

## EX-KLAN CHIEF PREFERENCES TRIAL TO YEAR'S WAIT

Stephenson Asks Hearing Now Despite Chances for Prison Parole.

*Times Special*  
NOBLESVILLE, Ind., Sept. 28.—A new trial for murder before a jury is preferable to waiting a year for possible parole, D. C. Stephenson, former Ku-Klux Klan grand dragon, said today in a statement issued at the Hamilton County Jail.

Stephenson, serving a life sentence for the death of Madge Oberholtzer, State House stenographer, was brought here from the Indiana State Prison this week for a new trial hearing in Circuit Court Wednesday.

After a lengthy conference with his attorney, Stephenson issued a plea for a "fair and impartial trial before a jury of my peers, a fair and complete hearing."

Confident of Success

"I am seeking this form of relief because of faith in the rectitude of my cause and because I believe in the ultimate triumph of justice," he said.

"I am still conscious of the conditions which prevailed during my trial and also which prevail to some extent now, but I am still willing to go before a jury despite the fact that I might be released from prison 12 months from now on parole."

The former grand dragon declined to indicate what type of evidence he would present at the hearing on his petition for a writ of error, explaining that it would be better to reveal that to the jury.

Denies Planning "War"

He denied that at any time, even while leading the Hoosier Klan, he intended to "wage any war" against the Catholic church, the colored race or any other religious or social group. He said he never was a candidate for public office and that he was a member of the Klan for only 11 months.

Enlarging on his claim that he was prevented from testifying in his own defense during his original trial, he charged that a Klan official told him if he testified "they would blow my head off." He said other threats were made on his attorney and that he was forced to choose between dying at the "hands of an assassin" or being convicted of a crime he had not committed. Stephenson's present campaign to obtain freedom, his seventh since he was convicted of slaying Miss Oberholtzer in 1925, started in March when E. E. Clos of Noblesville, chief counsel, filed a writ of error before Judge Cassius M. Gentry here.

Charged Unfair Conditions

The writ alleged that Stephenson was afraid to testify in his own defense and that the original trial was not conducted under fair conditions.

Stephenson conferred with Cloe and Alben M. Smith of La Porte, another attorney, yesterday. After the conference and before Stephenson was interviewed the attorneys expressed confidence that the former political leader would be freed.

"It is the purpose of this petitioner and his counsel to strip the hearing of all political implications," their statement said. "Proceeding on this basis we are confident that we shall be able to prove Stephenson was convicted because of unusual conditions surrounding the trial which defeated the orderly process of justice."

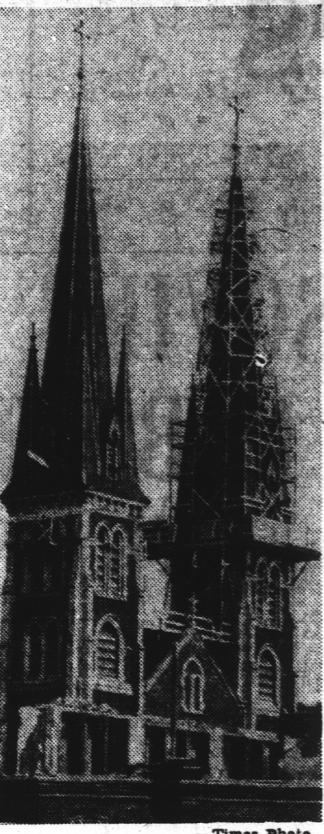
## FARMER WOUNDED IN NEIGHBOR'S FIELD

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind., Sept. 28 (U. P.)—Sheriff Merle Remley today investigated the shooting of Harold E. Ford, 49-year-old farmer, in the cornfield of Wheat Bratton, his neighbor.

Sheriff Remley said Mr. Bratton told him he had set up a watch after corn had been stolen from his fields for several nights. He said a man entered the field and that after six warning shots in the air he fired one shot directly at the intruder.

Mr. Remley said he found Ford at his home with a bullet wound through the body.

## Steeple Fixing



—Times Photo.

Workmen have erected scaffolds around one of the two steeples of St. John's Catholic Church, 100 block S. Capitol Ave., and are removing the slate roofing. Both steeples will be recovered with copper roofing.

## TRAINING URGED FOR PRISONERS

State Welfare Reports Need Of Aiding Convicts in Michigan City.

One of every 10 prisoners at the Michigan City State Prison and State Farm is illiterate and there is need for vocational and character training, the State Welfare Department reported today.

A program under way is designed to correct this situation according to Donald T. Griffin, writing in the magazine, *Public Welfare* in Indiana.

Inmates are being taught brick-laying, auto mechanics, dairy work, poultry raising and cannery work because "most of the men are handicapped in earning their living by the fact that they have no special skills."

More library books have been secured and the habit of reading has increased Mr. Griffin reports. Athletic activities range from softball and boxing to horseshoe pitching. Inmates publish the magazine, *Hill Top-ic*, twice a month at the State Farm and the magazine, *Bourne*, is published each month at State Prison.

Projects at the Woman's Prison include a housekeeping class, current events discussion group and a mothers' club which studies health and hygiene, child care, budgeting and food preparation.

## START POSITIONWARD ENTER OCTOBER 2 . . .

Business is definitely dependable up-grade. All reports and graphs show this. Accordingly, we have the well-trained stenographers, secretaries and typists and increasing in some types, there is a shortage now. So, if young men, young women, young girls are ambitious to get started in promising positions, we would do well to let them up-grade with special training immediately. This is the vital element. This is the

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## LOCAL GUARD UNITS WILL ADD 173 MEN

The Indianapolis units of the National Guard in Indiana will be increased by 173 men under the U. S. War Department's quota specifications. Adj. Gen. Elmer F. Straub said today.

The War Department authorization provided for an increase of 850 men in Indiana, bringing the state's guard strength to an all-time high of 5,228 men.

The Indiana unit receiving the largest quota of increase is the 38th Division Signal Company which will get 46 additional men for a total of 129. The average increase of other Indiana companies will be 22 men each.

Adj. Gen. Straub said applications for enlistment can be made at the Armory offices in the various districts over the state. Those in Indianapolis are at 711 N. Pennsylvania St. and at 2000 Madison Ave.

## Britton Urges Variable Dawn

*By Science Service*  
LONDON, Sept. 28.—With approaching winter months bringing shorter days and English city life ending at dusk because of the war-time blackout, a daylight saving plan under which 9 o'clock in the morning would coincide throughout the year approximately with dawn has been submitted by a Cardif engineer to the Home Secretary.

Clocks would be advanced 50 minutes on Jan. 1, 25 minutes on Feb. 1; 50 minutes, March 1; 50 minutes, April 1, and 60 minutes, May 1. No changes would be made in June and July. On Aug. 1, clocks would be turned back 20 minutes; on Sept. 1, 40 minutes; Oct. 1, 50 minutes; Nov. 1, 50 minutes, and Dec. 1, 25 minutes.

The scheme, its backers insist, would save fuel as well as provide more daylight leisure hours.

## RECEPTION PLANNED FOR REV. W. C. BALL

The Rev. W. C. Ball will be honored for his 10 years' service as pastor of the Woodruff Avenue United Presbyterian Church tomorrow night at a reception.

The four living charter members of the church will be in the receiving line. They are Mrs. S. S. Smith, Mrs. Jennie M. Nutt, Mrs. Margaret Perry and Mr. James E. Echols.

Norman Wilson, will review the church's record of the past 10 years. The Inglewood Glee Club of the Inglewood Christian Church will sing with Mrs. Thelma Morris as soprano soloist. Earl Gordon, church organist, also will take part in the musical program.

## If Teacher Is Stumped Library Aids in Rescue

Indianapolis public school teachers are depending upon the Public Library for answers to questions and problems presented to them by

was faced with the problem of finding pirate music, while another needed information on the education and training of janitors.

A high school teacher wanted to know who was the first king of Norway.

As another aid to teachers, the library compiles a list of the latest books on education, and keeps an up-to-date schedule of special teacher meetings, lectures, conventions and dinners.

Miss Kate Dismore is in charge of the branch, assisted by Miss Mary Wood and Miss Jessie Boswell.

**SMITE'S DOCTOR DIES**

CHICAGO, Sept. 28 (U. P.)—Dr. Leroy A. Luce, 59, Boston, nerve specialist who came here recently to treat Frederick B. Smite Jr., infantile paralysis victim who has spent three years in an iron lung, died yesterday in a suburban hospital.

Edwards Gurney, 14, of 135 W. 19th St., walked into the side of a car near his home yesterday and received a sprained ankle.

## DRIVER BADLY HURT WHEN CAR HITS TREE

Thomas W. Alexander, 22, Arlington, Ind., was in a serious condition today in City Hospital with injuries received when his car struck a tree on Road 52 last night.

Deputy sheriffs and State Police, who investigated, said Mr. Alexander apparently went to sleep at the wheel. Physicians said he may have a skull fracture.

William Miller, 48, Calhoun, Ky., was struck by a car in the 5900 block W. Washington St. and is in City Hospital with severe cuts on the head. The car was driven by Russell Schakel, Birmingham.

Edwards Gurney, 14, of 135 W. 19th St., walked into the side of a car near his home yesterday and received a sprained ankle.

**INJURED IN FALL**

Mrs. Augusta Kipp, 42, of 616 W. 41st St., was treated at City Hospital yesterday for a cut on her forehead received when she slipped and fell in the kitchen of her home.

You really can't blame her because

**ANNIVERSARY SALE**  
UPSTAIRS  
and DOWN  
Friday

Hubby wouldn't mind if he knew I was going to AYRES' ANNIVERSARY SALE. It'll save money for us in the long run.

The little wife thinks I don't know all about AYRES' ANNIVERSARY SALE. It's OK with me. All I hope is that she leaves me enough to outfit myself in the sale.

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