

FIERY DEATH IN RACE ENDS SPECTACULAR CAREER OF BILL ODOM

RUSHING TO ODOM CRASH SCENE Odom's Last Trophy WHERE ODOM DIED IN CRASH



FAMED AVIATRIX Jacqueline Cochran, who owned the F-51 Mustang in which William P. (Bill) Odom, 30, plunged to his death, weeps hysterically as she is led to the scene of the accident, in Cleveland. The flier was competing in the Thompson Trophy Race of the National Air Races when his plane crashed into a house. (International Soundphoto)



ROUND-THE-WORLD flier Bill Odom is shown with his trophy after winning the Soho Trophy Race at the National Air Races in Cleveland, a few days before crashing to his death. Odom was piloting the same plane in the Thompson Trophy event when the ship plunged into a house, exploding and starting a fierce blaze. (International)



EMERGENCY RESCUE workers quench the flames after Bill Odom's plane, out of control, plunged into the building. The veteran pilot, flying in the Thompson Trophy Race at the Cleveland National Air Races, was killed in the crash, together with Mrs. Jeanne Laird. Her 13-month-old son, Craig, died later of his severe burns. (International Soundphoto)

Growing Drug Plants New Farm Activity

By PAUL F. ELLIS
United Press Science Writer
NEW YORK (UPI)—A new field of farming, that of growing plants to make drugs, seems to be coming up.
The center of activity is in Arkansas, where Dr. O. K. Cosla, formerly of Romania, plans to cultivate drug-producing plants, many of which grow wild in the backwoods of that state.
Dr. Cosla believes the Arkansas farmer soon may begin supplying the nation with such drugs as belladonna, a narcotic; stramonium, a drug processed from dried jimson weed which gives relief to

asthma sufferers; and erio, used to control blood hemorrhages and as an anesthetic.

PLANTS ALSO PRODUCE HEART STIMULANT

Foxglove, a dotted white and purple tubular flower whose leaves bear the powerful heart stimulant digitalis, also will be grown in Dr. Cosla's medical garden. In a report in the magazine Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, Dr. Cosla said that to determine the best conditions for growing each plant, he will test them in hydroponic installations. In such a technique, the roots are immersed in a water solution containing mineral nutrients, instead of soil.
The technique is similar to that used by some Florida farmers, who get several crops of cucumbers or tomatoes each year through hydroponic farming.

SOUTHERN STATES SEEN AS DRUG-FARM CENTER

With further development of the

Judge Blasts Maryland Gallows After James Execution Is Bungled

By DON JENNINGS
United Press Staff Correspondent
BALTIMORE (UPI)—If the defendant is convicted, asked Judge Benjamin M. Moser, would the prosecution seek the death penalty?
The state's attorney replied that he would not.

"That relieves the court considerably," said Judge Moser, disturbed over the bungled execution of Eugene James a few days earlier.
The knot of the hangman's noose slipped when James, a 32-year-old Negro, dropped through the trap. The knot caught under his chin and he dangled in agony as a prison physician tried to ease the pain with a morphine injection.

Screaming, groaning and writhing convulsively, James at one point reached one hand near his throat and almost succeeded in getting his fingers inside the noose. Fifteen long minutes after the trap was sprung, and still hanging from the rope, James died by strangulation.

Opposes Gallows
Judge Moser, who had sentenced James for the slaying of an 11-year-old girl, made it clear in a statement from the bench that he felt the time had come to get rid of the gallows.

"During the past 30 days three men whom I had tried, convicted and sentenced, paid the supreme penalty—and one of them died under horrible circumstances," the judge said.

"This should not happen, even occasionally," Moser called on the legislature to consider "other methods that can carry out the mandate of the court with greater decency and efficiency."

The Baltimore News-Post suggested the state "modernize" its execution system with the gas chamber or electric chair.
"Eugene James was sentenced to death, but not to torture," the newspaper said in an editorial which recalled this wasn't the first time the noose had slipped at the Maryland Penitentiary.

Calls For Action
The James "spectacle," the News-Post said, "should end an era in the marred history of legal executions in Maryland."

"Experience has shown," it continued, "that the hanging method of execution does not sufficiently attenuate the condemned man from the possibility of frightful torture not contemplated by the law and reminiscent of the savage drug farms. Dr. Cosla believes that the southern states eventually can become one of the nations' principal drug farming and manufacturing centers, thus diverting to the area millions of dollars now spent annually on imports."

It was such importation by the United States that brought Dr. Cosla to this country. His first experiments are being conducted at the College of the Ozarks, Clarksville, Ark.

IODINE NOW RECOVERED FROM SPOUTING OIL

In another report in Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, it has been disclosed that large supplies of iodine can be obtained from spouting oil wells.

The report points out that recovering iodine from oil wells started in 1926 in Louisiana, but has now expanded into a vast coast industry that today supplies almost half of the 1,500,000 pounds of iodine which America uses each year.

It was reported further that utilization of iodine-bearing oil brine also prevents its contamination of west coast water and killing of fish.

Eye Men Want Hunters To Take Better Aim

DENVER (UPI)—Colorado hunters may have to take an eye examination to get their hunting permits.

State officials are studying a proposal made by the Colorado Optometric Association to set up a visual screening test for getting licenses.

The optometrists said they made the proposal because of the "appalling accident and death rate" of hunters.

"When I was a prosecuting attorney," Sybert took occasion to remark, "I often had thought that the method of execution used here

was somewhat barbarous at times."

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Original Incubator Baby Wants It as Souvenir

CHICAGO (UPI)—Perle Mathers, who was America's first incubator baby, wants that incubator for his 59th birthday.

The incubator, first ever used in this country, saved Mathers' life after he was born Sept. 14, 1890. At birth, he weighed one pound. He was only eight inches long.

Just as doctors despair of keeping him alive, the incubator he now wants arrived in New York from France. It was sent to him and he was transferred to it from the cotton-lined chair box which had been his bed.

The incubator disappeared, however, after having been shown at the Columbian Exposition here in 1893 and later at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

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