

The Centre Reporter

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GIRL BANDIT AND DAGUE DIE IN ELECTRIC CHAIR

Mrs. Schroeder and Her Companion in Crime Electrocutated at Rockview Penitentiary Early Monday—Woman, First to Go to Death Chair, Remained "Iron Irene" to End.

Calm and collected, Irene Schroeder and Walter Glenn Dague went to their deaths in the electric chair at Rockview Penitentiary, near here, just after break of dawn, Monday.

The state claimed of them the supreme price for the killing of a guardian of its highways.

The woman went to the chair first. One contact was made and she was pronounced dead at 7:05.

Dague was placed in the chair at 7:08 and five minutes later was dead. Neither of the slayers spoke, nor was any word spoken to them.

The woman who once wielded a gun with her gunman lover in merciless bloodshed, was as unflinching as ever she had been during her days of banditry and subsequent flight for life.

"Iron Irene" they termed her at her trial. "Iron Irene" she was until the end. The spirit that bore her up when the jury in the Lawrence county courts pronounced death as her sentence, held with her as she walked into the grim chamber of death and surrendered her life for the life of Corporal Brady Paul of the State Highway patrol, on December 27, 1929.

She was clad in a gray, artificial silk dress, loose and poorly fitting. She wore Negro stockings and black slippers. The hair was clipped away from the back of her head at a spot where an electrode was attached.

With guards holding her arms and a matron preceding her, the woman walked into the death chamber, apparently not needing the slight support the guards gave her. She walked into the brighter circle of light cast by a huge flood lamp over the chair and in the State's grim instrument of death.

The guards placed her and quickly fastened the straps binding her to the chair. The matron stepped aside to a wall of the chamber.

As she sat the woman's fingers trembled just a trifle. The only human voice in the cold gray chamber was that of the chaplain offering up a prayer for the doomed woman.

The straps and death hood were adjusted the voice of the chaplain whispered on, and even before he had completed his words, the contact was made. The woman's body rose up against the straps that bound her, fists clenched, the body tense and struggling.

Robert Elliott, the State's executioner, was at the switches controlling the current. It was he who served as executioner of Ruth Snyder for the killing of her husband in New York State.

For five minutes Elliott kept the current on, operating the electric apparatus while his eyes watched the form in the chair. The body strained against the straps until Elliott deemed sufficient current to kill had passed through the body. Then the current was turned off and the body slumped against the back of the chair.

Two physicians stepped forward, one of them opened the woman's waist and examined her and stepped aside. The other similarly made an examination. They looked at each other and one of them turned and faced the witnesses and remarked:

"Gentlemen, Irene Schroeder is dead."

So died the first woman ever to be electrocuted for a crime in Pennsylvania.

The body was taken from the chair, placed on a wheeled stretcher and removed from the room.

Something less than a minute later, the death chamber door opened again and admitted the Rev. T. O. Teagarden, and behind him Dague, flanked by a guard on either side. The minister was Dague's pastor in a church near Wheeling, W. Va., where Dague once was a Sunday school teacher.

Dague was clean shaven, his head clipped, and clad in a white shirt, open at the front, without a collar, and in dark trousers and black slippers.

He gazed steadily at the witnesses from side to side before the death hood was adjusted. Then followed the prayer by the pastor, and the electric contact. At 7:13 a. m., the physicians pronounced the slayer of Brady Paul dead.

The dozen State's witnesses were searched before they were admitted to the death chamber.

The prisoners were in excellent spirits in their last hours. Both arose early after having spent the night in sleep. A matron greeted Mrs. Schroeder with: "How are you this morning, Irene?" "Fine," the prisoner replied calmly.

Testimonials to the good care the prisoners received in the months of incarceration in the Lawrence county jail were contained in the announcement that Mrs. Schroeder had gained 22 pounds and Dague 40 pounds since their imprisonment. The woman was 22 years old last week. Dague was 34.

ABUNDANCE OF WATER STRUCK AT 280 FEET

Ten-Hour Pumping Test at Rate of From 65 to 10 Gallons Per Minute. Cook Pump Purchased.

At a depth of approximately 280 feet, an abundance of water was struck in a well drilled for the borough. A pump was set up Friday and from morning until night a heavy stream was lifted to the surface. The flow of water was given out by the operators as being from 65 to 100 gallons per minute. The pump is said to have been speeded up to the 100 gallon limit from eleven o'clock, a period of seven hours. The water level sank to some extent, but was not enough to indicate there was other than a great supply available.

The water is soft. A sample was sent to Penn State College for analysis.

A Cook turbine pump was purchased through the Electric Supply Company, Bellefonte. The pump and 7 horse-power motor is to cost about \$900, installed. The company guarantees the outfit to work satisfactorily.

The pump is known as a deep well pump, 14 stage. At a depth of 280 feet its capacity is 50 gallons per minute. At a depth of 120 feet, the depth contemplated, the capacity is estimated at 80 gallons per minute.

The water will be pumped into the reservoir through a pipe line direct from the pump and not through the main.

All of the drilling was through slate rock, except about thirty-five feet next to the surface.

Tuesday morning the well was "officially" measured as to depth, and is given out as being 286 feet. The water level at that time was 268 feet, 4 inches, or seventeen feet, eight inches below the surface.

16TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH CHAIR

The first woman to go to the electric chair in Pennsylvania, Mrs. Irene Schroeder, died on Monday, the sixteenth anniversary of the inception of electrocution as the mode of capital punishment in this State.

The first to die in Pennsylvania was John Tollo, condemned to give up his life February 22, 1915. He won a day's respite to February 23, however, when the prison warden felt he could not order a man executed on the anniversary of George Washington's birthday.

Morris Broderick, prison electrician, was the executioner at that time. He served until he was killed by a train on a railroad siding within the shadow of the penitentiary.

P. M.'s Appointment Confirmed. The appointment of R. M. Smith, postmaster at Centre Hall for the third term, was confirmed in the U. S. Senate on Saturday.

Bill Would Abolish Poor Districts in the County.

A bill to abolish all local township, borough and other poor districts in the county of Centre, and to establish a county unit poor district administered by the county commissioners, will be introduced before the General Assembly of Pennsylvania during the regular session this year. The bill is entitled, "An Act to amend sections 296 and 297 of the act approved the 14th day of May, 1925, entitled 'An act concerning poor relief and the creation and government of poor districts and the administration of the same in all counties of the Commonwealth, except in counties of the first and second classes; and revising, amending, consolidating, and changing the law relative thereto, as amended; removing the exemption of the County of Centre which retained the existing poor districts and the existing number of districts, overseers and authorities in charge of said districts; the manner of their election or appointment and the administrative system of giving poor relief, thereby creating a county unit poor district administered by county commissioners; abolishing local poor districts in said county; and repealing general, local and special laws inconsistent therewith.'"

Transfers of Real Estate. Thomas L. Smith, Adm., to Charles D. Bartholomew, tract in Potter twp.; \$2,710.

Philip S. Dale, et ux, to Ruth Miller, tract in State College and College twp.; \$1,600.

Adam H. Krumrine, et ux, to Sidney Krumrine, et ux, tract in State College; \$500.

Boyd E. Miller, et ux, to First National bank, tract in State College; \$1,000.

Mabel Coldren, et bar, to White Rock Quarries, tract in Spring twp.; \$5,000.

W. D. Herman, et al, to White Rock Quarries, tract in Spring twp.; \$600.

Agnes Coldren et bar, to White Rock Quarries, tract in Spring twp.; \$1,000.

P. W. Zettle to Albert S. Lingie, tract in Gregg twp.; \$1.

GRAND JURY PASSES ON FIFTY INDICTMENTS

Forty of Fifty Bills Found True and Ten Ignored.

The grand jury at its sitting last week passed on fifty bills of indictment, forty of which were found true. Some of the cases have been disposed of by the parties pleading guilty or by other methods. The cases to come before the court for jury trial this week are the following:

R. H. Speaker and Jessie Speaker, first count, forgery; second count, uttering and publishing forged instruments.

H. L. Hillan, violation liquid fuel tax law.

Lee Confer, bad check.

Harry Ruhl, involuntary manslaughter.

C. A. Krape, arson.

Mrs. Frank Wagner, entering with intent to steal; larceny and receiving stolen goods.

Mary Hockenberry, entering with intent to steal; larceny and receiving stolen goods.

Dorris Reed, larceny and violation of liquor laws.

Milford Muhlolan, entering with intent to steal; larceny and receiving stolen goods.

Leftie Fagan, violation of liquor laws.

Robert Hugel, violation of liquor laws.

Samuel Cartwright, entering with intent to steal; larceny and receiving stolen goods.

Ernest Leitch, larceny and receiving stolen goods.

Henry Nevill, bad checks.

B. C. Crayst, violation of the liquor laws. Two counts.

B. A. Scivally, fraudulent conversion.

Blake C. Logue, bad checks.

Ira Sters, entering with intent to steal; larceny and receiving stolen goods.

Walter Barnhart, entering with intent to steal; larceny and stolen goods.

Robert B. Meckley, bad checks.

C. H. Bubbs, violation of gasoline tax laws.

Gordon Walk, assault and battery.

K. G. E. OFFICERS INSTALLED BY DISTRICT DEPUTY

Centre, Madison, Centre Hall and Millin Castles Working Under New Officers—Membership Drive Approaching.

District No. 21, of which District D. M. Bradford is District Grand Chief, is now working under new officers in the several K. G. E. lodges, the officers in each of the lodges having been installed by the district deputy and staff during the recent past, as noted below:

Centre Castle No. 169, Spring Mills. Noble Chief—Harold Meyer.

Vice Chief—R. W. Lingle.

High Priest—M. I. Bressler.

Clerk of Exchequer—Guy S. Cozman.

Master of Records—W. Paul Weagley.

Sir Herald—Martin Shreckengast.

Venerable Hermit—Frank Igen.

Worthy Chamberlain—Ralph Confer.

Worthy Bard—C. C. Bartzes.

Ensign—Harry Auman.

Esquire—Russell Rote.

First Guard—Clarence Breon.

Second Guard—Robert Heckman.

Madison Castle No. 360, Madisonburg. Past Chief—R. R. Miller.

Noble Chief—J. W. Strayer.

Vice Chief—N. E. Miller.

High Priest—C. H. Shaeffer.

Clerk of Exchequer—C. E. Bartzes.

Keeper of Exchequer—H. L. Grenoble.

Sir Herald—C. U. Strayer.

Venerable Hermit—E. G. Duck.

Worthy Chamberlain—G. H. Showers.

THE BOY SCOUTS.

They are not little angels— I would not have them so. For wings are not becoming To fellows here below; Yet some day civic leaders From these same boys will grow.

They like to go a-hiking Along a mountain trail; Like honey, or deer, or wild cats The logs and rocks they scale. They are young knights a-making The gleaming holy grail!

They love to go a-camping In balmy Summer days, Where creek and pathway capture Apollo's golden rays.

They do a good turn daily, And do it not for praise.

They swim, and bask in sunlight Until their hides grow tan; They learn to cook their dinners Without a pot or pan; And when they are on duty They do the best they can.

They are not little angels— I would not have them so— They are as full of mischief As brownie elves; but oh, They are the finest fellows That I shall ever know!

—HARVEY W. FLINK, Scoutmaster Troop 2.

EMERICK HEIRS SEEK RECORDS.

Musty archives of more than half a century ago were figuratively exhumed in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in New York, last Thursday, in efforts of the heirs of John Nicholas Emerick to gain a slice of the Astor millions.

Counsel for the heirs demanded an order for surrender of an alleged surrogate's decree entered in 1849. That decree, it was contended, recognized the existence of a trust between the first John Jacob Astor and Emerick.

From the bench, on Thursday, Judge Augustus N. Hand remarked: "This action is apparently characterized by the utmost effrontery."

Which, for the Emerick heirs, simply means, not so good.

HUNDREDS APPLIED FOR WORK AT N. E. "PEN"

The rumor afloat that the excavating for the new Northeastern Penitentiary at Lewisburg, would begin on Thursday last week, brought hundreds of laborers and mechanics of various kinds to the scene of the site, but work was delayed on account of the non-arrival of machinery used for excavating.

The Lewisburg Journal states the classified men from that community who want work will be the first to be called, and that no lists of unemployed from other sections would be recognized.

Those who received their licenses are: E. R. Branson, State College; K. D. Larsen, State College; Loren B. Smith, Bellefonte; Harry Janet, Fleming; Clark C. Shultz, Bellefonte; Chester Wagner, Centre Hall; Melvin Johnsonbaugh, State College; Richard Miles, Milesburg; and David P. Langlois, State College.

The Jodon Horse Sale. The horse sale held by T. E. Jodon at his sales barn in Pleasant Gap on Monday afternoon, was the most largely attended sale held in a long while. The large attendance was in part due to the day having been an ideal one for an outside sale and again because Monday was a holiday.

Bible Students to Convene. Those who attend the Ninth Annual convention of the Pennsylvania State Adult Bible Class Federation at Harrisburg, March 3, will have a special privilege in that Governor and Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, both of whom will address the convention, have offered to receive the convention delegates in the executive mansion at the close of the afternoon session, at about 4:15.

The convention sessions will be held in the Grace M. E. church near the State Capitol. All are invited and there is no registration fee.

Other speakers are Bishop Herbert Welch, Pittsburgh; Louis E. Graham, Pittsburgh; Mrs. Ross Anderson, Springfield; Rev. E. H. Bonsall, Jr., Philadelphia; Rev. G. L. Schaller, Harrisburg; Rev. Max C. Wiant of Harrisburg, will conduct the worship service at each session. Hon. John V. Vickerman, Bellevue, President of the Federation, will preside at all sessions.

PENN STATE SUNDAY RADIO PROGRAM. Penn State College will broadcast over Station WPSC, 1230K, on Sunday, the following program:

11:00 A. M.—Chapel, Dr. Joseph Fort Newton, St. James Church, Philadelphia. 1:30 P. M. Organ, Donald A. Shelly.

1:45. "The Business Depression," Dr. Carl W. Haseck.

2:00. "Memory Awakening Melodies," Hummel Fishburn.

2:15. Recital, Francis Wood, tenor, and Rosmond Kairs, pianist.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

Mrs. Ada Butz returned from Huntingdon a few days ago where she had been with friends for a week.

Your milkman, C. B. Reber, has an important announcement in this issue of the Reporter.

The Sunset club members and a few invited guests spent Tuesday evening at the club house.

The justices of the peace in Centre county will meet today (Thursday) at 2:00 P. M. in the library room of the court house.

The thirteen taps given Old Liberty Bell by Mayor Mackey, on Sunday afternoon, were disappointing to radio listeners. The strokes failed to produce metallic sounds, but were plainly heard.

Light rains and snows fell almost every day last week. The roads were unpleasant to drive on account of the slush. Nittany and Kishacoquillas Valleys had much less snow than Penns Valley.

Joseph Parker, of Potters Mills, on Saturday went to Lewisburg to visit a son, James Parker, and family. He may also visit his daughter, Mrs. Samuel Bedlyon, in Snyder county before returning home.

The remodeling of the King home by P. H. Luse is now well on to completion. The interior changes have been radical and included an open stairway and a bath room. A heating plant will also be installed.

Sunday automobile traffic has been noticeably less during January and February than during the first two months of former years. The clear bright days falling on Sunday failed to change conditions. Lack of funds for gas is undoubtedly the reason.

The old barn on the Nicholas Graden property, north of Penn Hall, was purchased some time ago by Percival Tharp and is being razed and the timbers hauled to the Tharp farm. The structure will again be erected to take the place of the barn destroyed by fire on that farm during last summer.

The local lodge of I. O. O. F. will hold a card party in their rooms Wednesday evening, March 4th. Tickets may be purchased through V. A. Auman, D. W. Bradford and J. W. Delaney, or at the door. Price 50 cents. Refreshments, which are included in the admission fee, will be served.

After managing the Brockerhoff House for ten years, M. A. Lansdy will devote all of his time to the Markland, owned by him. Under Mr. Lansdy the Brockerhoff House regained its former popularity among travelers. The Markland, a modern and up-to-date place, is located on Spring street, Bellefonte.

The plant of the General Refractories company at Orviston has received a large order for fire brick which will keep the plant running six days a week for some time. The Beech Creek plant of this company has been running three days a week for the past month, after running six days a week for several weeks.

Lewis Brooks, the two and one-half year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Brooks, west of town, continues to improve at the Temple University hospital, Philadelphia, where a week ago Saturday an orange seed was removed from the esophagus. The lodging of the seed was due to a scarred tissue. An account of the operation was printed in the Reporter issued last week.

If present plans work out Mr. and Mrs. Allis will store their household goods in the Odenkirk store room beginning April 1st, and board with Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sharer, in town. They occupied the Potter bungalow since living here, but the sale of it to Mrs. Leister recently, necessitated the change. Mr. and Mrs. Allis have engaged one part of the double house to be erected by Cement Luse.

T. F. Delaney is planning to farm potatoes on a more scientific scale in the future, and will adopt a two-year rotation with rye and sweet clover. This is the method followed by Mr. Kepler, in Ferguson township, one of the advantages being the reduction of costly commercial fertilizers and the very heavy applications of barnyard manure. Mr. Delaney has been a successful potato grower for some years, and now his aim is to reduce cost of production without lessening the yield.

Mr. and Mrs. Norris Shane, of Howard, and Edward Thompson, of Pittsburgh, staged in Centre Hall with the Kerlins on Sunday, on an auto drive to Millroy and Reedsville. The Shanes live on the J. Will Mays farm, on the outskirts of Howard, and are farming on the fifty-fifty basis. He is now handling forty-five head of registered Guernsey cattle, milk production being the leading business on the farm. Mr. Shane has had experience in handling purebred herds of cows on farms about Washington and in sections of Pennsylvania.

At a recent international convention of dentists sponsored by the Chicago Dental Society, the astounding statement was made that there is \$40,000,000 worth of gold in American mouths in addition to much platinum and tremendous quantities of synthetic materials. This fact conclusively proves that Americans visit the offices of dentists, but it also well indicates that thousands upon thousands of persons do not obtain dental service soon enough. Dr. Appel, State Secretary of Health, said this week.

Katie V. Martin, et al, to Stewart H. Orendor, tract in Haines twp.; \$1200.

F. H. Stover, et ux, to Jennie O. Shook, tract in Penn twp.; \$1.

Ralph H. Dale to Luther K. Dale, et ux, tract in Harris twp.; \$1.

Notice to the People of Centre Hall.

On and after March 2nd, 1931, Markle Brothers, Pleasant Gap, will be able to supply the demands for pasteurized milk, cream, and buttermilk, each and every day, between the hours of 8 and 10 A. M., and if we can get sufficient trade, will make deliveries earlier.

Any one wishing to purchase milk on and after that date, please procure tickets from driver.

adv., 31

MARKLE BROS.