

Tragic Case of Kenneth Pace—

What Happens To Boy Who Tried to Kill?

Psychiatrists Say He Might Be Cured, If State Had Proper Care Available

By ROBERT BLOEM, Times Staff Writer

VINCENNES, Apr. 16—Indiana's mental health program this week inherited the tragic case of 18-year-old Kenneth Leon Pace.

Kenneth was committed Friday to the Evansville State Hospital for the Insane because he couldn't comprehend the gravity of pouring rat poison into his father's coffee.

Psychiatrists indicated that although he could never be made normally intelligent, he might be cured of the form of insanity which made him want to kill his father. His chances for freedom depend on the ability of a heavily overcrowded, underfinanced and under-staffed institutional setup to treat him.

Kenneth escaped prosecution on a charge of poisoning with intent to murder on testimony of two Vincennes doctors. Circuit Judge Ralph Seal ruled he did not have "comprehension sufficient to understand the charge filed against him nor to prepare and make a defense."

Typical Problems

Thus he escaped prison and gained a chance to return to a limited usefulness, unless Evansville Hospital authorities are unable to accept a potential murderer. In that case he would face an indefinite "sentence" to the Hospital for Insane Criminals at Michigan City, worst overcrowded of any state mental institution.

Kenneth's case is a fairly typical mental health problem. He had only a low grade mentality to start, did not learn to read or write. He did learn to drive a car and to drive a tractor, both pretty well.

He and his father, a disabled navy veteran of World War I, did not agree on when and how much he could drive the family car. So he asked a grocery store clerk if rat poison would kill people.

Saved From Death

Assured that it would, he bought a bottle. Two weeks later he emptied the bottle into a pot of coffee he knew his father would drink that evening. He figured out, according to his own statement, that only his father drank coffee after noon so he would harm nobody else.

The father, a three-year-old granddaughter, and two other persons who "sampled" the coffee, were saved from death by the fact that Kenneth didn't know about this type of poison. He administered such a huge dose, making the victims suddenly and violently ill, it acted as its own antidote.

Then Kenneth was sorry he had done it. He wanted to drink some of the coffee himself, as a form of self punishment. "I just felt dizzy-headed," he explained dully in jail. "I feel dizzy-headed a lot of the time. My head hurts."

Heard Voices

Psychiatrists found he heard voices, had unfounded fears for his own safety. They believed he might try to kill again but recommended the Evansville institution as preferable to prison.

Kenneth didn't learn to walk until he was three, scarcely talked before he was six. Although he reached the sixth grade in school, he could not spell his middle name, Leon, to sign his own statement to the sheriff after the attempt to poison his father.

Discussing the boy's background, the father, Edward Pace, said his trouble might have been partly because his mother was ill when he was small, unable to care for him fully. A sister once tossed him over her shoulder, missed the catch and dropped him on his head. He suffered a badly broken thigh as a small child.

'Likes' Institutions

"Bottle bones," the father commented. "Rickets, I reckon." Kenneth has had experience with state institutions, but he said he "liked it." He served a year at the state boys' school. It was not the family's first experience with "taking things," either—a sister served a term in Women's Prison for shoplifting and an older brother is now in the state reformatory for vehicle taking.

Now Kenneth is the state's problem.

Fugitive Gives Up For Theft in 1936

MINEOLA, N. Y., Apr. 16 (UP)—Anson G. Purchase, 54, a former banker who absconded 13 years ago with \$8000, walked into the Nassau County police headquarters today and surrendered. He said his conscience bothered him.

Purchase said he had been operating a pawn shop in Kansas City, Kas. His wife and three children have been living in Bay-side, where Purchase was an executive with the Bayside Federal Savings and Loan Association when he stole the funds.

WINTER'S BLESSING

WASHINGTON, Apr. 16 (UP)—The severe winter in the West promises to "pay off" by providing good water supplies this summer for irrigating crops, the Agriculture Department reported tonight.

FLOWERS
for All Occasions
Open All Day Sunday
CLAYPOOL
FLOWER SHOP
Rt. 5028 Chicago Rd. LI. 0617

Still Convinced



"General" Coxey

Fifty-five years ago this coming May 1, "General" Jacob E. Coxey of Massillon, O., who led his famous "Coxey's Army" to Washington, was arrested for walking on the grass when he tried to make a speech at the Capitol. He is shown fifty years later on the Capitol steps making the speech the police spoiled. He still favors turning the paper money presses into high.

Coxey Celebrates 95th Birthday

Still Believes In Easy Money

MASSILLON, O., Apr. 16 (UP)—The leader of the famed "Coxey's Army" march on Washington in 1894 celebrated his 95th birthday anniversary today, still convinced his theory of "money at cost" would solve the economic problems of the United States and the world.

"General" Jacob E. Coxey spent the day quietly at his home here with his 83-year-old wife, Henrietta.

Mr. Coxey told reporters who called at his home that after 75 years of crusading, he is even more convinced that all nations should print all the money they need and exchange it for goods.

"And as long as we ship goods to Europe, and not money itself, we will have a boom."

At five years short of the century mark, the "General" is still active. He has recovered completely from a fall last June which fractured his pelvis.

Tomorrow will mark another highlight in the career of Coxey, who still wears a high wing collar. It was on Easter Sunday, 1894, that Mr. Coxey began the memorable march on Washington.

Mr. Coxey assembled a small group here and began the long trek to the nation's capital to propose that the government print money to pay for a public works program to employ the jobless in the depression of 1893.

By the time the "army" reached Washington on May 1, it numbered some 4000. The march went for naught, however, when Mr. Coxey was arrested for walking on the grass on the Capitol lawn, fined \$5 and sentenced to 30 days in jail. The "army" disbanded.

Weight-Lifting Record Claimed for XC-99

FT. WORTH, Tex., Apr. 16 (UP)—Convair factory authorities today claimed an unofficial weight-lifting record for their XC-99, experimental transport version of the B-36 super bomber.

Delinquent Tax Notice Law Urged

Haggerty Asks Ban On 'Surprise' Sales

New legislation which would require county treasurers to notify owners by registered mail when taxes become delinquent on their property was proposed last night by Judson Haggerty, state representative from Marion County.

Such requirement would end the possibility of property being sold because of delinquent taxes without the owner's knowledge, Mr. Haggerty declared.

He said he would urge the plan for consideration by the next General Assembly. He suggests that a property owner be given a 90-day period of grace following notification by mail before property could be put up for sale.

The Marion County representative also proposed reclassification of all existing tax laws, pointing out that the statutes now are so intricate as to make interpretation difficult.

Eskimos Find Mexican Weather Far Too Hot

LAREDO, Tex., Apr. 16 (UP)—Customs officials here are used to strange transients but they rubbed their eyes when four Alaskan Eskimos crossed the border from Mexico.

The Eskimos, all ex-G.I.s, had been studying silversmithing at Taxco, and were en route home to Mountain Village on the Yukon River.

They said Mexico was too hot for them, but added the tables would be turned this summer.

George Sipary, acting as spokesman, explained that four Mexican youths will come to Alaska next fall to learn ivory carving, an Eskimo specialty.

Nurses to Attend Institute on Polio

More than 160 Hoosier graduate nurses, most of them from 11 Central Indiana counties, will attend a two-day Polio Institute on Tuesday.

Nine speakers are scheduled to address the opening session of the occupational therapy workshop of James Whitcomb Riley Hospital, at which Miss Nellie Van Dyke, orthopedic nursing instructor in the I. U. Training School for Nurses and Division of Nursing Education, will preside.

Speakers include Dr. Donald J. Caseley, medical director of the medical center; Dr. Lyman Kelks, clinical professor of pediatrics; Dr. John Waterman, associate professor of psychiatry, and Dr. George Garceau, professor of orthopedic surgery; Miss Van Dyke; Mrs. Frances Ekstam, chief physical therapist in Riley Hospital, and Miss Lois Olmsted, consultant in the National League of Nursing Education.

Speakers Tuesday will include Miss Marian Roberts, president of the Indiana State League of Nursing Education; Mrs. Ruth Cady, supervisor of nurses in Rotary Convalescent Home, both also residing, and Miss Mary Ferguson of the State Department of Public Welfare.

Spectator Sues Circus For \$10,000 Damages

LOS ANGELES, Apr. 16 (UP)—Mrs. Mayme G. Roka, 30, today asked Superior Court for \$10,000 damages from the Clyde Beatty circus because she thought a man was an ape.

Mrs. Roka charged in a suit filed yesterday that an announcement was made at the show that an ape had broken loose and was running through the audience.

The ape, really a man in ape's costume, embraced her and she became hysterical and fainted, she said.

LONDONERS SWELTER

LONDON, Apr. 16 (UP)—Shirt-sleeved Londoners sweltered today in the hottest weather since last July. At 6 a. m. (Indianapolis time) the thermometer in their ministry roof registered 80 degrees, the hottest April mark since records first were kept there nine years ago.

STRAUSS SAYS:

TRADITION WITH A TOUCH OF TOMORROW



The Specialty Shop
is on the
THIRD FLOOR—
Doors Open
at 9:30 A.M.

SALE

Honestly—if you miss it—
you will have difficulty in
forgiving yourself!

There are just a few of this
and that and those—and
some of the others—but
totaling something like this—

262 TAILORED SUITS
210 COATS—(a few short coats)
412 DRESSES (wools and cottons
and rayons).
510 PAIRS SHOES

For instance—Among the SUITS—

—are some of Forstmann's
fine fabrics at
\$25

And there are major Sale Groups of SUITS at
49.95 and 39.95.

To clear away broken lots of high priced suits!
(At \$49.95 there are even some Glenhunts!)

The COATS—are, in many cases, almost gifts!

There are 30 ZIPPER LINED COATS—at just half—were
59.95—reduced to
29.98

There are 2 fabulously fine CASHMERE COATS that were originally
\$225—at
\$125

There are major Sale Groups of COATS at
29.95—39.95—49.95

There are 30 SHORT COATS—at HALF PRICE

The DRESSES—There's a rack of WOOL DRESSES and
Part Wools—at Half Price—(about 100
Dresses)—The bulk of them are (what! at Buy!)—
29.95 Dresses—at
14.88

There are 312 SPRING DRESSES—Prints, Cotton Gabardines
in pastel shades—neckwear prints—Butcher linen (rayon)—
silk prints—rayon crepes—linen-like weaves. Quite a
few Junior Dresses.
\$11—\$13—\$15—\$17
and so on—up to \$39. . .

This is a grand opportunity to buy a summer full.

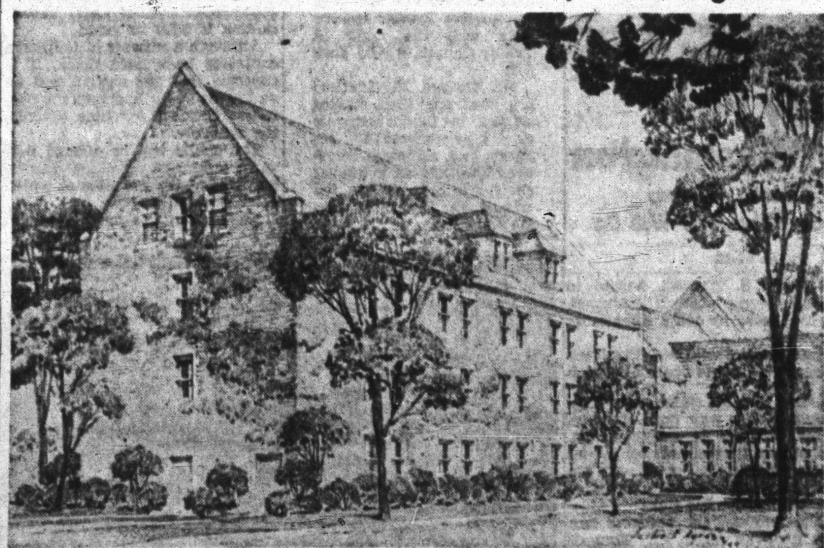
EXTRA! About 500 Pairs WOMEN'S SHOES . . .

Including such names as—Pandora, Bally, Martinique, Lady Nettleton.
Dress, walking and sports shoes—in suede, smooth leathers, a few lizards
and patents. Reductions are sharp—for instance:

PANDORAS that were 20.95 to 25.95 . . .
while they last—\$10 to 11.98

STRAUSS

THE SPECIALTY SHOP IS ON THE THIRD FLOOR



For child health . . . Architect's sketch of new wing to be added to Riley Hospital.

A state-wide campaign for \$1 million or more will be sponsored by James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association to be used for an expanding program of medical and surgical research at Riley Hospital.

Perry W. Lesh, association president, who announced the campaign, disclosed that organization work was already under way in many counties of the state. Leadership in the campaign will be announced later.

The fund drive, the first conducted by the association since 1926, will support research in diseases and deformities typical of childhood.

A new building is now being constructed by the state in connection with Riley Hospital and is designed for research purposes. Money raised will be used to equip the new structure and expand the staff of scientists.

Indiana University Medical School will direct the research laboratories and develop the new research program. Some of the

permanent research investigations to be carried on are studies in heart disorders commonly affecting children; nerve transplants; a broad study of dangerous viruses; rheumatic fever; gland irregularities and so-called "bone banks."

Riley Hospital has cared for 75,000 children in its beds and thousands more in clinics since it opened. The association is the original sponsor of the hospital and carried on the campaign for its construction and equipment.

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