope of the Nation, Periled by Depression's Barren Cupboards



They are the men and women of tomorrow—the hope of America. They look to us. In our keeping lies their future. Some day they must carry the burdens of our nation. Will they enter manhood and womanhood strong and

virile and well equipped for the great task that lies ahead—or will they face life with the handicap due to improper or insufficient nutrition and care during childhood? Can we betray their childish trust, their simple faith?

## Dooms Chins

By United Press  
CHICAGO, Jan. 21.—The day will come when no one in the world will worry over double chins, Dr. Isaac Abt, Northwestern university pediatrician, believes. Chins, he declared, gradually are disappearing.

## NEW CHAIN TAX BILL SCHEDULED

Stiffer Assessment, Plan of State Lawmaker.

Plan to introduce a bill at a special session or the next regular session of the Indiana legislature to increase the chain store tax to \$150 per store on the larger chains was announced today by Representative H. Curtis Bennett, (Dem., Dillsboro), author of the original bill.

Bennett, a member of the state budget committee, said that he would have several bills ready any time the legislature meets.

He would lift the tax from single stores entirely and start at \$50 on five. Now the tax runs from \$5 a store to \$25 on the larger chains.

Failure to have the assessments high enough is the cause of the failure of the present law to live up to expectation in the matter of producing revenues, Bennett said.

Collections to date show that it will yield only about \$900,000 for 1932, 30 and 31. Bennett anticipates a yield of around \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 a year under his amended bill.

He also will support a malt tax bill but opposes a cigarette levy on the grounds that there is enough bootlegging going on without extending it to tobacco.

Reduction of governmental costs also is on Bennett's program.

NEW RECORD FOR COURT

LEBANON, Ind., Jan. 21.—A new record for the number of cases filed was set in Boone circuit court during 1931, the total being 1,115.

BY BEN STERN.

HARD sell conservative Hoosier Democrats who, through their very standpoint, have for years gradually grown to think as Republicans are having the shock of their political lives.

For suddenly, without a word of warning, Indiana has elected a congressman who happens to be a Jeffersonian in the real sense of the word.

The political throwback is Eugene Crowe of Bedford, old Third district congressman, elected in 1930.

Without a word of warning, Crowe, who long has been an independent political thinker, expounded his "heresies" at a dinner in his home town. However, they were not given wide publicity until, upon motion of his colleague, Congressman Arthur Greenwood of the Second district, they were printed in the Congressional Record.

And that is there in this political philosophy which Crowe enunciated to shock the Hoosiers.

Nothing but the following: He joins with Senator Norris (Rep., Neb.), and Governor Roosevelt of New York, and a score or more of other progressives in believing that the federal government should own and operate the giant power plants.

And he is on the side of Senators La Follette and Coolidge in their demands that the federal government issue bonds to be used on construction projects to relieve unemployment.

"I believe a bond issue at this time of from \$2,000,000,000 to \$5,000,000,000 would bring money out of hiding and the spending of it for federal road building, public improvements and similar projects would break the back of this depression," declared Crowe.

## VEHLING FEE PLEA REFUSED

Commissioners Decline to Pay \$25 Claim.

Policy of not allowing claims for fees on alleged unnecessary autopsies performed under direction of Coroner Fred W. Vehling was adopted today by county commissioners.

A claim for a \$25 fee for an autopsy on the body of Henry Pohlman, who presumably was asphyxiated by fumes from his automobile in the garage at his home Friday, was rejected by commissioners.

Investigation into actual cause of Pohlman's death was started by the board.

"There was no reason for performing an autopsy in that case," George Snider, Republican commissioner, stated. "It seems the coroner is out to use up his 1932 autopsy fund as soon as possible."

Vehling faces bribery solicitation charges in criminal court and is due to go on trial Monday. Impeachment charges now pending against the coroner in circuit court also grew out of his autopsy practices.

The claim for \$25 was presented by Dr. Henry R. Alburger, who performed the autopsy, within two days after Pohlman's death.

"It was a plain case of death from monoxide gas and should not be allowed," Dow W. Vorhies and Thomas Ellis, Democratic board members, declared.

LYTTON STRACHEY DIES

Author and Biographer Succumbs to Paratyphoid Fever.

INKPEN NEAR MARLBORO, England, Jan. 21.—Lytton Strachey, author and biographer, died today at 53.

He had been ill for several weeks with paratyphoid fever and became worse a few days ago.

He was best known for his "Queen Victoria." Other recent works included "Elizabeth and Essex" and "Portraits in Miniature."

## THEY TELL ME

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The real shock in the entire affair is how Indiana finally elected a man to congress who can think along liberal lines.

This is the first of a series of six daily articles on the proper care and nutrition of children, published by this newspaper in co-operation with the American Child Health Association. The present depression and unemployment has made this a grave problem in many families where a dollar must go further now than ever before.

BY AIDA DE ACOSTA BRECKINRIDGE  
American Child Health Association  
Written Especially for NEA Service and The Times

NOBODY lives to himself these days. Each one of us is more acutely conscious than formerly of our responsibility for our neighbor. This unselfish conscience is one of the really fine things that the so-called depression has produced. We feel our responsibility toward children especially.

For ten years after the present hard times are forgotten, thousands of today's children will still be suffering from the depression, unless we protect them now.

Little tots and young boys and girls today are going without clothing and warm rooms and adequate food. The last is most important of all.

There has been awakened among most of us, then, a keener consciousness of the way our neighbors live, and a desire not only to share with others, but so far as we can, to give others the tools which will enable them to do as much for themselves as possible.

The American Child Health Association, therefore, has undertaken: First, to get for fathers and mothers the most practical and authentic information about feeding children on small budgets; second, to send over the country.

Our initial step was to get the expert opinion of a specialist familiar with the nutrition needs of the growing child. We secured from Dr. Henry C. Sherman of Columbia university, a clear statement to guide those who are advising families on what foods can be safely omitted when funds get lower, and what foods should be retained in the child's diet when the standards below a safe margin, but they do offer practical suggestions for safeguarding the health of children even when it is necessary to spend less money than formerly.

Dr. Sherman points out that variety is not necessary, provided the child's diet contains the correct building foods. To secure these the food budget may be divided into fifths: One-fifth for milk and milk products; one-fifth for fruits and vegetables; one-fifth for bread and cereals; one-fifth for meat and fish; and one-fifth for fats and sugar.

When the budget is greatly reduced, it is wise to omit the last two groups altogether, dividing the food money into thirds and spending it on the first three groups.

Finally if the question arises as to whether bread or milk shall be bought for the child, Dr. Sherman tells us that "Milk builds bone and muscle better than any other food."

A second leaflet, "Food at Low Cost," was then prepared for us by Miss Lucy H. Gillett. Based on her experience as superintendent of the Nutrition Bureau of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, New York City, it presents information which any mother can understand and apply.

She says, "When every cent must be well spent, first buy: Milk, bread and cereals, vegetables and fruit."

She lists in each group some of the foods which are least expensive, but which give the necessary nourishment to children, and she offers thrift suggestions like these: "Day old bread is better for children than fresh bread, and costs less."

A tall can of evaporated milk, with an equal amount of water added, is as good for children as one quart of pasteurized whole milk.

"Tomatoes are often used as vegetables, but they are fruit and, fresh or canned, they may be used in place of oranges."

"Buy food loose instead of in boxes whenever possible, because it is cheaper."

Miss Gillett also gives a weekly grocery order for a family of three or four with the multiplication necessary for larger families. Quantities are given for both a liberal plan and a thrift plan.

IN trying to get this practical information into the hands of people who need it and will be glad to use it, we have met such community co-operation.

Health departments, community chests, welfare agencies, churches and national organizations like the Parent-Teacher Associations, the Junior leagues, the American legion, are among those who are distributing Miss Gillett's "Food at Low Cost" to mothers.

Not only must we all work to prevent widespread weakness and illness among the next generation. We must build now for positive health—for vitality and vigor.

Scientists agree that the size and strength of the people of any nation

## URBANA MAYOR OPENS BUSINESS

Bank Closing Hysteria Calms in Illinois Twin Cities.

By United Press  
URBANA, Ill., Jan. 21.—A forty-eight-hour holiday on business decreed by young Mayor Reginald C. Harmon, to halt panic that threatened the banks of this college town, ended today with confidence restored.

The 31-year-old executive withdrew his unique order late yesterday. He originally ordered a five-day suspension of all business except that necessary for life and order.

But the hysteria which forced closing of two banks in the twin cities of Champaign and Urbana, was calmed by the marshalling of business as usual today.

The city's two banks, the First National and the Busey State bank, pledged from thousands of depositors not to withdraw their funds until the crisis is ended.

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## LATIN NATIONS PROFFER HELP IN LOAN PROBE

Ask Inquiry on 'Dollar Diplomacy' Backed by State Department.

CABLEGRAM IS REFUSED

Stimson Given Three Days by Senate to Produce Message.

BY RAY TUCKER  
Times Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—The spectacle of three Latin-American nations formally asking the United States senate to investigate "dollar diplomacy" as practiced by New York bankers, with tacit approval of the state department, confronted the senate finance committee today.

The three countries—Chile, Peru and Haiti—have requested senatorial investigators to dig out all facts regarding loans advanced by the bankers in alleged return for vast oil and nitrate concessions to American interests allied with the financiers.

By an almost unanimous vote, the Peruvian legislature has urged investigation of the \$415,000 "commission" paid by J. & W. Seligman & Co. to Juan Leguia, son of the deposed president of Peru.

Offer Information

The three nations also have promised to furnish any information that will throw light on alleged co-operations between bankers and groups which have obtained concessions, including the Guggenheim interests in Chile's nitrate fields, and Standard Oil in Peru.

Parallel efforts by the state department to obtain a loan for Colombia and restoration of the \$2,000,000 Barco oil concession to the Mellon interests already have been disclosed.

Although the state department has been charged with aiding in negotiations for loans and concessions, it has been forced to serve as an intermediary between these three governments and the senate committee.

In one instance, however, a Latin-American diplomat acted without going through the usual diplomatic channels, so great was his concern over the revelations.

Chilean Ambassador Acts

Apparently with the approval of his government, Ambassador Miguel Cruchaga Tormoc asked the committee to turn up all possible data on the Chilean situation.

When Senator Hiram Johnson (Rep., Cal.), sponsor of the inquiry, urged the Secretary of State to forward certain questions to the Chilean government, Ambassador Tormoc took time by the forelock and transmitted them after reading the newspapers. It is understood an Chilean government will comply in time for a joint meeting of the committee Monday.

Besides waiting for this data, the committee has given Stimson three days to answer its unanimous resolution calling on him for diplomatic correspondence dealing with his efforts to speed up a loan to Colombia at a time when the Barco concession was in controversy.

Stimson has declined to produce any references to the oil grant, although he gave the committee extracts bearing on other matters, and read the withheld portions to the bankers' representatives.

Concession Preceded Loan

Commenting on the state department attitude, Johnson said it was absurd and hard to understand. He pointed out that there should be no withholding of documents if there were nothing to conceal. The document wanted is a telegram from Jefferson Caffery, American minister to Colombia, in which he registered a protest against the bankers' failure to forward the money agreed upon.

It quoted President Enrique Olaya Herrera as saying he "had done everything the bankers wanted, including restoration of the Barco concession, and passage of favorable oil legislation."

It has been brought out that the \$4,000,000 was advanced ten days after the Colombian legislature ratified Herrera's validation of the concession.

May Recall Witnesses

Meanwhile, the committee has received information that officials of several banks in small towns would like to tell their story of foreign bond flotations.

Several instances brought to the attention of Senator Johnson are reported to show that a contributing factor to failure was the excessive amount of defaulted and depreciated foreign bonds these small institutions felt compelled to buy from the so-called "international bankers." Johnson hopes to present this side of the picture before he concludes the inquiry.

The senator also may investigate reports that New York banks short-term credits before testifying on this point before the committee. As a result of a reported agreement, the banks pooled their holdings so that the largest amount held by one institution was \$71,000,000.

Johnson has information