

GUNMAN SLAYS RACE OFFICIAL

Killing in Rhode Island Believed Work of Underworld.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., April 23 (UPI)—Ambushed in the shadow of a church, a Rhode Island racing official and former police commissioner was slain while driving home yesterday.

The killer was believed a hired "trigger man" of the underworld.

Big Bluff John F. Letendre, 68, died from one of three pistol bullet holes that pierced his right temple.

The station wagon Letendre was driving jerked crazily up an embankment near Our Lady of Victory (Catholic) church. A door snapped open and the victim's body fell out.

It lay sprawled on the turf at the edge of the road as the station wagon rolled back onto the street and over on its side.

Sees Man With Gun

As the third shot rang out, James Tempest Jr., 25, a discharged U. S. marine, peered from the window of his home opposite the scene. He saw a man with a pistol in hand dart along the gutter and step into a dark sedan where an accomplice sat at the wheel.

The car raced away, directly past Letendre's darkened home 300 feet from where the body lay.

It was only a few minutes earlier that Letendre had left the cafe at Hotel Blackstone that is managed by his son-in-law, James P. Morley. He had spent the afternoon at Narragansett park horse race track in Pawtucket.

Was 'Contact Man'

Letendre was a regular attendant at the track and was a member of the board of directors. He was one of the builders of the track.

Once he had served as "contact man" for Narragansett race track, seeking stable owners at other race tracks to enter their horses at Narragansett. He kept race horses himself at one time and was leader of a group that promoted Gulfstream park race track in Florida.

Once he was "police commissioner" of Woonsocket. Later he served four two-year terms in the Rhode Island legislature. He always had dabbled in politics as a member of the Republican city committee.

But of late he had taken less interest in his various business ventures. Two weeks ago he returned from a winter vacation in Florida where he operated a Miami hotel and reputedly was associated in the management of a swanky casino.

Letendre's wife could give no clues when police awakened her and her daughter Dolores. Letendre has two other daughters, Mrs. Joseph D. McKenna and Mrs. Morley.

Called Revenge Slaying

Police Chief Edgar C. Turcott said that death was due to "vengeance." Authorities said it looked like a "revenge" slaying.

A Republican, Letendre had been a stormy figure in local political circles and in 1944 was an unsuccessful candidate for mayor of Woonsocket.

At one time he was managing director of Gulfstream park horse race track in Hollywood, Fla.

Organizations

The Sahara Grotto auxiliary decorating committee will have a luncheon meeting at 12:30 p. m. tomorrow at the home of Mrs. Clark Henderson, 1538 Spanish Ave.

J. B. Hall Will Be Honor Guest

Joseph B. Hall of Cincinnati, O., recently elected president of the Kroger Grocery & Baking Co., will be honor guest at a dinner-party of the firm's Old Timers club to be held at 7 p. m. tomorrow in the Antlers hotel.

About 225 members of the club, composed of employees with five or more years service, will attend the first meeting since before the war.

Mr. Hall will present club members with service pins. Special honors will be paid to George Ries, meat merchandiser, a 40-year veteran; Miss Nuna McMullan, 22 years, and H. A. Burkhardt, grocery buyers, 30 years. E. P. Robertson, branch manager here, will preside. He has 23 years service.

MUNCIE GIRL IS SHOT BY SUITOR

Youth Kills Self After Wounding Ex-Sweetheart.

Times Special
MUNCIE, Ind., April 22. — "I can't bear the thought of anyone else having Jane."

A 26-year-old jilted sweetheart wrote these words in a suicide note before he shot his 19-year-old ex-sweetheart and then killed himself.

The girl, Betty Jane Tatman, Muncie office worker, remained in a fair condition today. Funeral arrangements were being completed for her assailant, Kenneth Fear, in accordance with his suicide note.

Fear, a resident of Nottingham, called at Miss Tatman's farm home near Selma last night and said he "had something" for her. The couple had gone together but had split up last Christmas.

After chatting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Tatman, he went into the kitchen where the girl was washing dishes. The parents heard two shots and rushed to the kitchen to find Fear dead and their daughter wounded.

In the note that was found pinned in his car, Fear explained the shooting to his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Ora Fear. He asked to be buried in a new suit "I purchased especially for the occasion" and left detailed funeral instructions, including the names of pallbearers.

CHARLES H. KLAISLER DIES AT HOME HERE

Charles H. Klaisher, lifelong resident of Indianapolis, died last night in his home, 518 N. Beville ave.

Mr. Klaisher was for a number of years a ticket receiver for the Pennsylvania railroad but lately had been engaged in the hardware, barber and beauty supply business. He was a member of the Mystic Tie Lodge 398, the Scottish Rite, and a life member of Mystic Shrine.

Services will be held Thursday at 11 a. m. at the Flanner & Buchanan mortuary followed by burial in Crown Hill. The Mystic Tie will conduct their ritual at the cemetery.

Mrs. Delight Klaisher survives her husband. His brother, Andrew J. of Indianapolis also survives.

LOCAL SERVICEMEN LISTED FOR RELEASE

The following Indianapolis soldiers were listed by the New York port of embarkation for arrival in New York and who will be processed at Camp Atterbury for discharge.

—Ad Lt. Donald Trosal and Pfc. John M. Papp who are to be processed at Ft. Dix, N. J.

Aboard the Pontchartrain Victory today—2d Lt. Charles H. Stevens.

Aboard the Coeur d'Alene Victory tomorrow—Maj. Walter F. Smith, T. 5th Gr. Claude Dunham, Lt. Thomas Kelley and T. 5th Gr. R. McNamee.

Aboard the Bataan Victory tomorrow—Pfc. Ernie S. Burke, Cpl. John C. Watson and M. Clinton Green who will be processed at Ft. Dix.

Aboard the High Victory April 25—T. 4th Gr. Bertram E. Dorn.

At the San Francisco port of embarkation lists the following soldiers as arriving yesterday aboard the Camp Cleare for processing at Atterbury: M. Sgt. Arrow B. Cooley, T. 5th Gr. John C. Dorn, T. 5th Gr. John F. Dolan, Cpl. Richard A. Isert and Sgt. Jack Parker.

5 JAPS HANGED

SHANGHAI, April 23 (UPI)—

Major Gen. Masataka Kaburagi and four other Japanese, convicted of strangling and cremating three American B-29 pilots near Hankow in December, 1944, were hanged yesterday.

Ring, Glamour, Big Mustache Bedazzle Midget Songstress

By NICK BOURNE
United Press Staff Correspondent

PORTLAND, Ore., April 23.—Dottie Wenzel, the singing midget, had a full-sized problem today.

She's in love with an acrobat (midget). She has a ring from a drummer (midget).

And a standard-model guy wants to marry her.

Dottie, who's 21 and weighs 37 pounds, took her problem to Henry Kramer—height five foot eight—manager of the midget troupe in which she stars.

She figured Mr. Kramer ought to know. He's been married to a three-foot midget for more than 10 years.

Nylons No Problem

"A midget wife knows whose boss," Mr. Kramer told her. "Midget women never wowl for nylons.

They get plenty because they can wear size eight which most women

BRITISH LOAN TEST MAY COME TODAY

WASHINGTON, April 23 (U. P.)

Senate Democratic Leader Alben W. Barkley (Kentucky) expected a significant test vote today on the proposed \$3,750,000,000 British loan.

He looked for the test on a move by Senator Homer Capehart (Ind.) to cut the loan total to \$1,500,000.

If the senate adopts the cut, Mr. Barkley said, it will indicate that members intend to "throw the loan out the window."

But Senator Theodore G. Bilbo (Miss.), a loan foe whose senate speeches are limited "only by inspiration," may upset the test plans.

Bilbo threatened to talk "at length" and said he expected to start today.

DROWNING PROBED

VALPARAISO, Ind., April 23 (UPI)

Authorities today probed the death of Victor R. Sukkstand, 42, whose body was found in a shallow stream by state highway maintenance men. Deputy Coroner C. F. Bitner of Chesterton said he believed Mr. Sukkstand accidentally fell into the stream and drowned.

Hirohito's Brother Wants to Attend American University

By PETER KALISCHER
United Press Staff Correspondent

TOKYO, April 23—Emperor Hirohito's youngest brother — whose Tokyo residence is a bomb shelter — said today he wants to enroll in an American university "as soon as it is permitted."

Prince Takahito Misako, 30, said he wanted "most of all to go to America."

"But," he sighed, "it all depends upon the American government."

The prince was host to me and Tom Shafer of Acme Newsphoto for tea in the reinforced concrete bomb shelter he calls home when he stays in Tokyo.

It is situated in the mile-square compound of Asazakai palace, a few yards from the site of the prince's palace which burned down during a B-29 bombing raid last May.

Misako is a former cavalry major. He was attached to the Japanese army general headquarters at Nanjing during the war.

The prince, married and with two children—a boy and a girl—recently created a flurry in Tokyo newspapers when it was found he commutes from Hayama to Tokyo on a second-class coach.

Before leaving, I hinted broadly for an invitation to go horseback riding on one of the imperial stable's excellent mounts. The prince agreed, but had a request of his own:

"I would like to drive your jeep."

It was a deal.

PURDUE TECHNOLOGIST DIES

LAFAYETTE, April 23 (UPI)

Funeral services were to be conducted today for 75-year-old Dr. Arvil W. Bitting, Purdue university food technologist, who died here Sunday. Dr. Bitting was director of food exhibits at the century of progress at Chicago in 1933 and the 1937 Golden Gate exhibition at San Francisco, Cal.

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