

Drug Swindler a Suicide



PHILIP M. MUSICA (As Police Knew Him)

Oct. 29, 1909—Age 31, and a clerk living at 1886 E. 18th St., Brooklyn. Convicted of grand larceny in United States Court. Sentenced to one year, fined \$5,000. Committed to Elmira Reformatory.

March 19, 1913—Arrested on a charge of grand larceny. The case revolved about an alleged swindle of \$2,000,000.

March 27, 1916—Judge Delahanty suspended sentence in General Sessions.

April 27, 1920—Arrested on a perjury charge in connection with the murder of Barnett Baff, poultry dealer, in Washington Market. The indictment dismissed in 1929 on recommendation of Joab Banton, then District Attorney.

FRANK DONALD COSTER (As He is Listed in 'Who's Who')

Born: Washington, D. C., May 12, 1884. Son of Frank Donald and Marie (Girard) Coster; Ph. D. University of Heidelberg, 1909, M. D., 1911. Married Carol Jenkins Schiefelin, of Jamaica, L. I., May 1, 1921.

Practicing physician New York City, 1912-1914; president of Girard & Co., Inc., 1914-1926. President of McKesson & Robbins, drug manufacturers, since 1926; director of Bridgeport City Trust Co. and Fairfield Trust Co., Methodist.

Club: New York Yacht, Bankers, Lotos, Advertising (New York); University, Black Rock Yacht (Bridgeport), Brooklawn Country. Home: Fairfield, Conn. Office: McKesson & Robbins, Bridgeport, Conn.

(Central Press)

FRANCE WILL AID ENGLAND IF ATTACKED

All Forces of Nation On Land, Sea and In Air Would Be Thrown Into Action, Foreign Minister Tells Deputies; England Would Help France, Too

Paris, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Foreign Minister Georges Bonnet told the Chamber of Deputies today that in case of unprovoked aggression, "all the forces of France on land, on the sea and in the air, would at once be utilized for the defense of Great Britain."

During a brief review of foreign affairs, Bonnet made plain that France at the same time expects Great Britain to do likewise for her. "The foundation of our diplomatic action remains the Franco-British entente," he said. "If one of the two nations should be the object of unprovoked aggression, the other certainly would not hesitate to come to her aid."

"How could it be otherwise when it is a question of two nations like France and Britain, whose relations, following the expression of Chamberlain, are so close they surpass simple juridical obligations because they are founded on an identity of interests."

The foreign minister's statement came as numerous French groups were organizing a "no surrender" bloc to fight what they feared was a plan to surrender part or all of French and British Somaliland to Italy.

"We believe that the war would end soon if foreign states left the Spanish lone face to face," Bonnet told the deputies.

The minister's brief declaration resulted in immediate passage without debate of the budget for his ministry. The "no surrender" bloc united Strange bed-fellows—communists, Cuban proposal for mediation in royalists and independent centrists—in opposition to cession of any East African colonies to Italy.

Birth Excess About Same In Two Years

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In The Sir Walter Hotel.

Raleigh, Dec. 19.—North Carolina's net population increase for the first eleven months of this year, by reason of excess births over deaths is almost the same as last year's increase for the corresponding period, according to a recapitulation of monthly reports issued by the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Board of Health.

From January 1 through November 30, 1938, births exceeded deaths in North Carolina by 42,343, while for the same period in 1937 the net increase was 42,467, making the difference just 124 in favor of last year.

The 6,053 births reported for November, brought this year's total of stork visitations to 72,875, as compared with 64,233 for November and 73,170 for the first eleven months of 1937.

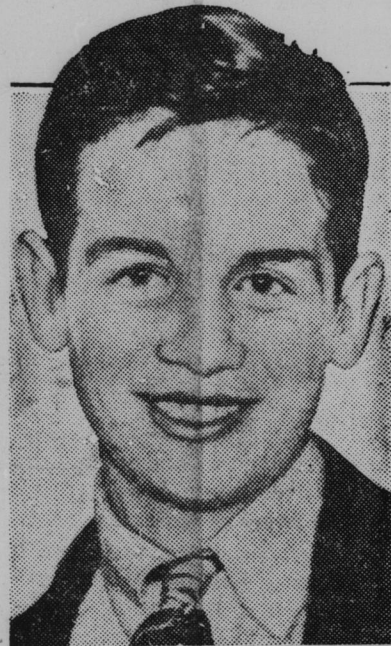
On the death side of the ledger the 2,462 reported for last month made this year's total 30,532 against 27,621 for November and 30,703 for the first eleven months last year.

The November birth total was the smallest reported during 1938, while the death toll was less in only one other month, September, when there were only 2,412 reported.

Oddly enough, the drop to the lowest birth total followed directly on the heels of the largest number in any month, with October's 7,187 births the

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On Mercy Mission



Recovered from streptococcus viridans, one of few victims in hospital history who have survived the rare blood disease, Robert Billings (above) was to fly to New York to give blood to a stricken woman he had never seen. The 14-year-old Quincy, Mass., boy responded to a national appeal for donors.

(Central Press)

Spanish War Mediation Is Rejected

Pan-American Group at Lima Turns Down Cuban Proposal; Landon's Speech Highly Distasteful to Argentine Delegation At Conference

Lima, Peru, Dec. 19.—(AP)—The eighth Pan-American Conference's steering committee killed today a Cuban proposal for mediation in the Spanish civil war by a vote of 13 to 3.

The Cuban project would have sought an immediate armistice, after which American nations, chiefly the Spanish-speaking states, would have offered mediation. Chief objection was that the plan constituted an attempt to involve the western hemisphere in the affairs of Europe at a time when the conference was seeking means of keeping European hands off purely American problems. Only Haiti and Mexico voted with Cuba for the proposal.

The conference moved nearer action on the issue of continental solidarity and defense when it was announced that the Brazilian delegation, headed by ex-Foreign Minister Afranio Mello Franco, had completed his formula for such action.

Meanwhile, conferences delegates expressed belief that Alf M. Landon's speech emphasizing the Monroe Doctrine was highly distasteful to Argentine, which already had differences with the United States on the question of continental solidarity and

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\$4,000,000 Diversion Is Used By Friend And Foe

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In The Sir Walter Hotel.

Raleigh, Dec. 19.—The battle over a constitutional amendment banning diversion of highway funds in North Carolina is featuring the rather unusual picture of both sides using the same undisputed facts and figures as the basis for their arguments pro and con.

"This is particularly true of the \$4,000,000 in gasoline tax revenue which it is admitted on all sides has been diverted by the State to other purposes than construction and maintenance of highways."

Opponents of the amendment are citing it as almost insignificant in comparison with the highway revenues which might have been made the subject of diversion. They contend that the fact only \$4,000,000 has ever been diverted proves that the amendment is not needed to protect North Carolina's highway revenues.

On the other hand, proponents of the amendment point out that \$4,000,000 would have built or maintained a long stretch of highway; while they further declare that if one million, or two millions or four millions can be diverted in one year, as has been the case, it is quite possible for any legislature to divert any amount it happens to see fit.

In a recent address in favor of the amendment, Harry Tucker, director of highway engineering at State College, and chairman of the North Carolina Highway Users Conference, told a Burlington civic club: "Four million will surface 1,600 miles of road at a cost of \$2,500 per mile. It is well to think what this expenditure on dusty and friable roads would have meant to users."

"And if one million can be diverted in one year, it is possible to divert any amount. It is quite conceivable that under the multitudinous demands now being made upon government for funds, the legislature will need the strength of a constitutional amendment to preserve intact the highway funds."

Japan Sees Threat From Loan By U.S.

\$25,000,000 Credit to China Called "Very Dangerous Political Gesture" by Foreign Minister at Tokyo; Calls It "Regrettable Act"

Tokyo, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Foreign Minister Hiroshi Arata today declared that the \$25,000,000 loan granted China by the United States export-import bank would be a "very dangerous political gesture."

"The loan necessarily will lead to prolongation of the (Chinese-Japanese) conflict and naturally to the inconvenience of third powers," Arata asserted at his first press conference since induction into office October 29. He termed the loan "an inopportune and regrettable act on the part of the United States, which thus far has acted with understanding. If as the United States press reports, it is a political gesture on the part of the United States against Japan, I think that would be a very dangerous political gesture."

"Japan may regard the loan as really intended as a form of economic pressure by a powerful economic unit. It would prove quite contrary to what is expected from the United States."

In response to questions, however, he said he was "rather inclined not to regard it as a political gesture." But he asserted that "at least the Japanese people undoubtedly will find in this new grounds for strengthening the proposed new order in east Asia," through which the Japanese have indicated their intention of linking Japan, China and Manchoukuo in an economic and political bloc.

Japan Attempting To Rid China Area Of Guerrilla Band

Shanghai, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Marking a turning point in Japan's invasion of China, Japanese punitive expeditions today are beginning a widespread attempt to clean up guerrilla bands infesting already-occupied regions, instead of extending the lines of the Japanese conquest. Their aim is to smash guerrilla bases and disperse the bands of hit-and-run fighters now estimated to total 800,000 roving the Yangtze river valley.

While admitting the possibility a combination of Chinese resistance over extended lines and Japanese disorganization may have bogged down Japan's military machine in the far interior, foreign observers believed the Japanese have achieved their objectives for the moment, and now intend to consolidate their gains.

Anthony Eden Made Big Hit With Capital

By CHARLES P. STEWART Central Press Columnist

Washington, Dec. 19.—Anthony Eden got a good bit of education in American reporters' and cameramen's ways while he was in this country.

He had an excellent professor at it in the person of "Ty" Krum of the Federal Housing Administration's publicity staff. Incidentally Krum got a fine line of housing advertising out of the Eden visit. He knew very well that Britain has a housing problem of its own on the griddle and surmised Anthony would be interested in what were being done in the same direction. Accordingly, even before the latter had sailed for this side of the Atlantic Ty cabled and made a date with him, to give him a once over at our activities.

As soon, then, as ex-Foreign Minister Eden had arrived and disposed of his speech before the National Manufacturers' Association, Krum was on hand with Administrator Strauss to show him the sights of New York slum elimination.

They had him all to themselves for about two hours. That is, they had him all to themselves except for a sizable army of reporters and news photographers, and they wanted these, to accompany them; that was the essence.

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WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Fair tonight and Tuesday; slightly colder tonight; slightly warmer in mountains Tuesday.

ROOSEVELT TO ASK BROADER SECURITY ACT

Eats \$50 Check



Admitting she swallowed a check for over fifty dollars to protect a male companion suspected of robbery, Mrs. Lillian Silvier, 20 (above), was given a six-month suspended sentence after being found guilty of larceny by Boston court. The arrest led to reconciliation with her husband of two months, Arthur Silvier.

(Central Press)

Washington, Dec. 19.—(AP)—President Roosevelt intends to ask Congress early in January to extend and strengthen the social security act. White House officials said today that a chief executive intended to send a special message "relative to the extension of coverage and the strengthening of provisions of the social security act."

Presumably the message will transmit to Congress a copy of the report carrying recommendations of the advisory council. The council made public Saturday recommendations that the insurance coverage be widely extended.

White House officials said possibly national defense also would be the subject for a special message, but that has not yet been determined.

Mr. Roosevelt called in a group of government officials today to discuss defense problems. Those on the list were Chairman Edward J. Noble and Robert Hinkley, of the civil aeronautics Authority; Louis Johnson, assistant secretary of war, and Aubrey Williams, deputy WPA administrator.

There were indications that President Roosevelt would embrace railroad recommendations in his general message. The railroad situation also engaged his attention today in a conference with Carl Gray and George Harrison, members of a special board which is attempting to find some solution for the plight of the carriers.

Arms Plot Of Musicas Under Probe

Smuggling Activities of Drug Firm Not Entirely Uncovered Yet, Officials Think

New York, Dec. 19.—(AP)—A Boston lawyer swore today that he drafted at the behest of F. Donald Coster—Philip Musica, a contract for the purchase of Lee-Enfield rifles by McKesson & Robbins, Inc., and Standard Oil of England.

The lawyer, Fredrick Wingersky, made his statement to assistant State Attorney General Ambrose McCall, conducting an inquiry into the affairs of the \$87,000,000 corporation. Coster-Musica committed suicide Friday after he had been exposed as a notorious swindler a quarter century ago.

At the same time, Brian McMahon, as a United States attorney general, arriving from Washington, described Coster-Musica as probably "the biggest illicit liquor dealer in the country." McMahon came here to coordinate the investigation of Federal agencies interested in ferreting out the mystery behind Coster-Musica and the \$18,000,000 shortage in the firm's crude drugs department, which he operated.

New York, Dec. 19.—(AP)—The Federal government opened a coordinated inquiry today into a vast international arms smuggling plot which officials predicted would net co-conspirators "equally as important" as Philip Musica, arch swindler of his time.

As authorities began an extended probe into the \$18,000,000 shortage in the crude drug department of the McKesson and Robbins corporation, which was "milked," they said, to provide funds for the smuggling enterprise, Musica himself lay in a Brook-

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High Court Will Pass On Income Taxes

Washington, Dec. 19.—(AP)—The Supreme Court agreed today to pass on litigation to test the right of a state to collect an income tax from employees of federal agencies. Directly at issue was an attempt by New York to assess a tax against the \$8,246 salary received in 1934 by J. B. O'Keefe as attorney for the Federal Home Owner's Loan Corporation.

The New York court of Appeals ruled that the attorney was performing a federal function and that his salary could not be taxed by the state. The tribunal adjourned until January 3, without passing on constitutionality of the Tennessee Valley Authority's power program for the right of a state to ratify after rejecting the proposed constitutional amendment to abolish child labor.

Tributes to the late Justice Benjamin N. Cardozo, who died last July, were paid by Chief Justice Hughes and Attorney General Cummings.

Hungary Is Cutting Down On The Jews

Budapest, Hungary, Dec. 19.—(AP)—New restrictions on Hungary's Jews possibly limiting their voting rights, were in prospect today as the cabinet gave final touches to a bill for the control of Jews to be introduced in Parliament Friday.

This coincided with the arrival of Count Galeazzo, Italian foreign minister, who came, the Budapest official press said, to give Hungary the benefit of "fascist experience" in

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Italy Determined To Get New Colonies In Africa

Rome, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Italy took another important step toward economic self-sufficiency today as an authoritative publication forecast the nation would win her territorial claims against France within ten months.

Premier Mussolini returned to Naples after inaugurating at Carbonia, Sardinia, an extensive new coal field which fascists hope will cut down considerably Italy's long-time dependence on foreign fuel.

The organ of the Institute for Study of International Policy asserted

in its current issue that: "The year XVII of the fascist era (this year ends October 28, 1939) will see the settlement of accounts between Italy and France, and once again life will conquer decadent conservatism."

The article predicted French rejection of Italian claims, but said France "will have a lost cause." "No one doubts Italy will enter immediately into action and with her (the Rome-Berlin) axis," it said. "All barriers will be demolished and all obstacles will be surmounted."

Germany As Partner Is London Plan

Only in That Way Can Welfare of Europe Be Advanced, Chamberlain Tells Commons; Won't Cede African Territory, Premier Asserts

London, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Prime Minister Chamberlain told the House of Commons today that Nazi Germany "must be taken in as a partner" to insure Europe's peace and progress.

In a vigorous defense of his foreign policy, the prime minister also declared that there was "no sort of difficulty or difference" between the United States and Britain, "which gives us the slightest shade or cause for anxiety."

Chamberlain flatly denied reports that he intended to cede British Somaliland to Italy. He said "no such suggestion" had been made by Italy.

In face of a Labor demand for a vote of censure on the government's post-Munich maneuvers, Chamberlain stuck to his guns. He declared he never would take the responsibility for entering war "unless it is forced upon me by the madness of others," and defended his course of "appeasement" both before and after the Munich accord of September 29.

Of Germany he said "we have the

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Farm View On New Deal Is Clouded

Rejection of Marketing Controls by Tobacco Growers Saturday Speculated on

Washington, Dec. 19.—(AP)—The farmers' attitude toward the New Deal's agricultural program appeared clouded today by rejection of tobacco marketing controls shortly after quotas had been approved for cotton. Administration critics argued that the crop control law had been repudiated by growers in fourteen states who defeated marketing quotas Saturday for burley and dark type tobacco.

A majority was returned in behalf of the controls, but the favorable vote of two-thirds of the participating farmers as required by law, was lacking. Producers of flue-cured tobacco

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5 days till Christmas SHOP EARLY