The Northwest Organizer
Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE
257 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH

Vol. 2, No. 36
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, DEC. 24, 1936
PRICE 5 CENTS

TEAMSTERS COUNCIL WILL OPEN NEW HEADQUARTERS

1000 CHILDREN ATTEND PARTY GIVEN BY UNION

Members' Little Ones Crowd Large Hall as Santa Appears

Children Enjoy Program of Music, Song and Merriment

The second annual Christmas Party given by General Union for children of members was, to put it very mildly, a bowl- ing success. Doubtless the majority of children were present at the party this year than attended last year's doings. Fully 1,000 children and half as many adults jammed their way into the auditorium on third floor, enjoyed the program of entertainment, saw Santa Claus distribute candy and other good things, and, in general, had a happy, huffy afternoon.

Long before the appointed hour of 2 o'clock had arrived, hundreds of children clamored for the stairs to the third floor and hundreds more were out on the street creating a great disturbance. The program opened with a crown, followed by the usual array of games, other acts that kept the little ones in an uproar of happiness.

A great Christmas tree, whose top touched the lofty ceiling in the auditorium, was the magnetic interest for all of the children. It was magnificently decorated and presented a truly wonderful appearance.

The climax of the afternoon came, however, when Santa Claus made his appearance at the head (Continued on page 5)

P. J. Corcoran is Elected Officer of Joint Council

At the last regular meeting of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council, P. J. Corcoran, former secretary-treasurer of Milk Drivers and Dairy Employees Union was chosen full time organizer for the Council.

He will assume his new duties shortly after the first of the year. At this special meeting the only two items on the agenda were the selection of a new headquarters for the teaming craft unions and election of an organizer to serve the council.

Corcoran was elected to this office by a unanimous vote of the council delegates. He will open an office at 257 Plymouth Ave., N. as soon as the remodeling has been completed.

Sanitary Drivers Elect Officers For the New Year

City and Sanitary Union, Local No. 644, held their annual election of officers Friday, December 18. The following officers were elected to serve the union the coming year: president, R. E. Prindle; vice president; Wm. Holley; secretary-treasurer, H. Seavey, recording secretary and business agent. The following board of councillors were elected to serve for the next 12 months: F. Boston, A. W. Kohn, and R. R. "(U Makes I Reckon)" Kishen.

The office of business representative has recently been added by the City and Sanitary Union. Much organizational work remains to be done among these drivers and the local considers it well worth while to place a full time paid representative in the field.

Business Representative Seavey has been getting fine results organizing drivers who are under the jurisdiction of this union.

Drivers Meet With Drug Wholesalers

Meetings are now taking place between wholesale drug employers and representatives of General Drivers Union. This proposed agreement on the ground was soon followed by a number of smaller local agreements throughout the country. A system of cooperation and mutual understanding is expected to be reached for the first of the year, bringing a new and higher schedule of wages for the workers involved.

Make Minneapolis an Union Town

Council Moves to New Home Next Month

New Headquarters to House All Sons of Union Drivers

Driving Crafts Take Over Building at 257 Plymouth Ave.

Sometimes during the month of January all employee crafts unions will have their present location, 24 North Second, and lock out General Drivers Union Local 544 at the latter's headquarters, 257 Plymouth Ave. North.

Last week, officials of the Teamsters Joint Council signed a five year lease on the entire building which, at the present time, houses General Drivers Union. The acquisition of this building by the Teamsters Joint Council will provide a splendid permanent headquarters for all Minneapolis driving craft unions.

The building has been in its present location for two years, occupying, normally, only the upper two floors. At the present time, however, General Drivers Union are on the second floor. On this floor also, are four small halls, an office, a lounge, a washroom and a large auditorium which will seat about 1,000 people. The auditorium is provided with a stage and alooped seating system.

The contract for remodeling the building has been let and when the necessary changes have been made the headquarters of the driving crafts will be the finest union headquarters this side of Chicago. The offices of the teaming unions will occupy the ground floor of the building.

Besides the unions affiliated with the Teamsters Joint Council, office space will be provided for several unions who now have their headquarters in page 3

Today's Story of Exploitation or the Dead Revealed In Local Casket Strike

Trust Control by Casket Makers Is Shown; Price Fixing and "Trade Agreements" Used

Workers employed in casket manufacturing firms in Minneapolis have been on strike for almost two months. To date there are no indications that the owners are prepared to enter into negotiations looking towards the end of their labor difficulties.

As a matter of fact what started out as a strike has apparently been turned into a lockout by a cold-blooded group of reactionary exploiting employers as exists anywhere.

Determined to maintain their system of semi-slavery and slave wages is Minneapolis casket manufacturing plants, the hogshead "casketmakers" have refused every offer on the part of the union to end the strike and enter into an agreement with their workers who are represented by Local 1580 Furniture Workers Union.

Incredible conditions of employment prevailed in these factories prior to the strike. There are many proven cases where workers were employed for as little as 25c per hour. Women workers, on whom there are many in the industry working under conditions that are indescribable. The strike of those workers was a spontaneous uprising against horrible conditions under which they had suffered for years.

Investigations into the situation in the casket industry disclosed startling and sinister facts. There is little question now but that an almost insurmountable trust exists in the casket industry and so far as can be revealed indicates that this trust owns or controls many funeral parlors. Through a system of manipulations and threats to set up competitive funeral parlors in certain localities, they have compelled many legitimate funeral parlor (Continued on page 5)

All members of Local 544 are hereby notified that a complete check-up in the meeting schedule of the local union will take place in the month of January. The Executive Board is now engaged in preparing a new schedule of meetings for the coming year which will be dramatically different from that of 1935. The new schedule will be posted in next week's Organizer.
**COUNCIL MOVES TO NEW HOME NEXT MONTH**

(Continued from page 1)


during final talks.

In addition, local officials will be provided for the Northwest

Clerks End 'Strike' At 5 and Dime Store

The "strike" by the Retail Clerks of New York City and South

worth Co., 7th and Nuebleet, ended yesterday. It was not

a "strike" in the usual sense, but was more of a slowdown in

work. The majority of employees continued to work, but

there was a marked reduction in the pace of their work.

The period for assessment col-

lections has been extended. All

payments must be postmarked by

January 7, the next meeting date of

the TIOA, or the assessors will expect

them to have their money in

before that time. There may be

a situation in February where

they will have to take legal

action.

Local 1859

March Schedule

Executive Board—Dec. 10.

Committee on Executive

Box Section—Dec. 10.

Puffer-Hobart Section—Dec.

Executive Board—Dec. 18.

General Membership—Jan. 16.

**Independent Truck Chatter**

**Wanna Buy a Truck?**

An unusual trucker working on a county WPA graving job

means to wonder why he has had to much trouble to meet his bills

this month. He is working steadily for about a year Below is a

rough analysis of his expenses for six hours a day, thirty

hours a week, which is more than the bills or projects

and. The figures vary on different rates and items but

almost completely or wholly accurate, but compare your computations

with these.

$4.50 Owners wage, six hours

3 cents 76 cents.

66 Cents.

84.65 Fuel.

30.00 Gasoline, etc. unused

87.00 Total daily expense.

$0.35 Truck wages, six hours

7.36 Total weekly expense.

10.12 Net truck earnings.

So that leaves $1.20 a day or

$6 a week can be spent for fool

shoebill and his "fridgie" of London$2.25 weekly, and also

had to take any of her expenses

Cass. D. E. (Continued from page 11)

in Mississippi.

The Minneapolis Trade Union

movement in the National

Federal Labor Union, will call upon

the state and local unions to conduct a thorough and sweeping

investigation into the roots of labor conditions. It is a

well known fact that the price of goods in Mississippi is

wider than the costs involved. Millions of dollars of illegal

profits have been piled up by the graving trade. A resolution

for calling a thorough

investigation was introduced at the National Congress of the

Central Federation, Wednesday, December 23.

**Yellow Notes**

The members of the Yellow Taxi

drivers union have extended to all

Local 544 and the city the welfare benefits for the Men's

and Prosperity

New Year.

"Broadway Jack" bought his

wife a Frigidaire for Christmas.

She is the greatest mistake in

her life.

Our "Big Ben" Masters made a

trip to Chicago again last week.

The tire question again.

Some of the boys have been

prodded to get out a search war-

rant to find the new phone box

at 7th and Plymouth (Emerson

and Plymouth). The phone box

is located in the white Old Eagle

Office station and the light is on the

corner on the 7th Street side.

The mild weather has played

kay with the business the last

week. It has done several on the

wick list. Here's hoping we get

some snow soon as it will settle

down.

Here you have noticed how "fat"

Slim Burnett is getting lately! A

few more weeks and he will be

able to do something active (by

hiding behind a month).

Max Silvers looks a nice little

ride this Saturday night at 8:30.

He is getting to the point where

he can make up their time by

graving some of the other

employees that would like

to have a job. He is making

keeps on your radia-

tor and it can be at all times.

HINTS TO GENTLEMEN OF LEASE

Those that have been laid off

in the last few weeks have

been living in the dark. Other

employed people that would

like to have a job are putting

in the time by graving some

of the other employees.

This is one reason why the

trade union have extended to all

Local 544 and the city the welfare

benefits for the Men's

and Prosperity

New Year.

**With the Laundries Workers Union**

Local 183 will be represented on
due to its increased membership and progressive policy, will take

new unorganized area for the increased representation, among that portion

of the movement that forms the

vanguard of progressivism in Mississippi.

The Francis Drake Hotel and

the West Hotel have been added to the list of graving unions with the

Agreement. The collective bargaining agreement was

signed by both unions and marked

improvements in working conditions.

The Dispatch Laundry and

Cleaning plant is about ready

to crack. This plant has a

better agreement with the Union, but due
to the anti-union policy of this

company, much difficulty was en-

countered in organizing the work-

ers. Judging by recent activity, "it

won't be long now."

"Stop Watch Ackerman" of the

East Side has joined the union

again, and is flagrantly violating the

piece work clause of the agreement

according to reports of the workers.

The patience of the local

members is being taxed to the

point where as far as these tin "Hillers" are

concerned. These papers report that

the Union considers the Union

agreement as null and void, and does not

take any steps which would endanger or damage its

members. Whether these glorified office

boys attempting to do

nothing the meaning of the agreement

and indulging in spiteful per-

secution of the workers, at which they are

past masters, they are attending for a showdown, and the

Union won't come out second best,

you can be sure of that.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

Local 1859

Meeting Schedule

Executive Board—Dec. 5.

Committee on Executive

Box Section—Dec. 15.

Puffer-Hobart Section—Dec.

Executive Board—Dec. 18.

General Membership—Jan. 16.

**Story of Exploitation Of The Dead Revealed In Local Casket Strike**

(Continued from page 11)

in their new offices for their

own good.

The committee in charge of this year's Christmas celebration are to

be congratulated for doing a splendid job this year. The committee

consists of Brothers-heavy, Bingham, von

Hiicken, and theusual.

Thanks of General Drivers

Union up to the following men who generously donated to make the

party a success.

Tolman Bros., Friedman Fruit

Co., L. K. Stein, Cooperman

(Continued from page 11)

of the stairs. He was immediately

assailed by the boys who

kiddies as they endeavored to

attract his attention. He speedily

distributed to distribute gifts of bugs, nuts, apples, and oranges. The boys

crooked fingers, and sometimes

and like articles of clothing were

lost. Many of these garments are

now in the union offices waiting for their owners to call.

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be congratulated for doing a splendid job this year. The committee

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Co., L. K. Stein, Cooperman

Co., Falk Paper Co., Min-

nesota Grocery Co., Lone Wines

Bickle, and Brorson, Grocery, Allied Grocery, and

Holy Family's.
Downtown BOS Give Party for City Strikers

Christmas Party for Children, Toe Dance for Elders

The Board of Minneapolis Business Executives is requested to congratulate the strikes and their families for their efforts in organizing a Christmas party for all strikers who are on strike and for giving a Christmas tree celebration for the strikers' children.

The committee, which was set up to make arrangements for the celebration, has sold its tickets for those who wish to attend. Various organizations have donated items to make the celebration successful.

Included in those who find themselves out of employment due to the strike are 260 members of Local No. 1589, Furniture Workers Union, 250 members of Candy and Food Workers Union, and 150 members of Teamsters Union, Local No. 292, at the Imperial Machine Co.

The party will be held at the Empire Room with gifts, entertainment and a Santa Claus. A Christmas party for children of the strikers' children Thursday afternoon followed by a dinner given to the strikers themselves. Both affairs took place in the Empire Room, 357 Plymouth Ave. N., which was donated.

Christmas baskets were later distributed to the needs of the strikers. This committee was able to get the cooperation of the community to gather and go to the local labor unions to help the strikers.

A considerable sum of money was raised by the committee, which was not enough, however, to defray the entire expense of the party. Contributions will still be received at the office, at 188 North 18th St.

A list of donors to the affair will appear next week in Organ.

Price Family

The annual Christmas party of the Price family was held at the Price home, 1700 33rd Ave. S., on Saturday evening. The children of the family were among the guests.

The guests were greeted by apple pie and coffee. The children were given a raffle ticket for a chance to win.

The schedule of events included games, refreshments, and a sing-along.

for Christmas Party Funds Are Needed

A letter was received from the Minneapolis branch of the Salvation Army stating that they are having trouble with their treasury. They are asking for the public's help to raise funds for the Salvation Army.

They are in need of funds to continue their operations and provide assistance to those in need.

Spend was essential in making the party successful, and the organizers have appealed to the public for donations.

Urging your local union to contribute is a letter from the American Labor union office, 15 N. S.

"S & S CAFE
633 THIRD AVE. S.
Try Our Sunday Chicken Dinners, They Are 35c up"

Second Coal Order Granted by Board In a Hot Session

A committee of the Board of Public Utilities was Monday morning voted to recommend to the Wel- dale Board that workers on WPA projects be given a second contract to work on a coal by the department of public welfare.

This action came about as the result of an order of the board by Federal Workers Section of Local No. 544 that insisted that the WPA pay on an hourly basis for the use of food, fuel and clothing for WPA workers during the winter months.

Good Scores Are Registered Friday

Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W. S.</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nat. Ten.</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. C.</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. C.</td>
<td>823</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Con. No. 1</td>
<td>806</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Con. No. 2</td>
<td>795</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bowling News

The bowling league of the City bowling league continued to grow in popularity as the number of participants increased. The latest game total of 561. Cons. No. 1 stayed ahead in the money races by winning two from F. C. J. 544 office took two from Cons. No. 2 at P. C. Dabke bowled three games and resigned.

Mausi went into second place as they won the odd game by 5-1.

Local 160 Will Suffer A Loss

Herman Schultz, tycoon of Local 150, North Minneapolis, was killed in an accident last Monday. He was killed as he was preparing the report of the more subdued section of the bowling league.

Herman was to be married about January 1.

To his family it is a blow. He was a fine man, not bad. But what he was is that he has at least two children of the opposite sex who will be of a chance. He leaves behind his wife, Berta; both sons, Donald and William.

Wages Are Now OK At the Flour City

The Flour City Co., which has engaged in almost endless controversy with the Farmers Workers Union, Local No. 1589, has finally paid all back wages due the workers there and settled all differences that had existed with the union Contract.

Officials of No. 1589 announce that no cause for complaint now exists against this company.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shoppes in the City's West Side will be open on Wednesdays, Jan. 16, 1936.

Season's Greetings to My Patients

May the coming year bring you happiness and prosperity

DR. H. P. McCORMIN

CO-OP COAL ASSOCIATION

To the Patron

The Co-operative

Natura Organized people

Purpose To serve its members at cost

Methods 1. Each member has one vote and only one vote.
2. Capital—no interest.
3. Profit—distribute the balance.

Contact Us Phone 4394

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Back Pay Slow In Coal, Grocery

Although both the grocery and the coal agreement which were recently signed by employees in the local 544 contract were signed in the last two months, few of the firms involved had made a final settlement with their workers.

Back pay in the coal industry was retroactive to August 1. In the grocery business, the workers' claims in the rent case in part and parcel of the union contract and must be levied up by the employees. The report all failures to receive back pay the union office at the essential opportunity. Steps will be taken by union representatives to make sure all back pay is received by the workers.

Local 160 Will Suffer A Loss

Herman Schultz, tycoon of Local 150, North Minneapolis, suffered the peace and quiet of Gen. Bethune. He was killed last Monday by the announcement that the board of public welfare will vacate the more subdued section of the bowling league.

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The New Council Home

The move to a new Council headquarters building was inaugurated by the new Council Joint Council in establishing permanent headquarters at 257 Plymouth Ave. N. It was one of the most progressive and forward steps that has been taken by any section of the local labor movement in many years. Signing a five year lease on a large three-story building is indicative of the fact that unions of the driving craft are here in Minneapolis to stay, grow, and continue to gain new benefits for their members.

The new quarters of the Teamsters Joint Council which will house all unions of the teaming crafts is larger by far than the headquarters of the Wholesale and Labor movement. The headquarters established by the Central Labor Union two years ago has proven itself entirely inadequate for the for the rapidly growing needs of the teaming labor movement. When the old quarters at 614 First Avenue North were abandoned some two years ago, those in charge of the affairs of the Union were urged by members of the teaming crafts to engage a building that would provide suitable for the needs of the movement for years to come. The wisdom of this advice is realized when it is now necessary for the teaming craft unions alone to lease a building with three times the floor space of the present downtown headquarters building for the labor movement.

The joint council has made no mistake by setting up a spacious headquarters on Plymouth Avenue. It will prove to be a Mecca on the main 100 percent line of some Minneapolis labor movement. When the remodeling of the present building is completed, the drivers headquarters will be moved to this new building and the movement looked on the move with a long term perspective. With the establishment of the new headquarters, teaming craft unions will have their place in the sun where they rightfully belong.

The Casket Racket

The strike of local Casket Workers, who are organized into Furniture Workers Union Local 1589, affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, has accomplished something very startling facts connected with the burial and funeral racket activities, both in Minneapolis and vicinity.

The origins of the racket came to be apparent that local funeral parlors and undertakers' establishments were not at all disturbed by the strike of the casket workers which is causing so much unrest among manufacturers of coffins in Minneapolis. Rather they seemed to be entirely satisfied and, in some cases, they were so pleased with the strike that they were freeing them from dictatorship of casket factory owners. This situation, it is true, on the part of local funeral parlor owners was so unusual that it seemed to merit the attention of those concerned with directing the economic destiny of the workers involved. Unfortunately, but bit by bit information has come to life, principally from owners of Undertaking establishments, that the undertaking business in Minneapolis was under the almost complete domination of casket factory owners.

Two of the largest casket manufacturing establish- ment in Minneapolis own control, directly or indirectly, almost 50 per cent of the undertaking establishments in local funeral parlors in this city. At least one of the largest factories has the caskets of a number of undertakers, who are interested in attempting to put up one or two companies of their own business.

Two of the largest factories forced their products on local establishments by threatening to set up competitive funeral homes in nearby localities and in many instances making good their threat. It is a matter of record that they when set out to do this they put local funeral establishments to fail in line with their program, they are almost 100 percent successful in totally dismantling the business.

How does this work out for people on low salaries who are cut out of the opportunity to patronize the trust? It increases the cost of funerals to the people who are most in need of the saving. Price agreements and monopoly control are the order of the day and even the little men of the little fry have little chance. There is little question but what an investigation by the joint council on the casket racket would reveal in regard to this industry that would be startling nature. Such an investigation is certainly the order of the day.

The Storm Stand out in the street

Blinked the eyes of the General Drivers Union workers on Saturday night. The fact that the Teamsters burned the General Drivers Union hall which is named after them is a fact that will go down in history as a great strike.

The drivers' heads are silent.
As they face the picket line with no enthusiasm behind them and make no attempt to win the battle.

A triplet of girls is seen whom the Teamsters are trying to win over to their cause. They are the girls who are dancing curves. The attitude is mean.

There can only be one answer.
For the Local cannibals.
So the General Drivers Union will fold up and move away.

Meat Cutters 653

In Radio Program

Meat Cutters Union, Local 653, members, who are going to have a radio with a series of radio broadcasts among and encouraging them, get the forward the cause of the Meat Cutters Union. The second broadcast will originate from Station KSTP at the air at 7:30 and 7:45 p.m.

All trade unionists are urged to tune in the broadcast and to inform them of the things that they may be informed that there is to be something in place that is fair to the trade movement.

WANTED

Sherman Oakes, steward at Car- negie Meat Company, who is said to be in the house of overlaid spring for a 1950 Ford V-8.See Sherman at the Carnegie to communicate with the union office.

LABOR... Looks at the Press

By Carl O'Shaughnessy

This is a week's exhaustive description of the Tampa A. F. of L. which is called "a colossus in the South.

Meat workers meet at the union hall Monday night.

Stewards' union has made some severe demands on General Drivers Union.

The 7th Street comedy is over.

The Bartenders union elected Sunday. There will be a recount.

Casket strikers lose an unchristened skeleton in the bosses' closet.

There will be a conference of Northwestern Driving unions some time in January.

NOW YOU KNOW

Oscar Gardner of Pratt's was Santa Claus Thursday.

Thanks to the Musicians Union for the piece seven hundred pianists plan to perform next year's dance Tuesday. That's union solidarity.

Rainboots and Wagner are still chiseling 121 greenhouse houses.

The little difficulty between the union and the Associated Retailers and 544 inspired one of the union officials to write the following letter which the following picture of what may take place:

Oh! the picket line draws closer Union men are in the streets. And the unfair banners flutter in the wind. The strikers' ugly manner.

Meat Cutters Union. The General Drivers Union is still in the fight.

That's just where we've won.

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Laundry Drivers Report Growth

Local No. 113, Laundry Drivers Union, report through their business agent, Harry Johnson, that their union is growing by leaps and bounds. After thirty days of the agreement of the agreement with the major laundry and dry cleaning companies, which raised the pay and lowered the hours of drivers in this industry, we have come under the jurisdiction of Laundry Drivers Union. This agreement recently came to the realization that their contract was not in favor of a member of that organization.

Lost Articles at The Union Office

As of a futurer Sunday afternoon Christmas Party for children of union members, the union finds itself in possession of numerous articles of wearing apparel if any.

If your children suffered a loss of a valuable clothing item on that day while at the party, call at the union office.

Since the elections, the President's playing on his league at all times.

Chicago news item: Stanley Mc- Grath, a mental incompetent and a car- renter family, is back in the big city after a three-year stay, his estate, which is worth from 25 million dollars to 26 mil- lion dollars.

There is raged individualism by thet.

But maybe he is an Ayres or something.

But note this item from Los Angeles: A 70 year old man appeared before municipal court Judge Dawson and begged to be given thirty days in jail. "I'm a one time member of the union and I want to live," he said. He should keep his nose to the grindstone—like Stanley Mc- Grath.

At that, it's better than the other.

As Naomi Thomas said: To- morrow you can get TWICE as GOOD working after you're sixty as you ever got working before you were sixty.

Life's Little Moments among our featherd friends: H. E. Mc- Grath, a detective, got a Christ- mas package in the mail, which ticked. He hurriedly plucked it into a pot of water. Then he dropped the one and raised it a 50 pot watch.

Three flatesses a scream.

London news item: Britain and France prepared Wednesday night mediation in a dispute between the war to permit the Spanish people to return to Spain by sea. By doing so, they wish a Socialist or Fascist govern- ment.

These diplomatos are the closest things to the old millionaires who are to be rather offering to pass a coin to the German who has been saved.

Southport, N.C. news item: Henry Johnson, who blew on the legs of those wireless reports active in this community yesterday night.

Well, just as they pride it's all right.