

# 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.

County 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 priest, then an insane woman was "in custody" 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 probate court, 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 the 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 examination.

### Urges 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 Bellefontaine 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 he had stepped on the manhole 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 Hisson, manager, said the firm saved about \$200 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 gunnoll bride were held in jail here today following their capture by state police.

They were caught after the greatest Lindbergh kidnapping 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

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 widow's web, being careful not to get any on the spider herself.

She must have climbed into the sprayed part of the web and got some of the lethal stuff on her feet, for after about 24 hours she showed the characteristic trembling, jerking symptoms of DDT poisoning, and not long afterward she was found dead.

Five other spiders, placed successively in the same web, met the same fate.

Black widows are sometimes found in considerable numbers in one place, Dr. Van Riper points out, and where this occurs a chemical warfare campaign against them would seem justified.

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 kidnap 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 Maslin, stationed near the Hopewell railroad bridge a mile and a half away, spotted Doak and captured him. Doak had two guns in his possession. The girl said they were on their way to New York to visit her mother

and stepfather, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Clemente.

Doak escaped from the Southern Michigan penitentiary Sept. 28, 1945, where he was serving 10 to 20 years for armed robbery. Police said he was also wanted for kidnapping and highway robbery in Sidney, O., his birthplace.

After his escape, Doak went to Memphis, where he obtained a job as a handyman with the Convent of the Good Shepherd, under the alias of Jimmy Blackman.

Despite the convent routine the two fell in love.

They eloped on May 30; however, Mrs. Doak told police they had been married only last Wednesday.

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 air planes "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."



By L. A. WAGNER

NATIONAL 24-HOUR FORECAST SUMMARY: The nation will experience no great weather changes as the summer air flow pattern which prevails is slow moving and indefinite.

On the East coast, the Northern New England shore area will have intermittent rain in the wake of the Atlantic storm which is now moving out to sea in a northeasterly direction. Winds in this coastal region will be fresh to strong, but diminishing in velocity.

In the Northwest a powerful north Pacific high is pouring a current of cool maritime air inland across the northern Plateau and toward the northern Plains states.

The Pacific coast will enjoy fine, mild weather under the influence of cooling breezes from the Pacific.

Onshore winds along the California coast will produce the usual morning fog Saturday and keep temperatures there at a moderate level.

The heat wave in the central states will continue another day as war air from the east Gulf flows northward into the low pressure system centered north of the Dakotas. This warm air will lie to the east of the cold air front shown in that section where thunderstorm activity is developing.

A few early afternoon showers are probable in eastern New York, eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and the Carolinas. There will be scattered thunderstorms also in the lower Mississippi Valley and Gulf region, Friday afternoon and night; in the northern Great Lakes and Dakotas, and, after-

noon thundershowers in the Colorado River Valley.

**OFFICIAL WEATHER**

All Data in Central Daylight Time

Aug. 2, 1946	
Sunrise	Sunset
5:45	7:57
Precipitation for 24 hrs. and 7:30 a. m. Total precipitation since Jan. 1	
0.00	22.32
Deficiency since Jan. 1	
0.00	1.88

The following table shows the temperature in other cities:

City	High	Low
Atlanta	86	70
Boston	85	56
Chicago	84	64
Cincinnati	86	70
Cleveland	83	64
Denver	90	64
Evansville	91	69
Fort Wayne	83	69
Indianapolis	83	69
Kansas City	86	67
Los Angeles	96	64
Miami	85	81
Minneapolis	86	70
New Orleans	92	74
New York	87	71
Oklahoma City	87	71
Omaha	86	72
Pittsburgh	85	70
St. Louis	82	67
San Antonio	85	70
San Francisco	84	56
Washington, D. C.	80	65

## 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 last yesterday.

### Spot Checks 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.

### Call New Witnesses

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 Garson's son, Capt. Joseph H. Garson.

FIVE: Whether to investigate the activities of Gen. Brehon B. 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.

### Eyewitness Accounts

New eyewitness accounts of 42 shell failures were released in the wake of the committee's disclosure of a report that the army 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 without first attaching a 500-yard lanyard 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 this ammunition."

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

BURGULARS 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. Eversly will be in charge.

**EVENTS TODAY**

Advertising club, luncheon, 12:15 p. m. Lincoln.

Exchange club, luncheon, 12:15 p. m. Claypool.

**MARRIAGE LICENSES**

James Allen Anthony, 3535 Hoyt ave. Donna Frances Buton, 3822 Hoyt.

Leroy Charles, Cleveland, O.; Connie Alene Strickland, 1051 W. 27th.

Alene M. Cobb, R. 2, Box 494; Allene Jacklyn Brunson, 813 E. Morris.

Tom Hendricks Ebbingsworth, Indiana university medical center; Annette Sparks, 1202 E. Ohio.

William Henry Fuller Jr., 1419 W. Ohio; Dorothy Jane Pascoe, 534 Fletcher.

Charles Marvin Gaddis, 439 W. Michigan; Barbara Louise Miller, Bridgeport.

Ernest Edward Horton, 829 S. New Jersey; Evelyn L. Underwood, 214 1/2 Massachusetts.

Calvin Grundy, 535 W. New York; Arnet Le Barnett, 329 N. Blackford.

Clayton W. Hemphill, Niles, Mich.; Doris Connor, Niles, Mich.

Albert Henry Meyer, 808 Laverock rd.; Blanche Maxine Simmons, 808 Laverock rd.

William Robert Mills, 213 E. 10th; Ruth Ann Newcomb, 1217 N. Delaware.

Charles Edson Mottison, Phoenix, Ariz.; Glenda Lee Grear, 2020 Prospect.

Elmer Marie Ray, Fowler; Edna Marie Penn, Danville, Ill.

Robert H. Pettigrew, 2135 Kenwood; Marilyn Virginia Ralston, 2723 E. Michigan.

Carl Hermann Rodewald, 547 N. Keystone; Margaret Mabel Williams, 2900 Maple.

Harry Munford Sanders, 3460 N. Riley; Elizabeth Ann Ametti, 4134 College.

Raymond William Workman, Coshocton, O.; Gloria Ann Hillebrand, Arlington, Ind.

George R. Zahn, 1608 Madison; Theresa Louise Dillman, 1902 S. Delaware.

**BIRTHS**

Girls

At St. Francis—Robert, Constance Everett, and John, Marjorie Jones.

## Movie Star Joins Circus



Performers gather around Ann Sheridan (center) as the movie star joins Ringling Brothers-Barnum & Bailey circus at Grand Rapids, Mich., for a brief tour to satisfy an old yearning for circus life. She will appear as a clown on the tour.

## STATE BALLOT IS COMPLETED

Nominees Are Announced For Legislature.

By UNITED PRESS

Six vacancies on the November ballot for seats in the Indiana state legislature and scores of vacancies for county and township offices over the state were filled today.

Yesterday was the deadline for political party committees to choose nominees in cases where no candidates had filed for the primary May 5.

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, Osmer 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 on the ballot. Mr. Hayes will oppose Homer E. Gastinau, Democrat.

Other nominations made by county and district party committees:

John H. Metford (R. Seymour), to oppose Rep. Oren O. Swails (D.) for representative of Brown and Jackson counties.

Claude Newman (D.) Culver, to oppose Harry E. Danielson (R.) for representative from Marshall county.

The Rev. John R. Servies (D.) to oppose Rep. Clara Van Coons (R.) for representative from Montgomery county.

**House Speaker Opposed**

Ross Sittler (D.) to oppose house speaker Robert Creighton (R.) Warsaw, for representative from Kosciusko county.

Harry M. Voyles (D.) Fredericksburg, to oppose Rep. Leo M. Dennis (R.) Pekin, for representative from Orange and Washington counties.

Elsewhere over the state, hundreds of vacancies existed on party tickets for county and township offices. These were filled before yesterday's deadline by the county central committees of the parties which were short on candidates, to prevent the nominee of the rival party from winning without contest.

**IN INDIANAPOLIS**

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