

FIRE-FIGHTERS BEFORE COURT FOR 18 BLAZES

Alleged Ringleader Enters No Defense to Three Indictments

(Special to the Times.) MOUNT HOLLY, May 27.—Trial of the eight alleged firebugs, members of Beverly Fire Company No. 2, who are charged with starting 18 fires, was under way in the Burlington County Court today.

Charles Horner, aged 22, retracted his plea of not guilty, and made no defense to three indictments charging him with setting fire to the Pickle House, owned by Leonard Kimble, near Beverly, and two homes, 304 and 306 Laurel Street, Beverly. He was driver of the fire truck and is alleged to have been the ring leader.

John Yannerella, aged 19, went on trial for being implicated in setting fire to the Pickle House, January 14. Yannerella is charged with having taken Charles Horner and William Dewson, a youth, to the Kimble farm and remained in the car with lights out while Dewson went to the Pickle House, then used as a barn, and set fire to the building with rags soaked in gasoline. The building was destroyed with its contents of hampers and a safe.

A confession to Ellis H. Parker, made by Yannerella, was read. Yannerella admitted he drove two men to the Pickle House and the safe was started by Dewson, but stated that he was afterward afraid to tell.

Dewson, the boy, who a short time ago pleaded guilty to setting fire to the Pickle House, was charged with starting a fire at Annandale, was brought back to testify in the case yesterday. He said that Horner and Yannerella got old rags from the house and soaked them in gasoline and induced him to set fire to the building.

Yannerella, when placed on the stand in his own defense, denied that he knew anything about the fire to the barn, and that he was not at the fire house at all that night, but admitted he took two fellows to the farm at 12:30 that morning. He said that he knew nothing of the setting of the fire. His case is to be continued.

Albert Voys, aged 19, retracted his plea of not guilty to setting fire to a residence at Delanco Gardens and also a barn in Perkins' yard in Beverly. His sentence was deferred until June 4.

Richard Matthews and George Tyrell, of Bordentown, pleaded guilty to the Pickle House fire, and were sentenced to a term of 30 days in the State Prison. Harry Wilson, of Moorestown, pleaded guilty to conducting a lottery. The men will be sentenced on June 4.

card, Brussels physicist, and his assistant Charles Kipker set off a hydrogen balloon today on a scientific mission into the atmosphere. The balloon, which was inflated with hydrogen gas, was launched from the earth's atmosphere never seen by man.

In contrast to their first attempt, the balloon, when it was launched, made a perfect take-off early this morning. Picard, wearing a stocking cap and a gray suit, and Kipker, dressed in a light blue suit, were seen through the portholes of a glass aluminum ball attached to the balloon, and attendants screwed on an airtight cover. The great bag shot upward to an altitude of a thousand feet and drifted swiftly toward the north.

The aluminum "basket" is seven feet in diameter and carries a supply of artificial oxygen without which a journey into such altitude would mean certain death. The balloon, the largest ever built in Germany, has a diameter of 100 feet and holds 500,000 cubic feet of hydrogen. It contained only 95,000 feet at the start but was expected to expand to full capacity as a height of about 40,000 feet.

Picard hopes to explore the stratosphere, from 40,000 to 60,000 feet above the earth, and with his instruments to estimate the density of the air, the temperature, the origin of cosmic rays. He plans to demonstrate as well that human beings can travel and live in such a rarefied atmosphere.

BANKER'S PECULATION REACHES \$201,319

PHILADELPHIA, May 27.—Bank examiners revealed yesterday that the peculations of Howard C. Pedrick, cashier of the First National Bank of Conshohocken, totaled \$201,319. Two days after Pedrick on May 2 confessed embezzlement of \$45,700, he strangled his wife with a silk stocking in her bedroom and shot himself in the garage of his home at 6th Avenue and Fayette Street, Conshohocken.

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PLATFORM SPLIT AVERTED BY G. O. P.

Stand on Prohibition and Recognition for Women Viewed As Compromise

Differences over which a split was threatened, notably on prohibition and recognition for women, were viewed today as satisfactorily compromised by the tentative draft of the Republican platform.

The declaration of principles was completed last night by the resolutions committee, after a number of amendments had been considered. It will be submitted for adoption at the second and concluding session of the State convention next Tuesday.

Even with these changes, the plank met the opposition of some of the Eighteenth Amendment and the restoration of State rights, contains the further provision that the Federal government be vested with power to protect dry States from the importation of liquor for sale.

Delegates to the Democratic State convention will reconvene at the State-Trent here next Tuesday to adopt a platform for the coming year. The platform will be before New Jersey voters in the November election.

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FEAR FELT FOR FATE OF BLAZING VESSEL

LONDON, May 27 (AP).—The fate of the Portuguese steamer Corretora, which caught fire last night, is the subject of concern today in shipping circles.

Lloyd's List's Red Radio Station reported it had received a message from the British steamer Duncker, saying the Portuguese vessel was blazing from stem to stern, and that there had been explosions on board.

The fact that the relayed messages were conflicting, possibly garbled in transmission, cast great uncertainty on the minds of the shipping world.

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TENTATIVE DEMOCRATIC PLANKS

The tentative draft of the Democratic platform for the coming year was announced today by the National Administration.

The present Republican administration at Washington is the worst in our national history. It has failed utterly to meet the expectations of the people. It rode into power on the promise that it would restore prosperity, and guarantee the peace and tranquility of the country.

Undue influence by mandatory legislation with a view to domestic control solely is in itself violative of a fundamental principle of democratic government, but when inspired by a purpose to achieve partisan ends, it is a gross abuse of power.

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THOUSANDS VIEW AERIAL SPECTACLE

PHILADELPHIA, May 27.—Thousands of people gathered today to watch an aerial spectacle over the city.

The spectacle, which was held in the city of Camden, was a display of aerial maneuvers by a group of aviators.

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DEMOCRATS READY TO ADOPT PLANKS

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TREASURY BALANCE ENDS LIFE WITH GUN

WASHINGTON, May 27 (AP).—Treasury receipts for May 25 were \$6,141,319; expenditures \$4,128,182; balance \$2,013,137.

CARD PARTY IS HELD AT OLD BARRACKS

With 14 tables in place, the annual card party was held this afternoon at the Old Barracks, Willow Street, by the Old Barracks Association.

OHIO TRUSTEES MAKE ANSWER TO MILLER

COLUMBUS, O., May 27 (AP).—The board of trustees and President G. W. Rightmire, of Ohio State University, stood their ground today against a flurry of opposition to the dismissal of Professor Herbert A. Miller.

LOS ANGELES HOME, STARTS OFF AGAIN

LAKEHURST, N. J., May 27 (AP).—The Navy dirigible, the Los Angeles, returned to the training station today after a practice flight in the vicinity of the Cape May, N. J., training station.

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