

POISON SENT WIFE  
PUZZLES HUSBAND

Capt. George Aker, Camp Dix, Can't Understand Motive of Almost Fatal Letter

INQUIRY BY POSTOFFICE

Captain George F. Aker, stationed at Camp Dix, declared his intention today of asking the postal authorities of Trenton to aid in clearing up the mystery puzzling the Cincinnati police in their investigation of the alleged attempt to kill his twenty-one-year-old wife with poison pellets.

The pellets were received by Mrs. Aker in a special delivery letter post marked from Wrightstown, N. J., and joining the camp. Captain Aker said he was absolutely without an idea as to any enemy who might seek his wife's life, and he was waiting for more definite information that he might employ detectives and turn the case over to postal authorities for an investigation.

Mrs. Aker received the package of tablets last Wednesday, according to the information that has reached the captain. The first inkling he had of trouble at home, he said, came in a telegram he found on his desk yesterday morning from his wife. In it she asked whether he had sent "bills," and said she was "much improved" and "sent love."

Message a Puzzle  
"I couldn't understand the message," said Captain Aker. "I had had a letter from my wife, written last Tuesday, in which she said nothing about being ill. I got a long-distance telephone connection with Cincinnati, and talked to my wife. Then I learned of the attempt on her life. The 'bills' in the telegram should have read 'bills.' I could not learn the contents of the letter over the telephone. As far as I know, neither of us has an enemy. We have been very happy together. I shall take every possible step to find the person who sent the package. I have been trying to get more definite information, but have been hampered by my inability to get telephone connections with Cincinnati. The company says its wires are down because of storm."

"My relations with fellow officers here and at Camp Sherman, where I was stationed in the training work of a depot brigade during the war, have been pleasant. Anxious, why should the package be mailed, as they say, from near Camp Dix?"

Urgent to Hurry Home  
Telegrams from his wife and sister urged Captain Aker to hurry home. He said he had not asked for leave because the demobilization center was so busy, and he believed he might help solve the mystery from this end, when he receives more information. He said that since Mrs. Aker was out of danger he would remain here, at least until he could start the investigation.

Captain Aker was assigned to Camp Dix about two months ago from Camp Sherman. He was commissioned a captain November 27, 1919, but was not sent overseas.

Convinced by developments, he said, that poison mailed to Mrs. Aker was sent with the deliberate intention of poisoning her, Dr. G. O. Sikos, her physician, asked federal authorities to investigate the case in an effort to identify the sender.

Doctor Sikos took this action after the family had talked with Captain Aker over long distance telegrams. The pellets, Doctor Sikos said, had been sent to Mrs. Aker in an unsigned typewritten letter, containing instructions to take two before each meal, without telling how they were to be taken.

RECEIVER FOR TWO CAFES

Petition Against Operators of Bartram and Colonnade  
Inability to pay its debts caused the appointment of a receiver for the National Corporation, a concern that has been operating the Bartram Hotel and restaurant, thirty-third and Chestnut streets, and the restaurant of the Colonnade Hotel, Fifteenth and Chestnut streets.

Judge Dickinson in the United States District Court named J. Howard Reber temporary receiver under a bond of \$50,000.

Action was taken by Lyndon D. Wood, of this city, a creditor to the extent of \$20,000. The liabilities of the concern are said to be about \$57,000. The assets of the corporation have a paper value of \$123,000, but the real assets will not exceed \$10,000, according to counsel for the petitioning creditor. The National concern has been operating the Bartram under a lease since last March and the Colonnade restaurant since last November.

The corporation was first incorporated in September, 1918, under the laws of Maine under the name of the National Restaurants Corporation, with a capital stock of \$500,000. Last May the name was changed to the present one and the capitalization increased to \$1,000,000. The total outstanding stock amounts to \$121,270, divided among forty-three stockholders.

Pat Moran, Oh! Pat Moran, the Weatherman Needs You

Nine in a row!  
St. Switkin's weathermen again decorated the weatherman's nine with the Knight of the Bath today.

While nobody had authority to speak for St. Switkin, it was made plain by members of his nine that a mutiny is brewing against the men are disgruntled. Despite the fact that he has complained of a sore arm, has been forced to take the mound every day.

It was reported in semi-official circles today that the Weathermen were making every effort to sign up Sun to serve over the slants, the report going even so far as to say that he would report this afternoon for duty.

The standing of the teams, which started their series July 15, follows:



GEORGE H. PRIMROSE, The well-known minstrel died in San Diego, Calif., today.

GEORGE H. PRIMROSE, MINSTREL, DEAD

Famed as Blackface Comedian and Clog and "Soft-Shoe" Dancer FROM BOYHOOD TO AGE

By the Associated Press  
San Diego, Calif., July 23.—George H. Primrose, famous minstrel, died here today, following a severe illness that began one month ago. He was born in London, Ontario, sixty-six years ago. A widow and a brother survive him here.

Primrose began his stage career when fifteen years old and is credited with having originated soft-shoe dancing of the late years. He has appeared on the vaudeville stage.

"The glory of the old time minstrel show is gone," remarked George H. Primrose, who was back in 1907, when, after thirty-five years in the burnt-cork arena, he formally took leave of blackface comedy as a profession, announcing at the same time it was at a performance in his home town of Mount Vernon, N. Y., where a new opera house was dedicated, "but I'm not through with the stage yet. I could't stop now. I'd go too, fired if I didn't dance once in a while."

And he kept his word when, after giving up the management of one of the biggest and best minstrel organizations of the day, he made frequent appearances on the stage, as recently as a few years ago, when his imitable grace and boundless humor filled with delight thousands of men, women and children at Keith's in Philadelphia.

From the date of his retirement as a show owner and manager Primrose frequently was seen on various vaudeville circuits—not that he needed the money, but because his effervescent spirit could not be contained in the quietude of the simple life.

Primrose was born in Buffalo, N. Y., in 1853, and as he has said, he "took to dancing as a duck takes to water." He was one of six brothers, and the only one to go on the stage. He made his first public appearance in Detroit, Mich., as a boy of fifteen, being billed as "Master George, the Clog Dancer."

He then joined the "New Orleans Minstrels," returning to Buffalo, where he met William H. West, the two forming a close friendship and a partnership in clog dancing that made the "team" famous the country over; it was maintained until West's death a year before Primrose's "retirement" that didn't retire him.

Primrose and West joined Doris and Minstrel's Concert Party, with O'Brien's circus, doing their dance in the "after-part." That was in 1871. After the close of that season they played at the old Olympic Theatre, in New York. On the same bill appeared Sol Smith Russell, the Berger family, bell ringers, and George S. Knight.

They afterward joined Simmons and Slocum's Minstrels, in Philadelphia. Primrose and West joined Haverly's minstrels November 20, 1874, continuing with that troupe until June 14, 1877. Then followed the formation of Barlow, Wilson, Primrose and West's minstrels, in which Milt G. Barlow and George Wilson were associated with Primrose and West.

In 1882 the organization became Thatcher, Primrose and West's minstrels. In 1893 the dissolution of that firm took place and after that the company was known as Primrose and West's minstrels, becoming famous from ocean to ocean.

A great many men who afterwards became famous, beside Sol Smith Russell and Knight, were Chaucery O'Leary, Raymond Moore, "Sweet" Marie, celebrity, Julius Witmark, Banks Winter, author of "White Wings," and Frank Howard, the famous tenor, who wrote "When the Robins Nest Again" and "Only a Pansy Blossom."

George Primrose's career may be said to cover the best of the minstrel's life. Whether with the bones and tango, in his matchless dancing, or his amazing humorous conception of the negro character in the various roles he assumed successfully, his art was unique; he was sternly opposed to the slightest suggestion of bad taste, his performance always being marked by clean, healthy humor and good-natured raillery when that form of acting suited his role.

A touching incident of his career was one which occurred in 1903, when in singing a verse from "My Watermelon Queen" he broke down when he came to the line in the chorus, "She's all in this world to me."

There was a laugh from the crowd as it saw him falter, then turn and walk into the wings. There was even a hiss or two. But no one out in front knew that just before he walked to the footlights he opened a telegram which said his wife was dead at their home in Buffalo. He stopped for a minute before the glass, then walked on with a smile to entertain the people who greeted him. As he sang and danced he hid his feelings until he was recalled, and then he broke down.

STATE CROPS HURT;  
RAIN BURSTS DAMS

Grain Sprouts in Fields Throughout Storm-Soaked Farming Districts

NORTH PENN IS HARD HIT

Harrisburg, Pa., July 23.—Heavy rains throughout the Central Pennsylvania region last night carried out sections of two dams in the Cumberland valley, drowned three horses, swept away several summer cottages and tents, and drove Harrisburg Boy Scouts, camping at Mount Holly, to the mountains nearby.

The water broke the Mount Holly dam, covering the park where the Boy Scouts were camping to a depth of several feet, and forced the lads to the hills. They were in no great danger but lost considerable equipment. The ice dam at Laurel was carried away. With it went a number of tents and cottages. Three horses crossing a small bridge not far below were drowned.

Farmers throughout the Cumberland valley will lose heavily. Almost continuous rains from the 1st of the month have prevented them from getting in their wheat and much of it is either sprouting in the fields or molding. Hundreds of acres of grain are exposed to the weather and until dried out cannot be taken to the barns.

Wellsboro, Pa., July 23.—(By A. P.)—A cloudburst, which occurred over this place late last evening, rendered nearly a dozen families homeless, completely destroying over three miles of the track and roadbed of the New York Central Railroad between here and Wellsboro Junction, and washed out several bridges, causing a property loss estimated today at \$200,000. While several persons were caught in the raging torrents when small streams overflowed their banks, there was no loss of life.

Nearly all the wires were down and communication was not restored until this morning.

Gwynedd, Pa., July 23.—Crop losses in the Gwynedd Valley section will total hundreds of thousands of dollars. The most severe loss is to the wheat crop. On the majority of farms half of the wheat crop is a total loss. On others the percentage is less than half, for more of the crop was gotten into the barns before the start of the full week of incessant rains.

On many other farms this percentage of wheat, which remains in the field, is less than half. The wheat in the fields is almost a total loss. The grain is sprouting and is rotting. Hay and grain which were not taken into the barns are in the same rotting condition, and the oat fields are flattened. On the expansive acres of Colonel Louis J. Kohl, of Philadelphia, at Springhouse, the loss with average 50 per cent of the wheat crop.

Chalfont, Pa., July 23.—Farmers of this section of Bucks county report a heavy crop loss. At least 35 per cent of the wheat crop is a total loss. Other grains, with the exception of corn, are rain-soaked and ruined. A windstorm will flatten the corn and add it to the lists.

North Wales, Pa., July 23.—On the large farm of Abraham Becker, of North Wales, Pa., his sixty acres of wheat are a loss. His grain was out, but he did not get it into his barns. He reports that at least half of his crop of forty acres of oats is ruined. On the adjoining farm of Frank Dickinson the greater part of the wheat is a total loss.

Lansdale, Pa., July 23.—Hiram B. Weachter, president of the Lansdale Mushroom Company, suffered destruction of almost all his thirty acres of wheat as a result of the rains. One of the fortunate Lansdale farmers is H. L. S. Ruth, president of the Citizens' National Bank here. Mr. Ruth owns a large farm near Chalfont and all except two loads of his wheat had been out and carried into the barns before the start of the rain.

Manayunk Mills Closed  
The Schuylkill and other streams adjacent to this city are still high and turbulent. But little more rain is needed to raise the waters to a point where far greater damage may be caused. Mills in Manayunk are still shut down. Guards in Fairmount Park report the river bank in several places is badly broken. Extensive repairs will have to be made.

Residents of Clearview, forced to abandon their homes because of the giving way of the retaining dike along Cobbs creek, which made a lake of the section for a time, returned to their homes yesterday, salvaging some of their belongings through the use of row boats.

From Chester and Delaware counties and from Lancaster county come reports of the serious damage done to wheat, hay, vegetable and tobacco crops.

Deaths of a Day

John J. Gantz  
Lewisport, Pa., July 23.—John J. Gantz, ninety-five years old, died yesterday after a two-day illness from paralysis. At the opening of the Civil War he walked sixty-three miles to enlist as a volunteer in the Union army. The examining physicians reported that he was a victim of tuberculosis and would not live to reach the battlefield. He was known as the champion hunter of the Allegheny mountains. When he was a young man he shot as many as 500 wild turkeys in one season.

Mrs. Emma H. Seal  
The funeral services of Mrs. Emma Haldeman Seal, who died after a long illness Monday night, will be held tomorrow from an undertaking establishment at 1820 Chestnut street. The Rev. Dr. Floyd W. Tomkins, of Holy Trinity Church, will officiate. Interment will be made in Mount Hope Cemetery, Delaware county.

Mrs. Seal, who is survived by her husband, George Thomas Seal, and one daughter, lived at 1910 Clinton street. Before her marriage she was Miss Emma H. Davis, daughter of the late Samuel and Elizabeth Davis, of Wilmington. Mrs. Seal was a very active member of Holy Trinity Church, and in a quiet way did a considerable amount of charitable work in the hospitals and in the downtown settlement districts.

Photographers to Convene  
Cedar Point, O., July 23.—The Photographic Association of America will hold a convention here from July 25 to August 2.

WINDSTORM DEVASTATION AT DEVON



Above—Trees uprooted by cyclonic winds at Devon. The high winds prevailed for some time, damaging dwellings, unroofing houses and snapping telegraph poles. Below—Hothouse on Mrs. G. G. Browning's estate wrecked by the violent gale.

CYCLONE HITS DEVON;  
MUCH DAMAGE DONE

Roofs Torn From Dwellings, Chimneys Blown Down and Trees Uprooted

WHEAT CROP DESTROYED

Cyclonic winds and rain caused property loss in Devon, damaging five dwellings, unroofing some houses, uprooting trees and snapping telegraph poles yesterday and early today. The high winds prevailed for some time.

A dog kennel, with its canine occupants, was blown two squares. Refuse, borne on the wind, littered the water in the Devon reservoir of the Springfield Water Company. Dead fish floated on the surface of the water. Thirty large trees along old Conestoga road, uprooted by the storm, gives proof of the velocity of the wind. Telegraph and telephone poles were broken off or bent.

Homes of Mrs. G. G. Browning, Dr. William M. Camp, J. M. Phillips and George D. Woodside were badly damaged. The cornfields of the estate of Charles M. Lea were leveled by rain and wind. The damage was great.

Chimneys Blown Down  
The path of the cyclonic wind, 100 feet in width, swept up the hill on which stand the Woodside, Phillips and Camps houses, centering on the Browning house, at the extreme top of the hill, where is also the reservoir. This is the highest spot on the Main Line. Chimneys were blown down during the storm, slate torn from roofs, trees stripped of branches.

The hilltop section of Devon was the only place that suffered damage. Houses and other buildings, trees and crops in other localities were unharmed. Early yesterday the home of Oliver H. Bair, Bryn Mawr, was struck by lightning. The damage was slight. There were washouts on Main Line roads and telephone service was interfered with seriously.

Damage done by the eleven days of rain which Philadelphia and residents of the outlying suburbs have experienced has been large. An entire crop of wheat from a twenty-five acre field along the Media trolley line has been ruined. The farmers are the chief sufferers financially.

Minor pressure disturbances formed and reformed and shifted around over the eastern portion of the country. But could not drift eastward and off the coast as they normally should do. This indicated the stagnant condition of the disturbance off the coast.

6 NIGHTS, 6 SUITS,  
LANDS MAN IN JAIL

Suspicious Stranger in Chestnut Street Gives Exciting Chase. Held in \$500 Bail

Six nights on the same street corner, with a new suit nearly every night, was so suspicious an action as to land Louis Rebitz, Fifteenth street above Lehigh, in jail and to hold him in \$500 bail for court.

Patrolman Wood, whose beat includes Nineteenth and Chestnut streets, was informed by Milton and Joseph Rosen, who are proprietors of a store at 85 South Nineteenth street, that Rebitz had been seen on the street corner on several successive nights, from 6 o'clock until after midnight.

The patrolman approached Rebitz last night and asked him what was the idea of his nocturnal sentry duty. Rebitz told him that he was waiting for a girl who was staying in a hotel right around the corner. This sounded plausible, and getting another patrolman, Wood went into the hotel to find out the truth of the statement. They had never heard of a person by the name of Rose McCarty as described by Rebitz.

Rebitz jumped on a trolley car, but when Milton Rosen followed, he ran to the back and jumped out a window into the car tracks. The policeman fired at him several times and Joseph Rosen grappled with him, but Rebitz proved slippery and escaped to the corner of Seventeenth and Market streets, where he entered an express store and was finally cornered by his pursuers.

DEATHS  
SMITH.—Entered into rest, July 21, VIRGINIA, daughter of late Ulrich and Ellen Smith. Relatives and friends invited to funeral, July 25, 10:30 a. m., residence, 1711 Mill N. J. Services at Presbyterian Church, Chestnut and Arch streets, 10:30 a. m. Burial, 12:30 p. m., at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

1500 MORE TROOPS  
DOCK HERE TODAY

Santa Barbara Passes in Breakwater at 10:30 This Morning

ARRIVES ABOUT 3 P. M.

The transport Santa Barbara with 1500 American troops returning from Brest will arrive here today.

The vessel reached the Delaware Breakwater this morning at 10:30 o'clock. The weather permitting, she should dock at Pier 78, South Wharves, between 3 and 4 o'clock this afternoon. The police boat Ashbridge will go down the river to meet the incoming transport.

The vessel is carrying these units: Five hundred and forty-first Engineers Service Battalion, headquarters and medical detachments and Companies A to D; 201st Water Tank Train, Company E, scattered; Third Company Transportation Corps; 318th Salvage Squad, scattered; 306th Mobile Laundry, 103d St. Nazaire Casual Detachment; Casual Companies 160, 1671, 1674, 1673 and 1676; Special Casual Company 1683, marines (discharged); Special Casual Company 1684; casual officer, casual chaplain and casual army field clerks.

This will be the last trip the Santa Barbara will make for the purpose of bringing home troops from overseas.

BLOCKS EDGE'S PLAN  
TO AID FOREIGN TRADE

Senator Gronna Objects to Bill Because of "Something Under the Crust"

Washington, July 23.—(By A. P.)—Opposition by Senator Gronna, North Dakota, caused the Senate banking committee to defer action today on the bill of Senator Edge, New Jersey, authorizing the organization of a corporation to provide long-time credits abroad for American interests in international trade.

Senator Gronna said he was disposed to oppose the bill if it proposed that American bankers go into the banking business abroad and seek to "control" the industries of the devastated countries.

"I think there is an underlying purpose—something under the crust—if we can get at it," he said.

In urging the measure, Senator Edge declared that manufacturers, farmers and other interests favored the legislation, which, he said, reached "every vital spot" of reconstruction problems and had been approved by the Federal Reserve Board.

Declaring that foreign exchange rates now are prohibitive, Senator Edge said the American merchant marine would be useless unless means were provided for selling American goods abroad on long credits.

These excessive rains have caused some damage, chiefly to grain that remained stacked in the fields. However, the districts covered by the daily rains are more given over to truck growing than to grain. The only harm to the truck crops is delay in cultivation when the rains cease.

The water has driven the air out of the soil and has made it soggy and heavy, and such a condition will not be favorable for the truck crops if it is allowed to remain undisturbed. There were many complaints of drought before these rains began, and it is believed that the benefits will largely exceed the losses.

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A practical and economical solution of every problem connected with the distribution of goods in New York or Export Markets.

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We Sell This Service at Pound Rates  
You pay for it only as you use it. The cost stops when the use of the service stops. This results in great economy.

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MEXICANS DESPISE  
U. S., BANKER AVERS

Anti-American Feeling Due to the Two Expeditions, House Committee Is Told

GERMANS WELL TREATED

By the Associated Press  
Washington, July 23.—William B. Mitchell, former manager of the Bank of London in Mexico City, told the House rules committee today that the sending of the American military expedition into Mexico and their subsequent withdrawal was largely responsible for the anti-American feeling in the southern republic.

The committee is considering a resolution authorizing an investigation of the relations between the two countries.

"Do you think that the feeling against Americans was strengthened by the belief that America or its people were afraid to assert their rights?" asked a member of the committee.

"Yes," said the witness. "Twice American expeditions entered the country and then withdrew."

"The Mexicans, then, had contempt for Americans?"

"Yes," Mr. Mitchell said there was a strong anti-American spirit in the Carranza administration.

Discussing the mistreatment of Americans in Mexico, the witness said the ruffian in the Mexican army was largely responsible for depredations in Mexico, particularly in the Tampico district.

Americans are not being treated with the same consideration as other foreigners, the witness said. He added that Henry P. Fletcher, the United States ambassador, was openly insulted on the streets of Mexico City while en route to attend the inauguration of President Carranza, while the German ambassador was cheered.

Mr. Mitchell disagreed with the statement before the committee by Ambassador Fletcher yesterday that one reason why Americans were greater sufferers at the hands of Mexicans was that they outnumbered the citizens of other foreign countries. He said there were more Spanish and French than Americans in Mexico. Germans, he said, generally are well treated.

Twenty-five distinct bands of rebels with a strength of above 35,000 men now are operating in Mexico, according to a tabulation published in Mexico City and received here today. Opposing them Carranza has a force of about 60,000, which, however, is able to control little more than the railway lines with a narrow strip along the Pacific coast from Guaymas to San Blas and the territory around Tampico.

The report asserts there is a certain degree of co-operation between the various rebel forces in the north as well as in the south. Francisco Villa and Felipe Angeles are shown in the tabulation to have 5100; Teley Dinaz, 5100; Manuel Pelaez, 3000 and General Cantu, 1900.