

WOMAN FOUND SLAIN, BROTHER ARRESTED

Today's Weather—COLDER.

"If It Happens In New York
It's In The Evening World"

The

Evening

World

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PRESIDENT VISITS POPE TO-DAY

300 Still Aboard as Stranded Ship Calls Fireboat

PROPERTY OWNERS IGNORED BY ASSESSORS, SAYS SPITZER; HARVEST REAPED BY LAWYERS

Even Blunders by Board in Special Levies Costly to Victim.

RICH "HONEST GRAFF." Appeal Useless, as Man Who Placed Charge Sits in Final Judgment.

Ernest Spitzer of No. 350 West 160th Street, who has just resigned his position in the Board of Assessors, after twenty years of service because, as he stated in his curt letter of resignation to Mayor Hylan, he had failed in his attempts to correct certain evils in the tax system of the city, was more forceful than ever in his statements of corrupt practices when interviewed today. He went on at some length to show how the property owners and tax and assessment payers were left entirely unprotected by the very officials who are supposed to safeguard their interests.

The property owners, in fact, is ignored. His protests unheeded, while even blunders by the assessors of special assessment are righted only after division with lawyers.

"The promptness with which The Evening World used its columns to expose the existing conditions in our Municipal Government—conditions that I hate to see any of our citizens will hesitate to believe can exist," said Mr. Spitzer, "is characteristic of that paper's policy and should prove as an incentive to other publications."

"I have read the result of the interview with Mr. Ormand," he continued, "and notice that he does not deny the charges made. When he states that no complaint was ever made during the nine years of his membership on the Board of Assessors, he seems to have forgotten that in 1915 some clerks in the office did make complaints in connection with the Brooklyn sewer that was over-assessed by more than \$77,000; that a hearing was had by the board, that testimony was taken at this hearing, but that for some reason or other nothing happened."

ALWAYS RELY UPON PUBLIC TO FORGET. "He probably also forgot that the former Board of Estimate and Apportionment did not quite approve the activities of the assessors in making numerous reductions when it made it necessary for the assessors to obtain the Board of Estimate's sanction before making any substantial reductions in assessments."

"Some public officials always find solace in an accepted axiom," continued Spitzer, "namely, that those exposures are only 'nine-day wonders,' and nothing more happens after that. Let us hope that through the manifest interest of The Evening World in this matter our more or less inactive Civic Association will rally to aid in the necessary remedial work."

"The power of taxation is regarded everywhere as a sacred right and the manipulation, forcing or distorting of figures in connection therewith, having for its effect the taking of money out of the pockets of the small taxpayers, that rightfully belongs to the owners, should be speedily discouraged."

"When a practice works as a public advantage it is well known to the profession lawyers' will..."

NEW YORK TO PAY TRIBUTE TO JOFFRE ON 67TH BIRTHDAY

Birthday Celebration Will Be Held at St. Mark's-in-the-Bowery To-Day.

THIS is the sixty-seventh birthday of Marshal Joffre, who first "stopped them at the Marne."

The anniversary will be celebrated throughout France, doubtless in many parts of England, and also in New York City.

The local celebration will be held at St. Mark's-in-the-Bowery, 10th Street, west of Second Avenue, with the French Consul General, Gaston Liebert, presiding.

French officers will speak and opera stars will sing the "Marseillaise" and other French patriotic songs. Money raised by the church for the fatherless children of France will be presented.

GIRL BASKETBALL "ROOTER" KILLED AS AUTO TURNS OVER

Fordham Players Thrown From Machine as It Rounds Curve After Game.

An automobile filled with basketball enthusiasts got out of control when it reached a curve in Carpenter Avenue, near 213th Street, the Bronx, at 1:30 A. M. today and turned over, killing Miss Grace Ziegler, sixteen, a high school student living at No. 3257 Hill Avenue, Bronx.

There was a basketball contest between the Fordham College team and that of the Mount Vernon High School at Mount Vernon. Miss Ziegler was one of the Fordham rooters who attended. With her in the automobile on the return trip were James Quinn, 1824 Street and Tibout Avenue; James O'Grady, No. 42 West Fordham Road; John J. Ryan, No. 2307 Creation Avenue; and Richard Schultz, No. 2202 University Avenue. All were Fordham students, and Schultz was a member of the basketball team.

The car belongs to William McDonnell, No. 1123 Tinton Avenue, and was driven by John G. Gaereta of No. 29 East 119th Street. It was going at a good clip when it turned over, throwing all out except Miss Ziegler, who was pinned under it. When the young man lifted it, the girl was dead. She was a daughter of William A. O'Grady & Co., machine builders, No. 491 East 163d Street.

WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH. Exploding Lamp Covers Aged Mrs. Hand With Blazing Oil.

WOMAN MURDERED AFTER A QUARREL; BROTHER ARRESTED

Five-Year-Old Son Gives Alarm and Accuses His Uncle.

DISPUTE OVER A WILL.

Child Says Man Demanded Father's Testamentary Document, Mother Refused.

After a brief quarrel with her brother, Mrs. Rita Plister was found dead last night, a bullet wound in her head, at her home, No. 10 Earl Court, Woodhaven, L. I. The brother, Richard Plister, of No. 54 Barby Street, Brooklyn, was arrested on a charge of homicide. He is forty years old, the slain woman thirty. The quarrel was over the will of their father.

Mrs. Zahner's five-year-old son Richard informed the neighbors of the tragedy. He ran into the nearest house, crying: "I told Dick he shot Mamma!"

The neighbors informed the police and Plister was apprehended at his home two hours later.

The child said Plister had demanded that Mrs. Zahner surrender to him their father's will, which she refused to do.

An ambulance was called from St. Mary's Hospital in Jamaica and Dr. Edward Rubin pronounced the woman dead.

Her husband was not at home at the time of the shooting. He returned about midnight and was prostrated with grief.

At the Richmond Hill Police Station, Plister said his father, Richard Plister, left a considerable estate and that he and his sister had frequently quarreled over it. Asked why he carried a revolver when he visited her, he said she had told him frequent hold-ups had been reported in the neighborhood of her home.

Detective Caponata said he found towels stained with blood, the murderer having washed his hands before leaving the house. He said the shooting had been done at very close range and that the bullet had penetrated Mrs. Zahner's head at her right temple. He found a .38-caliber revolver on the floor of the Zahner dining room near where Mrs. Zahner was lying.

FIRE IN SWIFT'S PLANT. A fire starting at 8 A. M. today threatened the \$100,000 plant of Swift Co. on the Kearny Meadows, near Kearny, N. J. A general alarm brought all the fire apparatus from the surrounding district.

The blaze started in the boiler building, one of the many iron structures in the group, and was being fought by a high class fire department. Explosions, the cause of alarm to the crew, it is not yet known whether any was at work in the building.

ONLY STRETCHER CASES ON NORTHERN PACIFIC

SOCIETY WOMEN AIDING RESCUERS AT STRANDED SHIP SCENE



Miss MARION HOLLINS, Mrs. HARRY HOLLINS, Mrs. R. POTTS and Mrs. CHARLES MORGAN (kneeling). SOCIETY WOMEN SERVING HOT COFFEE AND SANDWICHES. Photo by World Staff Photographer.

YOUNG VANDERBILT WANTS TO ENTER WEST POINT

Richest Private Soldier in America May Remain in Army as an Officer.

TACOMA, Jan. 4.—Cornelius Vanderbilt Jr., perhaps the wealthiest bank private in the American Army, left Camp Lewis on a thirty-day furlough yesterday. It is said that he will go East and later enter West Point.

Private Vanderbilt went to France as orderly to his father, Brig. Gen. Cornelius Vanderbilt, and came with him to Camp Lewis.

He enlisted in 1917 when still under age and trained at Camp Wadsworth, At Camp Lewis his chief pal was Private Capriano Andrade III, of New York. Young Andrade has won much success as a writer.

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Condition of Men Makes Rescue in Rough Sea Almost Hopeless—Believed Now Transport Can Be Saved.

A wireless dispatch received early today by the Naval Communication Office at Hoboken read:

"The Northern Pacific reports she has 300 stretcher cases aboard, instead of the 100 previously reported."

"The Captain requests that you secure the services of a Sandy Hook power fireboat to proceed to her at once, also that three lighters of a medium draft of not exceeding eight feet be sent to her to take off the army baggage."

There was no explanation of the message. There was a slight fire aboard the Northern Pacific yesterday, which was reported put out by a bucket brigade. Also the number left aboard had been given at 200.

Capt. L. J. Connelly, commander of the Northern Pacific, sent out this wireless last night:

U. S. S. Northern Pacific, 7 P. M., Jan. 3, 1919. The World, N. Y. All passengers safely sent to various ships standing by today except 200 stretcher cases that could not be handled safely on account of the state of the sea and the care necessary in handling these men. Weather permitting they will be debarked tomorrow along with such men as the crew as can be spared. No apprehension need be felt for the safety of the remaining on board.

WILSON OPENS CONFERENCES ON PEACE WITH STATESMEN IN UNITED STATES EMBASSY

Hopes to Make Important Progress To-Day—Officially Made a Citizen of Rome—Will Visit Genoa Sunday—Leaves for Paris Monday.

ROME, Jan. 4.—Woodrow Wilson, who is President of the United States when away from the Eternal City but who is officially a citizen of Rome while here, continued today to receive the plaudits of the great Italian nation.

The President was given a continual ovation today when he drove, in semi-state, from the Quirinal, the home of the King, to the American Embassy, where he was the luncheon guest of American Ambassador Thomas Nelson Page.

The luncheon had been so arranged that when Mr. Wilson leaves the Embassy he will proceed straight to the Vatican, where he will be received by Pope Benedict XV.

The peculiar political relations existing between the Quirinal and the Vatican rendered it expedient that the President should go to the Vatican from American soil, instead of from Italian soil. The American Embassy, of course, is regarded as American territory.

After the President leaves the Pope Mrs. Wilson and Miss Margaret Wilson will be received by the Pontiff.

Mr. Wilson will go to the Vatican about 5 o'clock. Between the conclusion of the luncheon and the visit to the Vatican, the President will continue the conferences he started in London with Premier Vittorio Orlando and Baron Sidney Sonnino, the Italian Foreign Minister, and it is believed important decisions will be reached regarding the Peace Congress.

After his consultation with Pope Benedict, President Wilson will have a conference with Cardinal Gasparri, the Papal Secretary of State. The Italian press attaches considerable importance to the visit to the Vatican, believing the conversation will strengthen the American and Vatican humanitarian ideals for world peace.

Following his conferences at the Vatican the President will drive to the American Church, where he will receive various delegations from the Protestant associations in Rome. PRESIDENT IS MADE A "CITIZEN OF ROME."

To-night the President, Mrs. Wilson and Miss Wilson will be the guests of honor at a state banquet in the Quirinal, given by the King and Queen.

To-morrow, unless present plans are changed, the Presidential party will visit Genoa and possibly go to Milan. On Monday he will arrive in Turin, where he will make a short visit, leaving Monday night for Paris. The President last night was officially made a "Citizen of Rome" and given the freedom of the city.

At 6 o'clock last night the President went to the Senate Chamber, where he was given an enthusiastic reception and listened to an address of welcome, to which he replied. He was the guest at a state dinner at the palace last night, where he met a distinguished company.

SAY RECEPTION WAS THE MOST CORDIAL EVER GIVEN. President Wilson's reception was pronounced by Government officials to have been the most cordial ever given to a foreigner. The addresses and the newspapers reflect highly eulogistic sentiments. The leading newspaper described him as "the most powerful figure in the history of the world," and

BRITAIN AND HOLLAND AGREED ON THE STATUS OF GERMAN EX-KAISER

The Hague Says Fate of Abolished Monarch Has Already Been Agreed Upon.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 4. The British and Dutch Governments have arrived at an agreement regarding the status of the former German Emperor, according to a despatch to the "Telegraph" from The Hague.

LUTHER MUSEUM LOOTED; ANCIENT BIBLES TAKEN

Coins and Costly Books Lost From Famous Collection at Wittenberg.

WITTENBERG, Prussia, Jan. 4.—The Luther Museum here has been looted by robbers. The thieves secured many valuable coins and a number of costly books, including some famous Babylonian Bibles.

It was in the University of Wittenberg that Martin Luther, as a professor, taught philosophy early in the sixteenth century. Part of the Augustinian Monastery in which Luther lived, at first as a monk and in later life with his wife and family, was some time after his death fitted up as a Luther Museum.

"ACE" THAW IN NEW YORK.

Famous Floor Leaves Pittsburgh Home for Metropolis.

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 4.—Laurie Col. William Thaw, American "Ace," who has not talked for publication since his arrival from France on Dec. 21, left for New York last night. He was in uniform when he boarded a Pennsylvania express train. It could not be learned where he arrived while here or how long he has been here.

PRINCE ACCUSED OF GRAFT.

VIENNA, Jan. 4.—Reports received here from Budapest say the government has directed the commencement of criminal proceedings against Prince Ludwig Windischgratz and other persons on a charge of having misappropriated several million crowns of the funds of the Hungarian Palace Bureau while Prince Louis was the Hungarian Food Controller.

FATHER JOHN'S MEDICINE. For Cough, Croup and Whooping Cough.

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