

Girls Forced to Wed, Hand-Picked Husbands, Charge

Attorney for Sisters Says Head of Religious Cult Ran Match-Making Affairs With Iron Hand.

Pawpaw, Mich., Feb. 9.—Charges that Benjamin Purnell, high priest of the House of David, a religious cult at Benton Harbor, forced 24 girls of the cult to marry husbands he picked out for them were in open court yesterday. The charges were made by W. M. Nelson, attorney for two sisters who are suing Purnell for \$100,000 damages each. Both allege he forced them to marry his hand-picked husbands.

The 24 girls, Nelson stated, were notified at a one afternoon of their impending weddings and at 6 were marshaled in a row and forcibly married to men commanded by Purnell to become their husbands.

The sisters, Mrs. Ruth Bamford Reed, 17, and Mrs. Gladys Bamford Rubel, 19, claim that they were residents of Purnell's domain from babyhood until they were forced to leave the colony, destitute, disgraced and married to men selected by Purnell. Scathing denouncement of the practices and habits of the high lord of the Israelites featured the hearing. Despite the efforts of attorneys of Purnell, an affidavit of Mrs. Reed was read in court by her attorney in which revolting charges were alleged against Purnell.

Mrs. Reed alleges that her father and mother, wealthy residents of Melbourne, Australia, were induced by Purnell in 1904 to leave their home and become members of the House of David. All their property and fortune were turned over to Purnell, Bamford working without compensation.

Much of the jewelry, valued at several thousand dollars, is now worn by Purnell and his wife, Mrs. Reed claims. Her mother's wedding ring even adorns the finger of Mary Purnell, so completely under the dominion of the high priest has the Bamford family become, says Mrs. Reed.

Pastor to Stand Ground.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Feb. 9.—"Mel Trotter does not run away while under fire.

This was the answer of the famous evangelist when asked if he would resign as head of the City Rescue mission, after Reformed and Christian Reformed churches had closed their

Wanda Hawley Says Hubby Called Her "Brainless Fool"

So Movie Actress Asks Divorce—Charges She Supported Her Husband.

Los Angeles, Feb. 9.—Failure to provide, brutality, refusal to work, and dissipation of large sums of money she gave him, were four of the grounds upon which Wanda Hawley, motion picture actress asked a divorce from Allen Burton Hawley in an action filed here yesterday.

Miss Hawley alleged she not only had to make her own living, but had to make her husband's, also; that he treated her with contempt; called her a "brainless fool," swore at her in the presence of others; criticized her personal appearance in public; bruised and injured her by dragging her from an automobile and told her "it was none of her business," when she asked him about reports that he was entertaining men and other women at their home.

Miss Hawley, whose true given name is Selma, called for evidence from New York about two weeks ago.

doors to his mission's financial campaign.

The churches' action resulted from the sensational divorce suit in which Trotter was accused of being the father of a baby born to his secretary, Florence Moody. All but one church refused to admit the mission workers. Trotter was vindicated in the divorce action, but opinion is against him still in many quarters.

"My place is in Grand Rapids, and that's where I am going to stay," said Trotter.

George Bernard Shaw Says London Is Ugly

London, Feb. 9.—George Bernard Shaw is on the warpath again. In a letter to the Architect, the journal of the English Society of Architects, he thinks that London's buildings are very ugly, and suggests many improvements, one of which would be to remove the top story of the Houses of Parliament.

"The Houses of Parliament could be made almost presentable by removing the top story," he says.

"Why don't you send a competent young man around London to suggest improvements in existing ugly buildings, and to mark the hopeless ones for demolition?" he asks.

Clearing out from Westminster Abbey a lot of "ugly tombs" is another one of his suggestions for beautifying London.



Wanda Hawley
Her husband is said to be in New York.

Judge Endorses "Unwritten Law" in Murder Trial

New York, Feb. 9.—One of the strongest endorsements of the "unwritten law" ever uttered from the bench was pronounced by County Judge J. Franklin Taylor in Brooklyn, when a jury acquitted Saviano Sbordano for killing Jere Meighen, 60, who had attacked the slayer's 7-year-old daughter, Lillian.

The jury deliberated less than 20 minutes. Judge Taylor thanked them for the "just verdict."

The judge told the jury he had consulted two supreme court justices and three assistant district attorneys about Sbordano's case and all had informed him they would have been "cracked" by the same experience.

Burglars Rob Furniture Store and 2 Residences

Three burglaries were reported to police yesterday.

Thieves who gained entrance to the Star Furniture company store, 613 North Sixteenth street, made off with a phonograph, proprietors said.

Charles W. Hinzie, 4616 Davenport street, reported that prowlers entered his home with a pass key and stole \$15.

A girl's bicycle was stolen during the night from the home of R. B. Condon, 1512 South Twenty-seventh street.

Ten Men Trapped by Gas Fumes Die; 30 More Overcome

Workers Caught in Underground Chamber—Many Injured in Attempt to Rescue Companions.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 9.—Trapped in an underground chamber and shut off from rescue by a gas screen which only firemen with masks could penetrate, 10 men were asphyxiated at the Consumers Gas company's plant yesterday and about 30 others were overcome by poisonous fumes, many of them in heroic efforts to save their fellow workers.

It has not been determined whether the tragedy resulted from a defective indicator on a "tell-tale" safety valve or the failure of those first entering the death chamber to heed the "tell-tale" warning of a leaky gas main.

A group of men in the valve house were installing apparatus for increasing the flow in the mains when three others entered the underground chamber and were bowled over by fumes. Others hurried to their aid, but they too were quickly overpowered by the poisonous atmosphere. A clanging gas alarm turned the plant into confusion.

Hurry calls were sent for police and firemen and the battle began to save those who could be carried to fresh air quickly and the still greater task of reaching the first three who had collapsed in the chamber.

Seven men were taken out alive, but all died before reaching St. Michael hospital. The condition of several others was reported to be critical.

Fire Insurance Company of Omaha Names Officers

The fourth annual meeting of the National American Insurance company of Omaha was held Thursday at the home office in the Barker block. The officers and directors were elected:

W. H. Ahmanson, president; W. L. Wilcox, vice president; James E. Foster, secretary-treasurer.

Directors: W. H. Ahmanson, Omaha; W. L. Wilcox, vice president Universal Finance corporation, Omaha; James E. Foster, Omaha; N. H. Tyson, president of the Bank of Benson; E. R. Goodman, president Goodmans-Buckley Trust Co., North Platte, Neb.; C. A. Achtemeier, vice president State Bank of Jensen, Jensen, Neb.; H. H. Jones, vice president of Brin & Jensen Co., Omaha; C. L. Dunham, president First National bank, Arcadia, Cal.; Dr. Frank Harris, Ord, Neb.; G. C. Huetter, president Farmers State bank, Eustis, Neb.; J. F. Smith, Eustis, Neb.; D. J. Boyer, Albia, Neb.; G. J. Harrison, Seward, Neb.; C. E. Brinkhoff, Superior, Neb.; Frank Misko, Ord, Neb.; Alfred J. Co., Astori, Neb.; S. K. Polak, president and cashier Bank of Ashton, Ashton, Neb.

Quantity of Loot Is Found in Apartment

Detectives yesterday recovered a quantity of stolen jewelry, including watches and the mountings of diamond rings, apparently, they say, the remainder of a collection of high class loot, in the Carberry apartments at Fortieth and Cass.

The loot was discovered, wrapped up in a paper, by Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Steiner, recently of Chicago, when they moved into apartment 103. Detectives to believe that a prowler had jimmied his way into the apartment and used it as a place of temporary abode.

One piece of jewelry, a Vassar pin, bears the name of Elizabeth Blunt. Another is engraved with the name of Edward Wilkins Dewey. Detective George Summitt is endeavoring to locate the owners of the remainder of the jewelry.

Expert Outlines Men's Fashions

Abnormal Styles Will Be in Poor Taste, Says New York Editor.

Proper dress for males of Omaha was outlined Thursday night by Samuel Regal, technical editor of the American Fashion company of New York city, at a meeting of the Merchant Tailors' and Designers' association of Omaha. A demonstration was given by Mr. Regal of fashions in men's clothing and the tailors indicated their approval of a return to the gentility which pervaded the nation before the war. The meeting was held in Hotel Fontenelle.

The war, which brought from the government a request to conserve in men's garments, gave birth to the new fad of "trick" clothes. This assortment included abnormal pleats, an extra button here and an added flare there, with a narrowing of the sleeve or a bell on the coat cuff, Mr. Regal explained.

Speaking of the modern trend towards the so-called "torador" trousers, Mr. Regal said, "These horrors were worn quite extensively 35 or 40 years ago by men employed in stock yards and by the Apache type of gentleman. There was a certain judge in New York who would view each male prisoner who came before him, and if that person had on a pair of flare trousers, he got 60 days as sure as fate. Reputable tailors do not want such styles to go out from their concerns."

The meeting was under the direction of O. C. Smith of the Omaha Merchant Tailors Designers and was presided over by Jacob Hansen. The meeting was larger than the last convention held at Kansas City. Mr. Regal left yesterday morning for Denver and the coast.

Volcano Active

London, Feb. 9.—A dispatch to the Times from Riga says that Moscow reports reaching there are to the effect that the Amachinsky volcano, near Petropavlovsk, a seaport in Kamchatka, is in eruption with recurrent earth shocks.

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Patent leather trimmed with black or blue kidskin. Turned soles, covered Cuban heels. Formerly 10.50. Sale price, 5.95.

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