

## BLAME ILLEGAL OPERATIONS FOR FIFTY DEATHS

Oklahoma Authorities Push Probe of Tragic 'Epidemic' After Co-Eds Succumb.

By United Press

OKLAHOMA CITY, April 29. — Continuing his investigation in recent deaths believed caused by illegal operations, Lewis Morris, county attorney, today said he believed "more than fifty young women and girls have died here in the past year" from such causes.

Since Thursday, when it became known that two University of Oklahoma students had died within a week as a result of such operations, the scope of the investigation has widened with every passing hour. Today an osteopath was held in jail, pending a preliminary hearing May 6, on a charge of murder. He was John W. Eisminger, 50, named in the death bed statement of Virginia Wyckoff, pretty 22-year-old co-ed, as the man who had performed an operation upon her.

### Physician Is Hunted

Another man, a physician, was hunted throughout the southwest on a similar charge.

He was Dr. R. E. Thacker, against whom one murder charge has been filed, and two other complaints made.

County Attorney Lewis Morris also wished to question him about a fourth case.

Morris named nine deaths of asserted victims of criminal operations, and announced each case would be investigated closely.

Mrs. Wyckoff and Mrs. Frank Lee, 17-year-old bride of a university football star, both died at the Oklahoma City general hospital, where they were taken after physicians found them in a serious condition.

### Sorrow at University

Mrs. Lee's death caused deep sorrow at the university, where her courtship by Lee had been a romantic college idyll, and her death the tragic outcome of the couple's desire to keep their marriage secret.

Weeping openly, Lee told of his meeting with Miss Nancy Joe Seay of Wichita Falls, Tex., their brief courtship, and their marriage during the interval between semesters. "We didn't want the marriage annulled," he said. "That's what our folks would have done had they known of it."

Morris named seven others he said he believed had died of similar operations. They were: Mrs. P. S. Roach, died April 23; Ruth Hall, 22-

## Wins Plane Hop



Miss Alice Cash of Glendale, Cal., cashed in on her contagious smile, but she appears to have other claims to lure the eye. She was chosen out of 15,000 contestants in a southern California "smile contest."

Among many prizes, she was awarded an airplane trip to San Francisco and a week's vacation in the coast city, on which she is starting in picture above.

year-old Bethany girl, died April 15; Mrs. Isobel Ferguson, 22, died April 14; Ethel Hestand, 30, died April 3, death certificate filed by Dr. Thacker; Robbie Lou Thompson, died April 20, Dr. Thacker charged with murder in connection with her death; Geraldine Easley, 19, died March 19, "patient" admits criminal operation, said the death certificate; a girl named Epperson, said by her brother to have died two years ago after an illegal operation.

### Patrolman's Cycle Kills Woman

VINCENNES, Ind., April 29.—Mrs. Harriett Kackley, 72, Vincennes, was killed Thursday night when struck by a motorcycle ridden by a patrolman, after she had leaped from the path of an auto.

## FUND DRIVE OPENS

Jewish Welfare Workers Seek \$53,000 Goal.

The Jewish Welfare Fund campaign was opened formally today as workers took the field to reach a goal of \$53,000. Half the goal total had been pledged before the opening of the campaign, it was announced Thursday night when workers and team captain met at the Broadmoor Country Club.

Rabbi Jonah B. Wise of New York, one of the nation's Jewish leaders, was the guest speaker, and told the fund workers that "you are in no sense beggars when you go forth to solicit funds for this work. You are messengers of the Church of Israel."

Samuel Mueller is chairman of the men's division and Mrs. J. A. Goodman is directing the women workers in the drive.

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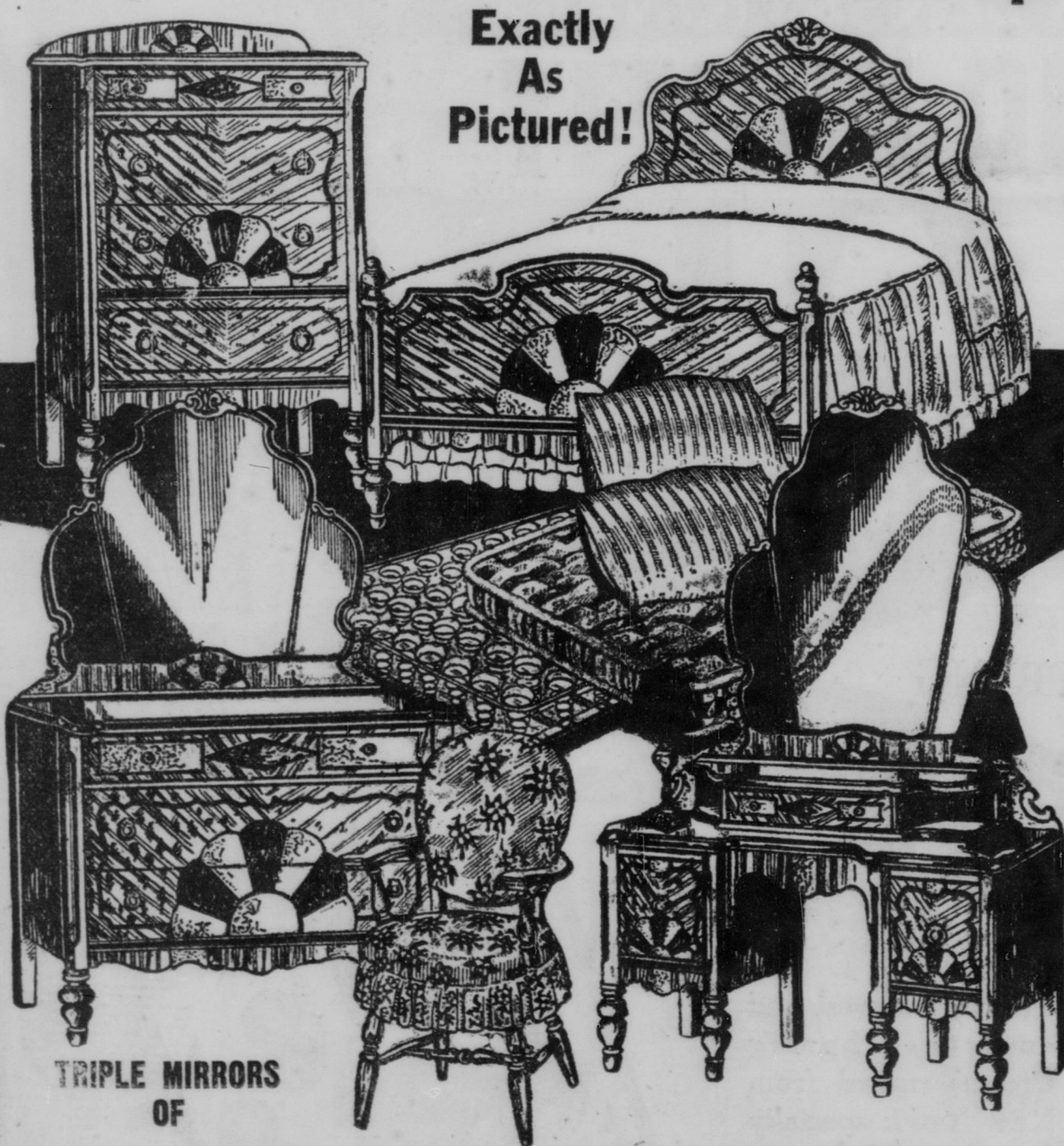
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