

FRIEND EXPLAINS BACHELOR'S CACHE

Disabled GI Tells Trust Reposed in Him
by Man Who Kept Fortune in House

Charles Babonet, 66, who died last Aug. 7 at his home, 18 La Verne Ave., leaving \$130,196.70 in loose sheaves of currency about his house, did not die friendless.

This was proved yesterday when Peter J. Kelly, Babonet's neighbor, 540 S Vancouver St., modestly admitted that he had known for years that Babonet kept large sums of cash in far-from-secret places about the premises.

But to Kelly, a disabled veteran of the Air Force in World War II, the cash was as sacred as was his 17-year-old friendship with the partial recluse, Babonet, whom he cared for during the old man's ailing years.

Didn't Trust Boys

"Often," said Kelly, "I would try to get him to take his cash to the bank. He would say I didn't feel well enough to make a 't' trip and that the money was safe enough."

Curiously, Babonet trusted Kelly more than he did the small boys of the neighborhood. To keep these lads away from his apricot trees, Babonet erected a six-foot steel lattice fence around his property, with a padlock on the gate, Kelly disclosed.

Babonet's total fortune may exceed \$500,000. So far found by the Public Administrator's office has been \$317,141.44. Royalty checks found in the bachelor's effects indicate that he was the owner of valuable oil lands. These have not as yet been located exactly.

Found During Search

The cash in the house was first unearthed during a routine search by Depts. B. J. Parchman and Carl Johnson from the office of Public Administrator Ben Brown.

During a preliminary survey, they found about \$300,000. A later and more intensive probe

brought forth another \$100,196.70.

"The money was not hidden," reported A. J. Fitzgerald, chief investigator for Brown's office. "Much of it was in bills ranging up to \$1000 denomination rolled up and tied with string. These bundles would be found lying behind furniture or even under newspapers tossed carelessly on the floor."

Several Accounts

Listed in letters of administration filed by the Public Administrator are items showing that Babonet carried accounts at several banks totaling \$182,694.74. Bonds added up to \$4000. Personal property so far found, exclusive of the modest cottage on La Verne Ave., was evaluated at \$250.

Investigation into Babonet's affairs so far has shown that there are five cousins who may inherit his estate, he having died without leaving a will.

The cousins are Michael Babonet and Agnes Krems of St. Louis and Pauline Bobovich, Johanna Herzog and Ludwig Bobovich, who are believed to reside in Communist territory in Antau, Austria.

Two Arrive Here

Mrs. Krems and her son Albert, a lithographic pressman, have arrived in Los Angeles. The four remaining possible legatees have been notified of Babonet's death.

Mrs. Krems has informed Brown's office of the possible existence of a sister of Babonet who was last reported alive in Austria at the age of 85.

Kelly said he knew little of Babonet's ramified investments and bank accounts, although he had surmised that oil lands, pos-



NEW THEATER—Paradise Theater incorporating latest in architectural design and audience comfort will open in Westchester on Wednesday. Theater will hold 1300, is equipped with push-back type seats and hearing aids for use of patrons.

sibly in Huntington Beach and elsewhere, were owned by his friend.

The Air Force veteran, a man of strong religious feeling, disclosed that Babonet was also a member of the Catholic faith and that Babonet had made it a practice to donate regularly to Catholic charities anonymously.

Babonet came to Los Angeles about 30 years ago, Kelly said. His real estate investments are believed to have been started soon after his arrival.

Frank Babonet, who also was known as Frank Landell, a brother of Charles, died last April at his home at 975 S. Hollins St. Charles was named as executor of Frank's estate.

Hearing on the administration of the estate has been set for next Aug. 31 before Superior Judge Newcomb Condee.

WESTCHESTER THEATER WILL OPEN WEDNESDAY

Opening of the new Paradise Theater at 9110 Sepulveda Blvd., Westchester, is scheduled for next Wednesday, it was announced yesterday by Alex and Max Schreiber, developers of the project.

Recreational facilities of a 16-lane bowling alley adjacent to the theater will be opened Sept. 1, the Schreibers announced.

Paradise Theater will be operated in association with Southside Theaters, Inc., which is owned by Fanchon Simon and three brothers, Marco, Roy and Rube Wolf.

Ample free parking space is available in the rear of the property. The theater itself contains 1300 seats of the push-back type.

The property carries out the California modern design of Architect Arthur Froehlich of Los Angeles and Associate Architect T. Rogvov of Detroit.

Linters for Sale

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 17 (U.P.)—The U.S. Department of Agriculture here offered for sale today 1235 bales of cottonseed linters from the 1949 cottonseed crop acquired through price support purchases in Arizona.