

"Crank" Enters Plea Guilty of Murder

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showed not the slightest nervousness. His elbows rested on the arms of his chair and his long hands hung loose. There was no twitching of the slender fingers, no shifting of the position, no movement of the facial muscles to betray any uneasiness. This stolid attitude he maintained throughout the morning.

At the very beginning of the trial Judge Swartz let it be known that he wanted only salient facts.
"I do not want the court's time taken up with minutiae," he said.

"I only wish such evidence as will guide me in passing sentence," the judge said.

District Attorney Renninger handed Mr. Coughlin the letters he had received from "The Crank" and requested the court's permission to have them read.

"No," ruled Judge Swartz. "You have transcripts of them. I can read them if necessary."

"Crank" Described Nursery
Mr. Coughlin said the first letter which he received gave a description of the nursery from which Blakely was stolen.

"Was the description accurate?" asked the court.
"Absolutely," answered the witness. "If you may read the description; nothing else."

Only when her husband told of the discovery that their baby was gone and detailed their frantic search in the night for some one who could help them in the struggle she was having to control herself. Mr. Coughlin told of hearing a noise in the nursery.

"I went up there," he said, "and ran over to the baby's crib in the dairy. I put my hand under the covers. It was empty." He paused a moment and glanced down at his wife. Mrs. Coughlin gulped and moistened her lips, but still kept her eyes bravely upon him.

"I called Mrs. Coughlin," the witness continued, "and we ran to the room where the other boys were sleeping. They were all right. Then we saw that the door from the nursery to the sleeping porch was closed. We had left it open."

"We ran through to the yard and there we discovered a ladder against the side of the house under the nursery window. The foot was braced against the flower boxes.

Telephoned For Police
I ran out to Sandy Hill road and down the road and came back through the shrubbery, but could find no trace of the child. Mrs. Coughlin let me in at the front door and we telephoned the City Hall to notify the police."

"Then I put on some clothes and went out to get help from the neighbors and we all searched everywhere—even a house across the road and some empty barns in the fields adjoining. But we could find nothing to give us an idea of what had become of our baby."

"These minutiae do not help me in imposing sentence," Judge Swartz interrupted.

Mr. Coughlin then related the receipt of the letters from "The Crank." The first one told him to put \$5000 in a bag and tie it to a post under the Freedom bridge.

The letter said the spot would be marked by a white handkerchief.
"I did not go," said Mr. Coughlin. "I asked the postoffice authorities to go up and see if the spot was marked in that way and they reported that it was. I then made a statement in the papers that I would not pay any money to any one unless they produced the baby's clothes and sent a photograph of the child."

"I received another letter in which the writer asked why I had not done as he told me. He said that the price I would have to pay for the baby's return would now be \$12,000 instead of \$5000 and he had offered as proof a description of the nursery."

Description Accurate
"Was this description accurate?"
"Absolutely,"

Mr. Coughlin was then given permission to read that part of the letter.
"The room has three doors," he read. "There is a rocking chair in the middle of the floor between the windows and the crib. I had to move it to get by. There is a table on the left near the window with a woman's work basket on it. The bottle which you saw was full of water is not true. I tried it only half full."

"The ladder has got two books

Chronology of "Crank's" Career of Crime

June 2—Kidnapped Blakely Coughlin at Norristown. According to confession, the baby was accidentally smothered under his coat as he escaped and the body was thrown into the Schuylkill river.
June 3—Wrote letter telling of kidnapping to parents.
June 14—Obtained \$12,000 ransom from baby's father.
August 12—Captured by state police near New Greens, N. J.
October 10—Made confession.
November 8—Indicted for murder, kidnapping, burglary and extortion.
November 17—On trial before Judge Aaron S. Swartz, at Norristown.

standing up and if you inquire of the men at work on that new building and find that they missed an overcoat, I took it to wrap the baby up. I will not send no photograph. I warn you not to try to catch me with a photograph. I have called myself the Crank and this is the same Crank that has got your baby. You cannot get no better proofs.

The crowd which had jammed the corridor outside began early to filter in past the guards with one excuse or another, and the courtroom was soon filled to its capacity.

Long before the hour set for the trial to begin the retinue outside the court room was filled with people crowding in to get only a glimpse of the prisoner and of the parents whose heart sufferings have aroused so much sympathy.

Outside the building, too, the sidewalks were soon lined until a fringe of persons, mostly women, extended along Airy street from the court house to the jail. They expected to see Pasquale brought down to face trial for his life.

But the county officials, who have already been officially reprimanded for making a "show" of their prisoner, had anticipated just such an exhibition of popular curiosity. They were determined not to be reprimanded again.

So at 7:45 o'clock this morning two deputy officials quietly removed Pasquale from his cell and took him to the prisoners' room on the second floor of the courthouse. There he was kept in seclusion while the throngs crowded streets and corridors outside waiting for him.

When an EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER cameraman snapped him this morning the Crank laughed gaily, as though much pleased at the prominence which he has achieved. He likes to be photographed. He seems to have all the vanity that alienists attribute to the instinctive criminal.

"How long is your trial going to last?" he was asked.
"Not long," he replied. "I'm going to plead guilty."

Budget System May Bring U. S. Economy
Continued from Page One
says that billion, not by several hundred million. They are familiar with the "you must but we can't" game. However, the Republican leaders will

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able greatly to reduce government expenditures. There is pressure upon all governments for economy of this sort.

LARGEST B.P.O.E. INITIATION Philadelphia Lodge, No. 2, Takes in 1004 New Members
The largest initiation in the history of Philadelphia Lodge No. 2, B. P. O. E., took place last night at the Metropolitan Opera House, when 1004 new members were initiated into the organization. The opera house was crowded to capacity, with delegations from cities of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The Atlantic City delegation of 500

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which came on a special train, was headed by former Mayor Harry Bacharach. The largest of the other delegations were from Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. Charles H. Grakelov, exalted ruler of the Philadelphia lodge, conducted the initiations. Among the speakers were W. Freeland Kendrick, former imperial potentate of the Mystic Shrine. After the initiations there was a vaudeville show, in which actors from all the leading local theatres participated. The Elks' Band of 110 pieces also assisted in the entertainment of the visitors.

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