

24-YEAR-OLD MT. EAGLE GIRL SLAIN EARLY SUNDAY MORNING

(Continued from Page 1) her sister a short time earlier. Unnerved, Wallace did not stop at the scene but put on a burst of speed to a nearby farmhouse where he sounded his horn in an effort to arouse its occupants. Falling in that he sped on to Milesburg where he notified Centre county Sheriff Edward R. Miller. Miller in turn notified Coroner Charles Sheekler, of Milesburg, and State Police at Rockview barracks, and accompanied by his deputy James Hugg, departed for the scene, stopping in Milesburg for Wallace who acted as a guide.



RICHARD WALLACE First to Discover Dead Girl

A short time after the Sheriff's arrival Coroner Sheekler reached the scene and Harold D. Ream and Andrew Royko, of Rockview barracks, arrived and assisted in erecting barriers to prevent persons on foot or in automobiles from passing along the section of the road.

The girl's body was found face up on a grassy plot just off the road. Her clothing was disarranged and torn. A piece of her underclothing had been jammed into her mouth to serve as a gag. Caught in one of the closed doors of the sedan was a part of her clothing which apparently had snagged on the door as she was dragged from the car. All doors, with the exception of the right front one, were locked from the inside, police found.

In the back seat of the car were the victim's glasses and some underclothing, and there were evidences that a struggle had taken place in the machine. There were no bloodstains in the car, police reported.

Within five hours after Wallace first passed the scene Col. Lynn G.



MAUDE RAGER (left) AND RUTH ROBINSON Last Companions of Faye Gates

Adams, head of the State Police, Lt. Norman Amlich, and other State Police officials from Harrisburg, accompanied by a squad of fingerprint experts, photographers and police surgeons arrived at the site and combed the car and its surroundings for every possible clue. All spectators and others not in an official position were barred from the area. Traffic along the detour was kept at a standstill until officers completed their investigation about 10 a. m., when the blanket-covered body was removed to the Neff Funeral Home at Howard.

Miss Gates, former student of the Bellefonte and Howard High schools and an employe of the Federal Match Company in Bellefonte, was widely known throughout the central part of the county. She had driven the family car to Bellefonte early Saturday night and spent the evening here with friends. She and Miss Anna Eckel, of Reynolds avenue, Bellefonte, are reported to have left the Pe-Ro Dairy store on West High street shortly after midnight, the two girls being in Miss Gates' car. A few moments later the car, with its two occupants, was seen to turn around at the railroad crossing at the foot of High street, continuing up the hill toward the Dairy store, where Miss Eckel had parked her car.

A short time later Miss Gates and two friends, Miss Ruth Robinson, aged 18, and Miss Maude Rager, aged 17, both students at Howard High school, left Bellefonte to go to their homes in the Mt. Eagle area. On the way to Howard, from Milesburg to the beginning of the detour, Miss Rager and Miss Robinson told police, their car was followed by a tan Plymouth sedan, about a 1939 model, which tooted its horn at intervals on the trip.

Arriving at the detour, Miss Gates passed the barrier across route 220 and continued along the highway several hundred yards to the home of Miss Rager, where the two girls spent the night, Miss Robinson having told her parents that she might spend the night with her friend.

After dropping her two friends, Miss Gates turned her car around, drove back to the detour entrance and continued on her way toward home. It is not definitely known whether the tan sedan had continued up the detour ahead of the Gates car, or whether it waited at the barrier until she started along the rural road, but most authorities believe the tan car was ahead of the Gates machine on the detour.

Miss Gates apparently proceeded to a point on the brow of a hill overlooking "Spook Hollow" when she was either forced off the road, brought to a halt by a car in front, or stopped by some ruse.

There was no definite indications that a second car had stopped or maneuvered in an unusual manner in the area, leading police to surmise the slayer may have parked his car somewhere in the vicinity and was afoot at the time Miss Gates was halted.

A puzzling angle of the investigation cropped up when police tried to determine why Miss Gates' car was headed toward Milesburg when found. Deep tire tracks in the road indicated beyond doubt that the car

had been turned around at the murder scene, and belief that the turning was done by the slayer resulted from the fact that when the machine was turned one of the wheels passed over the girl's foot.

The ignition key of the machine was in the switch and there was nothing, apparently, to have prevented the murderer from making a getaway in the Gates car had he so desired.

Miss Gates evidently had made no engagements for the evening, for a friend reported that he had invited her to accompany a group of young people to Lewistown, and that the girl declined, explaining that she did not want to be out late.

The parents of the slain girl did not learn of the tragedy until about 9 o'clock Sunday morning, and with the exception of police and newspapermen, few persons visited the lonely scene before about 10 o'clock. From then on the narrow road was lined with strings of cars passing in both directions, while many persons on foot visited the site. Early Sunday afternoon cars became jammed on the narrow road and traffic was at a standstill for some time until the traffic jam was untangled.

Early evidence in the case was furnished by Russell and Roger Yorks, 18-year-old twin brothers, of Milesburg, who told police they saw Miss Gates in the Pe-Ro store and later saw the car turning at the railroad station. The Yorks boys had known the victim over a period of years. Russell is an employe of the Pe-Ro store while Roger is employed at the City Bakery.

Mrs. Nancy Leathers, step-grandmother of the slain girl, who lives about 200 yards from the spot where the body was found told police she noticed two cars speeding past her home about 1:30 o'clock. One car then pulled off the road and the car in the lead also pulled to a stop as if to help. Shortly afterwards, Mrs. Leathers said, one of the cars turned around. She continued that she turned on a light and as she did so one of the machines started up and raced away as though the light had frightened the driver away.

Autopsy Held Sunday The autopsy was performed at the Neff Funeral Home at Howard early Sunday afternoon by Dr. W. J. Schwartz, of Bellefonte, acting physician at Rockview Penitentiary, and Dr. Joseph A. Parrish, of Bellefonte, as the autopsy surgeons. Dr. Johnson, chief medical examiner for the State Police at Harrisburg, and his assistant also were present.

The autopsy revealed three large lacerations in back of the right ear. Those injuries were described not as clean cuts, but rather a combination of bruises and cuts. In the middle of the forehead was a large bruise with a small puncture wound in the center. There was a contusion of the right cheek, and the bone beneath was fractured. A small cut was found on the upper right eyelid and the floor of the right side of the skull was fractured. The only other marks on the body were a small bruise on one leg and mud stains on both ankles where the car had apparently passed over them.

Inquest is Routine The inquest held at the Neff Fu-

neral home Monday afternoon was a routine proceeding. Coroner Sheekler explaining that the sole purpose was to establish the cause of death as nearly as possible.

Fifteen minutes were required to hear the testimony of the three witnesses, and another 15 minutes were consumed while the jury viewed the body.

The verdict returned by the six men: Frank Wallace, Kline Wolf, Jack Gray, Jack Sutton, Merrill Fletcher and Clyde Z. Zong, all of Howard, was that Miss Gates died as the result of multiple fractures of the skull inflicted by some blunt instrument in the hands of a person or persons unknown.

Witnesses at the inquest were Richard Wallace, who discovered the tragedy; Sheriff Edward Miller, the first official to reach the scene, and Dr. W. J. Schwartz, one of the autopsy surgeons.

Wallace, after relating the same story told to police Sunday morning, added that after he had passed the scene of the crime he saw a boy, 12 or 13 years old, walking along the road. Wallace said he didn't know the youth.

Sheriff Miller said he arrived at the scene about 2:50 a. m., and that his superficial examination of the body revealed three or four pools of blood about the head. He said he gave orders to keep everyone away from the scene and send aides back to Milesburg to call the Coroner. Dr. Schwartz described the findings of the autopsy.

Faye Gates was born at Mt. Eagle on June 12, a daughter of William and Ethel Leathers Gates, who survive. Other survivors include five sisters and a brother, namely: Mrs. George Schneider, of York; Mrs. Fred Graffius, of Mt. Eagle; and Lois, Betty, Patricia and Robert Gates, all at home.

Miss Gates was a member of the Kennedy Methodist church.

Funeral services were held at the Kennedy church at 1:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, with the Rev. L. E. Kline, pastor of the Howard Evangelical church officiating. He was assisted by the Rev. Wallace J. Cummings, pastor of the Kennedy Methodist church. Interment was made in the Curtin cemetery.

"Spook Hollow" Legend

The lonely knoll on which Sunday morning's crime was committed overlooks an equally lonely valley known locally as "Spook Hollow" which derived its ghastly name from a legend said to have originated some 200 years ago.

An early settler of the Mt. Eagle region is said to have returned home late one night in a state of terror so great that he was unable to speak for days.

Holdup Nets \$465.91

In a bold holdup a pair of armed robbers forced two employes of the Arnie Market, at Sunbury, about to leave the establishment, backing into the store and at the point of guns, compelled Edward Looker, manager, to hand over \$465.91, cash contents of a money bag.

Prowler Stirs Bellefonte Area

(Continued from page one)

on an East Curtin street home, and entered an East Lamb street residence during the absence of its occupants.

First indications of the man's activities came several weeks ago when, according to reports, while Miss Ellen Hassinger was reading about 1:30 a. m. in the living room of the family home on East Curtin street, the lights in the house went out.

Frightened, Miss Hassinger went upstairs and peered out a rear window to see whether anyone might have pulled the main power switch on the back porch. As she did so, she saw a young man walk quickly around the house and continue down Curtin street.

One night last week while the girl again was reading in the living room, the same thing happened. Miss Hassinger ran upstairs and again saw the young man leave the premises. The following morning when Miss Hassinger related her experiences to a neighbor, Mrs. Wilbur Baney, Mrs. Baney recalled that at the same time she had been unable to sleep and had been sitting by an open front window when a man walked quickly down the street. Mrs. Baney particularly noticed the man because she could hear no footsteps, even though the window was open.

It is believed by some persons that the man pulled the light switch in the living room, and apparently entered the house, although nothing was disturbed, according to reports.

Borough police officer Donald Johnson and Ralph Eyer, summoned about 15 minutes after the person is believed to have left the house, found the front door ajar several inches, and saw unmistakable evidences about the door jamb that the door had been pried open with what appeared to be a screw driver.

Further evidences of prowling activities on the part of some person was revealed when Mrs. Charles Coble, of Penn street, reported that a man was seen loitering in that neighborhood Saturday night.

All descriptions of the man available are to the effect that he apparently is in his early twenties, dresses in dark clothing, is tall and slim in stature, and wears sneakers or rubber-soled shoes which make no sound.

Residents who notice any suspicious activities on the part of anyone are urged to call Borough police immediately. Calls are to be left at the Diamond Restaurant, Phone 9385.

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SCENE OF CRIME ON LONELY ROAD (Arrow points to where body was found at rear of her car)

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