

CISCO—A city with all the requisites of industrial and commercial development—five lakes of water—three railroads; enormous gas field; electric power; federal and state highways; ideal central location; miles of paved streets.

THE CISCO DAILY PRESS

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FLOOD DANGERS ARE STILL PREVAILING

FD'S PLAN IS VOTED OUT BY LEGISLATURE

Resolution Approving Proposal is Killed By 3 to 1 Count

AUSTIN, Feb. 9 (AP)—The house voted over three to one today to kill the resolution commending President Roosevelt for his proposal to increase membership of the supreme court and sustained Representative Leonard of McAllen in a move to table the resolution.

The senate adopted the resolution stating "we believe such legislation would not be to the best interest of the people of Texas or the United States." Texas congressmen were requested to vote against the proposal.

Wilburne Collie, of Eastland, was among the senators voting against the resolution with John S. Redditt, of Lufkin and Albert Stone of Brenham, voting "aye."

Miss Josephine Thurman Will Be Buried in Cisco

The body of Miss Josephine Thurman will arrive here this afternoon from Lubbock for burial in Oakwood cemetery, beside the grave of her father, the late John Thurman, who died a few years ago. Funeral arrangements will be announced after the arrival of the body.

Miss Thurman was stricken with double pneumonia a week ago, and died at 4 o'clock this morning. She was teaching in the public schools at Lubbock at the time she was taken ill. Her brother, Harvey Thurman, operator of the Gulf service station at D avenue and West Ninth street, left for Lubbock this morning and will accompany the remains here. She was a daughter of the late John Thurman and Mrs. Thurman, well known residents of the Word community, south of Cisco, where she was born 40 years ago. Other than her mother and brother, Harvey Thurman, following are the survivors:

A sister, Miss Ethel Thurman, J. C. and Wayne Thurman, of the Word community; Ed Thurman, of Cisco; Floyd Thurman, of Kaufman; Willard Thurman, of Moran, and Bobbie Thurman, student at A. & M. college.

Harvey made several trips to Lubbock during the illness of his sister.

Trial for Townsend Set for February 23

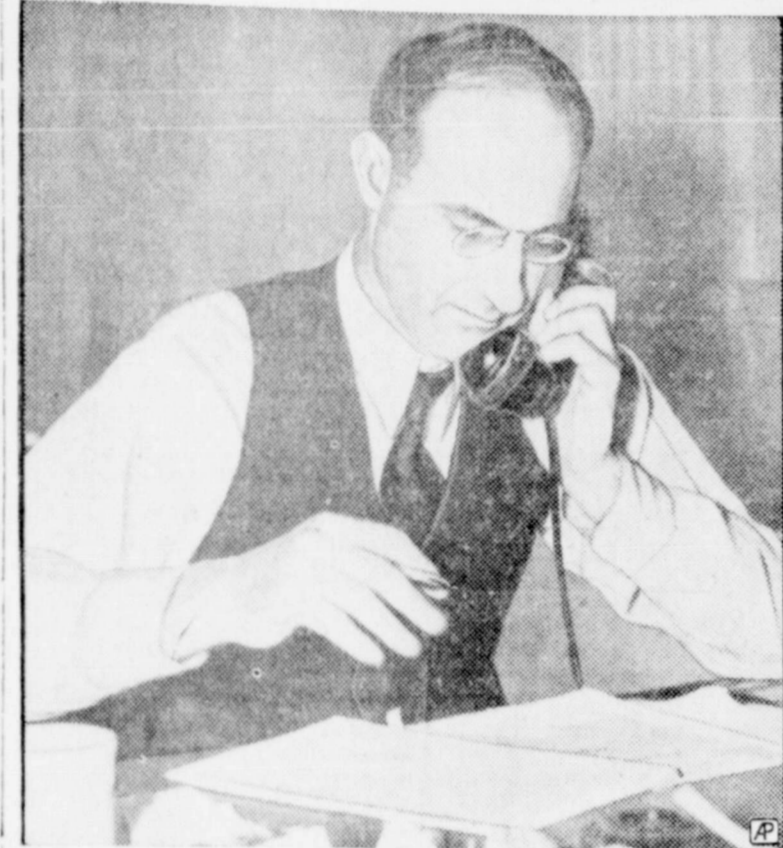
WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (AP)—Dr. Francis E. Townsend, head of the old age pension organization, pleaded innocent today in federal court to the charge of contempt of the house and his trial was set for Feb. 23.

The charge was a result of Townsend's walkout on a pension hearing last year and his refusal to return and resume his testimony.

Weather

EAST TEXAS—Partly cloudy in interior, unsettled on coast tonight and Wednesday; warmer in northwest tonight. WEST TEXAS—Fair tonight and Wednesday; warmer in panhandle tonight.

Flood Relief Network's Master Mind Is Herrle



NERVE CENTER OF MERCY ARMY
Colin Herrle, acting disaster relief director, from his Washington office directs Red Cross workers in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (AP)—Nerve center of Red Cross rescue and relief work in the flood-stricken Ohio and Mississippi valleys is Colin Herrle, who gives orders to generals, admirals, cabinet members and governors. Herrle is acting director of the Red Cross national disaster relief service.

His first experience in dealing with great emergencies was during the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906 when he was only 13.

Hardest Job In U. S.
In the west coast catastrophe, Herrle's brother-in-law was secretary of the Red Cross and the drama of that gigantic task so impressed the youngster, who haunted relief headquarters, that he determined to make the Red Cross his career.

Now middle-aged, tall, slender and soft-spoken, he is too important a personage to work in the field but he labors almost ceaselessly at national headquarters, directing his far-flung organization.

Sleeps If He Can
"Sleep?" says Herrle now. "Well, at the start I averaged only about two hours out of 24. Now that we have things better organized I have been able to get in four or five a day."

But his aides will tell you that the Herrle temper starts ruffling if they let him slumber more than three hours.

Seething flood waters and whining bullets have played an obli-

Answer to Strike Dispute Believed Found Last Night

DETROIT, Feb. 9 (AP)—Renewed hopes for an agreement ending the General Motors strike was indicated today by an authoritative source which said negotiations in last night's conference was found what was believed to be an answer to the dispute.

The source added that President Roosevelt, reported to have talked Sunday night with conference, made no "demand" on either side except to express his desire for an agreement.

Oil for War Days Stored in China

NANKING, China, Feb. 9 (AP)—Awakened to the fact that it takes a lot of motor fuel to keep a modern military force moving, China's defense experts have hit on the scheme of requiring every automobile owner to keep a 50-gallon oil reserve available on his premises at all times.

In event of war, this reserve automatically would become the property of the military, who found that motor fuel supplies now available would keep the war machine running for about two weeks.

Cisco Scouters Meet Tonight at 6:45 for Supper

Cisco scouters will meet tonight at 6:45 at the First Presbyterian church basement for a supper. About ten of the men connected with the local scout troops will attend the meeting, it was announced today.

Plans for the rest of scout week which begun yesterday, and preparations to "put the scouts before the people of Cisco," will be the main discussions of the meeting.

Yesterday marked 27 years of scouting in America. President Roosevelt spoke, along with several other high-ranking scouting officials, in a broadcast at 4:30. Throughout the week the Boy Scouts will be honored by leading radio programs and stars.

Local boys will have an active week. If present plans work out the boys of both troops will have some sort of activity celebrating the anniversary, every night for the rest of the week.

A special sermon by Rev. Joe I. Patterson, will be delivered to Cisco scouts Sunday morning at 10:45 at the First Methodist church to climax the busy week.

DISMANTLING A-S. RAILROAD

Morgan Jones Line Abandoned by TP

ABILENE, Feb. 9.—They're working on the railroad again in Jones county. But this time a crew of Mexican laborers is destroying—not laying—track, and now the days of the Abilene & Southern between Abilene and Hamlin are numbered.

Last train over the historic little line was the work train Monday. It carried an engineer, fireman, and two brakemen who will suffer by abandonment of the trackage. Their fellow passengers were the crew members who now swing sledges and grunt under the load of heavy rails and ties which they lift from the right-of-way over which the line was built 28 years ago.

Final revenue train over the line travelled to Hamlin last Saturday. It carried no passengers. Freight loaded for Hamlin—and Anson, Jones county seat which is halfway point—was scarcely enough to be worth getting up steam, said officials of the line.

Destruction of the northern half of the Abilene & Southern is the anticlimax of an eight-months battle which ended January 15, 1937. Doom of the short, but long-profitable baby railroad was spelled in interstate commerce commission authorization for the Texas & Pacific to abandon it.

Col. Morgan Jones, pioneer builder of both the Fort Worth & Denver and the Abilene & Northern, constructed the nearly defunct line in 1908. He died April 11, 1926, and left one of the largest estates ever bequeathed in Texas. Eight months later the A. & S. was sold to the T. & P.

Records of steadily dwindling profits were presented in a two-day hearing begun in Abilene the first of last May. Despite an ex-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Meeting of Lobo Staff is Tonight

The staff of the Lobo, bi-monthly publication of Cisco high school, will hold its regular meeting tonight at the high school at 7 o'clock.

Plans for attending Texas High School Press association meet will be discussed. According to present plans the entire staff will attend the meet to be held in Abilene this week-end. Between 40 and 50 Texas high schools will be represented.

The Lobo, consisting of a staff of about 20 members, is sponsored by Miss Elizabeth Daniel.

Mrs. Will St. John spent today in Rising Star.

Band Parents Club Formed Last Night

"Fun Fest" will be presented at the high school auditorium Thursday night at 7:30 by the newly-formed Band Parents club. Money from the program, to be given by the band, will go for buying instruments for the Lobo band, it was learned today.

The program will be varied, including instrumental solos and duets, a short band concert, and an exhibition by Frank Yarger, Lobo band drum major. The entire evening's entertainment has not yet been worked out.

Following a short band concert last night the Band Parents club was organized and plans for raising money for necessary band instruments were discussed. A committee was appointed to nominate officers for the new organization.

The nominees will be voted on at the second meeting to be held Monday night, February 15.

"Fun Fest" is the first effort on the part of the club to secure funds for band equipment, and it will be an evening of high class entertainment, members of the club said today.

An appeal was made today to all Cisco people who have old carpets to donate them to the band to cover the concrete floor of the band room.

Cisco Loboes Will Play Randy Tonight

The Cisco Loboes will meet the strong Randolph quint tonight at 7:30 at the high school gym. It was announced today.

Following communication today with Dublin, Coach Bill Cooper said that his team will play Dublin here Friday night and the local boxers will fight Dublin boys from that city.

Cisco will return the Dublin encounter the following Monday.

To Donate \$30,000 Hospital Addition

COLEMAN, Feb. 9 (Sp1)—J. P. Morris, Coleman, local ranchman, reputed to be a millionaire, Monday assured the Overall Memorial hospital of a check of \$30,000 "if necessary" for the construction of a wing to that building.

Basement of the two-story and basement wing has about been completed by works progress administration labor and Mr. Morris has given Dr. F. M. Burke, hospital superintendent, assurance that he will donate \$30,000 toward its completion, Mr. Morris said Monday.

"I investigated the hospital Monday afternoon and just thought I ought to give Coleman something," said Mr. Morris. "I don't have that much money on hand right now but by spring I will have the money and be ready for them," he added.

Freight, Passenger Wreck Kills Fireman

TUCUMCARI, N. M., Feb. 9 (AP)—Fireman A. B. Sutton, 40, of Dalhart, Tex., was killed and three persons were injured in the wreck of a passenger train and a freight near Logan today.

Ron Holmlund, Dalhart engineer, was in a critical condition, and Engineer G. O. Warren and Fireman Emmet Brown, both of Dalhart, were in a hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Mobley, Jr., left today for a short visit in Brownwood. They expect to return latter part of week.

Cluck Begins Seventh Year as School Sup't

At the regular meeting of the Cisco school board Monday night R. N. Cluck was re-elected school superintendent. With this action of the board Supt. Cluck enters upon his seventh year in Cisco, having been first elected superintendent of the Cisco schools in 1930.

During his administration Cisco schools have steadily gained in affiliated credits and now ranks very high among the school systems of the state.

Among the outstanding features

MISSISSIPPI'S LEVEES HOLD; DAMAGE LIGHT

Restoration Program For 75,000 Planned By Red Cross

MEMPHIS, Feb. 9 (AP)—Pounding waves and ponderous crests sustained the flood peril along the Mississippi river today but the levees held and engineers, reporting no major damage, expressed the belief that the worst is over.

The Red Cross planned a tentative rehabilitation program for 75,000 refugees in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Kentucky. President Roosevelt was reported sympathetic toward the bill to set up an authority empowered to reforest river slopes, build dams, and check erosion.

The death of a national guardsman in a stove explosion near Tiptonville, Tenn., and additional disease fatalities among refugees raised the death toll to 431.

CONTRIBUTIONS HIGH FOR FLOOD RELIEF

A letter received by J. E. Spencer, chairman of the local chapter of the Red Cross, stated that Saturday night the contributions to the flood relief fund totalled \$16,755,000. It was learned from the letter that this exceeds contributions that have been experienced in recent years by the organization.

To date 987,000 persons have been affected by the flood, states the letter. This is more than the number cared for in the Mississippi flood of 1927. Seventeen hundred Red Cross nurses are on duty on the stricken area.

Mr. Spencer said today that so far Eastland county has given approximately \$1800 for flood relief, with slightly over \$600 coming from Cisco.

Rebels Believed Getting Set For Big Twin Assault

(By Associated Press)

Spanish insurgents, who yesterday seized Malaga, strategic Mediterranean port, today announced the capture of the Valencia road, cutting off Madrid from both the government seat and its source of supplies.

It was reported that they occupied the communication line 10 miles southeast of Madrid after a three day battle, though the government claimed that the attack was repulsed.

The victories were expected to enable the insurgents to advance up the Mediterranean shoreline and set the stage for a twin assault with the northern army against Madrid and the southern troops against Valencia.

Carr Released On \$2,000 Bond

Moody Carr, brother-in-law of J. B. Ames, was charged with his death Saturday, surrendered to officers at Ranger after the shooting and was placed under a bond of \$2,000 to await the action of the grand jury, which convenes in March, by Justice McFadden.

When he surrendered to the officers Carr turned over a .44 calibre pistol from which one shot had been fired.

Funeral services for Ames were held at the First Methodist church at Ranger Monday afternoon. Burial was in the family burying grounds on the Ames farm, near Ranger, after the funeral.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Dabney of Sweetwater are moving their household goods to their ranch in Sweetwater today.

THE CISCO DAILY PRESS

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B. A. BUTLER Editor and Publisher W. D. BRECHSEN Superintendent MRS. CHAS. TRAMMELL Society Editor

A Home-Owned and Home-Controlled newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Cisco and Eastland county, independently democratic in politics.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: ONE YEAR \$5.00

National advertising representatives, Frost-Landis and Kohn, New York City; Dallas, Texas, and Detroit, Mich.

Any erroneous statement reflecting upon the character or reputation of any person will be gladly corrected if brought to the attention of the publishers. The Cisco Daily Press assumes no responsibility for errors in advertising insertions beyond the price of the advertisement.

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BIBLE THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom; but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.—Prov. xv. 21.

Work for some good, be it ever so slowly; Cherish some flower, be it ever so lowly; Labor,—all labor is noble and holy.—MRS. OSGOOD.

All things work together for good to them that love God. If we love God all is well. Does the storm blow?—He maketh the storm a calm. Is it night?—unto the upright there ariseth light in darkness.—RALPH.

In your patience ye are strong.—MRS. E. B. BROWNING.

Supreme Court Increase

MUCH ado is being manifested about President Roosevelt's proposed increase of the personnel of the federal supreme court. Even the members of the legislature are memorializing the Texas members of congress to oppose the president's plan.

IN the first place the president has given the matter more serious thought than the average man. To back him up in his program there are precedents a plenty. The number of supreme court judges have been changed on several occasions.

SOME have criticised the president for his attitude by attributing to him a desire to subordinate the supreme court to his policies.

AS viewed by the Press the most plausible reason for increasing the personnel of the court is to expedite litigation. To attribute to the president a desire to engraft more liberal-minded judges on the supreme bench is fallacious.

SO from that standpoint, it is probable new judicial material would hardly be less conservative than those now composing the court. It is the mission of the court to con-

strue the law with justice and equity, and in conformity with the fundamental law of the nation.

BUT the people are entitled to action. At present it is rare that an act of congress can be adjudicated under a year. If the present court is inadequate to transact the business brought before it, the people are entitled to relief, and such assistance as is needed should be supplied.

EVEN in Texas this fact is recognized as evidenced by the increased personnel of the Texas supreme court, only the additional state supreme court personnel are not clothed with the title of justices.

SO, if a larger court is good for a state, there is every reason why the rule would apply to the federal court. Certainly the business of the court would be handled more expeditiously by fifteen justices than is possible with only nine.

AS the Press understands President Roosevelt's plan it is not to make this addition to the court permanent, as several members of the court have reached the retirement age, and doubtless will avail themselves of this legal right in the not distant future.

OTHER OPINIONS

Jobs for Men, Not Men for Jobs

BEFORE finally passing the relief-deficiency bill, the senate rejected Sen. Bailey's proposal to require "certificates of necessity" from cities and towns seeking help for their unemployed.

The North Carolina democrat doubtless knew when he offered it that the proposal would be rejected. Relief funds for the current fiscal year are almost exhausted, and congress was being prodded to provide money for carrying on existing projects and also to meet the emergency created by the flood.

Federal relief has become so much a matter of course that not many state and local governments seem to consider that they have any responsibility to their unemployed, except to unemployables who are ineligible under the federal program.

Had the Bailey proposal been adopted, it would have amounted to a formal declaration by congress that the federal government is responsible for unemployment relief only when the states and localities have exhausted their own resources.

Since creation of the Institute, and the beginning of its work, it has received more than 50,000 inquiries concerning commercial possibilities of undeveloped resources.

Structure for Texas Natural Resources Show

DALLAS, Feb. 9. (Sp1)—Texas multi-billion-dollar resources, developed and undeveloped, will be shown 100 per cent at the Greater Texas and Pan American exposition, in Dallas June 12 through October.

This exhibit, the most comprehensive ever undertaken by any state, is being assembled by the Texas Natural Resources Institute, of which Judge John M. Spellman of Dallas, is general manager.

The institute, following the close of the international exposition, plans to maintain this exhibit in Dallas as a permanent showing of the industrial and manufacturing

Woman Finds Gold Nugget in Chicken

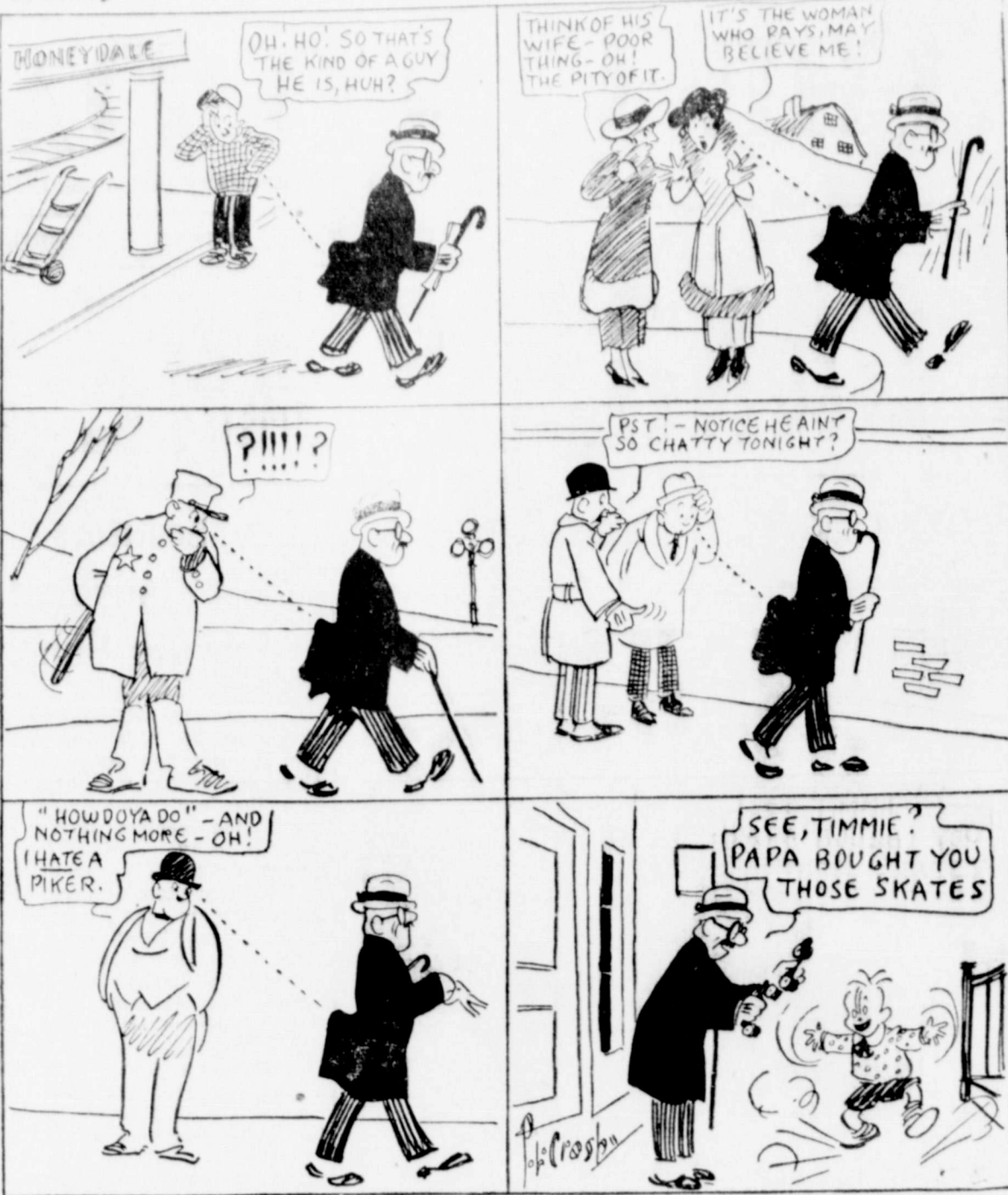
GILLETTE, Wyo., Feb. 9. (AP)—There probably will be another gold rush out Pumpkin Buttes way.

Mrs. Iva Frye of Gillette bought a chicken that came from a farm-er there and when she opened it found a gold nugget. A jeweler appraised it at \$1.96. Mrs. Frye paid 50 cents for the chicken.

Several years ago a similar incident started a gold rush at the buttes.

The best salesman, a Daily Press Classified Ad.

Honeydale—50 Minutes Out.



Laughing Around the World With IRVIN S. COBB

Catching Step with Prevalent Patriotism

ALL the years that I knew "Germany" Schaefer I don't recall ever having heard his first name. It may have been Hermann. I know the initial was "H".



picturesque individuals in Big League baseball. After his legs had lost their youthful gimp he was a coach and fun-maker for the Washington team, and in this capacity shared national popularity with his associate comedian, Nick Altrock.

NOBODY'S BUSINESS BY JULIAN CAPERS JR.

AUSTIN.—Despite signs that the legislative honeymoon upon which the house of representatives embarked Jan. 12 is about at an end were seen as the regular session began its fifth week. Despite the fact the pension bloc forced thru a resolution committing the house to allocating the first \$12,000,000 of new revenue it raises to augment the present \$8,000,000 a year pension fund, and urging early consideration of pension liberalization measures, there were indications that the pension bloc was breaking its strength against the rock of leadership rivalry.

The pension issue, as forecast by this writer when the original pension bill was under consideration, has become Texas' leading political football. The governor was re-elected largely on his adroit defense of his old age pension "orphan baby"; most of the 73 new house members came to town aboard the pension bandwagon; and a vast majority of the house so far has indicated a desire to build a record that will get the votes of the oldsters.

So hot is the issue that intense rivalry for the credit of being leader threatens to disrupt the house bloc. Farmer of Ft. Worth, Leland Johnson of Maxahachie, Jesse James of Crockett, Jasper Reed of Texarkana, Jap Lucas of Athens, and several others, aspire to lead the pension legion. It is every man for himself, and no organization or cooperation among the group. Farmer, the loudest and most vehement shouter in the house, he seized the job of spokesman, and held it during the first four weeks thru sheer lung power and persistence. But this week he

heard himself called a "publicity seeker," a "rabble rouser," and "the worst enemy the old folks have in the legislature" by his fellow members of the pension bloc, who don't agree with his ideas and are jealous of his press clippings.

So, notwithstanding his loudest shouting of the session, Farmer saw members of the pension bloc help to beat overwhelmingly his hysterical resolution demanding the head of Pension Administrator Orville Carpenter, after Carpenter, with his native penchant for sticking his neck out, advised a legislative committee to bar pension recipients from the privilege of voting. The house hastily adopted a substitute resolution, declaring it opposed taking away the voting privilege from the pensioners, but Carpenter's name was not mentioned. Carpenter told the committee he thought pensioners could be kept to about 105,000, and urged against liberalizing the present law.

Back to the state affairs committee, which previously had reported favorably without even holding a public hearing, the bill by Fred Mauritz the Banado farmer, to donate \$9,000,000 a year for the next five years to the counties to spend on erosion control, reclamation and other similar work, by remitting general revenue ad valorem state taxes. The bill would impoverish the general revenue fund by \$9,000,000 a year, at a time when it is already some 15 millions in the red." It gathered a motley array of sales tax advocates, hotter natural resource taxers, and soil erosion enthusiasts behind it on two favorable votes on the floor, but went back to the committee when the strong anti-sales tax group combined forces with some pensioners who would vote a sales tax, but only for pensions.

Surprising nobody, the house revenue committee brought out

By PERCY CROSBY

Political Announcements

The Cisco Daily Press has been authorized to announce the following as candidates for the offices under which their names appear, subject to the action of the electors of Cisco in general election April 6, 1937. For Mayor: J. T. BERRY (Re-election) For City Commissioners: (Two to Be Elected) H. A. BIBLE (Re-election) W. J. FOXWORTH (Re-election)

Oklahoma Woman Only Crime Court Marshall In U. S.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 9. (AP)—A slender, blue-eyed, white-haired woman steps forward in the Oklahoma criminal court of appeals when the judge takes the bench and announces: "Hear ye, Hear ye, the honorable criminal court of appeals of the state of Oklahoma now is in session."

She is Blanche Wear, 53-year-old marshal of the court and, according to Judge Thomas H. Doyle, the only woman in the United States holding that position in a criminal appellate tribunal. She holds the office by virtue of being law clerk for Judge James S. Davenport, the new presiding judge. She held the same position in 1935 when Davenport was presiding judge for one year, but this time she will hold the office two years.

Born in Denison, Texas, and educated in Mt. Vernon, Mo., Miss Wear started teaching school near Ardmore at the age of 19. Two years later she decided she did not like the work and became a stenographer. "If an attorney refuses to come into court in compliance with an order of this court, we will send Miss Blanche after him," Judge Davenport promises.

SHIP IN DISTRESS NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—Mackay Radio Sunday intercepted distress calls from the trawler Clinton, which was helpless 200 miles east of Norfolk, Va., with a disabled engine and no sails or lifeboat. The S. S. Excelsior of the Export Steamship company was standing by until the Coast Guard reached the scene.

More than 100 Texas editors came to Austin at the weekend for the midwinter session of the Texas Press association, heard legislative Chairman Sam Braswell of Clarendon urge support for bills requiring publication in newspapers of certain legal notices now posted on the courthouse door, and of periodic financial statements by governmental bodies. They heard Lowry Martin of Cor-

sicana, report on the questionnaire sent out to ascertain sentiment on Lieut. Gov. Walter Woodul's plan to appropriate \$500,000 a year for advertising Texas, and listened to Woodul outline the plan which calls for constitutional authorization. The editors adopted a resolution opposing a pending house bill which would prohibit public utilities from selling electric and gas appliances. They were guests of Austin chamber of commerce at a luncheon, and of President Benedict at Texas university at an evening banquet.

Today's Crossword Puzzle

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes 'Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle' with words like PEN, DEMUR, RUT, ACE, AVENA, IRE, TUSSLE, SIENNA, TOE, VENUS, STOA, FILT, FEELS, CORPORATE, SOP, ORSUE, LAS, RA, WAR, REVETMENT, SHOE, MID, ALAS, ALGAE, FRA, HERMES, MITTEN, AME, MORAL, ELA, WED, SNORE, DIG.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 64 indicating starting positions for clues.

REGI advertisement with text: 'The playmate long wa. And down u all is v. Now inside: uin's agl With joy, I sniffing.' Includes a small illustration of a person.

ESCAPE IF YOU CAN

BY FREDERICK JACKSON

SYNOPSIS: Count Vronski, who is blackmailing Anne Phelps with a packet of love letters, is shot to death in her studio. Only Anne, Bigelow, the young American from Paris, and Karsanokoff, the glamorous dancer, are in the apartment. They hide the body in a cupboard, as a party is imminent. Later Bigelow and Dr. Austrelitz, the psychologist, remove the corpse to Vronski's apartment. Police arrest Thorne Dryden, a young millionaire who hated Vronski. His lawyer, Strong, tells Bigelow that Dryden saw him and Austrelitz taking Vronski home.

Chapter 18 In a Tight Place

Bigelow carefully buttered a bit of roll. He had been dreading this conclusion. It meant that he and Austrelitz would eventually have to account to the police for their movements in connection with Vronski. For Dryden's word could easily be corroborated by the patrolman who had also seen them. They would have to fall back on the explanation that Vronski was a patient of the doctor's and had been waiting at the doctor's house very drunk when they returned there after the party. It was a pretty thin tale and not very plausible but at least it did not jeopardize Anne.

"Well—" asked the lawyer, unable to read anything in Bigelow's face.

"I've nothing to say at the moment," answered Bigelow.

"You don't deny that you and Dr. Austrelitz brought Vronski home?"

"I neither admit nor deny it," said Bigelow.

"I'm sorry you feel disposed to take that attitude," said Strong, no longer bothering now to keep up his pretense of friendliness. "I came here prepared to cooperate with you. Dryden has not yet made any statement to the police because he doesn't want to incriminate anyone else if he can avoid it. But I can assure you he is not going to continue holding his tongue. He's not going to take the rap for this killing to shield anyone! And you know as well as we do that Vronski was dead that night when you and Austrelitz brought him home!"

"Can You Prove That?"

Bigelow looked up speculatively to find the lawyer's keen eyes fixed on his face. But Bigelow's expression told him nothing.

"Can you prove that?"

"If I can't now, I will be able to before I'm through," declared Strong, his jaws working. "For the present, I've enough to go on to be satisfied myself that it's true."

"I wonder what you have to go on—" murmured Bigelow.

"For one thing, the statement of the medical examiner that Vronski died between one and two o'clock."

"As nearly as he was able to estimate," added Bigelow.

"He is willing to swear that death occurred well before four o'clock in any case. And you did not bring Vronski home until 20 minutes past five. Moreover, Dryden states that you and Dr. Austrelitz dragged him from the car into his hallway. And when Dryden knocked on the door a few minutes later, you ignored the summons and would not open the door. Why, Mr. Bigelow, if Vronski was not already dead and you were not afraid of being discovered there with his body?"

"If I was there—remember I ad-

mit nothing," said Bigelow. "but if I was there as Dryden says, and if Dryden knocked—it's possible that I did not hear him."

"He says not," said Strong. "He says he knocked sharply—three times. Then he went back to the area-way and watched you and Dr. Austrelitz drive away. And then he went across and knocked again. But there was still no reply. So eventually he went away. He thought at the time that Vronski was merely drunk. He did not realize the truth until next day."

"What he believes to be the truth," said Bigelow.

"What we are going to prove is the truth," said Strong. "And when we do, Mr. Bigelow, you'd better have a plausible story ready movements in connection with Vronski. For Dryden's word could easily be corroborated by the patrolman who had also seen them. They would have to fall back on the explanation that Vronski was a patient of the doctor's and had been waiting at the doctor's house very drunk when they returned there after the party. It was a pretty thin tale and not very plausible but at least it did not jeopardize Anne."

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"For one thing, the statement of the medical examiner that Vronski died between one and two o'clock."

"As nearly as he was able to estimate," added Bigelow.

"He is willing to swear that death occurred well before four o'clock in any case. And you did not bring Vronski home until 20 minutes past five. Moreover, Dryden states that you and Dr. Austrelitz dragged him from the car into his hallway. And when Dryden knocked on the door a few minutes later, you ignored the summons and would not open the door. Why, Mr. Bigelow, if Vronski was not already dead and you were not afraid of being discovered there with his body?"

"If I was there—remember I ad-

should have picked on just that night to go after Vronski?"

"Frantic," agreed Bigelow. "But what sort of damn fool is he, in any case, to advertise his intentions the way he did? He's got only himself to thank for his present predicament. The police couldn't help finding the trail he blazed."

"That's true, but he didn't kill Vronski—whatever his intentions were."

"If you mean we can't let him pay the penalty for it, of course we can't. I'm going around to see Austrelitz later and we'll figure something out between us. Meanwhile, you needn't worry because the case against him looks very weak to me. And I understand he's got an excellent lawyer. And if one has money, one can be quite comfortable in American jails—or so I have been told."

"He has oodles of money," admitted Anne. "And I suppose a short sojourn in jail won't do him a great deal of harm. As you say, he was intending murder and he did advertise the fact. But I'm thinking about Lorna. She must be frightfully anxious. And I'm afraid she's feeling responsible, too. She was awfully friendly to Vronski before she married. It was through her that I first met him. In those days, she was very gay and she was always surrounded by masses of men. You remember Dyke Kitterton who was killed at Brooklands in England, auto racing? They say he smashed up deliberately because he was crazy about Lorna and she turned him down. And Jacques Beauzanquette and Lyman Strong were both faithful followers."

"Lyman Strong?" asked Bigelow.

"Yes. Do you know him?"

"No. But I seem to have heard of him. He's a lawyer, isn't he?"

"Yes. A most successful one, I've heard."

"And he was in love with Lorna Dryden?"

"Still is, if you ask me. You've only to see them together. It's odd, too, because she's got no brains, but of course, she's very pretty and appealing and lovable and amusing. I really thought she was going to marry Lyman Strong at one time, but then Thorne Dryden turned up and simply bowled

her over. They eloped, you know."

"And where did Vronski come into her life?"

"Oh, she went about with him for a time before Dryden appeared. I often wondered whether Vronski was blackmailing her, too, but of course I couldn't ask without betraying the fact that he was blackmailing me. But I think now that she told Thorne and that's what caused the trouble between him and Vronski. That's why he won't make a statement to the police, don't you see? He doesn't want to give Lorna away."

"It all sounds quite logical," admitted Bigelow.

Walters entered to announce lunch and Anne lead the way to the dining room.

"In my excitement, I forgot about cocktails," she said. "But you can have one if you don't mind waiting for it."

"How do you feel about it?" he asked.

She reflected. "Suppose we have some white wine with lunch, instead?"

"Suits me perfectly," he agreed. "French wine," she suggested, nodding at Walters. Walters withdrew.

"Have you seen Madame Karsanokoff since?" asked Anne, investigating the folk before her with an inquiring and interested look.

"No. We've talked on the telephone, that's all."

"I think it might be good policy for us to go there," said Anne. "Suppose we drop in on her after

lunch for a few minutes? Can you?"

"Yes, rather," agreed Bigelow. "She'll be wanting to know how things have been going. And she'll probably want to discuss this Dryden development, too," Anne explained. "Women like to talk things over. And we don't want her talking this over with anyone but us."

"That's true," murmured Bigelow.

After lunch, Bigelow waited while she changed to something more suitable and then they drove to Karsanokoff's hotel.

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Bigelow and Austrelitz do a little strenuous reasoning.

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