

Crowded Mental Hospitals Create Serious Local Problem

BACKLOG OF 55 CASES PILES UP IN CITY, COUNTY

Appeal Made to Governor For Means to Handle Commitments.

By ROBERT BLOEM

Overcrowding in mental institutions in the state, particularly Central hospital here, is creating a serious situation in Indianapolis and Marion county.

In what he termed a "typical day," Municipal Judge John Niblack passed through his court four cases which he classified as mental in character. All involved individuals who are outside of institutions only because there is no room for them.

Court Clerk A. Jack Tilson, it was learned, was in Ft. Wayne to observe at first-hand the use of Quonset huts and other emergency housing reportedly in use there for mental patients awaiting placement in state institutions.

At the same time, Deputy Clerk Myron C. Cosler reported a backlog of 55 mental cases in the county committed to institutions by the courts but unplaced because there are no more beds in the institutions. Mr. Tilson recently appealed to the governor's office for suggestions as to the handling of overflow mental commitments.

Families Seek Help

All such cases are the responsibility of the county clerk until superintendents of mental hospitals or other institutions such as those for epileptics or the feeble minded can admit them.

The situation has reached a point where someone has to die or be discharged from an institution before another individual can be admitted," Judge Niblack said. "Municipal court has no jurisdiction to commit persons to these institutions, but we are the catch-all court to which harassed families and neighbors of these mental cases come for help and advice."

Under a new law, which Judge Niblack was instrumental in drafting, police courts now have a streamlined procedure for ordering preliminary mental examination in cases where insanity or other mental illness is suspected. Judges may suspend criminal prosecution pending the outcome of the examination in the psychiatric ward at City hospital.

Where no mental illness is shown, criminal proceedings are resumed. Where it can be shown, procedure is initiated for commitment of the individual to an institution. Right there is where the trouble begins.

4 Cases Cited

Judge Niblack heard one neighborhood's protest that an insane woman was "terrorizing" children and others near her home. Records show Judge Niblack said, that this person was committed to Central hospital several weeks ago and is now high on the waiting list.

His only legal authority was to suggest to the protestants that, if the patient is violent, they ask the court which committed her to order temporary confinement—presumably in jail—until she is admitted to Central.

In case No. 2 a youth, reported to be an epileptic but unexamined to date, appeared in court for the fourth time. He was charged with noisy and disorderly conduct. Previously he had been charged with sex offenses. He was placed on probation in the care of his parents until he can be committed and admitted to an appropriate state institution.

In another case a minor sex offender had to be dismissed because complainants failed to prove any violation of the law.

Finally, a feeble minded man was released from county jail where he had been "lost" for three weeks.

He had been sent to the City hospital psychiatric ward for preliminary mental examination but could not be admitted because the ward was full. He was jailed by the court's psychiatric police detail pending later admission to the ward for treatment.

Urge Immediate Action

But the court is assigned a new psychiatric detail each month. Because records were made improperly, the new detail did not know about the patient in the county jail.

The matter was discovered when his family appealed for his release yesterday.

Judge Niblack has asked the safety board for a permanent psychiatric detail to insure against repetition of this case and to assure prompt, expert, understanding handling of mental cases.

"But the root of the situation still is the fact that no matter how good a law we have under which to operate, or how fortunate the city is in having the City hospital psychiatric ward, there still isn't room enough in the institutions which should get these cases," the judge said. "Action by the state to provide more adequate facilities for care of mental cases, epileptics and feeble minded persons, cannot be taken too soon."

LOCAL MAN INJURED CHASING STREETCAR

Thomas Harris, 42, of 1955 Belfontaine st., fell into a manhole yesterday while in pursuit of a trolley in the 2900 block on Delaware st.

Mr. Harris told police, who found him sitting on the edge of the manhole with one leg dangling therein, that the lid flew off the manhole as he stepped on it while running after his streetcar. He was treated at City hospital for slight injuries.

Two Armed Bandits Take \$200 and Auto After Binding and Gagging Watchman

Two armed bandits, who bound and gagged a 76-year-old night watchman, robbed the U-Drive-It Co., 201 N. Alabama st., of a safe containing more than \$200 and escaped in one of the firm's automobiles early today.

The watchman, Harry Acton, 1250 Charles st., said he was closing a door about 3 a. m. today when two men with guns forced their way into the place.

"Don't reach for your gun or we'll blow your head off," said one bandit.

Mr. Acton said the bandits took his gun, forced him into a rear room where they tied him with rope and stuffed a rag into his mouth.

"Then, they fired two shots over my head and warned me not to move," Mr. Acton said. "They ransacked the whole place and drove away in one of the cars."

The watchman was found in a dazed condition on the floor by Miss Virginia D'Armond, bookkeeper for the firm, when she came to work at 7 a. m.

John Hissong, manager, said the bandits had taken about \$300 which had been taken out of the safe the night before and deposited in the bank.

Marine Toll Now 4
PEIPING, Aug. 2 (U. P.)—One of the 12 U. S. marines wounded in Monday's clash with Chinese Communists died today. His death brought the marine death toll from the battle to four, it was announced officially.

CONVICT, BRIDE ARE CAPTURED

Held After They Kidnap State Trooper.

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Aug. 2 (U. P.)—August Doak, 29, a fugitive from Southern Michigan prison, and his 16-year-old gunnol bride were held in jail here today following their capture by state police.

They were caught after the greatest New Jersey manhunt since the Lindbergh kidnapping 14 years ago.

Their two-month crime-honey moon began at the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Memphis, Tenn., where Doak was a handyman and Constance Blondell was a love-sick student.

It ended yesterday after they had kidnapped State Patrolman George Kell.

Doak, wanted by police in four states for kidnapping, jailbreak, auto theft, assault and robbery, surrendered meekly last night near Hopewell.

"Please don't shoot," he pleaded to his captors.

Kell was kidnapped yesterday shortly after he stopped the couple for a routine inspection of their motor car registration certificate.

Doak sped away in the car, which police said was stolen in Memphis. Kell chased him on his motorcycle.

When the convict halted his car suddenly, Kell and his motorcycle overturned. Doak then forced the patrolman at gun's point to enter the car. They drove off with the girl holding a gun in his side, Kell said.

After they had driven for awhile, Doak stopped and ordered the patrolman to get out and take off his shirt. Instead, Kell kicked the convict in the groin and dived for the



Harry Acton, 76-year-old night watchman, lay bound and gagged for four hours on the floor of the U-Drive-It Co., 201 N. Alabama st., early today after bandits robbed the place.

Black Widow Spiders Killed By DDT, Experiment Shows

By Science Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—DDT kills black widow spiders, Dr. Walker Van Riper of the Colorado Museum of Natural History has found in an experiment which he reports in the new issue of *Science*, published here today.

He sprayed a 10 per cent solution of DDT in kerosene on the threads of a black spider's web, being careful not to get any on the spider itself.

She must have climbed into the sprayed part of the web and got underbrush. Doak emptied his revolver after him.

Meanwhile, a woman who had witnessed the kidnapping from her farmhouse window phoned state police who started the search.

All Roads Blocked

More than 100 state and local police were rushed to the area and all roads were blocked. The kidnapping car was spotted parked near the woods. Doak had fled on foot, leaving his bride in the car.

She surrendered to police. "I have no gun," she said and broke into tears.

The girl had \$300 in cash in her purse. Police found a suitcase in the car crammed with rolls of bills and sacks of silver change.

Bloodhounds were rushed to the scene by New York state police and an intensive search of the woods was begun.

Five hours later, Trooper Louis Masin, stationed near the Hopewell railroad bridge a-mile-and-a-half away, spotted Doak and captured him when he surrendered.

Doak had two guns in his possession. The girl said they were on their way to New York to visit her mother.

She was given all possible vigor.

ATOMIC POWER FOR SHIPS IS PREDICTED

OFF BIKINI ATOLL, Aug. 2 (U. P.)—Ships will be driven by atomic power plants in the 1950's and airplanes "much later," Vice Adm. W. H. P. Blandy, commander of joint task force one, predicted today.

He promised in a prepared statement that the navy "intends to press development of these plants with all possible vigor."

SEVEN: Whether to hold hearings on reported profiteering in connection with treasury procurement for lend lease.

EWYNESS ACCOUNTS

New eyewitness accounts of 4.2 shell failures were released in the wake of the committee's disclosure of a report that the army's several times halted shipments of all mortar shells to battlefronts rather than risk sending up faulty ammunition which might kill American soldiers.

One former G. I. charged that American boys had been "literally murdered" by shells they had been given to fire against the enemy.

The letters, bitter in tone and vivid in description, carried a former shell inspector's comment that no one in his company "would care to fire any of the shells with out first attaching a 500-yard lan-

yard and then getting into a deep hole before touching one off."

One former G. I. told of a gun crew in a mortar battalion in Italy being "wiped out by thin ammunition."

Another said a gun crew at Ft. Bragg, N. C., was "killed or seriously wounded" during tests with the mortars in 1943.

BURGLARS GET \$115 FROM TWO DRIVERS

Burglars slipped into the unlocked drivers' quarters of the Mayflower Transfer Co., 875 Massachusetts ave., early this morning and stole \$115 from billfolds belonging to Joseph Mair, Brooklyn, N. Y., and John Henry, Columbus, O.

Also thieves reached through an open bathroom window in the home of George Stewart, 1908 N. New Jersey st., and took a billfold containing \$250.

Organizations

Newcomers club's monthly luncheon and bridge party will be held at Riviera club Monday noon. Mrs. C. H. Everly will be in charge.

IN INDIANAPOLIS

EVENTS TODAY

Advertising club, luncheon, 12:15 p. m. Lincoln Exchange club, luncheon, 12:15 p. m. Clapp pool.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

James Allen Anthony, 3833 Hoyt ave. Lincoln, and Robert, Irene Calvert.

At St. Vincent's—Thomas, Mary Louise, and Eugene, Helen Carmichael.

At Home—Lawrence, Freida Ford, 575 Vinton; William, Ethel Goldsmith, 1118 N. New Jersey; Wilber, Martha Hanon, 2700 Columbia; and Cecil, Donald Collins, 21 N. New Jersey.

At St. Francis—Elaine King, and Joseph, Marge Higberg.

At City—Edward, Gloria Brents, and William, Lillian Mazon.

At Coleman—Samuel, Sylvia Prager.

At St. Vincent's—Eugene, Anna Belle, William, Levi, Patricia Barnett; Robert, Ruth, and Frances Kuehler, and William, Alline Hines.

At Home—Edwards, Mary Royal, 3808 Burian; Beckham, Anna Perry, 1406 E. Market; and Donald, 1416 S. Senate; Leland, Gertrude, 233 S. Keystone, and Virgil, Lillie Edwards, 704 W. Dorman.

DEATHS

Mollie Becker Kelley, 73, at 1104 S. Mount, carcinoma.

James F. Fawcett, 81, at City, hemangioma.

Ira Fisher, 70, at 1434 Pleasant, coronary sclerosis.

Clara Holliday, 59, at 5549 College, carcinoma.

John Albert Lombard, 70, at 3460 Roosevelt, arteriosclerosis.

Cora Smith, 54, at 123 S. Sheridan, carcinoma.

Mary Hinnenkamp, 86, at 1522 Broadway, cerebral hemorrhage.

Ella Kuepfer, 70, at 1425 Lawton, carcinoma.

SENATE GROUP PLANS NEW QUIZ

Profits Probe Has '500' Cases to Choose From.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2 (U. P.)—The Mead committee today tackled one of its toughest jobs—selecting from 500 leads the war profits investigations it will make next.

The senators met in closed session to set up priorities for the inquiries.

Senator Homer Ferguson (R. Mich.), a committee member, told reporters:

"The committee, if it wanted to, could start 500 new investigations tomorrow."

Up for committee discussion today were arguments over:

ONE: New steps in its inquiry into the army's use of defective 4.2-inch mortar shells which exploded prematurely in combat, killing and maiming American soldiers. Stark new eyewitness accounts of such incidents by former G. I.'s were disclosed late yesterday.

Spots Checked Planned

TWO: When to undertake a spot check of possible war profiteering in the aviation, automotive, aluminum and shipbuilding industries. Plans for this are under way to learn whether renegotiation of war contracts and high wartime taxes actually "took the profits out of war" as congress had intended.

THREE: Whether to assign a top priority to the case of Col. Theodore Wyman, much-investigated former district engineer at Hawaii at the time of Pearl Harbor. The joint congressional Pearl Harbor committee held that his activities needed special scrutiny, and the Mead group is considering suggestions to send a subcommittee to Honolulu and the West Coast to conduct a preliminary investigation of Col. Wyman's affairs.

FOUR: Whether to call new witnesses to testify about reasons which led Rep. Andrew May (D. Ky.) to intervene twice with Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower over the court-martial of Murray Garrison, son, Capt. Joseph H. Garson.

FIVE: Whether to investigate the activities of Gen. Breton S. Somervell, retired, former chief of army service forces, in connection with the Canal and Alaskan highway projects in Alaska.

SIX: Whether to press an inquiry recommended by Controller General Lindsay C. Warren, who testified this week that untold billions of dollars were "given away" by the government in the termination of war contracts.

SEVEN: Whether to hold hearings on reported profiteering in connection with treasury procurement for lend lease.

Democrats had to pick nominees in four legislative districts for seats in the house of representatives. Republicans were faced with the necessity of making two selections, one of them to fill a vacancy caused by death.

Death Causes Vacancy

In Parke county, Osser Chaney, a Republican who was nominated for a house seat at the May primary, died after the election. Parke county G. O. P. committee chose Rolland Hayes, Montezuma, to take the vacant place at the ballot. Mr. Hayes will oppose Homer E. Gastinau, Democrat.