

MANY ATTACKS STILL UNSOLVED

Houck Arrest 'Clears' Only 8 of Series; Confesses 6 in Centre Co.

Local Orchestra Leader Arrested by Lock Haven Police

MOTIVE FOR CRIMES REMAINS OBSCURE

Waives Hearing on Charges Brought in Clinton County

Acting with dramatic effectiveness, Lock Haven police last Thursday night apprehended Hoy Kenneth Houck, 31, well known Bellefonte orchestra leader and electrician, within two minutes after he had bludgeoned a Lock Haven girl near the State Teachers' College campus.

Bellefonte residents, stunned by news of Houck's arrest were further astounded when police reported the following day that he had confessed to six of Centre county's 14 unsolved attacks on women and girls, and two of Clinton county's four attacks.

Houck, confined without bail in the Clinton county jail on four charges resulting from the two attacks in Lock Haven, was still much of a puzzle to police last night.

They seemingly had no satisfactory explanation for his actions. Even Houck couldn't explain why at intervals since last December, he has approached girls on streets at night, struck them from behind with his fist or some implement, and then fled.

Police apparently had no explanation for the remaining eight unsolved incidents of a similar nature still on the dockets in the county and which Houck is said to have denied. Questioning of the prisoner with the lie detector is said to have indicated that the musician told the truth when he confessed to only six of the local attacks.

Another puzzle confronting police results from Houck's confession that he attacked Miss Grace Schenck at (Continued on Page Seven)

School Building Delay Threatens

Board to Act to Obtain Structural Steel; Tuiton Rates Cut

A possibility that a delegation from Bellefonte may be sent to Washington to attempt to secure priority on deliveries of structural steel for the new Bellefonte High School building was expressed at a regular meeting of the School Board here Monday night after it was reported that unless some action is taken deliveries of steel may be delayed indefinitely.

R. C. Blaney, chairman of the building committee, declared that construction on the new building will come to a halt soon unless steel is available. Re-enforcing steel has been shipped and is expected to arrive here daily, he said, but with the structural steel, such as girders, joists and beams, there is no promise of delivery.

The committee reported that the (Continued on Page Six)

STILL UNSOLVED!

Below appears a tabulation of attacks on women which remain unsolved after the ones to which Hoy Houck has confessed have been removed.

In the case of the attack on Miss Betty Schenck at Howard, April 19, to which Houck has confessed, it was pretty well established that two men were involved. One drove the car while the other attacked the girl as she walked toward her home.

Here's the list of unsolved attacks, listed from the files of the Centre Democrat:

March 28, 1940: Miss Rachael Taylor, Penn State co-ed, attacked and murdered somewhere in State College-Lemont area.

December 10, 1940: Mrs. Harry Miller, 70, of South Spring street, Bellefonte, attacked on East Howard street. Handbag taken.

December 13, 1940: Miss Sarah Cunningham, attacked near her home on Halfmoon Hill. Purse taken.

December 26, 1940: (Same night as attack on Mary Elizabeth Sloop) Second floor apartment of Miss Agnes Segrish, East Bishop street, entered about 7 p. m. Screams frightened intruder away.

December 28, 1940: Miss Sarah Esther Rhoades, 15, attacked about 11 p. m. while walking near her home at Coleville. Purse taken.

February 22: Mrs. Ira Sprankle, accosted by two men on Stony Battery, Bellefonte. Screams frightened men.

February 25: Mrs. Ellen Hassinger, East Curtin street, attacked about 10:45 p. m. on East Curtin street.

March 29: Mrs. Robert Waite, State College, attacked in State College about 9 p. m.

August 18: Miss Arlene Lyons, 16, Lyontown, attacked about 9 p. m. near County Home, Bellefonte.

August 25: Miss Elaine Brungart, 22, Millheim, attacked about 9:45 p. m. near her home in Millheim.

In addition there are at least two unsolved attacks in Lock Haven. They are:

June 15: Miss Dorothy Orner, 26, of 200 Bellefonte avenue.

June 23: Miss Dorothy Peters, 15, Lock Haven, attacked about 10:45 p. m., just off Main street, that city.

Admits Part in Series of Assaults



HOY KENNETH HOUCK

Criminal Court Barnhart Files Session Ended Damage Suit

Man Charged With Rape Found Guilty on Lesser Count; Bell Convicted

Despite strong feeling throughout the county resulting from last year's two sex murders and the many attacks on women during the past nine months, a Centre county jury sitting in the case of James K. Krause, of Osceola Mills, who was charged with rape, yesterday returned a verdict holding Krause guilty only of fornication.

The regular September Criminal Court concluded yesterday, despite the fact that a recess was observed Tuesday because of election. Of the six cases scheduled for trial at the session which opened Monday, three were tried before juries; one defendant pleaded guilty and two other defendants failed to appear.

Alex Bell, Glasport WPA worker, was found guilty of shooting and wounding a human in mistake for game. Bell was sentenced to serve a year in the county jail and was ordered to pay \$200 to the victim, as well as the costs of prosecution.

William Martin, of Long Island, N. Y., charged with robbery with an accomplice, was tried by a jury yesterday and was found not guilty. Theodore Flick, of Powelton, entered a plea of guilty to a charge of sodomy and was sentenced to pay the costs and serve from 2 to 4 years in the Western State Penitentiary.

Russell L. Campbell, of State Col- (Continued on Page Two)

Legion Band Ready for Trip To Milwaukee

Will Compete for National Championship; Travel in Special Train

90 MEMBERS, AIDES TO TAKE JOURNEY

Physician, Nurse, Chaperones to Accompany State Champions

The Bellefonte American Legion Junior Band, twice State champions of Pennsylvania, will compete for national honors at the American Legion national convention to be held in Milwaukee, Wis., next week.

The band group, expected to consist of between 85 and 90 persons, will leave here at 4 o'clock Sunday morning, September 14, in air-conditioned coaches, for Chicago. The coaches and the baggage cars, which will carry band equipment and luggage, will form a special train as far as Altoona where the cars will be attached to regular trains.

In Chicago the band will transfer to Pullman sleepers in which band members will live until their return next Wednesday. In Milwaukee the cars will be placed two blocks from the railroad station and five blocks from the National Legion headquarters. Samuel D. Rhine-smith, general chairman of the band committee, is in charge of arrangements and will accompany the band on the trip.

The national band competition will be held on Monday and final results are to be made known Monday night. The competition will be held in Blatz Temple of Music, Wisconsin, and the Bellefonte band is scheduled to appear Monday morning.

The band will play a march, "Brooks-Doll's Own," written by director Olin Butt, as a "warm up" selection. Competition numbers will be "Finlandia," by Sibelius, and "First Norwegian Rhapsody." Although 67 band members will make (Continued on Page Six)

Democrats to Meet Saturday

David Lawrence, Other Notables to Speak at 4-County Conference

David Lawrence, one of Pennsylvania's foremost Democrats, and Ross Wagner, State Treasurer, are among the speakers scheduled to address a joint session of the Regional Conference of the Federated Democratic Women's Clubs, it was announced yesterday by Mrs. E. M. Grove, of State College, regional director.

The conference will be held at the Court House, Bellefonte, on Saturday, September 13, with sessions morning, afternoon, and evening. The region includes Elk, Clearfield, Centre and Jefferson counties, and a large attendance is expected.

Other guest speakers who have arranged to be present include Mrs. Emma Guffey Miller, sister of U. S. Senator Joseph E. Guffey; Mrs. Floyd Cook, head of the Young Democratic organizations in Mifflin; and Fritchman, William J. (Continued on Page Eight)

McClure Named Head of I.O.O.F.

Lodge Sees Movies of Firemen's Parade; Marching Club Being Developed

Lawrence McClure of Bellefonte, was chosen to succeed Dr. Nevin C. Jodon as chief patriarch of the Bellefonte Encampment I. O. O. F. at a meeting held in the lodge hall on West High street, Monday night.

Other officers elected for the six-month term are: Dr. Jodon, high priest; Martin Arbery, senior warden; Frederick Smith, junior warden; Charles Musser, financial scribe; Charles Schaeffer, treasurer, and H. E. Garbrick, trustee.

Dr. Jodon, an amateur camera fan, presented several reels of color motion pictures of the recent firemen's parade in Bellefonte.

A special drill in charge of Captain Martin Arbery, was held in preparation for the district inspection to be held in the near future. The organization is progressing in its development of a marching unit which will appear in events in Centre and nearby counties. Indications are that the marching club will make its initial appearance in the near future.

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Studies for Ministry



MISS MARY RICHARDS Miss Richards, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Richards, of Julian, and a graduate of the Bellefonte High School last June, will go to Allentown September 16 to enter the Allentown Bible Institute to study for the ministry.

Jailed for Hunting Without License

Andy Soltis, of Clarence, was committed to the Centre County Jail here Friday, after a hearing before Justice of the Peace Harold D. Cowher, East Bishop street, Bellefonte, on a charge of hunting without a license.

Soltis was arrested last Thursday by Game Warden Thomas Mosier of Bellefonte. At the hearing he pleaded guilty to the charge and in default of a fine of \$20 and the costs of prosecution was lodged in the county jail.

Large Apple Crop At White Orchard

Harvesting of the 1941 apple crop at the Lloyd F. White orchard along the road between Pleasant Gap and Zion is now under way and it is estimated that the crop will total more than 800 bushels.

Although the 1941 crop is not an unusually large one, the quality is exceptionally high, according to reports from the White orchards, which are conducted by Mr. White's son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Neill.

Baldwins, Rome Beauties, Smoke-houses, Bananas, Delicious and Northern Spies are now ripening and are being picked, while the winter varieties will not ripen for about a month. Early apples were picked about the middle of August. The heavily laden trees at the White orchard present a colorful sight as the fruit begins to assume the tint of ripeness. Branches are bent toward the ground with the heavy burden they support. Mr. White disposes of practically all of his annual apple crop locally.

Opening of College Postponed One Week

Because of a prevalence of infantile paralysis cases in various sections of the state, Penn State has postponed its 1941-42 opening one week, President Ralph D. Hetzel announced.

The decision which affects more than 7,000 students was reached last Thursday morning after a conference between Dr. Hetzel and other College officials.

Freshman week will begin on Thursday, September 18, and the registration of upperclassmen on Monday, September 22. Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 24.

College officials pointed out that their action was not prompted by the two cases of infantile paralysis existing in State College.

State College Girl Injured In Fall

Henrietta Alderfer, 9, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Harold F. Alderfer, of North Holmes street, State College, suffered a broken collarbone and a slight fracture of the skull, Monday, when she fell from a cherry tree in the yard of her home.

She is reported to be resting comfortably at her home after receiving medical treatment.

Festival at Howard The Howard High School Athletic Association will hold a festival on Saturday, September 13 for the benefit of the football team. The Centre Hall-Potter Township High School Band will furnish music. In case of rain the festival will be held on Monday, September 15.

Fractures Arm in Fall Richard Brouse, aged 10, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Brouse, of Tusseyville, underwent treatment at the Centre County Hospital dispensary, Sunday, for a fracture of the left arm received in a fall.

Prisoner At Rockview Is Electrocutted

Touches High Voltage Wire While Repairing Telephone System

HAD SERVED MOST OF 14-YEAR TERM

Catholic Funeral Accorded Victim Through Efforts of Prison Head

A Catholic burial, with a mass at St. John's Catholic church, Bellefonte, was accorded here yesterday morning to Thomas Ruffner, 41, Rockview Penitentiary inmate, who was accidentally killed late Monday morning when he came in contact with a high voltage power line while working on the prison grounds.

Inmates were engaged in repairing the prison telephone system and Ruffner was working on a pole at the rear of the Harrison Johnson home when he is believed to have touched a power line on the same pole.

One of his fellow workmen discovered the tragedy after Ruffner failed to pull up a wire they were stringing when he was given the usual signal.

The man, who is reported to have died instantly, was found hanging from the pole by his safety belt. An inmate working with the repair crew climbed the pole and brought the unconscious man to the ground. He was immediately rushed to the prison hospital in a truck which passed the scene just after the accident was discovered.

Prison officials said Ruffner, a resident of Indiana county, was one of the most trustworthy inmates at the institution and that he had served 12 years of a 14-year sentence. He had become an expert electrician during the time he was at Rockview.

Although the body was not claimed, Dr. John W. Claudy, superintendent of the prison, made arrangements for Ruffner's burial off the prison grounds. The Requiem Mass yesterday morning was in charge of Magr. W. E. Downes, and interment was made in St. John's Catholic cemetery, Bellefonte.

Coleville Man Struck by Car

Hurled about 20 feet when he was struck by a car on the Diamond in front of the Bellefonte Trust Company about 10:30 o'clock Saturday night, Clarence Young, 29, of Coleville, escaped with minor injuries.

Young was walking across Allegheny street from the Trust Company toward the Brockerhoff Hotel when he was struck by a machine driven by John E. Bechtel, Jr., of Lyries' Addition, State College. The car was traveling south on Allegheny street.

Bechtel stopped immediately and rushed the unconscious man to the Centre County Hospital dispensary. He quickly regained consciousness and was discharged after receiving treatment for a small laceration at the back of the head, a small laceration of the right elbow, and a sprain and abrasion of the right wrist.

Borough Police Chief Harry Dukeman and Officer Donald Johnson investigated the accident.

Injured by Corn Binder

Fred Esterline, of Millheim, who suffered injuries of the right elbow Saturday, on Sunday received treatment at the Centre County Hospital. Esterline was injured in a corn binder, it was reported.

NOMINATED



WILLIAM W. LITKE Democratic Candidate For District Attorney

Parties Nominate In Listless Primary

Mallard Ducks Added Attraction At Falls Here

Only One Fourth of County's Registered Voters Cast Ballots

HUSTON DRYS WIN IN REFERENDUM

Geiss and Brown Named Standard Bearers in Tax Collector Tilt

Tuesday was primary election day for about one-fourth of Centre County's registered voters.

The election was characterized by one of the lightest votes in the county's recent history, presumably because of two factors, the weather was ideal for outdoor work, and the absence of contests in many offices caused a general lack of interest in the election.

Approximately only 2369 of the county's 10,292 registered Democrats cast ballots Tuesday, while only about 3709 of the 13,268 registered Republicans went to the polls.

In the countywide vote, William W. Litke, unopposed Democratic candidate for District Attorney, received a complimentary vote of 2355. The Republican incumbent, Musser W. Gettig, unopposed candidate for re-election, received a vote of 3539.

For Jury Commissioner John W. Condo, Democrat, unopposed, received a total of 2297 votes, while Fred B. Healy, Republican, also unopposed, had 3376 votes. Since two jury commissioners are to be elected in November, the nominations of Condo and Healy are tantamount to election.

Former Centre County Judge Arthur C. Dale, of Bellefonte, polled a fine Centre county vote for nomination as Republican candidate for Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Dale's vote was 2791 while his opponent, Charles E. Kenworthy of Ardmore, had 918 votes.

Other county totals for statewide offices were: for Judge of the Supreme Court, Democrats, Samuel E. Shull, Stroudsburg, 1965, and W. Russell Carr, Uniontown, 971; Republicans, Earl V. Compton, Harrisburg, 1910, and William M. Parrier, Oil City, 1391. The count for Republican candidates for Judge of the Superior Court was: Democrats, Michael Musmanno, McKees Rocks, 1237, and Paul W. Mahady, Latrobe, 895.

In the three-way contest for the Democratic nomination for tax collector, Bellefonte, D. Wagoner Geiss, named over Mrs. B. O. Harvey by a margin of 7 votes. The voting by wards was:

Table with 4 columns: Ward, Geiss, Harvey, C. P. M. Smith

George M. "Scal" Brown won out over a field of nine candidates for (Continued on Page Four)

Baby Injured In Fall From Porch

Esker Watkins, seven-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond O. Watkins, of Highland Alley, State College, is undergoing treatment at the Centre County Hospital for injuries received Saturday afternoon when he fell from a second-floor porch of his parents' home.

The child, suffering severe head injuries, yesterday was reported to be in "fair" condition at the hospital.

The baby had been placed in a basket on the porch and his mother visited the porch at frequent intervals to watch him. It is believed that the fall resulted from the infant's first attempts to stand.

The basket apparently tipped and the tot fell over or through the porch railing to the ground below, near a pile of bricks.

The youngster was rushed to the hospital in the car of Allen Schilling, of West Beaver avenue.

Injured by Tractor

Harmon Bird, farmer residing near Reepsburg, was injured Monday afternoon when he caught his right leg in the cogs of a tractor. He was treated at the Centre County Hospital for three puncture wounds of the leg below the knee. After receiving treatment he was permitted to return home.

Council Favors Aaronson's Boy Killed By Car

Struck by a car in front of his home about 4:30 o'clock last Wednesday afternoon, Robert Homan, aged 5, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Homan, of Aaronson, died at 3:45 o'clock Friday morning at the Centre County Hospital.

The boy suffered a fractured skull, lacerations and bruise burns when he ran in front of the car which was driven by Edward H. Horton, of 621 E. Walton avenue, Altoona, according to motor police who investigated the accident.

Centre County Coroner Charles Shecker, of Millersburg, who investigated the accident, said a formal inquest would not be necessary.

The child was playing with a group of children near his parents' home when he crossed the road in the path of the Altoona man's car. Mr. Horton stopped immediately and brought him to the hospital.

Robert Homan was a son of Mrs. and Marion Winkleblich Homan and was born near Aaronson on April 10, 1936. He is survived by his parents and the following brothers and sisters: Carl, Alice, Bruce, Leonard, Donald, Dean, Shirley and Wayne, all at home. Also surviving are his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Al Winkleblich, of Lewisburg, and Mrs. George Homan, of Aaronson. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the parental home, followed by services in the Aaronson Lutheran church, with the Rev. O. E. Freeman officiating. Burial was made in the Aaronson cemetery.

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