

### WIDE FIRE RESCUE CAPS DEFENSE FOR WIFE MOTHER'S HEROISM

#### Says Family Knew She Was Weak in Mind—Feared to Entrust Son

#### JURY BACKS INSANE THEORY

From a Staff Correspondent  
Atlantic City, Dec. 19.—James M. Blake, Philadelphia insurance broker, will provide counsel and support his wife, Esther Miller Blake, in her fight against murder charges growing out of the death in the Atlantic ocean of their five-year-old son, James, Jr. Mrs. Blake, who is a prisoner in the Atlantic City Hospital, was held without bail by Coroner George Stoddard last night to await the action of the grand jury. His action followed the verdict of the coroner's jury, which was:

"James M. Blake, Jr., came to his death, presumably at the hands of his mother while in a state of mental aberration."  
"There is no doubt in my mind that my wife was insane if she threw our son into the Atlantic ocean," Mr. Blake said. "Evidence at the inquest showed that she was and had been mentally for some time. Her mind has given away altogether."  
Miss Maud Miller, sister of Mrs. Blake, and Mrs. Agnes Miller, her mother, both of whom have written the husband since the Blakes separated about four years ago, were not present at the inquest.

#### Tragic Domestic Life

The most interesting testimony offered was that of the husband. He told of time after time when his wife's mental vagaries had broken up various homes he had established for his wife and family. He told how her condition mentally and physically, became steadily worse and how, in desperation, he was finally forced to live apart from her.

His testimony to the mental weakness of Mrs. Blake was substantiated to some extent by four physicians who had studied Mrs. Blake's condition since her arrest. One, in addition, attended her occasionally during her period of tending over five years. All, however, said they would not advance a final opinion without further study. They will make a preliminary report today.

When the hearing was called Mr. Blake announced that Walter Hanstein, an attorney of this city, would represent him and his wife's interest. Mr. Hanstein said the husband would provide counsel for her when she faces the murder charge.

Mr. Blake, attired in a black mourning suit, was first in witness called. He had just returned from Baltimore where he attended the burial of his son. He testified to the disappearance of James, Jr., last night, after the boy had gone out with his mother and the discovery of his body on the beach at Ventnor on Sunday morning.

#### Tells of Wife's Condition

In reply to the coroner's question to explain his domestic relations, Mr. Blake said:

"We have been married fourteen years. My wife's condition became noticeably irresponsible about three or four years ago. It was impossible to establish a satisfactory home for her. Insonnia, backaches and headaches made her so that she found fault with everything."  
"We moved from place to place to please her. She was in two sanitariums. Once she stayed in one outside of Baltimore for six months. Then she returned to our home. The conditions were the same."  
"When she was taken to the hospital for the birth of James she refused to come home after the birth. The doctors finally persuaded her to. Then in 1914, my business called me to Philadelphia. She insisted on going along, although she had no lease on a nice cottage in Baltimore."  
"Although we lived with each other about seven months after the birth of the boy, there is no mystery about our separation. It was entirely impossible to live together. Her health and general unmanageable and irresponsible condition precluded that."

#### Definite Parting in 1915

"She threatened my life on several occasions. It was in 1915, I think, that we definitely parted. I took 1915, and Esther, our ten-year-old daughter, I went to Baltimore and my wife's mother and sister took care of me. My wife followed and we drew up an agreement of separation. This was later renewed. When it ran out again we did not renew it but lived up to its provisions."  
"I scarcely saw her for almost four years. I sent her an allowance at least once a week. I took care of her. She made many attempts to excite my sympathy and effect a reconciliation by sending messages, many of which were fictitious, regarding her physical condition."  
"She sent messages trying to put me in a bad light with my business associates and friends. Several months ago she made a last attempt at reconciliation. She and her trunk arrived at my home at 108 Goven avenue, Mount Airy, one night. I asked her to leave. She said she had no place to go, but would leave in the morning."  
"She frequently took the children out. She had Esther to the movies and the theatre. We were always anxious when she had the children but we wanted to show her the privileges any person would accord a mother. My mother-in-law and sister-in-law reconstituted with her when she took the boy out last Friday, but gave in when their protests had no effect."  
"Mr. Blake was not cross-examined. Doctor Garrabrant then testified that he had made a study of Mrs. Blake in the hospital. She is very excitable, he said, and at times talks at random, while at other times she seems normal."  
"Would you say her mental condition was other than normal?" he was asked. "I think not, rather I would say she is very excitable," he replied. He added that he would examine her further.

#### Irresponsible at Times

Dr. Lewis R. Souder, county physician, testified that James Blake, Jr., died by drowning. He said he had made an exhaustive inquiry into the case and believed that Mrs. Blake was subject to delusions. It would require extended study by competent alienists to determine her exact mental status, he said.

#### Mrs. Park Keeps Family Together Despite Long Chain of Misfortune

#### SAVED THREE FROM FLAMES

When Mrs. Annie McCall Park, 2111 Earp street, grabbed her three small children and hurried them into the street last night to save them from the flames at their burning home, she added just one more stroke to her already long list of heroic efforts to keep her family together in the face of misfortune.

Bursting boilers, desperation by her husband's death and serious illness are some of the forms of hard luck that have pursued Mrs. Park for the last five years since she moved into the Earp street home, but never before were the family thrown upon the kindness of the neighbors.

The big household was divided into three groups last night, but came together this morning to try to make plans for another home.

"I haven't a place to go," said Mrs. Park this morning as she sat surrounded by five of her children in the dining-room of the home of Mrs. Margaret Grohmann, 2115 Earp street. "I can't stay here. I have an oil stove and a coal stove, several of the children were eating a breakfast of molasses bread and coffee, and Mrs. Grohmann writing a letter to a cousin telling her about her misfortune."

"If you were to kill me for it, I couldn't tell you how the fire started," said Mrs. Park. "I had a pot of soup on the fire for the older children when they came home from work. It was about half past eight and Helen said it sounded as though some one was at the back door. When I opened the door, everything was in flames."

"The good Lord must have been watching over us, for, thank Him, the three children were dressed. I just said, 'Well now, I'll get you children washed and put you to bed,' when the fire started."

"I gave one look at the fire. 'Oh, my God!' I exclaimed, and grabbed the children to me and took them into the street. John called for his dog, 'Tina,' so I went back for him. The house was full of smoke and one of the men pulled me back into the street. I risked my life to save the dog."

"But Tina, poor dog, never came out of the burning house, but was suffocated and John is inconsolable this morning at the loss of his pet."

"The four older children were out of the house when the fire started."

"Everything Has Happened"  
"When we first moved into the house five years ago, the boiler burst," said Elizabeth, the oldest girl who started work Monday several weeks in bed with pneumonia.

"It seems as if everything has happened," Mrs. Park went on. "My husband left me July 4, 1915, and I've never heard from him since. He left me with seven children and not a loaf of bread in the house. He was a fine fellow, could make from five to ten dollars a day as an elevator erector, but he was ruined by drink. Before he went he said he was going to commit suicide, but you never heard of an Irishman committing suicide, did you?"

"The last details that the bosses like to etch in the hotel rooms at the convention, as soon as enough delegates are gradually delivered to effect a nominal election, is the people's choice coming when the people's choice comes along with votes enough or almost enough to nominate already in his pocket."

"It is hard to guess at Pershing's strength, but the mere fact that he will accept the nomination, no matter what modest claimers are put forth by him or in his name, is regarded as a victory in any preconception stamped to Wood."

"A wailing politician might say to himself that neither Lowden, nor Harding were big enough to be 'put over' and that it would be the part of wisdom to join forces with Wood, while the joining was good. Now he will wonder how the country, if it is going to nominate a military man, will not choose the commander of the American forces in France, rather than a general who will realize that the machine has a man big enough to beat Wood with if he chooses to beat Wood."

Had Pershing as Dark Horse  
"Unless Pershing runs away with the nomination he increases the opportunity for Republican managers to control the convention and to make terms with the candidate before nominating one at Chicago. And no one expects Pershing to run away with the nomination. That evidently is not going to be the plan of Pershing's promoters. They will let Wood try that while they place their candidate in the hands of the convention itself."

The original intention was to make Pershing a dark horse. Since the departure of the Wood movement this was seen to be dangerous. It might mean that the nomination would be foreclosed before the convention met, in which case there would be no chance for a dark horse. For this reason the public was vouchsafed just a peep, a discreet peep, into the hero of the great war as a possible candidate.

What has happened is not the launching of the boom. On the contrary, it is just a gentle—any ever so gentle—reminder that the real thing in the way of military candidates is the commander of the American army in France himself. The alumni of General Pershing's college in Nebraska, where General Charles G. Dawes was a fellow student of Pershing's, simply will not be restrained. They demand Pershing.

### WINTER'S ADVANCE AGENT SETTING SCENE FOR SEASON'S OFFICIAL OPENING



#### MAY USE PERSHING TO DEFEAT WOOD

#### G. O. P. Leaders Get Better Choice by Accumulation of Presidential Booms

#### WANT HARDING OR LOWDEN

By CLINTON W. GILBERT  
Staff Correspondent of the Evening Public Ledger

Washington, Dec. 19.—The chief reaction to the Pershing movement is one of pleasure among organization Republicans, the men who are promoting the "favorite son" booms in order to insure their control of the convention. Their motto is "the more the merrier."

Moreover, Pershing is another string to their bow.

If they cannot nominate Harding or Lowden, if neither of these two is enough of a national figure to head off the convention, they will probably prefer Pershing to Wood. At any rate, his entrance into the race improves their chances of making the kind of bargain they like on the floor of the convention. He will be at least a trading argument.

The one thing the professional politician does not like is a candidate chosen by the people at the polls, rather than the people's choice coming when the people's choice comes along with votes enough or almost enough to nominate already in his pocket.

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"Caution" Is the Watchword  
The wavering politician hears the voice of the Nebraska alumni and he reacts to himself:  
"There may be something in that. I better wait and keep off this Wood thing."

VAUCLAIR GOING TO EUROPE  
He Will Head Party Seeking Contracts for Railroad Equipment  
Samuel M. Vaucclair, president of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, will leave shortly for Europe on a business trip. It is understood that Mr. Vaucclair will head a party of bankers and legal interests with the object of securing equipment contracts on a larger scale than has ever been attempted by American concerns.

To Speak on Public Safety  
"Industrial Safety and Public Safety in Philadelphia" is the subject of an address to be delivered tonight by H. H. Harmer, retiring president of the Philadelphia Safety Council, at a meeting of that organization to be held in the Engineers' Club, 1817 Spruce street. The nominating committee for the local section officers for 1920 will be appointed at the meeting.

#### NOBODY'S BUSINESS SNAPS MR. SIEGERT

#### City Hall Santa Annoyed by Criticism of Present for Recorder Hazlett

#### GIFT IS DEEP MYSTERY

William P. Siegert, solicitor for Recorder of Deeds Hazlett, who has been rehearsing the role of Santa Claus, announced today that it was none of the public's business what was to be done with the funds collected for a gift to the recorder.

Employees of the recorder of deeds' office, in the language of the city committee when rounding up campaign contributions, had been requested "voluntarily" to make contributions to the gift fund.

It is understood that about \$500 was so obtained for the purpose of remembering Recorder Hazlett and his \$10,000 position in the county's service.

"What is to be done with the money?" Mr. Siegert was asked.

He refuses to talk.

"I refuse to talk," he replied. "This is entirely a private matter and it is not public business. Neither is it the business of the newspapers."

There is no use of my saying anything," he snapped. "The newspapers have mixed in on this and muddled things up."

Contributions Returned  
Employees of the Bureau of City Property, however, felt differently. They agreed that the "mixing in" of the public had been a good thing because contributions they had made for the purchase of a gift for their "boss" were returned.

A plan was put under way a few days ago to have the employees of the Bureau of City Property give the foreman, W. J. Christie, a Christmas present. About \$40 was collected.

As the result of the dissatisfaction over the Hazlett fund, the money was returned to the employees of the Bureau of City Property today.

TODAY'S MARRIAGE LICENSES  
Fred F. Angle, 1818 N. 20th st., and Edna M. Gailford, 618 Locust ave., Germantown; Campbell, 18 8th st., and Minna Jane Zimmerman, 1830 N. 10th st.; William J. Nevin, 1425 N. Hope st., and Emma J. Dwyer, 2012 E. Trenton ave.; John P. Davis, 1232 Rodman st., and Josephine Davis, 618 N. 28th st.; Max Schulman, 2540 S. Darlan st., and Bertha Schulman, 2540 S. Darlan st.; Herman Quicker, Trenton, N. J., and Marie Quicker, 1528 W. 20th st.; Albert H. Smith, 1421 Arch st., and Lillian M. Brown, Creve Coeur, Mo.; Charles Ebert, 1966 N. Hicks st., and Rose Volk, 4433 Green st.; Israel Demchick, 2420 S. 2d st., and Rosa Siaschewitz, 4761 N. 11th st.; Joseph A. Zichino, 1328 Shunk st., and Desha C. Hamilton, 412 S. 15th st.; James W. Combs, Hanover Hotel, and Josephine DeCamp, 1528 W. 20th st.; Nitold Malawski, 3328 N. Hancock st., and Josephine DeCamp, 1528 W. 20th st.; Edward Featherston, 3918 Spruce st., and Helen Drake, 2544 Diamond st.; Mrs. Hildebrand, 1722 Moore st., and Pearl J. Maue, 2650 S. 12th st.; and Annie Polard, 1017 E. 24th st.; Elizabeth Uff, 554 W. Huntington st.; John C. Conroy, 244 McClellan st., and Jennie M. Conroy, 321 E. Girard ave.; Benjamin W. Harris, 722 S. Chadwick st.; and Annie Harris, 207 S. 15th st.; Sidney Branson, 868 N. Taylor st., and Harry Browne, 1837 Lombard st., and Sarah Jones, 1707 Addison st.; and Sarah William J. Virtz, 2201 N. 28th st., and Sarah A. Appleby, 3822 N. 15th st.; Samuel S. Sells, 2622 N. 28th st., and Fannie Wexler, 22 W. Thompson st.

BEQUEST TO SYNAGOGUE  
Hospital Also Remembered in Will of Abraham Selig  
The Jewish Hospital and the Rodeph Shalom Congregation were bequeathed \$100 each in the will of Abraham Selig, who left an estate of \$35,000. The remainder of the estate goes to his wife Sarah.

City Appointments Made  
The following city appointments were made today: George Taggart, 5905 Cedar avenue, morgue officer, salary \$1600; Harry J. Foley, 508 Walnut street, assistant treasurer, bureau of surveys, \$1400, and Alma Dilson, Thirty-fourth and Pine streets, assistant chief nurse, bureau of charities, \$1000.

#### SHIPYARD TAX LEVY DECISION REVERSED

#### New Jersey State Board Holds Yards Built With U. S. Money Are Exempt

The New Jersey state board of taxation today reversed the decision of the Camden county board of taxation on the tax assessment of \$475,000 on the new shipyards in the upper end of Gloucester, which was assessed by the Gloucester board of assessors.

In handing down the opinion the state board said that since the shipyard was built with money of the United States Government and all of the stock of the United States shipping board was virtually owned by the government, and since the plant was built in an emergency, the shipyard should not be taxed.

The shipyard was built by the United States Shipping board on land owned by the New York Shipbuilding Co. during the war. The Gloucester board of assessors levied \$375,000 on the New York Shipbuilding Corporation for the unfinished buildings on the land, and the United States shipping board was assessed \$100,000 for machinery not yet installed. An appeal was taken from the Gloucester board's assessments and the case was dismissed by the Camden county board three months ago.

Members Will Be Seen in Roles of Theatians at Clubhouse  
"Our Ancestral Architects" is the title of a play to be given tonight by members of the T-Square Club, at 204 South Quince street.

The play was written by Ralph H. Goldberg. It goes back to ancient times and depicts such historic characters as Archimedes, Pyrenese, Virginia Desbony, Michelangelo, Pharaoh and Cleopatra. The music was written by Luke Miller and the lyrics by Clarence S. Thalhimer.

The play will be presented and followed by vaudeville, every line of which, including the music, was written by members of the T-Square Club.

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#### Rap \$3000 Dinner Voted by Councils

#### Continued From Page One

You can't make me believe that Philadelphians are that stingy."

Robert Smith, of the Thirty-sixth ward, a member of the committee on arrangements for the dinner, said: "We decided on a dinner instead of the old-time worn-out plan of printing embossed resolutions of thanks to each retiring member. To get out the elaborate series of resolutions for the 150 odd councilmen would cost the city something like \$8000. The boys don't want the resolutions particularly and we have ample power to provide for the dinner under the rules of Councils. I have heard no objections to the dinner plan and don't think there will be any."

Francis F. Burch, of the Forty-sixth ward, and a member-elect of the new Council, said he did not feel justified in objecting to the resolution yesterday. "He is an independent member of Common Council."

Councilmen have served without compensation in the past," he declared, "and in view of the fact that the present Council is breaking up, I did not feel I wanted to oppose it. If I had opposed it I might have been misunderstood entirely. It only seems fair to the members of Councils who have worked hard without compensation."

There is no use of my saying anything," he snapped. "The newspapers have mixed in on this and muddled things up."

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### CONFIDENT, DEFIES OPPONENTS

#### Says if There is Any Fight in New Council He Will Win It

#### "BIG MEN" FOR DIRECTORS

Mayor-elect Moore issued a defiant today to those who talk of opposing his administration and his plans for assuming titular leadership of the Republican party.

He said that if there was any fight over the organization of the new Council of twenty-one, for example, he would win it.

"The Mayor-elect" said Mr. Moore, "expects the support of all political factions, and he does not expect to be defeated in his first fight or in his second fight."

"He knows who his friends have been and he is hoping that those who have been talking fight against the administration will understand that it is best for all concerned that there should be no fight."

"Men who have been political leaders and who expect to continue to hold influence in their various districts will best serve their followers, particularly those who hold office, by helping the administration rather than hindering it."

"The Mayor does not wish to be led by rumors into the belief that he is to be opposed at the outset of his administration. He has been making certain precautionary inquiries as to Council, as to Congress districts and other possible grounds for opposition. His canvass of the situation leads him to believe that those who think of fighting the administration will not do so, but that like good citizens they will join with the new Mayor in perfecting a satisfactory cabinet and in proceeding to give a creditable administration of the city's affairs."

Mr. Moore indicated today that executives of large capacity and civic imagination would be appointed directors of public works and city transit. He said that engineers necessarily would not be named.

Indications were that John C. Winston was being considered for director of public works, while men of the type of Alva B. Johnson and Morris L. Cooke were in the forefront of gossip about director of city transit.

Referring to alleged differences between himself and Mr. Winston, the Mayor-elect branded the reports as "clear moonshine."

\$1,000,000 Loss in Tannery Fire  
Elmhurst, N. Y., Dec. 19.—(By A. P.)—The Elmhurst Tannery Co., in Westfield, Pa., was damaged by fire yesterday with a loss of \$1,000,000. The plant, which will be rebuilt, was one of the largest of its kind in the world.

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### TEACHERS RAP P. R. T. SERVICE

#### Pupils Also Protest Against Removal of Route 67 at Hearing

#### SUFFER INCONVENIENCES

Teachers and pupils of the West Philadelphia High School for Girls entered a protest today before Public Service Commissioner Clement against the car service of the P. R. T. in West Philadelphia.

Miss Irene S. Reese, 533 North Thirty-fifth street, a teacher in the high school, brought the protest of the teachers and pupils to the hearing held to consider complaints about alleged poor transit service in West Philadelphia resulting from the discontinuance of Route 67, on Thirty-third, Thirty-sixth, Spruce and Wallace streets.

Twelve other teachers and about 100 pupils, Miss Reese said, suffered inconveniences as a result of the discontinuance of the car line.

She said to reach the school from her home she had to take three different cars and pay two fares. Most of the time, she added, the cars were crowded.

Dr. William T. Wilson, a director of the Consolidated Museum, was another complainant. He said since the discontinuance of Route 67 the cars were overcrowded, the service slow and uncertain and that the ride to his home, on Thirty-second and Wallace streets, requires the purchase of a double exchange.

APPEARS AGAINST BROTHER Husband's Clothes  
When Anthony Shimkus, alias Joe Miller, twenty-four years old, no home, was arraigned before Magistrate Coward today charged with housebreaking, his sister appeared against him and declared the suit of clothes he wore had been stolen from her husband.

Mrs. Katie Perlostky was on hand to testify that she had caught the man in her rooms at 935 South Sixth street. He had been stolen from her husband, Colman Gordon, of the Seventh and Carpenter streets station.

It was Mrs. Jennie Davis, Second street near Queen, who claimed the suit of clothes. She identified them and while doing so it was discovered that Shimkus had concealed a penknife in the coat hanger at the collar, thus getting it past the patrolman who searched him when arrested. He was held without bail for court.

## J. E. CALDWELL & CO.

JEWELERS—SILVERSMITHS—STATIONERS  
CHESTN