

ONE KILLED, TWO
ILL AS RESULT OF
CARBON MONOXIDE

Mrs. Nora M. Slabaugh Dies
While Husband and Son
Aid Infant.

FAULTY WATER HEATER
BLAMED FOR TRAGEDY

Daughter and Daughter-in-Law
of Dead Woman Narrowly
Escape Death.

Carbon monoxide poisoning proved fatal yesterday to one member of a Takoma (D. C.) family and almost killed two others before aid arrived. Mrs. Nora M. Slabaugh, 48, of 6902 Fourth street, died while her husband and son by a previous marriage were in search of assistance for her 14-month-old grandson, the first member of the family to be stricken. Her daughter, Virginia Perry, 17, and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Helen Johnston, 23, were overcome and were near death when the husband and son returned from Sibley Hospital where they had taken the infant. F. L. Slabaugh, the dead woman's husband, and his stepson, James Johnston, sr., 29, were slightly affected by the fumes, but recovered fully after treatment by a physician.

Mystery Surrounds Death.
Considerable mystery was thrown about Mrs. Slabaugh's death when her husband reported to police that she had died shortly after eating breakfast. It was first feared the whole family was suffering from food poisoning, but an autopsy by Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald showed carbon monoxide poisoning was the cause of death.

A check-up of heating apparatus in Slabaugh's combination home and bachelors shop revealed that a faulty water heater was emitting the fumes. Grief-stricken Slabaugh told last night how the Christmas week tragedy occurred. He said he had arisen about 7:10 and, as was his custom, went immediately into the bachelors shop to straighten up preparatory to opening for business.

Wife Lighted Water Heater.
Mrs. Slabaugh got up at the same time, lighted the water heater, and prepared to cook breakfast. Slabaugh himself never eats the morning meal and he was not in the living quarters during the repast.

The first thing he noticed, he said, was when the baby, James Johnston, Jr., began vomiting. When he went to see what was wrong, he found the child's mother acting peculiarly, but said he thought she merely was distraught over the infant's condition.

Alarmed when the baby steadily became worse, he and the youngest's father decided to take the child to a doctor. They left in the family automobile and rushed to the home of Dr. L. J. Clements, 512 B street north-east.

From there I called back to the house to see how the others were getting along," Slabaugh said, "but mine was no answer. Then I told my stepson we had better hurry home, perhaps the rest of the family was ill."

Arriving home, the two men found Mrs. Slabaugh breathing her last and the two younger women unconscious and apparently suffering great pain. Dr. Charles T. Carroll, 6801 Sixth street, was summoned and he and his wife, Mrs. Carroll, who was called by Mrs. Johnston, who was sent to Emergency Hospital, where she remained overnight.

Mrs. Slabaugh, who was left a widow by her first two marriages, will be buried at Lee Chapel, Va., tomorrow after services at 1:30 o'clock at the funeral home of William J. Nally, 522 H street southeast.

Survivors, in addition to her husband, son, daughter, daughter-in-law and grandson, include another son, William Johnston, 24, of Washington; a brother, Stanley Beach, of Washington; and six sisters, Mrs. Katie Harper, Detroit; Mrs. Estelle Uebele, Mrs. Isabel Russell, Mrs. Ida Hagard, Mrs. Jane Abel and Mrs. Anna Green, all of Washington.

Merchant's Wife
Captures Suspect
In Store RobberyArmed With Crank Handle,
Woman Seizes Man
Who Held Up Husband

Armed with an awning crank handle, the wife of a Seventh street storekeeper last night chased down and captured a colored man, who is being held in connection with the robbery of her husband's place of business a few minutes before the man's capture. The colored man, police were told, entered the clothing store of Morris Newman, at 1830 Seventh street, and apparently holding a gun in a coat pocket, robbed the proprietor of \$80. Then Newman's wife, Mrs. Sabina Newman, went into action. She picked up the awning crank and waved it at the intruder, who dashed from the store and down Seventh street. Mrs. Newman, still waving the crank, gave chase. A colored pedestrian stopped the fugitive for a moment, but the storekeeper's wife caught up. Then she marched him back to the store and called police. He gave his name as James Reed, 29, 1800 block of Fifth street, and was held for investigation.

First Woman Mail Pilot
Ready for Inaugural Hop

Helen Ritchie Will Fly
Between Detroit and
Washington.

Co-Holder of Endurance
Record With Late
Francis Marsalis.

The first woman to win the right to pin Uncle Sam's airmail wings over her left coat pocket has no time for vanity. Mail Pilot Helen Ritchie, as she explained last night, will be too busy living up to the wings to pause and consider their effect on other feminine aspirants.

At 10:40 a.m. tomorrow she will be at Washington Airport, ready to hop off for Detroit as a co-pilot on the first scheduled mail and passenger flight ever shared by a woman in the United States.

Is Miss Ritchie thrilled? Well, mildly anyhow. But she is too much of a veteran to get excited over a spin across a familiar route. In her 25 years the first woman mail pilot has gotten in 1,000 flying hours under all conditions.

Holds Endurance Record.
She is the co-holder with the late Francis Marsalis of the woman endurance flight record, a matter of 11 days above Miami in 1932. Prior to and since that time Miss Ritchie has flown almost daily in this country and in South America.

Her application for a co-pilot's job with the Central Airline, Inc., has been under consideration for some time. Her qualifications were weighed against those of eight other licensed transport pilots after the berth.

Miss Ritchie got the job not because of her sex, but because of her experience. J. D. Condon, president of the airline, pointed out that Miss Ritchie's past performance on cross-country and endurance flights was her best recommendation.

Has Double Duty.
In addition to relieving the pilot at the controls, Miss Ritchie will spend considerable time in the cabin as an attendant to the passengers, an extra duty to which copilots are regularly assigned.

Copilot Ritchie will make one round trip daily between Washington and Detroit with every other day off. She will live in Washington and fly day and night scheduled alternately.

Miss Ritchie hopes to prove that feminine mail pilots have a great future in the air. Tomorrow she will have her first opportunity to blaze the trail.

The renewed discussion of increased power for the Commissioners is going forward independently of the proposed study of District reorganization, for which a special Senate subcommittee was appointed last Summer. Senator Gore, Democrat, of Oklahoma, chairman of the subcommittee, said yesterday no time has been fixed for a meeting of his group.

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Sees Recreation Needs.
The people's counsel declared yesterday control of the recreational facilities of the District should be placed under the District government, rather than some commission controlled by Federal officers. He would make an exception in the case of play areas distinctly Federal in character, such as the Soldiers' Home, Grounds and Columbia Island, where there is not the need in his opinion of the close contact with the public as would be the case in other play areas. Roberts, however, would not include the Zoo in this category, because of its character as a place for education and entertainment of masses of people.

Roberts believes there is a "danger" in having Federal agencies controlling such areas paid for by local taxpayers, because of the possibility of a tendency on the part of such officials to give too much attention to the Federal character of developments.

He will support the plan for a District Recreation Commission, an advisory committee, also selected by the District Board, which will have the duty of planning and supervising the development of recreational facilities. He believes the plan should carefully provide for coordination of Federal, District and school authorities and their powers under the bill to expand the powers of the Commissioners presumably would involve an ultimate control over all playground facilities on which District funds are expended, it is said. The Commissioners expect that the bill will be covered in a separate subject to be offered as a result of the conference on co-ordination of recreational facilities.

Speeds Held Moderate.
Testifying in the Von Ammon death case, Dr. H. C. Dickinson, chief of the automotive section of the Bureau of Standards, who said that measurements and examinations of the automobiles indicated both were traveling at a "moderate speed" at the time of the collision.

Dr. Dickinson said a part from the Johnson car was still embedded in the Von Ammon machine. Dr. J. L. Endicott, mechanical engineer of the Bureau of Standards, told of brake tests he had made.

Among those riding with Von Ammon and who testified at the inquest were Malcolm P. Hanson, radio engineer, who accompanied Admiral Byrd on a Polar expedition, Miss Herta Hanson and Mrs. Von Ammon. Mrs. Leda Hanson, who was also in the machine, was injured in the collision but is reported recovering in the hospital.

Witnesses told of the Von Ammon machine turning over after the collision. At the time the occupants were returning home after attending a Christmas carol service at church. With Johnson, the man held, were his wife and John J. Fenton, all of 1016 D street northeast.

"T. R." PICTURE MOVED
Gets More Prominent Place in White House Red Room.

Now that the red room of the White House has been done over, with a gold and silver scheme as contrast, the portrait of President Theodore Roosevelt has been given a more honored spot. It hangs over the red room fireplace, across from the portrait of Democrat Grover Cleveland. The Theodore Roosevelt portrait formerly hung in one of the hallways. Guests shown in to wait for dinner or luncheon to be announced look up at a well-lighted likeness of "T. R." uncle of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and distant cousin of the President.

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BROADER POWERS
FOR D. C. HEADS
BACKED BY KING

Bill Being Drafted Seen
"Right in Principle" by
Senate Chairman.

VETO AUTHORITY HELD
MOST IMPORTANT PART

Greater Control Over School System Is Favored by Senator.

Chairman King of the Senate District Committee, who has long been an advocate of broader powers for the Commissioners, said yesterday he regards the bill now being drafted by Corporation Counsel Prettyman as "right in principle," although he has not studied its detailed provisions.

The Senator said he will confer with the Commissioners on the subject as soon as the measure is in final shape.

The most important new feature of the bill is the broad veto power it would give the Commissioners to direct or prohibit action by any board or agency financed in whole or in part by District funds, which provision would take in the Board of Education. Senator King indicated yesterday he is in favor of giving the Commissioners greater authority over the school system.

Discussion Is Independent.
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**BLAISDELL URGES MORE
CONSUMER RECOGNITION**
Acting Head of N. R. A. Board Offers Means of Saving Codes From Defeat.

CHICAGO, December 29.—More recognition for consumers' interest and less emphasis on price fixing were stressed today by Thomas C. Blaisdell, Jr., acting executive director of the N. R. A. Consumers' Advisory Board, as means of preventing industrial codes from becoming "self-defeating" agencies. Blaisdell addressed the American Statistical Association at a concluding session of its annual convention. "The scope of the consumer attitude within the New Deal is still narrow. The opposition to its growth is apparent on every hand. Vested interests in the agricultural, industrial, commercial and financial fields have not become enlightened over night," he said. "Whether governmental action in the interest of the consumer will be developed will be determined to some extent by what the present representatives of the consumers in Washington do. To a far greater extent it will be determined by what the country at large makes of the opportunities created for the consumer under the New Deal."

ALLEY DWELLINGS'
CONVERSION INTO
GARAGES PLANNED

Project, Revealed by Ihlder,
Rests Upon Satisfactory
Purchase Price.

STAFF OF AUTHORITY
SOON TO BE ENLARGED

Accountant and Superintendent
of Construction To Be Appointed by Board.

The Alley Dwelling Authority took steps yesterday to develop a series of garages in one of the inhabited alley dwelling areas of the District.

John Ihlder, director of the agency, which has a fund of \$500,000 for rebuilding alley housing deemed unfit for human habitation, was authorized to negotiate the purchase of a number of buildings on one section and to plan their conversion into garages.

The location of the property involved in the project was not revealed because of negotiations for purchase. If prices regarded as reasonable are not obtained, the agency plans to turn elsewhere.

Many Projects Approved.
This is one of about 15 projects tentatively approved about two weeks ago by the board, which consists of District Commissioner Melvin C. Hazen as chairman, Col. H. B. Hackett, head of the housing division of the Public Works Administration, and Arno B. Cammer, executive officer of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The board yesterday also authorized the employment of the allied architects of this city to draft construction plans for a development being considered for another of the inhabited alley areas. The architects are to be paid on a percentage basis. The figures were not announced yesterday.

The staff of the agency is to be enlarged to handle forthcoming activities. Ihlder was given power to appoint an accountant and a construction field superintendent who will be in charge of the razing of buildings in connection with rebuilding programs.

Salary to Be \$2,600.
Each of the two new officials is to be paid \$2,600 a year. The staff recently was enlarged by the employment of Maurice Brooks of Abilene, Tex., as counsel to the alley board. His appointment was sponsored by Robert Blanton of Texas. Other members of the staff are a secretary and James Ring, assistant director.

In the selection of the accountant, Ihlder will consult with Maj. Daniel J. Donovan, District auditor, and as the field superintendent with Col. John W. Oehmann, District building inspector.

**Roberts Offers Aid
TO CITIZENS' GROUPS**
Will Present Proposals to Committees of Congress for Local Units.

All citizens' associations and civic clubs of the District were invited yesterday by People's Counsel William A. Roberts to call upon him for any request. Roberts urged proposals to committees of Congress.

He volunteered also to give personal attention to requests on matters pertaining to the organization or operation of the District government or related organizations. He offered assistance in the preparation of copies of resolutions adopted by civic groups for presentation to proper officials. He said he would check for appropriate action on such matters.

Since New York requires frequent appearances before congressional committees, I will be glad to appear for your organization and present your views on any pending matter at your request," Roberts said in letters to the bodies.

"It should be understood that I have no desire or intention to diminish your direct contact with any District or congressional body. Quite the contrary, I hope such personal appearances will increase. However, my long experience in civic work has taught me that it is frequently difficult to get any one to take the time for such matters and I merely desire to be as helpful as possible."

**"COL." PAUL J. CROGHAN
NOW IS COL. CROGHAN**
Long-Held Title Is Made Official in Case of Commerce Department Press Head.

Paul J. (Pete) Croghan, veteran public relations man for the Commerce Department, who has been called colonel for years by his friends, has at last officially attained that rank. Friday he received his commission as colonel and aide de camp to Gov. Ruby Laffoon of Kentucky.

Croghan, who is convalescing in Emergency Hospital after a serious illness, was presented his commission by a group of fellow Kentucky colonels, headed by Col. Claudius T. Foreman, director of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

An artist's conception of a Kentucky colonel in colors was presented to Col. Croghan by Col. A. B. Sowell, editor of Home and Abroad, a Department of Commerce publication. Col. Croghan resides at 5101 Eighth street.

DEMOCRATS TO DANCE
Special Dispatch to The Star.

CLARENDON, Va., December 29.—The Arlington County Democratic Executive Committee will sponsor a dance to be given by the various Democratic Clubs of the county Friday night at Windsor Arms. Music will be furnished by the Northrup Church's Orkney Springs Orchestra. Leo Lloyd, president of the Democratic Club of Arlington County, is in charge of ticket distribution.

Autograph Hunters Stalked
Sitting Bull, Says Col. Ahern

Col. George Patrick Ahern (left), who once translated letters from autograph seekers for Sitting Bull, receives a book of good-will messages from friends on his 75th birthday. F. A. Silcox, chief of the forest service, is making the presentation.

HOW Sitting Bull was stalked by autograph hunters and had to have help with his fan mail was recalled yesterday by Lieut. Col. George Patrick Ahern, U. S. A., retired, as he celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary and reminisced over a long Army career in which his association with the famed Sioux was one of the high lights.

Fifty-two years ago, that was a long, long time, Col. Ahern says, in retrospect. It was subsequent to the Custer massacre, and Ahern, a strapping second lieutenant, was just out of West Point. Following the Little Big Horn battle, Sitting Bull and 154 of his companions, in flight, headed into Canada. But the British government had enough trouble of its own, without taking on the Sioux, and mounted police eventually rounded up the fugitives, and deposited them very carefully on the American side of the border. The leader was taken to Fort Randall, in what was then Dakota Territory, and now South Dakota, and there he was interned.

Ahern Acted as Secretary.
Sitting Bull had come into wide prominence and the public then was no different than now, for once in custody, he began to receive letters from all quarters, generally containing a request for an autograph. In view of the fact Sitting Bull knew no language, but that of the Sioux, his correspondents had a good chance to be entirely out of luck, but Col. George Andrews, commandant at Fort Randall, had an idea, and that was where Lieut. Ahern came in.

Under what probably was the oddest detail ever given in the Army, the young officer, mastering knowledge of the Sioux tongue, was assigned to act in sort of secretarial capacity to the Indian leader.

Col. Ahern chuckled: "I was tickled to death. There I was, raised in New York, and with my previous knowledge of Indians confined to those in front of cigar stores, coming right up against the real thing."

Asked for Money.
"I would read the letters to Sitting Bull, whose invariable and first question was always whether there was any money with the communication. Generally there was—a dollar or two. If not, Sitting Bull would say 'sich'—meaning 'no good'—and there was no autograph."

But when there was money inclosed Sitting Bull would scrawl his name—two dots over the "i"—and back to would go. "With this attended to, the post office would be the post exchange, with generally a purchase of paint to decorate his features, the principal item on his shopping list."

For several months Ahern acted as Sitting Bull's personal camp secretary, and out of this grew a warm friendship. Historians picturing Sitting Bull in an unenviable light, have not been fair to him, Col. Ahern insists.

Was Real Leader.
"Sitting Bull was a real leader," he emphasizes. "He had to be to reach his position in the tribe. Politics and family connections meant nothing to the Sioux. They demanded leadership and Sitting Bull had demonstrated his fitness from the time he was a boy of 16."

As the result of his friendship with the Indian, young Ahern came to be highly regarded by the tribesmen, and in this he takes great pride.

"I was Irish—and friendly," he says. "They sense sincerity. I found the same thing among the wild people of the Philippines years later. That was the reason John Collier (Commissioner of Indian Affairs) is successful. The Indians at once realize his sincerity. The same thing applies to Robert Marshall of the Indian forestry service. The soft talk of politicians never went with Sitting Bull."

Col. Ahern, perhaps because he is from a race that has known travail, has a warm spot in his heart for the Indians generally. "They never had a square deal, but were kicked around from place to place," he declares.

Felt Sorry for Indians.
And though he led troops against both Sioux and Blackfeet, the campaigning always was distasteful to him.

"I felt sorry for them every time I went into a campaign," he says. "Forestry was another passion, and at Montana Agricultural College, where Ahern was professor of military tactics, he established the first course in forestry ever taught in this country."

"I took that place under just one consideration," he recalls. "I told them I wouldn't be called 'professor.' It's not that I have anything against that title, but I didn't feel that I knew enough."

Col. Ahern later was head of the Philippine forest service, and also has written on this subject, well known works being "Deforested America" and "Forest Bankruptcy in America."

Between distinctions in the Spanish-American War, winning a citation for gallantry in action, and then during the World War was secretary at the Army War College here. Also in his busy life he was graduated in law at Yale.

The birthday celebration kept Mr. Ahern busy receiving guests and ushering them into her husband's study at their apartment, 1760 Euclid street. The prized memento was a book of good will messages from Newton D. Baker, Gifford Pinchot, Gen. James Harbord, Indian Commissioner Collier and many others. The presentation was made by F. A. Silcox, chief of the Forest Service.

Four to Be on Committee.
It is expected the committee created by the Commissioners will consider these and other suggestions. The committee is to consist of Edward W. Thomas, assistant corporation counsel; an official of the Fire Department to be designated by Charles E. Schrom, chief engineer; a representative of the City Fire Fighters' Association, to be selected by its president; and a representative of the Fire Department Officers' Association, to be named by its president.

Heretofore the Commissioners have resisted efforts of the City Fire Fighters' Association to bring about some of the changes. A request for permission to live outside the District was rejected last year. Chief Schrom and his predecessor both opposed it, claiming that it is essential that firemen live within easy communication to guard against an emergency. Members of the Police Department also must live in the District, but some officials say this probably would have been changed except for the feeling that firemen and police should be treated alike.

Probe Once Demanded.
At the request of the City Fire Fighters' Association, Roy W. Jones, Virginia E. Jencks of Indiana in the last session demanded an investigation of the administration of the department based on claims by the firemen's organization that the Fire Trial Board was assessing too high penalties for infractions of department rules. The investigation was not ordered.

The committee is directed to formulate its recommendations and to submit them to the Commissioners for action. Legislation would be required for a 30-year mandatory retirement rule. Many additional firemen would have to be employed to permit establishment of an eight-hour day, officials say. The men now work in two shifts, 10 hours a day one week and 14 hours a day the next. Those sleeping at night are permitted to sleep except when there is a call.

CITY HEADS ORDER
FIRE DEPARTMENT
RULES BE STUDIED