

# MRS. HUMISTON TO DIRECT SEARCH FOR 22 OTHER MISSING GIRLS

igators, outside the Police Department, went into his place they found Ruth Cruger's corpse. And Cocchi—perhaps with the aid of others—hid the victim of the crime while the detectives were held back by official red tape and the police habit of forming conclusions and trying to make the conclusions good.

Twelfth—And Cocchi was about the place for two days, but was permitted to escape although a most material witness even were he guiltless of the crime.

While the Mayor and the Police Commissioner are denouncing the police work in the Cruger case there is no evidence at hand to indicate that there is a detective back-track to find where the fault lies. The chauffeur who reported that he drove Ruth Cruger to a subway station hasn't been brought into Headquarters.

Other witnesses who gave misleading testimony have not been questioned. Certain policemen have not been called to the office of the Commissioner.

Mrs. Humiston's statement that she has been asked to investigate the disappearance of twenty-two girls is also under investigation by the District Attorney. There will be considerable digging in cellars and back yards within twenty-four hours.

There exists but little doubt that Cocchi, in spite of international complications, will be brought to New York to stand trial for murder. District Attorney Swann will ask the Italian delegates here to arrange for war measures, to exert their influence in that direction. The Department of State has already taken an interest in the case.

A committee of Italian-American citizens, headed by Egidjo Grella, called on the District Attorney to-day and volunteered their aid in procuring the return of Cocchi. It is believed that the fugitive will give information of value as to the possible participation of others in the crime or in the subsequent secrecy.

## MRS. COCCHI WANTS HUSBAND RETURNED.

Mrs. Cocchi, who has been detained as a material witness, was allowed to go to her home at No. 75 Manhattan Street, this afternoon in the custody of a detective, to change her clothing and see her two children who are in the care of neighbors. Her counsel, Aaron Marcus, said he would endeavor to obtain her release from custody by means of a writ of habeas corpus. Mrs. Cocchi said:

"I was amazed to learn of the discovery of the body of the missing girl in the cellar of my husband's shop. If he killed her he was not alone in the crime. He is too much of a coward to do anything like that by himself. I hope they bring him back here and if he is guilty I want to see him punished."

The Grand Jury spent but a short time in the indictment of Cocchi. His wife, who had been subpoenaed to appear as a witness, was not called.

The witnesses were Detectives Larginne and McGee, who were originally assigned to the case from the Fourth Branch, Dr. Otto Schultz of the District Attorney's staff, Helen Cruger, a sister of the victim of the tragedy; Peter McEntee, who assisted in digging out the body from the cellar of Cocchi's bicycle repair shop, and Dr. L. L. Danforth, the physician of the Cruger family.

It was learned to-day that Cocchi was located in Bologna through his wife. He wrote to her and she turned the letter over to Capt. Dan Costigan, who had been unsuccessfully engaged in trying to solve the mystery of Ruth Cruger. This fact is held to establish that Mrs. Cocchi was ignorant of the reason for her husband's departure from New York. She utilized her first opportunity to help the police, although she did attempt, on the advice of a lawyer, to halt the digging up of the cellar of her husband's shop.

Talking of the Cruger case to-day, Commissioner Woods said he had no excuse to offer for the Police Department. There will be an investigation into the alleged interference, on the part of certain bicycle policemen who hang around Cocchi's shop, with the work of the Fourth Branch detectives, but the Commissioner believes that if there is ground for suspicion of criminal complicity the police should not investigate themselves. For that reason he has asked District Attorney Swann to look into the police end of the case, and the issue is now in the hands of Assistant District Attorney Fitzpatrick.

While the Commissioner is disposed to criticize the police work on the Cruger case, the Detective Bureau heads interested in the case are not so disposed. They do not attempt to explain why they did not move the tool chest in Cocchi's cellar, under which the body of the girl was buried.

Nor do they try to explain why the theory was persistently advanced by detectives that Ruth Cruger had "gone away with a man," and why they so industriously followed alleged information that she had been leaving a taxi cab and entering the subway at a point in Harlem.

The first detectives assigned to the case were Larginne and McGee. It must be said of McGee that he was in at the finish and that he admits he did not do all that was required of him at the start. When no trace was found of the girl the police work suddenly switched, on Feb. 16, to a search for the missing Cocchi.

A simple method of police reasoning argued that if Cocchi was found the girl would be with him; this in spite of the fact that Cocchi was not the sort of person who would inspire more than passing notice from Ruth Cruger and that he had been in his shop and answered all questions put to him for three days following the report to the police of the girl's disappearance.

Capt. Dan Costigan and his men started out to look for Cocchi, but incidentally they searched his shop and found nothing. Then the Bureau of Missing Persons took up the search for Ruth Cruger, but for Cocchi. Finally Lieut. Freeman was specially assigned to look for Cocchi—not for Ruth Cruger.

WHO HELPED COCCHI IN HIS FLIGHT, BIG QUESTION. The discovery of the girl's body and the arrest of Cocchi are but the beginning of the possible solution of the mystery of this crime. The

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## Woman Who Solved Ruth Cruger Murder Mystery; Diagram of Cellar in Which Girl's Body Was Found



## Vital Events That Followed Disappearance of Ruth Cruger

- Feb. 13—Ruth Cruger went to the motorcycle repair shop of Alfredo Cocchi, No. 542 West One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Street, to get a pair of skates she had left there to be sharpened.
- Feb. 13—Her disappearance reported to the police at night by her family but according to police custom the case was held over for twenty-four hours. Then Commissioner Woods ordered all available detectives of the Fourth Branch detailed to the search.
- Feb. 15—Cocchi disappeared from his shop about 2 P. M. He collected a debt of \$25. He had been questioned by police and his statement that he knew nothing was accepted by the police.
- Feb. 16—Mrs. Maria Cocchi reported to the Fourth Branch Detective Bureau that her husband had been missing since the night before. She said he had borrowed \$5 from her and left about 9 o'clock.
- Feb. 16—The police advanced the belief that "Ruth Cruger is safe and will be back with her parents in twelve hours." They say "the kidnapping theory lacks much to make it stand up." Entire attitude of the police is that Ruth Cruger left home voluntarily.
- Feb. 20—Ruth Cruger's father induced the police to make another search of Cocchi's cellar, but the search revealed nothing but a door leading into a vacant store.
- March 1—Henry Rubien, a taxicab chauffeur, stated to Assistant District Attorney Dooling that he was positive he had driven Ruth Cruger and a man from Cocchi's shop on the afternoon of Feb. 13.
- March 3—Mr. Dooling stated he had examined a motorcycle policeman said to have been in Cocchi's place, who seemed unable to account for several hours of Feb. 13. Assistant District Attorney Dooling stated that Cocchi had, by implication, told a friend at 9 o'clock on the night of Feb. 15 that he had been "persuaded" to go away.
- March 17—Detectives broke into a room in which they were informed Cocchi was hiding. They reported that they "just missed him," and that he had probably been warned.
- May 31—Alfredo Cocchi located in Bologna, Italy, by United States Consul at Florence. He had arrived there during the last week of February.
- June 12—Mrs. Grace Humiston, attorney for the Crugers, begins the digging up of Cocchi's cellar.
- June 13—Mrs. Cocchi forbids digging in the cellar.
- Mrs. Humiston goes before Magistrate Breen in Washington Heights Court for authority to dig further.
- Magistrate Breen refuses on the ground that no stolen property was hidden beneath the cement floor.
- Mrs. Humiston consults Police Commissioner Woods and is advised to try Borough President Marks.
- President Marks grants permission to dig under the sidewalk.
- June 15—Mrs. Cocchi sold the repair shop and fittings for \$500.
- After District Attorney Swann's inquiry into the case, Deputy Police Commissioner Scull refused to link the names of Ruth Cruger and Cocchi. "There is no connection between their disappearances," he said.
- Acting Captain of Detectives Cooper of the Harlem Bureau when asked why he had not dug up Cocchi's cellar floor replied: "No one has ever disappeared in such a manner in New York."

## Italy Likely to Cut Red Tape And Send Cocchi Here for Trial

According to the strict letter of the international law of extradition in effect between this country and Italy, the Italian Consul General Gaetano Poccardi, told an Evening World reporter to-day, Alfredo Cocchi cannot be extradited to this country to stand trial for murder. He can, however, be brought here as a witness, or depositions and affidavits can be sent to Italy to be used in his trial there.

The present allied relations existing between Italy and America, however, added Mr. Poccardi, may, and probably will, result in the severing of this red tape, and Cocchi is likely to be surrendered to the authorities here to stand trial for the murder of Ruth Cruger. If tried in Italy for his crime Cocchi could not receive a more severe sentence than the imprisonment, as the Italian criminal law does not provide a death penalty.

"But," said the Consul General with a significant shrug, "perhaps the electric chair here would be more agreeable than a life sentence in Italy."

At the request of The Evening World the passport records of the consulate were searched and it was discovered that on Dec. 4, 1916, some time before Ruth Cruger's disappearance, Cocchi had applied for free transportation to Italy, saying that he wished to join the army. He was

## POLICE SHOULD HAVE FOUND BODY, MITCHEL ADMITS

Mayor Promises That if Dereliction is Discovered It Will Be Punished.

Mayor Mitchell unhesitatingly admitted to-day that there was no excuse for the failure of the police to find the body of Ruth Cruger.

"They should have found that body," said the Mayor.

The Mayor was questioned concerning the Cruger case in his office in City Hall, and he had a stenographer present to take down the interview, which follows:

"All that can be said," said the Mayor, "is that it is regrettable that the police did not find the body at the time they made their first search, as I think the Police Commissioner has already said. When a police officer searches premises and there is something that is to be found there and ought to be found, and they fail to find it, there is no excuse. They should have found it."

"If there has been any dereliction, meaning by that something more than a mere unintentional failure, I assume the investigation that is in process—what of the Police Commissioner is found of course it will be punished. I think the work done by those who brought about the final discovery of the body is highly commendable and deserves appreciation."

"From the point of view of the police, I might say that while the failure to find the body in this particular case should not have taken place—that the failure in a single instance in the face of a long and consistent record of good service—is no more proof of incompetency on the part of the department as a whole than a single brilliant achievement in the face of a long record of incompetency and dishonesty would be a vindication of the department as a whole."

"Mrs. Humiston, they say, had some tips. Why wasn't it possible for the police to follow them up? I don't know. It may have been possible. Perhaps the officers assigned to the case did not do their work well enough. That is all that the Police Commissioner to determine administratively and to take such action as may be necessary."

"Concerning the matter that Mrs. Grace Humiston had discovered that twenty-two other girls mysteriously disappeared from their homes here and are still missing, the Mayor said: 'A case of this kind leads to speculation. I do not know what girls have disappeared. If their cases have been reported to the Police Department, they will be on record there, subject to any one's call for information. I have been asked whether the Police Department would give the Mayor any confidential girls who had disappeared or information concerning unsolved murder cases. Anybody can have that information that goes there and asks for it.'

"Do you think it calls for a shake-up in the Detective Department? A. I don't express an opinion on that. I know of no things which diligent inquiry on the part of the Police Commissioner, which is now under way, will develop. As far as I know the character of his administration will be enough to know that he will take whatever action may be necessary."

**7,000,000 CENSUS FORMS.**  
That Number Sent to New York City Also for State Work.

ALBANY, June 18.—As indicating the rapidity with which Albany has worked to furnish extra supplies for the State census for New York City since the deficiency developed there last week, the State Director of the Census, said to-day: "999 additional enrollment forms will have been shipped to Greater New York, making 7,000,000 supplied with which to register the population. Two million additional registration cards have also been shipped, making 2,000,000 in all. 1,300,000 additional militia enrollment notices have been shipped, making 2,800,000 provided for the enrollment of 1,400,000 men of militia age."

Authority was granted to E. P. Goodrich, Director of Census for New York, to print several hundred thousand additional forms.

**IRISH PRISONERS WELCOMED.**  
Countess Markievicz Not Among Those Greeted in Dublin.

LONDON, June 18.—Large crowds gathered in Dublin this morning to welcome the released Irish prisoners, all of whom, with the exception of Countess Markievicz, arrived at the Fort. Men with banners and other members of the Sinn Fein, who were arrested on June 2 when attempting to hold a prohibited meeting here to protest against the imprisonment of Irish rebels, were released to-day.

**Count Flinn and Other Sinn Fein Leaders Free.**  
DUBLIN, June 18.—Count Flinn, Member of Parliament and Sinn Fein leader, who was arrested on June 2 when attempting to hold a prohibited meeting here to protest against the imprisonment of Irish rebels, was released to-day.

**JAMAICA WINNERS.**  
FIRST RACE—For three-year-olds and upward; selling; with \$100.00 added; one mile. (Trainer), 1 to 2 and out. (Jockey), 1 to 2 and out. (Time), 1:47.3. Only three starters.

## MRS. HUMISTON, WHO CLEARED CASE, PLANS NEW CAREER

Will Give Up Law Practice to Devote Life to War on White Slavery.

Mrs. Grace Humiston, the lawyer, whose persistence solved the Cruger mystery to the extent of discovering her body and establishing the fact of her murder, intends to give up her practice and devote her life to warring upon the white slave traffic.

Many women of wealth and prominence will back the crusade, among them Mrs. Felix Adler, who with several others had called on Henry D. Cruger, Miss Cruger's father, and offered to finance a vigorous search for the slain girl.

The proposition is to organize a bureau whose sole purpose shall be to end white slavery. If the police sympathize with the movement, the bureau may become a branch of the Police Department. If not, the women behind it say it will be organized independently.

"Those of us who aided Mrs. Humiston in this matter," says Mrs. Adler, "urge that some organization, preferably a woman's organization, make it possible for this highly gifted and very capable woman to continue the work. Undoubtedly she could find and save many girls."

Mrs. Humiston, who is as keenly interested in the movement whether entrusted to her or not, says: "I believe that, as an outcome of the facts sure to be dug out of this case there will be organized, probably in the Police Department, a special bureau operated by skilled men, who will devote themselves exclusively to an effort to stamp out this evil."

"Personally I shall do my part. I was brought into this case by Mrs. Felix Adler, whose strong interest in defenseless young girls is responsible for an immense amount of good work which is being done very quietly."

"I have seen so much and hope to be able to accomplish so much in behalf of girls who are constantly meeting the same risk that cost Ruth Cruger her life. So I shall give up my law practice and devote every energy I possess to this fight against white-slavery."

"If I never win another case in my whole career as a lawyer, I shall still feel that my labors have been well worth while. I have found the body of Ruth Cruger and have vindicated her honor."

"I know of other victims, and I only wish I could afford a house in the country where I could protect them. If some wealthy person would only pay the rent I would do the rest."

"I know of twenty-two cellars where young girls have been brought by men and made their victims. I have been asked, 'Why not tell the police?' Just as soon as I should do that the young girl would be spirited away or never seen again. I would like to get hold of the Police Department list of girls who have disappeared. Ninety per cent of them, I feel certain, are under the control of men."

**LIFE SENTENCE FOR MOYER.**  
Prisoner Receives It Stolely But His Mother Faints.

A twenty-four-year-old youth, Harold Moyer of No. 226 Reed Avenue, Brooklyn, was sentenced to life imprisonment this afternoon by Judge Dyke in the Brooklyn County Court for an assault committed by him on William McMahon, with whom he had quarreled over a girl. The evidence showed that Moyer had waited for McMahon outside a saloon in the vicinity of his home and had sought the latter's right eye out.

"Moyer had four previous convictions for assault on a woman," said Judge Dyke in committing Moyer. "The young man's mother, who was in court, screamed and then fainted. Moyer took his sentence stolidly."

**Deaf Hayes Robert is Dead in California.**  
CORONADO, Cal., June 18.—Deaf Hayes Robert, publisher of the San Francisco Examiner, is dead at his home here after a long illness. Mr. Robert, who was about fifty years old, at one time was editor of the New York Journal.

**DIED.**  
GRANT.—FREDERICK CAMERON GRANT. Body will lie in state at THE FUNERAL CHURCH (Campbell), Broadway, 68th and 67th sts.
- LUKENS.—DR. ANNA LUKENS. Body will lie in state at THE FUNERAL CHURCH (Campbell), Broadway, 68th and 67th sts.
- TOOMEY.—THOMAS E. June 18, aged 95 years. Funeral from his late home, 700 Third Ave., Brooklyn, Tuesday, 3 P. M. Burial Holy Trinity Cemetery.

## U. S. MILLIONAIRE MAKES HIS OWN BED IN RUSSIA

Charles R. Crane Also Washes Dishes in Petrograd Hotel on Account of Strike.

PETROGRAD, June 18.—Charles R. Crane, millionaire American manufacturer and one of the members of the American mission to Russia, had to make his own bed, act as his own waiter and wash his own breakfast, lunch and dinner dishes to-day.

With hundreds of other guests at Petrograd hotels, Crane was a victim of a general strike of waiters. They are demanding part ownership of all hotels and restaurants.

**PERSHING HARD AT WORK.**  
Completes Social Functions and Takes Up Active Duties.

PARIS, June 18.—Major General Pershing was hard at work in his office to-day. He has completed the round of social functions in connection with his arrival, and has a busy week ahead of him in dealing with important questions regarding arrangements for the arrival of the American troops.

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