

PEIRCE CAR SKIDS, DETECTIVES HURT

Men Bringing Murder Auto Here Almost Plunge Off Mountain Precipice

TWO WHEELS OVER BRINK

Philadelphia detectives driving Henry T. Peirce's car from Wheeling, W. Va., to this city, were narrowly averted from plunging off the Cumberland mountains at dusk yesterday.

The car is a wreck and in a Cumberland garage. The detectives, George Neidenthal, James Mulgrew and Henry Henley, are resting at Cumberland hotel. They will come home tonight by train.

Captain of Detectives Souder heard of the accident this morning. The detectives who were bringing the machine home reported that the first part of their mission had been successful. By inquiries along the way they had learned the fact that there were three men and a girl in the machine when it made its wild dash through the mountains after the Peirce murder.

By a remarkable coincidence it was the very garage in Cumberland which brought in the machine when Treadway and his companions were stalled with a flat tire. The car came to the aid of the detectives, sending a car to take them to town and later salvaging the heavy twelve-cylinder machine.

The three detectives left Wheeling at 11 o'clock yesterday morning.

Neidenthal, who is an expert driver, was at the wheel. The first stop was made at a small town in Washington, Pa., where Treadway had said the party stopped. The garage and hotel there confirmed the story of a big car, identified as that of the Peirce murder, being driven, and occupied by four persons, one a woman.

Washington is thirty-six miles from Wheeling. The car was driven for five miles, then the driver turned back to Cumberland, Md., 100 miles farther on. They were in the Cumberland mountains with the roads and the weather getting worse every mile.

They drove on, feeling their way carefully. They had gone forty miles when the accident occurred. The car was skidding on the road. The rear wheels left the road, while the front wheels were still on it. The heavy machine's momentum carried it forward toward the precipice. Neidenthal clung to the wheel, trying to fight the car back to the road. With a final grinding crash the rear wheels went over the bank.

The car came to a dead stop, at the moment when all three expected to be carried with it over the 100-foot bank. Instead they were flung into the road by the violent jar of the car's sudden stop. They scrambled to their feet, bleeding and dazed, but none of them seriously hurt.

“Al” Smith’s Capture Hinted by Warrant

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His recital of the facts that led up to the murder of Peirce, was so rambling that the police had little hope of getting a sequential story from him until, as he said himself, he “got some of the booze out of his system.”

The long train ride from Pittsburgh gave him a chance to get some of his nerve back, and when he was brought out into the train shed at Broad street he faced the huge crowd without flinching. Detective Belshaw, to whom he was handcuffed, shouldered through the crowd and the prisoner and then took him into a private passageway through the station that enabled them to avoid the densest part of the crowd.

Moss Makes Promises

Moss promised to do two things today. The first of these was to write a clear statement of all the circumstances of the crime as he knows them; the second to face Treadway and the girl who are under arrest for the murder, and make them admit the truth of his story. At 1 o'clock this afternoon Moss was given paper, pen and ink and told to “write his head off.”

The detectives are inclined to think Moss was the “chick” in the case. Coming from Pittsburgh he went over the facts of the case carefully with Belshaw, who had a chance to talk to him quietly for several hours as the train sped to Philadelphia. In brief, his story was that he had gone to Peirce's apartment very drunk, and for the sole purpose of getting another drink, at Peirce's invitation. He thought “Al” Smith was joking, he said, when Smith, who is still missing, struck Peirce after ordering him to throw up his hands.

Moss asserted time and again that he had not even seen the first blow and Marie's screams, taking the girl with him. He says he did not even see the first blow struck.

The police, because of the previous record, are inclined to believe he had his hand in the crime. They have investigated that very carefully, and find he has always worked for a living, and that his principal fault has been addiction to drink.

He did not leave the little farm in Iowa where he was born until he was nineteen years old. Since then he has been working as a scale mechanic in various parts of the country, and is considered an unusually good one. All his past employers give him an excellent character.

Registered Own Name

Coupled with these facts the police consider it significant that he went direct to his boarding house in London after the crime, told the woman who kept it that a man had been killed and that the car outside was the dead man's property, went direct to Pittsburgh, where he was well known, and registered under his own name at a hotel where previously he had lived for a year. He went to work immediately in Pittsburgh at a scale works, where he had been employed before. When the police came for him he admitted his identity instantly.

For all these reasons the police were more willing than they might have been otherwise to give him a night free from questioning when he was brought to City Hall. Detective Belshaw told him last night he would be given a chance to write his confession today in Captain Souder's office. If he wanted to avail himself of it, but he must stick to the truth, as all of his movements before and after the murder were known.

“I'll tell the truth,” he told Belshaw, “and I'll only want the chance to face Treadway and the girl.”

“I'll jam every lie down Treadway's lying throat,” he said. “I struck Peirce. I didn't touch him. I wasn't in the room where he was murdered more than a minute or two.”

“I'll make Treadway admit he lied when he said he ran from the room with

HOMES WRECKED BY FLAMES



The picture shows what was left of homes back of the stable at 506-516 New Market street after they had been attacked by flames spreading from a fire that destroyed the stable. The household goods the tenants were able to remove are seen. The fire occurred last night and was discovered shortly after a man who had bought some matches was seen entering the stable.

BUILDING AT LOW EBB

Report Shows That Industry is at a Standstill

Building activity of all kinds during November maintained the low level of the last quarter here, according to figures compiled by W. W. Gamble, statistician of the bureau of building inspection.

Seven hundred and ninety-two permits were issued, covering 847 operations, at a total estimated cost of \$2,303,445, during November. This compares with 1015 permits, 1062 operations, at a total estimated cost of \$2,590,865, during October, the preceding month.

Compared with November, 1919, this year's record falls far short, 937 operations having been undertaken that month at a total estimated cost of \$9,468,020.

To date this year only 1235 homes have been erected or are now under way, and with only the present month left it is evident that the city will not close the year with approximately only one-quarter its normal housing requirements fulfilled.

SCHOOLS NEED \$1,000,000

Camden Board Plans Two New Buildings and Improvements

The Camden Board of Education yesterday adopted a resolution setting forth that \$1,000,000 is required to build two additional schools, provide for several large additions and other necessities to furnish adequate accommodation for the city's army of children. The resolution will be presented to the Board of School Estimates, which will make the formal representation to City Council. Under the law the latter must provide the money.

The United States representative would sit in a consultative capacity during the study of the question of a reduction in armaments.

“It would, of course, be perfectly understood,” the invitation says, “that the presence of a representative of the United States would in no way commit the American Government to whatever opinions may be finally put forward in the report of the commission.”

Major Churchill, of the United States

Spain and Brazil Offer Wilson Aid

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United States Government could see its way to send a representative to sit in a consultative capacity with the commission. A note embodying the invitation was dispatched to Washington.

The invitation was suggested by General Clive, British member of the commission. The commissioner, it is said, felt the United States will accept, inasmuch as it sent delegates to the international court of justice and the financial conference at Brussels.

The items included in the statement prepared by the board for the expenditure proposed will be for the following: Two new schools, \$372,000; furnishing, \$123,000; additions to three schools, \$409,000; furnishing, \$10,000; administration building and stockrooms, \$50,000; furnishing machine shop for new high school, \$65,000; repairs, painting, etc., \$75,000; total, \$1,000,000.

Intelligence Service, was a spectator at the meeting of the assembly yesterday.

Major General Leonard Wood, commander of the Sixth Army Corps, declined today to comment on press dispatches reporting that he is being considered by the League of Nations for high commissioner in Armenia.

“I have nothing to say at this time. I have no information on the subject beyond the press dispatches I have seen,” the general said.

Paris, Dec. 1.—(By A. P.)—President Wilson's acceptance of the role of Armenian mediator is considered by the French foreign office as a happy development, and foreign office officials declared today they were much gratified. It is hoped President Wilson's intervention will have a good effect toward pacification of that region.

Austria Voted Admission

Austria was unanimously voted a member of the League of Nations by the commission for the admission of new states today. It is expected the assembly of the league will ratify this action.

Another attempt was made today to gain approval of the league's budget for the forthcoming year. This matter came before the assembly yesterday, but objections were voiced by several nations, delegates from New Zealand,

N. Y. Tries to Break Grip of Coal Trust

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off a real one, another young fellow like himself, but one who knew the anthracite game from A to Z. He is Robert S. Feeney, and he is vice president of the Seiler Coal Co., at 90 West street. Mr. Feeney belongs to the militant clan of keen-eyed, frank, outspoken business men. He is a former Philadelphian.

What Mr. Feeney said to District Attorney Lewis wasn't much, but it was enough. It was all unpleasant truth. It has spilled upon his neck the burning wrath of the big fellows who drag it in by the millions as well as the pickers who get it by the dollar.

He is being chided as the object of an “impulsive disposition,” and the like. Of course, it is all “bunk,” as they express it in the parlors of City Hall, and Mr. Feeney knows it. Anyhow, he isn't looking for a cinder pile or a burban bag as yet. Sackcloth and ashes and a mourning band on his arm are evidently a long way in the future for him. But just the same, the anthracite trust is biting its finger nails with anger. I hear it is swearing vengeance. Mr. Feeney did not tell me this. I heard it elsewhere, for the whole anthracite trade has been stood on its head by his outspoken facts.

Here is a resume of a few of the statements he passed along to District Attorney Lewis.

The coal trust has for its backbone and backers the J. P. Morgan interests, with E. T. Stotesbury, of Philadelphia, as the most conspicuous figure. He is senior member of J. P. Morgan & Co., and chairman of the board of directors of the Reading Coal Co. This places him at the head of the trust, for Stotesbury controls the Philadelphia and Reading.

“The Reading Co. is the holding company for the Reading Coal and Iron Co. This company controls the largest single lot of virgin mines in the anthracite regions. It is a well-known fact that the Morgan interests and E. T. Stotesbury have financed the Erie Railroad, which controls the Pennsylvania mines were idle so long as a result of the so-called outlaw miners' strike. They own a vast amount of virgin acreage.”

Social Ties Rule Coal

Mr. Feeney also said that the unequal distribution of anthracite in New York was due to conditions controlled by the “big companies,” interpreted to mean the Morgan-Stotesbury trust.

These companies played favorites. Their disposition of coal was a case of “draggled in and affected the whole fabric of the commercial world. Hundreds of thousands of acres of unopened coal lands in Pennsylvania were held under lease or purchase by this operation by independent companies of corporations.

Mr. Feeney further testified that the big operators are the Philadelphia and Reading, Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, the Lehigh Valley, and Williams & Peters, who are now suing for the Pennsylvania Coal Co. “The anthracite trust, generally referred to as the ‘big companies,’ controls in the neighborhood of between 70 and 80 per cent of the entire anthracite output. Referring explicitly to the coal trust, Mr. Feeney said: ‘The Morgan-Stotesbury interests, Mr. Feeney said in reply to a question: ‘Do they control all of the virgin unopened mines?’

“They control the major portion of the virgin coal. That is the crux of the whole thing. The United States Government is well aware of it, and should be, because of the extensive efforts it has made to find out the facts. If anybody wanted to get right down and help the situation it is a case of increased production of the unopened virgin coal lands that are controlled by the ‘big companies. There are hundreds of thousands of acres of it.’

The operation of the coal trust as directed against the public, as it happens to know, the smooth plan of commercial machinery in this country.

But that also is another story.

Accused Wife Murderer a Suicide

Baleigh, N. C., Dec. 1.—Charles R. Davis, one of the two Wake county farmers arrested last Monday for killing their wives at a cell at the jail last night.



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