

HOUCK FOUND GUILTY IN TEICHERT ATTACK

(Continued from page one)

last week, was unable to serve because of illness.

When the first trial opened Monday there were less than 200 persons, including jurors, in the court room. At various times since then the crowd has sometimes reached close to the 400 mark.

Schenck trial yesterday was featured by expert testimony given by Mrs. Pauline Berry Mack and Dr. J. F. Osterling of the Textile Chemistry department at Penn State. They testified as to fibers found in scrapings taken from Miss Schenck's fingernails after the attack, fibers on Houck's sweater and on Miss Schenck's sweater.

MC HERT TESTIMONY

The Commonwealth, through Centre County District Attorney Musser W. Gettig, based its case on two principal factors: Houck's confession to the Teichert attack and a blood-stained handkerchief found on the driveway of the Teichert home a few moments after the attack.

An expert witness testified that the hair matched in every microscopic detail sample hairs obtained from Houck's nose.

William W. Litke, court-appointed defense counsel, contended that Houck was innocent of the crime. He declared that Houck's alleged confession was made after many hours of questioning when the defendant was so fatigued mentally that he was willing to admit anything to obtain rest.

Litke contended that a great injustice might be done if Houck were to be convicted on evidence no more substantial than the microscopic arrangement of scales and cells in a single nasal hair.

Houck's Confession Read
Houck's confession to the attack, admitted in evidence, was a high light of a case which contained few incidents out of the ordinary. The confession was made in the Clinton county jail, Lock Haven, on September 6, 1941, after Houck's arrest for an attack on Ruth Andrews in Lock Haven.

District Attorney Gettig read to the jury all parts of the confession relating to the Teichert attack, contending that facts and statements given in the confession indicated that Houck had a detailed knowledge of the crime that only a guilty person could have.

The substance of the confession was as follows:
On the night of June 16, 1941, Houck, who had been working in his electrical shop on St. Paul street, Bellefonte, went for a drive. He was wearing dark trousers, a shirt and a two-tone sweater. Arriving in State College he saw Mrs. Teichert walking alone, and he parked his car and followed her.

The confession continued with a statement that he saw Mrs. Teichert begin wheeling a tricycle which had been left in the driveway of her home. He approached her, struck her from behind with a hammer and was surprised when she didn't scream. When he saw blood on his victim's face, he got out his handkerchief and wiped the blood away, dragging the unconscious woman over a terrace at the rear of the garage.

Returning to the driveway, the confession went on, Houck picked up the hammer which he had dropped there, ran for about a block toward his car, then walked the remainder of the distance.

According to the confession, Houck didn't know why he committed the attack. He said girls walking alone at night "seemed to stand out." He denied that he ever went out purposely looking for victims, but that when he saw a girl alone he seemed to think "There is a girl. I will follow her," the confession set forth.

The first time that such a feeling came over him, the statement went on, was the night of the attack on Mrs. W. E. Crossley, of Bellefonte.

His conscience never bothered him until in the Teichert attack, when he saw blood on his victim's face. He never felt remorse until immediately after the attack on Ruth

Andrews, in Lock Haven, when "he realized what he'd done," the confession read. When he read of the Teichert case in newspapers, he didn't feel as though he had committed the crime.

When questioners during the confession asked whether he thought he would have felt remorse if he had murdered one of his victims, Houck replied, according to the confession: "I should have, but don't know whether I would have felt remorse." He denied that he ever had a desire to kill.

The confession ended with a statement that one night in State College Houck passed a man in a car who he believed was stalking girls just as Houck was. He passed the car several times that night, Houck's confession alleged.

Litke Doubts Evidence

In his closing address to the jury late Monday, defense attorney Litke declared that the case was a strange one in that it was based almost entirely on circumstantial evidence. He admitted that Mrs. Teichert was attacked, admitted the veracity of photographs showing her head wounds, and others showing the Teichert home and its surroundings.

He admitted the evidence of Mrs. Teichert's torn and soiled clothing. "But what of it?" he asked.

"There is not a single bit of evidence connecting all these things with Houck except a single nose hair," Litke declared.

"This case truly hangs by a hair—a hair from Houck's nose!" he continued.

"When the Commonwealth must get down to a study of the arrangement of cells and scales of a nose hair to obtain a conviction, it is going pretty far in circumstantial evidence," Litke told the jury.

He declared that the State's expert witness admitted that the hairs of a person's nose cannot be compared with fingerprints for accuracy in identification, and claimed that he as a layman could see no points of similarity between the micro-photographs of the hair found in the handkerchief and the hairs taken from Houck's nose.

He deplored the fact that after his arrest in Lock Haven Houck was not permitted to obtain an attorney. He asked why the State had not produced the information obtained

from a lie detector test made of Houck in the Clinton county jail. As to the blood-stained handkerchief, he said that Mrs. Houck testified positively that the article did not belong to her husband.

Summing up, Mr. Litke told the jury that a verdict of acquittal was indicated by the evidence. "But even if you accept the confession as being genuine, there is absolutely no evidence of an intent to kill in the Teichert attack," Litke commented. "There is only one verdict, and that is, not guilty," he concluded.

Upholds Expert Testimony

District Attorney Gettig then made his final address to the jury as the Monday session came to a close.

The prosecuting attorney said that the reason the results of the lie detector test were not introduced is because the lie detector is not and never has been admissible in court proceedings in Pennsylvania.

As to the testimony regarding the hair, Mr. Gettig declared that laymen can't understand technical facts of such nature, adding that the reason expert witnesses are called "They have made long and thorough studies of such things and they have absolutely no interest in the case aside from their professional interest," he said.

Continuing, Mr. Gettig declared that he couldn't understand the comparison of micro-photographs of the various nasal hairs, but that the expert witness had found that the hairs matched in all points of identity and that the hair in the handkerchief could have come from only one man—Hoy Houck.

Gettig continued with the statement that Houck was indicted on three counts: assault and battery with intent to murder, aggravated assault and battery, and simple assault and battery. In the first count, he explained, the fact that Houck struck his victim with a deadly weapon (a hammer) on a vital part of the body (the head) was considered under the law as being in itself sufficient evidence of an intent to commit murder.

Pointing to Houck's confession, the district attorney contended that the first two pages were in narrative form telling in detail of his actions before, during and after the attack. "Only the person who committed

the crime could have been able to give so complete an account of it," Gettig declared.

The District Attorney concluded with the plea that the only just verdict in the case was one of guilty.

Jurors Questioned

Jurors drawn for the Houck trial were questioned closely by both prosecuting and defense attorneys before being accepted for duty. They were asked whether they knew the defendant or Mrs. Teichert, whether they had formed any opinion in the case, whether they were related to the principals in the trial and whether they could decide the issue purely on the law and evidence presented.

Jurors accepted and the order in which they were called were: John M. Fisher, laborer, Bellefonte; Lewis E. Hartwell, laborer, Port Matilda, R. D. 2; Charles A. Page, laborer, Rebersburg; James Park, laborer, Bellefonte, R. D. 1; Clair P. Burns, farmer, Warriors Mark; Mahlon G. Burns, laborer, Lemont; H. H. Friesler, garageman, Julian; Roy H. Shreffler, engineer, Phillipsburg; Sherman Fleck, bookkeeper, Phillipsburg; Ross Sellers, housekeeper, Port Matilda, R. D. 1, and Cora Edgington, housekeeper, Phillipsburg, R. D.

Mrs. Teichert Testifies

Mrs. Teichert, first witness for the prosecution, said she was walking north from downtown about 11 p. m. and was pushing her daughter's tricycle along the driveway beside the house when she heard footsteps in back of her. She saw a flash of a man's white shirt before receiving a blow on the head which rendered her unconscious.

She related that she regained consciousness when she was at the foot of a terrace at the rear of the garage of her home. She managed to get to the house after picking up her hat, one shoe, belt, purse, and a handkerchief she found scattered on the driveway.

Mrs. Teichert related that Dr. Richard Ishler, was summoned to the home to treat her for head wounds and shock and that later she was taken to the Centre County Hospital where she remained for three days.

The victim also identified Commonwealth exhibits including photographs of the body (the head) was considered under the law as being in itself sufficient evidence of an intent to commit murder.

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C. H. Johnstonbaugh—Bellefonte
Ruth E. Dolan—Howard

Public Sales

SATURDAY MAY 23—Bruce E. Runkle will offer at public sale on the D. K. Keller farm, 2 1/2 miles east of Centre Hall, Pa., household goods and furniture. Sale at 1 p. m. E. M. Smith, auctioneer.

SATURDAY JUNE 6—R. G. Mitchell will offer at public sale at his residence on Willowbank street, Bellefonte, opposite the Phoenix Mill, a full line of household goods, including: dining table, chairs, and Stover's. Sale at 12:30 noon. Mays & Stover, auctioneers.

SATURDAY JUNE 6—Edward W. Bailey will offer at public sale, 2 1/2 miles south of State College, Pa., a full line of household goods, including: dining table, chairs, and Stover's. Sale at 12:30 noon. Mays & Stover, auctioneers.

SATURDAY JUNE 20—The executors of the Samuel E. Weber estate will offer at public sale at the late residence at Boalsburg, Pa., a full line of household goods, including: dining table, chairs, and Stover's. Sale at 12:30 p. m. Frank Mays, auctioneer. R. Paul Campbell, attorney.

Saturday, May 23

BRUCE E. RUNKLE will offer at public sale on the D. K. Keller farm, 2 1/2 miles east of Centre Hall, Pa., household goods and furniture. Sale at 1 p. m. E. M. Smith, auctioneer.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND FURNITURE—Dining table, chairs, kitchen cabinet, round dining room table, wood dining table, wood dining chairs, 6 kitchen chairs, rocking chair, stands, rug, 11 by 12, carpet, single bed, Heald's, wood bed, new, piano, table, porch swing, dishes, crock, glass jars, picture, lawn mower, coal burning toaster, 400-cubic capacity, metal hopper, chick feeders, garden tools; 25 new potato crates, vinegar barrels, 4 box hangers, kettle, hard press, 2 meat renderers, hard plastic and forks, large metal roaster, meat block, meat bend, and many other articles too numerous to mention. Sale at 1 p. m. Terms, cash. E. M. Smith, auct.

Saturday, June 6

R. G. MITCHELL will offer at public sale at his residence on Willowbank street, Bellefonte, opposite the Phoenix Mill, the following:

HOUSEHOLD GOODS—American walnut bedroom suite, including: dresser, dresser and 2 chairs; another bedroom suite, including: chest of drawers, bureau and 2 chairs; dining room suite, American walnut, extra easy chairs; writing desk; mirror; pictures and picture frames; mahogany table; end tables; two 9 by 12 chairs; victrola; radio; gas stove; Electrolux gas refrigerator; kitchen furniture; dishes; cooking utensils; porch table; wicker chair; bench; garden tools; many other goods, dishes, linens, 2 solid mahogany Windsor chairs, rocking chairs, and many other articles too numerous to mention.

Sale at 10:30 a. m. Mays & Stover, aucts. P. M. Dubbs, clerk.

Saturday, June 27

EMERY G. WOLF, Trustee of the Ida Weaver estate, will offer at public sale at the late residence on Locust, Howard street, Bellefonte, a full line of HOUSEHOLD GOODS, including: a large collection of Victorian furniture consisting of living room suite in mahogany upholstery, A-1 condition; 2 sets of (4 each) mahogany and walnut parlor chairs, hand carved; 2 sets Rollinger chairs, large walnut; large collection of oval picture frames in oak and walnut. This will be one of the most interesting sales held in Bellefonte. Sale at 10:30 a. m. Mays & Stover, aucts. P. M. Dubbs, clerk. A detailed advertisement will appear later in these columns.

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29.75 Dresses	Reduced to	23.95
27.50 Dresses	Reduced to	22.50
25.75 Dresses	Reduced to	19.95
22.95 Dresses	Reduced to	18.50
19.95 Dresses	Reduced to	15.95
17.95 Dresses	Reduced to	14.50
16.50 Dresses	Reduced to	13.50
14.95 Dresses	Reduced to	12.00
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10.95 Dresses	Reduced to	8.75
8.95 Dresses	Reduced to	6.95
6.95 Dresses	Reduced to	5.50

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All our coats are beautiful... carefully selected for their quality and erection. Sizes from 12 to 20 and 38 to 48.

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17.95 Coats	Reduced to	13.95
16.50 Coats	Reduced to	12.95
14.95 Coats	Reduced to	11.95
12.75 Coats	Reduced to	10.50
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\$3.95 Hats	Reduced to	\$2.95
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Officers Testify

Charles J. Hanna, of the State Motor Police Bureau, testified that he visited the home the night of the attack and that Mrs. Teichert's clothing and the blood-stained handkerchief were turned over to him and that day were given to Lt. Donald Wagner, communications officer of the State Motor Police at Harrisburg.

Lt. Wagner, the next witness said he had received the various articles from Hanna and that the handkerchief was turned over to Dr. T. G. Anderson, Penn State College. A hair found in the handkerchief was given to Dr. M. W. Eddy, of Dickinson College, Carlisle, for examination. On September 9, Lt. Wagner added, five hairs obtained from Hoy Houck's nose at the Clinton county jail also were turned over to Dr. Eddy.

Dr. Richard Ishler, of State College, who treated Mrs. Teichert the night of the attack, described her condition and the wounds she received. Dr. H. Thompson Dale, of State College, testified that several days after the attack he obtained samples of Mrs. Teichert's blood at the request of Detective Hanna, for use in comparing with blood on the handkerchief.

Hanna then testified that the samples of blood were given to Lt. Wagner, who in turn testified that he gave them to Dr. Anderson.

Dr. Anderson, assistant professor of bacteriology at Penn State, testified that his examination revealed that the stains on the handkerchief were human blood stains and that they were of a rare type "A-B." The samples of Mrs. Teichert's blood were found also to be of the "A-B" type, Dr. Anderson said. Only three percent of the population of the country has this type of blood, he said.

Officer Hanna, again recalled, testified as to Houck's confession at the Clinton county jail on September 6, declaring that Houck was warned beforehand that anything he said might be used against him in court.

Pvt. Andrew J. Rolko, of the State Motor Police at Rockview sub-station, present at the time the confession was made, substantiated Hanna's testimony, as did Mrs. Glenn Adams, of Lock Haven, who typed the confession word for word as Houck dictated it.

Explains Hair Structure

Dr. M. W. Eddy, teacher of Biology at Dickinson College and author of several treatises on classification of hair which were accepted by the Pennsylvania Academy of Science, explained the structure of hair, its pigmentation and other characteristics and said it was possible to identify hairs by eight distinct characteristics and several minor factors. Hair structure differs on various places in an individual's body, but all hair taken from the same area of the same person is of identical type, he testified.

He produced micro-photographs of the hair found in the handkerchief, and of test hairs from Houck's nose

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