

'Brilliant' Hoosier Admits Trying To Kill Wife's Ex-Suitor

Denies Plots Prompted by Jealousy

DENVER, Colo., Jan. 26—A "brilliant" Hoosier, who has been outsmarted into confessing he tried to kill his wife's college boy friend, federal authorities said today.

Donald R. Rankin, formerly of Richmond, Ind., has confessed he shot at and then tried to booby-trap James McCray, 27, of Bowling Green, O.

Denies Jealousy

But he denied the plots were prompted by jealousy or had anything to do with the fact that his wife was wooed on a few dates in 1944 by Mr. McCray.

And the attractive Mrs. Rankin, 26, refuses to discuss the bomb plot except to say she'll stand by her husband. She told reporters she won't reveal at least until the trial—what she told her husband that set him after Mr. McCray.

Rankin, 27, described as a "brilliant" veteran of the Korean War, also confessed he planned a third attempt against Mr. McCray's life, postal authorities said. He planned to shoot him last December, but didn't follow through, according to the confession.

The bomb plot involved 15 sticks of dynamite mailed in a package to Mr. McCray in Bowling Green, O.

"Rankin denied his wife had anything to do with the plot," said Postal Inspector R. B. Dunbar.

"He claimed he was hired to kill McCray for a fellow named Al. That's all he would say."

Mr. Dunbar said Rankin confessed after a "psychological trick" was played on him. Rankin was placed in a cell with a pencil and paper and was completely ignored until he finally notified officials he wanted to confess.

Mr. Rankin was then taken before U. S. Commissioner Harold S. Oakes for arraignment on charges of mailing the dynamite. He waived a hearing and said he would also waive indictment by a federal grand jury. Rankin asked to have his case transferred to Denver for hearing from Chicago, where he mailed the lethal package.

"He told us in detail how he drove to Richmond Dec. 7," Mr. Dunbar reported. "Then, early on Dec. 8, drove to McCray's home. Rankin said, he fired four shots at him. One bullet struck McCray in the shoulder."

"When this attempt failed," Mr. Dunbar added, "Rankin told us how he planned the next attempt with the package of dynamite. The bomb plot was discovered when McCray took the package to County Attorney Floyd Collier."

Used Army Technique

Mr. Dunbar said Rankin told officials he learned the technique for making the "booby-trap" in his military demolition training.

"When the second attempt failed, Rankin said he was planning a third attempt to kill McCray," Mr. Dunbar said. "Rankin had already made arrangements with a local pawnshop to purchase a high-powered rifle and telescopic sight. He was going to stalk McCray and shoot him at a distance of 500 yards."

Rankin admitted he never saw the Ohio man until he fired the four shots at him, Mr. Dunbar said.

The postal inspector still refused to offer his idea as to the motive for the fantastic murder attempts.

"Let people draw their own conclusions," he said.

Find 2 More Bodies From Airlift Crash

SANDSPIT, British Columbia, Jan. 26 (UP)—Two more bodies from last Saturday's crash of a Korean airlift plane were washed ashore yesterday reducing to 23 the number still missing.

One of the bodies was that of the pilot of the military-chartered DC-4, Northwest Pilot John Pfaffinger, 39, of Kent, Wash. The body of a soldier was also found but not identified immediately.

Rains Slack Off On Pacific Coast

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 26 (UP)—Storm-driven rains diminished over California and western Nevada early today, bringing hope that more widespread flooding might be averted.

The respite came after a second storm whipped over northern California from the Pacific with torrential downpours that spilled flood crests over San Joaquin Valley levees and threatened farmhands in Merced, Madera and Tulare Counties.

Manhattan Police Busy

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (UP)—Traffic officers in congested Manhattan passed out a total of 453, 099 summonses for parking violations in 1951, an increase of 93, 358 over 1950.

Crash Probe Set

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (UP)—An on-the-scene congressional investigation will begin Monday into two plane crashes near the Newark N. J. airport which have claimed 85 lives within 10 weeks.

Bogarts Expecting

HOLLYWOOD, Cal., Jan. 26 (UP)—Actress Lauren Bacall, wife of screen tough guy Humphrey Bogart, expects her second child in August, the couple revealed today. They were married May 21, 1945.

Teen-Ager in \$18,000 'Baby-Sitter' Theft May Be Crippled for Life



TEEN-AGE TRIO—The above photo taken at the time of their arrest shows (left to right) Eileen Jeffries, Roberta McCauley and Marilyn Curry.

By United Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Jan. 26

One of three young girls who went on an \$18,000 stolen-money spree in New York last fall may be crippled for life after falling from a fourth-story window while trying to flee a detention home, it was disclosed today.

Eileen Jeffries, 17, of Lynn, Mass., oldest of the three girls in the "baby-sitter" case and the only one sentenced to a penal institution as a result of the escape, apparently was attempting to escape from the House of Good Shepherd here by a rope of knotted bed sheets.

The accident happened Jan. 15, but the nature of it and the seriousness of her injuries were not disclosed until today. The girl underwent a serious spinal operation Monday, but was reported "resting comfortably" at a hospital.

The Catholic nuns who operate the detention home refused to comment about the accident. Police Chief Raymond P. Gallagher said he had heard of it through unofficial sources and announced he would conduct an investigation.

It was the second time tragedy involved a principal in the case of the three girls who ran away to New York Oct. 17 with \$18,000 taken from a strong box in the home of a physician where one of them had been minding a baby.

Dr. Albert H. Conner, 51, of Nahant, victim of the theft, committed suicide 11 days after the looting of his home.

Indeterminate Sentence

Eileen and her companions, Roberta McCauley, 15, Nahant, and Marilyn Curry, 16, Lynn, spent some \$3,000 of the money on a tour of exclusive shops and nightclubs in New York and claimed they were "taken" for the rest by "sharpies."

Convicted of larceny in Lynn District Court Dec. 26, Eileen was given an indeterminate sentence in Framingham Women's Reformatory. However, the judge stipulated that she was to spend the first year in the House of Good Shepherd here.

The board was due to make its recommendations to President Truman, calling for hourly increases of about 33 cents for yard workers and 23½ cents for roadmen.

The board's recommendations are not binding. A firemen's spokesman said the union probably would reject them if the board proposed arbitration of working rules—the major hitch in the dispute.

The proposed wage increase would be similar to that already granted to the largest operating brotherhood, the trainmen, whose pay is now tied to the government's cost-of-living index.

Police Probe Theft Of \$35,000 Pearls

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (UP)—Police investigated today the theft of cultured pearls valued at \$35,000 from a Northwest Airlines cargo storage area at Idlewild Airport.

The pearls, imported from Tokyo by the L. Borrelli Corp., here, arrived Monday and were discovered missing yesterday. It was the third big cargo theft at the airport in the last three months.

Trial of Youth Held In Stabbing Postponed

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (UP)—Arraignment of David LaBounty, 22, Hammond, Ind., on assault charges in the stabbing of a Columbia University roommate was postponed today for a week.

A judge adjourned the case when LaBounty asked more time to get a lawyer. LaBounty was accused in the stabbing of Harvey Smith, 27, when the two quarreled over Smith's plan to move out of the apartment they shared.

Meningitis Outbreak

ENTERPRISE, Okla., Jan. 26 (UP)—Public gatherings were banned in five communities in this area today after an outbreak of dreaded spinal meningitis. Two children, Edith Johnson, 3, Enterprise, and Norman Wilson, 10, Kinta, died yesterday of the highly contagious disease.

Spain OK's McVeigh

MADRID, Jan. 26 (UP)—The Spanish government has approved the appointment of Lincoln McVeigh as U. S. Ambassador to Madrid, replacing Stanton Griffiths. Mr. McVeigh is expected to arrive in Madrid early in March.

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Shepherd here by a rope of knotted bed sheets.

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Arson Hinted In Bottling Plant Fire

Fire which gutted the second story of a South Side bottling plant early today was set deliberately, probably by burglars.

That's what Police Sgt. Harold Jefferson said today after looking over damage of the two-alarm fire at Solitaire Beverages Inc., 1825 Shelby St.

Just as firemen from Station 3 were arriving, a blast blew out two second-story windows. Flames puffed out from the top floor.

Flying glass cut Fire Capt. Jack O'Leary on face and hands, but he returned to duty after first aid.

Positive Safe Locked

When police investigated the burned-out offices on the second floor, they found safe doors open and desk drawers ransacked.

Sgt. Jefferson quoted Owner Fred R. Leucht as saying that when he left at about 6:30 p. m. yesterday, he was positive the safe was locked.

A cash box from one of the desk drawers was lying on a desk top. Police found only a few pennies in the box.

The owner's wife said the box was used only for petty cash and seldom contained more than \$25. She added that money was never kept in the safe. Papers in the safe were burned.

On the first floor of the building, the owner found a bolt 10 inches long wrapped in friction tape, evidently the burglar's blackjack.

Mr. Leucht could not be reached for an estimate of loss from the burglary and the fire.

Sgt. Jefferson said the fire appeared to be purposely started, but there was a possibility the burglars may have started it by accident.

The Fire Prevention Bureau was investigating for arson.

Kidnaping a Hoax—Young Mother Admits Hiding Child's Body

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 26—A 21-year-old mother told police today she secreted the body of her 3-year-old daughter in a vacant lot because she feared her daughter would be imprisoned for the child's death.

Mrs. Jada Z. Kader led officers to the body of Sherrie Ellen Kader where she dumped it Wednesday in a sump hole in a vacant lot not far from her home.

Police immediately called off a three-day statewide search for a "dirty old man" earlier thought to have kidnaped the child.

Detective Joe Blewett said Mrs. Kader "has changed her story several times" of the circumstances surrounding Sherrie Ellen's death, but he declined to say in what respects she had altered her admission.

Mrs. Kader told detectives Sherrie Ellen was hit on the head with a piece of concrete Wednesday while playing with her 4-year-old sister, Vickie, in the basement of their home.

She said she thought the child was dead, so she dragged the body out of the house after dark, borrowed a car and drove the body to the sump hole.

Mrs. Kader admitted she thought up the kidnaping hoax as a means of turning attention away from Vickie.

But after intensive questioning, she broke down and admitted the manner in which Sherrie Ellen died, police said.

She even coached Vickie to tell police about a "dirty old man" who drove up in a dark car, grabbed Sherrie Ellen and drove away.

Vickie, apparently after her mother tutored her, told officers the man "had gray hair just like grandmothers."

Mrs. Kader, police said, told Vickie what to say because she did not want the child to "get into any trouble."

A Cat Is a Cat Is a Cat—Army Catalog Written By or for 1st Graders?

By ANDREW TULLY
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26—When military men get out a catalog of their supplies, they apparently figure any dumbbell knows what "diacetyl monoxime, regent," is.

But they want to be sure everybody knows what they're talking about when they mention a "coat, man's."

At any rate, in the \$50 million cataloging job of military items being done by the Munitions Board, "diacetyl monoxime, regent" is described no further.

But somebody has gone into the subject of "coat, man's," to define it as "a coat to be worn by men."

Well-known Terms Defined

In other words, although the Munitions Board is meticulous about defining well-known items, it doesn't bother to identify thousands of supplies ordinarily known only to specialists.

For example, there is a \$1500 woodworking sawing machine used by two of the services. But it has been assigned two different stock numbers because, in one service, a tube of grease is included as part of the saw's equipment.

Some of these abuses would be eliminated, according to Rep. Jack Z. Anderson (R. Cal.) by a bill he has introduced calling for a single supply catalog system for the national military establishment. Hearings on the bill will start early next month before a House Armed Services Committee headed by F. Edward Hebert (D. La.).

Doug Marks 72d Birthday

NEW YORK, Jan. 26—The old soldier who was the No. 1 news story of 1951 was a bit older today.

Douglas MacArthur spent his 72d birthday quietly at home. But he showed no signs of fading away.

It's pretty hard to fade away when you're more than 10,000 birthday cards, letters, telegrams, and cables in five days; when you're barraged with requests to make speeches; when supporters insist that they're entering you in their presidential primaries.

The general has informed his supporters in the various states that he will withdraw his name from any primary in which it is entered and that he will not become a candidate. The supporters have taken the line that that statement makes him all the more eligible.

Predicts Good Radio Reception Next Week

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26—Shortwave radio broadcasts will come through quite well for the next week with the possible exception of only fair reception today and Sunday, radio forecasters at the National Bureau of Standards here predicted this morning.

A storm brewing in the Ionosphere, however, is expected to cause trouble Feb. 1 to 3. No blackouts are predicted, but weak signals and fading will probably interfere with reception.

'DARK VENUS'—Jeanette Wilby, 19, Canadian citizen, is being held by immigration authorities at Miami, Fla., for claiming falsely to be a citizen of the U. S. Miss Wilby, who does a strip dance under the name of 'Dark Venus' at Miami Beach, faces deportation.

MONTREAL, Quebec, Jan. 26 (UP)—R. M. Fowler, president of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, told the annual meeting here yesterday that Canada's booming pulp and paper industry hit an all-time production high in 1951.

The output of all grades of pulp and paper reached \$95 million tons in 1951, Fowler said, an increase of nearly 9 per cent over 1950 production.

Soldier Arrested

FRANKFORT, Jan. 26 (UP)—The FBI and local authorities prepared today to turn over William M. Slaton, 24, formerly of Evansville, to military authorities at Peru. The FBI said Slaton deserted from the U. S. Army at Indiantown Gap, Pa., last August. He was arrested yesterday.

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