

The Indianapolis Times

Generally fair tonight and Sunday; slightly colder tonight with lowest temperature about 5; rising temperature Sunday afternoon.

VOLUME 44—NUMBER 237

INDIANAPOLIS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1933

Entered as Second-Class Matter at Postoffice, Indianapolis

Capital EDITION

PRICE TWO CENTS

Outside Marion County, 3 Cents

FEAR 170 DEAD IN EXPLOSION OF GAS TANK

German Industrial City Is Left in Ruins; 1,000 Are Injured.

BLAST FELT 150 MILES

Buildings Are Crushed Like Cardboard, Bodies Hurlled Hundreds of Feet.

NEUNKIRCHEN, Germany, Feb. 11.—The industrial section of Neunkirchen was in ruins today after the explosion of a gas tank that crushed buildings like cardboard, obliterated an iron works and a benzol plant, hurled bodies and debris through the air for hundreds of feet, and was felt 150 miles away.

Police, firemen, soldiers, and volunteers rescue workers had recovered fifty bodies from the ruins early today. Police estimated that the death toll would reach at least 170, with 1,000 injured. Two hundred and eighty survivors were taken to hospitals in serious condition.

Seven persons were killed by the stones, pieces of steel, wood, glass, and miscellaneous parts of buildings hurled over the town. The top of the gas tank was found half a mile away on a railroad track. The top was about 150 feet in diameter.

Supplies Are Commandeered

The blast left remaining only the chassis of a street car, which was passing the iron works and Benzol plant when the explosion happened. The tank supplied the entire district with gas.

An adjacent settlement of workmen's houses was shaken, trapping women and children.

A second explosion followed the first blast.

Emergency hospitals and first aid stations were set up after the regular hospitals were filled. Medical supplies were commandeered and urgent appeals sent to nearby cities for doctors and nurses.

Many flee for miles.

Five hundred men were known to have been working in various plants near the gas tank. Police estimated that most of today would be required to make an accurate check of the dead.

"I saw ten houses knocked flat simultaneously by the explosion," an injured survivor told the United Press. "In one street, every house was wrecked. Inhabitants of all parts of the city fled from their homes, believing at first that a serious earthquake had followed recent minor earth shocks here.

"Many women and children were trampled in the stampede. Thousands of windows were shattered and chimney pots tumbled into the streets. I saw doctors performing operations in the streets, and priests administering the last sacrament to the dying."

Blast Felt 150 Miles

Buildings wrecked included the railroad station, part of a hospital, a telephone exchange, and a theater which was unoccupied.

The first explosion was felt at Cologne, Basle, and other cities within a range of 150 miles. The second occurred an hour later, when the gas tank exploded.

Police reserves were forced to fight back a crowd from the danger zone as members of families of workmen, mostly women and children, rushed to the scene.

Fragments of heavy freight cars were found seven miles from Neunkirchen. The cause of the blast was not determined, but it was believed that a minor explosion at the benzol plant started a fire which spread to gas pipes and finally ignited the gas tank. Unconfirmed reports laid the explosion to sabotage.

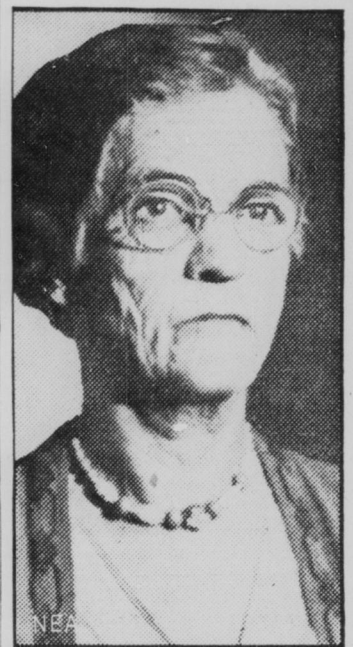
Grosses Scene Described

"Immediately after the explosion there was a dead silence," one survivor said, "then panic, terrible cries and groans came from the debris. Then I saw a stream of blazing liquid appear from the site of the benzol plant, and soon fire appeared in all parts of the ruins."

Members of a rescue party reported that an injured woman died in their arms after they forced their way through the debris of her home. The woman was able to murmur only, "Eight of us, drinking coffee," before she died. Seven other members of her family were believed buried in the ruins.

Passengers on a street car blown to pieces were so mutilated that it was impossible to determine how many people had been on the car.

HELP SNARE KIDNAPERS



A young woman music teacher, Louella Pearl Hammer, and an ex-convict friend, W. P. Howard, have confessed, according to Los Angeles police, that they kidnapped Mrs. Mary B. Skeels, 40, for \$100,000 ransom. Police attempted to link the pair to the attempted abduction of Miss Isobel Smith (lower), who fought off would-be kidnapers at Pasadena. Stories of Mrs. Skeels and Miss Smith led to capture of the suspects.

GARNISHEE LAW RULED INVALID

Decree Is Handed Down by Judge Pickens; Held Unconstitutional.

Marion county debtors today have the protection of a court decree against having their wages taken from them by garnishee process.

Superior Judge William A. Pickens handed down the decree Friday, holding the 1925 garnishee law unconstitutional and invalid.

This ruling with those of two other superior judges who have cited the law's unconstitutionality, during the last year, is expected to halt hundreds of suits in garnishment.

However, Superior Judges Russell J. Ryan and Clarence E. Weir did not issue decrees. They held the law invalid in overruling demurrers in cases involving it.

Pickens ruled in favor of Frank Hodge, laborer, employed by the Link Belt Company, who sued for injunction to prevent Schloss Brothers Investment Company from levying on 10 per cent of his wages.

"The garnishee act violates the fourteenth amendment to the federal Constitution, in that it deprives a person of property without due process of law," Pickens held.

Fork-Eater

Girl, 18, Is Operated On for Removal of Table Implement.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 11.—Margaret Santell, 18, underwent an operation at Ancker hospital Friday for removal from her stomach a seven-inch table fork which she had swallowed accidentally.

The girl said the fork "just slipped" when she placed the handle in her mouth in an effort to relieve illness.

It lodged in her stomach with the handle down and the prongs pointing upward. She said she suffered no pain.

Hilly thoroughfares were closed in Garfield, Brookside and Elmhurst parks; Capitol avenue at Fifty-second street; Thirty-sixth street, from Elmira to the canal;

\$1.50 TAX LAW HELD MENACE TO EDUCATION

Connersville Bond Issue Is Defended as Necessary for Child Welfare.

PASSES HOUSE, 51-29

Slated as Special Order of Business in Senate Tuesday.

Issue has been formed as to whether welfare of children or retention of the state's \$1.50 tax limit law shall prevail.

This is the declaration of supporters of a bill which would permit issuance of up to \$100,000 in bonds by the city of Connersville to pay expenses of operating its schools for the term to open in September.

The bill, passed in the house of representatives, 51 to 29, will be a special order of business in the senate at 2 Monday afternoon. The decision Friday followed debate precipitated when foes of the legislation sought indefinite postponement.

Speaks for Children

The senate committee on education presented the bill with a split report, the majority favoring killing the bill and the minority urging its passage.

Senator Walter S. Chambers (Dem., Newcastle), was the chief spokesman for the bill.

"The sole issue," he said, "is whether school children in Connersville are going to get an education or have a year taken out of their lives which never can be replaced."

Charge that "a certain Fayette county bank would like to get hold of that bond issue" was made by Senator Tholme W. Druley (Dem., Boston) in opposing the bill.

Another opponent of the measure, Senator Chester A. Perkins (Dem., South Bend) expressed fear that its passage would be the beginning of the end of the \$1.50 tax law, which law he asserted was "an expression of the will of the people."

Stormy Scene Results

Although defending the \$1.50 law, Senator Anderson Schuchman, Greensburg, Democratic floor leader, asked:

"Are we not charged with the responsibility of keeping children in school?"

The bill caused a stormy scene before its passage in the house. Speaker Earl Crawford having turned the gavel over to Edward H. Stein, Bloomfield, majority floor leader, so he could take the floor in defense of the measure.

It was stated in the senate that the Fayette county tax adjustment board, to keep within the \$1.50 limit, had set a tax rate which would provide only enough money to permit operation of Connersville schools for six weeks, beginning in September.

COLUMBIA CLUB VOTE BARS DEMOCRATS

Stronghold of G. O. P. Stands Firm for Principles.

There will remain one haven in the city where Republicans may find sanctuary from gloating Democrats who still "remember November," directors of the Columbia Club decided Friday at their annual meeting.

Proposal to permit Democrats to become members of the G. O. P. stronghold was voted down.

Directors re-elected John C. Ruckelshaus as president for 1933. Other officers named are Fred C. Gardner, vice-president; Frank A. Butler, treasurer, and E. Park Akin, secretary.

Gardner was elected president of the Columbia Realty Company with Ruckelshaus, vice-president; Butler, treasurer, and Akin, secretary.

CONGRESS TODAY

SENATE

Continues debate on war department appropriation bill. Judiciary subcommittee resumes hearings on Black-five day week bill.

Agriculture committee resumes consideration of domestic allotment bill. Banking subcommittee continues study of farm credit legislation.

HOUSE

Considers minor legislation. Appropriations committee considers district of Columbia supply bill.

Too 'Perfect'

Girl's Walk in Zero Weather to Attend School Costly.

BULLETIN

Hilton Crouch, ex-convict, was released today in municipal court after being held two days as a suspect in the machinegun slaying of Sergeant Lester E. Jones Tuesday. Release was recommended by Chief Mike Morrissey.

Officers of Blue Key, campus honorary, say they will have signatures of 1,300 men students.

The petition will be presented to Governor Paul V. McNutt with the claim that many men students could not visit their homes if the bill is passed.

Representative Martin J. Downey (Dem., Hammond) introduced the bill Monday. Maximum punishment of a \$50 fine and thirty days in jail for soliciting rides on a highway is provided.

STUDENTS FIGHT HITCH-HIKE BILL

1,800 I. U. Youths Sign Petition to McNutt Against Measure.

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Feb. 11.—Indiana university students don't like the bill introduced in the Indiana house of representatives prohibiting hitch-hiking.

"It comparatively is easy for a motorist to distinguish between a college student and a common bum," says a petition being circulated today.

Meanwhile, in the county jail, the eight members of the family who were arrested at the height of their ceremonial were somewhat quieted and, for the most part, had ceased their chanting and wailing. Mills muttered his strange gibberish occasionally.

Mrs. Boyd said she and her husband and her mother were at home in their cabin Tuesday.

"We got up about 11 o'clock," she said, "and ate breakfast. It wasn't long before I heard shouting down the creek, and I looked out the window."

"John Mills was coming up the hollow holding a stick in front of him. His eye was shut, and he had a Bible in his other hand."

Smiles Flock With Stick

"Alongside of him" was Ballard Mills (a nephew of Mrs. Mills) and he was carrying another stick, and holding it just like John."

"They came on stumbling up the road, and I could see they were walking with their eyes shut because they stumbled over the rocks and bushes."

"Behind John and Ballard were their wives and Fred Mills and his wife and about thirty-five or forty kids. When I saw them I was scared. I knew something was going to happen."

"After they got in the house, they started praying and shouting and John went around smiting people with the stick to see if they were worthy."

"Instructed by Lord"

"After a while, John said he had been instructed by the Lord to kill six virgins, and they all began to look around to see who they would pick for the virgins. Some of the kids got scared, and ran out of the house."

"John brought her out, and she sat down on the altar. Then John told her to lay down on the altar, and he started waving his hands and praying. The others were yelling in the 'tongue'."

"Then, all of a sudden, John grabbed her throat, and started to choke her."

Too Weak to Escape

"He got his knee in her chest, and choked her with one hand and beat her with the other."

"She tried to get away but she was too weak."

After Mrs. Mills had been killed, preparations were being made to burn her body as a sacrifice to God when authorities, notified of the cabin doctor.

John Mills is charged with the murder of his mother while the other eight members of the mountain family are held as accomplices.

FINAL DECISION ON TAX BILLS AWAITED

Administration Leaders Ready to Withdraw Sales Measure.

Final decision of administration leaders on tax bills is expected to be made over the week-end and the bills be presented in the house Monday or Tuesday, it was reported today.

It is understood that the general sales tax bill will be withdrawn by the administration, in favor of an excise or gross income tax.

A turn-over tax also is being considered.

The excise tax would allow \$1,000 exemption and assess all income over the \$1,000 at 1 per cent.

Intangibles tax also is to be pushed, the administration leaders now believing that it will produce more revenue than originally anticipated.

BARE DETAILS OF 'SACRIFICE' DEATH SCENE

Kentuckians Are Waiting for 'Resurrection' of Aged Woman.

FANTASTIC STORY TOLD

Mountain Cabin Is Used for Frenzied Orgy Bringing Killing.

INEZ, Ky., Feb. 11.—The fantastic story of what happened at Tomahawk when aged Lucinda Mills was killed in a sacrificial ceremony by her religion-crazed kinfolk, has been given to county authorities by Mrs. Tom Boyd, in whose mountain cabin the cult members held their last frenzied orgy.

As Mrs. Boyd, the victim's daughter, narrated the incidents which led to the death, the countryside waited apprehensively for the promised "resurrection" of the dead woman.

John Mills, cult leader and one of her sons, who is accused of the actual killing, predicted that his 72-year-old mother would arise from the dead today, "born anew without sin."

Eight Held in Killing

Meanwhile, in the county jail, the eight members of the family who were arrested at the height of their ceremonial were somewhat quieted and, for the most part, had ceased their chanting and wailing. Mills muttered his strange gibberish occasionally.

Mrs. Boyd said she and her husband and her mother were at home in their cabin Tuesday.

"We got up about 11 o'clock," she said, "and ate breakfast. It wasn't long before I heard shouting down the creek, and I looked out the window."

"John Mills was coming up the hollow holding a stick in front of him. His eye was shut, and he had a Bible in his other hand."

Smiles Flock With Stick

"Alongside of him" was Ballard Mills (a nephew of Mrs. Mills) and he was carrying another stick, and holding it just like John."

"They came on stumbling up the road, and I could see they were walking with their eyes shut because they stumbled over the rocks and bushes."

"Behind John and Ballard were their wives and Fred Mills and his wife and about thirty-five or forty kids. When I saw them I was scared. I knew something was going to happen."

"After they got in the house, they started praying and shouting and John went around smiting people with the stick to see if they were worthy."

"Instructed by Lord"

"After a while, John said he had been instructed by the Lord to kill six virgins, and they all began to look around to see who they would pick for the virgins. Some of the kids got scared, and ran out of the house."

"John brought her out, and she sat down on the altar. Then John told her to lay down on the altar, and he started waving his hands and praying. The others were yelling in the 'tongue'."

"Then, all of a sudden, John grabbed her throat, and started to choke her."

Too Weak to Escape

"He got his knee in her chest, and choked her with one hand and beat her with the other."

"She tried to get away but she was too weak."

After Mrs. Mills had been killed, preparations were being made to burn her body as a sacrifice to God when authorities, notified of the cabin doctor.

John Mills is charged with the murder of his mother while the other eight members of the mountain family are held as accomplices.

FINAL DECISION ON TAX BILLS AWAITED

Administration Leaders Ready to Withdraw Sales Measure.

Final decision of administration leaders on tax bills is expected to be made over the week-end and the bills be presented in the house Monday or Tuesday, it was reported today.

It is understood that the general sales tax bill will be withdrawn by the administration, in favor of an excise or gross income tax.

A turn-over tax also is being considered.

The excise tax would allow \$1,000 exemption and assess all income over the \$1,000 at 1 per cent.

Intangibles tax also is to be pushed, the administration leaders now believing that it will produce more revenue than originally anticipated.

NEW ZERO WAVE ON WAY TO MID-WEST

\$3,000 A MONTH BARELY KEEPS HER GOING



Little 7-year-old Lucy Cotton Thomas (pictured here) must go on living on her \$3,000 monthly income. Her mother, Mrs. Edward Russell Thomas, sought to increase the child's income derived from the estate of her millionaire publisher father, to \$3,800 monthly, but a New York court has ruled that the \$3,000 income is sufficient. Mrs. Thomas sought to prove that \$3,000 a month was not enough for Lucy's needs. Lucy told reporters that, when she becomes 21, she'd like to share her wealth with others less fortunate.

'Worst in Years,' Is Storm Report From Northern States.

5 ABOVE HERE TONIGHT

Heavy Snow Brought by Latest Winter Drive on Farm Belt.

CHICAGO, Feb. 11.—A new cold wave swept down from northern Canada toward the middle west today as the nation barely recovered from the worst blizzard in thirty-four years.

South winds that brought relief from temperatures ranging downward to 50 degrees below zero shifted to the northwest. The local United States weather bureau predicted the mercury would drop to 10 below by Sunday.

Shortly before sunrise in Chicago the mercury slumped from 14 to 5 above zero.

Reports from northern states said the new storm was "the worst in years." Temperatures dropped in a few hours to low levels of a few days ago.

Central states, which suffered the heaviest toll in 150 casualties of the first storm, will bear the brunt of the frigid spell, the weather bureau said.

Another heavy snowfall will accompany the storm, predictions said. Temperatures in St. Paul dropped again to below zero after the first day in a week above that point.

Montana, North Dakota, and other states along the Canadian border began to feel effects of the storm today.

More snow fell in New York and along the Atlantic seaboard, where temperatures had risen from their subzero levels. A forecast was generally along the east coast today.

Sleet and rain storms were predicted for southern states.

5 Above Here Tonight

Although its grip was loosening in the southwest, the cold wave gave no indication of breaking here before Sunday afternoon, according to a weather bureau forecast.

Temperature tonight will be about 5 above, slightly colder than Friday night and early today, J. H. Armington, meteorologist, predicted.

No further furries are expected to add to the snowfall of 1.2 inches which blanketed the city Friday night.

The mercury at 7 today read 11 above, three degrees higher than at the same hour Friday, when the day's highest temperature reached 22.

Bright sunshine and fair weather will bring warmer weather most of today, but the downward slide will begin tonight, Armington said.

NEW AIR MAIL PLAN MAY REPLACE SUBSIDIES

Higher Rates and Postcards Offered by Bill to Keep Service Going.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—A solution of the high cost of transporting the air mail, which will enable the government to get from under the present \$19,000,000 subsidy load, and enable the air transport companies to operate profitably without federal contribution, has been found in a bill introduced by Representative Clyde Kelly (Rep., Pa.), in the opinion of members of the house committee on postoffices.

The senate had week struck out the \$19,000,000 air mail subsidy from the postoffice department bill and unless the fund is restored in conference between the house and senate operation of the air mail will be jeopardized after July 1.

The Kelly measure would increase the postage rate to 5 cents a half-ounce instead of 8 cents an ounce as at present. This is expected to increase revenues, and authorize a new air mail postcard for 2 cents. This is expected to stimulate much new business.

Contractors who now have air mail route certificates would surrender them and receive in return route warrants authorizing them to carry mails for 2 miles a pound mile.

Chicago Stocks Opening

By Abbott, Hopkin & Co. (The above are closing figures for the previous day.)

Borg Warner ... Feb. 11— 72
Cities Serv ... 2 1/2
Consolidated ... 2 1/2
Coca-Cola ... 1 1/2
Gen. Elec. ... 1 1/2
Int. Harv. ... 1 1/2
Nat. Cash ... 1 1/2
Pittsburgh ... 1 1/2
Rockwell ... 1 1/2
Union Carbide ... 1 1/2
Waltres Stores ... 1 1/2
West. Union ... 1 1/2

Found Brown Spaniel

SPANIEL, reddish brown, license 3512 north, "King" Pet. Reward, RU-8596.

King, a reddish brown spaniel, strayed from his warm home last Monday night. His owner, Mrs. Frank Giddie, 530 East Fifty-ninth street, placed a lost notice in The Times. Late Tuesday evening "King" was returned to his owner by Jack Gillock, who had read the notice in The Times. Mr. Gillock will receive a pair of guest tickets from the Amphitheater as a reward for returning an article advertised as lost in The Times.

A Lost Ad Costs Only 3 Cents a Word.

Place Your Next Lost Ad at Times Want Ad Headquarters, 214 West Maryland Street, RI. 5551.

Windup Day

The last puzzle in the Jigsaw Crossword contest appears on Page 9 today. On Monday, The Times will resume publication of its regular daily crossword.

You still can enter the jigsaw race for cash prizes. Call The Times circulation department for a "dodger" containing puzzles 1 to 15, get back numbers containing the other puzzles, and start now on your solution.

Nine Coasting Sites Are Barricaded for Children

Nine protected coasting places in the city were provided by the police accident prevention bureau today, and announcement was made that the sites will be barricaded against motor traffic until the snow dissappears.

Hilly thoroughfares were closed in Garfield, Brookside and Elmhurst parks; Capitol avenue at Fifty-second street; Thirty-sixth street, from Elmira to the canal;

West Vermont street at Holmes avenue; South Randolph street, from Palmer street to Pleasant Run boulevard; Ohmer avenue, between University and Downey avenues, and Watson road at Thirty-sixth street.

In closing the streets, police called attention to the city ordinance prohibiting coasting in any but authorized sections. Skating on Fall creek also is prohibited by ordinance.

New York Stocks Opening

By Abbott, Hopkin & Co. (The above are closing figures for the previous day.)

Amer. Can. ... Feb. 11— 52 1/2
Allied Chem. ... 83 1/2
Anacosta ... 7 1/2
Am. Tel. & Tel. ... 42 1/2
Auburn ... 42 1/2
Case J. ... 42 1/2
Coca-Cola ... 1 1/2
Consolidated ... 2 1/2
Coca-Cola ... 1 1/2
Gen. Elec. ... 1 1/2
Int. Harv. ... 1 1/2
Nat. Cash ... 1 1/2
Pittsburgh ... 1 1/2
Rockwell ... 1 1/2
Union Carbide ... 1 1/2
Waltres Stores ... 1 1/2
West. Union ... 1 1/2

HOURLY TEMPERATURES

12 midnight 20 5 a.m. ... 16
1 a.m. ... 20 6 a.m. ... 13
2 a.m. ... 19 7 a.m. ... 11
3 a.m. ... 19 8 a.m. ... 11
4 a.m. ... 19 9 a.m. ... 12