

The Indianapolis Times

FINAL HOME

PRICE FIVE CENTS

FORECAST: Fair and colder tonight and tomorrow. Low tonight, 5 above. High tomorrow, 20.

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Watts Presses Battle To Escape Chair as 30-Day Reprieve Comes

U. S. Supreme Court Gives Killer New Lease On Life With Dramatic Stay of Execution

The day that he feared he might not live to see—today—found condemned slayer Robert Austin Watts ready to continue his fight for his life in the nation's highest court.

The 27-year-old former Indianapolis city truck driver who was to have been executed at midnight was given a 30-day reprieve from death last night, just a few hours before the scheduled execution.

Watts woke early this morning, still in the "death cell" at Indiana State Prison at Michigan City. Because the reprieve came so late last night, he was not transferred back to his regular cell.

He was to be transferred back upstairs early today, to the seclusion barracks which houses him and four other men awaiting execution.

Will Start to Work
As soon as he is settled back in his cell, Watts is expected to start work on his appeal to the Supreme Court for a setting aside of the verdicts of the Indiana courts.

In granting the 30-day reprieve yesterday, the U. S. court ruled that Watts' formal appeal must be filed by Feb. 14.

Lawyers from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in New York are preparing legal documents.

Handwritten Plea
His last appeal to the Indiana Supreme Court consisted of five handwritten documents, all handwritten on lined paper but in good legal form. He filed another handwritten appeal to the U. S. court after the Indiana court refused his appeal and declined to take further jurisdiction.

Prison officials said Watts was sitting down to eat what was to have been his "last supper" at about 6:30 p. m. last night when he was informed that the stay had been granted.

Warden Ralph Howard, Deputy Warden L. C. Schumacher and three members of the board of trustees took him the message. Warden Howard learned of the stay from Gov. Schricker at 4:30 p. m. but waited for the official confirming telegram from the court itself before telling Watts.

Takes News Calmly
Prison officials said Watts took the news calmly.

"I'm glad," he said as Warden Howard read the message to him. "Then he laughed and said: 'I sure hate to miss that supper, though.'"

The supper consisted of shrimp, candied sweet potatoes, combination salad, strawberry ice cream and milk.

The prison officials joked about splitting the shrimp between them, then told Watts he might eat the meal.

Mother Breaks Down
Earlier Watts said goodbye to his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Watts, Indianapolis, and his sister, Mrs. Lucille Hardman, Chicago.

The visit lasted less than a half hour and ended when Mrs. Watts broke down. Watts' young wife, who stood beside him during his trial, did not visit him.

It was the third time the courts have given Watts a new lease on life at the 11th hour. He was convicted by a Shelby County jury in January, 1948, of murder in an attempt to attack Mrs. May Lois Burney, North Side Indianapolis housewife, in November, 1947.

First Date in May, 1948
He was first scheduled to die in May, 1948. He won two reprieves from the Indiana Supreme Court as they considered his appeals.

Watts, confessed slayer of both Mrs. Burney and Mrs. Mabel McFadden, has asked for a new trial, charging that his indictment by the Marion County Grand Jury was faulty because Negroes have been systematically barred from duty on the grand jury. He also maintains remarks made by former Prosecutor Judson L. Stark during the trial were prejudicial and that his confessions were obtained under duress.

U. S. Seeks Pact Talks
WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (UP)—The United States hopes to discuss soon "with Norway and other governments" whether they would be willing to enter the projected North Atlantic Security Pact, the State Department hinted strongly today.

Good Seats Left For Golden Gloves
Get your tickets early if you want the BEST seats for Friday night's semifinals of the Times-Legion Golden Gloves tournament in the N. Pennsylvania St. Armory.

They're available at: Booth-Cathman's, 136 E. Washington St. or The Sportsman's Store, 126 N. Pennsylvania St.

Prices are: Ringside and first row balcony, \$2; downstairs reserved, \$1.50. Prices include tax. General admission—\$1 for both children and adults—on sale at 6:30 p. m. light night at the Armory.

Fair, Colder Is Groundhog Day Forecast

Animal Will See Shadow Tomorrow, Predictor Thinks

LOCAL TEMPERATURES
6 a. m. ... 21 10 a. m. ... 24
7 a. m. ... 20 11 a. m. ... 27
8 a. m. ... 19 12 (Noon) ... 30
9 a. m. ... 21 1 p. m. ... 31

It looks very much as if the groundhog will see his shadow tomorrow, Chief Meteorologist Paul Miller said today.

His prediction of fair and colder through tomorrow included few clouds to mar the sky on Groundhog Day. The temperature will not rise above 20 degrees, he said.

Mr. Miller, however, would not say that the groundhog's peek at his shadow will insure six more weeks of winter.

Partly Cloudy Skies
The weatherman said snow probably will fall Thursday or Friday, before a slight rise in temperature Friday. He expected the comparative warm spell to be of short duration, predicting it would be colder again Saturday and Sunday.

Partly cloudy skies were included in the prediction for today and tonight. A high of 25 degrees today will give way to a low of 5 above tonight, with a high of 20 forecast for tomorrow.

Rain and Snow Due
Temperatures will average 5 to 9 degrees lower than normal in Indiana for the next five days, Mr. Miller said.

(Normal maximum for this period is 32 north, 45 south. Normal minimum 17 north, 25 south.)

Rain or snow will average one-tenth inch in northwestern Indiana to nearly one inch in the southeast for this period, according to the forecast. It will occur as snow northwest and rain or snow southeast on Thursday and Friday.

Two Hurt When Cab Collides With Auto
Two persons were injured, neither seriously, today when a Red Cab Co. vehicle collided with another car at Highland Ave. and Ohio St.

Helian Ray Sims, 17, of 2202 E. Dudley St., is in fair condition at General Hospital where he was taken after suffering bruises on his face, head and left leg. A passenger in the car driven by Sims, Henry Adams, 60, of 2039 E. 10th St., received an injury to his right thumb and bruises on his left leg but refused treatment at the hospital, police said.

Driver of the cab, Robert E. Jackson, 22, 1828 N. Alabama St., was not hurt.

Milk Prices Drop
ANDERSON, Feb. 1—Retail milk prices dropped one cent a quart here today to 19 cents. Dairy men said the decline in the cost of the milk purchased from farmers made possible the reduction.

On the Inside
Red forces take over Peiping amid fanfare ...

Around the World ... a capsule review of today's news ...

Schricker names ex-CIO director as secretary of Public Service Commission ...

Harden takes dim view of Jenner-Capehart attempt to oust Gates ...

Director Cyrus Ching battles change in control of mediation board ... other news from halls of Congress ...

Cut a slice of "meat of tomorrow" ... America's \$50 million quiz program No. 2 ... a series ...

Review of Shaw's "Man and Superman" by Henry Butler ... Johnson covers his Hollywood beat ... other amusement notes ...

Murder on the Highways ... No. 13 ... a graphic report on the Jasper post by Victor Peterson ... other section page features ...

First fox hunt colorful event ... Our Town ... by Anton Scherrer ... other local and national observations ...

The formula to slipcover magic ... for the ladies on pages of interest to them ...

Basketball reports from Butler, Purdue ... Ownie Bush dazzles the experts ... third in a series ... other sports ...

"Masket spooner" makes debut this week with two new discs ... Off the Record ... a regular Tuesday feature ...

Other Features on Inside Pages
Amusements, 6 Forum ... 10 Movies ... 6 Society ... 11 Business ... 4 Mete Given ... 13 Othman ... 9 Sports ... 14 15 Classified 16-18 Hollywood ... 6 Radio ... 7 Teen Prob ... 13 Comics ... 19 Inside Indpls ... 9 Records ... 20 Earl Wilson ... 5 Red Cross ... 8 Dr. Jordan ... 13 Ruark ... 9 Weather Map ... 4 Editorial ... 10 Labor ... 10 Scherrer ... 10 Women's ... 12 13 Food ... 13 Mrs. Manners 8 Side Glances 10 World A.S. ... 10

Father Hurt In 2d Story Leap From Fire With Baby In Arms



Mrs. Clifford R. Goodwin Sr. (right) and her mother, Mrs. Eva Pickel ... they leaped almost simultaneously from a second-story window as fire gutted their home early this morning at 2001 Miller St.

55 Prep Pupils Overcome by Gas

Chlorine Tank Topples At Chicago School

CHICAGO, Feb. 1 (UP)—More than 55 children were overcome or made ill today when poisonous chlorine gas seeped through Kelvin Park High School.

Fifteen of the victims were taken to hospitals, but none was reported in serious condition. The rest were treated in neighboring homes by ambulance crews, fire department rescue squads and private doctors.

The gas was used at the school to purify water in the swimming pool.

Tank Topples
The tank in which it was stored in the school basement toppled, breaking a connection with a pipe which led to the pool. School authorities said the fumes were sent through the school by the ventilating system.

A janitor discovered the toppled tank. The firm alarm bell rang and the school's 1450 pupils began filing out of the building in orderly fashion, as they had been instructed to do in fire drills.

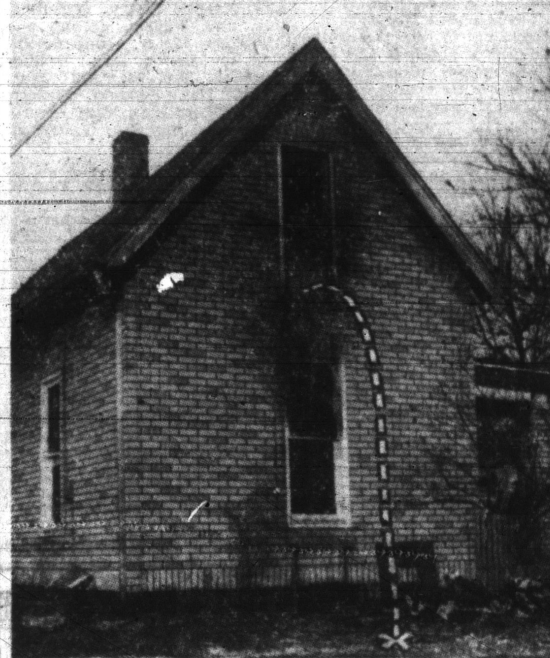
Some collapse in the corridors, however, and were carried from the building by their schoolmates.

GOP Senator Seeking U. S. Funds for Wabash
A Republican state senator moved today to request Congress to provide additional flood control facilities in the Wabash River.

A similar resolution has been introduced in the House by a Republican representative, but the measure is still in committee.

Sen. Wesley Malone (R. Clinton), introduced the senate concurrent resolution today. The similar measure in the House was introduced Jan. 25 by Rep. Lang Helt (R. Dana).

Milk Prices Drop
ANDERSON, Feb. 1—Retail milk prices dropped one cent a quart here today to 19 cents. Dairy men said the decline in the cost of the milk purchased from farmers made possible the reduction.



Escape hatch in fire ... family of five fled the burned out Goodwin home through this second story window.

Block Subsides As Mine Caves In

Four Persons Hurt; 14 Homes Damaged

CARBONDALE, Pa., Feb. 1 (UP)—A whole city block in this anthracite community subsided today when an underground mine caved in. At least four persons were reported injured and 14 homes badly damaged.

Some sections in the cave-in area dropped more than 20 feet below the surface.

The subsidence, over a mine of the Hudson Coal Co., occurred while most of the residents were asleep. A warning rumble preceded the cave-in and enabled most of them to escape.

Officials of the company, which employs about 100 persons in the De Angelis mine, refused to talk about the incident. Police had no reports of any possible injuries in the mine.

Residents in the section said it was the second subsidence in the last week in this town of about 20,000 persons in northeastern Pennsylvania.

\$39,900 Repaid State By Job Fund Claimants
Some \$39,900 repaid into Indiana's unemployment compensation benefit fund during 1948 testified that collecting jobless checks illegally is not a profitable business, Everett L. Gardner, director of the Indiana Employment Security Division, pointed out today.

Detected by Division representatives, the claimants, all of whom faced legal prosecution, repaid the sums they had unlawfully collected in fraudulent claims.

Col. Gardner added that persons convicted of obtaining unemployment benefits by fraud are subject to a maximum fine of \$100 or a jail sentence for as long as 60 days, or both. For veterans who try to collect readjustment allowances to which they are not entitled, the G. I. Bill of Rights provides a fine of \$1000 or less or imprisonment up to one year, or both.

Dun & Bradstreet Manager Honored
Cecil G. Hardy, 6028 Park Ave., was honored today at a luncheon party upon his completion of one year as district manager of Dun & Bradstreet here.

Officers of the firm presented him with flowers and a birthday cake with one candle. Mr. Hardy was transferred here from Worcester, Mass.

Boy Born in Snow As Father Holds Mother in Arms

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 1 (UP)—Little "Snowbird," the baby born in the snow, was reported all right in Portland Sanitarium & Hospital today, and so was his mother, Mrs. William A. Stafford Jr., Portland.

Mrs. Stafford gave birth to the 6-pound 8-ounce boy early today as she stood outside her garage, held in her husband's arms.

Mrs. Stafford said the family had little warning that the baby's arrival was imminent. He and another son carried Mrs. Stafford from the house to the garage when labor pains started. And while he tried to open the garage doors, the baby was born.

HE SAID they heard the baby cry and had to grope in the snow to find it.

The slight, 20-year-old mother and the baby, her first, were taken to Portland Sanitarium & Hospital, where nurses soon nicknamed the boy "Snowbird."

Mrs. Stafford said she couldn't remember the event clearly, although she did not lose consciousness.

Little "Snowbird" will be known formally as William Scott Stafford.

Senate Studies Free Kindergarten
Legislative Calendar, Page 15

A free kindergarten bill, which would offer pre-primary training to all Hoosier children between the ages of 5 and 6, was being studied today by a Senate committee on education.

The plan, which has long been sought by many Indiana parents, was incorporated in a measure introduced yesterday by Sen. William A. Butcher (R. South Bend) and Sen. Jack O'Grady (D. Terre Haute).

The bill also provides for the levying of a tax rate up to 2 1/2 cents on each \$100 of assessed valuation to finance the program.

Star Horse, Champion, Will Appear at Ayres
Champion, the horse of Gene Autry, film cowboy and singing star, will make an appearance tomorrow from 2:30 to 3:30 p. m. at Ayres' Downtown Store, 330 N. Center.

Champion will perform in a special corral. The horse, directed by his trainer, will perform some of the tricks which made him famous with movie goers.



Clifford R. Goodwin Sr. ... Navy veteran hero to family driven from home by fire.



Lucinda Ellen Goodwin, 19 months old, and her brother, Clifford R. Jr., held by aunt, Mrs. Helen Kelley, after escape from blaze.

Submits 'Missing Pappy' Measure

Jacobs Introduces Bill in House

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—A Hoosier freshman Democrat today introduced in the House a measure which has been called "the missing pappy bill."

It gives federal courts power to enforce child-support and alimony payments where the divorced husband has moved to another state. Only state courts now function in this field.

Rep. Andrew Jacobs, Indianapolis, who introduced the bill, offered the following explanation of it:

"It is the purpose of this bill to require parents to discharge their obligations to their children, regardless of the shortcomings of either or both parents."

Protects Spouse
"It protects the husband or wife when they are without fault."

"I am informed that besides the privations suffered by thousands of half-orphaned children, literally millions of dollars in public funds are used to support children of able-bodied parents, usually the father who takes refuge in another state."

"The proposal has received support and endorsement from widespread sources. Only recently I learned that the 1947 national convention of the American Legion adopted a resolution calling upon the federal government to deal with this problem."

Industrial Show Will Open Feb. 9
How to make it cheaper and better will be the theme of the Indiana Industrial Show which will open in the Manufacturers' building in the State Fair Grounds Feb. 9 for four days.

Three hundred booths will display the latest in industrial tools and equipment. It is expected some 80,000 will attend.

The show will be sponsored by the Purchasing Agents Association of Indianapolis, of which D. M. Johnson, American Paper Stock Co., is president.

Dan Young is general chairman of the show. E. F. Andrews is show chairman, assisted by V. L. Boyer, D. M. Johnson, W. H. Bultman Jr. and H. F. Holtman.

Shot in the Head, Boy Tells Doctor 'I Can Take It'

TULSA, Okla., Feb. 1 (UP)—The trouble-headed kid shuffled into the doctor's office and announced with a grin that he was short a few teeth: "I been shot right square in the middle of the head."

Seven-year-old David Rollins wasn't kidding. Probing through a small hole in the center of his forehead, Dr. G. M. Richardson, Tulsa osteopath, found a 22-caliber bullet flattened against the skull.

X-rays showed the bullet was pressing against the skull but hadn't penetrated it, although the end of the metal was frayed into several fragments.

"HE CAME within a hair's breadth of being killed," said Dr. Richardson, nurse for the doctor.

Later it was learned he had been hit by a stray bullet by a 15-year-old boy near a dump yard southeast of the city.

Miss Cross thumbed through a child's book while the doctor prepared to take out the bullet. But David didn't need to be distracted.

"You don't have to give me anything for the pain, Doc," he declared. "I can take it."

Livestock Die In Farm Fire
A two-story barn and livestock valued at \$1500 were destroyed by fire late yesterday on the farm of Robert D. Wood, 6700 block Shagun Rd., northwest of Indianapolis.

Mr. Wood said loss included one sow, eight pigs, 30 bushels of soy beans, 10 bushels of wheat, 50 bushels of corn and tools and implements.

Neighbors formed a bucket brigade in attempting to put out the flames until Indianapolis firemen arrived. Mr. Wood said his home and garage were slightly scorched.

Farm Residence Almost Destroyed
Fire today almost destroyed the farm residence occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Reynolds at Ind. 534 and Dean Road near the White River.

The two-story, 9-room structure is owned by Charles E. Foreman, 5620 N. Delaware St.

The Best He Had
SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 1 (UP)—A set of jacks and a rubber ball, apparently the most prized possession of a child, were found among March 4-Dimes contributions, officials said today.

Change Meeting Date
The Indianapolis Bar Association, formerly scheduled to meet tomorrow, will meet instead on Feb. 9. Kurt F. Pantzer is program chairman.

RITES FOR PRESS HEAD
WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (UP)—Funeral services were to be held today for Fleming Newbold, president of the Washington Star who died at his home here yesterday. He had been president of the Star less than a year.