

Mother Set Free As Jury Acquits Her

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Mrs. Diehl was accused of smothering her infant son. The body of the child, youngest of her four children, was found last November 23 in a suitcase under a cabin rented to Mrs. Diehl, near Hartleton, Union county.

According to her testimony on the witness stand, Mrs. Diehl was born in Marion township, Centre county, January 1, 1897, graduated from the Howard High school and was married on her 21st birthday—January 1, 1928—to Joseph Diehl, of Howard. She has three children, Natalie, 10; Bobby, 9, and Sally, 7. She and her husband were separated in October, 1934, and divorced March 17, 1936. Since their separation she had held various jobs as a domestic and waitress at Bellefonte, Lewisburg and Montandon before starting work at the Laurelton State Village, April 8, 1936, as supervisor of the dining room for officials and attendants.

Tells Story of Birth She started for Jacksonville the afternoon of June 20, after finishing her work at the Village, but became ill and went to the home of her friend, Mrs. Sara Morrison, in Watsonville. There she was put to bed. Dr. Amos V. Persing was summoned and delivered the baby at 12:35 o'clock a. m., Wednesday, June 21. The following Monday, five days later, she borrowed a clothes basket from Mrs. Mary Eisenhower, an acquaintance in Watsonville, put the baby in it, and went to Williamsport in an effort to find a home for the child, Mrs. Eisenhower driving the defendant's car.

After two unsuccessful stops at the Florence Crittenton Home and the Children's Aid Society home there, they returned to Watsonville. Mrs. Eisenhower got out of the car there, taking her clothes basket with her, while Mrs. Diehl again contacted Mrs. Morrison.

Although in a weakened condition due to after-birth complications, including severe hemorrhages, Mrs. Diehl said she announced her intention of going to Lock Haven, where she hoped to get the assistance of a former friend, Mrs. Carl B. Hager, of Lusk Run, either in caring for the child or suggesting some other action.

She and Mrs. Hager had met several days earlier in the month in a Lock Haven store and had renewed their acquaintance begun when they both worked in the laboratory at the Kistler Leather Company. She knew Mrs. Hager had no children.

On leaving Watsonville, and during the subsequent driving, Mrs. Diehl said she had the baby on the back seat of her coach, "a head resting on a small pillow, with a larger pillow protecting its head from the window handle on the side of the car. She always carried these pillows in her car for her daughter, Natalie, since the child is partly paralyzed on one side and they made riding easier, she said.

Stayed Night in Car After frequent stops to rest on the way, she finally arrived at the Hager home, knowing its approximate location, and rapped on the door, but received no response. She then drove away, without any destination in mind, stopped at the Atlantic Service Station at the junction of routes 64 and 120 for a soft drink and ice cream cone, and then continued west on the Bucktail Trail to Hyner.

There she turned around and came east again, turning off on the Green Run road to the right, about half-way between Lock Haven and Renovo.

There she fed the baby, using both the breast and the bottle, changed its diaper, drove down to the Ice Mine cut on the Bucktail Trail to wash the diapers, and back to the Green Run road where she dried the diapers on the engine. Taking the front seat, with the baby on the back seat, she spent the night there. The next morning she cared for the baby in the same manner, going down to the Ice Mine cut and back to the road, and after noon drove again the Hager home. There was again no response. She did not know that both Mrs. Hager and her husband are employed in Lock Haven.

Pillow Fell on Baby She spent another night along the mountain road at the same location, she told the jury, caring for the baby with what little she had, with the intention of making still another attempt the next day, Wednesday, to locate Mrs. Hager. It was while driving east that she chanced to look in her rear view mirror and saw that the pillow protecting the baby's head had fallen over. Quickly drawing to the left side of the road, she got into the back seat and found the baby's body limp. She took it and sat on the running board, shaking it and blowing into its face, crying and screaming hysterically. She sat thus for almost an hour, she said; then decided to dispose of the body herself as she did not wish to bring disgrace upon her family, especially her three other children. So the suitcase which she purchased later that day in Lock Haven became the baby's improvised casket and she then drove to the Benlison farm. She did not shut the case, she said, until a mile east of the farm. There she again took the baby out and tried to revive it. Certain it was dead, she turned the key in the lock and it accidentally broke.

She kept the suitcase under her bed at the Benlison home from that night, Wednesday, June 28, until Sunday evening, July 2, when she reported to the Village at Laurelton for duty. The next day she took the suitcase to the cabin she had rented, with which she wanted to dig a grave, she pushed it under the building after noting a loose board along the foundation.

Tried to Protect Friends She told the jury and court she had said the baby was born along the Green Run road near Lock Haven according to her confession, as she did not want to involve Mrs. Morrison and Mrs. Eisenhower. She gave the attending physician the name of McDowell Benlison, her brother, as the name of the father, since she wanted to spare anyone else from any disgrace.

Band Nets \$250 From Play Here

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production. The thirteen acts of the revue comprising the first half of the program and the minstrel with songs and entertainment which closed the program brought an exceptional amount of favorable comment.

A feature of the entertainment was the appearance on the stage between acts, of the entire uniformed junior band for a ten-minute program of music. The quality of their playing is remarkable considering the comparatively short time the band has been in existence.

In the cast of the revue and the minstrel were many persons familiar to those who have patronized home-talent productions in past years, while many new faces appeared for the first time. Most of them showed outstanding ability.

The production moved swiftly and without hitch from start to finish. "Rollin' Rhythm" was good entertainment, and the patronage accorded it was a testimonial to the fact that residents of Bellefonte and vicinity have lost none of their enthusiasm for or appreciation of home-talent entertainment.

Branch Library Is Now In Use

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used schoolhouse, just outside Snow Shoe bounds. Mrs. Frank's Shope, of Snow Shoe, aided the cause by having two poles installed to carry electric current to the building. A fund of \$33 was subscribed by Snow Shoe residents to defray the cost of wire and other materials, and Jack Shope wired the building free of charge. Shelving was provided and installed by Mr. Viehdorfer, and coal was contributed by Michael Kosko.

As the result of a canvass by mail for books, Mr. Viehdorfer and Mr. Stetler, serving as solicitors, collected a total of 307 books which have been turned over to the County Library for county-wide distribution. The Clarence Parent-Teachers Association has subscribed to five periodicals which will be on permanent file at the Snow Shoe-Clarence branch.

This Saturday night, February 2, the Banjo Band of Clarence, under the direction of Mr. Tarman, will give a concert for the benefit of the new library.

fresh supply before the library could open for its second session.

Father and Son Banquet Planned

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serve a turkey dinner. Tickets will be 50 cents.

Entertainment will be provided by the Hoopler Open Huskers, of radio station WRAK, Williamsport, while group singing will be led by Cecil Walker, with Mrs. Earl K. Siock as pianist. The dinner has become an institution on the calendar of the local "Y" and is open to all men and boys of the community. No man is admitted unless accompanied by at least one boy.

The object of the Father and Son Banquet is to create inspiration and fellowship and to cement the ties of father and son. It is not a money-making event since the entire receipts are expended on the banquet. The committee in charge consists of H. C. Taylor, P. H. Johnson, J. H. Caum, E. E. Widdowson, Horace J. Hartman, George I. Burnell Sr., and L. C. Heineman.

Women Shop for Sick As Worth-While 'Hobby'

Her generous gesture four years ago became an unpaid, full-time job for Mrs. Harold Kinley, 50-year-old mother of four boys, when she offered to shop for patients in the tuberculosis unit of the Ann Arbor, Mich., University hospital.

Now, twice each week, she buys merchandise from downtown stores for 40 patients and some of the staff, while a volunteer helper, Mrs. M. W. Wheeler, 53, mother of two daughters, shops for 50 patients in another ward.

Both women admit they like to shop, even though it interferes with household work. Both agree that men are easier to shop for, because "they know what they want, where to get it, and are better satisfied." But, admitting the women patients have whims about their purchases, they say women are grand, too, in their appreciation.

Important Tourist Tip

Wildlife technicians of the national park service, consulted as to what should be done with regard to the problem of skunks in the vicinity of hotels in Glacier National park, Montana, or other national park areas, contend that it is not the skunks that constitute the problem, if any, but the attitude of the public. "Alay the fears of the visitors regarding these harmless and interesting mammals, advise the wildlife experts. "Educate the people to become better acquainted with skunks—at least on paper—and in time the prejudice that has so long prevented the skunk from enjoying friendly relations with visitors to the country will be overcome."

'Jake Foot' Victims

"Jake foot," the mysterious disease that struck drinkers of Jamaica Lager in the Middle West 40 years ago, still exists. A survey made in Wichita, Kan., where 500 persons were afflicted with or died from the malady, showed that many have recovered, but others have since died from effects of the drink that was a popular substitute here during prohibition. Twenty victims of the disease still live and receive treatment at the "jake farm," established by the county for victims of the malady that caused loss of control of the foot and hand muscles.

Romantic Southern Town

So hauntingly romantic were the builders of Columbus, Miss., that permission to build a railroad through Columbus was refused for years on the grounds that it was unightly, unnecessary, and would bring the menace of undesirable persons. Not until 1861 did the planters cease to ship on the navigable Tombigbee river, and when the railroad was allowed a few die-hards continued to plant their cotton between the rails. Today the beautiful homes of Columbus vie with the old campus of Mississippi State College for Women and the site of the first free public school in the state for interest in the annual garden pilgrimages, which in 1940 is scheduled for April 14 to 16.

Mask Wearing Custom

Each family of Tami in the Huno gulf, New Guinea, has the right to use one or more masks of a type known as tago. Each tago has a special name and is distinguished by certain definite characteristics. The masks represent spirits supposed to visit the village at the time the masked figures appear. The man wearing the mask is completely covered by a sago leaf dress and under no circumstances may he be seen or recognized by any woman, child or uninitiated person. Should this happen by accident the observer is killed. Examples of tago are on exhibition in Joseph N. Field hall at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

Yesterday's Strange Baths

In the days before good soaps were manufactured many strange preparations were used by beauty seekers in the hopes of improving the complexion. Baths filled with milk and the juices of strange herbs were not unusual.

According to legend, some fastidious Roman gentlemen used to anoint themselves with crushed strawberries while the yolks of 100 eggs went into the bath tub of an early English seahete. Now, good soaps do the job, and the beauty doctors recommend soap-and-water cleanliness.

CHURCHES

Beechburg Lutheran Sunday school, 9:30; worship, 10:30; C. E., 6:30. Shiloh—Sunday school, 9:30; Vespers and sermon, 7:30. Lenten service, 7:30, Tuesday, February 6. Public invited. Pleasant Gap—Sunday school, 9:30; worship, February 11 at 10:30, Thursday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p. m., Union Lenten services in Methodist church. Public invited.

United Brethren, Bellefonte G. E. Householder, pastor. Sunday school at 9:30 a. m., John R. Shope, Supt. Preaching at 10:45 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. by the pastor. Christian Endeavor at 6:30 p. m. Groups for all ages. Prayer and Bible study Wednesday evening at 7:30. Choir rehearsal Friday evening; Junior choir at 7:30; Senior choir at 8 o'clock. Special musical program at the Sunday evening services. The Male chorus will sing at this service. Everybody is invited to attend all the services.

Rebersburg Evangelical Rev. Royal A. Babcock, pastor. Sunday school at 9 a. m. Observance of Missionary Day of Prayer. Sermon theme: "The Harvest is White Follow Thou Me." Prayer meeting on Wednesday evening in annex. Paraded worship with sermon by the pastor at 10:45. Subject, "The Uplifting Hand of Christ." Epworth League at 6:30 p. m. Evening worship and sermon at 7:30. Subject, "The Indwelling Spirit of Christ." Tuesday evening the Ladies' Volunteer Bible class will meet. Junior and Junior Hi Epworth Leagues Wednesday evening at 6:30. Meeting of the Official Board, the Corporation, and the ladies of the three societies of the church at 7:45.

Methodist, Bellefonte II. Willis Hartsock, pastor. Church school with World Service offering at 9:30 a. m., C. C. Shney, Supt. Morning worship with sermon by the pastor at 10:45. Subject, "The Uplifting Hand of Christ." Epworth League at 6:30 p. m. Evening worship and sermon at 7:30. Subject, "The Indwelling Spirit of Christ." Tuesday evening the Ladies' Volunteer Bible class will meet. Junior and Junior Hi Epworth Leagues Wednesday evening at 6:30. Meeting of the Official Board, the Corporation, and the ladies of the three societies of the church at 7:45.

St. John's Episcopal, Bellefonte The Rev. C. Warren Newman, rector. Friday (Purification), 7:15. Matins; 7:30, 9:00, Holy Eucharist. Sunday (Quinquagesima), 7:45; Matins; 8:00, Holy Eucharist; 9:45, Church school; 11:00, Sung Eucharist, sermon; 4:00, evening prayer. Ash Wednesday; 6:45, Matins; 7:30, 9:00, Holy Eucharist; 11:00, Litany. Penitential Office; 5:00, evening prayer. Thursday, 7:30 p. m. Vespers, Litany. Sermon by the Rev. Oris Taber, rector of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, New York City.

First Evangelical, Bellefonte H. Halbert Jacobs, pastor, 9:30 a. m. Sunday Church school, Mrs. E. J. Treman, Gen. Supt. 10:30 a. m., Day of Prayer for Missions will be observed with the Women's Missionary Society in charge of the service. The pastor will preach on the suggested theme: "The Harvest is White—Follow Thou Me." 6:30 p. m., Young People's League. Miss Veda Hoy, leader. 7:30 p. m., The Young People's Missionary Circle will have charge of the service. Miss Rose Eckhardt, 1100, Litany. Special music and address by the Young People. Prayer meeting on Wednesday evening at 7:30. The Official Board will meet following this service. You are welcome to worship with us.

Rescue Exhausted Deer

A half starved doe was discovered Sunday in a state of exhaustion on the ice of frozen Penns Creek, near Weikert. Unable to rise from the glass-like surface on which it had fallen, while attempting to go across the water to get some food.

August Korten and James Tate, the caretakers of the Witmer, Johnson and McConnell preserves, made the discovery, carried the doe to shore and fed it.

All Abroad Harry Griffin, of St. Joseph, Mo.,

may take a train ride from Muscotah, Kansas, to Atchison, Kas., if a ticket he found in his late uncle's papers is still good. The ticket dated Sept. 12th, 1884, has no time limit. He's sending it to the Missouri Pacific Railroad office at St. Louis, to find out whether it's valid.

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