



The Indianapolis Times

Fair tonight, becoming cloudy, with probably light rain Saturday; somewhat warmer Saturday.

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DR. WYNEKOOP CONFESSES MURDER

ACCUSE STATE TEACHER OF STEALING \$25,000 IN RETIREMENT FUND BONDS

Police Dispatched to Terre Haute to Make Arrest After Fugitive Warrant Is Issued in Case.

SUSPECT IS EX-BOARD MEMBER

Miss Cora Steele Is Charged With Taking Securities From Safety Deposit Vault at City Bank.

Warrant for the arrest of Miss Cora Steele, Terre Haute school teacher and former member of the teachers' retirement fund board, was issued this afternoon in connection with the theft of \$25,000 in bonds from the retirement fund.

Charges against Miss Steele and dispatch of police to Terre Haute to arrest her followed appearance before the Marion county grand jury of state board of accounts representatives. The Times learned exclusively.

According to information said to have been presented to the grand jury by board accounts examiners the bonds were cashed or exchanged for other securities at Cedar Rapids, Ia., and Chicago.

There were two of \$10,000 denomination and one of \$5,000. All were United States government issues and unregistered, except for the numbers kept by Robert Hougham, board secretary.

CHARLES WITT
PUT TO DEATH

Putnam County Youth Goes to Electric Chair at State Pirson.

By United Press

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind., Nov. 24.—Charles Vernon Witt, 28, Putnam county youth, went to his death in the electric chair at the state prison here this morning for the slaying of Lafayette A. Jackson, who charged the banks conspired to force his movie empire into bankruptcy, was right in his assertions.

Witt was taken from his cell in death row at 12:02 a.m. He was strapped in the chair at 12:05 a.m. and was pronounced dead four minutes later.

Prison attacks said he was calm to the end and made the "death march" without disturbance. The body will be sent to the home of a brother, Arthur Witt, at Roachdale, for burial.

The execution of the sentence came after a two-year fight to save his life which was culminated late yesterday by Governor Paul V. McNutt's refusal to grant a petition for a reprieve.

Louis Hamilton, Iola, Kan., charged with Witt in the slaying during a robbery of one of Jackson's stores in May, 1931, was scheduled to be electrocuted May 11.

POSES AS 'COLLECTOR'
FOR NRA: ARRESTED

Bogus "Government Employee" Held on Vagrancy Charge.

By United Press

OTTAWA, Ill., Nov. 24.—Two men and a woman crashed to death today in a large cabin plane about seven miles north of here.

County authorities who went to the scene of the crash said the plane was an eight-place Boeing plane owned by the United Air Lines Company.

The plane struck the earth nose down with such violence that the motor was imbedded five feet in the ground. The plane caught fire and burned. No identification of the victims could be made immediately.

ROOSEVELT CONFRS
WITH TREASURY CHIEF

Morgenthau at Warm Springs for Financial Parley.

By United Press

WARM SPRINGS, Ga., Nov. 24.—Acting Secretary of the Treasury Henry A. Morgenthau arrived here today for a series of conferences with President Roosevelt in which the entire financial situation was

expected to be surveyed.

He boarded a streetcar, from which he was taken by police.

No Announcement Made

The state is reported to already have taken steps toward recovery, including the tying up of \$10,245 funds belonging to Miss Steele.

She is said to have admitted ownership of one of the bonds and named an Indianapolis broker as the person from whom she "bought it."

No announcement of the bond recovery was made at the Governor's office today, but statehouse attaches admitted that Al Peeney, state safety director, and Mr. Teckmeyer had gone to Terre Haute to make the arrest.

Hourly Temperatures

6 a.m.	37	10 a.m.	39
7 a.m.	38	11 a.m.	41
8 a.m.	37	12 (noon)	41
9 a.m.	38	1 p.m.	40

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Jones Murder Trial Jury Seated; Court Adjourns

Opening Statements to Be Presented Monday; Judge Hines Cautions Whole Panel.

By Times Special

NOBLESVILLE, Nov. 24.—Completed shortly after 11 this morning, the jury in the case of William H. Mason, charged with the murder of Indianapolis Police Sergeant Lester Jones, was sent home until 9 Monday morning.

Circuit Judge Fred E. Hines carefully instructed the jurors against discussing the case or reading about it in newspapers. Opening statements of state and defense will be presented Monday morning.

Members of the jury include ten farmers, a restaurant operator and one unemployed. They are Raymond Horney, Lee Lambert, Claude Lane, Everett Goff, Harry Mosbaugh, M. O. Phillips, Frank Huber, Harry Williams, Harry Arthur and Ray Clark, farmers; Lowell Carey, restaurant operator, in Westfield, and Charles Hammer.

Ola Musselman and Lowell Pettijohn, who had been seated tentatively on the jury, were permanently challenged and replaced by Carey and Mosbaugh this morning.

The jury was approved by the state and passed to the defense early yesterday afternoon. Eleven of the jury were approved by the defense, with Charles Roudebush being challenged.

The jurors were questioned closely by Floyd Christian, member of the firm of Christian & Waltz, named by the court to defend Mason.

Mr. Christian pointed out to the jurors that two of the men indicted with Mason had pleaded guilty; that a purported confession by Harold Thompson might be introduced, and that the fact Mason is an ex-convict has no bearing in the present case.

Employment will be given 205 men with a total pay roll of \$34,450 in construction work on North Meridian street, from Kessler boulevard to Sixty-first street, over the new route of U. S. Road 31.

Another 308 men will be employed in construction work on Pleasant Run parkway, South drive, from Shelby street to Kesterson avenue with a total pay roll of \$62,224.

Another project approved was for development work at the campus of James Whitcomb Riley hospital for children and the Indiana university medical center, providing a pay roll of \$175,000 for eight to seven men.

Seventy-one men will be added to the ground clearing and cleaning Indianapolis school buildings, and will receive total wages of \$1,065.

Total projects approved yesterday by the board will employ 9,035 men with a wage total of \$1,522,351, bringing the total thus far for the

POLICE SKEPTICAL OF CONFESSION



Upper—Suddenly breaking under police quizzing, Dr. Alice Lindsay Wynekoop, 62-year-old Chicago physician, this afternoon confessed that his daughter-in-law, beautiful Mrs. Rheta Gardner Wynekoop, former Indianapolis girl. Dr. Wynekoop is shown as she appeared during the questioning which resulted in her confession.

Lower—Seated with police when announcement of the confession was made was Burdine Gardner, father of the slain girl and Indianapolis business man (left). He is shown with Earle Wynekoop, husband of the dead girl, who surrendered yesterday and whose love affairs, confessed to police, added to the mystery entanglement of the slaying.

Public Works Employes to Get \$45,000 in Wages

Many Will Receive Wages for First Time in Several Years; Other Projects Planned.

Several thousand workers on civil works projects in Indianapolis and Marion county will receive their first checks, totaling about \$45,000, tomorrow.

For many, these will be the first cash wages paid in several years, as all those employed on present projects were taken from poor relief lists.

While officials were preparing the checks for the first four days' work, plans were under way to start another 1,691 men, with a total pay roll of \$550,000, to work on several new projects just approved by the civil works administration.

Largest of the new local projects is a reforestation program on 1,700 acres of parks and golf courses, giving employment to 1,020 men, with a total pay roll of \$204,360.

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Total projects approved yesterday by the board will employ 9,035 men with a wage total of \$1,522,351, bringing the total thus far for the

state to 684 projects with a total pay roll of \$6,763,498.

Banks were asked in a statement issued last night by President Roosevelt to cash civil works employment checks at par. Nearly 4,000 checks will be issued tomorrow morning, it was announced today.

County officials today said they are handicapped in efforts to place the new employes at work because of lack of funds with which to purchase small tools and equipment.

GOULD'S LUXURIOUS GAMBLING CASINO IS DESTROYED BY FIRE

By United Press

NICE, Nov. 24.—Frank Jay Gould's luxurious gambling casino, the Palais de la Mediterranee, described as "a palace the Caesars could not have built," was ruined today by a disastrous fire that caused damage estimated at \$750,000.

The gorgeous interior was destroyed, its costly marble walls cracked and broken, its glass chandeliers worth thousands shattered. The loss was partially covered by insurance.

The fire started in the restaurant, which had been closed since May. In five minutes the entire casino was ablaze. Two firemen were in

jurisdiction fighting the blaze.

Funeral services here for the pretty slain musician.

His face pale and drawn, Mr. Gardner had asserted before the alleged confession:

"I have some very definite ideas about the murder, but I do not care to make any statement until there is a confession."

Almost the only time he had smiled prior to the alleged confession was when he expressed gratitude on learning of the many kind things said about the slain girl by her friends in Indianapolis.

He asserted that funeral services in Indianapolis probably would be open to Reta's many friends.

Car Loadings Soar

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24.—The American Railway Association announced today that car loadings for the week ending Nov. 18 totaled 599,289 cars, an increase of 21,613 cars above the preceding week and an increase of 26,666 cars above the corresponding week in 1932.

POLICE SEE ATTEMPT TO MAKE DEATH OF PRETTY CITY GIRL MERCY KILLING

'Inferior!'

'Not Up to Me Mentally,' Says Earle Wynekoop in Questioning.

By Times Special

CHICAGO, Nov. 24.—"She was my mental inferior" Earle Wynekoop, 28, college graduate, told police investigators as they delved into circumstances surrounding his pretty, murdered wife, Mrs. Rheta Gardner Wynekoop, formerly of Indianapolis.

During most of his questioning by police, young Wynekoop talked emotionlessly of his relations, or rather lack of relations, with his slain, auburn-haired wife.

"Rheta had only a high school education," he said. "I told Police Captain John Stege, act. murder investigator of the Chicago department and known as 'Bulldog' Stege because of his persistence in running down clues.

Elaborating on his statement that Rheta was "his mental inferior," young Wynekoop said:

"I am a college man. That's why we didn't get along so well. She wasn't up to my scholastic attainments."

WYNEKOOP explained he and his wife had not lived together in that status for five months.

"During the last two years, we had drifted apart," he said. "I guess I didn't understand her and she didn't understand me. She had a high school education and was very musical. My college education didn't bring our relations into harmony."

Wynekoop revealed that the \$10,000 life insurance policy on his life names his sister as his beneficiary. Asked why "his mentally inferior wife" was not the beneficiary, he said:

"After we were married two years, I learned there was a strain of tuberculosis in her family. I thought it best that the policy be made out that way."

WYNEKOOP's coolly superior denunciation of his slain wife as his mental inferior came a short while after he had gazed upon her dead face, to turn away with a smile.

"That's enough!"

The husband of the slain girl also revealed to police that he had discussed with his mother his relations with his wife, as he and Dr. Wynekoop sat in a car in a trysting place on the south side.

He would not explain what he meant by "marriage relations," but police learned that Dr. Wynekoop knew of her son's affair with Priscilla Wittl, red-haired department store clerk, whose name is the latest to be drawn into the murder mystery.

Of Miss Wittl, he would only say:

"She's a nice girl. Why drag her into this?"

3,500 ILLEGAL VOTES ARE CHARGED TO LONG

Senate Committee Hears Claim at Election Probe.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 24.—Senator Huey P. Long's organization was charged today before a Senate investigating committee with permitting 3,500 persons to vote illegally in New Orleans notorious "red-light" district.

Today her son Earle, husband of the slain girl, admitted his suspicions of his mother and confessed to a widespread acquaintanceship with other women.

Conflicts With Story

In her formal confession to police, Dr. Wynekoop placed the time of the slaying at 2 p. m. This conflicted with the story of a neighbor

Police Are Skeptical

The confession was so worded that police immediately decided Dr. Wynekoop wanted the slaying to appear to be "mercy killing" done for the good of the girl and her husband.

They said, however, new evidence indicated the girl was chloroformed after being shot.

They announced a belief that the whole and true story of the killing had not yet been revealed.