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Walton-le-Dale garage blaze

PETROL WAGGON DRIVER IS FINED—THEN COMMENDED

THE driver of a petrol tanker who drove his vehicle away from a blazing Walton-le-Dale garage after fire had broken out while the fuel was being unloaded, was commended and fined by Bamber Bridge Magistrates, to-day.

The driver, James Masterson (34), of Lonsdale-road, Preston, was charged with failing to observe the necessary precautions when unloading. He pleaded guilty and was fined £10.

Mr. T. H. Foster, chairman, commended Masterson for his action in stopping the flow of petrol and driving away his tanker, but added that he had a serious responsibility to the public as the driver of a petrol vehicle.

CHARRED MASS

Mr. F. W. Roscoe, prosecuting for Walton-le-Dale Urban Council, said the charge was the result of a "disastrous fire" at Rafferty's Garage, Victoria-road, Walton-le-Dale, on April 2nd. The inside of the premises was a charred mass of wreckage, and as it was in a built-up area many fire appliances were called before the fire was extinguished, said Mr. Roscoe.

Masterson, he said, went to the garage to deliver 900 gallons of petrol and when he was about to unload the last 200 gallons he attached the pipe to his tanker while a garage assistant coupled the other end to a petrol tank in the garage.

Defendant then stood on the stairs and twice asked if they were ready. He looked at the pipe and assumed it was coupled correctly. He was told everything was alright and he started flow from his waggon.

Near to the tank was a battery charging plant, said Mr. Roscoe, and the prosecution held the theory that the pipe was not properly coupled to the tank, and petrol ran out on to the floor and was ignited by a spark from the brush gear of the plant.

PROMPT ACTION

However, said Mr. Roscoe, defendant took very prompt action to stop the supply of petrol and drove his tanker away.

But the regulations laid down that the driver should take proper precautions to avoid fires or explosions and he should not delegate his duties. If Masterson had made sure that the pipe was properly coupled to the tank there would not have been a fire he alleged.

Mr. G. F. L. Royle, defending, said his client was highly commended by his firm. The garage assistant had connected one end of the pipe to the tank, but must have done so only loosely so that with the weight and vibration it had come unscrewed and the petrol had run on the floor.

Masterson had looked at the connection and twice had asked if they were ready and was told "Let it go." He had acted with commendable promptitude when fire broke out, and only eight gallons were allowed to escape. He had tried to minimise the effects of the mistake.

The strange story that was never fully told

THE strange story of a man, aged about 40, who for 25 years lived as a recluse in a Bristol house and when found had a beard five feet long, ended to-day, without it ever being fully told when police recovered his body from the River Frome, near Bristol.

The story started in February, last year, when the recluse, Harry Tucker was found by police crouching naked, except for a blanket round his shoulders, in a ten-roomed house in Somerset-street, Bristol.

POLICE CALLED

His existence became known after neighbours had heard windows being broken and seen clothing and other articles thrown from the windows of the house.

The police were called and they found Harry and an 83-year-old woman.

The woman was taken to an institution. Tucker was taken to a Bristol mental hospital, where he lived until his body was discovered in the river to-day.

For many years three sisters lived in the house—Clara, Rose and Louise Tucker.

Clara died four years ago. Rose died about 18 months ago.

Louise lived on there. Neighbours thought that she was the only occupant. None of the neighbours knew that there was a man in the house, though some remembered seeing a boy there many years before.

Mr. Eden gains strength

The following bulletin on Mr. Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, was issued by the Foreign Office to-day: "Mr. Eden had a fair night and has gained some strength."

Mr. Eden had an operation on Wednesday to remove fluid causing jaundice which had persisted since his operation for inflammation of the gall bladder on April 12th.

Big moves expected soon

CHURCHILL'S PLAN FOR WORLD PEACE

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL plans to embark upon another historic task of world significance.

The Prime Minister has decided to take the initiative in a diplomatic move designed to bring about a meeting between the leaders of the Great Powers, in an attempt to achieve settlement in the cold war.

Sir Winston has informed the Cabinet about his plans and he has given a broad hint of his intentions to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Conservative Party.

He paid a surprise visit to their meeting on Wednesday night and received an enthusiastic ovation after making a speech.

The Prime Minister indicated that the final decision of this action must be left to his personal judgment.

It is understood that Sir Winston has already informed President Eisenhower about his plans.

HERE FOR TALKS

President Eisenhower's special envoy, Mr. Robert Cutler, and the former American Ambassador in London, has arrived here for a series of meetings with the Prime Minister, Mr. Butler and Lord Alexander, the Minister of Defence.

Our Ambassador in Moscow, Sir Alvary Gascoigne, has had talks with Mr. Molotov and he will again see the Soviet Foreign Minister in the next few days.

Mr. Nehru, the Indian Prime Minister, who is coming to London for the Coronation, is expected to play a part in a diplomatic approach to the Chinese Government in Peking.

Sir Winston Churchill does not conceal Britain's anxiety about the prolonged negotiations in Korea and he believes that Britain must give a lead in the Far East.

The Prime Minister indicated that whatever the outcome of the present negotiations in Cairo, now being conducted by our ambassador, Sir Ralph Stevenson and General Sir Brian Robertson with General Neguib, there will be no British scuttle" from the Suez Canal Zone.

The future of Mr. Anthony Eden is bound up with developments. His friends say that his illness is unfortunately more serious than has been disclosed, and his recovery may take many months.

When he returns to work, he is expected to do so in the capacity of deputy Prime Minister to relieve Sir Winston in various day-to-day duties, particularly as regards Parliamentary business.

It is now generally expected that Sir Winston will devote his energies to a more extensive scale to international affairs and that Mr. Harold Macmillan, the present Minister of Housing and Local Government, will take over the Foreign Office in a Government reshuffle after the Coronation.

Whether Sir Winston will launch his international move before the Coronation or after the conference of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers, which opens on June 2, remains to be seen but many politicians believe that he is determined not to lose time, and that some striking developments in the international field may take place within the next two or three weeks.

Rest of the news

Parking meters (as in U.S.) for Britain?

COLONEL A. E. YOUNG, City of London Police Commissioner, said in New York, last night, before flying home: "We intend to do some things which the police of New York have been doing for some time, for one thing parking meters."

New York motorists put a coin in a meter and park for a specified period—usually 10 cents (about 8d.) for on hour.

o o o

The Red Cross reported early to-day that 240 injured were in an air force hospital near Warner Robins, Georgia, as the result of a tornado which swept the town late yesterday. Eleven people were reported killed.

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Sufficient money has already been contributed the past in response to the British Wireless for the Blind appeal to meet 50 per cent of known needs. Five hundred sets are still required to reach the target of 1,000 new sets asked for by Sir Ian Fraser, M.P.

o o o

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and Princess Margaret visited the British Industries Fair, at Olympia, London, to-day.

o o o

There was laughter when Mr. Reginald Maudling, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, told the advertising Association conference at Eastbourne, to-day, that his mother-in-law bought a piano only a fortnight before the budget, which removed purchase tax on pianos altogether.

o o o

Prefab exports

The Minister of Works (Mr. David Eccles) announced to-day that Britain was now the world's leading exporter of prefabricated buildings. Continental countries were passed in 1952 when our earnings in the international market were £7,000,000. Our buildings were sent to more than 50 countries.

o o o

Scotch whisky exports during the first quarter of this year were greater than ever before for the same period, and are now running at the highest yearly rate in the history of the industry. Exports totalled 3,202,207 proof gallons and earned £9,114,388. This is a yearly rate of 12,000,000 gallons worth some £36,450,000.

o o o

Without ceremony, the B.B.C. brought television to the North-East of England at midday to-day, when official programmes began from Pontop Pike, in North-West Durham. The pike is 1,035 feet above sea level, about 10 miles from Newcastle-on-Tyne, and on it a 500ft. mast has been erected. Eventually, programmes will be available to an area with a population of 2,500,000.

Chorley man hit dog in self defence

A FIGHT between a sheep dog and a whippet resulted in the owner of the whippet, Walter Moss (43), R.O.P. worker, of Crosse Hall-street, Chorley, appearing at Chorley Magistrates' Court, to-day, accused of causing unnecessary suffering to a dog. The case was dismissed.

William H. Hart, of Cowlingbrow, Chorley, said that he was bitten by his whippet when he was trying to separate it from his sheep dog, and went to a house for treatment and saw Moss holding the sheep dog. In his other hand was what appeared to be an axe.

He accused Moss of striking the dog, whereupon it was covered with blood, and Moss said: "It is not an axe, it is a hammer."

Mr. Henry Stewart Snalam, veterinary surgeon, of Eaves-lane, Chorley, said there was a split through the dog's left eye-ball and it was blind in that eye.

Moss said that he was repairing shoes when he heard the dogs fighting and he ran outside with the hammer. He got hold of the sheep dog, which made as if to bite him and he struck it with the hammer to protect himself.

Peace theme at Moscow May Day parade

MARSHAL BULGANIN, Soviet Minister of Defence, to-day reiterated Russia's belief that all international disputes could be settled by peaceful means.

He was addressing the great May Day demonstration in Moscow's Red Square.

He said: "As regards foreign policy, our Government continues that, with goodwill and a sensible approach, all international disputes could be settled by peaceful means.

"There were no signs, so far, of reducing tension by Western Governments.

"They are setting up military bases in Europe and Asia, aimed at the Soviet Union and countries bordering the Soviet Union.

"Our Government will continue to show appropriate concern with safeguarding the defence and security of our homeland.

BE READY

"Our Government calls on you to strengthen our armed forces in order to be ready to repulse any attempt of whatever hostile forces want to prevent us from the peaceful and victorious tasks of building Communism.

"The Soviet Government will welcome any steps taken by other Governments which are aimed at easing the tension in the international situation, and would like to see peaceful statements supported by acts."

Mr. Malenkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, and Mr. Molotov, Foreign Minister, watched the Moscow May Day parade from the top of the Lenin-Stalin tomb.

Bulganin's speech was relayed throughout the Soviet Union.

Hand-shakes after decision

JUDGMENT WITH COSTS FOR RECTOR IN LIBEL ACTION

JUDGMENT for defendant with costs was entered in the Queen's Bench Division, to-day, for the 42-year-old Rev. Joseph Christopher Wansey, rector of St. Mary's, Woodford, Essex, in the libel action brought by Mr. Gilbert Pritchard, former people's warden at the church.

Mr. Pritchard alleged that the rector libelled him in his parish magazine by referring to him as "a watchdog of the people whose duty it was to bark at and if possible to bite the rector." Describing him as "a backbenchi and a "rallying point of discontent," and accusing him of "rector baiting."

As a result he was not re-elected people's warden.

Mr. Wansey denied that the words referred to Mr. Pritchard or were defamatory.

After a retirement of 12 hours, the jury decided that the words did refer to Mr. Pritchard and were not defamatory of him. They also said that Mr. Wansey was not actuated by malice.

When the court rose Mr. Wansey approached Mr. Pritchard, and the two shook hands.

The judge ruled yesterday that the publication was not privileged and counsel for Mr. Pritchard said he did not urge a defence that the words were fair comment on a matter of public interest.

UNHAPPY FEATURE

Speaking of the parties in the case, His Lordship said: "You may think that both are quite respectable people, devoted to the interests of their church, and according to their lights, trying to do their best.

Perhaps each liked his own way, and one of the unhappy features of the case was, that more than once they sought to dispose of their differences, but did not do so.

Surrender token of severed head

TERRORIST CHIEF KILLED BY OWN BODYGUARD

ONE of the chief Communist terrorists in Malaya, Ah Kuk, has been killed by men of his own bodyguard, the Government of the Malayan Federation announced to-day.

Three of the bodyguard later surrendered, bringing with them their chief's head, the Kuk" because of his diminutive stature, was chief of all terrorists announcement said.

Ah Kuk (31), known as "Shorty" in the north Johore-Malacca region, and was a member of the central committee of the Malayan Communist Party.

A Government communiqué said he was the most important terrorist "eliminated" since December, 1949, when another central committee member, Kar Sin, was shot by the police.

The communique said three men of Ah Kuk's bodyguard including a woman, surrendered after killing him, stopping a Gemas-Jerantut passenger train by standing beside the line and waving their chief's severed head by the hair.

17 ALIASES

Ah Kuk, who used 17 aliases, went underground at the beginning of the emergency in June, in 1948. He was known to have given the order for the executions of 26 of the Malayan Communist Party's most notable "diversionist" Pang Yi-fu, a prominent state committee member for Malacca, together with Pang's wife and a Communist platoon commander.

Preston coal

Price down, but not by 10s.

The national announcement that the price of coal goes down by 10s. a ton as a result of the economy, was refuted, to-day, by Mr. J. W. Howson, President of Preston and District Coal Merchants' Federation.

In a statement to the "Post," Mr. Howson said "The position in this area is that coal prices are reduced by 6d. a cwt. or 7s. 6d. a ton from to-day, until the end of October, so as to encourage householders to stock up during the summer months."

But, as in winter, on November 1st, coal prices would go UP by 10s. a ton, Mr. Howson warned.

Chorley by-pass answer to road safety problem?

"THE sun is beginning to shine and, unfortunately, when it does, Chorley's main street is inundated with traffic travelling to and from the seaside," said Councillor W. Rawcliffe at Chorley Town Council, last night, when it was reported that last month there were 13 accidents in the borough.

He wondered what sort of a road accident record they would have when winter came round again.

Pointing out that a man had been killed in Market-street, on Saturday, Councillor Rawcliffe said he made no apology for again stressing the need for a by-pass.

No by-pass of the town would be the greatest asset to road safety, he said.

Alderman C. Williams said trees and thick hedges had been cut down at the Junction of Buxton-lane, and Preston-road, near the railway embankment and replaced with a small hedge.

INFERNAL MACHINE?

"There is nothing to stop a vehicle crashing 60 or 70ft. down the embankment to the main railway line except the small hedge. The trees which served as a barrier have been removed," he said.

A horticulturist-in-laying machine which belches smoke and flame, could give points to the old Australian of Dante's Inferno said Councillor Miss E. E. J. Cunliffe when she reported she had had numerous complaints from residents in Southport-road, where the machine was at work, that the smoke was pouring into the houses, which had recently been painted or spring cleaned.

Chorley keep six

Chorley P.C. have only retained six of their players. They are goal-keeper Phillipson, full backs Moss and Lyon, centre half Simm and Cunliffe and left wing Heald.

Amateur golf

White reaches semi-final

PHILIP SCRUTTON (Addington), who yesterday eliminated the title-holder, Ernest Millward, was to-day beaten in the quarter-finals of the English Amateur Golf Championship at Royal Birkdale, by his club-mate, Kenneth Thom, the 1949 Walker Cup international, by one hole in a splendid match.

Thom now meets the Rev. Ronnie White (Royal Liverpool), in the semi-final this afternoon. White scored a 2 and 1 victory over his fellow-Walker Cup player, Colin Langley (Stoke Poges) in a clash that was generally regarded as a probable championship decider.

The second semi-final will be between Harley Roberts (Stourbridge), the 1948 runner-up, and Gerald Micklem (Wilderness), the 1947 winner.

Harley Roberts beat Geoffrey Roberts (Southport and Ainsdale) by one hole, and Micklem defeated K. D. Bentley (Hesketh) by 2 and 1.

SIXTH ROUND

G. H. Micklem (Wilderness) beat H. G. Bentley (Hesketh), 2 and 1.

H. J. Roberts (Stourbridge) beat G. F. Roberts (Southport and Ainsdale), one hole.

E. C. Thom (Addington) beat P. Scrutton (Addington), one hole.

R. J. White (Ryl Liverpool) beat J. D. A. Langley (Stoke Poges), 2 and 1.

North End champions?

See To-night's "Post"

PRESTON NORTH END may be League champions to-night—if Burnley hold Arsenal to a draw at Highbury.

In view of the great interest in the London match a special edition of the "Post" will be on sale in Preston this evening at 6 15, giving the result of the championship decider, and the final scores of other games.

County cricket

Three Australian centuries

GRAEME Hole and Kieth Miller each hit the first centuries of the tour for the Australians at Worcester to-day. Their fine stand of 198 put the side within easy reach of Worcestershire's 332.

The condition were better than any previous time in the match for run making, and the county bowlers were almost powerless.

Fre cricketers have given a better exhibition on their first appearance in this country than the 22 year old Hole.

MISSED HAT-TRICK

Whitehead, former Yorkshire fast medium inswing bowler, was shaping for a hat-trick when he took the new ball and bowled Hole middle stump and then removed De Courcy lbw first ball.

The feldsmen hemmed in Benaud but Whitehead arred in his direction and Benaud went on to help Miller in another big stand.

At Worcester

Worcester 333/7dec. (Kenyon 122, Hole 52, Scott 52; Benaud 52, Miller 3/67)

Australians 110/3.

K. Miller, not out 218
G. Hole, b Whitehead 112
J. De Courcy, lbw b Whitehead 0
R. Benaud, lbw b Perks 4
K. Archer, b Outschoorn 108
R. Lindwall, not out 5
Extras 5
Total (7wkts) 522

Cambridge v Sussex

At Cambridge

Cambridge University 261 (Bushby 107; James 4/65).

Hampshire v Somerset

At Southampton

Hampshire 299 (Marshall 81, Sagar 57; Mitchell 3/68, Lawrence 3/92, Smith 3/111)

Somerset 119/1.

Match drawn.

BIG SEND OFF FOR BLACKPOOL

WHEN the Blackpool team, reserves and officials left Central Station at 10 a.m. for London, it looked that half the town had turned out to wish them "good luck."

The climax came at two minutes to 10 when officials threw open the barriers and hundreds raced down the platform waving rattles and rosettes.

Hundreds lined the station entrance and fresh cheers greeted each player. Some signed autographs and others shook hands. Biggest cheer was for Brown. Brown and Kelly limped down the platform.

Weakened Lancaster draw at Nelson

Lancaster had six regulars and the rest local amateurs at Nelson, last night, but they drew 0-0. Nelson were not at top strength and were weak in front of goal.

The only man to do close was half-back Crowther converted to centre forward.

10-1 CHANCE WINS 1,000 GUINEAS

THE 4-1 favourite Bebe Grande, owned by Mr. J. S. Gerber and ridden by W. Snaith, second in the 2,000 Guineas, was beaten into third place in the 1,000 Guineas Stakes at Newmarket, to-day.

Mr. H. D. H. Wills' Hay y Laughter (10-1) won by two lengths from Sir Adrian Jarvis's Tessa Gillian.

1.45—LITTLEPORT STAKES
1 STEEL'S HINGE ..... W. Rickman
2 SEDAN QUEEN ..... W. Snaith
3 HE GOES A MILLION ..... E. Smith
Betting: 7-4 Sedan Queen, 3-1 Steel's Hinge, 10-1 Hay y Laughter, 20-1 Sweet Mimosa, 25-1 Bonnie Bee, 33-1 Bright Ruler, 40-1 Mary Ann, 50-1 Gold Quest, Tufted Bullet, Mary Gilmour (C. Parnell) Alcibiades (Mrs. Weaver) Gold Quest (Mrs. Ashton) Tufted Bullet (Mrs. Ashton) Mary Gilmour (C. Parnell) Alcibiades (Mrs. Weaver)
(Winner trained by J. Jarvis)
Betting: 10-1 Hay y Laughter, 4-1 Tessa Gillian, 7-1 Bebe Grande, 8-1 Sweet Mimosa, 12-1 Bonnie Bee, 14-1 Sedan Queen, 16-1 Steel's Hinge, 20-1 Bright Ruler, 25-1 Gold Quest, Mary Ann, Tufted Bullet, Mary Gilmour, Alcibiades. Tufted Bullet (Mrs. Ashton) Mary Gilmour (C. Parnell) Alcibiades (Mrs. Weaver)
Winner trained by J. Jarvis
Betting: 2-1 on Bebe Grande, 3-1 to 2 Tessa Gillian, 4-1 Hay y Laughter, 10-1 Sweet Mimosa, 12-1 Bonnie Bee, 20-1 Sedan Queen, 25-1 Steel's Hinge, 33-1 Bright Ruler, 40-1 Mary Ann, 50-1 Gold Quest, Tufted Bullet, Mary Gilmour, Alcibiades. Tufted Bullet (Mrs. Ashton) Mary Gilmour (C. Parnell) Alcibiades (Mrs. Weaver)
Winner trained by J. Jarvis
Betting: 2-1 on Bebe Grande, 3-1 to 2 Tessa Gillian, 4-1 Hay y Laughter, 10-1 Sweet Mimosa, 12-1 Bonnie Bee, 14-1 Sedan Queen, 16-1 Steel's Hinge, 20-1 Bright Ruler, 25-1 Gold Quest, Mary Ann, Tufted Bullet, Mary Gilmour, Alcibiades. Tufted Bullet (Mrs. Ashton) Mary Gilmour (C. Parnell) Alcibiades (Mrs. Weaver)
Winner trained by J. Jarvis
Betting: 7-4 on Hay y Laughter, 3-1 Tessa Gillian, 7-1 Bebe Grande, 8