

MATT STARWICH TAKEN BY DEATH

Matt Starwich, King County jail superintendent and one of King County's most colorful police officers, died at 11:22 o'clock last night in Swedish Hospital. He had been in the hospital since early last week, suffering from a complication of ailments.

Starwich, known affectionately for years as the "Little Giant," had been in failing health since March 7, when he fell five feet on the roof of the County-City Building during Seattle's last blackout.

The 62-year-old officer's death ended a vigil that had been kept by his wife, son and daughter at his bedside for more than 24 hours.

Starwich was the Americanized version of the family name. He was born Mateo Starcevic, son of a shoemaker, at Licka, in Europe (then in Austria), 62 years ago. When he was 12 years old he emigrated with a cousin to LaSalle County, Ill., and at an early age became a coal miner.

Starwich later moved to Marshfield, Or., and from there to Ravensdale in 1901, when there was little law in that mining community and less demand for it. Shootings, stabbings and free-for-all fights were almost a daily occurrence there. The residents of the town used to brag about "riding" law-enforcement officers out on a rail.

Given Badge and \$1

In 1902 Starwich obtained his first law-enforcement experience when he was pressed into a posse hunting Harry Tracy, the Oregon convict, who spread death and terror in Washington before he was killed.

It was Mr. Starwich's membership in this posse which caused the Board of County Commissioners to name him deputy sheriff for Ravensdale and surrounding areas. They gave him a badge and \$1. He worked his regular shift in the mines and in off-time he was a deputy sheriff.

It was at that time that Starwich gained the name of the "Little Giant." He was 5 feet 11 inches tall and almost as broad. He did his job and he did it well. Miners soon learned not to "tangle" with him. He packed dynamite in his fists and when the occasion arose, he used his fists to good advantage.

The old-time miners of the area will never stop talking about Matt Starwich. They tell stories about the "Little Giant."

He Subdued All Five

One story concerns five laborers who took a day off at Kanasket, in Starwich's territory. They filled themselves with whiskey, terrorized the village and finally took over the railroad station. The "Little Giant" was called. He went walking down the railroad right of way unarmed. He entered the station and methodically knocked the five men "cold"—one by one. Then he handcuffed them and took them to jail.

Ravensdale old-timers like that one, but the one they really like to tell is the story about Lawrence Poiznsk, later sentenced to life imprisonment.

Poiznsk killed two brothers in a Ravensdale saloon. Fleeing from a mob, he took refuge in a vacant dwelling. Townsfolk, afraid to approach within pistol range, called Starwich.

Dodged Three Shots

Starwich had no such fears. He walked to the door of the house and ordered the killer to come out. The killer refused. Starwich kicked down the door and entered. Poiznsk, according to newspaper accounts, was hiding behind a bureau. The slayer leveled a pistol at Starwich and fired three shots. Persons outside feared the consequences until out came Starwich, dragging the unconscious slayer after him. The officer had dodged the shots and then knocked the slayer out. Then he had to quiet the mob, which wanted to lynch Poiznsk. He succeeded.

There was an occasion later when Starwich, then sheriff, was informed that bandits planned to loot the Carnation bank. Mr. Starwich hid in the bank at night, killed one of the robbers and arrested three others.

Reputation Lived On

There's another story about Starwich quelling a riot in Ravensdale. He arrested so many men the jail wouldn't hold them. So he stopped the next train, commandeered a coach and took all his prisoners to Seattle.

Ravensdale sobered up as times changed. But the reputation of Matt Starwich carried on. In 1920 he was elected sheriff on the Re-

Seattle Safe From Bombing Attack, Says R. A. F. Flyer

"I believe we have the Japanese on toast!"

If you've read so much about defense preparations that you expect a bomb to crash through your roof any night, you may recite the above little message. Attribute it to William Courtenay, R. A. F. fighter in the World War and the present war and eminent English aviation authority, who is in Seattle on a lecture tour mission to interpret the work of the Royal Air Force.

"The possibility of a Japanese air attack on Seattle or other Pacific Coast cities is very remote," Courtenay said last night at the Rainier Club. "You have nothing to fear from the Japanese air force. Whatever it did against China, once it has to face the highly trained American air force, it is a paper air force by comparison."



WILLIAM COURTENAY
"You have nothing to fear..."

Air Attack Hazardous

"Outside of a fifth column movement to gain an air base, which is not likely, Japan could not get bombers close enough to the United States to operate," Courtenay said. The only possible way would be to use Japanese carriers close enough to the Pacific Coast, but this would be extremely hazardous for Japan. England has great strength at Singapore and the United States has things in hand at the Philippines. Japan has no firepower to compare with ours.

"I believe we have the Japs on toast!"

By firepower, the visitor meant the great ability of American-built planes to fight it out in combat, a power of swivel gun-turrets shooting 9,600 bullets a minute. He praised the Boeing bombers, which he said are built to be able to "stand up in daylight combat hundreds of miles from home without hope of reinforcement, to do their job and fight their way back through enemy fighter planes." He said the Boeing "bomb" at 37,000 feet (seven miles) above the earth over Cologne, undetected by ground forces.

To Speak Tonight

Courtenay calls his Seattle appearance, scheduled for this evening at Civic Auditorium, where he will talk to Boeing workers, their families and friends, "the biggest thing I have done in this country." He has made 100 appearances in America. Courtenay commanded a flight in the defense of London and helped his government form the balloon defense of that city, which kept enemy planes high above London's buildings, where R. A. F. fighter planes could handle them. In private life he is aviation editor of newspapers.

He told how British air activity on the western front has forced Germany "to fight Russia with one

publican ticket. It was the last two-year term for sheriff in King County. In 1922 he was reelected for four years. He served them out.

The state Constitution provided that he couldn't serve three consecutive terms. He retired temporarily in 1926. In 1930 he was defeated for sheriff. He was the same in 1934, when Sheriff William B. Severys first was elected.

But Sheriff Severys, long an admirer, named the former sheriff as jail superintendent.

Stories about Matt Starwich are not confined to his law-enforcement work. There are many others, particularly those told by his legion of newspaper friends.

The "Little Giant" delighted in opening beer bottles with his teeth. He liked to show his strength by playfully slapping his friends. Some say these slaps could have felled an ox. His great joke, when sheriff, was to give a friend a present and then have deputies "arrest" the friend as the latter was leaving the office. He also delighted in picking a man up with one hand, grasping his clothes at the waist and hoisting him high in the air.

Matt Starwich never backed away from danger, and because of this he has left a lasting imprint on King County history.



MATT STARWICH
"The Little Giant"

New Head of N.A.M. Asks for 'Fair Play'

NEW YORK, Saturday, Dec. 6.—William Porter Witherow, new president of the National Association of Manufacturers, said tonight that prospective anti-defense strike legislation "should not destroy labor rights."

Pleading for "fair play" among all groups as "the only way to national unity," Witherow declared that industry was prepared "to make the United States safe behind the greatest mass-production of armament the world has ever seen."

Democratic Club to Meet

Miss Honoria Hughes will address the Women's Democratic Club Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock in Parlor B, Olympic Hotel. Her subject will be "The Public Health Work of the Anti-Tuberculosis League of King County." Mrs. Earl L. Smith will present a book review Mrs. Harry M. Westfall, club president, will preside.

17TH HOTEL IN S. F. IS STRUCK

SAN FRANCISCO, Saturday, Dec. 6.—(UP)—Striking A. F. of L. hotel workers tonight announced they will extend their walkout tomorrow to the Manx Hotel. The Manx would be the 17th hotel picketed in the protracted strike.

A picket line was placed around the Washington Hotel today, but the San Francisco Hotel Employers' Association said all of the hotel's employees remained on the job. The Washington, as did all other picketed hotels, remained open and in operation.

The dispute centered over demands of the A. F. of L. culinary workers, bartenders and service employees for higher wages and a closed shop.

Demo Club Will Elect

Officers will be elected at a meeting of the 37th District Democratic Club Tuesday night at 8 o'clock in the Y. L. I. Clubhouse, 16th Avenue and East Spring Street.

F.B.I. Ready To Seize Spies If Jap War Breaks

BUFFALO, N. Y., Saturday, Dec. 6.—(UP)—United States Commissioner Martin C. Epstein of Brooklyn said tonight that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was ready, in the event of war with Japan, to arrest scores of "enemy agents" now under surveillance.

Epstein addressed a meeting of the Knights of Pythias, of which he is chief deputy grand chancellor. "Quietly, without fanfare of publicity and unknown to the spies themselves," he said, "picked F. B. I. men have kept close tabs on the men and women in the pay of enemy nations who would injure our nation's security."

Auto Kills Elderly Woman

ALBANY, Calif., Saturday, Dec. 6.—Mrs. Mary E. Wiley, 71 years old, was killed tonight when she was struck by an automobile driven by Edward A. Dvorak, 33, Palo Alto.

TACOMA TO OPEN SCHOOLS MONDAY

TACOMA, Saturday, Dec. 6.—(UP)—City School Superintendent Howard R. Goold tonight announced Tacoma's 38 schools, closed since Tuesday by a strike of 75 American Federation of Labor operating school employees, will re-open Monday pending mediation of the dispute by Federal Conciliator E. S. Jackson.

Seventeen thousand students had enjoyed a pre-Christmas holiday because of heatless buildings. Goold and the operating employees union agreed today to submit the dispute to mediation, at the suggestion of Mayor Harry P. Cain. Shortly afterwards, Jackson arrived from Seattle and conferred immediately with the union, School Board and the mayor.

Operating employees struck for wage increases which the School Board asserted would cost \$33,000 annually. Three vocational schools, where national defense courses are taught, remained open.

Books for Christmas!

TOP-SELLERS FOR GIFTS!

The Sun Is My Undoing
by Marguerite Steen

The story sets sail from Bristol when young Matthew Flood, driven from the arms of his bride-to-be to the afterdeck of an African slaver, embarks on a journey that is to cover half the globe, and tangle the destinies of generations unborn. Touches ports of Africa, Barbados, Cuba.

\$3

BEST BOOKS FOR BIG BROTHER

Biography of the Earth, from 2,000,000,000 B. C. to Today, by George Gamow, \$3.
Secret History of the American Revolution, new materials, Carl Van Doren, \$3.75.
Black Lamb and Grey Falcon, Rebecca West, 2 vols., \$7.50
Viking Book of Poetry, 1,344 Pages of Verse—
Narrative . . . Dramatic . . . Humorous . . . Satiric—\$3.50
William Henry Welch, Heroic Age of American Medicine, \$3.75
1,001 Afternoons in New York, Ben Hecht, illustrated, \$3
Rhodes, 5th Floor

RHODES—the Home Store
suggests these for a very happy

Christmas at Home

Give to the Home—and you give to all! This Christmas, more than ever, these will be treasured gifts because supplies are limited!

GENERAL ELECTRIC "BIG 7"
A handsome addition to her kitchen! And one that will save food and money—making a direct contribution to national defense! With its Selective Storage Zones, it will protect that wealth of health in your food for days—and it uses 50% less current than the best refrigerators of just a few years ago.
TERMS! \$204.44

EASY "SPINDRIER" WASHER
Surprise her with this very fine new washer which revolutionizes that Monday morning task! The "Spindrier" name refers to the special new process which spindries clothes to damp-dry—blues or rinses in one tub while washing in the other! Cuts washing time in half! Streamlined beauty—with automatic timer!
TERMS! \$169.95

1942 ZENITH RADIORGAN!
Hailed as the great tone discovery of the year—this brilliant model by Zenith! Beauty of styling . . . beauty of tone . . . power for performance! Walnut-finished cabinet 41 inches high, with 14-inch Concert Grand Speaker. Has 10 superheterodyne tubes (including rectifier) . . . automatic tuning, and other "year-ahead" features!
TERMS! \$129.95

ZENITH PORTABLE
Certainly a gift hit—these fine Zenith portables with self-charging battery! Usable with A. C. current, too! For the home, for outings, for a gift to the boys in the service—these are tops!
TERMS! \$44.95

1942 PHONO-COMBINATION
Every home wants one! These by Stromberg-Carlson are marvelous with exclusive "full-floating" tone-true radio speaker. The wide range of natural tone brings you deep bass, high treble notes and overtones formerly lost! Plays records with fine reproduction! We predict your family will say, "There is nothing finer than our Stromberg-Carlson!" Mahogany cabinet!
TERMS! \$185.25 to \$550

EMERSON PORTABLE
For that extra radio—for your son or daughter's room—for the recreation room, or kitchen—here's a honey of a gift buy! Has good clear tone, five tubes, smart plastic case. Note its low price!
TERMS! \$16.95

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