

United Press Leased Wire in Our Office Connects Eastland With the World Every Minute of the Day.

EASTLAND, TEXAS, MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 1931

PRICE FIVE CENTS

NO. 60

LEGISLATURE MEETS NOON TUESDAY

Five Men Who Looted Bank Captured In Houston

MOB SEIZES NEGRO SLAYER OF SCHOOL TEACHER

Save Him From Sheriff As He Went To Court

Slayer Begs For As He Is Marched To Court

(Continued on Page 2)

Regulations Are Distributed

Chamber of Commerce has distributed to all the gasoline fill-stations of the city a copy of Motor Vehicle Registration

Youthful Bandit Gang Of Breck. Believed Broken

Four youths are held for the theft of a rifle, and ammunition from a local sporting goods store last week.

Grace L. Smith Is Victim Of Shooting Fray

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WEATHER

Texas—Fair and somewhat in southeast portion tonight.

U. S. MAILS

For Fort Worth or beyond East—4:18 P. M.

Comfy—But the Dean Objects



These winter costumes adopted by co-eds at Oklahoma A. and M. College are comfortable and fetching, according to the co-eds—but they have aroused the objection of Julia Stout, dean of women.

Newspaperman Shot By Bandit During Holdup

CHICAGO, Jan. 12—William L. Just, 32, son of Frank Just, wealthy newspaper publisher, was shot and seriously wounded early today by a bandit whom he resisted in the belief the man was someone playing a joke.

Bible Class To Have A Banquet

The members of the men's Nine Forty-Nine Bible Class voted Sunday morning to hold a banquet at the Methodist Church at an indefinite date next week.

Texas Is Leading As Spinach Grower

AUSTIN, Tex., Jan. 12—Texas' growth as a spinach state is shown in a truck statement issued today from the federal agricultural offices here.

Police Seek Bandit Who Shot a Man

DALLAS, Jan. 12—Police and detectives today sought the attacker of H. Grady Todd, 32, Canton (Tex.) bakery proprietor, who fought a losing battle with a masked bandit in an effort to protest his woman companion.

Piggly Wiggly No. 11 In Fort Worth Is Robbed

FORT WORTH, Jan. 12—All Fort Worth police Monday were looking for two hold-up men who arrived at Piggly Wiggly store No. 11, fifteen minutes too late to make a rich haul.

CONGRESS TODAY Senate

Begins consideration of tariff commission nominations. House Takes up vestal copyright bill.

Are Counting Money When Arrest Made

Men Make No Resistance When Surprised By Officers Early Today.

HOUSTON, Tex., Jan. 12—Five men who looted the First State Bank of Montgomery in Montgomery county last night, were captured in a hot, early today by Houston policemen.

Texas Ranks Second In Landing Fields

The Department of Commerce at Washington reports that on December 31, 1929 there were 1,782 airplane landing fields in the U. S.

"NOW WE ARE THREE"

Katherine and Bill—what fun it is to know them! They seem to get so much out of being. You met them just a little over a year ago—the week before they were married.

Funeral Is Held For Man Crushed By Car And Train

DALLAS, Jan. 12—Funeral services were held today for C. M. McClain, 68, who was crushed to death between a stalled freight train and a large sedan which skidded into it Sunday morning.

Chinese President Becomes Christian

A recent Associated Press dispatch from Shanghai announced the conversion of the President of China to Christianity.

St. Louis Gangster Is Held As Slayer of Jake Lingle



1931, NEA Service, Inc. Transmitted by Telephoto. Termed by Pat Roche, veteran crime investigator, "the hardest man I have ever met."

Brother's Mother Prepared To Fight For Son's Life

CHICAGO, Jan. 12—A determined mother who contends that her "fighting" son couldn't have committed murder "because he was afraid of guns" issued a challenge today to authorities preparing to imprison to charge him openly with the slaying of Alfred Lingle.

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New Rulings Governing Both Houses Begins

Will Be First Of 120 Day Sessions With Increase Of Pay For Members.

AUSTIN, Tex., Jan. 12—Texas' 42nd state legislature will begin its session Tuesday noon (Jan. 13) under conditions that to a considerable extent are experimental.

Presbyterian Meetings Make Good Progress

Two large congregations yesterday marked the progress of the meetings being held in the First Presbyterian church by Chaplain H. G. Markley and Doctor G. D. Robison.

Dramatic Club Is To Be Formed

H. B. Randolph, local manager of the Western Union, has suggested that the Little Theatre movement be sponsored in Eastland and has suggested that a meeting be held in order to determine whether the people of Eastland are interested in a dramatic club that can work toward that end.

Studio Damaged by Fire

BRECKENRIDGE, Jan. 12—Fire last night partially destroyed a local photographer's studio, doing damages of \$1,000.

Publishers
TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY
EASTLAND TELEGRAM

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Published every afternoon (except Saturday and Sunday) and every Sunday morning.

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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of this paper will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

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LOWER CALIFORNIA AS AMERICAN TERRITORY.
Senator Henry Ashurst of Arizona has introduced a resolution asking President Hoover to start negotiations with Mexico for the purchase and annexation of Lower California.

Senator Ashurst is not a pacifist. He insists that the Mexican republic is both unwilling and unable to police Lower California "and is unable to resist aggressions from or settlements on the peninsula by Oriental powers."

Mexico is not going to surrender Lower California to Uncle Sam. Mexico is not going to sell Lower California to Uncle Sam. "Mexico for the Mexicans" is the patriotic slogan of President Rubio and his followers.

It is said that 60 per cent of the nationals returned to their native land well fixed financially. Almost to a man they stated it was their intention to engage in agricultural pursuits and help develop the national resources of their native land.

A REMINDER FOR LAWMAKERS.

States (as well as the federal government) are reminded by the supreme court of the United States that law makers have the right to tax as income profits from the sale of state and federal and municipal bonds.

Take Him From—

(Continued from page 1)
cuffs were left on him during the trip. The negro pleaded repeatedly for mercy. The negro lay there in silence while gasoline was brought and poured about him on the roof.



general Adams at Maryville shortly before noon today that the national guard troops mobilized to protect Raymond Gunn, negro from possible mobs, were still in the armory and had not been asked to aid the sheriff.

State troops cannot intercede in a mob action unless called upon by county authorities, the governor pointed out.

General Adams informed the governor the negro had been burned on top of the schoolhouse.

MARYVILLE, Mo., Jan. 12.—Raymond Gunn, negro slayer of a young white woman, was seized by a mob of men here today as he was being taken into the Nodaway county circuit court house.

The negro was scheduled to appear in court to plead guilty to the murder of Miss Velma Colter, a rural school teacher, on Dec. 16, after attacking her.

He had been kept in jail at Kansas City until Saturday night for safe keeping. The return of the prisoner to Maryville Saturday night was attended by every effort at secrecy.

The mob action today was quick and without warning. As Sheriff Harve English was leading him in to the circuit court a group of men rushed the sheriff and seized the prisoner.

Apparently leaders of the mob had learned of the negro's presence in the jail and had posted watchers to check on the sheriff's movements and spread word when he started to the courtroom with the negro.

The men who seized the negro started to take him to the scene of his crime, the school house where Miss Colter was killed. The school house is located about four miles from Maryville.

The jail is situated about a block and a half from the courthouse here. A crowd of considerable size had gathered in front of the courthouse early in the morning of the increasing throng that followed the negro on his death march to the spot where he killed the white woman.

It was reported that several shots were fired into the air while the negro was being seized but that no one was wounded.

The utmost confusion prevailed about the courthouse. The circuit court judge had just taken the bench for the day's session when the negro was seized.

After Gunn's arrest for the murder of Miss Colter, he was taken to jail at St. Joseph. A mob went to St. Joseph several days later and made an unsuccessful attempt to seize him.

The prisoner then was transferred to the Kansas City jail. When he was brought here for preliminary hearing the court session was held at 4 a. m. to guard against possibility of mob violence.

The negro waived preliminary hearing on that appearance, and formal arraignment was set for today, but every effort was made to keep the time secret.

The fact that he had been returned to jail here was known to only a few up to this morning.

beautiful numbers and their first appearance in Eastland was very much appreciated by the local congregation. At this service the American Legion and Ex-Servicemen were the special guests and

First Hole In One Of The Season!



The Chaplain spoke from the subject "An Armistice With God," portraying many vivid scenes from the World War and the meaning of the Armistice. His appeal for men and women to accept the terms of an Armistice with God was very touching and at the conclusion of the service four people presented themselves for membership in the church.

Tonight there will be a special meeting of the congregation for a complete re-organization of the church and this part of the program will take place after the message of the Chaplain. It is expected that Doctor E. B. Surface of Abilene will be present to act as Moderator of this meeting and every member of the church is urged to be present.

Express Train Goes In River

TOKIO, Jan. 12.—A fast express train en route from Shinjoseki to Tokio, plunged into the river at Hiroshima today, killing six persons and injuring 50, it was announced officially.

The accident, which occurred at 2:57 a. m., trapped many of the victims while they slept. Tangled wreckage made rescue work difficult.

Alfalfa Bill Takes Office

By FRANK O. HALL.
United Press Staff Correspondent
OKLAHOMA CITY, Jan. 12.—William Henry Murray, the "sage of Tishomingo," becomes governor of Oklahoma today.

To the acclaim of thousands of the "common people" who gave Murray the greatest vote majority ever accorded an Oklahoma gubernatorial candidate, "Alfalfa Bill" becomes Gov. Murray.

Ceremonies marking the simplicity of the office of the new governor, who is known as a pioneer of the west and Bolivian colonizer, were to mark the "commander's induction as the state's chief executive.

Murray will receive the oath of office from his aged father, Uriah D. Thomas Murray, 91, of Bethany, Okla.

"Bill turned out pretty good after all, even though he did run away from home," was the only comment made by the elder Murray as he prepared to read the oath of office to his son.

The day's ceremonies will be concluded tonight with an inaugural ball featured with an old-time square dance, with Murray stepping the first set.

Thousands from Oklahoma's 77 counties, farmers, ranchers, small town residents, pioneer politicians and Indians, arrived for the ceremonies scheduled to start at noon.

Many of Murray's colleagues in the constitutional convention were here to greet the new governor, the man who wrote the state constitution 24 years ago, and then served as speaker of the first legislature.

When Murray is inaugurated it will climax a career that has carried him to the state's political pinnacle, a career sometimes featured by successes, sometimes marred by failures because of a fickle electorate.

Twice Murray waged unsuccessful campaigns for the governorship. He served in congress but was deprived of his seat because he defeated the world war.

That defeat caused the Tishomingo sage to leave for Bolivia where he established a social colony. But politics, which elevated him to the highest state position, caused his defeat in South America. A revolution caused him to lose his land grant.

Murray returned to Oklahoma in the summer of 1925, analyzed the political situation and promptly announced as a candidate for govern-

nor. He donned his red suspenders and mounted the stump at crossroads, taking his cause to the "common people." Last Nov. 4 they returned him a majority of nearly 100,000 votes.

Men Return To Auto Factories This Morning

By UNITED PRESS.
DETROIT, Jan. 12.—This city of industry, muted in this year for months, was heard again today as thousands of men returned to work in automobile plants.

Street car equipment, long idle, was put in service to care for the extra thousands who made their plants awfully busy with their Ford Motor Company and other big centers of manufacture.

Only old employees were taken back. Others had been warned it would be needless to apply, but many of the jobs came to the plants anyway, hopeful that some change might throw a job their way.

At the Ford plant the force was boosted to 75,000 today, within 10,000 of normal. At the various Chevrolet plants more than 22,000 men were at work with the number expected to reach 40,000 by the end of the month. Cadillac had a normal force of 6,000 at work, and 10,000 men were employed in the Hudson and Essex plants. Others reported increased payrolls.

The unions, working outside of Detroit, too, the Ford company announced that in its branches over the country 32,000 men would be at work today. At Flint the Buick plant had a payroll of 15,500. Body manufacturers, and makers of countless products used by the motor industry were expected to have to speed up production to keep pace with the demands of the car builders.

In Detroit the payroll of the Ford plant alone, it was said, would be around \$60,000 a day.

Many Long Terms Given In Dallas Courts This Year

By UNITED PRESS.
DALLAS, Jan. 12.—With four life sentences and one 50 year sentence meted out in the two Dallas county criminal district courts since the new year began, the old adage that "crime doesn't pay" is taking on new meaning for the county's transgressors.

The severe penalties were returned by juries against charges of robberies with firearms and are the most drastic penalties for robbery cases on record here.

John A. George headed the list with a life sentence and a 99 year sentence for the robbery of a street car motorman. Three juries completed the record when they handed out life sentences in Jimmie Brown, Nelson Senter and Buck Deal when they pleaded guilty to robbery with firearms.

Better Prospects On Cattle Market

By UNITED PRESS.
DEL RIO, Tex., Jan. 12.—A better cattle market with more attractive prices is predicted for 1931 by Ralph Harris, veteran San Antonio rancher, who will soon be named a director of the Federal Farm bank at Houston.

Harris asserted the present market is showing strength and that Texas ranchers profited during the past year despite economical depression. He said at least 50 per cent of the state's cattlemen own their ranches.

Markets

Markets At a Glance
Stocks drift moderately lower in quiet trading.

Bonds work irregularly lower; junior rails sell off.

Curb stocks made small losses; oils in supply.

Chicago stocks irregular. Call money 1/4 per cent all day.

Foreign exchange mixed; Sterling steady.

Wheat sells off from highs, but closes with small gains; corn firms up on pit covering; Oats steady.

Rubber futures quiet and steady. Chicago butter and egg futures weak.

Final Stocks
NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—Substantial declines were forced on the stock exchange in the initial session of the week today.

With issues like New York Central, Atchison, Pennsylvania and Baltimore & Ohio suffering losses of one to nearly four points, professional selling operations, professional selling operations, Westinghouse Electric broke nearly four points to a new low on the current movement and special shares such as Texas Corporation and A. M. Byers displayed a heavy tone.

Decisions in the main body of stocks, however, were generally small and of little significance in view of the comparatively light trading pace. Losses in steel common, General Electric, American Can and J. I. Case were held.

Technical proportions, and did not exceed one to two points.

Selling of railroad shares was a natural development following their substantial advance since the start of the new year. Weakness in these issues, however, had a dampening effect on market sentiment.

Closing Selected New York Stocks
Am. Pwr. & Light 47 1/2
Am. Tel. & Tel. 185 1/2
Anaconda 31 1/2
Aviation Corp. Del. 4 1/2
Beth. Steel 51 1/2
Ches. & Ohio 40 1/2
Chrysler 17
Curtiss Wright 3 1/2
Gen. Motors 29 1/2
Gen. Motors Pfd. 28 1/2
Gulf States S.S. 26
Houston Oil 28
Int. Harvester 50
Int. Nickel 15 1/2
Louisiana Oil 15 1/2
Montg. Ward 14 1/2
Phillips Pet. 15 1/2
Tex. Oil & Gas 15 1/2
Pure Oil 11 1/2
Radio 13 1/2
Shell Union Oil 9 1/2
Simms Pet. 8 1/2
Sears Roebuck 12 1/2
Smeal 10 1/2
Southern Pac. 101 1/2
S. O. N. J. 48 1/2
S. O. N. Y. 24 1/2
Studebaker 40 1/2
Sun Oil 31 1/2
Texas Corp. 5 1/2
Tex. P. & O. 5 1/2
U. S. Steel 142
U. S. Steel Pfd. 146 1/2
Warner Quinlan 5 1/2
Curb 71
Gulf Oil Pwr. 17 1/2
Humble Oil 63
Niag. Hnd. Pwr. 10 1/2
S. O. Ind. 37 1/2

Fort Worth Livestock
FORT WORTH, Tex., Jan. 12.—Horn receipts 180, market steady with Friday; no good to choice rail hogs offered; truck top 800 to small killers; bulk medium to light 170-250 lbs. truck hogs 775-800; part load medium grade light weight rail hogs 750; packing sows and pigs steady, packing sows 575-625; good butcher pigs up to 700.

Good and choice; light light 140-160 lbs. 710-785; light weight 160-180 lbs. 760-795; light weight 180-200 lbs. 775-800; medium weight 200-220 lbs. 780-800; medium weight 220-250 lbs. 775-800; heavy weight 250-350 lbs. 750-790; heavy weight 300-350 lbs. 725-785; packing sows 275-500 lbs. medium and good 575-625.

Cattle receipts 3,800; market, general trade all classes cattle about steady, slaughter steers 635 to around 850, two loads good fed yearlings unsold of value to move around 900; several sales good fat cows 460 a 525, butcher trades 26-28 1/2; some low cutters 225 a 250; few strong weight bulls up to 450; some well bred stock steers calves 800 a 825; heifer calves 740; steady; slaughter calves fairly lively, generally strong; some sales slightly higher. Heavies around 750 down, also some good 400-500 lb. weights 785 a 810, weighty calves of plainer grades around 650 down.

Sheep receipts 3,000; market fully steady on better grades; fall shorn fat lambs 700 a 750; fat yearlings 550 a 600, 2-year old fat wethers 550, aged fat wethers 500, few decks medium to good slaughter grades unsold.

Produce
CHICAGO, Jan. 12.—Eggs: market unsettled; receipts 10,688 cases; extra first 25c; firsts 23c; ordinaries 19-21c; second 12-16c.

Butter: market easier; receipts 8,768 tubs; extras 27c; extra firsts 26-28 1/2c; firsts 25-25 1/2c; seconds 23-24c; standards 27c.

Poultry: market steady; receipts 2 cars; springers 21c; leghorns 18c; ducks 22c; geese 14c; turkeys 22-25c; roosters 14c.

Cheese: Twins 15 1/4-15 1/2; Young Americas 16c.

Mrs. W. A. Cathey returned Sunday from a two weeks visit with friends near Bradshaw and Win-

Stars Shine In Wheeler-Woolsey Film

The greatest cast ever assembled for a "straight" talking picture comedy will be seen at the Lyric theatre Thursday in Radio Pictures' hilarious laugh hit, "Hook, Line and Sinker."

Seventeen players, headed by the side-splitting funsters, Bert Wheeler and Robert Woolsey, have definite, talking characterizations.

All Star Cast
Included are Dorothy Lee, who has played opposite the comedians in all their screen successes; Jobyna Howland, who was Woolsey's six foot-two-inches of sweetheart in "Dixiana"; R. Harold, regarded as a leading portrayer of suave villainy because of his great work in "Framed," opposite Evelyn Brent; Bill Davidson, stage and screen star; Natalie Moorehead, George Marion, Hugh Herbert and Stanley Fields. All are featured players in their own right.

Famed Comedians
Comedy without chorus girls, music and song, while new on the screen for the comedians, is not new to them. Both scored their first great successes on the stage in "straight" comedy roles. Wheeler, as a vaudeville monologist, was celebrated in London and America. Woolsey also scored in vaudeville and in stock.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Stephen and their guest Miss DeLee of Denton spent Sunday in Fort Worth.

Miss Mary Sue and Polly Rumph of Fort Worth spent the week-end here. Miss Mary Sue was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Kinaird and Miss Polly was the guest of Miss Marjorie Spencer.

There was little hope here, however, for the safety of Mrs. Beryl Hart, red-haired pilot, and her copilot, general trader, the Aniam S. MacLaren. Many ships along the overwater route between Bermuda and the Azores and beyond the mid-Atlantic islands toward Europe reported by wireless that storms prevailed but there was no sign of the Trade Wind.

Officials who had kept watch throughout the night for the sealplane—lighting flares for its guidance—were pessimistic concerning the possibilities of the ship surviving the storm which it undoubtedly encountered on the 2,000 mile flight from Bermuda.

HORTA, AZORES, Jan. 12.—A strong "northeaster" bringing stormy weather and vicious winds whipped over the Azores today while an apparently hopeless watch was kept for a man and woman who had challenged the Atlantic on a flight of 2,000 miles from Bermuda to the Azores.

Anxiety that had mounted during the hours in which Mrs. Beryl Hart and Lieut. William S. MacLaren were not heard from, turned to a faint hope that they might have missed their mark, a small group of islands in the ocean, and continued to the safety of the European coast. But no word of their progress reached Paro, their ultimate destination, and ships east of the Azores had not reported sighting their plane.

The Trade Wind left Hamilton, Bermuda, at 11:15 a. m. Saturday. The fliers were 24 hours overdue here at 7 a. m. today. Unless they landed at sea and were picked up by a ship without wireless, it was feared that Mrs. Hart and her copilot and navigator might have become victims of the storm that lashed the Azores and sent giant breakers crashing through Horta Bay.

Weather conditions here were distinctly against the fliers from the moment word was received their perilous journey.

Flares were lighted during the night and kept burning during the day when visibility was poor. The local radio station kept in contact with ships along the Trade Wind route, but none of them sighted the sealplane.

Ginger Tolliver was with the full routine of a small town of Red Texas. Ginger started a night which parents and teachers barred. And Ginger was her daughter! Then light to happen. You'll learn why in "For Ginger's Sake," which January 15th, in

Personal

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Christiana Science Co. "Sacrament" was the lesson-sermon in all of Christ, Scientist, Sunday, Jan. 12.

John 6:33 supplied the text: "The bread of life which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto them that eat it." Among the passages Bible were read: "For as the children of men, as Christ Jesus, for as much as have been baptized, have put on Christ," 3:26, 27. "Blessed are the hearts for they shall be as Matthew 5:8.

The services also included the reading of the Christian textbook, "Science and with Key to the Scriptures," Mary Baker Eddy, among following: "One's aim, beyond faith, should be the mastery of death, health and holiness, to strive to reach the heaven where God is revealed; where there is all spirit, is purity. The Holy Spirit, washing the heart of the impurities of the flesh that the pure in heart are approaching spiritual demonstration" (p. 12).

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World Record In Bridge Is Established

WEWOKA, Okla., Jan. 12.—Four Seminole youths established what was believed to be a world record

here today when they for hours of continuous bridge.

Crowds stood by the Orr, Wilbur Jackson, and Mont Montgomery, large numbers that called to keep order.

After the youths had their 10th hour they were bathed in a shower. Three of them fell asleep in their chair.

Seven Recover From Gas In Bus

CORSICANA, Tex., Jan. 12.—Seven persons, all passengers enroute from Dallas, Tex., were recovering from carbon monoxide gas fumes overcame them while they were parked in a garage for the victims were:

Landry, en route to Galveston from Canton, Lanthier, Dallas, and her son, Dorothy Lanthier, 6 months; Mrs. C. W. Adams, and Charles Williams.

Jackson was dismissed hospital here Sunday. The driver of the bus had left the motor room effort to keep the car from starting. Feeble cries of children attracted attention.

Compensation Seen For The

SAN ANTONIO, Jan. 12.—A bill providing compensation for Texas citizens over 70 years of age, according to the secretary of the San Antonio chapter of the League of Women Voters.

The measure would pay a certain amount of \$1 a day to a certain age limit. It is a bill that they are citizens of the United States for 15 years and citizens of the county for five for one year.

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Eastland Tele

Murder at Bridge

© 1930 BY NEA SERVICE, INC.

by ANNE AUSTIN author of "THE BLACK PIGEON" "THE AVENGING PARROT" "MURDER BACKSTAIRS"

BEGIN HERE TODAY

Bonnie Dundee is in New York investigating the murders of Juanita Selim and Dexter Sprague, and learns from Serena Hart, successful stage star, that Nita married in 1918, was soon deserted, but not divorced. In 1922, a picture of Nita appeared with the story about the suicide of Anita Lee, which was printed in Hamilton. Nita comes to Hamilton, after showing strange excitement over pictures of Hamilton people, and deposits \$10,000 in cash. Dundee wonders if this were "back alimony" from a husband who had married after he thought she was dead.

Four of Dundee's possible suspects married between 1922 and the time of Nita's death—Judge Marshall, owner of the death weapon; John Drake, Tracey Miles and Peter Dunlap. After failing to find record of Nita's marriage in New York, Dundee is summoned home by a wire from the district attorney. At home, Dundee finds a note under his door, advising him to look in "Who's Who" for a tip, and is about to do so when the servant enters. He learns from her that she did not cover the parrot's cage the night before, although it is covered now, and that the house door was open all night. His copy of "Who's Who" is misplaced, but she says she didn't touch it.

When she goes, he sees the note is written on his own typewriter and stationery, and is suspicious. Standing away from the shelf above the hot air register, where the book is, he takes the book, and immediately a silent bullet whizzes by. A string, attached to the book, pulls the trigger. Dundee recovers the gun, and finds one of the holes in the hot air register had to be enlarged to hold the muzzle of the gun, equipped with the silencer.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

CHAPTER XLVI
Dundee laughed, the parrot which had saved his life echoing his mirth raucously, as his eyes hit upon the following lines of fine print halfway down the third column of page 410 of "Who's Who in America":

BURNS, William John, detective; b. Baltimore, Oct. 19, 1861—"A taunt and a joke which turned sour, my dear Watson!" he exclaimed to the parrot. "A joke I was not intended to live to laugh over!"

He closed the book and replaced it in the bookcase, careless of fingerprints, for he was sure the murderer had been too clever to leave any behind him in that room—or upon the gun and silencer either, for that matter.

Interestingly, Dundee surveyed the scene of his attempted murder. If he had unsuspectingly gone up to the high shelf to reach for the book he would have stood so close to the register that there would have been powder burns on his shirt front—just as there had been on Dexter Sprague's. And he would have been shot so near an open window—no chance for fingerprints there, either, since he had not closed the windows on his departure for New York, not wishing to return to a stuffy apartment—that the police would have been justified in thinking he had been shot from outside. It was an old-fashioned house in more ways than in the manner of its heating, outside of one of his two screened windows there was an iron grate—the topmost landing of a fire escape. Dundee could imagine Captain Strawn's positiveness in placing the murderer there—crouching in wait for his vic-

tim. . . . Yes, damned ingenious, this attempted murder! Undoubtedly Strawn would have dismissed the note as the work of a crank, not hitting upon the fact that it had been written in that very room, on Dundee's own typewriter and stationery. Strawn might even have got a mournful sort of amusement out of the fact that Dundee had been advised to call upon a greater detective than himself for assistance! . . . Yes, ingenious indeed! And so amazingly simple—

Suddenly the young detective snatched for his hat. If the murderer were so ingenious in this case, might he not have been equally clever in planning and executing the murder of Nita Leigh Selim?

Twenty minutes later he parked his car in the rutty road before the Selim house in Primrose Meadows, and honked his horn loudly to attract the attention of the plainclothesman Captain Strawn had detailed immediately after the murder to guard the premises during the day. There was no answer. And a violent ringing of the doorbell also brought no response. The guard had been withdrawn, probably to join the small army of plainclothesmen and patrolmen who had been foolishly and futilely searching for the New York gunman—the keystone of Captain Strawn's exploded theory.

With an oath, Dundee used his skeleton key to release the front door lock. Straight down the main hall and into the little foyer between the hall and Nita's bedroom, he snatched up the telephone and to his relief it was not dead. He gave the number of Captain Strawn's home, and had the pleasure of hearing the chief of the homicide squad answer belligerently. "I needed all my men, and the Selim house had been gone over with a fine tooth comb half a dozen times. . . . Why?"

"Oh, nothing!" Dundee retorted wearily, and hung up the receiver after assuring his old friend that he would call on him later in the day.

No use to explain now to Strawn that he had given the murderer every chance to remove any betraying traces of his crime. Besides, his first excited hunch after his own attempted murder might very well be a wild, groundless one. In his case the impossibility of the murder or being delayed or arranged so that the detective might be slain when the whole "crowd" was assembled was obvious. The murderer had read in a late Saturday afternoon extra—a copy of which was now in Dundee's pocket—District Attorney Sanderson's boast to the press that his office had been working on an entirely different theory than that which connected the two murders with "swallow-tail Sammy," that Special Investigator Dundee, expected back in Hamilton early Sunday morning, had been investigating Nita Leigh's past life in New York.

And he had hinted sensational revelations connected with the 12-year-old royal dress which Nita had chosen to be her shroud. And in his desire to reassure the public through the press, Sanderson had vaguely promised even more specific revelations than Dundee had actually brought

truth his conclusion that Monday had been!

But what was the real truth? Suddenly Dundee flung back the rug which almost entirely covered the bedroom floor and revealed the hell which Dexter Sprague had rigged up so that Nita might summon Lydia from her basement room, in case of dire need—a precaution with which the murderer was familiar, since Lois Dunlap had innocently spread the news of its existence.

There was a half-inch hole in the hardwood floor, and out of it issued a length of green electric wire, connected with two small, flat metal plates, one upon the other, so that when stepped upon a bell would ring in Lydia's basement room.

But there was something odd about the wire. Although it was obviously new, a section of it near the two metal plates was wrapped with black adhesive tape. Another memory knocked for attention upon Dundee's mind. The long cord of the bronze lamp had been mended with exactly the same sort of tape—about a foot from where it ended in the contact plug.

Within another two minutes, Dundee, with a flashlight he had found in the kitchen, was exploring the dark, earthy portion of the basement which lay directly to the east of Lydia Carr's basement

room. And he found what he was looking for—adhesive tape wrapped about the wire which had been dropped through the floor of Nita's room before it had been carried, by means of a bored hole, into Lydia's room.

He was too late—thanks to Captain Strawn. The bell which Sprague had rigged up was in working order again. But as he was passing out of the basement he glanced at the ceiling of the large room devoted to furnace, hot-water heater and laundry tubs. And in the ceiling he saw a hole. . . . The murderer had left a trace he could not obliterate!

(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued on page 4)

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By Cowan

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WOMEN! I'VE SUSPECTED IT FOR WEEKS! WHY GET ALL HET UP OVER THAT? ALL YOU STUPIDS GET ENGAGED A HALF DOZEN TIMES BEFORE IT TAKES

WELL, CHECK ISN'T OLD ENOUGH AND YOU'VE GOT HIS FORTY-A WEEK AND HE SUCS HE HAS IN THE BANK TAKE HIM, IF HE SHOULD HAVE A FEWER ME THAT!

JUST REMEMBER YOUR SON IS PAST TWENTY-ONE. IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, WE WERE ENGAGED WHEN YOU WERE TWENTY—AND I HAD BEEN ENGAGED TO THREE BOYS BEFORE THAT!

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