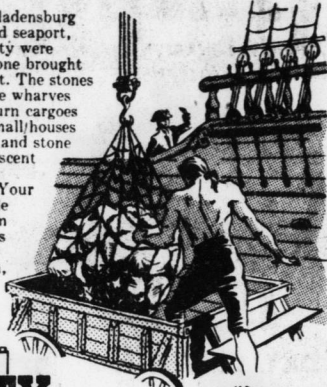


NO. 51 OF A SERIES OF FACTS ABOUT THE NATION'S CAPITAL

## THE BALLAST HOMES

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## Defective Testifies Watson Confessed Slaying Woman

The retrial of Clarence E. Watson, Jr., on first-degree murder charges is in its third day today in the U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Watson, who is colored, is accused of fatally beating Miss Alyce O. Taggart, 45, in her room in Scott's Hotel, 2100 block of O street N.W., on July 5, 1953. The new trial, before an all-male jury, has been marked by a reiteration of testimony given at Watson's first trial by prosecution witnesses. The first trial resulted in a hung jury last January 28.

**Oral Confession Reported**

Late yesterday, Detective Sgt. Patrick A. Deenihan of the Homicide Squad, testified, as he did at the first trial, that Watson had made an oral confession of the crime to him a day after being arrested.

Sgt. Deenihan quoted Watson as saying he entered Miss Taggart's room and placed his hand over her mouth. Watson then said he told Miss Taggart he would kill her if she made an outcry, Sgt. Deenihan testified.

Sgt. Deenihan testified Watson told him Miss Taggart made an outcry and that he "struck her four or five times" with a duckpin in the room. Watson also told of having sexual relations with Miss Taggart after striking her, Sgt. Deenihan said.

Earlier yesterday, Miss Margaret E. Gies, former manager of Scott's Hotel, testified to seeing Watson explain to detectives while at the hotel how he committed the crime.

**Three Murder Counts.**

Watson is being tried on three first-degree murder counts. One count charges premeditated murder. A second count charges he killed Miss Taggart while trying to rape her and the third count charges he killed her while committing the crime of housebreaking.

**Defense Attorney Foster Wood** cross-examined prosecution witnesses extensively yesterday. Watson is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frederick G. Smithson. Judge Charles F. McLaughlin is presiding at the trial.

Watson already is under sentence of from 13 to 40 years for breaking into an apartment of an airline hostess and raping her.

## Lava Flows From Volcano On San Benedicto Island

By the Associated Press

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Mar. 23.—The volcano on San Benedicto Island, off the coast of Mexico 1,000 miles south of here, yesterday was reported erupting for the first time in two years.

**Two Coast Guard officers, Capt. William Snyder, Long Beach, and Lt. Comdr. Glenn Thompson,** said they saw lava pouring from the volcano while on a seaplane flight Friday.

**Adrian Richards, geologist at the University of California's Scripps Institution of oceanography,** said the volcano was last noted in eruption in February, 1953. It was in violent eruption for several months in 1952 after being long dormant.

## Mrs. Rettig on Stand At Murder Trial, Denies Stabbing

Mrs. Kathryn Rettig, 40, took the stand today to testify in her own defense in her first-degree murder trial.

She promptly denied she had stabbed her husband, Robert L. Rettig, 32.

Mrs. Rettig, a waitress, is accused of fatally stabbing Mr. Rettig last October 24 in an apartment where the couple lived in the 600 block of Sixth street N.E.

**Denies Using Knife**

Defense attorney Myer Koonin held the slaying weapon in his hand and asked:

"Did you ever take this knife and plunge it into your husband?"

"I did not," Mrs. Rettig replied.

She also testified that she was awakened by her husband as he jumped out of bed after being stabbed. She testified she saw a man in the room wearing a trench coat.

**Doesn't Recall Confessing.**

Mrs. Rettig also testified she did not remember saying anything to Detective Sgt. Patrick A. Deenihan at the Women's Bureau early on the morning of October 25.

Earlier in the trial, Sgt. Deenihan testified she had made an oral confession of the slaying to him when questioned at the Women's Bureau. Detective Sgt. A. D. Clarke also testified that he overheard her make the confession.

## Kronheim Elected Jewish Society Trustee

Milton S. Kronheim, sr., has been elected a national trustee of the Jewish Consumptives Relief Society, it was announced yesterday.

Mr. Kronheim is chairman of the Washington advisory board of the society which conducts the Denver Hospital and Sanatorium.

Other Washingtonians who are national trustees of the society are S. A. Freas, Mrs. Joseph Bernstein and Mrs. Louis Dinowitz.

## Arizona State Society

The Arizona State Society will honor its Cherry Blossom princess, Miss Matilda Bowman, at a reception from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Friday in the family dining room of the Senate Wing of the Capitol.

## Time Runs Out

A faithful clock on the wall in the London home of Miss Margaret Stephens stopped at the exact minute its 84-year-old owner died recently.

## Truant, 14, Seized Driving Teacher's Car in Arlington

Classes proved too boring for a 14-year-old Wakefield schoolboy in Arlington yesterday, but by the time juvenile authorities got through with him he probably welcomed a return to school.

The boy left school in the morning, crossed the ignition wires on a teacher's parked car and went zig-zagging down the street. An interested spectator, drawn by the car's erratic behavior and the sight of a boy barely able to see over the steering wheel, called police.

The teacher declined to press charges, but juvenile authorities pulled out one of their better lectures for the occasion and returned the boy to class.

## Japan Seeks Defense-Cut

TOKYO, Mar. 23 (AP).—Talks are expected to begin this week on Japan's request to cut at least \$36 million off its cost of maintaining United States forces in Japan for joint defense.

Finance Ministry sources say Japan cannot spend more than \$366 million in the coming year on all defense costs.

**For The BIGGEST FURNITURE NEWS Ever In Washington**

**TURN TO Pages A-36 and A-37**

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