

## WOMEN TELL OF TERROR ABOARD MURDER YACHT

'Pirate' Forced Own Wife to Guard His Victims, She Declares.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 1 (U. P.)—Three women today told of indignities and terrorizing under the iron rule of a swashbuckling sailor who seized command of the yacht *Aafje* and sailed for the South Seas where he apparently planned to found a "Paradise Isle" with him self as their master.

The sailor was Jack Morgan, who, Federal agents revealed, had a long criminal record.

He chartered the yacht, killed the skipper, and sailed for the tropics with the three women, two men, and a boy as prisoners. One of the men hit him on the head with a marlin spike and threw him overboard. But not before all had experienced days of terror.

The women were Mrs. Lillian Morgan, a 17-year-old New Orleans girl; Miss Elsie Berdan, a nurse, and Mrs. Gertrude Turner, fiancee of Dwight L. Faulding, the slain skipper.

Morgan's own wife told of being struck, and forced at gun point to help guard his prisoners.

### Murder Complaints Filed

Federal agents still held Mrs. Morgan and the two men who tossed him overboard, George Spernick and Robert Horne. Murder complaints were issued against the two men, but only as a formality. Federal prosecutors said they were convinced the men acted justifiably in self-defense. They come into court Monday for arraignment.

Horns and Spernick acted as deckhands on the yacht which left San Pedro Dec. 20 on what was to have been a two-day sail around a nearby island. On Christmas eve, four days later, Horne saw his opportunity. Morgan ordered him to put out the log. The madman stood at the wheel with a gun in his hand, his back turned.

"I was so completely worn out and sick of abuse that I grabbed a marlin spike," he said. "It was heavy, of solid oak. I rushed at Morgan and hit him on the head with all my strength. I realized it was either Morgan or me, and I was relieved to see him crumple."

They tossed him to the sharks off the Mexican coast without knowing whether he was alive or dead.

### Cold-Blooded Murderer

"As I took hold of Morgan, George (Spernick) seemed to realize without my saying anything, that I intended to have him overboard, and he helped me. We knew we would have to do a thorough job to prevent terrible retaliation. He had proved a cold-blooded murderer."

"We learned he had subjected Elsie Berdan to indecent treatment. I had seen him kick his wife in the face."

Authorities learned additional information from which to patch together a picture of Morgan's fantastic plans. He apparently intended to sail toward the Galapagos Islands and set up a "Paradise Kingdom," just as the Baroness Elsa von Wagner, Wenborn, Viennese noblewoman, had done with her "paradise of lovers" on barren Charles Island there several years ago.

A former San Quentin inmate described Morgan as obsessed with the idea of sailing for the tropical seas. Morgan had served two prison terms for criminal assault.

### ROBBED WHILE SLEEPING

Charles Christ, 431 N. Illinois St., told police today that a thief took \$300 from his trousers while he slept last night in his apartment. He said he always left the door unlocked.

### OFFICIAL WEATHER

United States Weather Bureau

Indianapolis Forecast: Fair tonight and Sunday; colder tonight, with lowest temperature 29 to 35 degrees; continued cold Sunday.

### Sunrise ..... 7:07 | Sunset ..... 4:31

### TEMPERATURE

—Jan. 1, 1938 —

7 a. m. .... 33 1 p. m. .... 41

### BAROMETER

7 a. m. .... 30.98

### Precipitation 24 hrs. ending 7 a. m. .... 12

Excess ..... 12

### OTHER CITIES AT 7 A. M.

Station. Weather. Bar. Temp. Amarillo, Tex. Clear. 30.94 30 Boston, Mass. N. D. Clear. 30.18 32 Cleveland, Ohio. Snow. 28.86 26 Chicago. Snow. 29.84 26 Denver. Clear. 30.28 32 Fort Worth, Tex. Snow. 29.84 26 Kansas City, Mo. Clear. 30.10 34 Little Rock, Ark. Clear. 30.18 34 Miami, Fla. Foggy. 30.80 32 Minneapolis. Snow. 29.80 12 New Orleans. Foggy. 30.02 38 New York. Rain. 30.14 32 Okla. City, Okla. Snow. 29.84 26 Omaha, Neb. Clear. 30.10 34 Portland, Ore. Clear. 29.98 26 San Antonio, Tex. Foggy. 30.00 38 St. Louis. Clear. 30.10 38 Tampa, Fla. Clear. 30.08 36 Washington, D. C. Cloudy. 29.98 44

### Here's County Traffic Record

#### Deaths (To Date)

1938 ..... 2

1937 ..... 0

#### Deaths in City

1938 ..... 0

1937 ..... 0

#### Accidents (Dec. 31)

Accidents ..... 11

#### Injured

9

#### Dead

0

#### Arrests (Dec. 31)

Speeding. 0

#### Reckless Driving

2

#### Running Preferred Street

0

#### Running Red Light

1

#### Drunk Driving

0

#### Others

1

## HAPPY NEW YEAR—AND BIRTHDAY, TOO



New Year's Day has a very personal significance for Miss Velma Imogene Rusk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rusk, 914 Parker Ave. She has a prominent role in the history of Coleman Hospital.

She was the first baby born on New Year's Day at the hospital just after it opened 10 years ago. It's no wonder she has marked a circle around the date on the calendar.

## JURY INSPECTS JAIL BEFORE RETIRING



Marion County grand jurors were private citizens today, their work having been completed yesterday. The jurors are shown as they inspected the county jail, which they termed "insanitary" in some

respects. They are (left to right): Tom Dugan, police officer; Roland Adkins, Wilbur Robertson, Mrs. Lela L. Beadle, Mrs. Nora Belle Kern, Hobart Barker and Rome H. Reed, jury foreman.

## F. D. R. SLICES 12 CENTS FROM SILVER PRICE

Move May Alienate Bloc of Western Senators, Observers Say.

(Continued from Page One)

ing to carry through Administration legislation at the next session. Senator Adams (D. Colo.) said: "I think the price will be very helpful to the industry. Of course, we would like to have seen the price of silver lower, but we are not able at this time to figure what the difference between the new and old price will mean to the industry. Some of the mines work on close margins."

### World Quotation Is 42.92

The new price compared with a work quotation of 42.92 cents and the New York price of 44.75 cents. Thus, even at the lower domestic price, United States silver producers will be receiving a so-called bounty of nearly 20 cents over what it would cost the Government to purchase the metal on the open market.

The London "antidumping" silver agreement of June, 1933, also expired last midnight with no effort by this Government or other signatory to extend it. Evidence of the Administration's intention to pursue a program of bilateral agreements in connection was seen in understandings reached during the past week with Canada and Mexico.

Mrs. Roosevelt's proclamation was issued under authority granted in an amendment to the Agricultural Adjustment Act to fix the domestic silver price as a step toward economic recovery.

His first price-fixing proclamation, issued Dec. 21, 1933, set the figure at 64.46 cents an ounce, the price to which it was returned in his latest proclamation.

The lawyer said Miss Bennett instructed him to file the suit in Los Angeles Superior Court on Monday.

He said Miss Bennett, once the highest paid star in films, was incensed at the radio commentator's alleged statements, and was threatening to carry the case to the Federal Radio Commission, as well as to court.

The radio speaker's identity was not revealed.

Disney Brothers Give Parents New Home

(Continued from Page One)

high blood pressure experimentally in animals by restricting the blood supply to the kidneys.

Not only Dr. Goldblatt, but experimenters at more than 40 laboratories in various parts of the world are carrying on experiments based on this initial discovery.

The other brothers are Roy, business manager of Walt's enterprises; Raymond and Herbert.

Mr. Liddy Disqualified

Mr. Johnson said: "The opposition never once touched upon the issues before the Council, namely the proposed amendments which had been presented and explained by officers of the League."

"There was no foundation or excuse for any opposition on the part of the railroad interests, and had there been foundation for any opposition by them, it is impossible to find justification for the manner in which it was raised. Mr. Liddy has disqualified himself for further service as an officer of the Smoke Abatement League."

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Mr. Johnson also said the League was willing to withdraw its support of the measures in the proposed amendment which would regulate the smoke of locomotives.

"The Ringlemann chart is the principal improvement and the one for which we most earnestly plead," he said, referring to the section of the amendment aimed to legalize instruments for smoke detection.

The parents said he had planned to leave for Wyoming within a few days to attend a CCC camp.

Born in Ohio County, Kentucky, Mr. Morrison had lived here two and a half years. He was employed as a machinist at the Universal Gear Corp.

Survivors are his mother, Mrs. Mary Morrison, Indianapolis; a brother, Arthur G. Morrison, Louisville; four sisters, Mrs. Robert Kappesser, Louisville; Mrs. Orville L. Brown and Miss Clara Morrison, both of Indianapolis, and two children, Shirley Ann, 7, and Thomas Joseph Morrison, 9. His wife died seven years ago.

The body of Mr. Woodruff was taken to the Harry Moore funeral parlor, and the body of Mr. Morrison to the Wilson funeral parlor.

Others arrested by deputy sheriffs in connection with the fatal accident were Williamson, charged with parking on the highway, and Meyers, charged with drunkenness and interfering with an officer.

Among the first cases before Judge John L. McNees is he sat for the first time on the Municipal Court bench today were those of two men arrested as a result of the Glens Valley accident.

"The matter has my sympathetic attention and I will do everything I can to bring peace out of chaos. I am not sure, however, of my authority to circumvent state law and will consult the Attorney General if appealed to."

Circuit Judge J. Raymond Powell, who has taken under advisement a statutory charge against Tommy, gave his support to a movement to permit the children to marry.

Judge McNees continued the cases of White, charged with manslaughter, and Williamson, charged with parking on a highway, until Jan. 7.

Jesse Huey, 61, of 546 Massachusetts Ave., received a possible fracture of the right leg and injuries to his hip when he was struck by a car operated by George R. Williams, 33, of 501 W. 32d St., yesterday. Mr. Huey was sent to the City Hospital.

He was kept confined by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Chapman. Ben Lacer, Betty's father, charged that the Chapman family "deliberately was keeping" Tommy from visiting Betty and the baby.

"I don't believe that's the right attitude," he said. "It's just one of those things that happened and we'll have to make the best of it."

He indignantly tossed aside a offer of Ross Sutherland, 26, Frankfort, Ind., to marry the child mother.

The Indiana attorney general rules that the case is out of the jurisdiction of Gov. Townsend it is expected that the children will wait until they become of age and then marry, the Chapman family, meanwhile, siding in support of the baby.

—By Fred P. Pyle, Times Staff Writer

John Parks, 58, of 2150 Kildare Ave., welcomed the New Year at City Hospital with a broken leg.

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