



JOSEPH BARREN, 29, of Forest, Texas, gave the Chicago, Ill., police department some anxious moments when he fought off attempts to haul him out of the chilly Chicago River Tuesday. Barren, obviously not bothered by the 33 degree temperature, jumped off the Madison Street bridge and was in the cold, cold water 30 minutes before he was coaxed ashore. He gave no reason for his escapade. (AP Wirephoto).

The Observer Sold To Knight Group

Sale of The Charlotte Observer to the Knight Newspapers was announced last night by Mrs. Curtis B. Johnson, president of The Observer.

The Knight Newspapers own and publish the Miami Herald, the Chicago Daily News, the Detroit Free Press and the Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal.

The announcement said the price was seven million dollars, including the Observer's Transportation Co. The purchaser was the Miami Herald Publishing Co.

James L. Knight, general manager of the Miami Herald, becomes president and publisher of The Observer, and will direct its operations. He said the paper will be politically independent.

John S. Knight, president of Knight Newspapers Inc., and editor and publisher of the Chicago Daily News, Detroit Free Press, Miami Herald and Akron Beacon Journal, will serve on the Observer's board of directors.

Other new members of the board of directors will be James Knight, C. Blake McDowell, secretary and general counsel of Knight Newspapers, who negotiated the purchase, and Lee Hills, executive editor of the Miami Herald and Detroit Free Press. Mrs. Johnson, Carl G. McCraw, president of the Union National Bank, and Harry A. Allen, business manager of The Observer, will continue on the board.

Mrs. Johnson owned a majority interest in the newspaper. A minority interest, which was also



JAMES L. KNIGHT

Conductor Stokowski, Heiress Wife Separate

NEW YORK (AP) — Mrs. Leopold Stokowski, the former Gloria Vanderbilt, the former Gloria Vanderbilt, was reported today to have left her husband, the internationally famous conductor.

The report was published by The New York Post, where Mrs. Stokowski was said to have taken up residence in a hotel where she called herself Mrs. STOKOWSKI.

The Post quoted Mrs. Stokowski, who is 30 and her husband 67, as saying in an exclusive interview: "For personal reasons, I have decided to live at the Ambassador Hotel with my children. When I

can amplify the situation, I will say: "But I don't think I can say anything more than that my husband and I have separated. That is the only fair comment to be made at the moment."

The heiress to Vanderbilt millions and her noted husband have two children, Stan, 4, and Chris, 3. She recently took up a stage career.

Mrs. Stokowski was said to have taken her two sons and left the 19-room Stokowski residence at 10 Grace Square last Monday.

The Post story, written by Fern Marj, quoted friends of the Stokowskis as saying the separation was the outgrowth of the conductor's career and "Gloria Vanderbilt's hard-won maturity after a childhood of turbulence and controversy."

The story continued: "For the past three or four years, Miss Vanderbilt's intimates explained, the English-born maestro has been an loner for months at a time, leaving his young wife in virtual isolation.

"This was not entirely unbecome to a girl who had been, at 11, the bone of contention in the courtroom custody case between her mother, Mrs. Gloria Morgan Vanderbilt, and her aunt, Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney."

Winter Storm Leaves 22 Dead In West

Cold Air Stalled In Eastward Push

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A blast of arctic air which had been spreading across most of the Midwest and the snow-covered areas of the Rockies stalled today in an area stretching from Lake Ontario through northern Illinois to southern Nebraska.

At least 22 deaths were attributed to the winter's worst storm.

The Weather Bureau at Chicago said current cold, blustery conditions would continue moving eastward across the nation, but at a very slow pace. One cold air mass out of Canada already was stationary on a line from Billings, Mont., toward Chadron, Neb., and Rapid City, S.D. It barely edged into Wyoming to lower the temperature at Sheridan, Wyo., to 8 above zero early Thursday. There was no pressure behind this cold front and it was expected to linger a couple of days.

BELOW ZERO

Predawn temperatures Thursday in Colorado included 23 below zero at Fraser and 21 below at Eagle, both in the mountains.

Sleet, rain and snow pelted northeastern sections of the nation, while colder air dipped along the eastern coast to northern Florida and into the lower Mississippi Valley.

The intense storm center which Wednesday dumped snow, sleet and freezing rain over wide areas of the midcontinent, paralyzing travel in many areas, was centered in the Lake Ontario region Thursday.

The death toll from the weather in the midcontinent was attributed to overexertion in the snowstorm or resulted from traffic accidents.

See COLD on page 2-A

'Junk Mail' To Be Stopped

WASHINGTON (AP) — Postmaster General Summerfield announced today that city and town deliveries of "junk mail" will be discontinued after March 1, 1955.

Such deliveries of what the Post Office Department calls "simplified address mail" were established on an experimental basis in 1953. The department allowed distribution on selected routes of advertising material addressed simply to "householder," "papa," "brother," "without specific street address."

The experiment, which had been discredited by the Democratic administration, resulted in numerous protests that the result clogged the postal system.

Rep. Murray (D-Tenn.), who is slated to become chairman of the House Post Office Committee in the new Congress assembling next week, said recently he had told Summerfield that unless "junk mail" deliveries were stopped, his committee would take steps to outlaw it.

Sen. Carlson (R-Kan.), retiring chairman of the Senate Post Office Committee, only a few days ago issued a public statement calling for discontinuance.

The dropping of the simplified address mail, which is handled at a third-class rate of 1½ cents per piece, applies only to city and village delivery routes. Such mail will still be handled on rural routes and to boxholders at post offices where no city or village delivery service is available.

This type of patron has had the service since October 1954.

ALL SHE WANTED WAS HER MISSING PLATE

BALTIMORE (AP) — "Lock all the doors," a 55-year-old woman screamed last night in a downtown cafeteria. "Somebody stole my teeth."

While focused to find in mid-air, Mrs. Margaret D. Eversburg, who was about 30 customers and the hired help.

"Not one of you is leaving until I get my teeth back," Mrs. Eversburg was persuaded to desert her habitation, but she telephoned police. About 50 persons gathered on the sidewalk.

The customers, at first startled, then amused, began making audible manifestations:

"What's put those teeth in my soup?" said one.

"That's not a clam, that's my teeth," another said.

Mrs. Eversburg said she had put her \$55 upper plate in a napkin before dinner. When she prepared to leave, the teeth were missing.

After an hour's search by police and the management, Mrs. Eversburg went home without 16 molars and incisors.



MEN OF THE YEAR SELECT MAN OF 1954—Seven of the ten Men of the Year of previous years are shown as they met to name Charlotte's Man of the Year for this year. Seated, left to right: George M. Ivey (1947), James P. McMillan (1953), C. W. Gilchrist (1945). Standing, Col. J. Norman Pease (1948).

Man Of The Year To Be Announced

The Charlotte News Man of the Year for 1954 will be announced tomorrow.

Selection of the Man of the Year is made by Men of the Year of previous years who meet to name Charlotte's Man of the Year for this year. Seated, left to right: George M. Ivey (1947), James P. McMillan (1953), C. W. Gilchrist (1945). Standing, Col. J. Norman Pease (1948).

The Man of the Year award was established by the Charlotte News in 1944 to honor the man who had made a distinguished contribution to the city's progress and welfare during the year.

The rules governing the selection provide that:

"Persons holding salaried political positions are avoided."

"Residence in the city is not a requirement provided a person's activities have been in and for the city."

"A Man of the Year does not have to be selected if no one appears worthy of the honor."

"Civic affairs weigh far more heavily than commercial affairs; and a general, accumulated distinction is not enough. The candidate must have made notable contributions in the year under consideration."

Representatives of The Charlotte News shall not be eligible to participate in the voting except at the event of a presidential election between two or more nominees, in which event they may cast a deciding vote.

The Man of the Year of 1954 will be the eleventh man selected for the distinction. Coleman W. Roberts was the first, having been named in 1944. Other Men of the Year are C. W. (Pat) Gilchrist, J. B. Marshall, (deceased), George M. Ivey, Col. J. Norman Pease, Henry C. Dockery, David Owens, John F. Wallington, H. H. Everett and James P. McMillan. Mr. Owens and Mr. Dockery were ill and did not attend the Men of the Year meeting. The Charlotte News is represented on the group by Thomas A. Robinson, publisher, J. E. Dowd, general manager, and B. S. Griffith, executive editor.

Veteran Doctor Dies At His Home

Dr. Vann Marshall Matthews, 64, who had practiced medicine in Charlotte for 34 years, died at his home, 3010 Central Ave., this morning. He had been ill since September.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 3 p.m. at Governor's Memorial Church, of which he was a member. The Rev. Robert Turner, assistant pastor of the church, and the Rev. Watson S. Boyce, former pastor of Parkwood Ave. A.R.P. Church, will officiate. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery.

Dr. Matthews was a native of Mecklenburg County, born March 18, 1890, in Providence Township. He was the son of the late William McGill Matthews, a farmer in the county, and Sarah Houston Matthews.

PENNSYLVANIA GRADUATE

He attended Mecklenburg County schools and Dr. Glasgow's prep school here. In 1914, he received his A.B. degree from Washington & Lee University, and he received his M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1918.

During World War I, he served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, spending six months at sea and a year in the U.S. Naval Hospital in Philadelphia.

He took resident training at New York City's Lying-In Hospital.

In October, 1920, Dr. Matthews came to Charlotte to begin his practice.

A wave of dog poisoning has broken out in the Dilworth section with several animals dead as the result.

The Mecklenburg Humane Society, owners of dogs and veterinarians have reported cases with arsenic suspected as the poison used.

O. K. Hart of 2017 Dilworth Rd. told The News today that he had lost two animals in the past week or so.

One of those dogs was a cocker spaniel, aged 12 years, and the other was a Dalmatian, two years old.

The Dalmatian was taken to the Parker Veterinary Hospital at 2640 Wilkinson Blvd., where it was pronounced dead on arrival. This occurred last night.

Dr. R. H. Parker, who is associated in the operation of the hospital, said the dog died of arsenic poisoning.

He also said that four dogs, all Dalmatians, were brought to the hospital in the past four days, all suffering from poisoning.

Two of these dogs were brought in from Stanley and the other two were from Charlotte. One was saved through prompt administration of British anti-Lewisite.

A spokesman at the Mecklenburg Humane Society said that between eight and ten dogs had been poisoned in the past month or two, and singled out the Dilworth section as the locality where most poisoning occurred.

She said there was a similar outbreak of poisonings this time last year, and that most of the victims were pedigreed animals.

Mr. Hart said several other residents of the Dilworth area had lost dogs by poisoning since the first of December.

He said he had also heard reports of poisonings in other areas of the city and county.

The Humane Society also reported that a young boy is said to be running down dogs with his motor scooter in the Myers Park section and that residents are required to get the license number of the scooter so that the offense can be reported.

Hubby Just No Good For Emergency

TOKYO (AP) — Hedy Mrs. Kayoko Yoshino tried to rouse her sleeping husband when a knife-wielding burglar broke into their home today. He didn't budge.

Mrs. Yoshino rolled out of bed and told the burglar she would get him money from another room. Instead, she returned with a meat knife and slashed him six times.

Finally she stirred her sleeping husband and told him to take the burglar to a police station. On the way the burglar broke loose from Yoshino and escaped.

ALL SHE WANTED WAS HER MISSING PLATE

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Key Treaty Is Ratified In Close Vote

Victory Keeps Premier In Office

PARIS (AP) — The French National Assembly tonight reluctantly and narrowly approved West German rearmament. The vote was 287-260.

It ratified the treaty establishing a Western European Union (WEU) as the coalition in which 12 West German divisions will join British, French, Belgian, Dutch, Luxembourg and Italian troops in defense of Europe.

This was the key point of the recent London-Paris accords. Deputies already had approved other portions of the accords.

Tonight's vote also kept Premier Pierre Mendes-France in office. He had made adoption of WEU a matter of confidence in his cabinet.

COMPLETES ACTION

The vote completed action in the lower house on the various treaties signed here last October.

In effect, it was a vote on the whole network of treaties. Under a "single package" proviso, if WEU had been rejected none of the other accords would have been considered ratified.

Tonight's voting reversed an assembly decision the day before Christmas against WEU, 280-259, when it was not a confidence issue.

All the treaties now go to the Council of the Republic, or Senate, where debate is tentatively scheduled for February.

Under a new constitutional amendment, the Senate can delay final French ratification simply by making slight changes in the various bills and sending them back to the assembly. This could bring final passage close to the mid-May date which Mendes-France has suggested for a big four meeting with Soviet Russia on the German issue.

Today in the assembly the Communists made a last minute attempt to drag out the issue.

Quinine 'Shot' Proves Fatal

REIDSVILLE (AP) — A 62-year-old farmer of Madison died Tuesday night after drinking a cup of coffee to which he had added what he thought was quinine, but which apparently was strychnine, a coroner's report shows.

Thomas J. Smith died en route to a hospital after drinking the coffee.

Dr. M. C. Cummings, Rockingham County coroner, said the bottle from which the powder came was clearly marked strychnine.

WHAT'S INSIDE

YOU DON'T PRESERVE academic freedom by shouting about it, says Duke University President A. Hollis Edens on today's editorial page. "You keep it by practicing it." Turn to 4-A.

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Comics	6A	Serial	9A
Crossword	4B	Sports	10-11A
Editorials	4A	Theater	10B
Features	4B	Women	2-3B

Dilworth Area Center Of Action

Dog Poisoning Outbreak Reported

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EVENING PRAYER

Almighty God, we praise Thee (Thy) Thou boldest all of time in Thy hands. Do Thou go with us into the coming new year and make us wise in the spending of our days, so that we may glorify Thee in all we do. In the name of our Redeemer, Amen.

OUR WEATHER

Fair and cold today, tonight and tomorrow.

Low temperature this morning 41 degrees.

Low temperature expected tomorrow 35 degrees.

High temperature yesterday 89 degrees.

High temperature expected today 36 degrees.

High temperature expected tomorrow 45 degrees.

Sunrise 7:31 a.m.; sunset 5:20 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A