

Treadway's Threat Forced Lie, Says Girl

Continued from Page One... which had been given the girl when they left Wheeling.

It was the current issue of one of the popular "novel" magazines. She had taken her lip stick and written in bold red characters across a story in the back of the book.

"Don't change. You know what tomorrow brings. TWO MORE."

The "Two more" was heavily underlined. It meant that she had learned that by grapevine rumor—that two more arrests had been made or were about to be made.

The magazine fell into Belshaw's hands. It was another argument, he said, her husband's promise of protection, why the girl should "come clean."

It was the agreement of Marie's story with that told by the third prisoner, Moss, the "Jack" of the murder, that made it possible for the police to crack Treadway's defiance last night and get at the whole truth.

After he wrote his confession in detail, however, verbally exonerating Marie and Moss of any guilty foreknowledge of the crime. He asserted that "A Smith had struck the blow which killed Peirce, but admitted he had helped strangle the still breathing man. He admitted the attack on Peirce had been planned, with robbery as its object, though the murder was not intended."

It was realization that Marie had gone back on him that finally broke him down. Moss and Marie both faced him in Captain Souder's room last night.

Stage Is Set Treadway was brought to Captain Souder's office late yesterday upon the conclusion of Moss' written confession, on which the latter was occupied most of the afternoon.

Peirce Murder Case Index From Crime to Confession

November 22—Peirce murdered at 2007 Market street.

November 23—Detectives found apartment on Walnut street near Twenty-first where Peirce's car stopped Saturday night and early Sunday morning.

November 24—Peter D. Treadway and Marie Phillips arrested in Wheeling. Treadway blames "stick-up men."

November 25—Treadway and girl brought to Philadelphia.

November 26—Nation-wide search begun for men named by Treadway. Treadway and Marie tell their stories of crime at length in written "confessions."

November 27—Treadway and girl formally "pleaded" for murder. Identity of "Al" Smith revealed as Marlon A. Elliott, gunman. Name of "Jack" Moss mentioned as "Jack" of murder story told by Treadway.

November 28—Marie reconciled to her husband and makes new confession which is kept secret.

November 30—Joseph Archibald Moss, "Jack," arrested near Pittsburg and makes statement he had nothing to do with crime.

December 1—Moss says he will "jam lies down Treadway's throat."

December 2—Treadway "breaks" and admits his guilt, blaming "Al" Smith equally.

Apparently she had not even seen him. The snub was palpable, and it cut Treadway deep and hard.

Her step was lighter and brisker. She had "come clean" at last, and the relief of confession seemed to make another person of her. She smiled at a little group in Captain Souder's ante-room, men who had worked on the case for many days and whom she had come to know by sight.

Back in Captain Souder's office the prisoner, still ashen and shaken, was elaborating his story. He did not tell it in full—that was reserved for the long hours later, when he lived over the crime with pen and paper—but he sketched in the principal lines.

Bloodstains Explained The confession took only a few minutes. The detectives, during it, brought out the fact that there were bloodstains on Treadway's underclothing, where he had told Moss they were, according to Moss' earlier confession.

The reason for the blood on Treadway's trouser knee, explained at first by him when he said he had tripped over the gas hose, was obvious in the light of his confession that he had knelt down beside the victim and strangled him with a towel, though later he partly repudiated this admission, saying it was Smith who choked Peirce.

In all, it was only twenty-five minutes after he entered the room before he left again, promising to write out his confession in full later.

Treadway passed the same group in the ante-room whom Marie had greeted. He had enough of his old bravado left to blurt out to the reporters: "You'll get your story tonight, with the ghost of a smile. His body was bent and his shoulders drooping. His face had not recovered its usual fresh color."

A little later, however, his spirits came back with a rebound. Though he knew it meant probable conviction, his confession seemed to have eased his mind.

Captain Souder arranged to strip Treadway of the suit belonging to Peirce, the suit dramatically identified by Moss. To this end the detectives had sent for a gray suit Treadway had told them was at the cleaner's. Some of his other possessions in a grip had been brought to his cell.

In Captain Souder's presence he went through them, bringing to light a quantity of flash clothing, a suit of brown cloth, a pair of pajamas, among other things. The prisoner was chewing a toothpick as he went over his things.

Jokes Over Peirce Effects He brought out a pack of playing cards and handed them to the captain.

"Better grab them, captain," he said. "They belong to Peirce."

"I suppose you could play blackjack with them?" the captain commented. "Yes, or solitaire, or coon-can," replied the prisoner, "anything you want."

How Detectives Worked The solution of the Peirce murder mystery is one of the most remarkable pieces of detective work in the history of the Philadelphia bureau.

It was 11:45 a. m. on Monday, November 22, that the bureau learned of the murder, committed early Sunday morning. The murderers had better than twenty-four hours' start.

"Bill" Belshaw, head of the murder squad, noted throughout the country as one of the most astute detectives in the profession in clearing up murders, was put in charge of the case. He was the "master mind" in bringing it to a speedy solution, working directly under Captain of Detectives Souder.

By 6 o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, November 23, Belshaw knew almost to a certainty who the murderers were. He knew at this early stage of the game that the big red car owned by Peirce had made a trip to Camden, and he did not then know where it had stopped.

By Thursday Belshaw and his men had run out a score of clues and gained much valuable information. He had questioned various patrolmen who had seen the car at one time or other the night Peirce was killed. He had learned the address on Walnut street where the car had stopped and Treadway and the girl lodged.

He had questioned the keeper of the lodging house, and learned from her and others in the place numerous important facts about Treadway and the girl and their friends who had called to see them. He had obtained Treadway's picture, had it copied, and sent broadcast to detectives and police headquarters all over the country.

His men were at work in Camden as well as Philadelphia. On Friday, November 26, he learned Moss' name and Camden address, questioned the woman with whom he lodged, and learned much from her, including the fact that Moss would write soon.

By November 28, which was Monday, Belshaw had Moss' Pittsburgh address, and the address of the place where he worked in that city. The Pittsburgh police already were on Moss' trail.

With the arrest and return of Moss came the confirmation of Marie Phillips' later story of the murder, and finally the breaking down of Treadway's assertion of his innocence.

The same methods are expected to lead to the speedy arrest of "Al" Smith, the last man sought in connection with the murder.

The rumor persists that "Al," whose real name is said to be Marion Elliott, has been found and will soon be arrested and brought back to Philadelphia.

Women Are Told of City Problems

Continued from Page One... miles of sewer and twelve miles of main sewer that "compare favorably with those of Paris"; the bureau of city property taking care of municipal buildings, curbs and reliefs.

Mayor Moore said as chief executive of the city he was finding it difficult to work under the new city charter in some of its most important phases.

"The Mayor," he said, "is without power to appoint or dismiss any city employe. Hence much valuable time is taken up in producing evidence to prove that some person is worthy to be employed or dismissed, and frequently there is time in court proceedings."

"There is, for instance, the case of a certain police captain who was temporarily suspended. For five months his case was fought, as we tried to prove him unfit as a city protector. He still remains on the staff and will until we can get enough detectives to watch him and prove the goods on him."

"Another difficulty in the new charter is the failure to give the Mayor power to appoint a deputy. The government of the city depends largely upon the health and constant unfailing attendance to duty of the Mayor. Every director under him has a deputy but the Mayor has no one to substitute for him. He cannot take a vacation, get sick, or die without taking the consequences of being off duty."

Mayor Moore explained in detail the variety of his duties and privileges. Before his department heads were called upon he spoke of the recent charges made that Ernest L. Tustin, director of public welfare, and Frank Cavin, director of public works, held outside jobs.

"I knew before but I asked them again just before I came to this meeting so I could tell you," said the city executive. Mr. Cavin said he had given up a \$5000 a year position to accept the directorship. If Mr. Tustin retains his business with a law firm, I don't know when he attends to that business for he is here all day long, on the job every minute of the time."

SLAV RADICALS LEADING Hold 110 Seats in Assembly as Result of Sunday Elections

Belgrade, Dec. 2.—The balloting of last Sunday for the Jugo-Slav national assembly resulted in the election of 110 Radical, seventy Democrats, thirty-five members of the Serbian Peasant party, forty members of the Croat peasant party, forty-five Communists, twenty-five Mussulmans, twenty-five members of the "Sloveno-Karochets" party and twenty-one Social Democrats. About fifty seats still are undetermined.

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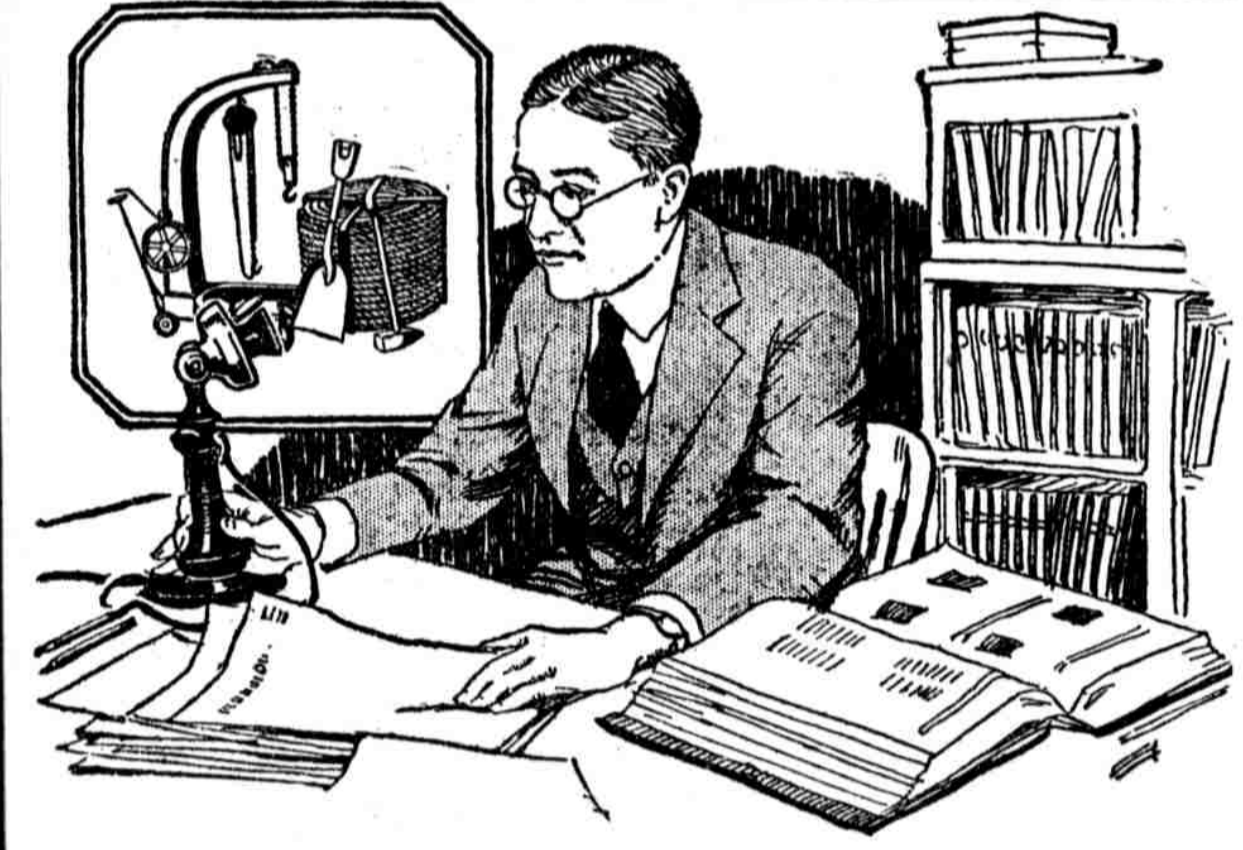
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