

THE SEARCHLIGHT

IF Governor Miriam Ferguson expects to remove Amon G. Carter from the chairmanship of the Texas Technological College board, she'll have to do more than write letters to him.

CARTER says flatly that he will not resign unless asked by other members of the board and the public.

SO far as we can see, there is no way to remove Carter so long as he does not eliminate himself.

IN his reply Carter denies that he has done anything to make it necessary for him to resign, and points to Citizen Jim Ferguson's past history as regards educational institutions of the state.

THE letter takes some hot shots at the Fergusons and the highway commission, just as the governor took some at Carter.

CARTER before leaving Houston Tuesday night said that he expected to have a fight on his hands because of his refusal to resign, but that he was ready for it.

AFTER reading over the governor's letter and Carter's reply, we are of the opinion that the Fergusons have come out second-best, which is what might be expected when politicians attack publishers who make a business of writing.

SSS "I won't." "I will." "I won't." "I will."

WITH so many contradictory statements from Austin we don't know whether Governor Ferguson is going to convene the legislature or not.

IF she does she will be in a better position to stave off any attempts to remove her from office than if she forces the legislators to come together at the call of the speaker.

REGARDLESS of what she does there will be a session of the legislature.

WILL HOGG'S rather picturesque announcement that he is ready, if asked, to help underwrite the expenses of the called session, removes the only obstacle that stands in Speaker Satterwhite's path.

SSS CITY COUNCIL has passed a safety measure that may avert serious and dangerous fires.

THE declaration of the harbor fire zone by City Council Monday, and the ruling that all buildings constructed in that zone in the future be fireproof, was a splendid precautionary measure.

PORT HOUSTON and its harbor district are worth far too much to this city and section not to be protected fully.

SSS ONE circus pays out \$65,000 in wages Tuesday as it breaks up for the winter; another, a carnival, builds here for next year's showings.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, or whatever organization cares to, should encourage more such organizations to spend their winters here.

HOUSTON benefits; the merchants reap profits.

WITHOUT realizing it, such amusement organizations as those two put much money into circulation. They are businesses worth welcoming to any city.

SSS ALL'S fair in love and war, so the adage goes; and that "war" must mean Texas' "highway war."

"LIAR," "Fraud," "Drinker," "Greed," "Graft." One is beginning to become accustomed to the words.

THE same phrases, more carefully clothed, will be heard at the special session, proposed for next month.

SUCH political rows, picturesque tho in bad taste and somewhat rabid, must have an end; and must, it seems to us, accomplish some good.

DEPLORABLE, of course, that that good can't be done without all the mud showers, but politics is nothing more than mud.

DAN DUBS JIM "JUGGLER"

SPARKS BEGINS LIFE AS PRODUCER



This photo shows Ernest Sparks, Press dramatic expert, explaining a few fine points of theatrical technique to two stars of the Prince cast he is directing this week for art's sake. At the left is Betty Connors, ingenue, and Vi Mansfield, right, eccentric comedienne.

BY ERNEST SPARKS I AM producing a show at the Prince Theater as advertised. I think it is going to be a good show despite the handicaps under which I am laboring. Handicap No. 1 This show has to go on Wednesday afternoon with one reading and two rehearsals. I wish to explain to all who would listen that two rehearsals are not enough to finish a play. But it seems the Prince has a habit of changing the bill twice a week and intends to continue

the habit regardless of whether I like it or not. Handicap No. 2 Mickey Riley, Jewish comedian, did not show up for rehearsal Tuesday. The cast lolled about and yawned while we waited. Bob Conn, the boy with the nimble feet, came in and said he thought Mickey sat up to see the sun rise. Betty Connors, the ingenue, bitterly complained that some one was costing her a lot of sleep. She yawned as she said (Continued on Page 2)

ACTION ON DETECTIVE PAY HIKE DELAYED

The matter of raising salaries of detectives will have to be considered when the annual budget for 1926 is made, along with increases sought by other departments.

This was the conclusion reached by city council Wednesday

MAYOR SILENT Holcombe Undecided on Next Campaign

Mayor Holcombe said Wednesday he had not decided whether he would run for governor in the coming summer or for mayor in the following spring—or for either position.

But he indicated that he would not get out of politics. Holcombe declared that an ambition to be governor is not greater than an ambition to continue as mayor.

A year ago Mayor Holcombe was seriously considered as a candidate for governor in the coming campaign. Since the Moody-Ferguson row started other candidates considered even more seriously than Mayor Holcombe had ever been mentioned, have almost been eliminated.

Mayor Holcombe would have had the support of organized labor had he run two years ago. Holcombe's race for the state office now would depend largely upon how widely this support should become.

WANT A MAN

Park Place Civic Club Seeks Resignation

Pasadena Election Order Is Rescinded

LIGHT CO. OPPOSES VOTE

BULLETIN An order issued Tuesday by County Judge Bryan calling an election for Dec. 19 to re-incorporate the city of Pasadena, was rescinded Wednesday afternoon after a hearing at which industries near Pasadena strenuously objected to the action.

Vigorous opposition to attempts to re-incorporate the city of Pasadena developed Wednesday afternoon at a hearing before County Judge Bryan.

An order calling for an election Dec. 19 entered by Judge Bryan Tuesday on a petition filed by Pasadena citizens called forth the opposition.

St. John Garwood, who with C. L. Carter, represents the Houston Lighting and Power Co., made the opening attack on the order. He made five main objections.

ONE: The petition is signed by less than 50 citizens.

TWO: There are less than 600 inhabitants of the territory sought to be incorporated altho the petition claims there are between 1200 and 1500.

THREE: The boundaries set out in the petition include industrial sites, farm and pasture land and wooded areas not suitable for city purposes.

FOUR: The boundaries fixed by the petition overlap the boundaries of the city of Houston, which extend 2500 feet in each direction from the Ship Channel.

FIVE: The order calling the election is contrary to the judgment dissolving the former corporation of Pasadena.

The attorney asked that a hearing on his request to revoke the order be set down soon.

Get Leave Edward S. Boyles, whose firm of Boyles, Brown and Scott, represents the Crown-Central Refining Co. and Crown Oil and Refining Co., said he was not aware that an election was wanted until Tuesday afternoon. He was granted leave of the court to adopt the pleadings of the light company.

Other interests represented at the meeting were the Port Commission, Chamber of Commerce and Cullinan interests. Eight citizens of Pasadena headed by James G. Donovan, attorney, were present.

Pasadena was first incorporated early in 1924. Its limits took in several large industrial plants and the city sought to collect taxes from them. A quo warranto proceeding was filed by the industries thru the State Attorney General and a judgment dissolving the incorporation was entered in January of this year.

SANTA NEAR; NO COLD

Snow Needed to Make Christmas Cards Look Realistic Twenty-three days until Christmas and the weather is getting warmer.

Pretty Christmas cards, script in a background of snow, will not be realistic unless the mercury slides down the greased pole. Cloudy skies are forecast for tonight and Thursday, with rains possible. The temperature will rise slightly.

By United Press Leased Wire San Diego, Cal., Dec. 2.—Captain Harry Henry Shepherd and Second Lieut. John Dewey Christian, both of the U. S. marine corps, were killed when their planes collided in the air during a practice flight over San Diego harbor today and fell into the bay.

The collision occurred during a "shift over," one of the planes coming up under the other.

TEMPERATURES Readings— 1925 1924 1923 8 a. m. . . . . 56 57 59 9 a. m. . . . . 58 51 56 10 a. m. . . . . 68 55 53 Noon . . . . . 72 61 57 1 p. m. . . . . 74 63 58 Highest yesterday, 74; lowest last night, 56; direction of wind at 8 a. m. today, west; velocity, 3 miles.

SHOWMAN OFFERS AID

Christmas Party to Get Funds From Francis Shows

GENIAL John Francis wants to help make the Christmas Party a success.

Francis, who is owner of the John Francis Shows, which he dubs "America's Cleanest," has brought his organization to this city from Fort Worth, and here he is preparing for next year's tour.

Upon setting up winter quarters here, Francis read of the Christmas Party The Press, and others, will stage for EVERY child in Houston on Christmas Eve at the City Auditorium.

He sent to The Press his special agent, V. J. Yearout, with this suggestion:

"Our shows are here to winter in Houston; during the next several months we become an integral part of the city, and its life. We're going to spend considerable money here building up our organization for its seventh annual tour, but we want to do more.

"We want to help make a success of the Christmas Party that is going to be held at the City Auditorium on Christmas Eve, to which every child in Houston is invited.

"If you'll give us the opportunity to help, we'll give that aid in the shape of a cash donation, which will be 5 per cent of our gross receipts for two weeks, starting Monday, Dec. 7.

And the Press accepted that suggestion, adding another to the growing list of those who are giving hearty assistance to the party that promises (Continued on Page 12)



Above, genial John Francis, owner of John Francis Shows; below "Queenie," untamable lioness, who's just as mean as her owner is kindly.

"PA" SAYS MOODY'S "WICKED LIAR"

BY GORDON SHEARER Press Staff Correspondent

Austin, Dec. 2.—Former Governor Ferguson said Attorney General Moody was a "wicked liar" and a "legal gymnast" and Dan accused Jim of being a "figure juggler" to hide the real facts in today's developments in the highway situation.

Jim fired first with what he termed "the Ferguson side" of the controversy in defense of his wife's administration. "Ma," meanwhile, was resting at the family home near Temple.

Moody countered with a statement deploring "newspaper controversies," but explaining that Ferguson's statement demanded an answer.

The attorney general's friends here were outspoken in their belief that Ferguson's attack will make Moody a candidate for governor next year. That the lines are clearly drawn and that Moody can decline to run only at the sacrifice of all future political prospects is the opinion.

"The Ferguson Side" Ferguson declared in his statement he now wished to present "the Ferguson side of the case."

"For the past few weeks the opposition to the Ferguson administration have been crowing in high glee over alleged frauds upon the state by the action of the highway commission in letting contracts to the American Road Co.," the statement read.

"Attorney General Moody is being proclaimed as the man of the hour because it is claimed for him that he has detected great fraud and corruption and that he has saved the state hundreds of thousands of dollars which was about to be taken from the state by contracts which as stated by him were made in fraud and executed in fraud.

"In aid of this propaganda and campaign the daily papers of the state have published articles and had the present administration, have sought by misleading and deceptive head lines and contortion of the facts, sought to further fix in the minds of the people that an awful and lasting crime had been committed and a blot had been placed upon the fair name of the state.

"While this storm has been raging around the Ferguson administration the wicked liar has been working over-time just to see how many he could tell, and if the people would listen to them they would get the idea that the most corrupt official regime that was even intrusted with power had been in control of the highway department at Austin."

No Come-Back Ferguson declared Moody had no come-back because he had a "grand jury of his home county where he achieved his great record of district attorney and where he has said a jury could not get together that did not have 10 of his friends on it." The statement said also that Moody had the full co-operation of the judge and district and county attorneys.

"I have no fears that the fair minded people of this state will begin to learn the prosecution of the highway department by Attorney General Moody has put on this state the greatest financial (Continued on Page 12)

PUBLIC HEARING TO DECIDE GAS RATE

The public service commissioner, the legal department and the city council will start negotiations to fix the natural gas rate to the domestic consumers just as soon as the Houston Gulf Gas Co. files its bonds and the board of directors of the Houston Gas & Fuel Co. officially approve the contract made."

This statement was made by Mayor Holcombe Wednesday.

The Houston Gulf Gas Co. has 20 days from the time the city council approved the tentative contract between it and the Houston Gas & Fuel Co. to make its financial arrangements. The 20 days will expire in about a week.

"We expect to have the rate ready when natural gas is turned into the mains, which will be not later than March 1," Mayor Holcombe said. "I have nothing to give out on what I think the rate will be, except that I know it will be lower than the rate now paid for artificial gas.

City Attorney Sewall Myer shares this view with the mayor. "The negotiations will be open to the public but I feel that the first work on it will be of less interest to the public than the conclusion," Myer said.

HUNT FOR ECHO Mayor Will Take Up Auditorium Kicks

Like the crusaders of old in search of the Holy Grail, Mayor Holcombe will go in search of the echo in the City Auditorium. He said Wednesday that he wanted to be able to put his finger on it.

This investigation has been started as a result of the unrest that existed in the City Auditorium Tuesday night when Mrs. Minnie Madden Fiske appeared in "The Rivals." Many persons complained about it. They declared that they received two shows for the price of one if the echo was to be counted.

G. OF C. DEBT IS DOWN \$23,000 Decrease Is Recorded In November, Report Shows

Chamber of Commerce disbursements for November were \$7137.35, according to the monthly financial report issued Wednesday. The budget was \$6188.07. The chamber paid \$2100 on outstanding indebtedness and had \$3328.70 cash on hand Oct. 30. The indebtedness has decreased \$23,000 in the last five months. Cash on deposit was \$24,537.56.

MURDER THEORY Police Say Minister Met Foul Play

By United Press Leased Wire Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 2.—Knut B. Birkeland, 68, retired Lutheran minister who was found dead yesterday, was murdered, officials declared today after an autopsy.

A woman who rented the apartment in which the body was recovered and a man who was seen there last week were hunted by police.

Birkeland disappeared a week ago on the eve of a law suit in which he was suing a Minneapolis attorney for \$5000 on notes given him in an oil stock deal.

For Sale Today's classified columns have many useful articles for sale. Below are a few of them:

WOOD and coal at the best prices and quickest delivery service. AUTOMOBILES of all makes and models, on easy terms. THE Houston Press reaches over 120,000 readers daily at 1 1/2 cents per word.

WHY PAY MORE? Call Miss Clarke Preston 4787 "RESULTS FOR LESS"

RUDYARD KIPLING ILL Author's Condition Serious; Has Bronchial Pneumonia

By United Press Leased Wire London, Dec. 2.—Rudyard Kipling is reported seriously ill with bronchial pneumonia at his home in Burwash. The author's illness developed from a chill contracted while he was on a shooting expedition Saturday.

Dr. A. W. S. Curties found Kipling's condition practically unchanged early this afternoon after a London specialist went to Burwash for consultation.

MAIN STREET AT NOON

THE snowbirds that come in the fall, tra-la. Look at 'em camped along the curb, 'bakin' in the sunshine.

There's HARRY GILES, city comptroller, with BEN ZINDLER, who sells clothes. And REV. F. M. C. BEDELL, assistant pastor at Christ Church.

GEORGE FORRISTAL, smiling thru. There's baldheaded BILL PATTON, that whom there is no finer.

And BILL HOLWAY, from up at Tulsa, all the way down here to consult with engineers on the new reservoir.

Two girls, giggling their way down Main Street.

"ACOUSTICS," OLD FAMILY SKELETON, BACK AGAIN