Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketcham



"Well, your son is ready. He's blowing the horn!"

English Jurymen Retire In Child Murder Trial

NEWCASTLE, ENGLAND (UPI) — One little girl from "Rat Alley" smirked and the other wept Monday as a red-robed white-wigged judge charged the jury trying them for allegedly murdering their playmates.

Mary (May) Bell, 11, sat ramrod straight in the prisoners' box, twisted her fingers one about the other, stuck her tongue in her cheek, gaped at the ceiling with innocent eyes, scowled at her mother and, from time to time, smiled as Judge Ralph Cusack addressed the jury.

Mouth Agape

Norma Bell, 13, no relation, lost her composure. She stared around her wide-eyed, mouth agape, licked her lips, grimaced, gazed at her mother's tear-stained face and finally dissolved in tears as the judge told the jury to "be governed by your heads and not your hearts."

In the rear of the courtroom Norma's mother exchanged widespread confidences with her best friends, the parents of Martin George Brown, 4, one of the two children Mary and Norma Bell were accused of murdering.

Promised Candy

Mary and Norma went on trial here Dec. 5 on charges that they choked little Martin to death in an abandoned house last May 25 and strangled another little boy, Brian Edward Howe, 3, on July 31 after luring him into a rubble-strewn vacant lot with promises that a woman would come along later and give him some candy.

Both pleaded innocent. Each gave a detailed description of how the other had allegedly killed Brian.

Mrs. Brown, a chubby fresh-faced young housewife in knee socks and a fawn-colored raincoat, seemed resigned to the fact that her moment of shock had already come and gone.

"Well, how else can you take these things?" she said when asked how she felt about her son's death.

Brian Howe's parents did not attend the trial.

The fathers of the two defendants, unemployed laborers who live on welfare payments in "Rat Alley," Newcastle's grimiest slum, alternately bowed their heads and looked at their little girls.

Cusack emphasized in his charge to the jury that Mary Bell was of "utterly astonishing . . . maturity and sophistication" while reminding the courtroom that doctors had found Norma had a mental age of only 8 years and 10 months.

Pan Am to Pay $3.1 Million to Kin of Victims

CARACAS (UPI) — Pan American World Airways will pay $3.1 million to heirs of the 42 persons who were killed in the crash of a jet liner Thursday night, an airline official said Monday.

It comes to $75,000 per passenger according to an agreement among international airlines.

A salvage ship was expected to arrive Monday to try to recover the fuselage of the Boeing 707 jetliner. Airline officials said it might contain 31 of the bodies.

The plane sank in more than 300 feet of water after it crashed on approach to Maiquetia International Airport from New York.

No Surprises in New Czech Government

PRAGUE (AP) — A new Czechoslovak federal government will take office next year under Oldrich Cernik, the present premier, and contains no surprising changes, reliable sources said Monday.

Two separate sources made available identical lists of the new government lineup they said was approved by the Communist Party Central Committee last Friday to be ratified by the National Assembly at a meeting beginning Wednesday.

The informants said the Central Committee made no changes in the top party leadership headed by reform-minded Alexander Dubcek. They added that Josef Smrkovsky, the outspoken liberal chairman of the National Assembly, would retain his post there and in the party leadership. Workers had threatened a general strike if Smrkovsky were deposed.

New Government

The new system will create a federal government with a smaller number of ministries than in the present cabinet, to oversee the work of a new Czech national government in Prague and a new Slovak national government in Bratislava.

The sources said five present members of Cernik's Cabinet would retain similar posts in the federal setup. They were named as Defense Minister Martin Dzur, Finance Minister Jan Sucharda, Planning Minister Frantisek Vlasak and Interior Minister Jan Pelnar.

Other present cabinet members, such as Education Minister Vladimir Kadlec, will be shifted to other posts because their ministries were dropped from the federal cabinet, the informants said.

New Leaders

The informants said the Slovak government would be headed by Stefan Sadovsky, a party secretary and member of its ruling Presidium, and the Czech government by Stanislav Razl, minister of chemical industry and a member of the Communist Party's Czech Bureau.

Spain Voids 1492 Statutes Ordering Jews' Expulsion

New York Times Service

MADRID — Monday night, 476 years after King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella ordered the Jews expelled from Spain, the Spanish government publicly declared that the order was void.

The announcement of this symbolic gesture of reparation caused a profound stir when it was read to a congregation of Spanish Jews who met to observe another event of almost equal significance: the opening of the first synagogue built in Spain in 600 years.

After 19 elders in top-hats and prayer shawls had filed in carrying velvet-covered torah scrolls topped by silver bells, Hacham Dr. Solomon Gaon, grand rabbi of the British Sephardic Communities, stood up in the white marble and wood hall.

"We witness a historic moment when past and present meet," he said. He recalled the high tradition of Spain's Jews who, in their dispersal, went on to found the world's sephardic communities.

"The most brilliant history of our people in the diaspora was written in Spain," he said. "May this mean the beginning of a new time of moral and spiritual progress for all the people of this land."

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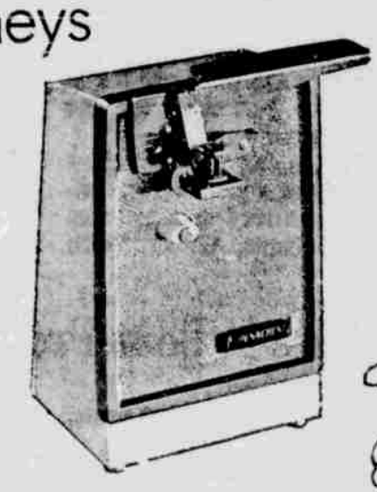
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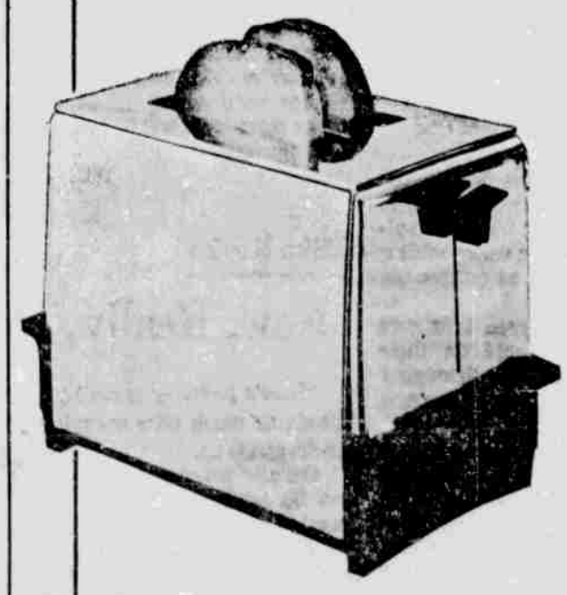
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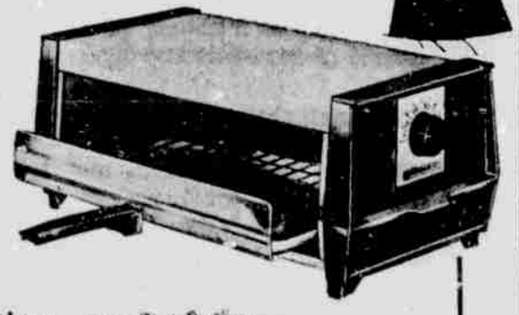
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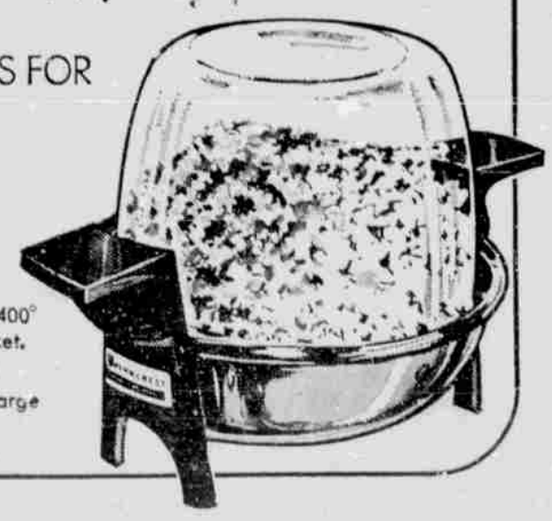


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