

OAK LANE, AROUSED BY WATER CHARGES, DEMANDS CITY ACT

Fees Called Exorbitant and Municipal Ownership of Plants Asked

PHILA. ALSO MUST PAY FOR FIRE PROTECTION

Smyth Says Pending Cases Are Barrier to Any Legal Action Now

Oak Lane residents are up in arms at what they term exorbitant water rates charged them by the Springfield Water Company, which supplies them under a franchise granted twenty-eight years ago by the city. The city is prevented from supplying any taxpayer within the area covered by the grant.

Not only is the resentment caused by the expense incurred by the individual householder, but the protests also refer to the excessive rates charged the city for fire-plug connections, as well as water supplied by the private company to fire and police stations, schools and other municipal enterprises.

The general demand is for a complete elimination of the Springfield company from the territory by an early purchase of its existing system, but present indications are that this will not be done immediately, partly due to the litigation now pending between the city and the private water company.

Von Tagen Demands Relief
Counselman von Tagen, one of those discussing the situation today, emphatically voiced the opinion that it is essentially wrong for any private company to supply the needs of city taxpayers, whether in Oak Lane or elsewhere.

"The rates we are paying are exorbitant," Mr. von Tagen said, "and the charge to the city for fire plugs is unparagonable. And worse yet, when it comes to making new fire-plug connections the Springfield Water Company fails to give service when needed. Virtually the same sentiments concerning the situation were expressed by William P. Seigert, president of the Old York Road Improvement Association, who made the charge that the water pressure of the Springfield Water Company had proved insufficient at several fires.

The cost of the water to the private consumer, Mr. Seigert said, was considerably more than double that of the households being supplied with city water. In proof of this he quoted the cost incurred in his own household, which he said amounted to some \$50 a year. For a period of three months at one time he was even charged \$28, as a result of a leak it was explained, whereas if Mr. Seigert's home was supplied with city water the annual cost should average about \$18 to \$20, he said.

Efforts to alleviate these conditions in Oak Lane and other sections of the city depending on water supplied by private companies were started in October of last year, when the following resolution was introduced by Councilman Hill and subsequently passed: "Resolved, by the Council of the City of Philadelphia, that the City Solicitor be and is hereby requested to report to Council the relations and rights of all water companies in the city and county of Philadelphia, their legal status and under what terms, if any, the City of Philadelphia can furnish water to residents in such sections of the city and county of Philadelphia as are now supplied by other than municipal water."

Reported Missing

Harry Sluder, sixteen years old, 1819 South Fourth street, 5 feet 4 inches, 110 pounds, brown eyes and hair, dark complexion, slim build, wearing a green and brown sweater, white shirt with black stripes, long brown trousers, light cap, brown shoes and stockings.

Charles McKee, thirteen years old, 2028 Peltz street, 4 feet 10 inches, ninety-five pounds, blind in left eye, light complexion and hair, wearing plaid mackinaw coat, brown khaki pants, brown shoes, black leggings.

Evelyn Johnson, twenty years old, 6801 Stenton avenue, 5 feet 100 pounds, slim build, light complexion and hair, brown eyes, wearing a long black coat with fur collar, red dress, black shoes and stockings.

Charles Buelo, seventeen years old, 926 Morris street, 5 feet 7 inches, 130 pounds, dark complexion and hair, wearing a brown suit, gray cap.

Wilbur N. Higgins, twenty-two years old, 2006 North Twelfth street, 5 feet 8 inches, 145 pounds, medium build, blue eyes, brown hair, light complexion, wearing a brown suit with red pin stripe, white collar, black tie, brown soft cap.

James A. Sterling, thirteen years, 3211 Atwood road, 5 feet 5 inches, 105 pounds, light complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, wearing a brown sweater, light shirt, tan shoes and black stockings.

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NEW STATEMENT BY "PIG WOMAN"

Mrs. Gibson Aroused by Farmer's Attempt to Becloud First Hall-Mills Story

GRAND JURY RESUMES PROBE

By a Staff Correspondent
Somerville, N. J., Nov. 21.—With the opening of the second session of the Grand Jury investigation of the Mills-Hall murder, Mrs. Jane Gibson, the "pig woman," claimed the limelight again when she promised to issue another "statement."

She has not yet been called by the Grand Jury, and probably will not be called until late in the week. Her assertion was made in reply to the rumor that George Ripel, a farmer of Middleburgh, N. J., had discredited in part her story of having witnessed the murder of the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Reinhardt Mills at the Phillips farm the night of September 14.

"Ripel's entire story is laughable," said Mrs. Gibson, when told that Ripel would "feel compelled by his Christian duty to come to the defense of the woman in gray" if Mrs. Gibson accused her.

Mrs. Gibson continued: "In two or three days I will come out with a statement explaining the entire matter." She did not explain the delay.

Her story, which partly corroborated the story of Mrs. Gibson, may be a witness before the Grand Jury.

The authorities believe it was Ripel's car whose headlights were flashed on the principals on the night of the murder.

Ripel Not Subpoenaed Yet
Ripel has been requested by the authorities to say nothing about the case and he declared today that he was sure if he had been subpoenaed, his name was dragged in through a local newspaper in New Brunswick.

Mrs. Ripel in her communication said that Mrs. Gibson had dragged her husband's name in the case and has given the impression that he could corroborate her story. It was declared by Mrs. Ripel's communication that her husband could shed no light on the murder.

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the woman in gray as a result of the testimony would you not your duty to refute the story of Mrs. Gibson in court? Ripel was asked.

"I would consider it my Christian duty to do so and tell exactly what I saw, nothing more," he answered.

Mrs. Ripel said, among other things when questioned by the investigators, that Mrs. Gibson was endeavoring to get her husband to reconstruct his story so that it would more easily fit in with hers.

Asked if he thought Mrs. Gibson truthful, Ripel said: "I did before the murder, but since that time I have reason to doubt her in many ways."

Discusses Case Freely
Although he has not been officially notified that he will be called as a witness, Ripel answered several questions when interrogated by newspapermen today.

He admitted he saw a light machine or delivery truck on De Hussey's line on the night of the murder as described by Mrs. Gibson, but at the same time he intimated that the "pig woman" was exaggerating the affair.

Several witnesses the Grand Jury wished to hear today could not be found last night by the process servers. At their homes it was explained they were out of town on business.

Today's session began at 10 o'clock. Few persons were about the courthouse. A small group was permitted to enter and climb to the rotunda. From that point of vantage they could look to the first floor, where the Grand Jury room is, and see the witnesses as they entered. They could not see into the room, as the truncheon had been covered with a length of black cloth.

Two Patrolmen Testify
The first witness examined today was Patrolman Curran, who with Patrolman Garrigan was sent to the scene of the murder when the alarm was given. He described the bodies and the spot where they lay and identified clothing and other articles.

Patrolman Garrigan also was called and corroborated his companion's statements.

Mrs. Leo Harkins and her friend, Mrs. Henry Blunt, both of Richardson street, New Brunswick, arrived early to testify that they had seen Mrs. Mills and Mr. Hall the evening of the murder, walking out Easton avenue, a distance of a hundred yards or so between them. Mrs. Harkins was wheeling a baby carriage and her friend and neighbor was walking with her.

John V. Hubbard, coroner of Middlesex County, was called to testify as to the wounds on the bodies as he had observed them. The prosecutor expects to call Mrs. Nellie Russell, colored, who said Mrs. Gibson had been at her farm disputing about a dog at the time of the shooting. Though that statement is contradicted by an entry in Mrs. Gibson's diary, the authorities will let Mrs. Russell tell her story on the stand.

FIREBUG IS AT LARGE IN DELAWARE COUNTY

Haverford Police Ask Residents of Township to Join Hunt
A call to residents of Delaware County townships to join in a hunt for the firebug who has destroyed twenty-four barns in the last two months was issued today by Chief of Police Scanlin, of Haverford Township.

The man, according to Scanlin, is a pyromaniac and is actuated more by a desire to see flames than by revenge on any of those whose properties were destroyed.

Investigation has shown, it is said, that the destroyer travels about in a small automobile. Discovery of automobile tracks, freshly made, shortly after the discovery of the fires has borne out this theory.

Two or three farmers whose barns have been set afire reported they saw a man riding away from the scene at high speed shortly after the fires were discovered.

During the last week there have been as many as four fires in one day.

"HOT DOGS!"
Washington, Nov. 21.—(By A. P.)—High prices for "hot dogs" have hit Germany. The Commerce department has been advised by Consul John A. Scott at Dresden.

"One of the chief topics of the day in Germany," he said, "is the tremendous increase in meat and sausage prices."

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PLANS FOR NURSES' HOME

Mount Sinai Hospital to Have Elaborate Five-Story Building
Directors of Mount Sinai Hospital have accepted a memorial endowment from Mr. and Mrs. Morris Max Shapiro, 1820 North Thirty-third street, in memory of their son, Max Shapiro, Jr., who died in September. This endowment will be used for the erection of a classroom in the new Nurses' Home.

Plans for the home call for a five-story fireproof building, containing in the basement a laundry, locker and storage and dressing rooms. The first floor will contain a large reception room, recreation, class, assembly rooms and library. The upper four floors will be used for the housing of post-graduate nurses. Each nurse will have a general private room and bath, a general reception room and library on each floor.

TESTIMONIAL FOR PASTOR
The Rev. R. S. Forbes Honored Anniversary by Congregation
The Rev. Roger S. Forbes, pastor of the Unitarian Church of Germantown, today received a testimonial of gratitude from his church members and friends on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of his ministry in the church.

The address expressed the indebtedness of the people of his parish for his good works and untiring efforts in their behalf.

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