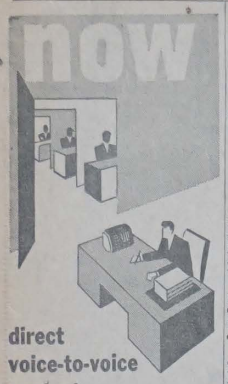

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13 PERISH IN FIRE RAZING WAR PLANT

52 Others Are Hurt as Flames After Explosion Trap 180 in Detroit Building

DETROIT, Aug. 13 (AP)—A sudden fire, sweeping through a boxing factory today, brought death to eleven women and two men and injuries to fifty-two other persons, several of whom are not expected to survive.

The fire turned the plant of the Export Box & Sealer Company at Grand River Avenue and Fifteenth Street into an inferno in a few seconds.

The blaze broke out as the 180 employes, mostly women, were in the midst of a rest period and listening to a juke box.

Apparently disbelieving a shout of fire from the first floor of the two-story building, the workers continued to listen to the blaring of the mechanical player until flames began rising.

Die Leaping From Windows

Then came a rush for doors and windows. Most of the victims, seared by flames or maddened by the intense heat, died after leaping from second-story windows and falling on the sidewalk of one of Detroit's most heavily traveled streets.

One woman, who like many of the others sought to jump from a second-story window, was overcome and burned to death lying helpless over the sill.

All persons in the building were accounted for tonight, but only one of the dead was identified. She was Mrs. Loretta Donaldson, who died at a hospital.

Twenty-seven persons were taken to hospitals and at least twenty-five others suffered minor injuries for which they received first aid treatment.

Theories as to Explosion

The exact cause of the fire has not been determined. Some of those who escaped from the first floor, where the blaze started, said that it followed an explosion. Others asserted that they heard no explosion.

Fire Marshal Edward W. Hall said that the plant, which was engaged in boxing war materials including replacement parts for tanks and aircraft for shipment overseas, was closed in April after an investigation disclosed several fire hazards. It was allowed to reopen, he said, after a later check showed compliance with Fire Department regulations.

Declining to venture an opinion as to the cause of the fire, he said he had been told that it might have resulted from inflammable material leaking from a recently repaired degreasing tank.

Another theory was advanced by Louis Markle, an Ordnance Department inspector, who said he believed it resulted from the pouring of a cold oil anti-corosion fluid into a hot tank. He said that he saw flames break out under one of the tanks on the first floor.

Negro Youth Saves Women

At least half a dozen women owed their escape to the quick thinking of a 16-year-old Negro youth, Maurice Wash. He was riding a bicycle opposite the plant when he fire broke out.

"I jumped when the explosion went off," he said. "I heard screams and saw flames and ran across the street and pushed open a door.

"I helped out a woman who was trying to find the door. There was a lot of black smoke inside. It was hard to hear because of the roar of the flames and the screams, but I shouted to her and she turned toward me.

"I grabbed her and led her out. Then I went back."

He brought five others out in this way. Several employes, who had rushed downstairs, began to jam the doorway. Wash grabbed a woman and pulled her out, loosing the jam.

As he pulled her free of the screaming pile, he was knocked to the sidewalk by the body of another woman who, with her clothing afire, had jumped from the second story. Witnesses said that the youth probably saved her life by breaking her fall. Wash was taken to Receiving Hospital.

Witness Tells of Two Blasts

Edward Jackson, a furniture company driver, saw the fire from across the street.

"I heard a terrific explosion," he said. "There was terrible screaming and shouting. The whole building was aflame.

"Men and women were on the second floor ledge. They had crawled through the windows. The flames were eating at them. A dozen or more tried to crawl across the street after they jumped. While my brother and I were trying to help, there was a second explosion and flames shot out into the middle of the street. That drove everybody back."

As an inquiry by the police and fire marshal's office proceeded tonight, two employes of the factory were arrested "for investigation." Assistant Prosecutor Basil Considine said that they might face negligent homicide charges if evidence were found of responsibility on their part.

The fire was the worst in Detroit since the Study Club disaster of 1929 in which thirty persons lost their lives and dozens of others were injured.

CAMPBELL CASE STUDIED

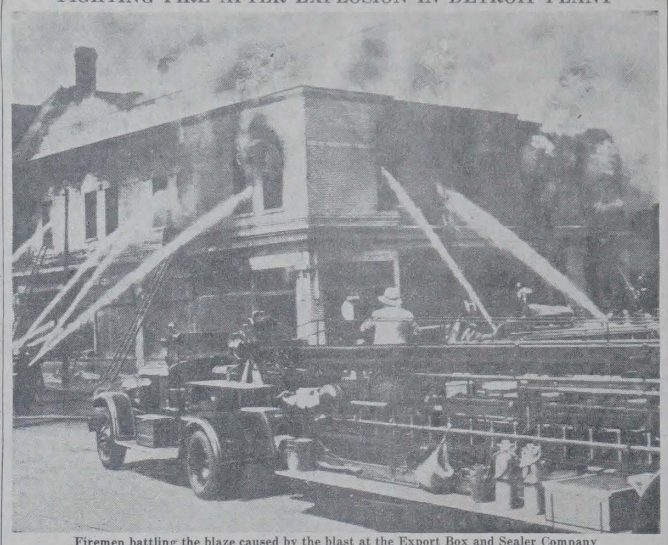
Parole Board Has Not Finished Its Inquiry Into Mistake

ALBANY, Aug. 13 (AP)—The State Parole Board has not completed its investigation of the case of Bertram M. Campbell, Frederick A. Moran, its chairman said tonight.

The Board has reported its findings thus far to Governor Dewey but will make no recommendation until the study has been finished, he said. Mr. Moran explained that he made this statement to contradict a New York City newspaper editorial which he said had produced an erroneous impression.

Campbell, Long Island salesman, served more than three years in Sing Sing prison for forgeries that Alexander D. L. Thiel has confessed committing.

FIGHTING FIRE AFTER EXPLOSION IN DETROIT PLANT



Firemen battling the blaze caused by the blast at the Export Box and Sealer Company
Associated Press Wirephoto

HOTELS SEE RETURN OF POLITE WAITER

Continued From Page 23

thing of the past and the diner can expect and again will receive courteous treatment.

"Many of these waiters and waitresses were not interested in giving the customer service, but in getting his or her tip as quickly as possible and then rushing them out. They are money-hungry for tips."

With the certain opening up of the labor market with the coming of V-J Day, he continued, "slipshod service" would become a thing of the past.

Since last Friday, industry spokesmen said there had been a distinct improvement in service both in hotel and restaurant dining rooms. One night club owner said he noted the first evidence of this last Friday night, "when the waiters again began talking to the customers instead of snubbing them."

A headwaiter related that about a month ago when he directed a waiter to return to the kitchen for something on an order, he was told: "I'm not going to wear out my shoe leather. I just used a ration stamp for these shoes and they have to last me another six months."

James A. McCarthy, executive secretary of the Hotel Association of New York City, also expressed the opinion that the hotel industry, hard hit by the manpower shortage, soon would take a new lease on life.

"I think it is obvious that there will be a definite untying of the knot," he said. "Not only will we have men and women getting out of the services but those coming out of war plants to pick from."

During the last ten days, he said, it had become increasingly noticeable that large numbers of persons were seeking hotel employment. The owner of one large hotel, he said, already had put former employes discharged from the services back operating elevators.

'CASINO' PULLMAN PLANNED

Car Will Have Series of Game Rooms With Sliding Panels

CHICAGO, Aug. 13 (AP) — A "Casino" car, providing entertainment facilities for railroad travelers, will be one of the new developments in the post-war world, Frank L. Murphy, chief engineer of the Pullman-Standard Car Manufacturing Company, said today.

The car will have a series of game rooms to provide recreation facilities. He said the accommodations could also be used by business men, writers and other passengers who want privacy and a place to work on daytime trips.

The "Casino" car, Mr. Murphy explained, consists of pairs of rooms with sliding panels between which may be rolled back to form a single spacious compartment fourteen feet long and seven feet wide. Furniture in each room consists of a deep-cushioned, three-place sofa and two upholstered barrel chairs.

For a fourth at bridge a folding chair is kept under the sofa. Tables with hinged legs are stored in lockers. Each room has a private radio and built-in lights for reading as well as Venetian blinds and full-length draperies.

DEATH SENTENCE STAYED

Slayer of Connecticut Jeweler Wins Commutation to Life

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

HARTFORD, Conn., Aug. 13—Under a rarely used provision of the law which permits a second hearing for offenders, the Board of Pardons, with Governor Baldwin presiding, voted today to commute the death sentence imposed on Royal Peterson, 21 years old, of Patchogue, L. I. for the murder of Matthew Wior, Manchester, Conn., jeweler during a holdup in February.

The commutation, to life imprisonment, makes Peterson eligible for parole in twenty years. Testimony, given in part by the prisoner's father, Elbert Peterson, of Patchogue, and his brother, Roger Peterson, of Huntington, L. I., that he had never been normal mentally, preceded the reversal of the board's stand.

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Plan Fight on Post-War Narcotics As Supplies Pile Up in the Orient

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13 (UP)—New international measures to prevent a post-war rise in drug addiction were recommended tonight by the Treasury's Narcotics Bureau.

In a report for 1944 on the traffic in opium and other dangerous drugs, the bureau said that important stocks of drugs were being held in certain countries by traffickers who awaited a chance to ship them to the United States for distribution.

Iran, India and Mexico were the chief sources of opium smuggled into the United States last year, it said. There was a sharp rise in opium seizures, especially at Atlantic ports and along the Mexican border.

63 Pounds Seized at Baltimore

The war has made natives of many countries conscious for the first time of the value of the drugs they hold. Despite restrictions on shipping, smugglers sent from India in October, 1944, the largest single seizure made by United States Customs officers in six years—sixty-three pounds of opium taken at Baltimore.

The report described this haul as "only a small indication" of the smuggled drugs that will swamp the country when shipping restrictions are lifted, unless nations producing drugs take remedial action.

The Judd Resolution, passed in July, 1944, provided for an international agreement by all countries growing the poppy, the source of opium. The agreement would restrict growing to medical and scientific needs.

"If the purposes of the resolution are accomplished, it will eliminate excessive production which is freely available in certain countries to the illicit traffic and thence for the gratification of addiction."

Increased Slightly in 1944

Morphine and heroin seizures increased only slightly in 1944, while the quantity of cocaine seized was less than in 1943. But the opium trade boomed.

Better methods of controlling drugs than existed during the first World War have not prevented a growth in their use. Operating on the theory that "opium, wherever produced, will always reach the consumer," the bureau believes that only control of the production sources will prevent widespread increases in drug smuggling and consumption.

At the start of the second World War the Narcotics Bureau had been directed to channel drugs for medical use to the armed forces, into legitimate civilian markets and for foreign relief. Distribution was arranged to prevent a repetition of the large unused stockpiles that existed in 1918.

2,875 FACE JOB LOSS IN CRAMP SHIPYARDS

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 13—H. B. Rossell, president of the Cramp Shipbuilding Company, announced today that due to the cutback of Navy shipbuilding contracts it would be necessary within a few weeks to lay off 2,875 of the company's 11,500 employes.

He said that company would try to prevent further layoffs by reducing working hours for certain employes, with corresponding reductions in pay. The company also asked the workers to volunteer to be laid off and 300 resigned this afternoon. All were given twenty hours' pay.

In Camden, N. J., John Green, international president of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, CIO, said that he had sent a telegram to President Truman, protesting the cutback. He told the President that there was no need "for the hasty cancellation of naval construction until there was an adequate reconversion program which would have given shipyard workers an opportunity to seek other employment."

In the meantime a large number of the city's industrial leaders and civic officials declared that they believed this area would be able to reconvert from war to peace with only a slight drop in employment. Yesterday Levy Anderson, area director of the War Manpower Commission, declared that industries already reconverted to the manufacture of civilian goods could absorb all those laid off at war plants.

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VALENTINE HAILS SEIZURE OF GANG

Promotes Detective Who Ran Down 4 Queens Thugs Accused of Slaying

Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine, after sending out a special order to 400 squad, district and borough commanders of detectives to gather in the line-up room at Police Headquarters yesterday morning, commended those who rounded up the Queens gang accused of the murder of a patrolman and a score of hold-ups, robberies and burglaries.

In police orders later, the Commissioner announced the promotion of Detective Lieutenant James Sabbatino, who got the first tip on the thugs, to acting captain of detectives.

After congratulating the detectives, the police head said he wanted "every detective in the city" to find out "how these bums learned that City Patrol Corps revolvers were stored in the William Cullen Bryant High School." The gang broke into the high school in Astoria and stole eighteen revolvers, using eight of them in the commission of their crimes and turning the others over to a fence.

"I want to know if someone in the school or someone in the City Patrol Corps tipped these bums off," the Commissioner told the assembled detectives. "They said they threw the guns they used to kill the patrolman into the East River from the Triborough Bridge.

"We are dragging the river now and we are determined to find those revolvers and learn how these four bums came to discover them."

The four, charged with homicide in connection with the fatal shooting of Patrolman Howard W. Hegerich as they were about to break into a diner in Creedmoor early on the morning of July 30, were held without bail in Queens Felony Court yesterday for a hearing Aug. 31. A special session of the Queens grand jury will be called the last week in August to take up the case.

Victor Gelsen, Louis Boyce and Robert Fish, the last named a sailor, were held on the homicide charge. A fourth member of the band, Raffaele Pellegrino who on Sunday had been booked on a charge of acting in concert, was held with them for homicide.

Joseph Mancuso, the fence, was held in $25,000 bail on a charge of receiving stolen goods. His case likewise was put over until Aug. 31. All five were remanded to Queens City Prison, Long Island City.

DEWEY PROPOSES TRIP IN NORTHERN COUNTIES

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ALBANY, Aug. 13—Governor Dewey has made tentative arrangements for a trip through several northern counties beginning Aug. 21. He is expected to make several speeches and confer with many Republican leaders.

No formal announcement of the Governor's tour has been made yet and it is subject to conditions which will prevail if the war ends soon.

Plans have been made for a Republican luncheon on Aug. 21 at Warrensburg, at which the Governor will address about 150 leaders and members of the party. He will proceed later to Saranac Lake. Visits to several county fairs also are on the tentative itinerary.

The trip will be the second of its kind by Mr. Dewey this year. Several months ago he visited Utica, Ithaca and Amsterdam, conferring with Republican leaders from those parts of the State.

In his talks to top men of the party on the coming trip, the Governor is expected to discuss, in detail, what his administration has done to prepare for reconversion. Those talks, it is understood, will serve as campaign material for the Republicans in the sections visited.

Both of the major parties in the State are planning unusually active campaigns for an off-year politically. At stake is the control of several large up-State cities, including Buffalo, Syracuse and Utica, in each of which the outcome of the Mayoralty elections is expected to be close.

Ubico Grants Reclaimed

By Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GUATEMALA, Aug. 13—The Guatemalan Government has canceled titles and has returned to Government domain parcels of land totaling 6,000 acres, given to high army officers and other supporters by Gen. Jorge Ubico in a decree issued in 1942, according to a report in the Mediodia.

Dr. H. A. Jones Killed in Crash

TORONTO, Aug. 13 (CP)—Two men were killed and three injured today in a head-on collision between a panel truck and an automobile on a highway six miles outside Toronto. Dead are Norman Andrew George, 49, of Toronto, driver of the truck, and Dr. Hiram A. Jones, of Delmar, N. Y. Dr. Jones, director of health education at the New York University, died a few minutes after being pulled from the wreckage. Injured were Mrs. Jones; their daughter, Patricia, 15, and a niece, Jean Jones, 15, of (Dutch Ridge Dr.) Beaver, Pa.

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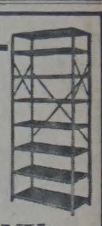

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