

# LEHRMAN SENDS WITNESS FUNDS

## Miss Rappe's Fiance Aids Mrs. Delmont Pay San Francisco Hotel Bill

### TELLS GIRL'S EARLY LIFE

New York, Sept. 15.—Henry Lehrman, fiance of Miss Virginia Rappe, telegraphed \$150 yesterday to Mrs. B. Delmont, who swore to the murder charge against Roscoe ("Fatty") Arbuckle, following Miss Rappe's death, Lehrman said.

"I never met Mrs. Delmont. When I read that she had no funds to pay her hotel bill I wanted to help her. She must be a woman of determination and with a sense of justice. She could get plenty of money by changing her testimony."

"This case must make a certain clique tremble in their boots. They want to prevent an example being made of Arbuckle. The fact if he is punished they cannot avoid exposure and ruin. People mustn't forget that Arbuckle is a valuable amusement property."

"I see the propaganda in favor of Arbuckle is taking the form of attacks on the reputation of Miss Rappe. The attempt to murder her good name through the mouth of purchased witnesses is a more heinous crime than Arbuckle's. Miss Rappe was never ill a day in her life. She never quarreled with me."

"I received a visit yesterday from a woman I never saw before. She declared she was a friend of Miss Rappe's, and then told me a number of things about Miss Rappe's conduct since I had left the coast."

"She said among other things that it was too bad Virginia had been so heavily since I left. She said she understood her motive and dismissed her. There is no doubt she was sent to me by Arbuckle's friends for the purpose of evading my determination to see justice done."

"Let me say now that nothing of this sort will influence me. I knew Virginia well. I know Arbuckle. I know how she felt toward him. She loathed him. I know she died because she fought off his brutal advances. Everything that I have or am is dedicated to the cause of justice in this case."

Chicago, Sept. 15.—The story of the early life in Chicago of Virginia Rappe, beautiful and talented motion-picture actress, alleged victim of Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle was told for the first time yesterday by Commodore Matthew J. Steffens, veteran Chicago photographer.

Commodore Steffens said the name should be spelled "Rapp." Virginia added the final "e" when she went into the movies, he says, asserting that it was he who first introduced her to the screen.

"I remember the mother of Virginia very well," Commodore Steffens said. "I remember Virginia as a little girl playing around here. The mother died about twenty years ago, when Virginia was only a small child."

"Virginia had a beautiful figure and face and a smile for everybody. After her mother's death she lived with her grandmother."

"I put Virginia into the movies by giving her a letter to William N. Selig, and she went out to Los Angeles. That was six years ago. I always thought she was a girl who could take care of herself under almost any circumstances."

"Virginia, like her mother, was always a good girl."

Arbuckle Charge Decided on Today

Continued from Page One

The case against Roscoe ("Fatty") Arbuckle "most vigorously," Brady's telegram, in answer to one from Mayor Hodgen urging him to "fight this case to a finish," follows:

"Your telegram received. Assure you and good people of St. Paul that, in spite of Arbuckle's money and influence, the case will be prosecuted most vigorously. Depend upon me to do my full duty as District Attorney to thwart any attempt to defeat justice."

**Defy Officials Act**

Arbuckle will be prosecuted as a violator of the Volstead Prohibition Enforcement Act if evidence now being gathered shows that he transported as much as "one drop of intoxicating liquor" from Los Angeles to San Francisco for his party on Labor Day, Robert McCormack, special assistant to the United States Attorney General, announced here today. McCormack announced that he had sent Prohibition Director E. Forrest Mitchell to Los Angeles to investigate.

Federal authorities are conducting an investigation into the source of the liquor supply alleged to have been used at Arbuckle's soiree. Two empty whiskey bottles are alleged by authorities to have been recovered from a waste basket in the Arbuckle rooms.

The verdict of the coroner's jury in part was as follows:

"We find that said Virginia Rappe came to her death from peritonitis caused by a rupture of the bladder. This rupture was caused by the application of some force which, from the evidence submitted, we believe was applied by one Roscoe Arbuckle, and the undersigned jurors therefore charge the said Roscoe Arbuckle with the crime of manslaughter."

"We, the jury, recommend that the District Attorney of the city and county of San Francisco, in conjunction with the Grand Jury, the Chief of Police and the Federal prohibition officials, take steps to prevent a recurrence of affairs similar to the one in which this young woman lost her life, so that San Francisco shall not be made the rendezvous of the debauchee and gangster."

That the findings of the coroner's jury was phrased in much more direct and forceful language than had been expected by Arbuckle's array of counsel was plainly manifest. Only Charles Freeman, of the defense's legal staff, was present when the verdict was read, and he made a hasty reply, which was rushed off to present to Frank Louguez, another of the actor's attorneys.

**Comedian Shows Strain**

Arbuckle personally showed signs of a heavy slump in spirits. During the long period of waiting to be brought before his attorneys, the comparative unimportance of the customary verdict of a coroner's jury when the jurymen filed into the inquest room he leaned forward nervously, and Dr. Leland, the coroner, and his name was announced as causing the name Miss Rappe the comedian's lips twitched nervously and his full face took on a yellow, sickening hue.

With the words "debauchee and gangster" still ringing in his ears Arbuckle was led back to his cell in the city prison by a guard of detectives.

A juror submitted a minor verdict, setting forth that from the evidence he

# ILL-FATED MOVIE STAR AND FIANCE

## Threatened to Throw Her Out

The minds of the Grand Jury and Coroner's Jury were made up against him chiefly by evidence furnished by two of the women who were present, Miss Zey Prevost and Miss Alice Blake. These were the witnesses who had given rise to District Attorney Brady's charges yesterday that attempts had been made to tamper with witnesses. Miss Prevost, whose real name is Sadie Reiss, had, before the Grand Jury, changed the statements she had made to the coroner. She is a member of a well-to-do family, had disappeared for a time to avoid publicity.

Both later, however, backed up in many details the story told by Mrs. Bamba Mand Delmont and furnished some added details of the attitude of Arbuckle after he had opened the door to a bedroom that attempts had been made to tamper with witnesses. She was "sore" and threatened to throw her out the twelfth-story window if she did not stop screaming. He also threatened to throw himself out.

District Attorney Brady stuck to the contention that the most vital part of all testimony given by the women who entered Arbuckle's room immediately after the alleged assault in their statement that Miss Rappe, in Arbuckle's hearing, moaned, "I am dying; he hurt me."

The day's proceedings, like those of Monday and Tuesday, were punctuated with much talk of underhand influence and suggestions of bribery and perjury. Miss Prevost, it was stated, declared in a signed statement, which she certified before the Grand Jury, that she had been approached by persons who told her to "keep her mouth shut."

This followed a quizzing in which she was asked to have her name changed then denied that such a suggestion had been made to her. "People will come to you and tell you to keep your mouth shut," said Captain Matheson is said to have remarked.

"They have already," Miss Prevost is said to have responded.

Asked who had spoken to her along these lines, she replied, "I don't know."

When asked, "Well, somebody did, didn't they?" she hesitated, and showed considerable embarrassment.

"No," she finally declared.

Dr. Ophuls, who was a party to the unofficial autopsy upon the deceased woman, yesterday reiterated he could not determine whether the injury which resulted in Miss Rappe's death had been caused by the use of force or whether it had been of spontaneous origin.

The evidence which Miss Blake and Miss Prevost gave to the Grand Jury formed a tale of wild debauchery, liquor and death.

**Room "Filled" With Liquor**

Miss Blake said that upon arriving at the Arbuckle suite in the Hotel St. Francis with Miss Prevost she found "a room filled with gin, whisky and wine." There were four or five men beside Arbuckle in and about the place, she said, and there was considerable drinking.

"I cannot say whether Virginia Rappe was dragged out of the room by Arbuckle or whether she went voluntarily," Blake declared when questioned upon what is found to be one of the most important points of controversy.

She told how she remained in the room with other members of the party until the door to Arbuckle's room was opened and she followed Mrs. Delmont in.

"Virginia Rappe lay on the bed," she testified. "She was moaning. 'I am dying. I am dying. He hurt me. Arbuckle hurt me.'"

**Threatened Miss Rappe**

"Arbuckle was there and heard her say it, but he did not deny it. In fact, he said, 'Shut up, you are crazy. If you keep on making that noise I'll throw you out of the window.'"

She said the comedian then talked of jumping from the window himself. His suit was on the twelfth floor. "What is in life after all she quoted him as saying. She said he offered to leap if someone would leap with him. 'Really, it did sound funny,' she remarked. 'We were all sitting by the window. He said, 'I will jump out of the window with any one who wants to jump out.'"

"Did any one volunteer to go with him?" she was asked.

"No, nobody did," she replied. "We all looked at him. He said something like this: 'If I would jump out of the twelfth-story window they would all talk about me today, and tomorrow they would go to see the ball game. So what is in life, after all?'"

Miss Blake said that at the party which preceded the tragedy another actor made improper advances to her and Miss Prevost.

**Both Tell Same Story**

Miss Prevost's story of the occurrences of the evening, as she gave it yesterday, was virtually the same as Miss Blake's. Describing Arbuckle's actions when the party entered his bedroom and found Miss Rappe in agony, she said, "He was very sore and said: 'What are you sore about?' He said, 'Oh, if she makes one more yell I will take her and throw her out the window.'"

"Was he intoxicated?" Miss Prevost was asked.

"He was intoxicated," she said. "He had been talking about jumping out of the twelfth-story window, saying, 'What is in life after all?'" When Miss Rappe started to tell about her clothes Arbuckle came over and began to pull at her clothes too, and I showed his hands away, telling him she was sick. 'Oh, she's only shamming, he said.'"

**Tells of Autopsy**

Miss Grace Halston, nurse at the sanitarium where Miss Rappe died, repeated her story of her conversations with the girl and described the unofficial autopsy performed at the sanitarium.

Discussing the conflicting charges hanging over the film actor's head, and the question of whether he was to be tried for murder or manslaughter, the District Attorney said last night:

"The matter will be decided between now and Friday morning when Arbuckle will be given a preliminary hearing on the murder charge on the warrant issued by Miss Delmont. If the murder charge is dismissed and Arbuckle is arraigned for manslaughter, he will be eligible for bail. If we decide to bring him to trial on the murder charge he will not be released on bail. Return of the manslaughter indictment is indicative of the opinion of the jury that the evidence is sufficient to warrant the trial of that Arbuckle caused the death of Miss Rappe."

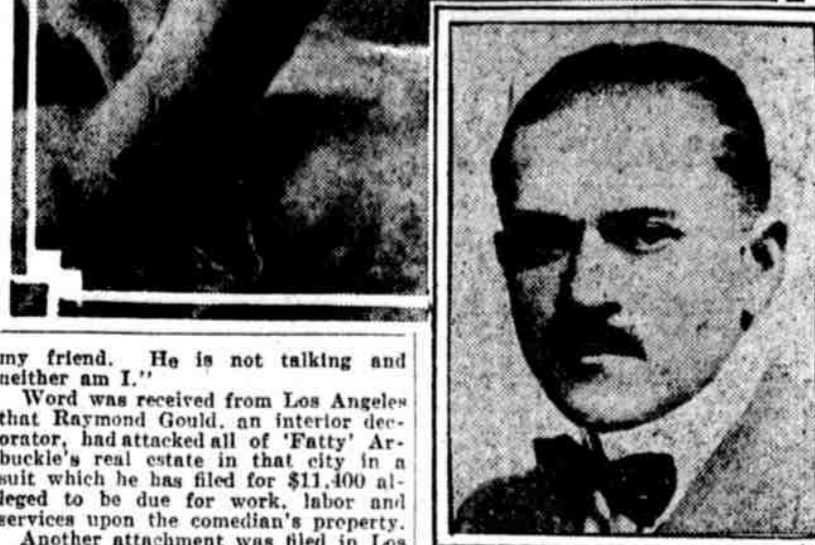
**Betty Campbell Located**

Betty Campbell, referred to as one of the "missing links" in the case, was located by the police yesterday and questioned at the Hall of Justice by the District Attorney. Her testimony was said to deal mainly with an alleged attempt by another member of the party to attack her.

The Club Women's Vigilante Committee, which has been aroused by stories of the Arbuckle orgy, went on record as demanding vigorous prosecution of the comedian upon a charge of murder.

Arbuckle learned of the manslaughter indictment against him yesterday. He was asked later what comment Arbuckle made. Martin replied, "He is

# ILL-FATED MOVIE STAR AND FIANCE



(c) Underwood & Underwood  
Another photograph of Miss Virginia Rappe, whose death followed a riotous party in "Fatty" Arbuckle's hotel room. The man is Henry A. Lehrman, her fiance, a director who is now working on a comedy "Love Is an Awful Thing"

# Calls Point Breeze Plant Antiquated

Continued from Page One

name appeared on the list of the missing. Kelly's body was on top of the still, which was partially destroyed by fire.

James C. Kerlin, 1429 Edgewood street, and James Kerlin, with whom Kelly lived, both brothers-in-law of the dead man, were among the first visitors to the Morgue last night. They were confident of their ability to identify him by means of a gold tooth. They failed to find any of the bodies with the proper arrangement of teeth and were informed by company officials that there was no doubt that all the bodies had been removed. Convinced, they decided to come to the Morgue again this morning.

After another look at the bodies as they were leaving, convinced that Kelly was not among them, a police patrol arrived. It was announced they had another body on board which had been found on the still a short time before.

The Kerlins identified it as Kelly. The wife and mother of A. Fife, one of the men on the original missing list, came to the Morgue this morning and attempted to identify him by the means of a ring they knew he had been wearing. As many of the bodies had hands burned off this was impossible, and then they went to St. Agnes' Hospital, where they found him late this morning among the bodies there.

The ring means of identification failed in the case of Lynford Bergey, 6622 Woodland avenue. His father, Harry

E. Bergey, came from Perkins, Pa., this morning with a brother, Raymond, who lives at the Y. M. C. A.

Identification of W. J. Hill was confirmed this morning when his brother, Alexander Hill, 5213 South Twenty-fourth street, went to the Morgue.

One of the saddest cases was that of Albert H. Brown, of 2227 East Chadwick street, whose body was identified with reasonable certainty by his two sons. Mr. Brown, who was fifty-seven years old, was a rigger working on the stills. It is thought that he was on the still that blew up. His wife is critically ill in St. Agnes' Hospital preparing to undergo an operation. Her life depends upon her being kept in absolute ignorance of her husband's fate.

One of Mr. Brown's sons, Harry, is a fireman stationed at the Eighth and Norris streets firehouse. His company responded to the alarm at Point Breeze. It was not until several hours after he had finished his battle with the flames that he learned that his father was among those killed.

The first body to be identified was that of Motius Glebin, of 2448 Winnton street. His wife, accompanied by her brother, identified the body by a deep scar on his forehead. The dead man was about thirty years old and has three children.

Glebin was one of four men working on the ill-fated still. Of the four, only one, Joseph Adnowski, escaped serious injury. George Ranbis, of 2804 Cantrell street, another of the quartet, died in the St. Agnes' Hospital, and the fourth, Chris Craunilis, fifty-seven years old, of 2811 Centerville street, is reported to be critically injured.

**Saving to Send for Family**

Martin Wodroski, of 1804 South Thirty-sixth street was the fourth victim to be identified at the morgue last

night. The identification was made by his brother, Michael.

Wodroski came to this country fourteen years ago from Poland. He had not been here long before he had saved enough money to send for his wife. The couple lived happily here with their two children until six years ago, when work became scarce. Mrs. Wodroski returned to Poland. Shortly after she had left, the husband obtained work at Point Breeze and since then his savings were accumulating rapidly. He was counting on sending for his small family in the near future.

Horrible as the toll of dead, the financial loss to the company is comparatively trifling. Late last night Edwin R. Cox, treasurer of the company and a City Councilman, said it probably would not exceed \$20,000. This was largely due to the heroism of the plant and city firemen, who risked the same sort of death they had just looked upon to force their lines of hose close up to the blazing still and prevent its spreading to the big containers beside it. These were also full of thousands of barrels of naphtha, liable to explode at any instant.

It was still No. 11 that exploded, exploding a distance of sixteen, one hundred of which were in operation. The others were being overhauled by a force of thirty men. There was nothing to indicate trouble might be expected when the explosion came about 4:30, and a sheet of blazing oil was hurled 200 feet into the air. At that height the sheet spread out in fan shape and then descended, setting off a burning rain upon the workmen in the stills.

**Trapped and Killed**

Under the still that exploded and near the firebox was a narrow passageway. Three men were in that and death took them quickly and horribly. They were later men with their clothing afire were running they knew not where and screaming as they ran. Fellow employees placed in the care of a policeman at their own request. He said they had decided upon this plan to prevent any chance of possible intimidation.

Word was received from Los Angeles that Raymond Geiss, an interior decorator, had attacked all of "Fatty" Arbuckle's real estate in that city in a suit which he has filed for \$11,400 alleged to be due for work, labor and services upon the comedian's property.

Another attachment was filed in Los Angeles on Monday in a suit for \$6500 against the comedian resulting from an unpaid furniture bill.

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the firemen to raise wooden ladders because of the flames.

While the fire was at its height workmen and firemen attempted to build a scaffolding around nearby tanks in an effort to reach the man, but the heat was so intense the workers were driven away.

Finally it became possible for several workmen to mount a still near the one on which the body lay or knelt, and with a long pole they dragged the body to them and carried it to the ground. It was that of A. Brown, chief rigger, who lived at 2227 South Chadwick street.

At the height of the fire it was reported that seven bodies were in the still. More lines of hose were turned on, but with the flames out no bodies were found.

No one with the exception of the police, firemen and physicians was allowed to enter the grounds. Through the fence could be seen employees with their heads and arms banded, assisting the firemen in extinguishing the flames.

**Wives Rush to the Plant**

Soon after the explosion it was reported that twenty-five men had been killed, and that brought wives and relatives of men employed at the plant to the gate begging to be allowed to enter. They pleaded for the names of the dead, and each person insisted that her loved ones had been lost in the disaster. Details of police from all the downtown stations were rushed to the scene and fire lines were stretched on Passyunk avenue a quarter of a mile away. It

was explained that that was done as a precautionary measure. It was feared that more stills might explode. Then came a rollcall of the employees and the list of missing persons was compiled, as was the list of injured, and the officials of the company soon made the lists public.

Director Cortesio, Assistant Director and Superintendent Mills hurried to the scene when the second alarm was sounded and directed the police in keeping the crowds from overrunning the dead line.

After the fire was extinguished Edwin R. Cox, treasurer of the company and

City Councilman, gave out the following statement:

"One of the connections of the pipeline leading from the high-pressure still to the condenser gave way for some unknown reason and the contents ran out, dropped down on the fire beneath the still and caused an explosion. The loss of life is very, very sad. It was an unpreventable accident. The property loss was not great and the damage to the stills will not reach \$20,000. We are checking up the employees again and will issue a revised death list later in the night. It was a dreadful tragedy, which we regret."

# BAN ON ARBUCKLE FILM

Tioga Theatre Showing Him and Miss Rappe Censored

A motion-picture house in Tioga showing films of Roscoe Arbuckle and another in Tioga showing films of Miss Virginia Rappe have been ordered to discontinue them by Director Cortesio, of the Department of Public Safety, in accordance with orders of the Mayor.

He declined to name the theatres, but said their managers had agreed to abide by his ruling. The house showing films of Arbuckle was asking the audience to show by applause whether his films were desired. The argument advanced in favor of this action by the manager was that a competitor was advertising a picture in which Miss Rappe

There's Nobody to Blame, Coroner Knight Declares

"I ascertained that a regular inspection had been made of the pipe lines and that careful examination at that time had not indicated that any such break as subsequently caused the explosion existed or was to be anticipated. It is just one of those awful things that sometime happen. There is nobody to blame."

"I have instructed my deputy, Frank Paul, to go over the bodies we have at the Morgue and do everything possible to identify them. I believe it will be impossible in some cases."—Coroner Knight.

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Wives Rush to the Plant

Soon after the explosion it was reported that twenty-five men had been killed, and that brought wives and relatives of men employed at the plant to the gate begging to be allowed to enter. They pleaded for the names of the dead, and each person insisted that her loved ones had been lost in the disaster. Details of police from all the downtown stations were rushed to the scene and fire lines were stretched on Passyunk avenue a quarter of a mile away. It

was explained that that was done as a precautionary measure. It was feared that more stills might explode. Then came a rollcall of the employees and the list of missing persons was compiled, as was the list of injured, and the officials of the company soon made the lists public.

Director Cortesio, Assistant Director and Superintendent Mills hurried to the scene when the second alarm was sounded and directed the police in keeping the crowds from overrunning the dead line.

After the fire was extinguished Edwin R. Cox, treasurer of the company and

City Councilman, gave out the following statement:

"One of the connections of the pipeline leading from the high-pressure still to the condenser gave way for some unknown reason and the contents ran out, dropped down on the fire beneath the still and caused an explosion. The loss of life is very, very sad. It was an unpreventable accident. The property loss was not great and the damage to the stills will not reach \$20,000. We are checking up the employees again and will issue a revised death list later in the night. It was a dreadful tragedy, which we regret."

# BAN ON ARBUCKLE FILM

Tioga Theatre Showing Him and Miss Rappe Censored

A motion-picture house in Tioga showing films of Roscoe Arbuckle and another in Tioga showing films of Miss Virginia Rappe have been ordered to discontinue them by Director Cortesio, of the Department of Public Safety, in accordance with orders of the Mayor.

He declined to name the theatres, but said their managers had agreed to abide by his ruling. The house showing films of Arbuckle was asking the audience to show by applause whether his films were desired. The argument advanced in favor of this action by the manager was that a competitor was advertising a picture in which Miss Rappe

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# The Proposed Tariff Means—

The proposed Fordney Tariff Bill provides that you will have to pay more on French Kid Gloves because the import duty will be greatly increased.

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