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Jury Finds Charles A. Krape Guilty.

Counsel for Defense Makes Motion for New Trial.— Bail Set at \$6000, Which is Furnished by Mr. Krape's Neighbors.

[By John M. Fleming.]

As a climax to one of the most spectacular trials in the annals of the Centre county courts, a jury of twelve men last Saturday afternoon found Charles A. Krape, aged 37, guilty of felonious arson. The jury retired to the conference room shortly before 1 o'clock and a little after four returned with the verdict. Ex-Judge Arthur C. Dale counsel for the defense, immediately made a motion for a new trial, and the bail was set by Judge Fleming at \$6,000. Charles P. Long and G. C. King, also of Spring Mills, came forward at once and gave bail for the seventy-year-old defendant.

The trial, which began Thursday afternoon, was marked by an abundance of curious spectators who came from miles around and brought their lunches in order that they might retain the seats for hours before the court opened. On Friday, many people were in the court room at 7 o'clock and did not leave until the session adjourned at 9:30 that evening.

The case arose from a fire on the night of January 23, 1929, in which the store of Mr. Krape, the defendant, was utterly destroyed. This conflagration also brought about the destruction of the dwelling house and store of John H. Rishel, and did partial damage to the Allison home. The State alleged that Mr. Krape set fire to his building and sent himself an anonymous letter in order that suspicion might be diverted from him.

It was close to the time of adjournment when the jury was finally selected, and District Attorney John Love stepped forward to make the opening speech to the jury for the Commonwealth.

The first witness was W. Q. Gramley, a resident of Spring Mills, who had been confined to the Jersey Shore hospital, where he is recuperating from a serious illness. It was necessary to transport him from Jersey Shore on Thursday morning and he was taken back immediately after the testimony was recorded.

Mr. Gramley told of two different conversations with Krape. The first was alleged to have taken place in late October of 1928. In this talk, the witness said the defendant told him he was in need of money and would have to raise it somewhere. He asked the witness if he knew where he might get some. The second conversation took place a month later and at this time Mr. Krape said he would give the witness "good money" if he would burn the store. He then explained the method by which this was to be accomplished. A candle would be placed in an ordinary shoe box and lighted. It would take this three or four hours before the box would ignite and consequently set fire to the building. The witness was to come into the store after 9 o'clock and light the candles which would be placed in different places in the building.

On cross examination, the sick man admitted that he owed Mr. Krape money at the time, but insisted that no mention was made of it at the time. After Mr. Gramley had testified, court adjourned until the next morning at 9:30.

The first witness on Friday was Harry M. Hoy, of Spring Mills. Mr. Hoy testified that he had conversed with Mr. Krape in December, and the aged man had asked him if he knew where he might raise some money. In January he received a letter from Krape asking him to come in and see him. When he arrived at the store he was asked if he knew a prospective buyer for the establishment. Later in the same month he received a second letter, this time the shoe merchant asked him again if he knew where he could get some money, and at this time said he "guessed the store I'd have to go up in smoke." He then offered the witness \$100 if he would burn up the structure.

On cross examination Mr. Hoy admitted that Mr. Krape did not ask him where he could raise some money and also that he had been drinking slightly during the month of November.

Jacob Sharer then took the stand and told of the happenings on the night of the fire. He said he had been raised from his sleep by the telephone, the exchange being in his home. He immediately dressed and ran down to the burning building. He stopped on the way to give the general alarm by blowing the silk mill whistle. When he arrived at the fire he called for Mr. Krape and in a reasonable length of time, the defendant came from his home. The two of them started around to the side of the building where there was found a pair of axes in the snow. Mr. Krape said to the witness: "Here it is; it was robbery." When questioned by Judge Dale, Mr. Sharer said that he had not seen the defendant after this conversation, that he could remember of.

John H. Rishel, whose house and store were burned at the same time as the Krape store, took the stand and told of his experience the night of the fire. It corresponded very much with the story told by Mr. Sharer, except in the fact that he had not seen nor talked with the defendant. On cross-examination he admitted that he and Mr. Krape had been in dispute over the fifteen-foot alley that separated the two places of business.

Mr. Rishel was followed to the stand by Harry M. Allison, who was postmaster at Spring Mills at the time of the fire. The purpose, of Mr. Allison's testimony was merely to identify and show that Mr. Krape had received and shown to him.

Allan F. O'Daniels and H. C. Hafey, representatives of the insurance companies, that the defendant had insured with, gave testimony relative to the amount of insurance carried and how much had been paid. Mr. Hafey testified that when he had investigated the case Mr. Krape had produced a letter in the office of E. T. Jamison, Justice of the Peace in Spring Mills, and said, "That will explain." The letter was not signed and the Commonweath produced C. C. Hart, a handwriting expert from Williamsport, who stated that it was generally the same as Mr. Krape's handwriting but not identical. Mr. Hart was in court and testified at length on the question of the letters and who they were written by.

During the investigation of the case Mr. Krape signed his name in the office of Leo Boden, county detective, and the witnesses were called to identify them. Those who took the stand in this capacity were Leo Boden, Roy Wilkinson, Detention and Parole officer, Walter Brandt, Special Agent for the fire underwriters, and L. D. Gritmen, the prosecutor in the case.

Mr. Gritmen was called to testify and stated that he was a member of the Pennsylvania State Police, assigned to Special duty in the office of the fire marshal at Harrisburg. He was assigned to the case on December 5, and came to Bellefonte on the following day. He returned to Harrisburg in order that he might obtain the alleged threatening letter Mr. Krape had written to himself, was in Bellefonte again on the 10th, at which time Mr. Krape was arrested.

Mr. Hafey returned to the stand and testified that \$858 had been paid the Spring Mills resident.

With the offer of the alleged anonymous letter and other exhibits, the Commonwealth rested.

The Hon. Arthur C. Dale opened the case for the defense, and the first witness called was H. P. Rossmann, of Spring Mills. On the night of the fire, Mr. Rossmann stated that he noticed that the fire was centered in the basement of the building. He testified to the poor condition of the stove which stood approximately in the center of the store. The stove, he said, was cracked and had appeared to grow larger as the years went by, expanding and contracting with the heat in the firebox.

G. C. King, next witness for the defense, also told in much the same manner as Mr. Rossmann how the stove was cracked and in bad condition.

The wife of the defendant was then called to testify in defense of her aged husband. She told in the clear, exact voice of an elderly lady, how she had gone to the store around eight o'clock on the night of the fire, as had been her custom in previous years when she arrived there, her husband was sitting beside the stove. Around 9 o'clock he began making preparations to close up and go home. He banked the stove, took the money out of the drawer, and locked the rear doors. It was shortly after 9 o'clock when they arrived home. They talked for a few minutes and retired at 9:30 as was their custom. Mrs. Krape was awakened around 12:30 by a neighbor crying, "Fire." She attempted to awaken her husband but found him to be in a sound sleep. However, after quite a struggle she succeeded, and he immediately went to the fire.

On cross examination, Mrs. Krape testified that the store had been built in 1903 to replace a structure which had been burned the same year. This fire had no bearing on the present situation, since, like the home of Mr. Rishel, it had taken fire from another conflagration.

Numerous reputable citizens of Spring Mills were called to testify to Mr. Krape's character and veracity and reputation for honesty and square dealing. They also told of the bad condition of the stove and the splintered floor beneath.

Both attorneys addressed the jury at length with vehement arguments and pleas. Judge Dale stressed the faulty stove and the character of the aged defendant, while District Attorney Love spoke principally of the defendant's attempt to throw suspicion from himself and the financial situation of Mr. Krape.

The trial was conducted in a calm and quiet manner, although the milling crowd presented an unprecedented problem to the court attendants.

The argument for a new trial will probably be heard at the next term of argument court.

The Krape Jury.

The names of the jurors who decided the Krape case follow:

Roy F. Zimmerman, A. C. Grove, T. M. Huey, J. H. Gilliland, W. H. Marshall, J. E. Yeager, Ira Haagen, W. G. Furst, Harvey Truckenmiller, Willard McDowell, Hugh Runkle, Kondrat Jusick.

The State Senate may stall on naming the successors to the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission, the "Fair Rate Board," on the ground that the label is misleading.

GOES TO ELECTRIC CHAIR DENYING GUILT OF MURDER

Thomas F. Martin, of Philadelphia, "trigger-man" in the holdup and murder of G. Cameron Cook, aged bank messenger, was electrocuted at Leokewen Prison, Monday morning.

As he went to his doom, Martin asserted that he and Thomas McCafferty were innocent and in no way connected with the slaying. He was pronounced dead at 7:05 after one contact at 7:01.

The crime for which Martin paid with his life took place in Philadelphia, December 6, 1929, during the holdup of an armored car, which resulted in the theft of \$34,000.

With the arrest of Martin and two of his three companions, Wilbur Mackenthun and Walter Maloney, both of Philadelphia, half of the loot was recovered. Mackenthun and Maloney were sentenced to life imprisonment.

McCafferty still is at large.

Martin's plea for a new trial was denied by the Philadelphia court and subsequently by the State Supreme Court.

SENATOR SCOTT A BUSY MAN.

Senator Harry B. Scott is one of the busiest Senators in the upper body of this section. Being chairman of the Appropriation Committee is job enough for one man without having any other demand on his time. The chairman of that committee is likely sought and interviewed more than any other committee head.

Aside from his own chairmanship, he is a member of the Banking, Congressional, Apportionment, Corporations, Executive Nominations, Education, Finance, Game and Fish, Insurance, Mines and Mining, Public Roads and Highways, and Railroad committees. These committees are the most prominent and active in the Senate and demand much time from their members.

When we consider the fact that Senator Scott has vast private business interests of his own that need attention—well, we just wonder what the Clearfield-Centre county Senator does with his spare time these days.

FEDERAL BUILDING FOR BELLEFONTE

The bill providing for a post office building in Bellefonte, now before congress, appropriates \$125,000 for a building of 6000 square feet of one story, basement and attic, faced with brick, and trimmed with stone with 4800 square feet for the post office and 800 for Internal Revenue.

The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to award contracts for the structure, there being sufficient money available to start it. Funds to complete the project will be asked of the next Congress.

Clever Ruse Deceives Punch Board Buyers.

Several dealers of merchandise and gasoline are reported to have been caught in a punch board deal lately. A clever stranger came through Bald Eagle and Nittany valleys and sold the boards. The boards were to be played for cash.

A few days later a man and a woman followed the same route and played the boards, knowing just where to punch, to beat the owner. Instances are reported where merchants lost from \$50 to \$200. The boards being illegal no effort was made to apprehend the parties. The cars carried Ohio registration tags.

LUTHERAN SYNODS CONTINUE EFFORTS AT AMALGAMATION

Representatives of Denomination's Six Bodies Discuss Co-operation.—Plan Mission Work.

Another step toward the union of the six Lutheran synods in Pennsylvania has been taken in efforts at closer co-operation in inner missions as conducted by the six present bodies.

A meeting of the inner mission directors of the synods was held at Harrisburg. It was attended by Rev. R. D. Heim, of Central-Susquehanna Synod; Rev. C. K. Spiggle, of Allegheny Synod; Rev. G. H. Bechtold, of Pennsylvania Ministerium; Rev. W. J. Miller, of East Pennsylvania Synod; and Dr. Wm. Fress, of United Lutheran Church in America. Representatives of the Pittsburgh and West Pennsylvania synods were unable to be present.

It was disclosed that the Lutheran synods in Pennsylvania have 39 separate institutions in their charge with a total of 443 employees, a property value of more than \$7,000,000 and endowments of \$1,700,000. A total annual budget of more than \$1,000,000 is required to maintain them.

Perhaps the most important of the group are the 11 children's homes distributed throughout the State, caring for 1400 children either dependent or orphaned. The annual expenses for these homes is approximately \$500,000. In addition the Lutheran Children's Bureau, conducted by the Lutheran Ministerium in Philadelphia, supervises the care of more than 300 other children in foster homes of the State.

There are also seven homes for the aged, with 250 guests and annual expenses of \$62,000; two hospitals which care for 4200 yearly, and four hospices, with accommodations for 175 young people, away from their home. Three of these are for girls. There also are a women's mission, a home for epileptics, a free dispensary for tuberculosis prevention, a shelter home for men, an industrial home, a mission for deaf and another for blind.

BILLS RELATING TO STATE HIGHWAY DAMAGES

Senator Harry B. Scott, on Tuesday, February 24th, presented a bill in the Senate which would make the State share the cost of property damages due to road improvements. His measure would have the State contribute one-half the cost in second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth class counties, and in the seventh and eighth class of which Centre county is one, the State is asked to pay three-fourths the cost.

A bill of Senator Clark, of Chester county, making the Highway department responsible for maintenance and construction of all improved State-aided highways, was reported from committee and passed on first reading.

COLDIRON WINS CASE.

The case of J. H. Dettler vs. Musser Coldiron, involving ownership of a portion of the top of Nittany Mountain, was decided Friday. Judge Keller handing down an opinion. The judgment of the lower court was reversed and a new trial awarded.

It appears the evidence of Dr. H. F. Jetter was not regarded competent by the Superior court, because of its conflict with a deed given prior by him. The legal proceedings, if any, Mr. Dettler has in mind are not known.

WOULD ELECT CO. Supt. BY POPULAR VOTE

County school superintendents will be elected by popular vote if a bill introduced in the Legislature last Wednesday by Dr. H. A. Surface, of Selinsgrove, representative from Snyder county, is adopted. The measure provides that the school heads in all but counties of the first and second classes shall be named by the voters, starting in 1932.

The measure would affect Union Centre, Snyder, and in fact all but the larger counties of the State. The county superintendents at present are elected by the school directors of the county.

Scores Highest in Music Appreciation.

Announcement was made by radio from station WPSG, State College, last Sunday, that Harvey W. Flink had submitted the best paper in the first of a series of music appreciation contests. Portions of classical selections were played in the studio the preceding Sunday, and the contestants were required to give the title, the name of the composer, and the source of each composition. Out of twenty, Mr. Flink, whose home is in Centre Hall, made a score of thirteen.

Cars Received and Sold.

The Homan Motor Company received a consignment of Chevrolet cars on Monday consisting of a sedan, coach, 5-window coupe, and 1 1/2 ton truck.

The following new Chevrolet cars were sold recently by the same firm:

Mrs. Mary McCool, Centre Hall, a coach; David Hall, Bellefonte sport coupe; Frank Mallon, Philadelphia, coach; David Bishop, Milroy, sedan; David Peters, Belleville, special sedan; A. C. Confer, Spring Mills, sport coupe; R. N. Rosenfeld, Philadelphia, coach; Annie Garman, Bellefonte, coupe; W. J. Royer, Centre Hall, coupe; Mrs. John Gordon, Bellefonte, coach.

BIRTHS.

Anna Grace, daughter of J. Arch and Anne R. Musser Eungard, born February 19th, in Gregg township, Centre Hall, R. D.

REPRESENTATION ON SUPERIOR COURT BENCH SOUGHT

A Democratic move to regain minority representation in the Superior Court is sponsored in the legislature in a bill introduced at Harrisburg by Representative Chester H. Rhodes, Democrat, of Monroe county.

His proposal is that "Whenever at any election two or more judges of the Superior Court are to be elected for the same term of service each elector may vote for as many persons, less one, as there are judges, to be chosen at said election."

Minority representation in the State Supreme Court is now provided under the conditions Rhodes proposed for the superior court, although it seldom works out in practice, because it is rare for two judges of the highest court to be chosen simultaneously.

The most recent instance of minority representation in the Supreme Court, was in 1918 when Governor Brumbaugh having two justices to name, appointed Edward J. Fox, a Democrat, of Easton, and Alexander Simpson, Jr., Philadelphia, a Republican. Simpson was re-elected but Justice John W. Kephart, of Cambria county, a Republican, was elected for a full term instead of Fox.

NEW YORK WORLD SOLD.

The New York World newspapers were sold by the Pulitzer brothers to the Scripps-Howard Syndicate on Friday for \$5,000,000. The paper will be merged with the New York Telegram and will be known as the World-Telegram.

The contract provides for a cash payment of \$500,000, \$2,000,000 in notes \$500,000 cash within ninety days, and \$2,500,000 more contingent on the profits of the new enterprise. The physical properties such as building and machinery are not included in the sale.

The Pulitzer brothers issued a statement saying economic conditions had made the sale "inevitable" and that \$500,000 of proceeds would be distributed to employees.

JUNIOR CLASS WILL GIVE PLAY.

"Betty the Girl O' My Heart," to be Presented Friday and Saturday Nights in Grange Areadia.

The Junior class of the local High school will present "Betty the Girl O' My Heart" in Grange Areadia, Friday and Saturday evenings of this week. It was written by Kathryn Kavanaugh, and is one of her very latest productions.

The play centers itself around Peter Graves, who moves to New York after an invention of his made him rich. Here his wife was dissatisfied and lonely, so she went back to her old home. Mr. Graves then marries one of New York's prominent widows—or, rather, she marries Graves for his money. When he is caught in the stock market crash, she and her own daughter leave him; but at the same time Betty, who really is Graves' own daughter, comes to him, and Graves is saved from Jerry Carmichael. Betty now becomes mistress of the Graves home and also ruler of Carmichael's heart.

The cast of characters follows:

Mrs. JenkinsTessie Cummings
Marie DuvainMarian Smith
James MartinBen Getzel
BettyCherry Johnson
Mrs. GravesEvelyn Colyer
Elizabeth GravesAdaline Dinges
Peter GravesChester Wagner
Jerry CarmichaelLynn Breen

There will be special entertainment between the acts by Sara Odenkirk '34 and members of the junior class. The entertainment will be different from previous plays. Come and see for yourself.

Two New Buildings at Selinsgrove Colony Approved.

Final inspection and approval was made of the new structures at the State Colony for Epileptics at Selinsgrove, by State representatives of the Welfare department, several days ago. The steward's cottage, and assistant physician's cottage were taken over from the contractors by the department.

Contractors are now working on an addition to the patients' quarters. The completed cottages will border on the main road through the grounds leading to the chief executive building which is to be erected on the highest point of the ground west of Selinsgrove. The addition which will house about 250 more patients at the colony will allow for the admission of women, is nearing completion. As soon as appropriations are made by the State further construction will be undertaken.

Seventeen Applicants Pass Drivers' Tests.

Nineteen applicants appeared for the learner's examination to operate a motor vehicle and seventeen were successful in the test given at Bellefonte a few days ago.

Those who received permits were: Gene F. Woodruff, State College; Robert F. Bosson, Bellefonte; E. C. Wiltmer, Bellefonte; Earl Milton, Bellefonte; Ewing Kennedy, State College; Louis M. Schreck, Lemont; I. S. Monteith, Bellefonte; Stewart P. Shaver, Spring Mills; Paul F. Lohr, Centre Hall; Fred S. Thorson, State College; George Young, Bellefonte; Margaret Cromwell, State College; Alvin L. Houck, State College; Dean R. Marble, State College; F. C. Darran, Altoona; Fay Goodyear, Clarence.

Box Social at Colyer.

A box social will be held at the Colyer school house, Thursday evening of next week, at 7:30 o'clock. You are urged to come, bring a box or buy a box. A short play given by the pupils of the school will afford entertainment.

The proceeds of the social will be used to purchase an organ for the school.

PLAN ANNUAL CAMP AT SUSQUEHANNA

Camp Susquehanna will again be located on Susquehanna University campus.

Members of the boys' work committee of Susquehanna Synod of Central Pennsylvania have just announced that the camp would open June 11 and close June 19.

The committee consists of the Rev. C. E. Stein, Leokewen; the Rev. Louis V. Leshar, Millheim; the Rev. Eugene Keller, Minersville; the Rev. Walter E. Brown, Danville; the Rev. Harry Shoaf, Avis; the Rev. Carl Simon, Lewistown; the Rev. Harold Fague, Reedsville; the Rev. John P. Harkins, State College; and the Rev. Harry W. Miller, Williamsport.

PENN STATE SUNDAY RADIO PROGRAM

Penn State College will broadcast over from station WPSG, State College, last the following program:

11:00 A. M.—Chapel, Dr. Mordcaid W. Johnson, President Howard Univ.
1:30 P. M.—Organ, Donald A. Shelly.
1:45—"Remedies for Unemployment"—Dr. Carl W. Hasek.
2:00—Organ, Donald A. Shelly.
2:05—"Memory Awakening Melodies"—Hummel Fishburn.
2:15—Recital—Walter Culp, trumpet, Edna Broderick, soprano.
2:30—Players Little Symphony Orchestra.
2:40—"How to See a Play"—Arthur C. Clothing.
3:05—Illustrative Play—Penn State Players.
3:30 to 4:45—Music Department Concert—College Symphony Orchestra.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

March came in lamb-like. Chickenpox is interfering to some extent with attendance in the grade schools.

Mrs. A. S. Musser, of Aaronsburg, since returning from a Williamsport hospital, is improving nicely.

Kernit Roosevelt will be one of the speakers at the Summer session at Penn State. He will speak July 10th, afternoon and evening.

Some of the automobile owners on the south side of the valley are installing a multitude of accessories, including perfume boxes, in their cars.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Auman, of Steubenville, Ohio, were recent weekend guests of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Auman, in town.

The Benner store room, occupied by George Johnston, is being repainted on the interior by Edward Osmer, brother-in-law of Mr. Johnston.

To raise fine juicy and delicious vegetables, plant Burpee's Garden Seeds—reliable and sure to grow.—Sold by H. P. Schaeffer's Hardware, Bellefonte.

D. H. Shlagel, the Spring Mills plasterer, has completed his work in connection with the remodeling of the King dwelling house, purchased by P. H. Lusa.

For convenience, put your 1931 operators license next to the window of your pocket book, so you can show the road cop you have the very necessary document when he halts you.

E. J. Vonada, of near Woodward, was thrown from the seat of a wagon when his horse made a sudden start and suffered bruises over his body. Mr. Vonada is in his 77th year.

People generally in this section are reluctant to give expression on the Krape case, and this is as it should be. Opinions in such instances should be reserved until the case has run its full course.

During nearly all of last week we had most delightful weather, much unlike the weather February usually brings us. There was much sunshine and the night temperatures were not at all low.

The deputy sheriff of Huntingdon county was in the valley the latter part of last week and took back with him a young man formerly in that county who had committed some law violation before leaving.

A four-foot storm water sewer is being installed along the town edge of the campus of the Pennsylvania State College. At the same time the width of College Avenue is being increased to facilitate handling of traffic in the town.

M. R. Johnson, who for more than thirty years has been in the tombstone business in Bellefonte, sold his plant to John H. Mokie, of Howard. The new proprietor has long been employed by J. Will Mayer, at Howard, who conducts a similar business.

Candidates for county offices circulated about the court house during last week, and carried with them their best manners. The interior of the court house offices, no doubt, looked inviting for a four- or eight-year tenancy to most or all of the candidates.

Mrs. Mary Farmer Cook, of Lykens, was an arrival at Centre Hall Saturday morning by train, and for two weeks will be a guest of Mrs. Roy Miller and family near Potters Mills. Mrs. Cook was met by Mrs. Bertha Haskel and conveyed by her to the Miller's home.

The Reporter regrets to mention that Thomas F. Farmer, of Philadelphia, continues to suffer much from rheumatism which attacked him some time ago to such an extent that he is unable to follow his duties as a railroad mail clerk, between New York and Pittsburgh.

Mr. and Mrs. Kryder Miller, of Pittsburgh, came from Pittsburgh by auto on Saturday evening for a week-end visit with the former's mother, near Potters Mills. Mr. Miller is manager of one of the branch offices of the Personal Finance company, in Pittsburgh, that is doing an extensive business.

John W. Hess has been removed from the Centre County Hospital to the Altoona Hospital for further treatment by P. R. R. physicians and surgeons. It will be recalled that he was accidentally shot during the hunting season last fall, the ball striking him on the right hip. At first there were slight hopes for his recovery, but now it is thought that he will be able to walk in time to come. Mr. Hess is a railroad engineer which accounts for his removal to Altoona.

"The Glad Girls" rendered the play, "The Third Customer," at Beaver Springs, on Saturday night, splitting the proceeds with the volunteer fire company of that town. The girls in the organization are a band of young people from various churches of town studying missions under the direction of Mrs. J. M. Kirkpatrick, who also directed the play. For giving the play referred to a number of boys were requisitioned, and together the entertainment was counted the best ever put on. Arrangements for the appearance at Beaver Springs were made by Miss Grace Wiber, formerly a member of the organization, who is now teaching in the Snyder county town named.