

WOMAN ATTACKED TWO MEN IN ROOM VAIN SEARCH FOR MONEY

With robbery as the motive, a brutal assault on a middle-aged woman was committed by two men who broke into a house in Cook Street, City, about 9.30 on Tuesday night.

The victim of the attack was Miss Doris Stade, and about 11.30 she was in bed when the two assailants entered her room, and immediately set upon her. She was severely injured about the head and moved to the Auckland Hospital. Her assailants escaped.

The assault took place in a large two-storey brick house at 15, Cook Street, owned and occupied by Mrs. Catherine Williams, a widow of 80. The only other occupants of the house were Miss Stade and another elderly woman, Mrs. Linton. All three women were in the bedrooms upstairs when the intruders entered through a window at the rear of the house. Two nights previously the same window had been found open by Mrs. Williams.

The house is next door to the William Mawson Memorial Hall, where a gymnasium class was being held at the time of the assault. It is also a dance hall. The intruders were seen to enter the house because of the noise from these two halls, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Linton failed to hear Miss Stade's cries for help when she was first attacked.

Grabbed By Throat

Immediately on entering the house the two men disconnected the electric light and then proceeded to prevent the occupants from turning on the lights. Miss Stade was almost aslee when she saw a shaft of light under the door of her room. She tried to get up, but was pushed open and the men entered. Both appeared surprised when they found the room was occupied. Miss Stade was then attacked. One of the men caught her around the throat as if trying to choke her, but she struggled violently and managed to free herself. The other man then picked up the bottom part of the mattress and the bed clothes and pressed them down over her head, but again she struggled free.

One of the men then held her while his companion placed a handkerchief over her mouth as a gag, tying it behind her head. She continued to struggle, she was struck on the top of the head several times with something which she thinks was a piece of wood.

"I then decided it was better not to fight any more," said Miss Stade later, "so I feigned unconsciousness. The plan worked, for the men did not attack me further. I then decided it was better to try to get up. I managed to get up, but they pulled out all the drawers of the dressing table and chest, threw everything out of the wardrobe and searched my handbag. As they were searching they kept striking me with matches to see what they were doing."

Men Escape

"At this stage Mrs. Linton began calling out to Mrs. Williams, but Mrs. Williams, who is deaf, evidently did not hear anything. When Mrs. Linton cried 'The men are here', she got up, but the two men left my room, leaving the house by the rear door, which they had left open. On getting up, I found my bed soaked in blood. Mrs. Williams also covered in blood. Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Linton then came in and reported the matter to a neighbour, who went for the police. Miss Stade was taken to hospital in a motor ambulance, and it was found necessary to insert six stitches in the wound on her head. She was also badly bruised about the neck and other parts of the body."

Mrs. Williams owns considerable property in the vicinity, and it is possible that the intruders thought she kept a large sum of money on the premises, and attempting to find out where Miss Stade's room by mistake.

DELIVERY OF BREAD RESTORATION SOUGHT

"BAKERS RELUCTANT TO ACT"

Parliamentary Reporter

WELLINGTON, this day. The statement that every endeavour was being made to induce bakers to restore to the public both a delivery service and a choice of product, is contained in a letter from the Minister of Supply, Mr. Sullivan, received by Mr. Clyde Carr, M.P. for Timaru.

A letter was in reply to representations made by Mr. Carr as the result of complaints received by him concerning the failure of bakers to reinstate bread deliveries.

Sullivan pointed out that recently the zoning regulations had been revoked, so that there was now no official bar to bakers reinstating deliveries. However, others who present they had been reluctant to do so, stating that it was because of the shortage of tyres and motor vans in particular.

Inquiries made in official quarters this morning show that it is well known that bakers are working to a gentlemen's agreement not to break up zoning of deliveries or to resume delivery to households in the neighbourhood, however, that in some towns in the North Island some bakers have reinstated their deliveries, and it is thought possible that by the New Year, others will have followed, including bakers in some of the larger centres. It was pointed out this morning that petrol is available for any bakers wishing to resume deliveries.

MERCHANT NAVY'S MAIL

P.A. WELLINGTON, this day. Sir Alexander Roberts, representative in New Zealand for the British Ministry of War Transport, was received by the council from London regarding the handling of mail addressed to personnel of the Merchant Navy.

As from the beginning of November all mail addressed to the Merchant Navy should no longer be addressed care of the British Ministry of War Transport. Letters should be addressed either to the ship or to their head offices in New Zealand or to any other address furnished from time to time by the addressee or by the shipping company. The branch of the local post office or G.P.O. London, or care of the British Fleet Mail Office, should be used for the forwarding of mail to members of the merchant navy.

SERIOUS PROBLEM PARKING FACILITIES WIDESPREAD DISCONTENT

Widespread discontent about city parking facilities is felt among Auckland motorists. Though the problem is not a new one, it has become accentuated by wartime commercial expansion and is likely to become more acute with any further relaxation in the petrol restrictions.

Recalling the recent statement by Mr. J. Luxford, S.M., that in future he would take a more serious view of the parking signs on the roads, one motorist stated today that as the number of vehicles using the roads increased, the traffic department placed more and more "no parking" signs on the roads of Auckland's widest streets—Customs Street East—the familiar sign greeted one.

Another motorist expressed disapproval of the activities of the traffic inspectors in Victoria Street West.

When the complaints were referred to the chairman of the City Council's public safety committee, Mr. F. J. Farrell, he agreed that the problem was very serious. He added that the superintendent of traffic, Mr. C. Bland, was authorised by the council last August to go to the States to investigate the latest traffic control developments in those countries, but there was difficulty in obtaining transport for him and he was still in Auckland.

The superintendent would bring back reports on various facilities and suggestions as to who would be responsible for their purchase and installation. Mr. Farrell's report, based on his suggestions would be submitted to the council for its consideration.

At present the staff of the traffic department was being increased to its pre-war standard and steps were being taken to enforce the observance of the speed limits in the suburbs, another matter which had been mentioned in his comment, concluded Mr. Farrell.

POPULAR BAND LUNCH-TIME "SWING"

U.S. SERVICE MUSICIANS

Hoots tapped and heads nodded in street swing tempo at the Auckland Town Hall this afternoon, when lunch-time crowds gathered to hear a session of popular music by the "Topshatters" division of the Comsopac Flag Band, brought to Auckland by the American cruiser Vincennes, a Silver collection was donated towards the O. G. appeal.

Led by Chief Musician Oden McMillan, the band ran swiftly through a varied programme of swing items, ranging from "I Should Care" to "Candy," rattled off at high speed, with the drummer "flat out" in tricky runs. Chief Musician McMillan was also well liked as vocalist in several popular numbers, including "Making Believe" and "I Dream of You." Feature violin soloist Nick Ferri received an ovation after three well-executed numbers.

The audience included wildly enthusiastic "bobby-soxers," who showed their appreciation of the band's efforts in a slow fashion, while as to elderly people who watched and listened in a more reserved fashion and sometimes appeared to be thinking wistful thoughts concerning "Swing" and "Low" varieties of popular music of their young days.

The band appeared by courtesy of Rear-Admiral Paul Hendren, Commander of the South Pacific Area and was well up to the standard which has come to be expected of American entertainment in the light-hearted non-stop musical line.

IN PARLIAMENT

Yesterday—Ministerial replies to members' questions were read; reading debate continued.

Today—Bank of New Zealand Bill, completion of second reading debate.

AIR FORCE SERVICE

CIVILIAN PASSENGERS

NEW PLYMOUTH TO AUCKLAND

O.C. NEW PLYMOUTH, this day. Civilian passengers will be carried to and from New Plymouth on R.N.Z.A.F. service planes as from this morning, according to an announcement by the Air Secretary, Mr. T. A. Barrow. This is the only air service between Auckland and Taranaki and is considered locally as only a makeshift till the new services from New Plymouth are reinstated, probably after the nationalisation of airways.

A daily mail service between Wellington and Auckland has been conducted by the R.N.Z.A.F. for the past two years and it is explained that the facilities being offered civilian passengers are essentially a spare seat accepted in advance for specific days, but applications will be pencilled in and, if seats are available, applicants will not be accepted for the availability of seats. In every endeavour will be made to give as many seats as possible for civilian passengers. However, provision is not being made for persons going on holiday, the service being primarily for businessmen and those who are entitled to consideration on compassionate grounds.

ELECTORAL BILL

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED

Approval of the Government's action in passing the Electoral Amendment Bill was expressed at a largely attended meeting of the Remuera branch of the New Zealand Labour party, a resolution to this effect being carried unanimously. The branch was viewed with abhorrence the attitude of the Opposition in attempting to create a rift in the unanimity of town and country in support of the measure, the understanding of which is so vitally necessary in these days of reconstruction and progress.

Early Morning Fire Did Serious Damage



THIS BURNT-OUT BUS was one of several motor vehicles destroyed early this morning when fire gutted the premises of Messrs. George Magee and Company, motor body builders, St. James' Street.

U.S. BRONZE STAR

COMMANDER BUSHEY

HONOUR "WELL DESERVED"

Members of the ship's company of the American cruiser Vincennes assembled on the vessel's "fantail" this morning to witness the presentation of the Bronze Star Medal to Commander Arthur C. Bushey, U.S. Naval Reserve, in recognition of "meritorious service in connection with operations against the enemy as officer in charge of construction, alteration, repair and maintenance of United States vessels in New Zealand from September, 1943, to October, 1945." The presentation was made by Rear-Admiral Paul Hendren, Commander of the South Pacific Area and Force, who is at present visiting Auckland.

Commander Bushey's citation stated that he had displayed outstanding professional ability and constant devotion to duty. Through his untiring efforts and close co-operation with New Zealand officials, construction and repair facilities in this country had been advanced to their maximum capacity and a large volume of work had been accomplished with remarkable expedition. His skill and conduct throughout had been in keeping with the long traditions of the United States naval service.

Rear-Admiral Hendren said it gave him a good deal of pleasure to make the presentation, as from personal observation he was sure that the honour was well deserved.

SALE OF LAUNCH

£90 WRONGLY OBTAINED

TRUCK DRIVER FOR SENTENCE

A truck driver and launch hand, Gordon Leslie Johansen (27), appeared before Mr. J. H. Luxford, S.M., in the Police Court today, charged with obtaining £90 from Thomas Albert Collins, by false representation that a launch was his own property.

The evidence showed that on September 28 a cheque for £90 was cashed on the slip. He said it was his own property and that he wished to sell it as he was a Public Works employee and had been transferred. On complaint giving him a cheque for £90, accused noted on the receipt that the launch was "his own absolute property." Later the same day the cheque was cashed. Damage was caused to the launch by heat and smoke. The outbreak was attended by machines from the Remuera and Tamaki stations.

DUE ON SATURDAY

BRITISH CARRIER REAPER

Bringing home the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band, which has been touring Australia to assist in raising funds for the Commonwealth Victory Loan, the British aircraft carrier Reaper left Spynce today, and is due at Auckland at 6 p.m. on Saturday. She will sail again on Tuesday morning next.

The Reaper, which has a tonnage of 15,390, is American-built and has a speed of 18 knots. She is a sister ship of the Empress which recently visited Wellington. Also on board is a draft of New Zealand servicemen, consisting of 70 officers and 550 other ranks.

Ceremony Aboard U.S. Cruiser

VICE-ADMIRAL PAUL HENDREN (right) decorating Commander Arthur C. Bushey with the Bronze Star aboard the U.S. cruiser Vincennes this morning.

HOME SERVICEMEN'S PROTEST

The protest against the delay in making the payment of gratuities to ex-Servicemen personnel and against the compulsory inclusion of the gratuity as part of any rehabilitation loan, made this morning by the executives of the Auckland and North Shore branches of the New Zealand Home Servicemen's Association, was confirmed at a general meeting of Auckland branch members last night.

It was reported that the protest had been made to Dominion headquarters with the request that it be forwarded to the Government.

In the protest it was claimed that "men who have served their country for your home, at least equal consideration to bank shareholders who have been offered cash."

OFFENCE BY COMPOSITOR

Found guilty on two charges of indecent assault on a male, George Irwin (34), printing compositor (Mr. Winter) was today sentenced by Mr. Justice Cornish to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

FACTORY FIRE

BUILDING GUTTED

EARLY MORNING OUTBREAK

Damage estimated at several thousand pounds was caused by a fire which almost completely gutted the building and machine shop of George Magee and Co., motor body builders, St. James' Street, City, in the early hours of this morning. A motor bus, several motor trucks and hundreds of pounds worth of machinery were destroyed.

Answering a call at 3.30 a.m., firemen from the Central Station found the large two-storey corrugated building well alight. Oil and rubber fed the flames, which caused intense heat. Firemen worked strenuously to prevent the fire spreading to a wooden dwelling next door. The house was a very few feet from the factory wall, but the firemen's efforts to save it were successful.

The larger wing of the factory, the doors of which open on to St. James' Street, was completely gutted, both upstairs and downstairs. The stairs leading to the upper storey were destroyed and the scene this morning was one of chaos. A partially-burnt motor bus, which was being used as a workshop, the building were vehicles showing damage to a varying extent. The motor bus was totally destroyed.

Several valuable machines, such as hand saws and lathes, also suffered damage. The intense heat, twisted the corrugated iron of the walls and roof.

In addition to the Central brigade, engines from the Western districts and Parnell attended the outbreak. The building was insured with the New Zealand Insurance Company for £900 and the contents for £500. The truck which was having a body built on it. Particulars of insurances on other vehicles in the factory at the time of the fire were not available today.

PLANE SPOTS FIRE

ALARM GIVEN TO BRIGADE

Noticing a fire while flying over Orakei this morning, the pilot of an Air Force plane spotted a fire in the cause of which is unknown, started in the vicinity of the hot water cistern and destroyed the contents of a linen cupboard. Damage was caused to the house by heat and smoke. The outbreak was attended by machines from the Remuera and Tamaki stations.

DEMAND ON INDUSTRY

DIFFICULTIES OUTLINED

PERMIT CONTROL TO REMAIN

P.A. WELLINGTON, this day. "The demand for buildings of all types at present is far in excess of the productive capacity of the building industry with the labour and material resources available," said the Minister of Works, Mr. Semple, today.

"The overall materials supply position is unsatisfactory and insufficient materials are available to maintain the existing labour force in the building industry at full production on most essential classes of work on an economic basis. No doubt, as more labour becomes available, the production of buildings materials will increase but, even assuming there are adequate supplies, it is probable that the demand for buildings for some years will continue to be in excess of the productive capacity of the industry."

"It is the Government's policy," continued the Minister, "to revoke the many wartime regulations as early as possible but certain controls still remain, including those affecting the issue of building permits, and it appears that such a measure of control must remain for some time."

LACK OF MATERIALS

BUILDERS HINDERED

DIFFICULTIES IN AUCKLAND

Orders for timber were now taking up to twelve months to fulfil, said Mr. A. Stephen, president of the Auckland Master Builders' Association in a report at the annual meeting of the association.

The supply position was decidedly the worst it had been in the history of Auckland, said Mr. Stephen. It was hard to see any improvement, especially in the case of timber, although warmer and drier weather, together with increased labour, would make some change in the position in regard to timber. He said that six months ago representations had been made to suspend the delivery of bricks to all works except housing, and other works carrying out essential services. However, the position had improved and provided supplies of coal could be maintained, conditions would be still better.

Due to the shortage of materials delay was also being experienced in providing homes for ex-servicemen, said Mr. Stephen. Members of the association had endeavoured to give priority to this work but were being frustrated by the lack of materials. Another problem in this type of building was the ever-increasing costs in both wages and material which made it impossible to build to the present standard within the limits of the loan.

The following officers were elected: President, Mr. N. Cawston; vice-presidents, Messrs. R. C. Savory and N. Burnett; auditor, Mr. R. G. Knox (re-elected); executive committee, Messrs. O. E. Bartlett, V. A. Coyle, W. J. Farwaker, T. J. Farmer, H. J. Fisher, P. C. Rabone, F. H. Ross, P. C. Siale and J. Whitaker; representatives to annual conference, Messrs. V. A. Coyle, A. Stephen, H. M. Clark.

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MAORI WELCOME

CEREMONY AT ORAKEI

VISIT BY COLONEL AWATERE

In the course of a tour he is making for the purpose of paying his respects to the relatives of Maori who died overseas, Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Awatere, D.S.O., M.C. and Bar, who succeeded Lieutenant R. T. Ross as commander of the famous Maori Battalion, visited the Orakei Pa today and was welcomed by some 50 members of his race. As he entered the precincts of the pa he was greeted in traditional fashion.

Colonel Awatere stood with head bowed, as the natives waited their sympathy for the dead.

Speaking in his native tongue Colonel Awatere said he was his intention, when he finished the tour, to carry out his duties for the Maori people just as he had carried them out on the battlefield, and to strive for everything to better the lot of the race.

Speeches of welcome and in praise of the distinguished visitor were made by Mr. W. Katene, Chief of the Maori Council, Mr. Mahu Otene, representing the Maori tribal executive, Mr. K. T. Haravira, representing the Maori returned soldiers, and Judge I. Pridmore, representing the Native Department.

Colonel Awatere, who arrived in Auckland last night, is to leave tomorrow morning for Whangarei.

CHANGE SUGGESTED

WANGANUI TRANSPORT

TRAMS TO TROLLEY BUSES

O.C. WANGANUI, this day. Advising that Wanganui's public passenger transport system be changed from trams to trolley and petrol buses, the Wanganui City Council in less expense than the renewal of tram rails alone if the present system were maintained, the City Engineer, Mr. L. F. Row, presented a report to the council which told a story of the steady deterioration of the present system and of an approaching crisis, probably in from six to eight years. The report, which is to go to the council's Transport Committee for consideration, traced a plan for the gradual supplanting of the present tram system, covering five stages, at an estimated cost of £150,000.

The 17 miles of tram track at present in use were in a deplorable state and the estimated cost of renewing it without allowing for new trams and overhead equipment, would be at least £155,000, said Mr. Row.

SENTENCE RESERVED

SOLDIER'S LAPSE

LEVEL CROSSING FATALITY

Arising out of a level crossing accident at Tironui, near Papakura, in March, when two soldiers in a military truck struck by a train were killed and others injured, the truck driver, Gordon Laurie Marten (25), who had pleaded guilty to a charge of negligent driving causing bodily injury, came before Mr. Justice Cornish for sentence today.

For the prisoner Mr. Henry said that Marten had been over five years in the Army and was a staff-sergeant. At the time of the accident he was driving a party to a dance, and the degree of negligence was affected by the fact that his vision was obscured at the crossing by his having to look through a celluloid side curtain to observe the approach of any train. He took the assurance of a passenger on his left that the train was clear. His real offence was going on when the crossing signal lights were against him. It sometimes happened that the lights stayed station but this time the train did not stop and went on to strike the truck. It seemed certain that the man in the cab with accused was fatally hurt by that collision.

Unfortunate as another train came along and struck the disabled truck, causing another death.

Counsel stressed that there was no question of alcohol in the matter. Marten had never previously been in Court, and had suffered injury in the accident as well as great mental anguish as the result of his lapse.

Mr. G. R. Meredith, who appeared for the defence, said the facts had been fairly stated by Mr. Henry, and assured the Court there was no question of drink involved.

Remarking that the question of a driver's culpability at a level crossing was highly important, his Honor said he would take time to consider his sentence. Marten could go back to camp meantime.

GIFTS OF STOCK

LOAN SECURITY ISSUE

EXCLUSION DECIDED ON

P.A. WELLINGTON, this day. Gifts of stock made to ex-servicemen farmers, under a Government scheme, by donors, are not to be included as security for rehabilitation loans, according to a decision reached by the Rehabilitation Board.

It was stated that Rehabilitation Board's recent decision in the matter of Mr. Skinner, requested that female stock given as a straight gift and progeny of such stock should be excluded from security for rehabilitation loans. The board's decision was: "Where security for a rehabilitation loan includes livestock, and the ex-serviceman receives a gift of stock from a donor, the security of the Rehabilitation Board, it will not be included in the security of the gift." It is subject to advice being received at the time of the gift regarding the number and quality, and also to any adjustment subsequently made necessary by the death of stock.

This arrangement, of course, cannot affect the rights of other creditors of an ex-serviceman.

It was considered that the object of the resolution would be defeated if an ex-serviceman gave a second charge over his stock, became bankrupt, or assigned his estate for the benefit of creditors, or if execution were levied by a judgment creditor. It was decided that any progeny of gift stock should become the property of the ex-serviceman and, as such, be subject to the usual encumbrance that might then exist.

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"PITIFUL CASE"

WOMAN SENTENCED

HOUSEBREAKING CHARGES

"This is a pitiful case, but while one feels sorry for prisoner the Court must do its duty to society," said Mr. Justice Cornish in the Supreme Court this morning when Lucy Theresa Abraham, aged 26 (Mrs. Aekins), appeared for sentence on four charges of housebreaking and two charges of theft from a dwelling.

It was a case of a type which was exceedingly difficult to understand, said Mr. Aekins. Prisoner had gone mad with a form of young mania, and had spent most of her life in prison.

"Your case has given me a good deal of anxiety," said his Honor, addressing prisoner. "I think you ought to start in life, but many people do and still make a success of it. I'm afraid you are becoming incorrigible. What you need is a good long period of detention."

Prisoner was sentenced to three years' reformatory detention.

Saw the Danger

Having pleaded guilty at Rawene to two charges of breaking and entering Winifred Loza, aged 29, was admitted to probation for 12 months.

His Honor said he had read the probation officer's report and it appeared that Loza had become mixed up with a gang of young hoodlums. He had seen where he was getting, however, and had made an attempt to get away from that company. That would be taken into account.

HOUSING PROGRAMME

LABOUR PARTY PROPOSALS

LOWER INTEREST RATE URGED

P.A. WELLINGTON, Wednesday. The appointment of a Parliamentary committee to investigate all aspects of private building construction was approved by the annual conference of the New Zealand Labour party today. It was also recommended to the Government that strict control of the issue of building permits be instituted so that materials and manpower would be used only for essential work and housing.

The conference heard a long discussion on housing and was addressed at considerable length by the Minister of Works, Mr. Semple, on the operations of the Housing Department. Mr. Semple said more than 4000 employing trades workers were engaged on the erection of State houses. He would employ 10,000 if the materials were available. The Department had bought 4,000 sections of land which indicated the Government's intention to push ahead with its housing construction. More than 19,000 State rental houses had been completed and were now occupied, with more than 80,000 people living in them. Taking into account houses built by private individuals, more than 30,000 houses had been constructed during the Government's term of office.

The conference adopted proposals that a programme of home building be instituted to meet the needs of families with four or more children, and the building of multi-unit houses in suburban areas be abandoned, and that the interest rate for housing loans be reduced. The housing committee had no recommendation to make on a remit proposing that the State housing scheme should be used to encourage larger families and that rentals be reduced to alleviate the burden of the family man.

NINETY YEARS OF AGE

WANGANUI TRANSPORT

O.C. KAITIARA, this day. The oldest living resident of Victoria Valley, a farming district south of Kaitiara, Mr. Fredrick White, celebrated his 90th birthday yesterday.

Born in Alberta, Canada, he accompanied his parents to the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles White to New Zealand on the Goldenberg in 1866, when he was 11 years of age. The family took up land in Victoria Valley, where, except for a short period on farms at Okaihau and Kaitiara, Mr. White has remained ever since.

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