

Pacific Airline Changes Status Of 3 Small Islands

Calif. Slayer Kills Himself

Notes Found Near Body May Explain Murders

(United Press by Radio)
GILROY, Calif., Aug. 22.—Jack Bennett, laborer sought for the slaying of two persons, was found shot to death in his own automobile today.

He was accused of shooting and killing Mrs. Grace Mae Ayres, 38, and Austin W. Martin, 26, as the pair sat in a parked coupe near the downtown Watsonville district, some 35 miles from Gilroy. Bennett's body was crumpled over the steering wheel of his machine. He apparently had committed suicide by shooting himself in the head with a rifle.

Numerous notes were said to have been found near the body, but their contents were not divulged pending an official examination in the case.

One of the bullets fired at Mrs. Ayres passed through her body and struck her three-year-old daughter, Gladys, sitting in the rear of the machine. The child was reported critically injured.

Bennett, according to Mrs. Ayres' husband, recently threatened his wife's life because of her purported friendliness with Martin. Bennett was married, as was Martin.

Lei Sellers To Give Concert On Sept. 17

A Hawaiian song concert sponsored by the Lei Sellers association will be held September 17 at the M. M. Scott auditorium. At this time six Hawaiian songs, written 30 years ago by the late John Paleia and recently discovered, will be presented for the first time.

The program will feature Miss Muihua Maui, Hawaiian soprano. Intermission numbers will be presented by members of the lei sellers association. Mrs. Agnes Makawili is in charge of arrangements.

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Baker, Howland And Jarvis Are Now Important

Recent Studies Described By National Geographic Society

By CARROLL KENWORTHY
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
WASHINGTON, Aug. 22.—The drawing of the airline era over the Pacific has changed remote islands of that ocean from sailors' "nightmares" to potentially important air bases, according to a new study revealed here today.

Baker, Howland and Jarvis islands, the newest territory taken in the name of the United States in the Pacific, are the subjects of report and comment by the National Geographic Society.

After decades of seclusion, these pin-point lands south of Honolulu have suddenly found themselves treated "like princes," the society commented. It cited the steps already taken to make the islands suitable stepping stones on airways to New Zealand and mentioned plans for permanent buildings to be erected on them so that United States sovereignty will be confirmed.

"NO TRESPASSING"

"In the Name of the United States, No Trespassing Allowed," one sign reads.

The new story of the islands, issued by the society, said in part: "Each only a mile or two square, the three small 'freaks' on the Pacific's face—Baker, Howland and Jarvis Islands—are the typical desert islands of a sailor's nightmare."

"Isolated by nearly 4,000 miles of shark-infested water from San Francisco, in the limitless blue waves, their small humps of white sand appear unexpectedly, rising from their coral foundations from ocean depths which no ship's anchor can plumb. The treeless surfaces, bleached and barren in the equal sunbath, are alive with crabs, birds and rats."

LOCATIONS DESCRIBED

"The largest of the trio, Jarvis Island, marks almost the exact center of the Pacific, only a few minutes from where the 180th meridian of longitude crosses the equator. Over 1,000 miles eastward lie Baker and Howland islands, sister strands 40 miles apart, a short sail north of the equator."

"A newly posted regulation, 'In the name of the United States, no trespassing allowed,' of course makes no difference to the islands' 'first families,' sea-going birds. These dots are sought out regularly by gannets or booby birds, gulls, frigate birds and petrels, which fly thousands of miles to lay their eggs on these tropical incubators."

MAIL SERVICE

"Although without a human inhabitant, one of the islands had a post office for years. On Baker, a covered box on a post upright in the blowing sand received letters for specially slow delivery. All passing sailing vessels looked there for mail and gave a lift to any correspondence going their way."

"Hitherto the islands have been tagged alternately British, United States, and status undetermined on maps of the Pacific, where they have appeared for less than a century."

"Their recorded history has been scant and stark. Once a Chinese junk reached there after five months of helpless drifting, two feeble sailors surviving a crew of nine. Usually no one survived the wrecks smashed on the fringing coral reefs by relentless breakers."

"So far the islands' only permanent settlers are indicated by coral slabs set up as gravestones to down nameless dead and

One That Didn't Get Away



SOME FIN, EH KID?—Capt. Donald Forbes (right) of Schofield, and Andrew Anderson of Waihi, proudly display a 28-lb. sail-fish, eight feet long, which they recently landed in Hialeah bay while on a fishing trip in Anderson's boat, the Dot.

THIEVES TRY BASE STEAL

TOLDO (U.P.)—Two men apparently tried to "steal" third base at Swayne Field, home of the American Association Mudhens at 2 in the morning. But the nightwatchman routed the intruders when he fired his revolver twice and turned on the field lights.

HAD OTHER NAMES

Youths from Kamehameha school in Honolulu are living on the islands now as colonists, making weather observations and collecting scientific data.

Matson Vessel To Be Improved

'Half Million to Be Spent On Liner Malolo

(Continued from Page 1)

At least a half million dollars would be spent, he said, remodeling and redecorating passenger accommodations from stem to stern and raising the lifeboats from their present placement on B deck to the level of A deck.

The ship's boats will likewise be reequipped with the newest type of sliding davits similar to those aboard the Monterey and Mariposa in line with recent legislation aimed at increased safety at sea.

The overhaul job will be done in San Francisco, Hedemark said, during the months of October, November and December, the slackest period of the year in passenger traffic between here and the Mainland. The Malolo will reenter service Jan. 9, 1937.

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