



BODY OF GIRL BURNED BEFORE BONES WERE BURIED IN CELLAR

Strong Suspicion of Murder Causes District Attorney Stroup to Order Full Investigation by Coroner in Effort to Solve South Fourteenth Street Mystery---Wisp of Hair and a Shred of Clothing May Help to Identify Victim---Authorities Seek Names of All Who Have Occupied the House in Recent Years

A wisp of chestnut brown hair and a bit of calico with a stripe running through it are clues on which may hinge the identification of the body of the girl whose bones were dug up in the cellar of 133 South Fourteenth street, yesterday morning by plumbers who were digging to lay a sewer. There is strong evidence to support the theory that the girl was murdered. While the authorities have not publicly committed themselves to the murder theory, they are known to be investigating on the belief that murder was done.

District Attorney Stroup said today he has ordered Coroner Eekinger to make the fullest possible investigation to include the names of all the persons who have occupied the house in recent years. He will later take up the case himself.

The police looked through the records and said at noon to-day that no report of a missing girl sent to police department could be connected with the finding of the bones in the cellar.

Body Burned Before Burial
There is no doubt in the minds of the men who uncovered the bones that the girl was murdered. Dr. R. L. Perkins, Coroner's physician, who was asked to make a report on the bones, said that he could not positively state that murder had been done but he has found from investigation this morning that the body had first been burned in a fire before it was interred in the basement.

C. R. Cashman, a plumber, 206 South Thirteenth street, whose men uncovered the bones, is of the opinion that the girl was murdered. He had the bones removed to his shop and called in Dr. George H. Widder, who said they were those of a girl between the ages of 16 and 18 years. The doctor advised Cashman to notify Coroner Eekinger. The latter started his investigation at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon and last night turned the bones over to Dr. Perkins.

Dr. Perkins, after having worked on the case all morning, gave out the following:

"I believe the body was burned by fire before it was buried, for I have burned other bones and the same marks of discoloration have resulted.

"What was first believed to be a particle of flesh turned out to be a bit of cloth, a kind of calico with a faint stripe running through it.

"Some of the bones are missing, among which are the back and the left side of the skull and the smaller bones of the fingers and toes. The flesh will disappear from buried bones and I believe that body had been buried from ten to fifteen years, judging from the condition it is in."

Discovered by Plumbers
The plumbers, yesterday morning, in seeking a place to dig, found a spot under the cellar steps leading down from the outside yard at the rear of the building that seemed at first an "old ditch," and there they dug. At the depth of two feet they found the skull of the interred body.

Charles Thomas, 126 South Thirteenth street, who made the gruesome discovery, immediately told Cashman, who ordered the hole to be opened up. The "old ditch" was opened. The body was found to have been crowded into a space two feet by three feet. It

was two feet below the surface.

Cashman is certain that he has discovered the original dimensions of the grave, for the earth surrounding it is firm and does not have the appearance of ever having been disturbed. An old opening can be detected readily ten or fifteen years after it is made, according to Cashman.

"Just as the plumbers had to remove the cellar steps to dig, so the murderer, if murder it was, had to remove the steps to dispose of the evidence of his crime," said Cashman.

Cashman has been ordered by Coroner Eekinger to keep the hole open for further investigation and has stopped work there.

"It looks to me like foul play," Cashman said. "The hole is so small that the body was either doubled up and crowded into it, or it was cut to pieces before burial. The bones looked to me as though they were burned by acid. It looks as though the murderer threw acid over the body to hasten decomposition to cover up the crime, for the men complained that the water burned their hands while they were washing the bones."

Skull Appears to Have Been Cleft
"The bones are discolored, being mostly black with red and white spots. The skull looks to me as if a blow from a sharp instrument, like a hatchet, had cleft it on the left side near the nose. That part of the skull is missing. The back of it is missing also, but small flat pieces of bones were found. These may be a part of the skull."

"The tuft of hair was matted but when washed was a beautiful shade of chestnut brown. What I at first thought was a piece of flesh, the size of the palm of a man's hand, was found. To this was attached a piece of cloth. I am not sure now that it was flesh. The cloth is double thickness—a part of a hem something like the end of an apron string. It seemed to me as though it was white muslin."

The house is now occupied by Elmer E. Stoner, who moved in on February 14, 1914, according to W. E. Jones, real estate agent, who has charge of the property for Miss Minnie Burtner, 212 South Fifteenth street, the owner. Jones took charge of the property in 1913 and first rented it to Jefferson B. Regar, who occupied it for three months but left in February, 1914. It was vacant for a few days until Stoner moved in.

At the home of Miss Burtner it was said that the house was occupied previous to February, 1914, by a family by the name of Hoopes, who resided there six or seven years. The property was purchased by Miss Burtner from a man by the name of M. H. Wagner, who now resides in Lebanon. Miss Burtner has never had much to do with the house, she said, for she has always had a real estate dealer care for it, except for a time while the Hoopes occupied it when she collected the rent herself.

Noticed Odor in the Cellar
The Regars still reside in Harrisburg

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CALLS IN FIRE MARSHAL

Chief Kindler Investigates Blaze in Tailor Shop

Fire was discovered in the tailor shop of Lewis Bergfeld, 621 North Second street, this morning at 6 o'clock by neighbors. The Hope Company was called and chemical streams extinguished the blaze. Fire Chief Kindler investigated the fire and has turned it over to the State Fire Marshal for further investigation.

A slight fire in one of the guest rooms at the Pennsylvania hotel, 313 Verbeke street, this morning, destroyed the work and burned a small portion of woodwork before being extinguished by hotel attaches. No firemen were called.

ADMITTS HELPING TO ROB HIGGINS

Heagy Makes Confession Implicating Gibb and 2 Other Men in \$800 Holdup

TELLS STORY OF ATTACK

Former Sheriff of Potter County Was Left Unconscious on Trolley Tracks—Police Hope to Recover Jewelry in Pittsburgh

Albert Heagy and John E. Gibb, Jr., Steelton men, who last Wednesday were arrested in Youngstown, Ohio, to which city, it is charged, they fled after attacking and robbing J. F. Higgins, of Austin, Pa., were brought to Harrisburg by Constable James Haines at 6 o'clock last evening and lodged in the Dauphin county jail. Higgins, a friend of former State Senator Baldwin, of Potter county, was beaten and robbed near Highspire on January 19, last, after he had come to this city to attend the inauguration of Governor Brumbaugh.

This morning Gibb was admitted to bail after Judge McCarroll had fixed the amount of the bond at \$1,500. Tom Nelley, proprietor of the Half Way house, Steelton, became his bondsman. Heagy, who is a machinist and has a wife and son, was unable to get bail. Following Gibb's release Heagy made a statement to District Attorney Stroup. The prosecutor said that Heagy, besides confessing to the highway robbery charge and implicating Gibb as an accomplice, implicated also two strangers, whose names he does not know, but who, he said, planned the robbery plot against Higgins.

Victim a Former Sheriff
Higgins formerly was Sheriff of Potter county. He is a middle-aged man and, according to Heagy's story, was in a Market street hotel just before the trip, during which he was attacked and robbed. Heagy and Gibb will be given a preliminary hearing before Alderman C. E. Murray on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The District Attorney asserts Heagy said that the party induced Higgins to accompany them to the White Horse lane, below Highspire, on the representation that he would be taken to an Elks club house, this being a part of the plan, he said, that was advanced by the strangers who were supposed to carry out the robbery and give Heagy and Gibb half of the spoils.

The strangers were on hand when the trio left the trolley car at the lane and, Heagy said, he and Gibb walked out the lane, on the east side of the

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POST 58, C. A. R., HONORS THE MEMORY OF LINCOLN

Captain John H. Campbell and Chaplain Staley, of the House of Representatives, the Principal Speakers at Patriotic Gathering Last Night

Post 58, Grand Army of the Republic, with members of visiting posts, Sons of Veterans and members of the Foreign War Service and ladies of the G. A. R., last night held a Lincoln memorial service in the post room at Third and Strawberry streets and heard Captain John H. Campbell, of the Internal Affairs Department, make a most eloquent address on the life of the martyred President.

Captain Campbell made particular reference to three of Lincoln's most famous speeches—that at Cooper Union, New York, the famous "lost speech" at Springfield, Illinois, and the Gettysburg speech, quoting from all of them, and read the letter Lincoln sent the mother who had lost five sons in battle. He also recited a number of stories and told of Lincoln's love of humor. In closing the speaker paid a beautiful tribute to Lincoln, the man. Chaplain Staley, of the House of Representatives, a former Middletown clergyman and member of Post 58, now residing in Philadelphia, told of Lincoln's visit to the Union hospital after the Seven Days' fight in front of Richmond, where Mr. Staley, then a mere boy, lay ill from fever, and of Lincoln's clasping his hand and wishing him well. He said that visit of Lincoln had an influence on his after life that was potent for good.

Thomas M. Jones spoke briefly on boy life in Harrisburg during the Civil war. The speakers were given a rising vote of thanks by the old and young veterans.

TURKISH CAVALRY ON WAY TO THE FIRING LINE



The cavalry division of the Turkish army is an important unit of the Sultan's forces. The photograph above is a recent one and shows a body of these splendid fighters answering a call to the front.

ASSISTANT CHIEF IS HURT FIGHTING A \$7,000 BLAZE

Halbert Falls Fifteen Feet From Roof and Is Rushed to Hospital in Auto

HAY MAKES A DENSE SMOKE

Firemen Have Hard Battle With Flames Which Wreck the Plant of the Harrisburg Stone Works—Valuable Machinery Is Damaged



EDWARD HALBERT

Assistant Fire Chief Who Was Injured While Fighting Blaze To-day

Fire starting shortly before noon to-day near the electric motor in the cutting shop at the Harrisburg Stone Works, Seventeenth and Mulberry streets, owned by John Black, gutted that large one-and-a-half story frame building, which also contained the draughting room and a loft which was well filled with hay. The loss will amount to \$7,000 and is partly covered by insurance.

No men were working in the building at the time the fire was discovered. A caretaker, who was on the outside, noticed flames in the cutting shop. He caused the alarm to be turned in from box No. 17, Seventeenth and Market streets. In responding to this box most of the fire companies went several blocks out of their way to the blaze and consequently were late in getting streams on the building. Later an alarm was turned in from a box nearer the scene of the fire.

Assistant Fire Chief Edward Halbert, who was among the first to arrive, was assisting in laying a line of hose from a small shed at the side of the

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EARLY REPLY FROM BRITAIN EXPECTED

British Government's Answer to American Note Will Probably Be Forthcoming Soon

USING NEUTRAL FLAG CONTENTION

London Newspapers Unite in Expressing Opinion That U. S. Colors Will Be Displayed Only on British Warships Under Certain Conditions

By Associated Press.

London, Feb. 13, 12.15 P. M.—That the British government will have no difficulty in giving an early reply to the American note on the use of the American flag by British merchantmen is the contention of the afternoon papers of London, which virtually unite in expressing the opinion that a neutral flag will be used by British vessels only as an intimation to German warships that there are neutral passengers and goods aboard.

The "Pall Mall Gazette" attaches "immense significance" to the phrase in the American note to Germany—"or cause the death of American citizens"—as meaning that Americans aboard British ships will be equally protected by the home government as those on board American ships.

The "Evening Standard," basing its judgment on the tenor of the American notes, says: "It is plain in which direction America looks for the possibility of trouble. If Germany does not now understand the meaning of the note and realize the false position into which she has been led by the arrogance of the official minds in Berlin she must abide by the issue."

Lusitania Flies British Flag

By Associated Press.

Liverpool, via London, Feb. 13, 4.14 P. M.—The Cunard line steamer Lusitania, the vessel which flew the American flag across the Irish sea on her last trip in, as a measure of protection against German submarines, sailed from Liverpool for New York at her usual hour to-day under the British flag.

ZAPATA IMPERILS CAPITAL

His Forces Destroy the Water Works in Mexico City and Situation Becomes Critical

By Associated Press.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 13.—Zapata forces have destroyed the water works in Mexico City, the food famine has become more critical and indications are that Carranza forces may soon evacuate, official advices to the American government say to-day.

BUILDING CAVES IN AS BLACKWELL STARTS A SPEECH

Back Wall Crashes as Negro Orator Begins Thundering Praises of Abraham Lincoln

AUDIENCE GO OUT OF WINDOWS

One Hundred Colored Voters in Wild Panic in Second Floor of Hall in Steelton—Some Leap to Ground, Others Come Down Telegraph Poles

Peter S. Blackwell, the spectacular leader of the colored Republican forces in Steelton, noted as the political orator who gave Republican County Chairman William H. Horner the title of "Coronious Leader," was about to start an oration on "Lincoln, the Great Emancipator," in a Steelton hall last night, when part of the building fell down and there was a wild panic among his audience of 100 negro voters.

About 9.30 o'clock, when the audience was assembled in Blackwell's hall, Adams street, to attend a memorial meeting in memory of Abraham Lincoln, the bulky form of Blackwell was discerned ascending the steps leading to the second story, where the auditorium is located. His entrance was greeted with loud and prolonged applause from his admirers, and this made the building shake.

Blackwell, who was on the program to deliver the principal "oration," was introduced by John W. Bailor in a short speech, which made out Blackwell to be hardly less of a statesman than President Lincoln himself. When Blackwell stepped to the front of the platform to begin his remarks the applause was vehemently repeated and again the building swayed.

At this juncture Blackwell, with fire in his eyes and with a sweep of his arm half way across the platform, opened his mouth and was about to

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Hurled to Death in Stone Crusher
(Special to the Star-Independent.)
Rheems, Pa., Feb. 13.—When his clothing was caught by a rapidly moving belt, George Shields, Jr., 21 years old, was thrown bodily into one of the big stone crushers at the Landis Brothers' stone quarry here yesterday afternoon and so badly injured that he died shortly afterward. His parents survive him.

Gardner Out for County Commissioner

Another candidate for the nomination for County Commissioner on the Democratic ticket has come to the front in the person of Alfred B. Gardner, of the Ninth ward. Mr. Gardner served in Select Council from his ward and is widely known among the Democratic voters.

BIG BATTLE IS AGAIN ON IN ARGONNE

The Western Front Scene of Struggle Between Germans and the Allies

ACTIVITY SHOWN IN EAST PRUSSIA

Reported Victory of the Kaiser's Forces in the Czar's Domain Causes Subjects of Emperor William to Renew Faith in Ultimate Success

Paris, Feb. 13.—Heavy fighting is in progress once more in the Argonne and the Vosges which have now become the most bitterly contested sections of the western battlefield. Otherwise the opposing armies in that war theatre are at a standstill. The activity of German submarines is believed to have been responsible for the sinking or injuring of three more merchantmen. Great Britain's spectacular aeroplane raid, her reply to this menace, was directed at the German submarine bases.

The event of immediate importance in the east is the German victory in East Prussia, which according to Berlin reports, was an imposing one. It is assumed in Germany that danger of Russian invasion in that region is ended, but it is not yet clear to what extent the conduct of the campaign will be affected.

In the Carpathians the battles for possession of the passes are still undecided. A Geneva dispatch states that the Austrians have suffered heavily from Russian bayonet attacks in Dukla Pass.

BRITISH STEAMER ORIOLE TORPEDOED BY GERMANS

Havre, Via Paris, Feb. 13, 1.55 A. M.—Shipping circles here now consider it practically certain that the British steamer Oriole was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine. The last time the vessel is known to have been seen was at 2 p. m. January 30 near Dungeness in company with the London steamer London Trader, which is also missing.

There is equal certainty that the London Trader shared the fate of the Oriole. A telegram from Rouen says James Cullen, a survivor of the Trader, was landed there by the steamer Pe-lauch, the captain of which stated another ship whose name he could not give, had saved three other sailors from the trader.

The Oriole left London for Havre on January 28. Her crew numbered 21 men. The British Admiralty expressed the opinion on February 9 that she had been sunk by a German torpedo. The London Trader is a vessel of 684 tons built in 1913 and owned by the London Welsh Steamship Company of London.

LATE WAR NEWS SUMMARY

The persistent German attack in the Argonne has gained further ground, the Berlin War Office announced to-day. More than half a mile of French positions is said to have been won. There has been further fighting in the Vosges, and the Berlin official report states that all attacks of the allies were repulsed. The French communication gives few details of yesterday's fighting, laying particular stress upon heavy artillery contests.

The German War Office states that on the western front was found artillery ammunition "which doubtless originated in American factories." Berlin is already celebrating the striking victory said to have been won over the Russians in East Prussia and further successes are noted in to-day's official report. It is stated that in Northern Poland as well as East Prussia the Russian attacks have failed and that the Germans have been uniformly successful.