

Fire Ruins 40-G Home Of Trot-Racing Driver

Westbury—Harness-racing driver Robert Shuttleworth's \$40,000 ranch home was destroyed by fire yesterday and his wife suffered minor burns of the hands, arms and legs in attempting to extinguish the flames.

Westbury Fire Department officials said the fire broke out near the center of the sprawling frame house at 1966 Valentine Rd., at about 10:30 AM and spread through the structure before firemen could reach the house and extinguish the flames. First Assistant Chief John J. Dowling Jr. said Shuttleworth's wife, Joyce, suffered first-degree burns on the hands, arms and legs in attempting to put out the fire herself after helping to save three of her five children who were in the house at the time. Shuttleworth was not home when the blaze broke out.

Dowling said that although the Nassau arson squad and the fire marshal's office were investigating the cause of the fire there was no reason to suspect arson. He said Mrs. Shuttleworth could not talk to fire officials yesterday because of her injuries and shock. Mrs. Shuttleworth was treated at the scene and then taken to Syosset General Hospital where she was treated further and released. Last night, Mrs. Shuttleworth and the three children were staying at the home of another racing driver William (Bud) Gilmour. Shuttleworth's attorney, Herbert Sterenfeld of 712 DeMott Ct., Westbury, said Mrs. Shuttleworth was still under sedation and

could not talk. Sterenfeld said Shuttleworth's other children would remain with him until the Shuttleworths could find suitable quarters. He said the home was insured.

Shuttleworth, as well as Gilmour, were both denied licenses to drive this year by the State Harness Racing Commission pending the completion of an investigation of alleged race fixing at Roosevelt Raceway. Both drivers have appealed the commission's decision denying them licenses.

4 LI Negroes Win Merit Scholarships

Special to Newsday

Evanston, Ill.—Four Long Island youths are among 292 outstanding Negro students in the U.S. who have won four-year college scholarships in the third National Achievement Scholarship Program.

The winners announced yesterday by National Merit Scholarship President John M. Stalnaker include Michael E. Bigby of 108 Warner Ave., Hempstead, a student at Hempstead High School, and Constance B. Hilliard of 235 Grand St., Frederick G. Harrison of 952 Brush Hollow Rd., and Byron Elliott Kirkland of 234 Sylvester St., all three of Westbury and students at Westbury High School. Harrison is a Newsday Honor Carrier.

Franzese Bank Robbery Case Expected to Go to Jury Today

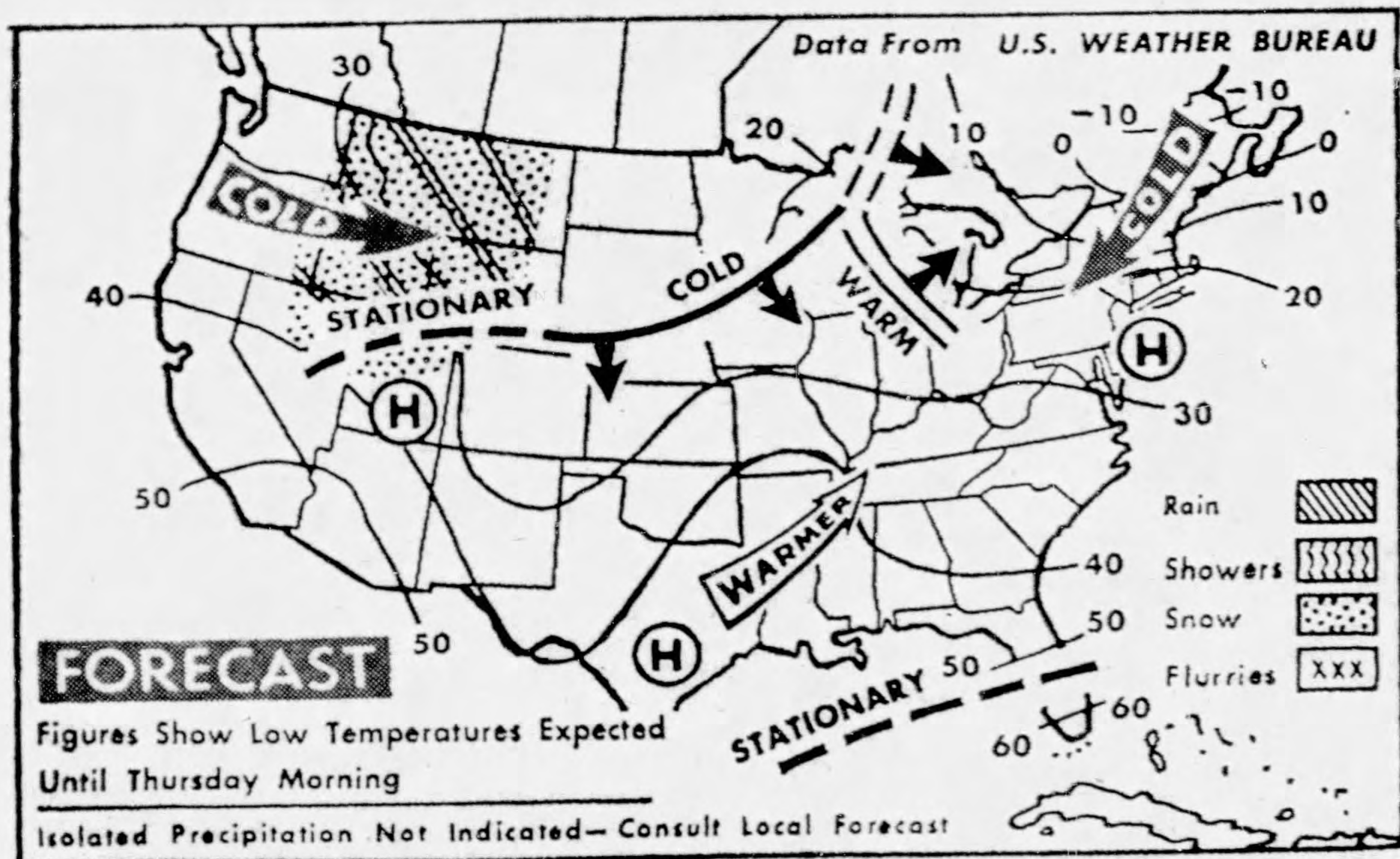
Albany (UPI)—The case of John (Sonny) Franzese and four other accused bank robbers is expected to go to a U.S. District Court jury today, after a charge by Judge Jacob Mishler of New York City.

The prosecution and three defense lawyers summed up yesterday in a marathon of words that began at 9:30 AM and ended at about 6:30 PM. On trial with Franzese, 48, of 47 Shrub Hollow Rd., Roslyn, for conspiring to rob a series of banks in the summer of 1965 are: Nicholas Potere, 41, Brooklyn; John (Johnny Irish) Matera, 33, Manhattan; Joseph (Whitey) Florio, 41, of Brooklyn, and William D. (Red) Crabbe, 37, of Queens.

In a thundering summary, Maurice Edelbaum, lawyer for Franzese, contended that the case against the defendants was fabricated by four bank-robber witnesses for the government. The "architect" of the case, he said, was John (Blueboy) Cordero, one of the four witnesses, all of whom are awaiting sentencing. But, he said, the robbers needed no mastermind to help them, no fellow conspirators, for "these were expert robbers. All they needed was a gun. A gun with bullets."

Prosecuting attorney Michael Gillen said in his summation: "If these men (the witnesses) were lying, why didn't they go all the way and really rope them (the defendants) in tight?" He further suggested that if the witnesses were lying, they would have carefully adjusted their answers to dovetail completely. He said there are minor discrepancies of recollection in the testimony of the four. Edelbaum also told the jury: "The fear was dragged into this trial to prejudice you, and for no other reason."

Gillen maintained the robbers' fear for their lives, which the government has said is the reason the robbers failed to implicate the defendants before they did, was real. "I saw that fear almost materialized. You could smell it . . . They knew death could follow them into jail . . . Read the letters written by the bank robbers, grown out of fear and stark, naked terror." Edelbaum told the five-woman, seven-man jury: "There isn't one doubt in this case, there are a thousand doubts, ladies and gentlemen . . . Would you convict a mongrel dog on this evidence, no less than human living beings?"



MARCH BLOWS IN with sunny and cold weather on tap for at least two days for the Northeast. Elsewhere, tonight's forecast is for snow and some showers in the central and northern Rockies. It will be cold in the Northwest. The center of the nation will have moderate temperatures.

Wednesday, March 1, 1967

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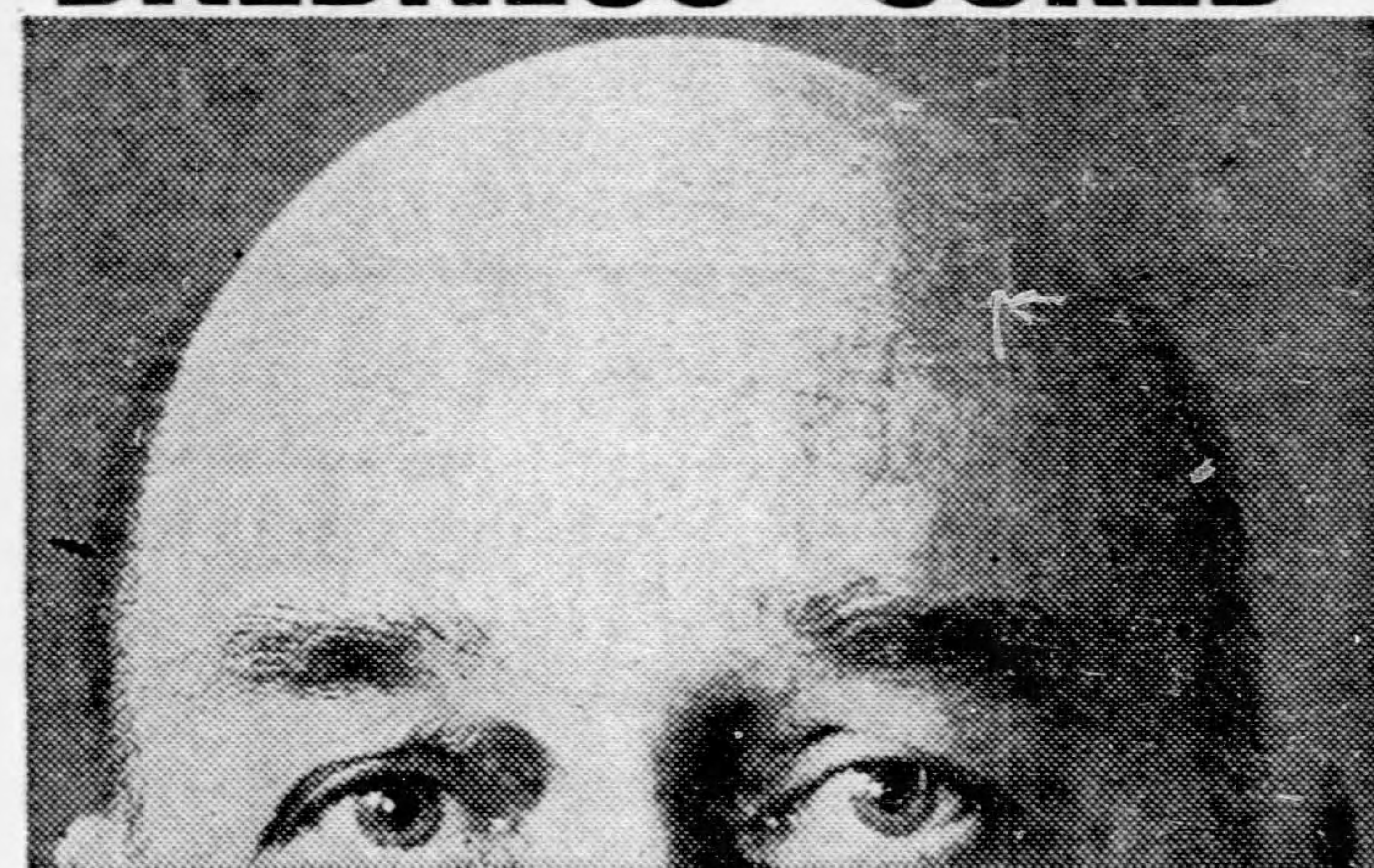
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