

NATIONAL BOARD STARTS DRIVE ON INCENDIARY GANG

Fire Underwriters Detail Special Investigator to Three Counties

125 NEW STATE TROOPERS GO TO BARN-BURNING AREA

Insurance Experts Admit They Are Baffled—Another Building Destroyed

The National Board of Fire Underwriters, admitting it is baffled by the mysterious barn fires in Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties, has detailed an expert investigator to the three counties, who will work under cover in an effort to run down the incendiary gang.

Other developments today in the hunt for the firebugs included a shift of State police, whereby 125 new men, not known in the section, were brought to West Chester to take the places of troopers who have been on duty for the last month.

Chester County citizens, alarmed by the increasing toll of the incendiaries, will hold a mass-meeting tomorrow night in the Tredyfflin Country Club to raise funds with which to employ private detectives and guards.

The meeting was called by Richard Haughton, of Philadelphia, and attended by several hundred farmers, who are in continual fear of being awakened at night by the blaze of a burning barn.

Experts Are Baffled Insurance experts who have analyzed the situation in the three counties in an effort to solve the mystery of the burning of thirty-seven barns admit they are baffled.

"We can't understand it, and that is the main reason the National Board of Fire Underwriters is sending an expert investigator into the section," Thomas M. Patterson, secretary of the Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Company, said today.

"The moral hazard does not enter," he said, "because barns belonging to the same party are being burned along with those of other parties. On the other hand, if some insane person is responsible, he could not possibly cover so wide an area as the burning of barns by the three counties. There have been fires in widely separated sections about the same night on the same nights.

"State police are running around in a circle. They are baffled just like we are. They are a fine bunch, but a mystery like this is enough to confuse the best minds in the world of crime detection."

"There was an epidemic of barn burnings in Bucks County about ten years ago, but it was confined to a comparatively small area and was not very long until the incendiaries were exposed. In both cases it is different. People take less interest in them."

Another Barn Destroyed Because the vigilance of State troopers and farmers, the barn on the farm of Joseph O'Leary, near Swedesboro, Montgomery County, was burned last night, with a loss of \$8000. Alfred Wood, owner of the farm, is convinced that the cause is incendiary.

Another barn fire was reported from Newark, Delaware, and was caused by the Pennsylvania State line. It occurred on the farm of Clarence S. Foster. An electric wire without lights was seen to have fallen from the building a short time before it burst into flames. Three men thought to be the leaders of the incendiary gang were chased by the police.

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NORTHCLIFFE'S WILL OPPOSED BY WOMAN

Appears Suddenly in Court to Enter Caveat Against Execution

LONDON, Dec. 21.—A woman, whose name was not divulged, suddenly appeared in the Probate Court today and attempted to enter a caveat against the execution of the will of Lord Northcliffe just as the hearing on the will was about to begin.

Asked if she claimed an interest in the estate, the woman answered in the affirmative. Asked by the judge whether she was acting as a representative of the family, she replied:

"Yes, I asked leave to enter a caveat."

The hearing was adjourned, the judge saying that the defendant would have to agree to unity in presenting their claims.

Physicians Say Mme. Bernhardt Never Will Act Again

Paris, Dec. 21.—It seems certain that Mme. Bernhardt will appear no more in the theatre, as her days are numbered.

She was decided yesterday to suppress the play in which she was to appear with Lucien Guyon because the doctor has no hope of her being able to act again.

Physicians liberally for Christmas. The majority of the gifts are of the nature of the "cholesterol fruit," etc.

"EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS"



That's what this youngster said today as he gathered scraps of pea coal along the Washington avenue railroad tracks. "We're sure to heat the house for old Santa Claus, anyway," the boy added. Hundreds of persons, their homes cold because they can't get coal, walk the railroad track picking up the "drippin'" from coal cars.

MRS. BRUNEN OFF \$10,000,000 BANK TO SEEK A REST MERGER EFFECTED

Harry Mohr, From Cell, Announces His Confidence of Obtaining New Trial

The merger of the Bank of North America and Commercial Trust Company are consolidated.

SISTER GOES TO NEW YORK NO CHANGES IN EMPLOYES

II and benefit of two of her children, Mrs. Augusta Mohr, aged mother of Mrs. Doris Brunen and Harry C. Mohr, is awaiting the second home-coming of the daughter who was freed last night of the murder of "Harold John" Brunen, to comfort her for the loss of the son who was convicted, and now is awaiting sentence in the Mount Holly jail.

Wanted to Go to New York

Mrs. Mohr, with Mattie, has been living in the Stanley Apartments, at 2027 R. Street, since her husband's death.

One Menaces Owner While the Other Cleans Out Cash Register

Morris Rosoff, who has a drug store at Fifth street and Rising Sun avenue, was held up and robbed by two young men who entered his store late last night.

GIRL KILLED, MOTHER HURT DOING CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Helen Stolz, fifteen years old, of Buckingham, Pa., was killed and her mother and boy chum injured, probably fatally, when the automobile in which they were coming to Philadelphia to do Christmas shopping collided with a truck on North Broad street this morning at 7 o'clock.

COLLEGE GIRLS FLEE FIRE

Mt. Holyoke Students Lose Fire in Flames South Hadley, Mass., Dec. 21.—(By A. P.)—Girls students at Mount Holyoke College rushed from chapel services today to save their belongings when fire was discovered in Rockefeller Hall, a dormitory.

Several trustees, however, were destroyed, and the building was burned and burned through the walls of the first-story building.

Pleasure and comfort, golf, tennis, etc. The Carolina, Pittsburgh, N. Y.

ASK FOR HOOVER TO HEAD SURVEY ON REPARATIONS

Proposal Made by Germany to Have American Business Men Probe Conditions

APPROVAL OF BRITAIN SAID TO BE CERTAIN

Negotiations Opened by Commercial Body Headed by Chancellor Cuno

London, Dec. 21.—The request made by a German trade commission that a committee of American business men, headed by Herbert Hoover, visit Germany to undertake a thorough survey of economic conditions that would be used as the basis of a new reparations treaty, was seen here today as perhaps the starting point of the flock of rumors as to American intervention in the reparations problem.

DROPS POKER CHARGE, FREEING FIVE WOMEN

Disappearance of Purse at Party Is "Amicably Adjusted"

Five women who were arrested at a poker party a week ago on suspicion of having when the purse of one of the players disappeared, were discharged by Magistrate O'Connor today.

CHIEF JUSTICE TAFT UNDERGOES OPERATION

Is Recuperating Rapidly but Must Rest Ten Days

Washington, Dec. 21.—(By A. P.)—German overtures through informal channels for American intervention to obtain a revision of German reparations schedules, reported in London dispatches, reported in London dispatches, reported in London dispatches.

DARBY HOLD-UP MAN IDENTIFIED BY GIRL

Telephone Operator Says He Took Part in Robbery of Messenger

Mrs. Margaret Young, manager of the Bell Telephone exchange in Darby, identified a man, arrested last night in an older suburb of Vinel street near Eighth, as one of the men who last Friday participated in the robbery of Darby. The man arrested gave his name as Joseph Barkus, thirty-five years old, of Franklin street above Calhoun.

SENATOR REED GETS WAR DECORATION

Distinguished Service Medal is Awarded for Exceptional Work

Washington, Dec. 21.—(By A. P.)—Senator Reed, of Pennsylvania, was among a group of officers and former officers of the hospital, awarded by Secretary Weeks today for exceptional service in war time.

ZITA'S MOTHER IN NEED

Sues for Allowance Greater Than Thirty Cents a Month

OSER'S FIANCEE IN LONDON

Mathilde Dodges Through Crowd and Has Nothing to Say

Missing "Bobbie"



MABEL WOODS Known to patrons of Atlantic Highway, the above missing girl, because of her smiling courtesy and vivacity, has disappeared from home and police of Philadelphia and other cities are seeking her.

Got Guns "to Shoot Birds" Day Before Herrin Riots

Dealer Links Hugh Willis' Name With Purchases by Union Miners—Witness Involves Clark in McDowell's Murder

Merion, Ill., Dec. 21.—Ward Trovillion, a witness for the State in the Herring massacre trial, testified today that he saw Otis Clark, one of the defendants, some time after the riots show a handful of cartridges and heard him say: "This is the head of a cartridge we used out there to kill Moe."

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

MRS. HARRY B. ROSENGARTEN DIES AT AGE OF 78

Mrs. Harry B. Rosengarten, mother of Mrs. W. W. Atterbury, died this morning at her home, 325 South Seventeenth street. She was seventy-eight years old.

RACE RIOTS COST CHICAGO MORE THAN \$500,000

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—The 1919 race riots will cost Chicago more than \$500,000, in addition to its share of the expense of maintaining 6000 State troops nine days, it was estimated today after eighteen death claims, aggregating \$81,000, were approved yesterday by the City Council's Finance Committee.

ARBuckle'S RETURN SECRETARY FALL OPPOSED BY WOMEN TO QUIT CABINET

Club Members Here Keenly Disappointed and Say Sex Won't Compels Abandonment of Public Post

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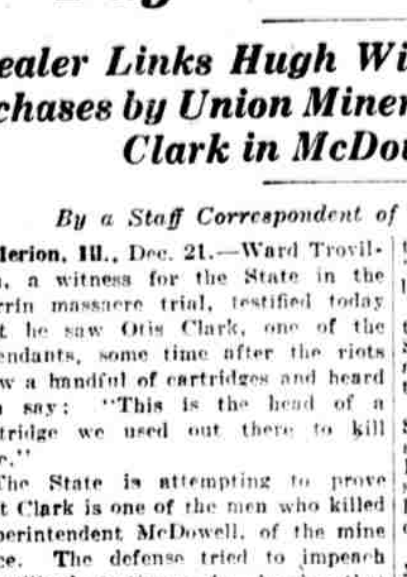
They Love Her—And Disappear

Mystery pervades the romance of a beautiful woman and three men who went to marry her and who drop out of sight, one after another.

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CHARGE KLAN SPENT \$200,000 IN TEXAS TO ELECT SENATOR

Democrats of State Promise Sensation When Mayfield Tries to Take Seat

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF KLAN TO BE REVEALED

Invisible Empire in Other States Likely to Be Subject of Investigation

Washington, Dec. 21.—A senatorial sensation, involving the activities of the Ku Klux Klan in politics, is promised by conservative Democrats, when Senator-elect Earle B. Mayfield, of Texas, appears to claim his seat as Senator from that State.

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