



Rich Widow's Death Laid To Daughter And Husband

Mrs. Caroline Verderosa, 17 Years Old, Collapses After Being Arraigned For Killing Stepmother

Prisoners Grilled For Hours by Police

Victim Last Seen Alive on Feb. 3, When She Visited Home of Accused; Son Made First Inquiry

Following the finding of the body of Mrs. Catherine Trotta, forty-eight years old, in the mire of Cooper's Pond, in the Greenwood section, Mrs. Caroline Verderosa, seventeen-year-old stepdaughter of the murdered woman, and her husband, Luciano Verderosa, twenty-eight years old, are held without bail on a charge of first degree murder. When arraigned before Magistrate Dale in Bridge Plaza court yesterday morning the girl collapsed.

"I didn't do it! I don't know anything about it!" she shrieked as she was carried back to jail.

After the arraignment of the stepdaughter and her husband, many witnesses were called by the police of the 104th Precinct station in the Greenwood section, and late last night detectives working on the case declared that they had traced the actions of the two prisoners and were convinced that both knew more than had been told during the first-hour grilling to which they were subjected after their arrest.

Last Seen Alive February 3

Mrs. Trotta, a wealthy widow, was last seen alive after her arrest on February 3. That day, according to information obtained by the police last night, she went to the home of her stepdaughter early in the morning. An hour later she was seen to enter the home of her brother, Carlo Trotta, and the daughter of Mrs. Trotta, who died the latter part of December, and her return to the home was followed by Mrs. Trotta's stepdaughter, Anna, who is ten years old, was left at the home by Mrs. Trotta.

After leaving the orphanage at 104th Street, Mrs. Trotta was seen in the Greenwood section where Mrs. Trotta had her banking, and it is said Mrs. Trotta drew nearly \$700 which she had deposited there.

After leaving the bank, Mrs. Trotta stopped at a butcher shop and made a small purchase and proceeded with her husband to the latter's home, at 73 Sixth Street, where she was arrested in the afternoon when the two women were seen going into the Verderosa home. Mrs. Trotta was never seen alive again and her whereabouts remain completely unknown.

It is said that the Verderosa couple were seen in the Verderosa home on the morning of February 4. Mrs. Trotta was seen to enter the Verderosa home shortly after 4 o'clock the day of her disappearance.

Son Notified the Police

On the morning of February 4 Louis Bonetti, a son of Mrs. Trotta by her second husband, appeared at the 104th Precinct station and asked the police to search for his mother. At that time Mrs. Verderosa was questioned and failed to throw any light on the disappearance of her stepmother. A week later Mrs. Verderosa, in company with her husband and other relatives, including the son of Mrs. Trotta, was seen at Mrs. Trotta's home at 17 Jackson Street, removed her furniture and other effects from the place.

Mrs. Trotta's home was over a marble factory, formerly conducted by her husband, but which was sold to a former employee a few days after his death. It is understood by the police that Mrs. Trotta and the Verderosa couple were quarreling over possession of the marble works, and that court action was either started or threatened when Mrs. Trotta refused to turn over a part of the proceeds derived from the sale of the business.

A few days after the sale of the marble works Anna Trotta was placed in the hands of the Verderosa couple, and Mrs. Trotta disappeared. Mrs. Trotta was reported to have had a considerable amount of money at the time of her husband's death, in addition to the proceeds of the marble works.

When found in the mire of Cooper's Pond Mrs. Trotta's body was in a bad condition.

Mother of Seven Kills Two Men by Shooting

Camper and Ranch Hand of Breaking Up Her Home

ALABAMA, Col., April 3.—Hysterically accusing the men of breaking up her home, Mrs. John Haner, a woman homesteader residing four miles south of N. H. Relford, Col., today shot and killed the ranch of John Adams, four miles north of Center, and Frank E. Schmid, a ranch hand. She fired five shots at Relford and three at Schmid, all taking effect.

Mrs. Haner, earlier in the day called upon Schmid, who lived nearby, and asked him to take her over to the Relford camp. On the automobile. On arriving at the road intersection located near the camp, she sent Schmid to ask Relford to come to the waiting machine, saying that she wanted to see him on urgent business.

Relford and Schmid approached the car. Mrs. Haner drew a pistol from her pocket and opened fire upon Relford, killing him.

Schmid tried to disarm her, but she turned the gun on him, firing three shots, all striking him in the face. Mrs. Haner was arrested and put in the county jail at Saguenay. She is the mother of seven children.

Loots Boy's Bank of Pennies at Gun Point

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., April 3.—Police are looking for a masked man who late yesterday entered the home of J. D. Brown here and at the point of a gun forced ten-year-old Marshall Brown to show him how to extract pennies from his savings bank. The thief had obtained 96 pennies through the slot in the top of the bank when a noise caused him to flee, leaving \$2 still safe.

Bill Collector Beaten to Death; Two Men Held

Blows Rained on Head With Iron Pipe Fell Victim, Drawn to Flat When Told Woman He Sought Is Out

Fights His Way to Street

Husband of Debtor and His Brother-in-Law Said by Police to Confess to Plot

Samuel Kessler, of 253 Lenox Avenue, collector for David Lewis, an installment merchant of 9 East Broadway, was beaten with an iron pipe, receiving injuries from which he died at Bellevue Hospital, when he called to collect a bill at the apartment of James Ferris, 321 West Sixteenth Street, late yesterday afternoon.

Ferris, twenty-one years old, a longshoreman, and James King, of 51 Cherry Street, his brother-in-law, are under arrest at the Twentieth Street police station charged with homicide. A third man, declared by the police to have taken part in the attack on Kessler, is sought. The men were arrested by Detectives McNamara and Westerveldt at the Ferris apartment, and according to the detectives, confessed that they had planned to rob the victim.

Kessler staggered into the arms of Patrolman Eugene Miller, on contract of \$1,800,000 on the new courthouse more than half of the sum, or \$1,000,000, in graft was to be divided among a few politicians and contractors.

The only leader in the Republican party of moment who is opposing the investigation is Jacob A. Livingston, of Kings County. State Chairman Glynn and other county leaders, with hardly an exception, are for the inquiry. Governor Miller is also on record as favoring it.

When the detectives visited the Ferris flat it was found spattered with blood from end to end. At the police station Ferris and King denied knowledge of the attack on Kessler, but later confessed, according to the police, that they had attacked and beaten him with an iron pipe, after having planned to rob him when he called to collect a bill at the apartment.

Assistant District Attorney Merron questioned the prisoners and was instrumental in obtaining their supposed confession. The identity of the third man is said to have been established by his arrest in expected within a few hours.

Ferris is said to have told Mr. Marrow that he and King, with the third man, mapped out the attack on Kessler last Tuesday. When Kessler called, the police say, Ferris asked him to step in and wait, as Mrs. Ferris "would be back in a few minutes." As soon as the collector had entered the room the attack was started, and according to the account, he was knocked insensible, but recovered and fought his assailants all over the apartment, at last escaping to the street.

Widow Shoots and Kills Her Husband's Slayer

Oklahoma Woman Meets Man as He Steps Off Train and Avenge Slaying

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE TRIBUNE

MARLOW, Okla., April 3.—Mrs. Hobbs Conklin, mother of eight, was under arrest today for avenging the death of her husband, who was shot to death by an alleged slayer, Roy Garvin, on the street here.

Garvin had just entered Marlow, alighting from a train, when Mrs. Conklin, who was waiting for him, fired one shot, which struck Garvin in the head. As he fell she emptied the weapon in his face, two bullets lodging in his brain. Mrs. Conklin then fled across the street to a store, where she collapsed.

Conklin was shot eight months ago by Garvin, the authorities charged in an indictment brought against Garvin for murder.

Pooh-Bah Emerges From Battle Of 17 Ballots With 14 Offices

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE TRIBUNE

PERU, Mass., April 3.—The 115th annual election of this town has been held, the seventeen votes have been counted and Frank G. Creamer continues to be "Carz" with fourteen offices. Creamer is the town moderator. He has just been elected Clerk and Selectman for the twenty-fifth time and Treasurer and Tax Collector for the nineteenth time.

More than these, he is Constable, Public Weigher, Library Trustee, Measurer of Wood and Bark, Sealer of Weights and Measures, Pound Keeper, Feeds Viewer and Forest Fire Warden. He is also the Justice of the Peace.

Mrs. Creamer is the postmistress; a member of the school board and is manager of the local telephone exchange. Creamer himself was the postmaster for more than twenty years, but in 1917 Mr. Burleson decided it was time for a change. He invited the 147 residents of the town to compete for the place and Mrs. Creamer got the job.

Bill to Probe Hylan Ready In 48 Hours

Resolution Supported by Majority Leaders Is Put in Shape for Early Action by the Legislature

Final Touches Added

'Teeth' to Inquiry

Charge That Opponents Seek to Aid Travis and Wendell Stirs Albany

From a Staff Correspondent

ALBANY, April 3.—The resolution providing for an investigation of the corruption and inefficiency of the Police Department, District Attorney Swann's office and other departments of the Hearst-Hylan-Tammany administration in New York City will be whipped into shape within the next forty-eight hours and reported out for action by the Legislature.

This inquiry will be patterned along the lines fixed in the resolution offered by Senator Theodore Douglas Robinson, nephew of the late Colonel Roosevelt, and Assemblyman Joseph Steinberg, also one of the Republicans who followed the Colonel in 1912, when the Progressive party was organized, and in addition will embody the constructive features of the resolution of Senator Schuyler M. Meyer. The Meyer plan not only called for an investigation of the graft and general inefficiency of the Hearst-Hylan-Tammany régime; it sought for remedial changes to eliminate so far as possible the opportunities for graft.

Tammany Chiefs and Kin in Peril

The graft trail will lead to the doors of several Tammany district leaders and their immediate relatives. Millions, it is said, have been made away with under the guise of city contracts in the last three years. Senator Charles C. Cookwood declared on the floor of the Senate that on one contract of \$1,800,000 on the new courthouse more than half of the sum, or \$1,000,000, in graft was to be divided among a few politicians and contractors.

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Leeds Plays Aerial Romeo, Wins Greek Princess of 17

Son of Tin Plate King, Heir to \$75,000,000, Reared Under Constant Guard of Attendants, Proposes to Xenia, King's Niece, Day After Arrival

ATHENS, April 3.—William B. Leeds Jr., son of Princess Anastasia of Greece, who arrived here a few days ago by airplane to visit his mother, who is ill, has become engaged to Princess Xenia, the seventeen-year-old second daughter of Grand Duchess Marie and niece of King Constantine, it was learned today. The marriage will take place in June, probably in Athens, but the young couple plan to reside in America.

Young Leeds proposed the day after his arrival, it is understood, and was accepted immediately. Princess Anastasia, who still is seriously ill, was upset by the news and opposed the union at first on account of her son's youth, but finally gave her consent.

Leeds, who is nineteen, is proceeding to London to obtain a new wardrobe and will return to Athens in a fortnight.

William B. Leeds, who is to marry Princess Xenia of Greece, is heir to the fortune estimated at \$75,000,000 left by his father, William Bateman Leeds, American tin plate king, who died in Paris in 1908. He has lived in the United States most of his life. He sailed from New York March 13 for Cherbourg and made the trip from France by airplane to see his mother.

Wood to Devise Plan to Guard The Philippines

Thorough Scrutiny of Strategic Situation in Pacific One Purpose of Trip of General to Islands

Strong Defense Predicted

Harding May Call Independence Off for 25 Years to Invite Needed Capital

WASHINGTON, April 3.—One of the important reasons for sending General Leonard Wood to the Philippines, it was learned today, was to obtain for President Harding and the Administration a comprehensive report on the military and strategic situation in the Far East.

It is not admitted officially that this reason for the Wood mission is regarded as so important as the necessity of quieting the Philippine situation, but it is learned from unquestioned authority that the Far Eastern military and strategic problem is considered of very real importance.

While details of what General Wood may report as necessary in the Far Eastern military situation are purely speculative, it is thought here that he certainly will advocate making Manila Bay a strong naval base, well equipped with aircraft, mines, submarines and other armaments. Some naval officers believe that at least one hundred of the new hundred destroyers now in commission should be established with Manila as their base.

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A man, who gave the name of Joseph King, of 49 West Forty-eighth Street, accompanied her.

She said that they had driven to her home from the Capitol Theater. As the driver brought the car to a stop, he said, the young woman took a bottle from her handbag and had drunk most of its contents before he could snatch it from her. She refused to discuss her reasons and the police did not press him for information. Her condition is said to be serious.

She is twenty-five years old and wore expensive clothing and jewelry. The house in which she had a studio apartment is in a fashionable section just south of Gramercy Park.

Lansing Book Inspires One By Grayson

Diary of Wilson's Physician Said to Contain Answer to Attacks by Former Secretary of State

Will Be the Only Reply to Critics

Records Reported to Show Ex-President "Off Pedestal," Friend Says

Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson is going to write a book. Whatever title the physician of Woodrow Wilson may decide to bestow upon his forthcoming volume it will be a passionate defense of the former President from the criticisms made by Robert Lansing in his recently published book and magazine articles.

One of the close advisers and friends of Mr. Wilson, in disclosing the literary intentions of the more or less untitled admiral, said yesterday that Dr. Grayson's book was expected to "turn the laugh on Mr. Lansing." Thus far this is the only reply to the former Secretary of State contemplated by Mr. Wilson's friends. The former President's present frame of mind, it was learned, is such that he never expects to write about his experiences as Chief Executive of the American people.

Dr. Grayson's book will be prepared from material contained in a diary that he has kept religiously during the more than eight years that he has been associated with Mr. Wilson. It is said to be a day-by-day record of the behind-the-scenes life of Woodrow Wilson. The diary is understood to show the former President "off the pedestal." It contains a great mass of information about Robert Lansing, according to the Tribune's informant.

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Viviani Wants 'Must Pay' in Peace Measure

WASHINGTON, April 3.—René Viviani, Envoy Extraordinary of the French Republic to the United States, is said to have told Senator Knox at a conference at the Senator's home here today that if the separate peace resolution Senator Knox wants to introduce in Congress contained a reiteration of the declaration made Friday regarding Germany's responsibility for the war and a statement that the United States would view with grave concern a war involving the peace of Europe, the resolution would do much to relieve the anxiety of the French people for the future. The declaration of last Friday stated that Germany must pay reparations in full and acknowledge responsibility for the war.

Charles Asks Throne for His 9-Yr.-Old Son

Would Relinquish All Claim in Favor of Otto, With Admiral Horthy Remaining as Regent, Vienna Hears

Ex-Ruler Calls Doctor Austrian Capital Insists "Illness" Is Only a Pretext to Put Off His Departure

LONDON, April 3.—The correspondent at Vienna of The London Times says he has been informed from a trustworthy source that former Emperor Charles is willing to relinquish his claim to the throne in favor of his nine-year-old son, Otto, with Admiral Horthy continuing as Regent.

The correspondent adds that it is said in Vienna that the Entente might sanction such an arrangement.

STEINAMANGER, Hungary, April 3 (By The Associated Press).—Former Emperor Charles is ill with bronchitis. He is suffering from fever and is having nervous coughing attacks, according to a bulletin issued today by his Budapest physicians. The bulletin says the former king has no appetite and that he is obliged to remain in bed.

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Boy, 15, Hangs Himself After Seeing Death by Rope on Screen

Thomas Heppburn, fifteen-year-old son of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Heppburn, of 352 Laurel Street, Hartford, Conn., hanged himself with a sheet at the home of his aunt, Mrs. Sarah Toll, 26 Charlton Street, yesterday, two days after he had witnessed a motion picture in which a hanging was depicted.

According to relatives of the lad, he was depressed by the picture and commented on the horror of it, but he was believed to have recovered entirely from the effect it had made on him, because on the following day, Saturday, he accompanied an uncle in seeing the sights of New York, visited the Woolworth tower, and in the evening played a banjo and sang with his aunt, Mrs. Toll, and a sister, who had arrived from Hartford on Thursday to visit with him at his aunt's home.

The body was found by Heppburn's sister hanging from a rafter in the upper floor of the house when she went to arouse him yesterday morning. The girl was unable to obtain an answer from her brother and summoned Mrs. Toll, who assisted her in forcing the door. There was no trace of life left in the body.

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U. S. Stand Stirs France To Push On In Rhineland

Paris Ready to Set Up Customs Posts Over the Entire Industrial Region of Westphalia

Hopes to Win Over Britain to Its Plan

New Occupation Designed to Throttle Munition Making in Germany

Control of Industries

PARIS, April 3.—As the first result of the visit to the United States of René Viviani, Envoy Extraordinary, and the American declaration of last Friday that she will support the Allied policy of exacting full reparations from Germany, France probably will extend the customs frontier of the new Rhine customs state to include the whole industrial region of Westphalia. France still has British reluctance to overcome before this is done, but it is hoped that England will not shrink from the course which is urged by France and morally supported by the United States.

The French are profoundly satisfied with the American declaration and now feel that France has a much freer hand in pursuing her plans to make Germany pay her war bills.

In all previous negotiations on the subject of Germany's reparation payments France has acted with a great doubt in her mind whether America would hasten peace with Germany and become intolerant of the measures taken by the Allies which tend to control German purchases and exports. She feared that the United States might attribute to the policy a destabilizing effect between the Allies and Germany and for selfish reasons desire to see minimum rather than maximum penalties inflicted on Germany.

Viviani's Success Encouraging

Before staking France's future in a final round of the reparations dispute the French government desired to get at first hand the pulse of American opinion on the subject. Reports of the success in Washington of René Viviani therefore are received here with satisfaction and gratitude.

France, in agreement with Great Britain and Italy, will now prepare the final act of the reparations drama, which, it is hoped, will not take a tragic turn before the end. Now that the Allies are in agreement as to the method of setting up the Rhine customs barrier and on taxes to be imposed on the Germans, it will be a comparatively small matter to push this custom frontier eastward twenty or thirty kilometers. However little money this extension of the occupied area may bring in, it will be a tremendous sum as compared with Germany, which will be the district where German manufactures her arms and ammunition under Allied control. France will then be able to make a comparative study of her own frontier eastward twenty or thirty kilometers. However little money this extension of the occupied area may bring in, it will be a tremendous sum as compared with Germany, which will be the district where German manufactures her arms and ammunition under Allied control. 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