

OBSERVATIONS

Grist from the Daily Grind

THE GREAT CRIME
Not that the Lindbergh baby is any more sacred and valuable than any other child, but because both the father and the mother are so well known in America that they seem like close friends to all of us, the kidnaping is raised to the status of a crime against the nation.

Not for years has there been a fiercer wrath aroused against the criminal world than just now.

The crime is so terrible that it may have the effect of bringing humanity back to a condition of sanity in which gangster rule will no longer be tolerated. All that is needed is for public opinion to reach the point where it is no longer tolerant of such crimes. A righteous indignation roused to the boiling point throughout the country may go to extremes of cruelty and intolerance, but it is quite conceivable that it may uproot the criminal element and ruthlessly destroy it.

The ruthlessness of gangsterism is nothing compared with the ruthlessness of public opinion driven to intolerance by the recurrence of crimes of this nature.

Who knows but that the Lindbergh kidnaping may spell disaster for the world of crime?

SOME GAS BUGGIES

Clark county has issued 3,515 licenses for gas buggies of various kinds during the months of January and February. Of these 3,012 are pleasure cars, 578 commercial 16 trailers and 9 motorcycles. Which is quite a plenty of the latter.

A motorcycle may possibly serve a useful purpose as a horse for a traffic cop, but there can be but small excuse aside from that, for harboring one of the varmints.

Las Vegas is second in the state to Reno in number of vehicles licensed, Reno having all told 7,200 keno that she has advantage over us too, that she has only as many motorcycles as we have.

It does seem that we are doing considerable riding in Nevada even if times are hard and there is a four cent tax on gas.

A LESSON

Las Vegas people may take a lesson from Boulder City, possibly in the matter of beautifying homes.

The Boulder City company we are told is giving a prize of \$25 each month for the best home and garden. The people are using cacti and some of the natural desert shrubbery with excellent decorative effect.

The writer remembers when the women of the Mesquite Club in Las Vegas were the leaders in the work of tree planting and home beautifying and much of the present beauty of the city is due to their efforts of twenty years ago. There is still plenty of work along similar lines to be done.

BUILDING ENTERPRISES

We heard a businessman complain because there is so little building going on in Las Vegas, and then, driving about the streets we were astonished by the amount of construction actually being done.

During 1931, there was building enough in Las Vegas to make quite a new city, and we note that there is considerable still under way. Las Vegas can make a favorable showing in comparison with any town anywhere.

We recall a few of the enterprises of recent months such as the Boggs Building, the Ham Building, the Apache Hotel (just nearing completion), large additions to Hotel Nevada, the Federal building (not dead, but dormant) and the new Palace Theatre just getting well started.

We are doing right well in the matter of building it appears to the Observer.

PROWLERS

Last night the police had picked up eleven prowlers in the residential district up to midnight. There has been quite an epidemic of petty crime which the police have determined to stamp out.

Most of those here awaiting jobs have cars and a little money and are not criminals. But there is an element composed of petty thieves and prowlers and professional moochers, which the police are trying to banish.

Men in Las Vegas seeking work need have no fear of the police. Every effort is being made to help the man protect them from petty pilferers.

BAND TO PLAY IN LAS VEGAS MAR. 19

Stopping over in Las Vegas for two days enroute to Salt Lake City, the Pasadena Junior College Bulldog band will give two concerts here March 19 and 20.

Long leaders of the Tournament of Roses parade annually, the 100 piece band will arrive here by bus on Saturday, March 19, and will play that night.

On Sunday, they will be met by a group from the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, and the two parties will be taken on a tour of the Hoover Dam project and Boulder City.

The band will continue on to Salt Lake City on Monday, March 21.

LAS VEGAS WEATHER

March 4—Maximum, 64; minimum, 34.

METAL MARKETS

NEW YORK, Mar. 4. (U.P.)—Bar silver, 30 1/4 cents an ounce. Zinc, 2.80 cents a pound. Copper, 6 1/2 cents a pound. Lead, 3.25 cents a pound.

LAS VEGAS AGE

SOUTHERN NEVADA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
Vol. XXVIII. LAS VEGAS, CLARK COUNTY, NEV. SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 5, 1932 No. 56

BOULDER DAM PROJECT
The Progress of this Vast Engineering Work is Fully and Accurately Covered. Associated Press and United Press Wire Service Bring News of the World to This Paper—A Leader For More Than a Quarter of a Century.

LINDY'S EX-SERVANT IS ARRESTED

SENTENCES VEGAS COUNTERFEIT, DOPE GANG AT CARSON

Roberts Must Spend 2 1/2 Years in Prison and Pay Fine of \$600

Stadig Also Gets Term Though He Told Story Of Conspiracy

Convicted Thursday on charges of conspiring to counterfeit U. S. currency, Earl Roberts of Las Vegas was sentenced yesterday to serve two and a half years each on four counts in a federal penitentiary, the terms to run concurrently. He was also fined \$600.

Jack Hyland was fined \$30, and sentenced to serve one year in the Washoe county jail on the same case, while John Esposito was fined \$300 and sentenced to serve two years in prison.

Frank Stadig, whom observers believed would be extended clemency for aiding secret service men and police, was sentenced to pay a fine of \$150 and to serve eight months in jail.

MOTORISTS POUR \$208,967 IN TREASURY

CARSON CITY, Mar. 4. (U.P.)—Nevada motorists poured \$208,967.22 into the state coffers during the first two months of 1932 in their rush to purchase new licenses and comply with the motor vehicle law.

Miss Mamie Berning, head of the Motor Vehicle department, said today that in the past eight weeks license fees had been collected in the seventeen Nevada counties on 16,177 pleasure cars, 3,671 commercial vehicles, 136 trailers and 26 motorcycles. Licenses issued in the several counties follow:

| | Motor | Pleas. | Com. | Trail. | cycle |
|------------|-------|--------|------|--------|-------|
| Churchill | 1055 | 282 | 46 | 2 | |
| Clark | 3012 | 578 | 16 | 9 | |
| Douglas | 470 | 142 | 8 | 0 | |
| Elko | 880 | 151 | 5 | 0 | |
| Esmeralda | 178 | 54 | 0 | 0 | |
| Eureka | 78 | 30 | 0 | 0 | |
| Humboldt | 545 | 200 | 3 | 3 | |
| Lander | 173 | 58 | 0 | 0 | |
| Lincoln | 382 | 71 | 2 | 1 | |
| Mineral | 600 | 123 | 0 | 0 | |
| Nye | 338 | 82 | 4 | 1 | |
| Ormsby | 408 | 159 | 0 | 0 | |
| Pershing | 421 | 107 | 5 | 0 | |
| Storey | 438 | 138 | 5 | 1 | |
| Washoe | 99 | 8 | 0 | 0 | |
| White Pine | 5900 | 1249 | 42 | 9 | |

U. S. JUDGE WILL HOLD COURT HERE

Coming to Las Vegas for a short term of the Federal court will hold here, Judge Frank Norcross will arrive here sometime Sunday, it is thought.

Judge Norcross will be accompanied by U. S. Marshal J. H. Fulmer, clerk of the court Ed. Patten, and other members of the court.

While here, Judge Norcross will confer with local attorneys concerning a set of rules for local Federal court sittings, and the possibility of holding longer sessions in Las Vegas to handle all local Federal offenses.

16-Year-Old Daughter Of Bishop Found Badly Beaten; Hawaiian Held In Jail

SAN FRANCISCO, Mar. 4. (U.P.)—Barbara Burns, 16-year-old daughter of Bishop Charles Wesley Burns of the Methodist Episcopal church, was beaten and bruised to-night by an assailant who waylaid her near her home, according to police reports.

Victor Perez, 20-year-old Hawaiian, was arrested by Corporal A. Price and Patrolman T. Terlan a few blocks from the scene of the attempted attack.

He was booked on charges of attempted criminal assault.

At the home of Bishop Burns, no information concerning the girl's condition was given.

Comes Back



Jack Dempsey is okay again—and he's coming back. Ed. Brown, Jack's trainer, is the authority for this statement. Jack, fighting kangaroo at Fleishhacker Zoo, San Francisco, was knocked out two months by sickness, but like all good fighters, he's on his feet again and ready for all comers.

HERE IS VEGAS' NEWEST RACKET. NIZE GOL' RINGS

Pleading ill luck and recent injuries in an automobile accident, a new type of "hard luck story" racketeer appeared in Las Vegas yesterday afternoon, victimizing a shoe store manager.

According to the victim, the man appeared with a gold ring, representing it to be gold, with a \$2.50 gold piece set in the top. He said that he had been in an accident, and had one arm bandaged. He said that a woman member of his party had ruined her shoes and wanted to trade the ring for a pair of shoes.

The storeman made the trade, then took the ring to a jeweler and learned that they can be bought for \$9 a dozen.

EPIDEMIC SCARE SWEEPS NEEDLES

NEEDLES, Mar. 4. (U.P.)—Fear of a possible spinal meningitis epidemic here caused health officials and physicians to take widespread precautions tonight to prevent the development of additional cases.

One death had been reported and two other persons were dangerously ill. Serum was rushed here from San Bernardino to aid in the fight against an epidemic.

Florence Barnum, 14, died of the disease and it was feared other school children might have contracted it. All children who had come in contact with Miss Barnum and the other two who are ill will be treated with the serum.

STEEL TO ARRIVE FOR NEW THEATER

Steel for the construction of the new Palace theater, now being erected on South Second, opposite the courthouse, will arrive today, according to A. L. Worswick, architect. Work on the job is being pushed as rapidly as possible, looking toward an early opening, it is understood.

WAR IS DECLARED AGAINST STATE UNDER JAP CONTROL

Rioting Breaks Out Again In Shanghai; Chinese Alarm Foreigners

Japanese Official Shot; Dies of Wounds; War Is Believed at End

LOYANG, China, Saturday, Mar. 5. (U.P.)—A virtual declaration of war was made by the China nationalist government upon the Japanese fostered rebel state in Manchuria.

The plenary session of the central executive committee created a new military council. As its first act the council ordered a punitive expedition against the new rebel state.

SHANGHAI, Saturday, Mar. 5. (U.P.)—A prolonged outbreak of rioting at the borders of the foreign district in Shanghai and Chinese charges that Japanese troops continued to fight their way northward in the direction of Nanking, dimmed hopes today for early peace in the Yangtze valley.

The Chinese government officially rejected all truce proposals and refused to participate in any round table conference until the Japanese troops are withdrawn. They said Chinese troops which withdrew to Taichang had been reinforced to turn back the Japanese.

The disturbances in the foreign district centered in the French concession, which previously had been the least endangered in the Shanghai warfare.

It began when false reports were circulated that Japanese General Yoshinori Shirakawa had been killed in fighting at Lihng. The Chinese crowds started a parade, shooting off firecrackers which alarmed the city.

Foreign residents first believed the firecrackers were guns and supposed a new battle had started near the French concession. Rumors were circulated that the Chinese were making a counter-attack and all defense forces in the international settlement were strengthened.

The Japanese placed machine guns in positions commanding Soochow creek and other centers of excitement.

Mobs of Chinese then attempted to enter the foreign district and police were forced to fight them back with batons along the Nanking road. The Russian volunteer corps detachment fired over the heads of the crowd on Kuikiang and Szechuen roads before they were able to rescue a foreign policeman who was mobbed when he attempted to arrest one of the anti-Japanese agitators.

The rioting continued, especially near the French concession, until after midnight. Several Annamite police of the French forces were badly beaten when they attempted to wrest a Chinese flag from the hands of the leader of the mob.

THINK FIGHTING OVER WASHINGTON, Mar. 4. (U.P.)

Confident that fighting at Shanghai is about over, but that the present phase of the Chinese-Japanese dispute is concerned, officials here awaited today the opening of diplomatic negotiations.

It is admitted that with hostile armies facing each other there is always danger of an outbreak. But there is growing optimism here that the present campaign has ended its military stage.

TOKIO, Saturday, Mar. 5. (U.P.)—Baron Takuma Dan, 74, head of the powerful Mitsui interests, died today a few hours after being shot by Goro Hishimura.

The baron was shot as he was leaving his automobile in front of his office.

The shooting was believed to be connected with protests of patriotic factions last December against the purchase of dollars by the Mitsui interests.

CHICAGO, Mar. 4. (U.P.)—Wet republicans demanded here today that their party adopt a prohibition repeal plank on penalty of going without their campaign contributions.

As members of the recently organized republican citizen's committee against national prohibition in first convention at the Blackstone hotel, they said their purpose was to stop the flow of cash into the national G. O. P. treasury unless the repeal plank is inserted in the platform.

LUCIFER RANCHER
Lucien Kuffer, Hiko rancher, passed through Las Vegas yesterday enroute home after a business trip to Los Angeles.

Aviator Now Away On Secret Trip; Cordon Of Detectives On Hot Clue; Sweetheart Of Baby's Nurse Is Held

Red Haired 'Seaman' Tells Story To Police And They Hold Him

HARTFORD, Conn., Saturday, Mar. 5. (U.P.)—State's Attorney Hugh J. Alcorn announced at 2 a. m. today that Henry (Red) Johnson, former chauffeur for Charles A. Lindbergh, would be held by the Hartford police.

"This man," he announced after questioning Johnson for three hours, "will be held on the strength of his own story."

The announcement was made to a group of newspaper men when the district attorney emerged from a room in the county building where Johnson had been questioned by police and prosecuting officials.

Alcorn declined to amplify his statement, and returned to the inquisition room. It was indicated Johnson's examination would continue for some hours, pending the arrival of New Jersey officials who were momentarily expected.

LINDY RUSHES

HOPEWELL, N. J., Saturday, Mar. 5. (U.P.)—Col. Charles A. Lindbergh left his home shortly before midnight on a secret mission.

Police refused to disclose Lindbergh's destination or the nature of this sudden development in the kidnaping case.

The Lindbergh farm flared into police activity early today and saw a reawakening of all the tension and all the drama that the case contains.

The first burst of unusual activity occurred when Chief Detective Harry W. Walsh and a score of detectives, obviously excited, dashed away from the Lindbergh farm, announcing their destination as Princeton, where it was announced "a hot clue" had developed.

DRIVER GRILLED
On the heels of this announcement, it was learned that Harry (Red) Johnson, former chauffeur for the Lindberghs and a sweetheart of Miss Betty Gow, the Lindbergh baby's nurse, was under detention and being questioned at Hartford, Conn.

Two hours after the arrest of Johnson, state's attorney Hugh J. Alcorn of Hartford, telephoned to John Toohay, secretary to Governor A. Harry Moore, informing him of the results of his questioning of Johnson, who is now a sailor.

Alcorn told Toohay that Johnson not only admitted his friendship for Miss Gow, but that he had seen her Sunday and Monday nights. He also had an engagement with her for Tuesday night, but telephoned to her instead, he admitted.

MILK BOTTLE IN CAR
"We have the car, and there is a milk bottle in it," Alcorn said significantly. (There was no further reference to the milk bottle.)

The "car" is a green Chrysler coupe owned by Johnson, and one of the automobiles police have been trying to trace for the past three days.

It was unofficially reported that Lindbergh had arrived in Trenton and that he had taken off from the Trenton airport for an unannounced destination.

Intense excitement swept through Hartford when news of Johnson's detention became known. A crowd of several hundred gathered in front of the county building while Johnson's examination was in progress. When it was reported that Lindbergh might arrive by plane from New Jersey, large crowds hurried by automobile to the airport to meet him.

POSTCARD FOUND
A postcard addressed to the Lindberghs was found at the Hartford postoffice at 10 p. m. it read:

"Baby still safe. Get things quiet."

The post card was signed with a reversed "J," similar to the "J" on a postcard mailed at Newark Wednesday.

A postoffice clerk also recalled having seen in an earlier mail a letter addressed to Mrs. Lindbergh and marked "personal."

This letter left Hartford at 7:08 p. m. and was due to arrive in New York at 9:55 p. m. It was understood the New York authorities would intercept it.

WILL SEEK 'BELIEVE-IT-OR-NOTS'



On Mar. 10 the auxiliary schooner Zaca, below, right, will sail through the Golden Gate, bound for the little explored Revillagigedo archipelago, a group of islands 250 miles southwest of San Lucas, off Baja California, Mexico, seeking rare specimens of animal and botanical life. The explorations will be directed by Templeton Crocker, below, left, the project being known as the Crocker research expedition.

UTAH MAN SLAIN BELIEVES JURY

EUREKA, Utah, Mar. 4. (U.P.)—Alton Painter, 27, was murdered Wednesday by unknown persons, a coroner's jury declared today.

Painter was found dead by a brother, Adison, on a couch in the home of his mother. A bullet wound was in his head. No weapon was found in the room but a loaded gun was found in another part of the house. The gun had not been used recently, the jury decided.

Officials said they were without definite clue on specified details of the shooting. No evidence of a struggle could be found and no indication of robbery as the motive was seen.

Frank Painter, his brother, found dead October 1, 1931, was declared by a coroner's jury to have been a victim of accidental shooting. Since the second death in the family under mysterious circumstances, however, belief was becoming stronger that he too was murdered.

JUDGE ORR CALLED TO BAKERSFIELD

Called suddenly to Bakersfield yesterday by the sudden illness of his mother, Judge William E. Orr will not hold district court today.

There will be no court, nor calling of the law and motion calendar or the trial calendar.

PERSON ACQUITTED
CARSON CITY, Mar. 4. (U.P.)—After deliberating all night on the narcotic case, the jury returned an acquittal for Leon C. Pierson, arrested with McClusky and Daniels.

McClusky was convicted on a charge of conspiracy and seven specific charges of sale and possession, while Daniels was found guilty on ten counts.

Pomona Girl Found In Abandoned Well; Disgruntled Suitor Sought By Police

POMONA, Cal., Mar. 4. (U.P.)—Hysterical, and in a critical condition from exposure and beatings, Lois Wade, 17, was found in an abandoned well near the Mountain Meadow club late tonight.

She was rescued by Dr. R. S. Sinclair of Pomona who heard her screaming shortly after he left the Country club.

LABOR OFFICIALS CONFER IN VEGAS

"Bill" Royal, state labor commissioner, arrived in Las Vegas yesterday accompanied by Alex L. Tannahill, member of the Nevada Industrial Commission, and plans to be here a week on business.

Royal said yesterday that he and Tannahill would confer with Leonard Blood, superintendent of Federal-State employment, on problems concerning industrial insurance that have arisen on the Hoover Dam project in the past month.

Royal, Tannahill, and Blood spent yesterday afternoon conferring with District Attorney Harley A. Harmon.

VEGAS STUDENT IS VICTIM OF BLAST

Suffering severe burns from the explosion of chemicals in the University of Nevada laboratories, Frank Hickey was taken to the University hospital for treatment yesterday.

Hickey is a freshman student and hails from Las Vegas. He was performing an experiment of his own when the explosion occurred, and was burned about both hands and the face. He is affiliated with Sigma Phi Sigma fraternity.

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She was rescued by Dr. R. S. Sinclair of Pomona who heard her screaming shortly after he left the Country club.

The girl was believed to have been beaten and then thrown into the well by an autoist, possibly a disgruntled suitor.

She was taken to the Pomona Valley hospital, where she was in a semi-conscious condition and unable to tell what had happened. It was not known how long she had been in the well.