

SUFFOCATION CAUSED DEATH OF J. L. REECE

All Rumors of Mystery Wiped Out by Coroner's Inquest.

SON CORROBORATES MOTHER'S STORY

Special to The Courier. UNIONTOWN, Apr. 2.—A coroner's jury Friday afternoon definitely eliminated any mystery in the death of James Lloyd Reece, 39, of 310 East Washington avenue, Connellsville, when it found he died as the result of suffocation and burns from a fire October 23, 1931, which was accidentally started by a lighted cigar.

The verdict climaxed a much postponed inquiry into the tragedy and completely absolved from all blame and responsibility Mrs. Nana Reece, 37, who, believing she had extinguished the first indication of a smoldering fire in the davenport where her husband lay, had returned to bed with their nine-year-old son only to be awakened later by the smoke.

Sobbing, the widow told the coroner's jury that she had first smelled smoke and, investigating, discovered it came from the davenport. Calling her son, Jimmy, she endeavored to lift her husband who had come home intoxicated and laid down in the living room. While she held him, she said, the boy poured "glass after glass of water under him and then we patted it so it would sink in."

Believing they had extinguished the fire, they went back upstairs where three other children were sleeping. The wife, however, first removed a package of cigarettes from the husband's pockets to prevent a recurrence.

Later, she said, she again smelled smoke and returned to the downstairs.

"The whole wall back of the davenport was ablaze," she sobbed. "I looked for Jim—I ran to the front porch—to the back porch—to the other rooms—when I didn't see him on the davenport. I couldn't find him. I screamed for the children to come down that the house was on fire. I thought, all the time—when he wasn't on the davenport—that he must have gotten out."

The husband was found, later, on his knees in a corner of the living room, where, bowled over, he had apparently made an unsuccessful attempt to escape from the room. Deputy Coroner Milton V. Munk reported his death due to burns and suffocation.

Most tragic witness at the inquest was the dead man's nine-year-old son, Jimmy, who choked back sobs to relate how he had run in his bare feet between the kitchen and living room, carrying glasses of water to throw on the davenport.

"Mother held Daddy up while I threw the water under him," he had declared, holding the handkerchief against his eyes while his shoulders heaved in convulsive sobs. "We dragged the cushions out from under him. When we thought everything was all right, we went back up to bed. Then I was awakened again when Mother screamed for us to come down, the house was on fire."

The inquest was three times postponed due to insinuations and rumors allegedly made to the coroner by members of the deceased's family. Investigations were conducted by County Detective John C. Wall and Fred McAllister, fire marshal of the State Police. They uncovered no evidence of foul play, it was said.

Frank Reece, Cleveland, Ohio, brother of the dead man, was asked repeatedly by Coroner Baltz whether he had any statement to make to support allegations made by the family. None was forthcoming.

Mrs. William Fox and Mrs. J. D. Jackson, sisters of the deceased, and their mother, Mrs. Reece, were also asked for statements and were able to support nothing that would substantiate charges of foul play. Through her counsel, Attorney E. J. McDaniel, the widow demanded a showdown on the insinuations that had been made.

"I have myself and my four children to support now and these rumors and this gossip hurts me. I want everything brought out now. This is the time for it. If anyone has anything to say, now is the time to say it."

Frank Reece stated he had made no insinuations against the widow but had been anxious to uncover everything concerning his brother's death and had even made "my own Continued on Page Five.

Earle Whitewashes Intimidation Charge HARRISBURG, Apr. 2.—Governor George H. Earle has dismissed, after investigation, charges that Deputy Highways Secretary Roy Brownmill intimidated State road workers to gain support for the Earle-Jones-Mundy-League slate at the May 17 primary.

The charges were voiced by a spokesman for the campaign committee supporting the gubernatorial candidacy of Lieutenant Governor Thomas Kennedy, in a political speech broadcast from Harrisburg March 23.

Here's a Mixture --- Cats, Mice, Women in One Show

By United Press. WASHINGTON, April 2.—The room was full of cats, mice and women—all perfectly contented. The strange scene was at the opening today of a joint exhibition of prize pets by cat and mouse fanciers of the country, 80 per cent of whom are women.

The American Mouse Fanciers Club hesitated when invited by the Columbian Cat Fanciers to hold a joint exhibition. They feared a merger that would leave only the cats in the running.

But the mice stole the show. They were the center of attention of both spectators, also mostly women, and the cats, mostly hungry. Chairs were placed about the walls just in case a mouse got loose.

"We are hoping that there will be no accidents and no fatalities," said Mary E. Hantzman, show manager. "But you never can tell. Mice, cats and women are like mixing gunpowder, dynamite and nitroglycerine."

The cats and mice were in separate cages. Miss Hantzman said the cats would not molest the mice even if they were placed together, but mice owners weren't willing to risk it.

Debate Finals At High School This Evening The J. Buell Snyder silver loving cup, awarded to the school winning the Fayette county debating championship, will be presented tonight to the team that emerges victorious in the finals in the Fayette county debate eliminations of the Pennsylvania Forensic & Music League, in Connellsville High School.

The trophy, of which John H. Whorrie, a member of the first championship debating team at Dunbar Township High School, is the donor, was received from the engravers Friday and was at the High School today where seven schools competed for the crown. The opening round was started at 9 o'clock and there will be another series at 1 o'clock this afternoon. The finals get under way at 7 o'clock tonight.

Congressman Snyder, father of the forensic league, sent word to the trophy donor that he hoped to be present tonight, if he could leave Washington in time to hear the debate finals and to make the presentation of the loving cup.

Point Marion is the defending champion, having won the title in 1927 when it succeeded Connellsville as the county pennant winner. Incidentally the trophy is the fifth Snyder cup to be put into circulation despite the fact that it must be won three consecutive years before it may become permanent possession of any one school. Dunbar Township has two trophies and Connellsville and Point Marion one each.

The drawing for the first round follows: (A is affirmative and N negative). Masontown A vs. German N; Masontown N vs. Brownsville A; Connellsville A vs. Redstone N; Connellsville N vs. Perry A; Perry A vs. Brownsville N; Perry N vs. Point Marion A; Point Marion N vs. Redstone A.

The competition for the second round follows: Masontown A vs. Redstone N; Masontown N vs. Point Marion N; Connellsville A vs. Brownsville N; Connellsville N vs. Perry A; Perry N vs. Redstone A; Point Marion N vs. German A; Brownsville A vs. German N.

J. Buell Snyder Votes to "Gag" Debate in House Pennsylvania's House delegation voted 17 to 13 Friday night against taking up a motion to throttle general debate on the reorganization bill. The House voted 191 to 149 against considering the motion to end the debate.

Those voting for the New Deal "gag" rule included J. Buell Snyder of Perryopolis. Those voting "no" included Robert G. Allen of Greensburg and Charles I. Fadden of Washington-Greene district.

Margiotti Manager. PITTSBURGH, Apr. 2.—Appointment of Willis E. Ruffner, Greensburg, to manage the Westmoreland county campaign for Attorney General Charles J. Margiotti, Democratic gubernatorial aspirant, was announced today by Albert H. Ladner, Jr., State manager for Margiotti.

Rockwood Woman Injured. ROCKWOOD, Apr. 2.—Mrs. Silas May, 78, suffered a fracture of the right hip when she toppled off a chair while teaching for canned goods in the basement of her home.

SU LIN, BABY GIANT PANDA, DIES IN ZOO

CHICAGO, Apr. 2.—Su Lin, the prized baby giant panda which died yesterday, will be nearly as valuable in death as she was alive, an official of the Brookfield zoo said today.

Robert Heen, assistant director, said her body would be given to the Field Museum for mounting after a post mortem examination to determine the exact cause of death. He said the examination also would be of invaluable aid in adding to zoologists' knowledge of the panda.

He estimated that more than 1,000,000 persons saw Su Lin alive and believed as many more will see her in the museum.

She was one of two pandas in captivity. The other, her playmate, Mei Mei, was brought to Brookfield last February. Both were captured near the Szechuen-Tibetan border in western China by Mrs. Richard Harkness, Jr., of New York.

Su Lin caught a twig in her throat Sunday. It was removed the same day but she became ill and refused her food. Tuesday and Wednesday she sank rapidly. An oxygen tent and artificial respiration by attendants failed to save her. Physicians at first thought the twig caused an infection, but an examination made that doubtful. Throat cultures were taken for study under a microscope.

Su Lin's popularity with children was credited with placing the zoo on a paying basis. She was valued at \$10,000.

Tax Sale Will Be Held Monday, Say County Officials

UNIONTOWN, Apr. 2.—A conference was held this morning by the county commissioners and Treasurer H. Daniel Miner with no change being announced in the sale of properties for delinquent taxes, schedule to begin at 10 o'clock Monday morning.

The commissioners and the treasurer, together with Solicitor C. W. Martin, held a conference while a large crowd of taxpayers thronged the treasurer's office settling the delinquencies to save off sale of properties.

When asked whether the sale was to be postponed, the officials replied in chorus: "The sale is scheduled for 10 o'clock Monday morning." Following the conference, the county officials announced: "We have made no change in our present plans."

More than 12,000 county properties are slated to go under the hammer. Juarez Mayor Dies When He Opens Bomb Sent Through Mail JUAREZ, Mexico, Apr. 2.—Federal and state authorities today sought to establish identity of an enemy bold enough to mail Mayor Jose Borunda a bomb. Borunda was killed and a second city employee was injured critically in the explosion.

Mayor Borunda had just completed his work yesterday and was preparing to leave for home when it was called to his attention that he had not opened a package that had arrived for him that morning. The package, mailed from Chihuahua City, contained a nitro-glycerin bomb.

Domingo Barraza, a doorman, was standing near the mayor as he opened the parcel. Barraza was given little chance of surviving. His right hand was blown off. POLENS, SENASKAS GRANTED RESPITES HARRISBURG, Apr. 2.—Two Warren county slayers, John G. Polens and Joseph Senaskas, scheduled to die in the electric chair, early Monday morning for the murder of a Youngville innkeeper, won 30-day respites from Governor George H. Earle. The execution date was postponed to May 2 at the recommendation of the State Board of Pardons in order to consider a clemency plea.

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OHIO 'PIONEERS' ON LAST LAP



Top, the good ship, Union; below, Evelyn Heiler kisses Bernie Heiskett's cheek.

Like the pioneers of old, members of the Ipswich caravan sail down the Monongahela river from West Newton, Pa., to Pittsburgh, thence the Ohio river, to Marietta, O., last lap on their long journey from Ipswich, Mass. The caravan is the forerunner of a celebration at Marietta, marking the 150th anniversary of the founding of the first organized federal government west of the original 13 states. After arriving at Marietta, the pioneer caravan tours the state of Ohio. In these photos, taken at West Newton, the pioneers' good ship, Union, is pictured on the Monongahela river and Evelyn Heiler kisses one of the pioneers, Bernie Heiskett, goodbye.

CIO SEIZES POWER PLANTS IN MICHIGAN UTILITY STRIKE

SAGINAW, Mich., Apr. 2.—Two-thirds of lower Michigan was at the mercy of striking utility workers today as sheriff's deputies and state police guarded against further "peaceful seizures" of Consumers Power Company plants and substations.

Company officials reported this morning members of the Utility Workers Organizing Committee took over strategic Croton dam in western Michigan, increasing to six the number of "key" plants under control of the strikers.

Striking workers manned the power plants of the Saginaw Valley after ejecting their managers, and held the electrical service of two-thirds of lower Michigan at their mercy. Service was being maintained, and Albert Stankus, national head of the Utility Workers Organizing Committee, said the men would not pull the switches before Monday, when an emergency peace conference, called by Governor Frank Murphy, is scheduled in Detroit.

Governor Murphy, who threatened to call out the National Guard to end a utility strike in the Saginaw Valley last year, was rushing home from Florida where he had been on vacation. The workers, affiliated with the Committee for Industrial Organization, seized the plants yesterday their demands for guarantees against wage cuts during the next year.

During last year's strike, the valley was without power for 24 hours. The union's contract with the Consumers Power Company, against whom the present strike was directed, expired February 23. A temporary working agreement had covered working conditions during March.

Workers occupied the plants peacefully last night after the strike had been approved at noisy mass meetings in several cities. The plants seized included the huge steam generating plant at Zittwaukee, a sub-station in Saginaw; a sub-station and gas plant at Flint, and a gas plant at Lansing. In all approximately 100 plants and substations were seized.

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Opponents of Dictator Bill Move to Kill It After Gag Vote Loses

Audience Thinks It Part Of Show; Actor Dead Democrat - Republican Coalition Jubilant Over Success.

TELEGRAM FLOOD SWAMPS MEMBERS

SANTA BARBARA, Cal., Apr. 2.—The audience believed it to be part of the plot when Joseph Greenwald, a well-known Broadway character actor, collapsed last night as he said "all my life."

But Greenwald's collapse was genuine. He died of a heart attack. Not until members of the cast shouted for the curtains to be drawn did the audience know that Greenwald had been stricken. The audience was dismissed and its money returned.

Greenwald had one of the leading roles in the play, "Golden Boy." He portrayed the father of Joe Bonaparte, which part was being taken by Francis Lederer, the Czechoslovakian screen star. Playing opposite Lederer was Betty Furness, also a movie star.

Sam White, movie and stage actor, was on the stage with Greenwald. It was the second scene of the first act. Greenwald got the word "life" out of his mouth, then fell to the floor. White shouted for the curtain to be drawn.

A few minutes later the management of the theatre announced to the audience that Greenwald was dead. The troupe was scheduled to open an engagement at San Francisco Monday. It had not been decided whether the engagement would be filled, since Greenwald had no understudy.

Many Schools Join National Forensic Meet CALIFORNIA, Pa., Apr. 2.—Some two or three hundred high school students, representing 23 schools will participate in the Western Pennsylvania division of the National Forensic League contests at the California State Teachers College on April 4 and 5. Darrel J. Mass, head of the Speech Clinic at California, is host chairman for the contests.

Final contests will be held on Monday and final contests on Tuesday. There will be competition in dramatic declamation, humorous declamation, oratorical declamation, original oration and extemporaneous speaking.

The tournament committee is as follows: E. Marjorie Harvey of Monessen, O. A. Redner, Waynesburg; Treasurer H. C. Bell, East Pike Run; Mary E. Jenkins, Bentleyville; J. R. Spr. Glassport; J. W. Coatsworth, East Pike Run, and Anna D. Morris, Point Marion.

Among the high schools to be represented are: Ambridge, Bentleyville, Brownsville, California, East Pike Run, Cumberland Township, Chardler, Claysville, Perry Township, Glassport, East Huntingdon, St. Vincent, Masontown, Monessen, Hurst (Mount Pleasant), Nineveh, Point Marion, South Fayette, Uniontown, South Union, Waynesburg, Centerville and West Newton.

Assisting Professor Mass with the contests are students at California who have had speech training and instruction in judging forensic contests. Each divisional contest is presided over by a student chairman. These chairmen are Joseph Smyth of Republic; Harry Cornell of California; Walter Oelschlaeger, of Monessen; Dick Spellman of Uniontown and Larry Sullivan of McKeesport.

Waltonites Opposed To Reorganization, Says Kenneth A. Reid By United Press. SIOUX FALLS, S. D., Apr. 2.—The Frank Walton League of America is opposed, its general manager, Kenneth A. Reid, said here, to the proposed national reorganization bill as it relates to the natural resources of the country.

The league feels, Reid, a former resident of Connellsville, Pa., said, qualified conservationist authorities should appraise that phase of the bill before the measure is enacted upon. Reid came here to address a meeting of the league's local chapter.

War Insurance Claim Approved. Congressman J. Buell Snyder announced in Washington today he had secured approval of the war risk insurance claim of John J. Gaffney of Point Marion which has been pending for the past seven years. Mr. Gaffney had a distinguished World War record, having been wounded 14 times. The war risk claim amounts to \$13,235.

Accepts Greensboro Call. Rev. Richard Thomas of Canonsburg, who will be graduated in May from the Eastern Seminary in Philadelphia, has accepted a call to the Greensboro and New Geneva Baptist churches.

Hospital Patients. Ray Batsey of Scottdale, Star Route, John Stotts of Connellsville, R. D. 2, and Doris Curtis of South Connellsville have been admitted to Connellsville State Hospital for treatment.