

HOUSE PASSES LIQUOR REPEAL

GRAND JURORS TO HEAR MURCH CASE FEB. 28TH

Sullivan Busy Rounding Up Evidence and Witnesses

Because of the heavy calendar and the necessity for presenting every available bit of evidence in an attempt to secure a first degree murder indictment, the case of Harry Murch, 15-year-old killer of his 12-year-old playmate, will not go to the Grand Jury until Tuesday, February 28, it was announced today.

Chief Assistant District Attorney Charles P. Sullivan, who will present the case, said today that nearly all witnesses would be called, since he regards it as vital to get every bit of evidence on the record.

Must Show Background

"We have here the case of a 15-year-old boy charged with a brutal crime, and it will be necessary for us to show the background of the murder, the deliberateness with which it was planned, in order to counteract the natural sympathies that go to a boy of that age," Mr. Sullivan said.

While he would not indicate what witnesses are to be called, it is evident that Grace Miller, 13, and her brother John, 10, both accomplices of young Murch, will be asked to testify against their playmate.

Johnnie's story was that he actually witnessed the killing of 12-year-old William Bender, and Grace admitted that she later disposed of the knife by throwing it in a creek near her home in Richmond Hill.

Murch's father, Walter, Charles and Minnie Murch, and his mother, the first time yesterday at the Children's Shelter on Union Hall street, Jamaica, where they found him subdued and somewhat bewildered by the fate that has overtaken him.

They were accompanied by Rose Wallace, former District Attorney, who has been retained to conduct the boy's defense.

Wallace has criticized the newspapers for "pillorying" his client and setting public opinion against him.

"He has not yet been found guilty, and must be presumed to be innocent," Wallace said. "I will leave no stone unturned to save this lad."

CIVIL SERVANTS STRIKE IN FRANCE

Paralyzed Activities Worry Government

PARIS, Feb. 20 (UP)—Civil servants throughout France, and municipal employes in Paris, struck for periods ranging from 10 minutes to an hour today in protest against proposed wage cuts. The mails, subways and tram lines all were held up by the demonstration, and teachers delayed calling their classes to order.

Mail carriers were an hour late throughout France.

Subways, buses, and street cars in many cities stopped abruptly for 10 minutes, and municipal employes of the City of Paris sat in their places with their arms folded for an hour.

The postmen chose the hour of the heaviest mail delivery to adjourn to the nearest cafe or bistro. Trams and subways stopped at an appointed hour, no matter where they happened to be.

Teachers called their classes to order half an hour later than usual after the noon recess.

The offices of tax collectors were closed for half an hour.

Most of the strikes began at 10 a. m. but the telephone and telegraph employes kept the time of their strike secret, in a spirit of surprise which added greatly to the general confusion.

Railway employes did not strike, due to the danger of throwing public life completely out of gear, but they sent firm notes of protest to officials.

While Paris seemed to enjoy the sudden change in the city's routine existence, the government took a serious view. The strike followed many manifestations of taxpayers and business men against proposed increased taxation approved by the Chamber and being debated by the Senate. The government and municipalities took extensive precautions against sabotage.

Huntington Woman Killed by Gas

HUNTINGTON, Feb. 20—Mrs. Mary Phillips, 56, widow of Charles Phillips, was found dead in the kitchen of her home yesterday and her brother, George Haggerty, 62, unconscious, both having been overcome by gas pouring from the cooking range.

Zangara Gets 80 Years!



Giuseppe Zangara, would-be assassin of President-Elect Roosevelt, today quit this cell in Miami's skyscraper jail and walked into court to hear himself sentenced to 80 years in prison. It's really a life sentence for the diminutive 32-year-old bricklayer from Paterson, N. J. He was given 20 years—the maximum—on each of four counts of assault, based on the wounds his wild-flying bullets inflicted on Mayor Cermak of Chicago and three other casualties.

Zangara, who said he was ready to go to the chair, said: "It is fair. I am satisfied!" He laughed hysterically as they led him away. Zangara will stand trial for murder if any of the wounded should die.

KIDNAPERS GET RANSOM OFFER

Boettcher Family Promises Payment, Immunity

DENVER, Colo., Feb. 20 (UP)—To the kidnapers of Charles Boettcher, II, his stricken family today offered an absolute promise of ransom payment, and a virtual pledge of complete immunity.

Just one week after abduction of his son, Claude K. Boettcher, multi-millionaire industrialist, wrote into a formal statement, intended obviously for the kidnapers' eyes, a confession of complete surrender.

In effect, he directed them, through the public press, to take any means they wished to establish communication for the purpose of receiving the ransom money, the only condition being that they offer him assurance that his 32-year-old son, himself a millionaire, would be released unharmed after the payment was made.

Further, the elder Boettcher gave "assurance of no police interference" in negotiations leading to ransom payment.

The statement revealed that communications believed to be from the men who seized young Boettcher have been received. It also confirmed that already the family has been working independently of police in an effort to obtain the millionaire's release.

'Human Cannon Ball' Killed During Stunt

MANILA, Feb. 20 (UP)—Shot from the muzzle of a cannon, Martin Brado, German circus performer, landed face downward during his daredevil performance today and was killed.

Brado, billed as "Lantern, the Human Cannon Ball," had performed the daring feat many times without serious injury. His back was broken today.

Engineers Would Name Underpass For Col. Slattery

The Queens County Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers will ask Borough President George U. Harvey and other city officials to name the highway underpass on Queens boulevard, at Woodhaven and Horace Harding boulevards in honor of the late Colonel John R. Slattery, formerly deputy chief engineer of the Board of Transportation.

Colonel Slattery was a resident of Queens. He died as the result of overwork in connection with the opening of the Eighth Avenue subway.

The proposal to honor the Queens engineer was made at the last meeting of the chapter. J. Franklin Perrine, president, requested the Public Activities Committee of the group to seek the designation.

Tyrol Car Driver Pilots Machine Into Cemetery

Learning to drive an automobile today proved a bit of ghostly business for Adam Blinn at 215 Bleeker street, Brooklyn.

Operating his car at Metropolitan avenue and 68th street, Middle Village, outside Lutheran Cemetery, Blinn lost control and the vehicle headed for the burial grounds.

Joseph E. Corr of 75-24 68th drive, Middle Village, Blinn's companion in the car, helped him bring the car to a halt but only after about 20 feet of the cemetery fence had been uprooted.

Neither Blinn nor Corr were hurt.

GENTLEMAN JIM LAID TO REST AS RAIN BEATS DIRGE

Hundreds Press About Church While Requiem Is Sung

By GERARD SULLIVAN

The hands that conquered John L. Sullivan, Kid McCos, Charley Mitchell, the Choynski boys and other glamorous figures of a golden boxing era clutched a black rosary today as they buried Gentleman Jim.

Pouring rain beat a mournful dirge on the roof of the hearse in front of the large brown stucco house at 221-04 Edgewater avenue, Bayside, as the 700-pound bronze casket of Egyptian design, bearing the inscription "James J. Corbett, 1866-1933," was carried down the front steps.

The driving rain flattened the waters of Little Neck Bay at the base of the hill. The sullen gray water matched the drab sky overhead. The bay had been a white-capped blue sea under a brilliant sun Saturday afternoon when the first scientific heavyweight boxing champion of the world slipped into enduring sleep in the second-floor bedroom overlooking the water.

Leaves Sorrow Behind

Little Neck Bay had known the tall, black-haired figure of The Champion for many years—maybe it was a little sad because Jim was leaving forever the house on the hill.

Water-soaked mourners silently watched the casket roll into the hearse. Sirens on police motorcycles at the head of the funeral cortege softly wailed as the motorcade started on its 15-mile route to St. Malachy's Church in West 49th street, Manhattan.

Andrew, the veteran colored butler of the Corbetts, stood bareheaded on the porch of the brown stucco house and watched the long procession until it was out of sight.

Over Queensboro Bridge rolled the cortege, then uptown to "The Actors' Church," just above Times Square, where Gentleman Jim often worshipped after he left the ring for the stage.

Crowd at Church

Outside the church, a crowd of several hundred men and women stood patiently to tender Corbett a last tribute. Gray-haired men with flattened noses and cauliflower ears, the "catchers" of old-time training camps, rubbed shoulders with keener-eyed boxers who came out of the square circle wars with titles and wealth.

Broken-down actors and actresses of another generation stood beside glittering personae of the past and ties. Emergency crews of the famous, from Broadway and Wall street, commerce and industry.

The men doffed their hats, the women their veils.

Police described the tragedy as one of the most gruesome in Brooklyn police annals. They said the man's arms, limbs and head were severed from the body.

After killing the man, the cab continued on its road ride to Newell street, where it finally stopped when it struck a fire hydrant.

A crowd of pedestrians, many of them women, collected about the wreckage of the taxi and pulled Witkovsky from his machine. He was saved from being beaten to death by Patrolman Richard Early who took the driver into a corner store. Meanwhile a squad of 12 detectives and patrolmen from the Greenpoint station arrived to prevent further trouble.

The Queens man was bleeding from cuts and bruises which the crowd inflicted in its rage.

Edward Burke of Greenpoint Hospital, pronounced the unidentified man dead and his body was taken to the morgue.

Police described the dead man as about 50 years old, 5 feet 5 inches, 150 pounds, partly bald and dressed in blue overcoat, gray cap, olive drab shirt, navy blue jacket, black shoes and gray socks.

Witkovsky's machine was damaged extensively. Kozick struck by the taxi, was unharmed.

According to Detective Captain Daniel J. Carey and Homicide Captain John J. McGowan, Witkovsky was intoxicated. Dr. Burke holds the same opinion.

The second automobile victim died in Nassau Hospital last night when (Continued on Page Two)

Alleged Auto Thief Held in \$1,000 Bail

Accused of stealing an automobile Saturday night from where it was parked at 161st street and Jamaica avenue, Jamaica, George Price, 19, who said he has no home, was held in \$1,000 bail on Friday.

When arraigned before Magistrate Hoekstra on a grand larceny charge in Jamaica yesterday.

Hilmer Johnson, contractor, of 87-29 188th street, Hollis, was complainant against Price. He identified the car as his in which Price was picked up by Patrolman William H. Busca, of Jamaica station, at 107th avenue and 159th street, Jamaica South.

Richmond Hill Wife Asks Divorce in Syracuse

(Special to THE PRESS) SYRACUSE, Feb. 20—Mrs. Frances Murphy of Richmond Hill, L. I., has started divorce proceedings against her husband, Harvey Murphy of Camillus, in Onondaga County Court here. Murphy is defending the action and asks for dismissal of his wife's complaint.

It's A Wet Monday!



The moist rain was significant. It was a blue Monday for the two gentlemen above when the votes were counted in the House of Representatives on the dry act repeal bill! Edwin Y. Webb (left) and Andrew J. Volstead pushed the Volstead Act through Congress more than a decade ago. Last week, the Senate voted in favor of the bill to kill Andy's pet law. Today, the House voted.

Ups and Downs Of Prohibition in 15-Year Period

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (UP)—The history of the Prohibition movement in America follows:

Dec. 18, 1917—18th Amendment submitted to the states by Congress.

Jan. 8, 1918—First state, Mississippi, ratifies.

Nov. 19, 1918—War-time Prohibition Law designed to conserve grain, enacted.

Jan. 16, 1919—36th state, Nebraska, ratifies.

June 30, 1919—War-time Prohibition becomes effective.

Oct. 9, 1919—Congress passes Volstead Act to enforce the 18th Amendment.

Oct. 28, 1919—Congress passes Volstead Act over President Wilson's veto.

Jan. 17, 1920—Eighteenth Amendment and Volstead Act become effective.

Nov. 23, 1921—Willie-Gampbell Act strengthening the Prohibition Act becomes law.

March 2, 1929—Jones Law, an amendment making more drastic the National Prohibition Act, becomes law.

July 1, 1930—Administration of Prohibition Law transferred from Treasury Department to Department of Justice under the Williamson Act.

Dec. 16, 1930—U. S. District Judge William Clark of Newark, N. J., rules 18th Amendment unconstitutional, contending it was improperly ratified, by State Legislatures instead of State Conventions.

Feb. 24, 1931—United States Supreme Court unanimously reverses Clark's decision.

March 14, 1932—Beck-Linthicum Resolution for returning to the states the right to continue or abolish the 18th Amendment voted down in the House.

Dec. 5, 1932—Garner Resolution for outright repeal of the 18th Amendment voted down in the House.

JOINS SENATE IN GIVING CASE TO THE PEOPLE

Conventions of 36 States Must Ratify Amendment to End Dry Law

Washington, Feb. 20—(U. P.)—The House today approved repeal of the Prohibition Amendment and thus completed action necessary to send the Repeal Amendment to the states for ratification.

More than the necessary two-thirds vote was mustered in the House as the Blaine Repeal Resolution—passed last week in the Senate—was driven through to victory by a coalition of Republican and Democratic wets. The vote was 289 to 121.

Presidential approval is not required for submitting the proposed new amendment to the states. But three-fourths—or 36—of the 48 states must ratify the amendment before it becomes effective.

Under the terms of the resolution, Congressional action will result in the equivalent of a great national referendum on the controversial liquor question. Each state must summon especially-elected state conventions which will pass on the proposed amendment.

Anti-Prohibitionists, while jubilant at the speedy Congressional action, realized they are just embarking on a bitter struggle to win ratification. Thirteen states can block ratification, either by an unfavorable vote or failure to act.

As Speaker Garner announced the vote, the House burst into a roar of applause lasting several minutes.

Despite the strict rules of the House against demonstrations from the gallery, the cheer which went up from the floor was re-echoed in the galleries.

Garner, realizing the hopelessness of any attempt to keep order, stood smiling as he surveyed the scene of a victory in which he played such a prominent role.

It was the speaker who has twice during the present session forced a reluctant Congress to vote on outright repeal. The first time he was defeated in the House by the narrow margin of six votes, but today the resolution swept through triumphantly with 47 more favorable votes than necessary.

NEW YORK MAY BE FIRST TO RATIFY

ALBANY, February 20—(INS)—Hopeful that New York will be the first to ratify repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment Senator John J. Dunnington, Democratic leader of the State Senate, announced today he was preparing a bill paving the way for swift ratification.

Senator Dunnington said he would be notified immediately by telephone when the House of Representatives votes on the repeal resolution, and that if Congress passes the measure he will introduce a state ratification bill at tonight's session of the Legislature.

NEW BILL PROVIDES FOR CONVENTIONS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20—(INS)—A bill providing for state conventions to act on repeal of the Prohibition Amendment at Federal expense and under Federal jurisdiction was introduced in the House by Representative Le Guardia (R.), of New York immediately after the repeal resolution was adopted today.

Representatives Of Queens Vote With the Wets

(Special to THE PRESS) WASHINGTON, Feb. 20—All three representatives of Queens voted for submission of the repeal amendment to the states in the House today.

Representatives William F. Bruner of Rockaway; Robert L. Bacon of Old Westbury whose district includes Nassau and Suffolk as well as eastern part of Queens; and Stephen A. Ridd of Brooklyn whose territory includes the Western section of the borough, all voted with the wets.

Bruner and Bacon said yesterday that they intended to vote "wet" on the measure as they did.

NO HITCH IN BUS COMPANY SHIFT

New Operators Work on 20-Minute Schedule

Service on the Jamaica-Bayside West bus route continued without interruption yesterday morning. A few minutes after the Bayside Community Bus Company dispatched its last vehicle at 1:10 a. m. from the Jamaica terminal, machines of the S. & C. concern, now holding the franchise, were on the road.

The new transportation company is charging a five cent fare where the old group demanded a dime. The Board of Estimate on Friday failed to renew the contract of the Bayside Community line which declared that a five cent fare was financially impossible.

The S. & C. Company is operating four conveyances and the schedule involves a 20 minute wait between buses. It reports that the time will be cut in half as new machines are added.

Occupants Unhurt As Bus, Car Collide

A Bee Line bus and an automobile collided in Colfax avenue at 212th street, Queens Village, today. A woman passenger in the bus was unhurt.

The automobile operated by Morris Levine of 185-04 Hillside avenue, Hollis, was damaged slightly. Neither Levine nor F. Nappi of Jamaica, bus driver, were injured.

Pie Wagon Hit on Bridge, Driver Dies in Fall

Charles Kiekey, 50, of 1550 Bushwick avenue, Brooklyn, was catapulted from the pie wagon he was driving over the Williamsburg Bridge today when it was hit by a taxicab. He was thrown over the rail and killed in a 110-foot fall to the street below.

Boys Solving Jig-Saw Puzzle Almost Killed by Gas Escaping From Leak in Unused Outlet

They took the unconscious boys into Taylor's apartment and held them in front of an open window while a friend who was visiting Taylor ran out to summon aid.

Police Emergency Squad 10 of Bayside and an ambulance from the Flushing Hospital answered. The emergency crew administered oxygen to the youths for half an hour before they revived.

The boys told the police they had been working at the puzzle all evening and had noticed neither time nor the smell of the gas, which was found later to have been escaping from a partly opened jet in the kitchen stove and a leak in an unused wall outlet.

"Suddenly I began to feel sick and dizzy," said young Jones, "and I decided to go to bed. Johnnie said he felt dizzy too, so we started to go into the bedroom. That's all I remember."

Taylor said he had been playing checkers all evening in his apartment and had not noticed the smell of the gas until he answered the screams for help. The gas, however, had completely filled the Jones' apartment and had spread into the hallway.

Youth Returning From Movies, Saves Brother and Pal

Interest in a jig-saw puzzle almost cost the lives of two 12-year-old Flushing boys who preferred a Saturday night at home with the game to an evening at the movies.

And the eager desire of a 15-year-old boy to tell his two comrades all about the show, was responsible for their narrow escape from death.

When George Jones, 15, of 134-14 Northern boulevard, Flushing, returned home after the show Saturday and walked into the room where he had left his brother Albert, 12 and John Cernovsky, 12, hard at work at a jig-saw puzzle several hours earlier, he was almost overcome by gas.

The chair drawn up to the table, on which was the half-finished puzzle, were empty. He saw his brother and friend sprawled on the floor at the door leading to the bedroom.

George smashed a window and dragged his brother into the hallway, shouting for help. Robert Jones, another tenant, came to his aid and carried the other youth from the room.