



CUSTODY CASE—Jean Wallace and Franchot Tone have animated conversation before entering Hollywood court for hearing on child custody case. Subjects of case are two children by the actor and actress's former marriage.

## Gaming Racket Based On Bank Clearings

Editorial, Page 22

By JOHN V. WILSON

Bank clearings, those numbers printed in small type and stuck way back in newspapers, are causing a new stir in financial circles here.

During the gaming trial of Tuffy Mitchell this week, his attorney charged newspapers were as guilty as the convicted Indiana Ave. gambling czar by printing the figures.

The attorney, Sam Blum, argued bank clearings were valuable only to gamblers.

Today, financial leaders differed on the use "clearings" and "debts" figures released daily through the Indianapolis Clearing House.

Some contended the eight-digit "clearings" have no legitimate purpose. But others insisted both "clearings" and "debts" are useful to economists to reflect business trends.

Household Word

Nevertheless, the figures have become almost household word to followers of the Mitchell trial. Here is how they're compiled:

Five days a week, representatives of nine banks meet across a table in the Clearing House high up in the Merchants bank building. They exchange checks with banks on which they are drawn.

The dollar volume of checks cleared are totaled. This figure is the "clearings." The "debts" include checks paid across a bank's counter, checking account withdrawals and time deposit withdrawals.

The two figures are released to newspapers shortly after 9 a.m. Another clearing, a smaller amount, is made about 2:45 p.m. but not published.

The morning release time is an important point. One of Tuffy's employees testified at the trial he refused to accept bets after 8:30 a.m. to guard against bettors getting results before plunking down a dollar.

Bets are made on the three middle digits of the "clearings." For instance, the lucky number was 103 yesterday, based on "clearings" of \$10,103,000.

This is a straight bet, based on the last three digits of the clearings.

Another way to bet the num-

bers is on the "drop." In other words, the clearing number with the last digit of the debit added.

Again taking yesterday as example, the clearing was \$10,103,000 and the debit was \$36,439,000. The pay-off number would have been 103 on straight or 103 with a 9 on the "drop."

Two Chances

Most bettors split their wagers. That is, if they bet a \$1 they put 50 cents on the straight, 50 cents on the drop. This gives them two chances to hit the \$225 payoff.

In the past, frantic bettors have gone to great lengths in unsuccessful attempts to learn the day's number ahead of time.

A Clearing House spokesman said employees have been offered bribes and even harassed at home by callers seeking the jackpot.

"Now we don't even give out the figures over the phone," the spokesman said. "If business houses ask for them, we get their telephone number and call them back."

L. T. Anderson Services Set

Services for Leonard T. (Hunk) Anderson, Clermont, former golf professional at Highland and Country Club, will be at 10 a.m. Saturday in Clermont Christian Church.

Mr. Anderson, who was 36, died yesterday in Methodist Hospital after state police found him in his car near Clermont. He had a bullet wound behind his right ear and a pistol was found beside him on the seat.

Assistant golf professional at Highland four years, Mr. Anderson resigned a year ago. Since January he had been a sales representative of the Open Steel Co., Detroit.

Born in Eveleth, Minn., he lived here 12 years. He was a member of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Eveleth.

Surviving are his wife, Catherine; his son, Rodney C.; his mother, Mrs. Alma Anderson, Eveleth; three sisters, Mrs. Esther Constantine and Miss Alice Anderson, both of Eveleth; and Mrs. Vi Larson, Detroit; two brothers, George, Aurora, Ill., and William, Detroit.

Friends may call at the Jones & Matthews Funeral Home until Saturday. Burial will be in Clermont Cemetery.

Teacher Here 29 Years Dies

John J. Maxwell, teacher in Indianapolis Public Schools 29 years, died of a heart attack last night in his home, 4029 S. Meridian St. He was 58.

Born at Fairfax, Minn., he came to Indianapolis in 1923 to teach manual training at School 8. Except for several years at School 44, he spent all of his teaching time there.

Mr. Maxwell served with the 29th Army Engineers during World War I.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 1625, Fairfax, Catholic Order of Foresters, Holy Name Society of St. Roch's Catholic Church and North West Perry Township Civic League.

He was the first Scout Master of Troop 118, and was a past president of the Indianapolis Teachers' Credit Union.

Surviving are his wife, Gladys; four sons, John, Frater Bartholomew, O.F.M., Thomas and Michael; three daughters, Mary, Therese and Paula; one brother, Vincent, all of Indianapolis, and one sister, Miss Mary, of Minneapolis.

Services will be held at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in the home and 9 a.m. in St. Roch's Catholic Church. Burial arrangements are incomplete.

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## 'Always Keep a Sense of Humor'

By United Press  
LONDON, May 22 — Gerry Fitzgerald, California textile manufacturer, was in an air crash in Germany six years ago. Every bone in his body except his spine was broken. He was told he would never walk or see again.

"I can't be destroyed this easily," he said and he fought back.

His answer was travel. As he grew stronger, he shuttled

between his textile business in Los Angeles and hospitals in Britain. He hopped around the world. He rode down a hospital corridor to an operating table 37 times.

"The miracle man," the British press call him. "Mr. Invincible."

Today Mr. Fitzgerald can see. He walks with a limp.

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"I am completely recovered," he said. "I was 60 years old yesterday. It is a wonderful present."

In the five weeks since his

37th—and last—operation, he

has been in California, the Fiji

Islands, Australia, India, Pakis-

tan, Cyprus and Italy.

"I keep going," he said. "That's my answer. I wasn't

afraid to fly after that crash in Germany. If you're in a car wreck you don't stop riding in cars. If a woman has a tough time having one baby, she doesn't refuse to have another."

"You always keep a sense of humor. You have implicit faith in your surgeons. And you remember Tennyson's line: 'Cleave ever to the sunnier side of doubt.'"

## Rites Set Today For W. F. Pollack

Services for William F. Pollack, member of the once well-known Pollack Quartet, were to be held at 10:30 a.m. today in Jordan Funeral Home. Burial was to be in Washington Park Cemetery.

Mr. Pollack died Monday in General Hospital. He was 59, and had lived at 4108 E. Michigan St.

Born in Shelbyville, he had been a machinist at the Prest-O-

Lite Co. 18 years.

She blamed the death of Leo Masuth, 51, on a mercury injection given him in a hospital after the poisoning.

Mrs. Masuth was convicted in Elkhart Superior Court of second degree murder, and is now serving a life term in Indiana Women's Prison. At the time, she confessed putting rat poison in her husband's peanut butter sandwich so she could marry a 55-year-old roofer at their house.

The 153-page brief filed yesterday by her attorneys claimed the lower court was in error. It said Mr. Masuth pleaded guilty because she believed the mercury was in the rat poison.

Authorities said she confessed five separate murder attempts against her ailing husband.

A Softer Touch

Safecrackers failed to open a safe at the Jackson Oil Co., 2084 Kentucky Ave., early today, but they took tires and tubes, valued at \$300, it was reported to police.

Handy around the house

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