

THE WEATHER
Forecast for Philadelphia, Pa.
Temperature at each hour
10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5

VOL. IX.—NO. 78
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DAN BURNERS' FIRE SPENCER'S \$55,000 STABLE

Cut the Telephone Wires From House of Assistant Welfare Director at Malvern

FLEE IN AUTO THROUGH CORDON OF STATE POLICE

Blaze Twenty-seventh of Its Kind in Nearby Counties Within Last Few Weeks

PHONE GIRL CALLS AID

Gasoline From Garage on Estate Used by Incendiaries to Start Flames

Firebugs who have terrorized farmers of Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties for several weeks visited the estate of Dr. J. Blair Spencer, Assistant Director of the Philadelphia Department of Welfare, at Malvern, Chester County, early this morning and fired the barn after cutting all telephone wires communicating with the estate.

Gasoline taken from Dr. Spencer's garage was used to start the fire. The building was burned to the ground, causing a loss of about \$55,000. Three eyes and several dogs were rescued by Dr. Spencer soon after the fire was discovered while employes on the farm were sent to summon help.

This was the twenty-seventh barn to be burned since October 2, but is the first in which positive proof of incendiary origin has been obtained. Two men have been seen to run from the barn burned previously to that on the Spencer estate, but otherwise there were no clues as to the many fires being the work of a firebug.

Cutting of telephone wires leading from Dr. Spencer's home and from the house occupied by the farm manager before starting the fire this morning is thought to have resulted from the presence of many State police and the cutting of wires of the State Bureau of Fire Protection in the three counties.

Major C. M. Wilhelm, under whose supervision the State troopers and Fire Protection Bureau investigators are working, had received only a preliminary report of the fire at his temporary headquarters in West Chester today at noon. No mention was made in the report of the cutting of telephone wires and until official information is received on that phase of the fire, he is proceeding on the theory that natural causes have caused the burning of the barn.

"We know," he said, "that there was considerable electrical trouble in a large area of the county last night and that the cutting of telephone wires may be possible that sparks from an electric wire in the barn caused the fire and we are now investigating that angle, but having no report of the cutting of telephone wires by firemen or meted by heat from the blaze."

Found Wires Cut
The fire was discovered shortly after 2 o'clock this morning by Mrs. Spencer, who awoke by the glare from the burning building. She ran to the telephone and tried to get the Malvern operator, but was unable to do so. After thinking of the cutting of wires for several minutes in an effort to get a connection, she ran to the home of the farm manager, who also had been trying to get the operator over his telephone.

Mrs. Spencer directed him to go to the adjoining farm of Sidney Gooding, a quarter of a mile away, and use the telephone there.

Mrs. Elin Cuppige, night operator at Malvern, when news of the fire was finally got to her, summoned John Fox, chief of the Malvern Volunteer Fire Department, and Burgess Evans. Then she called headquarters of the State police in Malvern and notified Corporal Fox, officer in command, of the fire.

A line of State troopers, on motorcycles, was immediately thrown around the county in an effort to apprehend the firebugs before they could make their escape and they were followed during the remainder of the night. No suspicious persons were seen by the troopers and Corporal Fox believes the incendiaries used an automobile.

All crops harvested on the farm during the past summer and fall were destroyed and livestock was rescued. Dr. Spencer himself directed the rescue work and led three cows and his dogs through the flames to safety. A shower of sparks and burning straw was falling from the burning barn when Dr. Spencer first plunged into the barn with a rope and wet blankets and began the rescue work. Dr. Spencer is a breeder of German police dogs and several prize winners were in the barn.

When firemen arrived the flames were beyond control, and they turned their efforts toward saving the buildings on the estate. Fire engines were called along the edge of a lake on the estate and connections were made to rescue the buildings.

Bucket brigades were then thrown to keep the flames from spreading to other buildings. Corporal Fox, an investigation, was begun as soon as he reached the fire. He found the telephone wires cut.

Continued on Page Twenty-three, Column Three

KID M'COY BANKRUPT

Much-Married Boxer and Actor Files Court Petition
Los Angeles, Dec. 7.—Norman Selby, known as the boxing world as Kid McCoy, motion picture actor and eight times a husband, yesterday filed a petition in bankruptcy in the United States District Court here.

He listed his assets at \$9056.57, and his liabilities at \$200 or three good suits of clothes.

APPLICATION FOR PARDON OF COSTELLO AND MASCIA

Both Serving for Complicity in Fifth Ward Murders Here
Harrisburg, Dec. 7.—Applications for pardon of Jacob Mascia and John Costello, convicted in the Philadelphia Fifth Ward murder case some time ago, were filed with the State Board of Pardons today and will be heard December 20.

There will be sixty-five cases for argument on that date.

MEN AT HOLMESBURG DON'T GET A CHANCE, INSPECTOR CHARGES



FUREY ELLIS
Member of the Board of Prison Inspectors, who advocates changing rules in force at Holmesburg.

MAYOR SAYS P. R. T. HAS BUS LINE RIVAL

Another Company Wants Privilege, He Tells Council, and Will Pay for It

CROSTOWN ROUTES UP

An offer from an independent operator to operate busses on Broad street and the Roosevelt boulevard, paying the city for the privilege, was sent to Council this afternoon by Mayor Moore.

The proposal comes at the moment when Council is considering an offer of Thomas E. Mitten, president of the P. R. T., to operate motor busses on the Roosevelt boulevard and from Germantown to Roxborough.

Ordinances authorizing the bus lines proposed for operation by Mr. Mitten are to be introduced by Richard W. Lehman, president of Council. The lines would be free of city tax and paving obligations.

Another important transit proposition was laid before Council in the form of ordinances providing for three new crostown lines to connect North Philadelphia and Germantown with the Frankford line and, eventually, the Broad street subway.

The proposed lines, it is predicted, will serve more than a quarter million passengers, and officials of the company assert that the P. R. T. will have to spend approximately \$1,000,000 for trucks.

It is estimated that it will cost the city approximately \$1,000,000 to make the necessary improvement in the way of street paving and bridge re-construction.

In communication to Mayor Moore and Mr. Wezlein, Mr. Mitten announces that work on one of the proposed lines will start early in the spring, if the proposition is approved and will be completed during the summer.

Description of Routes
A description of the routes of the proposed lines designated as lines A, B and C, follows in the summary of Mr. Mitten's plan.

"A.—Erie avenue route, from Allegheny avenue and Twenty-ninth street, over Hunting Park avenue, connecting with Erie avenue, thence over existing tracks on Erie avenue to and over Torresdale avenue to the Torresdale avenue station of the Frankford Elevated.

"B. Wyoming avenue route from Twentieth street at Wayne Junction, with single tracks on Wingochooking Courtland, Fifteenth and Wyoming to York road; over existing tracks on York road to and over Wyoming, crossing Roosevelt Boulevard to connection with existing tracks on Wyoming.

"C.—The widening of the bridge at Roosevelt Boulevard and Wyoming by the city, and the short street opening there required, should make possible by late summer, operation by way of Frankford.

BABY BURNS TO DEATH

Nine-Month-Old Boy Victim of Children's Frank With Matches
Gus Gustanson, nine months old, was burned to death at 10 o'clock this morning at his home, 2331 East Thompson street.

Three older children struck matches which ignited the baby's dress. The other children were saved.

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MUSSOLINI GOES TO LONDON

Accepts Invitation to Attend Conference of Allied Premiers
London, Dec. 7.—(By A. P.)—Premier Mussolini, of Italy, has accepted the invitation to come to London, and the conference of the allied premiers at the week-end preliminary to the Brussels conference on reparations and war debts is thereby assured.

MRS. ROSIER SEEKS CONVENT RETREAT; THROUGH WITH MEN

Her Mind on Rest and Peace Rather Than Winning \$60,000 Will Suit

WOULD NOT TAKE VEIL; ONLY DESIRE IS PEACE

There is no thought of the success or failure of her suit to obtain the \$60,000 insurance policy left by her husband to his brother and son in the mind of Mrs. Catherine Rosier today, who was acquitted last month of the murder of her husband, Oscar Rosier, and his stenographer, Mildred Recker.

It is the thought of a place where she can have peace and solitude, and not the pleasures that money can buy that flits through her mind today.

The dim quietude and the restfulness of a convent, set far away, perhaps among the hills, with the brown tentacles of ivy clambering over the walls—that is the place where Mrs. Rosier wants to be.

"I want to be alone," she said this morning. "I want to be far away from every one and every body. I had thought of going into a convent, but then I was ill and the only thing I could do was stay at home. But now I want to go away. I'd like to be in a convent."

"I wouldn't stay forever, of course, but several months, perhaps, all alone—away from everything," she added wistfully. "Mrs. Rosier has no thought of taking the veil."

"Of course I couldn't have any visitors—I would be shut away entirely, but I thought I'd like to be there, so much so that I'd like to go away."

"I couldn't travel—every place I went I would be recognized. So I've just stayed at home. So many persons have asked me to visit them, but I didn't feel that I wanted to go any place just yet."

Mrs. Rosier had on a dark skirt and a tailored hat with a perky blue tulle. Around her waist was a blue and white checked apron, which she smoothed down, as she jumped up to get Baby Richard, who was crawling and cooing on the floor.

Her face was rounder and the circles under her eyes gone, but her expression was tired, even in spite of the fact that she had been in the grip of grip and neuritis which has kept her in bed could plainly be seen.

Mrs. Rosier expressed interest in the news given her by her freedom, asking if there was any news of them, and spoke of court happenings since "my case" was over.

Prison Conditions Bad
A new paper lay on the window sill to which she pointed with one slim, shining finger.

"These prison stories," she said, "I'd like to tell some of the things I know. The sooner they get over Maysenung the place," she asked, "bitterness in her voice, although her face did not change expression. 'The windows in the cells are not as wide as your face. Of course, my cell was different. It was a hole-in-the-wall cell,' she said cheerfully. 'The window in it was bigger.'"

"Some of the things at Moyamensing are just as bad as these," she said. "The meals are terrible. We had hard bread and rye water for breakfast. Sometimes soup was the main thing at lunch, and tonight, waiting for the bread, we had more hard bread."

"Food Was 'Left-Overs'"
"The men had a chef from outside to cook for them, and the women had what was left over from their table. We had three girls, and it didn't matter how inexperienced they were in our kitchen."

"The prison board and the matrons and the physicians were all just like this," she said. "I listen to their fingers tightly pressed together. 'When the Grand Jury came around inspecting they went to the men's quarters first and the women's quarters were left in the various companies. I am happy to say that many of them received honorable mention for valor in battle.'"

"The case was the first case many visits to Holmesburg since becoming an inspector, and if any of his visits convicts had complained about their treatment," Mr. Ellis said.

"I have been up there several times and the principal complaint that I heard seemed to be about the ban on tobacco, and solitary confinement. You understand that it is the practice to have any complaints written and then turned over to the visiting committee of the inspectors. Convicts are not supposed to complain in person, but I talked with some and almost every one of them had some kind of complaint."

"I believe that an inspector should see everything going on in prison—that he should be the confidant of the convicts, and if I can help them in any way, I do not feel that all is being done. The case was the first case many visits to Holmesburg since becoming an inspector, and if any of his visits convicts had complained about their treatment," Mr. Ellis said.

"Probably as a new member of the Board of Inspectors I should simply sit down and listen to the complaints."

Plauter explained no one had, but that he made the arrest because Mrs. Biddle had no driver's license. Mr. Biddle had not driver's license. Mr. Biddle had not driver's license. Mr. Biddle had not driver's license.

MRS. BIDDLE IS FREED ON AUTO LICENSE CHARGE

Merion Woman, Arrested After Collision, Discharged Without Hearing
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According to Traffic Patrolman Plauter, Mrs. Biddle's car struck a truck in the intersection of Sycamore and Market streets. She could not show a driver's license and was arrested, but was released later on a copy of the charge.

The case was the first called this morning in Central Station. Magistrate Renshaw did not mention Mrs. Biddle by name, but summoned Plauter to the stand.

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Search of Train Is Futile
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The woman admitted she had been in Los Angeles recently, but insisted she boarded the train at Ogdun, Utah. She had a ticket from Ogdun to Baltimore, Md. She appeared somewhat older than the age given for Mrs. Phillips.

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"Who made the complaint?" the magistrate demanded.

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Prefers to Get Out Rather Than Have Hands Tied by Old Law

SEEKS AID OF VAN HART TO STRAIGHTEN MUDDLE

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The suggestion of Mr. King, a Democrat, was made to Acting Mayor Van Hart, a Republican, and was dictated by the muddle in which the Camden Government has been thrown up by the discovery of an act of 1907 is now applicable to Camden.

This old law, originally intended for Paterson, N. J., provides for the appointment of a fire and police board and a public works board which would control these branches of the municipal service.

The act applies to cities having a population of more than 110,000 and 1920. Appointment of the boards would virtually make the Mayor powerless and would cut down the power of the City Council.

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Continued on Page Twenty-three, Col. Four

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