

NOTED CRIMINAL LAWYER SEES NO CRIME IN HEXING.

Clarence Darrow Believes "Hex" Murder in York County a Natural Symptom.

"A terrible outrage!" exclaimed Clarence Darrow, noted criminal lawyer.

"Do you really think the State of Pennsylvania will stand for it? Why, a literal interpretation of the Bible would force us to believe in witchcraft. Is there any doubt that the killers of Nelson Rehmyer believed he had an evil power he could exercise at will?"

The dean of America's criminal lawyer, victor in 1000 court battles, was discussing John Curry, 14-year-old pink-cheeked school-boy, who waits in the county jail at York, Pa., while application for a new trial on his behalf is being prepared.

Young Curry, tried with two others for the now famous York county "hex" murder, was found guilty and condemned to life imprisonment. His attorney, Walter W. Van Baman, with whom has become associated Harvey A. Gross, leader of the York County Bar, will go before the Quarter Sessions Court in York next month and plead for a new trial for the boy. If they fall there, they have announced, they will take the case to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, a group in New York has banded together and interested themselves in young Curry, who with John H. Blymer, 33, and Wilbur G. Hess, 18—killed Rehmyer while in quest of a lock of their victim's hair for use in breaking an evil spell. This group is anxious to retain Darrow to become associated with the defense in the event that a new trial should be granted to Curry. Plans to this effect necessarily await the application for the new trial and, while Darrow said that he had not been approached in the matter, he clearly indicated intense sympathy with the Curry boy and willingness to help should he be called upon.

"Belief in witchcraft," the veteran attorney began, settling down to the interview he gave at the Hotel Belmont here, where he is staying for a brief visit, "cannot, in itself, be considered a crime."

"If it were, there would be but few of us really innocent. Not so many years ago our best people and most devout Christians not only believed in witches, but guaranteed their celestial happiness by murdering them."

"We placidly admit that there are sections of our country where people are isolated by their own customs and thought, or by geography, and live quaintly a century and a half behind our little more-enlightened communities. But we forget that a mere century and a half takes us almost back to Cotton Mather and the stake. Then witches were hanged for the glory of God and for the peace of mind of those who thought they had been or might be bewitched. There are today groups of people who have advanced but little in mentality beyond the ignorant frenzy that glorified in hangings.

"Even today a literal interpretation of the Bible would force us to believe in witchcraft and sorcery. And those simple folk, of which that Curry boy is a product, hold strictly to the word just as they find it. To them the witch of Endor is very real. The devil is real. Spells are real. In their world, furnished by traditions, myths and old-world lore, handed down unchanged from one generation to another, there are evil spirits as certain in their destruction as a flying train bearing down.

"Is there any doubt that Curry and those others believed that Rehmyer had an evil power which he could exercise at will? Is there any doubt that they thought a lock of his hair would break the spell? Nothing new in that belief, nothing unusual. Reach into your own pocket for your own personal protector against bad luck.

"Our belief in capital punishment as a deterrent is just another form of witchcraft. Apart from the mass desire for revenge, there is a subconscious desire to rid ourselves of what we believe to be an evil person. We look in vain for any proof that executions have had any effect on crime. When England punished by death everything from bread and sheep stealing to wholesale killing, crime was far more general than it is today. Education and the training of youths in trades and professions has diminished crime; never the death penalty.

"Almost invariably a killer has no firm anchorage in life such as a sure vocation would give him. Go through our jails, as I have done for many years, and you will find, as I have, that the murderer rarely has a developed skill or trade which he can pursue at a profit to himself and with benefit to society.

"Furthermore although I do not have the figures here, I would say that 90 per cent. of our murderers are under 35 years of age. As a man or woman matures, the chances of committing murder diminishes.

"Isn't there every reason to believe that the crime of murder is a symptom? In the York case it was clearly a symptom of prevailing ignorance, a condition which should never be allowed to exist in the State of Pennsylvania.

"Every time a murder is committed you will find a symptom of an individual or social disease, and sometimes both, with the individual trouble caused by the social neglect. A physician who would attempt to eliminate pox marks and ignore the disease that caused them would be more ridiculous than is society which, through its courts and judges, attempts to prevent crime by lopping off its symptom members which speak of secret and sinister diseases."

DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND PLEAS OF GUILTY COURT.

Big List of Cases Disposed of at Regular Sitting Last Week.

Mopping up marital difficulties and sitting in judgment on numerous law violators occupied the attention of Judge Fleming in the regular session of domestic relations and pleas of guilty court, always held just prior to the regular court session, for almost two full days last week. All told twenty-seven cases were heard and fines levied totaled over twenty-five hundred dollars while Sheriff Harry Dunlap's list of regular boarders was decidedly increased.

The first case called after court convened on Thursday morning was that of John Dullen Jr., of Philipsburg, charged by his wife, Margaret Dullen, with desertion and non-support. When Mrs. Dullen was called to the witness stand she stated that when she made the information in the case she didn't know what she was doing, as her husband had not deserted her and always provided support for her and her children. The case was promptly dismissed and the costs placed upon the county.

In the case of Russell Flick, of Sandy Ridge, charged with desertion and non-support by his wife, Alice Wolf Flick, evidence was presented to show that they have three children, one of whom is being kept by Mrs. Flick's father, one by Mrs. Flick and the other adopted. The court ordered Mr. Flick to pay \$15.00 a month to the probation officer, one-half of which is to go to the wife's father and the other half to herself.

In the desertion and non-support proceedings instituted by Mrs. Ethel M. Kanarr against her husband, Saylor J. Kanarr, of State College, the court ordered the defendant to pay the costs and withdraw divorce proceedings instituted in Blair county, then placed him on parole for three months in the hope that a reconciliation may be effected.

Fred Smith, of Philipsburg, who deserted his wife, Mary Smith, was ordered to pay \$15.00 a month for her support and give bond in the sum of \$200 as assurance thereof, and to stand committed until the sentence is complied with.

Herbert Hollobaugh of Spring township, who in 1926 was ordered by Judge Keller to pay \$40 a month to the support of his wife, was granted a rehearing and at the conclusion of same the order was reduced to \$20 a month and defendant required to give bond in the sum of \$300 to insure payment.

Mart Romanik, of Rush township, was charged by P. S. Richards with a violation of the motor laws, the result of a collision between the prosecutor's car and a truck driven by defendant. As there was no evidence to substantiate the charge the defendant was discharged.

In the case of Bruce Reese, charged with desertion by his wife, Agnes Reese, an amicable settlement was made.

Henry Sents, of Harris township, was ordered to pay \$25 per month toward the support of his wife and give bond in the sum of \$300.

Commonwealth vs. Nathan Haugh, charged with the illegal kill of a deer. Prosecutor Thomas Mosier. Mr. Haugh lives in lower Brush valley and last fall killed a number of deer which he claimed were damaging the crops on his farm, but failed to report the killings to a game protector within forty-eight hours, as required by law. Prosecution was brought before Squire S. Kline Woodring, of Bellefonte, and at the hearing defendant entered into an agreement to pay a certain fine and costs, but subsequently appealed the case to court. After hearing the testimony the case was continued until March 15th to give attorneys an opportunity for argument or to submit written briefs.

Commonwealth vs. Fred B. Hicks, violation of the motor laws. Prosecutor, Cecil Gross, State highway patrolman. The action was the result of a collision on the Snow Shoe mountain highway. Defendant was found guilty and was ordered to pay the usual fine and costs.

Commonwealth vs. A. C. Coble, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor. Prosecutor, A. E. Yougel. Defendant plead guilty and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$50 and go to jail for thirty days.

Joseph Caparelli and Maggie Caparelli, his daughter, entered pleas of guilty to the possession of intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes. This case was from Coleville and Caparelli was ordered to pay a fine of \$350, costs of prosecution and imprisonment in the county jail for six months. In the case of Maggie Caparelli the court told her that unfortunately there is no proper accommodations at the county jail for a woman so he sentenced her to pay a fine of \$50, costs of prosecution and placed her under probation for a period of two years.

Rufus Zerby, charged with a statutory offense, was given the usual sentence provided in such cases.

Ernest Leitch, Daniel Shay and Carson Price, all plead guilty to the charge of stealing chickens and other things from Centre county farmers, the prosecutor in the case being Willard Yearick. Leitch, who was the ring leader, was ordered to pay one dollar fine, costs of prosecution and imprisonment in the Allegheny county work-house for not less than

eighteen months nor more than three years, while Shay and Price were given a dollar fine, costs and nine to eighteen months in the work house. The three young men were taken to that institution on Monday by deputy sheriff Sinie H. Hoy and Harvey Corman.

A. L. Courson, of Philipsburg, pled guilty to possession of intoxicating liquor and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$200 and go to jail for four months.

John Hart, of Philipsburg, pled guilty to possession and sale of liquor and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$200 and imprisonment in the county jail for three months.

Robert W. Knisely plead guilty to two indictments charging him with passing worthless checks. H. C. Garber, of State College, was the prosecutor, and the checks, \$13.00 and \$12.00 respectively, were given in payment of board. Defendant was sentenced on each count to pay a fine of one dollar, costs of prosecution and thirty days in jail.

Harry Lindemuth and Toner Fisher, both of Unionville, entered pleas of guilty to maintaining a gambling device and each were sentenced to pay a fine of \$100, costs of prosecution and placed on probation for one year.

Joe Crushett of Spring township, or better known as Joe Kusas, plead guilty to the manufacture and possession of liquor and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$300, costs and four months in jail.

Andy Capots, of Spring township, 66 years old and unable to speak or understand English, plead guilty to manufacture and possession and drew a \$200 fine, costs and two months in jail.

William J. Parker and Ralph Eyer, both of Bellefonte, plead guilty to transporting liquor for beverage purposes. Both young men were caught on the streets of Bellefonte driving trucks loaded with beer. When asked by the court who they were driving for both said an Altoona man, but they were unable to tell his name. Looking both men in the face Judge Fleming said: "Now what's the use of you lying to the court. You were not working for an Altoona man at all, and the court knows it." They were each sentenced to pay a fine of \$300, costs of prosecution and placed on probation for two years.

The case against Ambrose Piski, charged with manufacture and illegal possession, was continued until the May term of court owing to the illness of his wife.

E. P. Richards, of Worth township, plead guilty to possession and sale of intoxicating liquor and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$200, costs and two months imprisonment in the county jail.

Theodore Parker, of State College, plead guilty to possession and sale of liquor, but because of his youth, he being only 16 years old, and also because he confessed that he was handling the liquor for another man and gave his name, he was sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution and placed on probation for one year.

Lee Cowher, of Spring township, plead guilty to possession of a quantity of home brew and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$50 and placed on probation for two years.

James Farthingham, of Philipsburg, plead guilty to possession and was given a fine of \$25, costs of prosecution and placed on probation for three years.

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—Omicron Eta, local sorority at State College, was installed as Rho chapter of Theta Phi Alpha, national Catholic sorority, with special ceremonies on Sunday. Centre county residents who were admitted to membership include Mrs. Helen Haley and Sarah L. Houser, of State College, and Miss Elizabeth Hazel, of Bellefonte. The chapter starts out with a membership of twenty-one.

A large Willys-Knight radiator for \$10.00. Also a good second hand range very cheap at W. H. Miller's hardware. 74-9-1t

Students are Below Weight Standards.

Figures tabulated by the school division of the bureau of child health of the State Health Department show that of 42,515 pupils recently examined in fifteen different counties throughout the Commonwealth more than 19 per cent. were under weight. Ten per cent. of this number had their condition definitely attributed to under-nourishment. The remainder were diagnosed as malnourished and overweighted.

Dr. J. Bruce McCreary, deputy secretary of health, commenting on this report said that there is of course a certain proportion of the school population which is naturally underweight. This, however, represents an exceedingly small number of the total of children showing this condition. "Parents must appreciate," Dr. McCreary said "the necessity of the proper type of food for their children as well as the quantity. In all probability improper recreations that lead directly to late hours, are more responsible than any other one factor for the fatigue in young people which is becoming more generally pronounced."

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John F. Kimport, et ux, to Lillie B. Womer, tract in Harris Twp.; \$1.
Mary E. Morgan, et bar, to Albert S. Lingle, tract in Gregg Twp.; \$1,000.
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Vieliac Trading Co. to Woodland Stores Inc., tract in Rush Twp.; \$1.
J. W. Henszey, et ux, to Orlanda W. Houts, tract in State College; \$773.79.

Henry Shoemaker Visited Ed Haupt's Veiled Lady Cavern.

Henry W. Shoemaker, editor, writer and member of the Pennsylvania historical commission, visited G. Edward Haupt's Veiled Lady cavern, in Brush valley, on February 2nd, and in a communication to Mr. Haupt says:

"I visited the 'Veiled Lady Cavern' today and was greatly pleased. I have a number of ideas I would like to convey to you when I see you. If I bring J. M. Hoffman, State superintendent of parks, with me on March 2nd would you be able to be there?"

"I hope you will spare the grand, old trees around the cave. I found much finer trees than Mr. Chatham told me were around the cave entrance."

"I hope you will stay your woodman's axe from the remainder, as they are the glory and the beauty of the approach to the cave. Keep things natural, don't fix up too much, and you will have, in my estimation, a property second to none in the State."

Highway Total is Now 13,330 Miles.

Pennsylvania's highway mileage under State control totals 13,330 miles, 12,750 miles of authorized system and 580 miles of State aid, according to official figures of the Pennsylvania Department of Highways. About 8830 miles are hard-surfaced and the remaining 4500 unimproved or slightly improved includes 1214 added July 1, 1928, by an omnibus bill enacted in 1927.

DISTURBED SLEEP IS Nature's Danger Signal

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