

Ponzi, Partners Indicted for Florida Real Estate Scheme

JURORS PLACE WIZARD AGAIN IN LAW'S NET

Trust Declaration Violation Charged Financier, His Wife and Partners

NONE IS YET IN CUSTODY

King of High Financing Also Under Another Sentence to Seven-Year Term

(By Associated Press) JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Feb. 8.—Charles Ponzi, "financial wizard" of Massachusetts, together with three associates in the Charpon Land syndicate, was indicted today by a Florida grand jury on four counts, alleging violations of "deceitful and fraudulent" laws.

The true bill was returned by the grand jury on Feb. 7. The syndicate is at present offering for sale property in Columbia county, southwest of Lake City.

Those indicted with Ponzi were: Rosa Maria Ponzi, his wife; Emma Alviti and her husband, Calcedonio Alviti.

Vote indictment for Whole Firm

All four were indicted on four counts under the law regulating persons and associates doing business under a declaration of trusts.

The counts include offering and selling certificates without filing a proper declaration of trust, and without procuring from the state comptroller and attorney general a permit for their sale, and for failure to pay a license fee of \$150 for declaration of trust.

Each count upon conviction carries a sentence of two years in the state penitentiary or a fine of \$1,000.

Immediately after the grand jury returned the indictment, Judge George Cooper Gibbs issued a writ of habeas corpus for Ponzi and his associates.

Ponzi and his wife are said to be in Tampa. Alviti is in Boston under bond pending appeal. Action following conviction of violation of the Massachusetts "Blue Sky" law.

Mrs. Alviti is said to be with her husband.

Made Famous by Scheme in 1920

Ponzi became internationally known through his dealings in international reply coupons in Boston in 1920.

An investigation resulted in his being sentenced to five years in the Plymouth, Mass., jail after his conviction in United States district court. He was released from custody in the spring of 1925.

He is under sentence of a new of seven years in the Massachusetts penitentiary and is under bond pending the outcome of an appeal. This sentence also resulted from illegal fraudulent activities in the reply coupons.

Ponzi estimated shortly after his arrival here last October that he still owed \$2,000,000.

Mississippi House Would Ban Evolution

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 8.—The Mississippi House of Representatives today passed the Evans bill preventing the teaching of the theory that man descended from a lower order of animals, in the schools supported in whole or in part by the state. The vote was 76 to 22.

Continue Effort To Locate Head Of Brigand Chief

(By Associated Press) PARRAL, Mex., Feb. 8.—The headless body of Francisco Villa, notorious bandit-rebel chieftain, whose cement sepulchre was torn open by ghouls Friday night, may be the silent accuser of Emil Halmndahl, American soldier of fortune, and a Mexican, Alberto Corral, said to be of Los Angeles.

Halmndahl, reputed to have been a guide for Pershing's fruitless expedition after Villa, and Corral are in jail here while authorities are trying to learn what was done with Villa's head, which the grave robbers cut off and took.

No satisfactory explanation has been ascribed for the gruesome decapitation, although a note left with the body said the head was to be sent to Columbus, New Mexico, scene of the bandit raid in 1916 that resulted in the American punitive expedition.

ALUMINUM QUIZ BARRIER LOOMS

Senate Judiciary Committee Discusses Report Asking Senate to Desist

(By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—A move to block any further government investigation of the Aluminum Company of America was made today before the Senate judiciary committee.

Senator Harrell, Republican, Oklahoma, presented a report commending against a Senate inquiry which has been proposed in another report submitted a week ago by Senator Walsh, Democrat, Montana.

The two reports were discussed for nearly two hours and then the committee decided to defer action until next Thursday. Meanwhile, the authors of the two proposals will canvass members of the committee and the one receiving the largest number of signatures will be permitted to present his report as the majority recommendation of the committee.

Both reports grew out of investigation conducted by the judiciary committee to determine whether the department of justice has proceeded with due diligence in conducting its inquiry to establish whether the Aluminum company did violate federal decrees as charged by the federal trade commission.

While Senator Walsh found that "grave doubts" have been aroused as to "the vigor and good faith of the justice department," Senator Harrell held that this department is using all diligence in its investigation of the Aluminum case, and added that this department should not be hampered in its work by independent Senatorial investigation.

High School Girl in Crash Hurt Fatally

REDONDO BEACH, Feb. 8.—Dora George received injuries from which she died today, and her companion, Frank Houghton, suffered several broken bones and was injured otherwise when their automobile crashed into a cement bridge abutment near here early today. Both were attending high school here.

PACKING FIRM SALE DELAYED

California Corporation Board Announces Postum Cereal Purchase Called Off

(By Associated Press) SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 8.—The board of directors of the California Packing corporation announced today that the Postum Cereal company had decided not to make an offer "at this time" for purchase of the company's properties.

Formal announcement was made after a special meeting of the directors that word had been received from New York that the "parties who were to submit an offer had determined not to make the offer at this time."

The statement continued that the corporation had under consideration a proposition to increase the stock to an extent that would double the holdings of each stockholder. Action looking toward the carrying out of the plan will be taken at the next meeting on Thursday.

While the Postum company was not specifically mentioned in the statement, it had been previously announced that the eastern company was preparing to effect a combine to include the California Packing, Jell-O and other companies. The statement gave no indication of why the offer was held in abeyance.

The packing company is contemplating placing its stock "on an 88 basis" at the present time.

The statement indicated an internal strengthening of the already powerful company without any consideration of a future sale of the properties.

Seek Murderer of Young Woman Whose Body Found in Ice

(By Associated Press) PAULBORO, N. J., Feb. 8.—County authorities were trying today to establish the identity of the young woman whose body, clad in a union suit, was found encased in a cake of ice in the Delaware river yesterday.

A post mortem, Coroner Adams said, showed that the woman, whose age is believed to have been between 25 and 35 years, was murdered. The skull was fractured. The forehead was gashed. Other evidence tended to show that the woman was dead before the body was thrown into the water.

A religious emblem hung about the neck.

Well-Dressed Young Woman Shot, Thrown on Gotham Snowbank

(By Associated Press) NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—The body of a well dressed, unidentified young woman, who had been shot to death, was found today by a policeman on a snowbank at fifty-fourth street and Avenue A.

There was a bullet wound in the right temple, another in the breast and her nose was fractured. The police are inclined to believe the crime was committed elsewhere and that the body was tossed on the three foot pile of snow from an automobile.

The woman apparently was about 25 years old.

HOUSE NOW MUSEUM

SVERDLOSK, Siberia, Feb. 8.—The house in which the Czar and his family were murdered is now a museum and a Communist university. A bloodstained and bullet-pierced room is in the basement.

Dynamite-Laden Craft Comes to End After Crash

(By Associated Press) SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 8.—The steam schooner Yosemite, laden with dynamite and percussion caps, came to her end in the troubled waters off the San Francisco harbor today after a 24 hour battle with rocks, breakers and fog. There was no one aboard as her crew of 28 had been taken off by the steamer Willamette a few hours after she struck on the jagged rocks of the Point Reyes reef early yesterday morning.

The Yosemite, which was being towed to San Francisco by the tug Sea Ranger, snapped her tow cable when she hit the heavy off-shore swells at the harbor entrance a few hours before dawn. The tug attempted to remain alongside, but veered away finally to avoid disaster on the shoals with the sea breaking heavily over them.

NEW ENGINES SENT PLANES

California National Guard Craft of 1917 Type Used Without Casualty

(By Associated Press) SACRAMENTO, Feb. 8.—New engines for the nine-year-old airplanes of the California National Guard are being shipped to Griffith park flying field from Rockwell field, San Diego.

In making this announcement today, Adjutant General R. E. Mitchell expressed admiration for the men who have flown an average of 200 hours a month in 1917 model ships without a single flying casualty and only one forced landing since organization of the National Guard air service in June, 1924.

"This record has been possible only by the utmost vigilance in inspection and repair of planes," he said. "Considering the age of the ships, in which Major C. C. Moseley and the personnel of his 115th observation squadron have been flying, I look upon their achievement as nothing short of spectacular."

Recognition of the planes does not mean, the adjutant general explained, that National Guard airmen will be expected to fly them indefinitely. A replacement program has been approved by the federal government which soon will give the 115th two new ships and two others per year thereafter.

At present there are nine planes at the Griffith park, Los Angeles, airport. First Lieutenant Leslie Arnold, one of the world fliers, is in charge there as instructor, and nine enlisted men are constantly on duty keeping the planes in flying condition.

Woman Identifies Slain Bandit as Kin

(By Associated Press) SACRAMENTO, Feb. 8.—Sheriff Ellis Jones today received a letter from Mrs. C. A. Benoit of Aberdeen, Wash., in which Mrs. Benoit claims that "Whitey," the Roseville bank bandit who was killed Jan. 15 by Detective Sergeant E. L. Roberts and Detective Walter Nelson, was Edward Nelson, her second cousin.

A description of the daring young holdup is declared by Mrs. Benoit to tally exactly with that of her relative. Further, Nelson was known to have spent the months of August and October at Sacramento.

The index finger of the right hand on "Whitey" was amputated. The same injury had been sustained by Nelson.

Read the Classified.

STATE IMPORTS MUCH POULTRY

Room for Expansion Shown by Report, 817 Cars of Birds Arrive in Year

(By Associated Press) SACRAMENTO, Feb. 8.—Wide room for expansion in California's poultry industry is seen by the state department of agriculture in figures made public today, showing importation of approximately 3,676,500 live fowls from other states during the year 1925.

"There were shipped into this state during the past year," says a statement issued by the division of animal industry, 817 carloads of poultry. Taking into consideration that a poultry car will accommodate from 4,000 to 5,000 mature birds, the approximate number of fowls brought to California for market during the past year amounted to approximately 3,676,500, indicating the per capita consumption of imported poultry during the year closely approached one for each person in the state.

"While California is one of the leading poultry states in the Union and is recognized as having enormous poultry population, these figures indicate that possibilities for a greater development of this industry are extremely promising."

More than half of the imported poultry last year came from Nebraska, while Texas furnished about one seventh of the total.

Banker Fined and Ordered to Prison

(By Associated Press) LOS ANGELES, Feb. 8.—Former Redmond Bailey, former cashier of the First National bank of Venice, near here, was sentenced today to one year and three months in prison and pay a fine of \$10,000 in federal court here today following his plea of guilty to the embezzlement of \$50,000 from the bank in 1924.

A plea for probation was denied, but Judge Henning stated that Bailey might apply for parole at the expiration of six months of the sentence. Payment of the \$10,000 fine, it was said, might be avoided by filing of a pauper's oath by Bailey. To that extent, 30 days would be added to the sentence.

Bailey blamed speculation for his defaulting.

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STATE NEWS

(By Associated Press) CALEXICO, Feb. 8.—Fred D. Jack, inspector in charge of the United States immigration office here, will be transferred to the headquarters office at Los Angeles, I. F. Nixon, chief supervisor of the immigration service, said here today. Jack had been criticized by Calexico business men for alleged discourtesies to persons crossing the border.

SAN FRANCISCO.—A transmission line to bring power generated in the Hetch Hetchy valley from its present terminal at Newark across San Francisco bay to the industrial district, was authorized today by the board of supervisors. Resolutions were adopted ordering the city engineer to prepare plans and estimates at once. The line will parallel those now used by the Pacific Gas and Electric company, which buys the power wholesale at Newark from the city and distributes it through its own system here.

SANTA BARBARA.—Miss Ida V. Sattmback, one of Santa Barbara's first two women physicians, died here today, aged 72. Miss Sattmback founded the first kindergarten and instituted the first juvenile delinquency work in Santa Barbara and was a pioneer in the California suffrage movement. She was born in Philadelphia.

HANFORD.—Plans are about complete for the great Father Richard memorial hall, which is to be held in this city in the municipal auditorium on Friday night, Feb. 12. Support from all over the county is promised and it is expected the gathering will be one of the most representative of all sections of the county of any ever held here.

SAN JOSE.—Fire following an explosion yesterday virtually destroyed a small one-story frame building used by the Church of the Precious Blood for storage purposes. Spontaneous combustion, or a cigarette dropped by one of a group using the building for band practice, started the fire in the opinion of officials of the local fire department. An accumulation of gas and smoke in the building they thing caused the explosion. The building is located a block away from the church.

SAN FRANCISCO.—San Francisco today raised its price on municipal call money from 3 to 3 1/4 per cent. One million dollars held by country banks in northern California will be affected by the increase decided upon today by John H. Thielor, who was recently elected

L. A. SMALLPOX IS ON INCREASE

Peak of Outbreak Expected in 10 Days, Total Cases for February, 120

(By Associated Press) LOS ANGELES, Feb. 8.—The peak of the outbreak of smallpox in Los Angeles city is expected within 10 days, Dr. George M. Parrish, city health officer, announced today.

Despite renewed efforts of the health department, the number of new cases reported to keep abreast of the increase noticed for the first few days of February. Total cases reported for February, including Sunday, were 120. Seventeen of these developed on Sunday and 22 on Saturday.

Since the first of January, 25 deaths have resulted from the disease.

Dr. Parrish said he expected a rapid decline after the peak is reached, perhaps in 10 days. The sharp increase in the past week was due, he believed, to expiration of contagion periods during which groups were exposed before the health department could act.

SAN FRANCISCO.—A property owner who employs an independent building contractor to do work for him is not responsible under the California workmen's compensation and safety laws for any injuries sustained by the contractor, it was held today in a decision of the district court of appeals here.

Rubens-Cortez Vows Taken Second Time

(By Associated Press) RIVERSIDE, Feb. 8.—Alma Rubens and Ricardo Cortez, film stars, whose marriage here recently provoked the wrath of the district attorney because the ceremony was performed before the actress had obtained a final decree of divorce from a former husband, were married again today.

Between the two ceremonies the actress' divorce had been made absolute. The district attorney was among those to extend the couple his blessing. He said he was convinced that he had not intended to violate the law.

The couple returned to Los Angeles immediately after the service.

TEARS \$20 BILLS

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—It is unsafe to tear up good \$20 bills, John J. Juke strewed bits of bills around and was arrested for littering Battery Park. Laughing, he would not explain except to say that he had more in the bank which also would be torn up.

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Long Penitentiary Sentence Given to Youthful Murderer

(By Associated Press) NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—Gordon Pirie, 13 years old, charged with murdering his chum, George Nye, last November, pleaded guilty today to murder in the second degree, and was given a penitentiary sentence of from 20 years to life.

Young Nye's body was found in the Pirie apartment under a bed, by Gordon's 16-year-old sister, Margaret. The skull had been crushed. Pirie made two confessions. First he said that he awoke after a drinking bout, seized with "a notion to kill George."

His weapon was an ax.

The next day, however, he asserted that he had killed his chum because of a slur upon a girl's character.

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