

### Judge Hits Easy Divorce, Marital Situation Low

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—(AP)—In an attack on easy divorce laws, Judge Michael F. Walsh of the New York State Supreme court, said last night that the nation's marital situation is lower than that of any other modern country, "even lower than that of Pagan Japan."

Addressing the Catholic Family Life conference, he said that in every state except one divorce statutes "have been enacted under which the marriage bond may be dissolved with ease and the husband and wife may remarry."

**Mythical Grounds**  
And in New York state, it is a "myth" to say that divorce may be obtained only on grounds of adultery, he said. He pointed out that a clever lawyer can produce a "one-minute play" to prove adultery, and that annulments may be obtained with comparative ease.

He pointed to a steady rise in divorces since 1933 and said that 3,312,000 were granted between 1925 and 1940.

"A nation strewn with broken homes—there is a depression, there is a national catastrophe, there is a moral decline that can end only in national disaster," he said.

**Common Causes**  
He said the common causes of the "plague of divorce" are:  
1. Ignorance of the sacredness and privilege of marriage.  
2. Hasty and unprepared—for marriages.  
3. Easy divorce laws and lax administration.

### INCOME TAX REFUNDS BEING MAILED DAILY BY REVENUE BUREAU

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—(AP)—The Internal Revenue bureau said today that income tax refunds now are being paid almost as fast as returns are filed.

The speed-up plan will save the government several million dollars because taxpayers collect six per cent interest when their refunds are delayed past March.

In 1943, the first year withholding was in effect, it cost the government \$22,000,000 in interest charges on refunds because it took about a year to pay all the money back.

Refunds were finished in seven months in 1944 and the interest payments dropped to \$17,000,000. This year the bureau expects to clean up the job within three months after March 15.

### Charged in Assault



HANGING his head, 29-year-old grocer Frank Lobaido of Detroit hears himself charged with assault with intent to kill little 7-year-old Rosalie Giganti. The youngster, found behind Lobaido's store with her throat slashed, dramatically pointed him out from a hospital bed as her assailant. (International)

### MOONSHINE WANES, SMUGGLING JUMPS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Moonshining waned, counterfeiting almost stopped, but smuggling jumped sharply as word trade and travel shifted toward a peacetime basis in late 1945.

That was the trend noted by the Treasury tonight in a report on its law enforcement activities.

Seizures of all types of smuggled commodities, with particular emphasis on diamonds, furs and watches, leaped to 17,009 in 1945 compared with 10,215 in 1944.

**Banned Articles**  
While acknowledging that banned articles mailed by servicemen from overseas were included in the seizures, the Treasury cited as principal causes of the smuggling increase:

1. "The disposition of travellers to attempt to bring in or export scarce — commodities from beef-steak to nylons and automobile tires in violation of wartime regulations"
2. "In the closing months, conventional smuggling growing out of relaxed conditions of trade and travel." However, it was noted that liquor seizures declined as the U. S. supply situation eased."

**Liquor Seizures Down**  
Secret service said it stopped what were apparently the only two attempts to make counterfeit money bills during the year, one in Washington, D. C. and one in St. Petersburg, Fla. Only one bill got into circulation in the two ventures, it said.

**Counterfeit Bills**  
Losses to the public from circulation of counterfeit bills and coins dropped to a new low of \$25,866 in 1945, compared with \$28,067 in 1944, Secret Service Chief Frank Wilson reported. In some years of

the middle '30's such losses ran to more than \$1,000,000 a year.

Seizure of illicit whisky stills dropped from 7,762 in 1944 to 7,521 in 1945 and arrests of moonshiners from 11,911 in 1944 to 9,492 last year, with 14 southern states held responsible for about 90 per cent of both.

**Materials Short**  
The decline in moonshining was attributed largely to shortage of materials.

Convictions for violations of narcotics laws rose slightly, from 10,888 in 1944 to 11,012, in 1945.

One of the activities which customs officers foiled was an exten-

sive plot to export critically scarce truck tires from Florida to Cuba. The report related that the conspirators sought to evade export regulations by mounting the new tires on decrepit automobiles and then shipping the autos. The "wrecks" were driven or towed through mud to conceal the newness of the tires, customs said.

**LIEUTENANT KILLED**

NEW BERN, Feb. 7.—First Lt. Everett H. Parker, of the Army Air Forces, was killed January 27 in an airplane accident on Okinawa, according to word received here by his aunt, Mrs. W. H. House. He resided at Norfolk.

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### Obituaries

**JOHN BETHEL LONG**  
TABOR CITY, Feb. 7. — John Bethel Long, retired merchant of the Mollie section, died at his home Wednesday night at 11 o'clock. He suffered a stroke several weeks ago and remained in a critical condition until his death.

He was born August 29, 1873, the son of the late Rev. John Long and Annie Jane Long. He served as council commander of the W. O. W. lodge of Tabor City for several years and was an active member of the Bethel Methodist church where funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

The body will lie in state one hour before the funeral.

Rev. Joseph Coble, his pastor, will officiate and interment will be in the Bethel cemetery.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Van R. Powell of Cheraw, S. C., and Mrs. John Anderson of Whiteville, one son, J. B. Long, Jr., of Whiteville, three sisters, Mrs. G. R. Todd of Mollie, Mrs. J. P. Gore of Nakina and Mrs. D. J. Robinson of Rocky Mount, five brothers, C. W. Long of Wilmington, D. T. of Shallotte, Marvin of Andrews, S. C., Joe of Columbia, S. C., and Q. B. of Rt. 1, Clarendon.

Mr. Long was the father of the late Mrs. W. N. Williams who was killed in an auto accident about two years ago.

**MRS. A. M. BECK**  
Funeral services for Mrs. A. M. Beck, 79-year-old Winnabow resident who died in a local hospital last night, will be conducted this afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Lebanon Baptist church with the Rev. Woodrow Robbins, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

The funeral cortege will leave Harrell-Coble Funeral home at 1 o'clock.

Active pallbearers will be I. S. Willetts, J. E. Swain, G. W. Swain, H. H. Simmons, Dewey Lewis and Charlie Sellers. Honorary pallbearers will include M. B. Robbins, G. C. Arp, D. J. Ward, M. E. Robbins, George Hart and Mr. Meekins.

She is survived by her husband, four sons: L. A., Wilmington; A. W., Newport News, Va.; Z. V., Florence, S. C. and E. C., Raleigh. Two daughters, Mrs. E. M. Davis, Greensboro and Mrs. H. R. Hinson, Wilmington also survive. A sister, Mrs. Y. C. Rich, Wilmington survives. Ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren survive.

**MARTHA E. GARRISON**  
Funeral services for Mrs. Martha Evalena Garrison, 74, who died at her Wrightsville Sound residence at 1:30 a. m., Wednesday, will be held at 3:30 p. m., today at the Yopp Funeral home.

The Rev. H. S. Strickland and the Rev. Walter Noe will officiate. Interment will follow in the old Phoenix cemetery in Brunswick county.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. R. L. Garner, Wrightsville Sound, and three grandchildren.

**J. H. BOSTICK**  
Mrs. Edward Schulken, Sr., of Oleander Court apartments, has

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been notified of the death of her brother, J. H. Bostick on February 6, at Bakersfield, California.

Funeral rites for him have been set for today at Greenlawn chapel, Bakersfield. He was well known in Wilmington having at one time served as freight agent for the Atlantic Coast Line railroad here.

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