

**Pianist Dies**

(Story in adjoining column.)

**SERGEI RACHMANINOFF.**

Veeder of Elgin, personnel director, a job created under the present administration.

Vicars charged that on the day of the escape Stubblefield was doing political campaigning in southern Illinois and that there was not even a deputy warden in charge at the penitentiary.

**Tells of Shelton Gang.**

Vicars devoted considerable time to moral conditions in southern Illinois, where he asserted the notorious Shelton gang is operating a gambling ring and "taking millions of dollars of illicit revenue from the citizens of Illinois every year." Slot machines, he said are operated openly, altho, he argued, it would be easy for the governor's liquor control commission to put an end to them as has been done in Chicago.

Vicars also alleged that \$250,000 is being raised as a campaign fund for McKibbin thru-extortion of contributions from state employes.

**Japs Resume Seal Hunting, German Press Reports**

BERNE, Switzerland, March 28.—After an intermission of 30 years seal hunting has been resumed on the eastern coasts of the Japanese islands, said a dispatch to the German press from Tokio today. The Japanese, it was stated, are taking advantage of their renunciation in 1941 of the sealing convention and the yield is proving profitable as seals quit the war zones in the north and seek more southerly points where they are now appearing in great numbers.

**COAT AND JEWELRY STOLEN.**

A fur coat and a diamond-set locket valued at \$175 were stolen during the week-end from the home of Mrs. Margaret Maher, 1340 Hollywood avenue, she reported to police yesterday.

**RACHMANINOFF,  
PIANIST, DIES  
IN CALIFORNIA****Virtuoso Is Stricken While  
on Concert Tour.**

Los Angeles, Cal., March 28 [Special].—Sergei Rachmaninoff, master of the piano, died today in his home at Beverly Hills, succumbing to an attack of pneumonia and pleurisy with which he was stricken while on tour a few days after his appearance in Chicago Feb. 11 with the Chicago Symphony orchestra. He was 69 years old.

The tall Russian virtuoso, with his close cropped gray hair and dour visage, has been a familiar figure on the American concert stage for 35 years and as a pianist was second in the public mind only to Paderewski in his prime. A member of the land-owning class in Czarist Russia, he had made his home in America since 1917. He and his wife, Natalie, became American citizens Feb. 1 in a New York federal court.

**Wife at Bedside.**

The musician's wife and Mrs. Irena Wolkonsky, one of his two daughters, were with him at his death. The other daughter, Mrs. Tatiana Conus, is in France. Friends of the family said two requiem masses will be celebrated in the Los Angeles Russian Orthodox church, one tonight and one tomorrow night. The funeral mass will be Tuesday in the same church.

Rachmaninoff's musical reputation was founded not only on his accomplishments as a pianist but also on his abilities as a composer and conductor. Among his works were the operas "Aleko," "The Miser Knight," and "Francesca da Rimini," as well as a number of symphonies, concertos, and cantatas.

**Won Interest of Tschakowski.**

He was born April 2, 1873, on an estate in the Novgorod district of Russia, and his first piano teacher was his mother. At the age of 12 he was entered in the Conservatory of Moscow and almost at once attracted the interest of the composer Tschakowski. He won the conservatory's gold medal for the opera "Aleko" at 18.

As a young man he conducted the Moscow Private opera and the Imperial theater. His popularity outside Russia dates from an appearance in London in 1899 with the London Philharmonic. His American debut was in 1909 with the Boston Symphony orchestra and in that year he made his first Chicago appearance as guest conductor and pianist with the Theodore Thomas orchestra.

Rachmaninoff made a tour of Europe just before the start of the first World War I. In 1914, and during the early years of this struggle he