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BLACKHANDERS STARTLE CITY

POLICE AND DETECTIVES HAVE MANY THEORIES

DID BOY LEAVE RESIDENCE?

Father of Missing Lad Receives Several Letters—Officers Arrest One in Plot

Local police and detectives last night were wrestling with the greatest black hand mystery since the celebrated Lamana vase more than ten years ago. Following the sudden disappearance of Anthony Randazzo, aged 16, from his home at 515 DuRoi street several months ago, the family has received a number of blackmailing letters, and all the members have been threatened with death. The police are confronted by the following questions in their investigation:

Did Anthony Randazzo run away from home, or was he kidnapped? Is some unknown party playing on the fears of the Randazzo family by demanding ransom for Anthony, when the latter is safe in some other town or is Tony in the hands of kidnappers, or possibly getting in some dismal swamp?

Did Bernard Nicolosi lead Tony's parents to a desolate spot in the rear of the city yesterday morning to have them murdered, as was threatened in a letter that Randazzo says he received?

Does Bernard Nicolosi know where Tony Randazzo is, or was he fooling the older Randazzo when he professed to have knowledge of the lad's whereabouts?

Parents Investigate

Police officials are divided in their opinion of the case. Captain Capo, according to the State, believes that Tony ran away from home because he was forced to turn over the money he made selling papers. He expressed the opinion that the missing boy would be found selling papers around Mokopone and Magrolia streets. An investigation by the boy's parents is said to indicate that he has not been seen in that neighborhood lately.

With Bernard Nicolosi under arrest in connection with the affair, the police state that other arrests are to follow shortly. If the story is not a hoax then the department must unravel a story that will prove stupendous interest.

Randazzo himself believes that a gang of blackmailers, angered because he turned over their letters to the police, are seeking his life; that they intended to lure him back of the city and murder him; and that the presence of his wife, and of detectives who were trailing them, caused a postponement of the intended deed.

Missing Since March

The Randazzo lad had been missing from home since March 6 last, but the first intimation his family had that he might have been kidnapped came last week in the form of a letter to Vincent Randazzo, the boy's father. The letter was signed ostensibly by the Black Hand and read as follows:

"Your son is lost and to save him we want \$1,000. Otherwise we will cut off his head. We have him in the country and if you advise the police force he will end like Lamana. Put money in white handkerchief on Sunday night at 11:30 o'clock at Clairborne, near Washington street, behind hall park. Be careful to come alone. If you do contrary your son will die. If you bring the money by Monday you will have your son in your house."

Before Randazzo could act on this letter he received a second "black hand" letter. It was in Italian and read as follows:

"We have changed our idea. You must bring the money to Louisiana avenue, between Tonti and Galvez

NUMBERS WILL BE DRAWN FRIDAY

BY NIGHT EVERY MAN WILL KNOW HIS STANDING

EXAMINED FIVE DAYS LATER

If Drawn Among the First Quota. Deserter if He Fails to Report for Transportation

Washington, July 18.—The draft will be held Friday morning at 10 o'clock in the capitol building, according to plans which matured tonight. The plan for the actual drawing hinges upon the reports from four states, Michigan, Mississippi, Pennsylvania and New York. Illinois is complete except for one board in Chicago.

General Crowder tonight said:

"The system evolved leaves all to the element of chance. It is carefully designed to give an absolute fair deal to every man registered. From present prospects the draft will be held Friday. The drawing will take one hour."

Final announcement regarding the draft will be made tomorrow morning. The numbers drawn will be telegraphed to the newspapers immediately and Friday night every man will probably know his position in the conscription list. A few days later all will be officially notified.

If the man subject to call is among the first quota he will be given five days to appear for physical examination. Then five days additional will be given him to file affidavits if he claims exemption.

No penalty attaches for failure to appear before the examining board. The drafted man will merely forfeit his exemption rights and be listed as "held for service." If he fails to appear when ordered to report for transportation to the mobilization camp he will be arrested at deserter and face court martial.

streets, Sunday morning at 6 o'clock. You must pass on horseback by Louisiana avenue and go up toward Napoleon. Tie a flag to the bridle. Someone will be watching you. And Sunday night at 11 o'clock you must bring the money on horseback as before and be careful as soon as you put the money down place a tick and go. Someone will be watching the money and your son will come Monday. If you do the contrary your son will die."

Randazzo went to the police with the two letters, and was advised by them to follow the directions. Detectives Porretto and Obitz slipped into the neighborhood mentioned and remained there on watch from early Sunday evening until late the following morning. No one, however, showed up to claim the money.

The father of the missing boy received his third letter a day or two later. It read in part: "You must think we are d--n fools to go for the money while the police are watching. We will give you one more chance."

Tuesday Bernard Nicolosi, who was later arrested, hung about the Randazzo shop, and intimidated to Mrs. Randazzo that he knew where her son was. He offered to show Randazzo the missing boy on the following day, stipulating that they were to leave at 9 o'clock. However, he showed up at 7 o'clock yesterday morning and insisted on leaving at once. Mrs. Randazzo went with her husband and Nicolosi, despite the latter's protest. As soon as they had left a friend notified the police.

Nicolosi took the family to Spanish Fort, and thence to the home of an Italian on the Orleans canal. Detectives followed the searchers, and seeing that Nicolosi was not fulfilling his promise to unearth the missing boy, closed in on the party shortly after 11 o'clock and arrested Nicolosi.

Mexican Cruisers Are Coming South

By International News Service. Chicago, July 18.—Two gasoline cruisers for the Mexican navy left here today for the Gulf of Mexico via the Drainage canal and Mississippi river. The vessels are the La Asteca and La Tarasca, seventy-five feet long.

JURY SAYS COMER IS NOT GUILTY

John C. Comer, the former patrolman charged with the murder of Professor Sidney Bourgeois last September, was acquitted by a jury yesterday in criminal court. The jury went out before dinner, and is understood to have reached a verdict almost at once. It did not report, however, until court reconvened at 2 o'clock.

The case was submitted to the jury without argument by Comer's attorney, after the conclusion of the evidence. The defense had contended self-defense, and the preponderance of the testimony favored Comer. Only four witnesses had been presented by the state, of whom one was an eye-witness of the killing. Comer took the stand in his own behalf yesterday morning. He testified that just prior to the killing he had arrested Bourgeois for creating a disturbance in a cabaret, and that Bourgeois knocked him down. As the latter backed away he made a motion to his hip pocket, and Comer shot in self-defense.

CAR RELIEF IS ONLY TEMPORARY

Temporary relief afforded in the car situation by the passage of the Esh bill, which was followed by the sending of several thousand empty cars to the South, is expected to continue probably through July. Afterward, according to general belief prevailing among manufacturers of southern pine, the shortage in rolling stock will become tighter even than it was before.

This will be due in part to the heavy movement of government materials expected during August, and the commandeering of many cars which would otherwise go into the domestic trade. The government orders, which will move in the near future, will take up practically all the available car supply, and the railroads frankly state that they are forced to be interested primarily in the government business, and of necessity general trade must be subordinated to the needs of the nation.

Another factor lumbermen are considering is the perennial demand on the roads for moving crops, which will set in about August. The movement of food-stuffs will be given precedence over lumber.

BERLIN ADMITS LOSSES

By International News Service. London, July 18.—Berlin admitted reverses today to both British and French on the western front. To the British the Germans lost a sector west of Duvert Wood and to the French on the Verdun front penetrated the German lines, retaking ground recently lost. Artillery fighting on the coast of Flanders is reported.

REAR ADMIRAL PROMOTED

Washington, July 18.—President Wilson today named Rear Admiral Albert W. Grant a vice admiral. He will command one division of dreadnaughts. Vice Admiral Coffman will continue in command of the other. Both are under Admiral Mayo.

CRESCENT CITY READY FOR DRAFT

TWELVE RULES ISSUED BY PROVOST MARSHAL

ALL LISTS ARE COMPLETED

Exemption Must be Claimed Within Seven Days After Drawing is Completed

Everything in New Orleans is ready for the draft when it comes. A number corresponding with each person's name subject to the call has been given and when the lottery is held in Washington New Orleans young men will know where they stand on the list. Provost Marshal Chowder has issued twelve rules which it is necessary for all subject to the draft to remember. They follow:

FIRST—Go to the headquarters (as listed below) of the exemption district in which you live, and make a memorandum of the red ink number that is next to your name on the list.

SECOND—Determine how many men were registered in your district.

THIRD—Wait for announcement by The Bee that the drawing at Washington has been completed, and then go to your board headquarters and find out where you stand in the line. You may be first, or you may be last, or in between. Your number will be drawn, that is sure, and you will want to know how soon your turn is to come, so don't delay in finding out.

FOURTH—After the draft, your board will call the men drawn to their headquarters or elsewhere for examination. If you are called, answer the summons on the day specified, whether you intend to claim exemption or not.

FIFTH—If you pass the examination and do not claim exemption, hold yourself in readiness, and watch the bulletins in The Bee from your board giving the names of those called for immediate military service. In the order drawn, your name will be in the bulletin.

SIXTH—If you intend to claim exemption, you must do so within seven days of the day notice that you are called is mailed to you by your board. Your board will have a number of forms on which the exemption claim is to be made. Get the blank and fill it out.

SEVENTH—After filing your claim for exemption you must file proof of your claim within ten days after filing your claim. Proof consists, in most cases, of affidavits from yourself and from people who know you on that your statements are accurate. Claims will be decided within three days after you file the affidavits.

EIGHTH—If you are not satisfied with the result of your claim you can appeal to the local board.

NINTH—If you are exempted a certificate of exemption will be issued to you. Preserve this certificate carefully as its loss may cause trouble.

TENTH—Claims for discharge on industrial grounds must be filed separately and after claims on other grounds. You must go to the local board with such a claim and file it within five days after posting of notice that you have been certified on service.

ELEVENTH—Proof of claims for exemption on industrial grounds must be filed within five days of the filing of claim. Appeals may be taken to the President. Exemption for industrial reasons will constitute discharge.

TWELFTH—Do not demur from the action of the board, and after you have been called, hold yourself ready for the government order to report.

(Continued on Page Two).

Ship Conference Proves A Failure

By International News Service. Washington, July 18.—At the conclusion of the ship building conference between General Goethals, manager of the Emergency Fleet corporation, and Chairman Denman, of the Shipping board, it was announced no policy had been agreed upon and that at the request of Goethals the conference would be continued tomorrow. If Goethals and Denman fail to agree, President Wilson may take charge of the controversy and if unable to reconcile the views of Goethals and Denman, he will request the resignation of one or both.

BEE ADVERTISER WINS IN TEST SUIT

A momentous decision was handed down in the New York Appellate Division Saturday in the test case of E. Fougere & Co. Inc., Charles N. Crittenton Co., and H. Planten & Son against the Department of Health in regard to the Goldwater ordinance which was to require the disclosing of the formula of all proprietary remedies and patent medicines. This ordinance was supposed to be the first step in a nation-wide campaign against patent medicines and all proprietary remedies and affected interests of \$60,000,000.

The court held that the Act was invalid and granted the drug interests a permanent injunction against the operation of the ordinance.

This suit has been hanging fire for nearly two years and it will be remembered that Dr. F. S. Goldwater the sponsor for the ordinance resigned from the Health Department shortly after its passage.

The Goldwater ordinance has the distinction of being one of the few ordinances to be published in a magazine which was issued several days before the ordinance itself had been passed by the Board of Aldermen.

After the resignation of Dr. Goldwater, Dr. Haven Emerson tried to enforce the ordinance in a way that made the whole drug trade arise in arms and inasmuch as the interests affected were so large it was deemed advisable to make a test case which has resulted in a complete victory for the drug interests.

It is understood that the eyes of the legislative bodies of twenty seven different states have been following closely every development in this suit as, if it had been successful, it was to have made a model for similar legislation all over the country.

DEAD BODY OF N.O. MAN FOUND

The body of a man supposed to be C. J. Gilbert, of 2125 Constance street, was found yesterday morning in a box car in the Memphis railroad yards. Gilbert's throat was cut, but whether he committed suicide or had been murdered has not yet been determined.

C. J. Gilbert left his home last Saturday, according to Mrs. Gilbert. He was a fiscal agent, with offices in the Machea building. He told her he was going toward Baton Rouge, and that was the last heard of him until yesterday. From the description she believes it is her husband, and ordered that the remains be sent here.

Memphis police believe the man was murdered.

QUICK PASSAGE PROGRAM HALTED

SENATE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT AVIATION BILL

HARDWICK OFFERS AMENDMENT

To Strike Out Draft Method of Obtaining Aviators. House Took Measure on Faith.

Washington, July 18.—The senate today began consideration of the \$640,000,000 aviation bill.

It struck a snag immediately in the form of an amendment offered by Senator Hardwick of Georgia, to strike out the provision authorizing the President to raise recruits for the flying corps by draft.

Plans of the leaders of both parties in Congress for quick action on the administration's aviation bill, providing a great program for striking at Germany through the air, promise to be blocked by a small group of senators, including LaFollette and Gronna, who are planning to reopen the question of conscription.

Without a dissenting vote or even a roll call the House Saturday passed the \$640 million dollar appropriation bill, providing for the huge airplane program with which the United States expects to carry the war to Germany and bring decision in the great conflict. It was the largest appropriation an American Congress ever has passed in what is termed "a lump sum." Ordinarily, in 100 million dollar bills, and even billion dollar measures of now, Congress sets forth explicitly just how the money shall be expended, specifying every item. The pending measure simply turns over this tremendous sum to the government for aviation purposes.

While from the outset it has been emphasized that the purpose of the big fleet is to "blind" the German army as well as give invaluable assistance to the submarine hunt, yet there is a deeper significance behind the program on which the United States has started. From the start Germany has carried the war to the Allies. Very little fighting has been done on German soil and very little German property, in Germany, has been destroyed. France, Belgium, Russia, Serbia, Rumania and even England have had to bear the burden of practically all the war's destruction, aside from the tremendous loss on the battle lines. By next spring, when this huge program will begin to ripen, the United States, with its thousands of fliers, expects to be carrying the war into Germany.

Now it is asserted that Ruth Johnston had a child named Lillian Johnston; that the child was adopted by the Dugues and has been going under the name of Lillian Dugue. As a natural child of Ruth Johnston, it is asserted, Lillian Dugue was entitled to her mother's property, and the claim is now advanced in her behalf.

Should the claim of Lillian Lague to the property in Cortez street be upheld by the court, then the pretended mortgage on the property will be invalid, and the Citizen's Homestead association will be left with a judgment against Mrs. Dugue of \$2,500, but with the security on the mortgage dissipated.

NEW ROADHOUSE ON SHELL ROAD

New Orleans' shell road is to get a new roadhouse which will cost \$25,000. The new building will be modern in every respect and will prove a boon to the sport-loving public of the city. It is understood the plans already have been drawn and submitted to contractors. Some stranger in the back of the enterprise who is keeping himself in the dark will be in the city this week and accept or reject the bids on the proposed building.

The structure will cost upward of \$25,000, and besides the immense dining-room, it will have more than 20 rooms. It will be two stories high, built of wood, with the exterior shingle effect, with mansard roof, and a large number of dormer windows. A dining-room 60 feet long and proportionately wide, with a 25-foot ceiling and all the electrical equipment and conveniences to make it a thing of joy, is promised.

COUNTER REVOLT BREWS IN RUSSIA

WAR MINISTER HASTENS TO THE BATTLE FRONT

INSUBORDINATE REGIMENTS

Germans Gain Ground in Galicia, Chancellor Michaelis' Speech Is Awaited

By International News Service. Petrograd, July 18.—A counter revolution of terrific proportions is brewing in Russia. Army garrisons of larger cities are threatening to revolt. The provisional government is struggling desperately against a complete disintegration. Insubordination of entire regiments at the front led to the new trouble. War Minister Kerensky has hastened to the front to avert a new dissolution. Six automobiles loaded with soldiers, sailors and civilians attempted to prevent his departure.

London, July 18.—The Germans have wrested the initiative from the Russians in Galicia, today's official Petrograd report shows. The war office is conceding a temporary reverse twenty miles below Kalisz.

Amsterdam, July 18.—Intense interest centers about the announcement that German Chancellor Michaelis is to make before the Reichstag tomorrow afternoon. Whether the Reichstag will accept the dictations of the chancellor or whether it will demonstrate that it holds the whip hand probably will be made clear.

HEIR APPEARS AT LAST MINUTE

An unusual allegation is advanced in a petition for an injunction filed yesterday to prevent the sale of certain property in Cortez street, near Canal, at public auction. The property was to have been sold today to satisfy a mortgage judgment for \$2,500 held by the Citizen's Homestead association.

The property involved was inherited by Mrs. Sarah Dugue and Adelaide Johnston from the estate of Miss Ruth Johnston. At the time the latter's succession was opened, it was believed that they were the legal heirs, according to the petition, and they accepted the property without an administration.

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SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT MAY BE INTRODUCED

By International News Service. Washington, July 18.—The Anthony suffrage amendment may be introduced in Congress in the near future as a war measure with the backing of President Wilson, according to statement tonight by J. A. E. Hopkins, of Camden, N. J., former Democratic National committeeman, and husband of one of the imprisoned suffragists, following a conference with the President today.