



THEY WARMED UP—Two youths, aged 13 and 14 will talk to authorities here today to explain how this barn caught fire and burned down Sunday. They reportedly were hunting nearby and stopped to warm up. The fire they used to warm up is believed to have spread in dry straw catching the rest of the building on fire. (Tribune Photo)

Fire destroys city barn; question boys

Two Ames youths will have to "tell it to the judge" today in regard to a fire which broke out in a city-owned barn just north of the city landfill yesterday.

Firemen were called to put out a fire which broke out in the barn just north of the Chicago and North Western railroad tracks east of Ames yesterday about 2:19 p.m. The call came in so late, however, that by the time firemen arrived at the scene, the barn was burned nearly to the ground.

The two youths, aged 13 and 14, told authorities they had been out hunting in a wooded area just east of Ames yesterday afternoon and had stopped to warm up in the barn.

Fire chief Kenneth Taylor said today the fire apparently began in the hay mow of the barn. The 40 by 60 foot barn was not used and had been abandoned for some time on the city property.

The youths are to talk to Judge Albert Steinberg in juvenile court this afternoon about the affair.

Cambridge man's will

Exec council delays action on bequest of \$200,000

DES MOINES (UPI)—The Iowa Executive Council today decided to defer action on a gift of more than \$200,000 by the estate of a Story County man.

William E. Hawks, Cambridge, left the money to the state public school fund for the purpose of promoting "instruction in vocal music and proper development of the lungs of children" in kindergarten, first and second grades.

Relatives contested the will, but it was upheld in District Court last March.

Atty. Gen. Evan L. Hultman advised the executive council to accept the gift, but the council agreed to delay its action on the possibility an appeal to the State Supreme Court might be filed by Hawks' heirs.

Tax returns bill introduced

DES MOINES (UPI)—A bill that would simplify the figuring of Iowa income taxes was introduced in the state Senate today.

The bill would require state income taxpayers merely to take eight per cent of their total federal income tax and send it off to the state tax commission.

The measure, which was passed by the Senate two years ago but bottled up in a House committee, would give very low and very high income groups a slight increase in state income taxes, but decrease the tax bite for persons with gross incomes between \$4,000 and \$32,000, according to Sen. Lynn Potter, D-Cresco.

F. P. C. compares electric rates

(Special to The Tribune)

NEW YORK—How much does it cost residents of Ames for the electricity they use in their homes? How do their costs compare with those in other cities across the country?

A survey of residential electric rates, covering 4,820 cities in the United States, has just been released by the Federal Power Commission. It shows costs vary widely between communities, affected by such factors as the kind of area involved, its compactness, the distance from source of fuel and the type of ownership of the utility.

100 Kilowatt Hours

As of Jan. 1, 1960, the typical electric bill in Ames for 100 kilowatt hours of current, which is an amount that provides lighting, refrigeration and small appliance operation, was \$5 a month.

In the other cities, the report states, the average cost for this quantity was \$4.04 per month.

For 250 kilowatt hours, which is closer to the amount that most families use, the typical local bill was \$8 compared with \$7.44 average for the U.S.

The range in this category is from a low figure of \$3, in Eugene, Ore., to a high of \$11.69, in Great Barrington, Mass.

For the households in Ames that consume current at the rate of 500 kilowatt hours a month, which takes care of lighting, cooking, air conditioning and the normal small appliances, local bills came to \$10.50.

Below U.S. Average

The average, in the rest of the country, was \$10.62 per month.

The use of electricity in the American home continues to increase, according to the Edison Electric Institute. People are reaching out for more and more of the creature comforts, including room coolers and other air conditioning equipment, dishwashing machines, electric blankets, freezers and others.

During 1960, the average family used 6.4 per cent more electric energy, it states, than it did in the prior year. In Ames's regional area, consumption rose from 3,335 kilowatt hours to 3,633, an 8.9 per cent rise.

Comparative Rates
Comparative rates for selected Iowa cities and towns, as reported by the Federal Power Commission:

	100 kw h	250 kw h	500 kw h
Ames	\$5.01	\$8.00	\$10.50
Boone	4.60	8.68	11.18
Burlington	4.55	8.70	11.83
Clinton	4.45	8.38	11.46
Eldora	4.20	8.35	12.10
Fort Dodge	4.00	8.00	11.90
Iowa City	3.31	6.34	10.14
Marshalltown	4.60	8.68	11.18
Nevada	4.60	8.68	11.43
Newton	4.55	8.70	11.83
Ottumwa	4.55	8.70	11.83
Webster City	3.88	7.18	9.68

Pesch OK'ed for safety post

DES MOINES (UPI)—The Iowa Senate today confirmed the appointment of Carl Pesch, 31, Des Moines as state commissioner of public safety.

His appointment was the first, and only one so far, submitted to the Senate by Gov. Norman A. Erbe.

Pesch, a native of Mount Pleasant, was a member of Erbe's staff when he was attorney general. He succeeds Donald M. Statton, Boone, who resigned, effective Jan. 20.

Pesch becomes the youngest state safety commissioner in Iowa history.

IOWA TRAFFIC-FATALITIES

Through Jan. 22	
1961	27
1960	33

Sheldon firm

State halts stock probe

DES MOINES (UPI)—The State of Iowa today suspended its investigation into operations of the Northern Biochemical Corp., Sheldon, whose deposed president and principal stockholder face charges in connection with a \$2 million bank embezzlement.

Iowa Insurance Commissioner Walter Timmons and Atty. Gen. Evan L. Hultman jointly announced that the state agreed to halt its inquiry into stock sales by the company at the request of U.S. Dist. Atty. F. E. Van Alstine.

The announcement said Van Alstine asked that the state withdraw its investigators at least until disposition of federal charges against Harold E. Kistner, 35, and Mrs. Burnice Geiger, 58, both of Sheldon.

Mrs. Geiger was charged with embezzlement from a national bank last Monday after she admitted taking more than \$2 million from the Sheldon National Bank where she was assistant cashier.

Kistner, fired Friday as president of Northern Biochemical, was arrested Saturday night and charged with aiding and abetting Mrs. Geiger.

The securities division of the state insurance department, aided by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, launched an investigation of sales of stock in Northern Biochemical last week after it was disclosed Mrs. Geiger held 130,000 of the 350,000 outstanding shares of the firm's stock.

Robert Walters, head of the securities division, said Northern Biochemical had inquired about registering its stock for sale several months ago but had never followed through with an application.

He said any sales of the stock subsequent to the inquiry about registration might form a basis for criminal charges.

About the same time the state launched its inquiry, Kistner admitted that he had pleaded guilty in 1958 to selling unregistered stock in Nebraska and was placed on probation for one year.

Elliott due to return today

SHELDON, Iowa (UPI)—Harassed directors of the Northern Biochemical Corporation today waited for financial adviser Elliott Roosevelt to chart a course through mushrooming money woes growing out of an alleged \$2 million embezzlement by its largest stockholder.

Roosevelt, hired by the firm last December as a consultant, planned a midday huddle with the board immediately after his arrival from Washington and another session tonight with all 126 employees of Northern, once Sheldon's fastest-growing industry.

This picture faced him:

• Northern Biochemical's ousted president, Harold Kistner Jr., 35, sat in jail at Sioux City, Iowa, 65 miles away, while attorneys sought to raise \$25,000 bond imposed after Kistner's arraignment for aiding and abetting the embezzlement.

• Part of the firm's most recent \$10,000 weekly payroll hadn't been met. Some employees took part pay and company funds in the Sheldon National Bank were still tied up, as they had been since the bank closed abruptly Tuesday.

• Mrs. Burnice Iverson Geiger, 58, was in a Sioux City jail cell near Kistner, accused of embezzling more than \$2 million from the Sheldon National, nurtured over the years in this prosperous Iowa corn country by her 84-year-old father.

Kistner's higher \$25,000 bond, set Sunday by U.S. Commissioner Wilford Forker, brought vigorous protests from attorney Frank Margolin, who said his client would plead innocent to charges of aiding and abetting the embezzlement.

Northern Biochemical fired Kistner Friday about 24 hours after it was learned he pleaded guilty in 1958 to unauthorized sale of securities in Nebraska. The board gave no reason for the firing.

After Saturday's arrest, Harriet Kistner said she felt certain "events will prove Harold innocent of wrongdoing."

Vince Fleming, 31, former public relations director for Northern, resigned Sunday with a blast at "excessive secrecy on the part of certain members of the board of directors."

Executive General Manager Orville Ohlen denied Fleming's charges. He said "certain information" had been withheld from the press "because the board has not been able to obtain attorneys or counsel."

Ground crew truck hit; nine dead, missing

HONOLULU (UPI)—A Navy radar plane with 22 men aboard veered off the runway on Midway Island Sunday and smashed into a ground crew truck, touching off a fire which consumed the plane.

Nine men, including three of the crewmen on the fire truck, were killed or missing, the Navy said. Sixteen of the men aboard the plane escaped unhurt or with minor injuries.

A preliminary investigation showed that the 70-ton four-engine Constellation apparently landed short of the runway and sheared off a landing gear, which struck two engines on the left wing.

The wing was sheared off as it hit the runway, causing the plane to veer to the left. One thousand feet down the runway, it smashed into the fire truck which was in a routine position for an aircraft landing.

The Navy said the huge radar plane flipped onto its back and burst into flames.

The plane was returning from an 11-hour flight along the Pacific air defense barrier between Midway and the Aleutian Islands

Burglar kills Iowa officer

OK'ed in '59

House receives judiciary plan

DES MOINES (UPI)—The "Iowa Plan" to take the state's courts out of politics and eliminate justices of the peace was introduced in the House of Representatives today.

The measure, requiring a constitutional amendment, was approved by the 1959 General Assembly. To become effective, it must be adopted in exactly the same form by the current legislature and be ratified by the voters at a general election.

The plan would make the judges of all courts appointive instead of being elected by the people, and give the State Supreme Court jurisdiction over all branches of the judiciary.

The essential elements of "The Iowa Plan" are the appointment of judges by a non-partisan commission with the opportunity for the voters to remove an unsatisfactory judge in a non-partisan, non-competitive election. The sole issue in such an election, the bill states, would be whether the judge was to be retained.

The bi-partisan supported resolution, introduced in the House with the blessings of the Iowa Bar Association, had the sponsorship of six Republicans and three Democrats.

Some basic tenets which the plan sets out include:

• Filling of vacancies in the supreme court and district courts by the governor from lists of nominees submitted by nominating commissions. Three nominees would be submitted for each supreme court vacancy, and two nominees would be submitted for each district court vacancy. If the governor then failed to make an appointment, it would be made by the chief justice of the Iowa Supreme Court from the list of nominees.

• Setting up a state judicial nominating commission to make nominations to fill vacancies in the supreme court and district judicial nominating commissions in each of the state's judicial districts.

• The commissions will consist of appointive and elective members. The appointive members will be selected by the governor but must be confirmed by the state Senate and the elective members will be chosen by members of the Iowa Bar Association.

• Judges would have tenure in office to be fixed later, but terms of supreme court justices would not be less than eight years and district court judges would serve for at least six years.

The legislative proposal is identical to the one which the American Bar Association has recommended to state governments since 1937. But it wasn't until 1958 that the Iowa Bar Association put its stamp of approval on the idea.

Shortly after the bar association endorsed the proposal, the Iowa Supreme Court went on record urging its adoption.

Called Saturday
Mrs. Geiger had been without a lawyer since her court-appointed attorney, Stanley Corbett of Sioux City, withdrew Thursday. He said he left the case because he felt the Geiger family could afford to hire their own attorney.

Dunkel said Geiger had conferred Saturday night with Gill. This apparently came about the same time Geiger telephoned his wife in jail Saturday—the first time he spoke with her since her arrest.

Federal authorities took her into custody on charges of embezzling more than \$2 million from the Sheldon National Bank, operated by her father. The shortage forced closing of the bank and has brought liquidation proceedings by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Both attorneys refused to discuss defense plans for Mrs. Geiger, but Gill commented, "this will all come out in court tomorrow (Monday)."

Refuses Bond
The lawyers would not say whether Mrs. Geiger planned to put up her \$10,000 bail to regain her liberty while the case was pending. She has steadfastly refused to make bond, saying she would prefer to remain in her cell while awaiting the outcome to save her family "embarrassment."

After their telephone conversation Geiger said his wife appeared to be "holding up better in jail than I am on the outside."

Geiger said the burden of answering questions from townswomen and "swarms of newsmen" has "almost got me to the point where I don't know if I can stand it."

Part-time marshal is shot

PLAINFIELD, Iowa (UPI)—A part-time town marshal was shot and killed early today by one of two burglars who had broken open a meat packing plant safe only to find it didn't contain "one red cent."

William L. Meadows, 36, a farmer who served part-time as the town's only police officer, was killed instantly by a single bullet in his heart as he stepped through the front entrance of the plant, Sheriff Harley Ehler said.

The safecrackers, described as "tough customers," who were armed with a high-powered rifle and a pistol, fled in a car after threatening plant owner Theodore Hartman, 61, and his son, Kenny, 23, who arrived on the scene just as the shooting occurred.

Roadblocks were immediately set up for the men, who were believed to have fled east on Iowa 188 in a car about 10 years old.

The elder Hartman said that one of the men told him to "stay back if you don't want to get killed."

"Boys, I turned back," Hartman said. "I didn't have a gun."

He described the two men as "tough customers" but said they had picked a bad night.

"There never is any money in the safe on Sunday," he said. "We're closed on Saturday and they wouldn't have found one red cent in the safe."

Hartman said the firm kept only insurance policies and "things like that" which needed fire protection in the safe.

Meadows, described as a "real fine" conscientious police officer who took his part-time duties seriously, was summoned to the scene by Mrs. Ernest Buckman, owner of a drugstore across the street from the plant.

Mrs. Buckman said she heard a noise "like an explosion" in the place and called Meadows and Hartman.

Officers said the blast had knocked off the door of the 40-inch-high safe. They found two canvas bags nearby—one containing explosives and the other containing burglary tools.

Agents of the State Bureau of Criminal Investigation arrived on the scene to aid in the investigation. Footprints were found outside the building.

Meadows, who farmed about 11 1/2 miles northwest of here with his aunt, Miss Edna Voss, was the son of Dr. and Mrs. L. H. Meadows, Seattle, Wash.

7 Navy men died

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Seven Navy men died in a fire which raged for two hours in the super aircraft carrier Saratoga early today near Athens, Greece, the Navy announced.

The Navy said the 60,000-ton ship was proceeding to Athens shortly after midnight when the fire broke out in one of the main machinery spaces.

It was believed to have been caused by a ruptured fuel oil line and blazed for just over two hours.

The Navy said four officers and three enlisted men died.

The Saratoga is of the same super carrier class as the Constellation which was gutted by fire Dec. 19 while under construction at Brooklyn Navy Yard. There were 50 deaths in the Constellation fire and damage was estimated at \$48 million.

The Navy withheld the names of the seven fatalities in the Saratoga fire until it could notify their families. The number injured was not yet known here.

There was no immediate estimate of the damage. The Saratoga arrived in Athens on schedule. A damage survey was started at once.



MRS. BURNICE GEIGER

Geiger visits wife

SIoux CITY, Iowa (UPI)—The husband of admitted embezzler Burnice Geiger, 58, visited her Sunday for the first time since she was jailed a week ago today, and the visit disclosed that two attorneys have been hired in her behalf.

Wallace P. Geiger, also 58, was accompanied on his visit to the Woodbury County jail here by Franklin Gill and Warren Dunkel, Sioux City law partners.

Both attorneys declined to discuss the case, although Dunkel said the two were retained Sunday by Mrs. Geiger's "family." He declined to say whether he and his partner had been asked into the case by Geiger or by Mrs. Geiger's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William P. Iverson.

Called Saturday
Mrs. Geiger had been without a lawyer since her court-appointed attorney, Stanley Corbett of Sioux City, withdrew Thursday. He said he left the case because he felt the Geiger family could afford to hire their own attorney.

Dunkel said Geiger had conferred Saturday night with Gill. This apparently came about the same time Geiger telephoned his wife in jail Saturday—the first time he spoke with her since her arrest.

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