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TRUMAN ON RECORD AS IKE'S FRIEND

By Ernest B. Vaccaro

Key West, Fla., Dec. 16—(AP)—President Truman today made it a matter of record that he and General Dwight D. Eisenhower are "good friends and always have been."

Apparently concerned about stories out of Key West that he regards the former army chief of staff as a candidate for the Presidency, the Presidential Press Secretary Charles G. Ross told reporters:

"The President wants it to go on record that he and General Eisenhower are good friends and always have been."

Ross himself described the stories as "souped-up" and said he knew of no intimates with whom the President has discussed the possibility of Eisenhower becoming a candidate.

The White House reaction came after Eisenhower, now President of Columbia University, said he was not a candidate, no matter what anyone thinks, and will not be talked into becoming one.

"Does the President regard General Eisenhower as a candidate?" A reporter asked Ross.

The Secretary said "I don't know what is in his (The President's) mind. The President is not talking about it along those lines."

The discussion took place at a news conference.

SEATTLE C OF C COMMITTEE TO COME NEXT MAY

SEATTLE, Dec. 16—(AP)—The executive committee of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce gave authorization to its Alaska Division yesterday for a Chamber-sponsored tour of Alaska next May.

The early authorization was granted at the request of John H. Perry, Chairman of the Alaska Division, so that those participating might make plans.

"Competition for Seattle's trade with Alaska is increasing," Perry declared. "Ship lines from other ports have created a minor diversion of trade from Seattle. It is evident that the personal visits by Seattle businessmen must be made at least annually to maintain our economic relationship with Alaska."

MISS DAWES HOME

Miss Ardath Dawes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dawes, arrived in Juneau yesterday from Seattle aboard Pan American plane.

Miss Dawes, a Junior at Washington State College at Pullman, will spend the holidays in Juneau, returning to school about January 2.

Majoring in art, Miss Dawes was recently pledged as a member of the National Art Honorary Delta Phi Delta.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

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WASHINGTON — One of the worst scandals in the nation today is income-tax fraud and the way certain politicos or friends of politicos are able to get away with it.

With the country facing almost certain tax increases next year, it remains a fact that every man who dodges his taxes sends the tax bill up higher for the other fellow.

Recently this column cited various tax cases where the little guy got prosecuted, but the big guy—able to hire political influence—got off. This is far more frequent than the public realizes, and this column herewith begins a series to show how income-tax fraud is put across.

For instance, in Mobile, Ala., Joe Mitchell and his brother-in-law, Sam Ripps, organized the Gulf Coast Tobacco Co., during the war and sold millions of dollars worth of jewelry to army post exchanges. The boys in the army camps would buy almost anything those days and Ripps and Mitchell made a killing.

Then, a couple of years later, alert Treasury agents caught them keeping two sets of books, and after long investigation, recommended criminal prosecution.

The two men who were so eager to sell jewelry to G.I's had not

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REQUEST FOR GRADE SCHOOL BUILDING IS MADE FROM C. F. S.

Request for construction of a grade school building at an estimated cost of $400,125 made today by the Juneau Independent School Board, is the first application filed for Federal aid under the new Alaska Public Works Act.

The completed application form was delivered by Superintendent Sterling Sears to John Argetsinger, Alaska District Engineer of the Community Facilities Service which is implementing the measure.

"While we have discussed projects totalling nearly $54,000,000 for which applications are certain to be filed," said Argetsinger this afternoon, "the authorized groups making the requests had to meet with City Councils and other bodies, and also complete the forms. The Juneau School Board really acted fast."

Argetsinger came back from Ketchikan yesterday, after making a swing through the entire Territory with Arthur D. Morrell, Deputy Cimmision of CFS; Lester Marx, Special Assistant to the CFS Commissioner, and Miss Mary Mieczkowski, secretary. The others took off yesterday from Ketchikan to return to Washington, D. C., after nearly a month of intensive work in Alaska to get the program under way immediately.

Argetsinger remained to head the Alaska District staff, on which are Mel Frazier, Joseph Patton and Miss Maxine Lund.

Frazier and Patton, legal and financial experts, respectively, are assigned to the Juneau office until permanent replacements can be found.

Miss Lund, who formerly was with the Public Works Administration here, is the CFS secretary.

Summary of Requests

The Community Facilities Service operates as part of the General Services Administration which was created last July.

Following is a summary of Territorial and municipal requests which Argetsinger expects to be confirmed by formal application immediately. They are listed according to types of projects; number of public bodies applying in each category and the amount in each classification:

	Applications	Requested
School Facilities	24	$15,897,000
Sewar Projects	16	2,579,000
Water Supply	15	3,181,000
Combined sewer and water	5	6,060,000
Street paving	11	6,385,000
Power supply	10	6,635,000
Small boat harbor	9	655,000
Administration bldgs	6	2,775,000
Hospitals and health centers	6	1,695,000
Roads	5	635,000
Recreation bldgs. and playgrounds	4	1,553,000
Land clearance, fill	3	267,000
Bridge and viaduct	2	2,330,000
Flood control	2	1,080,000
Telephone	2	475,000
Warehouse	2	315,000
Library	2	290,000
Safety bldgs.	2	260,000
Cemetery	2	110,000
Walks	2	55,000
Dock	2	45,000
Garage	1	225,000
Police	1	150,000
Embankment bulkhead	1	100,000
Communications	1	50,000
	137	$53,842,000

Ketchikan Goes Wet; Here's Positive Proof

KETCHIKAN, Alaska, Dec. 16—(AP)—What wouldn't drought-stricken New York City give for some of Ketchikan, Alaska's over-supply of water?

Ketchikan—the wet spot of the nation—passed the 200-inch mark for 1949 rainfall at 4 p.m. Wednesday. The official figure was 200.52 inches.

The all-time Ketchikan record of 190 inches for a calendar year was broken two weeks ago.

Ketchikan's 200 inches compares with what is believed to be a record of 184 inches in the states. That mark was set in 1931 at the Oxbow station on Washington State's Olympic peninsula.

BOY HURT SLEDDING ON GOLD STREET HILL

George Michaud, 12, suffered cuts on his face as a result of a sledding accident on Gold Street late yesterday afternoon.

He was taken to St. Ann's hospital by other sledders on the hill after he had collided with the sharp end of an overturned sled's runners.

He was released from the hospital this morning.

BRIDGES USED 2 NAMES IN COMMIE POSTS

Former High Communist Testifies -- Defendant Smiles Faintly

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 16—(AP)—A former Red leader, once imprisoned for trying to Communize U.S. soldiers, says Harry Bridges twice was elected to the Communist Party's powerful central committee.

Bridges is on trial in Federal Court on a perjury charge—accused of lying when he swore, to obtain U.S. citizenship in 1945, that he never had been a Communist. Australian born, he is President of the CIO International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

The witness who testified that Bridges was a member of the central committee was Paul Crouch. He testified yesterday that Bridges was elected to the committee in 1936 under the name Rossi; and that he was elected again in 1938 under the name Dorgan.

Both times, Crouch said, the Communist delegates cheered wildly when Bridges' asserted "Nom-de-Red" names were placed before the convention.

Crouch said he was high in U.S. Communist circles 17 years until he finally withdrew. He was a district organizer in 12 states, editor of party magazines and newspapers; a leader in numerous Communist front organizations.

SERVED 3 YEARS

And at his height as a Red, Crouch added, he was sentenced to 40 years in Federal prison for trying to Communize the U.S. Army but served less than three years.

Crouch is the sixth government witness to testify that Bridges was high in Communist circles. Previous witnesses also have said the labor leader used his mother's maiden name, Dorgan, and Rossi for party membership.

Crouch said there was some criticism of Bridges' work at the 1936 convention but that William Schneiderman, identified as a district bureau party leader, "said the name of Harry Bridges should be on the list" of committee nominees.

FAINT SMILE

Crouch quoted Schneiderman as arguing that Bridges had made important contributions to the party.

Communist party leaders Earl Browder and Jack Stachel "agreed and at the end Browder stated 'Well, we'll put on the list Comrade Bridges'," the witness continued.

Bridges smiled faintly at Crouch's testimony.

The defense lost two legal skirmishes. Federal Judge George B. Harris overruled a motion for a mistrial, and another to strike out a portion of Manning R. Johnson's testimony.

The defense argued that the court constantly criticised Bridges' attorneys and made "thinly veiled threats against them."

PROSECUTION LOSES

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 16—(AP)—The prosecution in the Harry Bridges' perjury trial was blocked today from an attempt to show that Communist party officials had discussed "expulsion of Bridges from the party."

Judge George B. Harris ruled that such testimony was not admissible because it would be hearsay, inasmuch as the government would not allege that Bridges attended such meetings.

The jury was out during the discussion.

F. Joseph Donohue, government attorney, told the court he would like to offer testimony from Paul Crouch, professed ex-Communist, about the alleged meetings at which Bridges' "expulsion" was reportedly discussed.

ATF of L WILL HAVE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Invitation are in the mail asking Territorial and Federal officials to be guests of the Juneau Central Labor Council and the Alaska Territorial Federation of Labor at a Christmas party Saturday afternoon, December 24 at the AF of L Hall on Second Street.

Hours will be from 4 to 6 p.m.

T. B. Erickson, executive secretary ATF of L, is in charge of plans for the Christmas open house.

SEATTLE VISITOR

M. S. Frazier of Seattle is stopping at the Baranof Hotel.

GRUENING SEEKS TOURIST TRADE WITH HONOLULU

Governor Reports on Month in Japan, Philippines and Hawaii

Suntanned and smiling, and professing himself refreshed and stimulated by his month in the Pacific, Gov. Ernest Gruening today discussed aspects of two contrasting territories, Hawaii and Alaska.

Governor and Mrs. Gruening returned yesterday from Honolulu, where they had met Thanksgiving Day, Mrs. Gruening going direct from Juneau and Seattle, her husband arriving with Treasury Secretary John W. Snyder and his party, via Japan and the Philippines.

Governor Gruening, for whom it was the first visit in two years, expressed admiration for the "magnificent way in which Hawaii has developed the tourist industry to the point where it is becoming a major source of income."

He sees new opportunities in that field for both territories.

"I have urged Pan American World Airways to establish low round-trip rates between Alaska and Honolulu via Seattle," he commented. "The fare would be approximately $294 to and from Juneau, and adjusted to other Alaska points. Such a move would generate a substantial volume of new traffic. Many Alaskans go outside each year—they would enjoy the contrast of the Islands. Many Hawaiians go to the mainland, too. We could induce a large number of them to come here.

"I understand," he continued, "that Pan American has filed such an application with the Civil Aeronautics Board. Their route from Seattle and Portland is not really developed yet; this might help materially."

The Governor had a very good opportunity to discuss defense problems with military men in Japan, the Philippines and Hawaii.

"I found nothing but support," he said, "for my wellknown views urging far more defenses in the Pacific, and specifically for Alaska. The need is especially urgent in view of the fact that the Communists now have taken China and threaten to over-run Asia."

In Honolulu, Gov. Gruening joined the House of Representatives subcommittee on territories for meetings and inspections.

"The committee," said Gruening, "was particularly interested in studying the civil government of the trust territories—the Marianas, Marshalls and Carolinas—of which the United States is trustee.

"This group also is interested in statehood; this committee, you know, has twice reported favorably on statehood for both Alaska and Hawaii."

IMPRESSED WITH HAWAII

Alaska's Governor was "more than ever impressed" with what the people of Hawaii have done to improve their economy and industries, despite the severe setback of the five-month shipping strike.

"Besides the major industries of sugar, pineapple and tourists," he commented, "arts and crafts have been built up to the proportions of an important industry. In this respect, we can learn from our sister territory."

Governor Gruening and the Washington party dined with Elpidio Quirino just after he had won the election in the Philippine Islands.

"The Philippines face a difficult problem, largely due to destruction during the war."

Rebuilding is progressing more rapidly in Japan than in the Philippines, Governor Gruening observed.

"I was very much impressed with the maginificent way in which General MacArthur is conducting the reconstruction and rehabilitation program in Japan," said the Governor.

"The people of Japan are better off than they have ever been. When it comes to going alone, however, they will have a tough time. The island is small and cannot possibly support its 80,000,000 population. Japan will have to develop new markets."

Asked if Alaska might have any place in these, Gov. Gruening smiled and said, "We know they are expert fishermen, but we expect them to keep on their own side. There might be room for Japanese manufacturing of pearls, for instance."

The Snyder party flew over Hiroshima, and the Governor was amazed at the speed with which that city has been rebuilt.

In the matter of Alaska's development, Governor Gruening said his immediate interests are in seeing the Community Facilities Service program activated with the greatest possible speed, and like activity in housing.

A subcommittee of the Alaska Board of Administration met in the Governor's office this morning to coordinate plans with municipalities on the new Territorial Building, discussing details of the proposed site.

Mayor Waino Hendrickson met with the group, which numbers Gruening, Treasurer Henry Roden, the Attorney General, who was represented by Assistant Attorney General John H. Dimond, and Highway Engineer Frank A. Metcalf.

Asked if he plans to call a special session of the Territorial Legislature, Governor Gruening replied, "I see no need for one."

A. F. L. MAN'S RECEPTION IS HOSTILE; QUITS

Bitter Dispute Takes Place Over Personnel on Alaska SS Vessel

SEATTLE, Dec. 16.—(AP)—A bitter dispute over jurisdiction of Marine Steward personnel grew tense yesterday as an American Federation of Labor Unionist quit a ship which hired him only the day before.

Marvin L. Lantz, who had been shipped on the Alaska Steamship Company's Coastal Monarch, told a National Labor Relations Board hearing that the reception he received aboard ship from a member of a rival union was "extremely hostile."

The remainder of the ship's Steward Department belongs to the National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards, Congress of Industrial Organizations affiliate, which has the contract with the steamship company.

Lantz was one of four members of the AFL Pacific Marine Stewards Union which were employed Wednesday by the company. The other three were hired for the S.S. Denali, which did not arrive in port until late Thursday.

Waterfront observers were anxiously awaiting developments aboard that vessel, which probably will not sign on its crew until Saturday.

During cross-examination, Edward G. Debrin of Bogle, Bogle and Gates, Company counsel, said none of the four had been dispatched from the AFL Hall.

All had been hired as result of individual applications they had made to the company, in accordince with a company statement issued three weeks ago, he said.

The statement was made at the start of an NLRB hearing on charges of unfair labor practices against CIO Union and shipping companies, based on allegations made by the AFL Union.

The hearing was recessed later yesterday by trial examiner Robert L. Piper until January 4.

STOCK QUOTATIONS

NEW YORK, Dec. 16—Closing quotation of Alaska Juneau mine stock today is 3, American Can 101, Anaconda 28⅝, Curtiss-Wright 7¼, International Harvester 29¼, Kennecott 51, New York Central 11, Northern Pacific 12⅞, U. S. Steel 26⅜, Pound $2.80¼.

Sales today were 1,960,000 shares.

Averages today are as follows: industrials 197.88, rails 51.58, utilities 40.95.

STEAMER MOVEMENTS

Princess Norah from Vancouver scheduled to arrive Saturday afternoon or evening.

Denali scheduled to sail from Seattle Saturday.

Baranof from westward scheduled southbound Sunday.

WEATHER REPORT

(This data is for 24-hour period ending 7:30 a.m. PST.)

In Juneau—Maximum 32; minimum 22.

At Airport—Maximum 29; minimum 14.

FORECAST

(Juneau and Vicinity)

Fair and cold tonight and Saturday with fresh northeasterly winds. Low temperature tonight about 20. High Saturday about 25.

PRECIPITATION

(Past 24 hours ending 7:30 a.m. today)

City of Juneau—None;
since Dec. 1—3.25 inches;
since July 1—52.13 inches.

At Airport—None;
since Dec. 1—1.36 inches;
since July 1—34.48 inches.

Interior's Plan for Venture Capital in North Is Taking Shape to Supplant Old Bill

By VERN HAUGLAND

AP Special Washington Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—(AP)—Congress early next year may be asked to set up an Alaska Development Administration.

The purpose would be to make loans to private interests for starting new businesses and industries in the Territory.

The Interior Department is drafting a bill to that end. Reginald C. Price, one of the Department officials working on it, told a reporter:

"The primary purpose is to overcome the most important single remaining obstacle to the development of Alaska—the lack of venture capital.

"What little money there is available for Alaskan projects is at interest rates too high to serve the purpose. Eight percent is the going rate."

The proposed measure would replace the Alaska Development Corporation bill advanced last September by William E. Warne, Assistant Secretary of the Interior. Price, Special Assistant to Warne, said that bill is dead.

It would have set up an agency to enable the Federal government to establish its own industries and businesses in Alaska at perhaps a cost of $1,000,000,000 and later, if feasible, sell or lease them to private interests.

MANY LOAN SUBJECTS

Price said the forthcoming proposal involves a much smaller figure.

He added that a "good many enterprises" are under consideration as likely loan subjects under the proposed program.

Some, he said, are in advanced stages of consideration. Among these is a possible cement plant project, under study for two years.

"A cement plant is our No. 1 industrial need for Alaska," Price said.

"We especially want one in the rail belt, in the area between Seward and Fairbanks.

"Federal loans might also provide opportunities for development of timber resources and minerals, and for creation of various processing plants to handle materials that can be produced in Alaska.

"There is a primary need also for recreational facilities to serve the influx of population. By and large, however, the program would be devoted to making venture capital available for the establishment and encouragement of sound industrial enterprises."

QUICK SETTLEMENTS

The loan program would tie in with Alaska project settlement legislation now before the House Public Lands Committee. This bill would authorize the Reconstruction Finance Corp. to spend up to $7,500,000 in connection with the quick installation of settlement projects in Alaska.

Much of the money would be used for clearing and leveling land for farms, a process so tedious and costly in Alaska it has prevented agricultural expansion.

The funds also could be used to aid construction of creameries, fruit processing plants, sawmills and other establishments to meet community needs without delay.

In preparation for the settlement program, the Interior Department has withdrawn from public entry three areas totaling 190,000 acres, on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, pending studies as to their suitability for settlement projects.

There have been similar withdrawals of 86,000 acres in the Chena area east of Fairbanks, and 32,147 acres in the Dunbar sector west of Fairbanks.

The extent of permanently frozen ground in the Dunbar area is such, however, that the project plan there may be dropped and the land returned to developmnt for other purposes, Price said.

HOUSING COM. OF DEFENSE DEPT. .TO COME TO ALASKA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—(AP)—The Defense Department announced today that its housing commission will leave by plane Jan. 4 for an inspection of military housing in Alaska.

The tentative schedule calls for a stop the night of Jan. 4 at Great Falls, Mont., and arrival the next day at Anchorage.

On Jan. 7, the commission will visit Fairbanks, returning the following day to Anchorage.

Visits to Whittier and possibly Kodiak also are planned before the group returns to Washington on Jan. 11.

The commission, appointed to assist in finding ways to improve military housing conditions, is to report to Defense Secretary Johnson early next spring.

Members are Bertram E. Giesecke of Austin, Tex., chairman; Frank E. McKinney of Indianapolis, and Clarence H. Low of New York.

The commission will be accompanied by representatives of the armed services and the Interior Department.

ANCHORAGE RAPE SLAYER TO HANG; JURY OUT 40 MINS.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Dec. 16—(AP)—A 22-year-old Fort Richardson soldier with a reform school background was convicted Thursday of the rape-slaying of a middle-aged woman July 31.

By the form of the verdict, the Federal Court jury, after only 40 minutes deliberation, decreed that Harvey L. Carignan shall die by hanging.

If he goes to the gallows it will be the first hanging in the Third Judicial District within the longest memory of court personnel.

The gangling youth, who called a North Dakota reform school "home" from the time he was 12 years old until he entered the service, showed no emotion when the verdict was read.

Later, alone in his cell in the Federal jail, he threw his hands over his face and "sobbed like a baby," guards said.

He was accused of raping and beating Mrs. Laura Showalter to death, a crime the prosecution called "the most brutal ever committed in this court district."

Defense attorneys indicated the conviction will be appealed.

Federal Judge George Folta of Juneau, aiding in hearing local court cases, gave the jurors three possible forms of verdict: guilty, guilty without capital punishment, and innocent.

Under Alaska law, at least five days must elapse before sentencing.

Carignan also awaits sentencing on a previous federal jury conviction. He was found guilty Nov. 22 of assault with intent to rape another Anchorage woman.

COUPLE CLUB MEETING

The Couple Club of the Northern Light Presbyterian Church will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday for their December meeting. The menu committee will be Mr. and Mrs. Carlos W. Holland and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne C. Richey. The program will be in charge of the Rev. and Mrs. Willis R. Booth. The Christmas theme will be carried out. All members of the Club are urged to be present for the dinner and the program.

LYBECK TO GO SOUTH

Bert Lybeck, former Juneau street department superintendent, will leave tomorrow by PAA for Tacoma, Wash., and his annual medical check-up. He was given a send-off party Saturday by 14 of the men who worked under him. The party was at the harbormaster's house at the small boat harbor.

LOST GIRL IS FOUND; IS OKEH

Spends Four Wintry Nights in Cabin, No Food, Heat —Is Christmas Present

LONGVIEW, Wash., Dec. 16—(AP)—A plucky Girl Scout who had waited patiently in a wilderness cabin four wintery nights for her rescue was resting today in a warm hospital bed.

A physician said 16-year-old Ruth Aberle of Kelso was responding quickly to nourishment and needed only a few days of rest before rejoining her family for the holidays.

Her safety has been almost a Christmas present to this entire southwest Washington area. Ruth said herself last night "I never thought I'd be a Christmas present."

RESCUED GIRL CHEERED

The search had been the most extensive for a missing person in the history of Cowlitz county. Businessmen, loggers, stevedores, boys and girls—even housewives—had joined the hunt. Some of them had risked their jobs to remain in the woods. Townspeople at Kelso lined the roads and cheered when the ambulance drove out of the mountains toward the hospital here.

The girl disappeared from a group of teen-agers cutting Christmas trees Sunday. Since then, while half a thousand men combed the mountain country northeast of here, Ruth had been alone and without food in the snow and rain. But when found yesterday she calmly identified herself and said "will you take me home?"

Later she told rescuer Charles F. Smith "I knew I'd get out. I wasn't scared. But I hope no one else ever gets lost."

GIRL FIRST SEEN

Smith and his son, Phillip, had started over a mountain to join the main search party when they saw the girl in a clearing. She was returning from getting a drink at a creek near the small 12 by 12 foot square hut where she had curled up to sleep four previous nights.

The sturdy physical health of the girl kept her on her feet until she reached the ambulance. Smith said the girl walked "all the way to the road—several miles—except when I carried her across the streams."

Ruth had smiles for her rescuers and was still without tears until her mother, Mrs. William Aberle Sr., took her in her arms at the hospital. "I'm all right, mother. I'm all right; I'm happy now."

"I realized I was lost about an hour after I became separated from the rest of the kids," Ruth said. "I got on a long road and walked for a while. Finally I found the cabin. It was fairly dry. I found an old door that was off its hinges in one corner. I crawled in behind the door and didn't get too cold."

Dr. C. H. DuVall said last night the girl had suffered "extreme fatigue and extreme nervousness, but is in surprisingly good shape."

HARRIS CANNERY BOUGHT BY KAKE, FOSTER DISCLOSES

SEATTLE, Dec. 16—(AP)—Purchase of a salmon cannery by an Alaskan fishing village was announced here Thursday.

The village of Kake bought the cannery on its shore from P.E. Harris and Company, Seattle, for an undisclosed price. Kake is 56 miles west of Petersburg on Kupreanof Island.

The announcement was made jointly by Frank Johnson, member of the village council and the Territorial House of Representatives; Don C. Foster, area director of the Alaska Native Service, and P. E. Harris.

Foster also said negotiations for another cannery, this one at Klawock, will be completed within a month. Klawock, west of Ketchikan, will buy the cannery from the Charles Demmert Company.

Both canneries will be purchased with funds borrowed from the federal government under the Indian Reorganization Act. Kake will pay off the loan in 10 years.

The village has a population of 400, which is dependent on fishing for a livelihood. Nine fishtraps were included in the sale. Villagers own 20 fishing vessels.

MINISTER IS FOUND GUILTY OF WIFE'S DEATH

ROCHESTER, N.Y., Dec. 16—(AP)—The Rev. George P. Hetenyi, 40-year-old Amherst, N.Y., clergyman today was found guilty of second degree murder in the fatal shooting of his wife. The verdict was returned at 11:25 a.m. by a Monroe county jury. He can receive a sentence of 20 years to life.

Following the discovery of her body in the Genesee river on April 23, he was charged with first degree murder.

The Episcopal Clergyman has steadfastly maintained he was innocent. Monroe County Judge Daniel J. O'Mara set Jan. 16 for sentencing.

FROM ANCHORAGE

John Gerwels of Anchorage is registered at the Gastineau Hotel.