WIFE PAID $500 FOR HUSBAND'S MURDER

Confessions of Two Women Clear Mystery of Killing at Dobbs Ferry.

HIRED HOBOKEN ASSASSIN

DOBBS FERRY, N. Y., Jan. 22.—The mystery of the murder of Gregorio George, who was found in Ashford avenue last Saturday night with his throat cut, eyes gouged out and the tip of his nose sliced off, has been cleared up by confessions to Sheriff Wiesendanger and Coroner George Engle of Westchester county by Mrs. Antoinette George, the widow, and Mrs. Mary Figlio, George's sister-in-law. According to the authorities the women confessed that George was put out of the way by a Hoboken Italian for $500 as the result of a plot inspired by Mrs. George through fear that her husband would find out that she was in love with Vito Roimondo, who had boarded with the Georges for several years.

Mrs. George, Mrs. Figlio and Roimondo are locked up in the White Plains jail and the Westchester officials are confident that the paid assassin will be under arrest in a short time.

Woman Found Tied to Fence.

When George's body was picked up by the roadside his sister-in-law was found tied to an iron fence nearby with a gag in her mouth. Mrs. Figlio insisted that as she and George were walking along the street an automobile drove up with three men, all of whom jumped out and made an attack on George. She said that she promptly fainted and when she came to she was securely bound to the fence. The trio had disappeared, leaving the dead man crumpled up in a heap.

Sheriff Wiesendanger assigned Deputy Sheriff Frank Cherico to solve the mystery and Mrs. Figlio was held in jail as a witness, as her story seemingly had several weak spots. One suspicious feature that Cherico did not like was that the clothes line with which the young woman was tied was exactly like a clothes line found in Mrs. Figlio's home in Hoboken. This started a train of inquiry that resulted to-day in the confessions of the women.

Mrs. Figlio, 28 years old, was the first to break down. She told of the infatuation of Mrs. George for the star boarder, Roimondo, and of Mrs. George's fear that George would find her out. She said that Mrs. George and Roimondo agreed that it was safer for them with George dead than George alive.

Mrs. Figlio declared that Mrs. George selected her as the one who could show her the way out of the difficulty, and explained what was necessary to be done. The former confessed that she approached several persons in Hoboken to undertake "the job of killing George," and finally got a man to do it for $500.

Husband Lured to Murder.

Under the pretext that Mrs. Figlio was coming to visit her sister-in-law and bring her a bottle of medicine Mrs. George, Mrs. Figlio said, induced her husband to go to the railroad station to meet her. As George was escorting her from the train to his home, she continued, the hired assassin from Hoboken and Vito Roimondo, the boarder, sneaked up behind and the former quickly put George out of the way with a blackjack and a knife. Then Mrs. Figlio was lashed to the fence after a rag had been stuffed into her mouth just to make it appear to the police that she too had been made a victim of somebody's vengeance.

The confession of Mrs. George, as related by the authorities, confirmed in the essential details the remarkable story told by Mrs. Figlio. She admitted furthermore, it is said, that she furnished the $500 which was paid to the Hoboken assassin.

The police are withholding the name of the man hired to do the killing although they are sure his days of liberty are limited.

STATE CENSUS REJECTED.

Washington Bureau Decides Against Figures Given for 1915.

Health Commissioner Emerson announced yesterday that he had received a communication from Samuel L. Rogers, director of the Federal Census Bureau, setting forth that the Washington authorities had decided not to use in their official calculations the State enumeration, which placed the population of this city at 5,047,000. The director said:

"After a careful consideration of the statements made and other enumerations made under State auspices the Census Bureau has decided that it will compute estimates of population based upon the Federal censuses of 1900 and 1910 and that such estimates will be used in all computations for rates and per capitas. No State enumeration will be accepted as an official census by the Census Bureau.

"The estimated population of New York city for July 1, 1914, is 5,602,841. This estimate is based on the Federal censuses of 1900 and 1910."

The computations of the local health officials, on which they based their death rate of 13.64 for the city last year, set the figures for 1915 at 5,555,000.

SHOOTS WIFE, KILLS HIMSELF.

Maine Hotel Owner Was Jealous, Says Victim.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., Jan. 22.—Edward Greenwood, proprietor of the Piscataqua House at Kittery, Me., shot his wife early to-day and then killed himself. Mrs. Greenwood is expected to recover.

She said she had a quarrel with her husband because he was jealous of her. The shooting followed.

WILSON SENDS CHEER BY WIRE TO MOLLIE FANCHER

Congratulations From White House to Famous Brooklyn Invalid, Who Will Give a Party to Celebrate Her Fiftieth Year in Bed.

Mollie Fancher and a reporter for THE SUN had a jolly little chat yesterday. She was happy because she is going to give a party on February 3 celebrating the fiftieth year that she has been lying day after day in the big rosewood bed in her apartment at 160 Gates avenue, Brooklyn. She was happy because she sent President Wilson one of the 600 invitations and because he has sent her a reply, telling of his sympathy and congratulations.

For years Mollie Fancher has been reported dying, and ever since she was 17 years old—she is 68 now—she has been bedridden as a result of an accident. America's most famous invalid, she has been called—not a fame that many would wish for; but still she is an optimist and a humorist, a bit grim at times, and often pathetic.

"You want to see one of the invitations?" she said, leaning a few inches forward from her pillow. "Here it is," and her frail, white hands felt for a box amid a score of others piled at the foot of her bed. The invitation was embossed in gold and read: "1866—1916. Mollie Fancher announces her golden jubilee testimonial, Thursday, February the 3d, 1916, 2—6, 8—12."

"Don't you go taking Miss Mollie's picture and putting it in the paper!" commanded one of her household, who put her head in at the door for the especial purpose of making this demand.

"No," agreed Mollie Fancher. "I always look like an escaped convict in the papers!" Her hands plucked at the lace kimono she had on, felt the big silver necklace she wore and patted her frizzed, white hair, as neatly coiffed as one could see in any fashion magazine.

She's Sorry for Osborne.

The mention of a convict reminded her of the indicted warden of Sing Sing.

"Poor Osborne! I feel sorry for him. He has made a great reformation at Sing Sing. He is a great reformer."

"That's all right!" spoke up Joe, one of her three parrots.

"Of course it is, Joe," said Miss Fancher, opening the door of his cage, resting on a table close to the bed. She lured Joe out upon the bedspread. "Come here, Joe, you loafer, darling, you pet. If I tell him to put his head down he won't do it. But if I tell him to put his cocoanut down he will do it. Now, watch. Put your cocoanut down! That's a fine pet." The parrot obeyed her and she scratched his head.

"I've had him ever since he was six months old. That's twelve years ago. He's a great friend. I've got a friend most everywhere. I don't think there's any one living who has got more friends than I have. That's what makes life worth living; my friends are everything to me, because it has been a great cross which I have borne, and my friends have helped me to bear it. When you come right down to it it isn't much fun being in bed all the time. Ever try it? No? Don't!

"I'm going to have the house all fixed up for my party—electric lights, flowers—yellow ones, so they will be in keeping with the idea of a golden jubilee, you know, a birthday cake and refreshments. My friends will fill the place, I haven't a doubt of it. I hope that the President's letter to me will be like one coming from him should be, authoritative. I like President Wilson. He has been firm and stanch and true to his country, and he has done what a good many others couldn't have done; he's been wonderful. Anybody else would have had us in the war before now.

"Yes, there's nothing I don't read in the newspapers, from the high price of butter down."

Up Speaks Joe Again.

"Is that so?" interrupted the parrot.

"Yes, that's so, Joe. I've got two other parrots. See them? That little one is Spanish; he only talks his native language."

Her gaze wandered around the room, from the parrots to the Christmas tree on a stand, from the Christmas tree to a table full of knicknacks, from the table to a window that was open, letting in a spring breeze and the gossip of sparrows, and from the window to her plants.

"That long vine you see there is a spider plant. Later on it will have I don't know how many sprays and a little white flower. I like to have them in my room. I was telling you how I read everything in the newspapers. That's wrong. I don't read the war news because I can't. It hurts me. It is too heartrending, reading about the misery and suffering in Europe."

Mollie Fancher used to have psychic powers, and her ability in mind reading was much discussed by scientific men for many years. Recently she lost this second sight.

"I could see things outside of my room, you know," she explained yesterday. "I could see my friends coming and going. I have lost that power now, although I get fleeting glimpses of it now and then. I lost it when I was sick. Have you had the grip this year? I had it two weeks before Christmas. My doctor told me: 'You've got to keep well!' I told him: 'It's your business to keep me well.'"

Mollie Fancher's final abjurgation was:

"If you put anything in the paper, make it nice and sweet. And come over again, some time when you aren't on business."

WHITE CAT IN CELLAR CAUSES ARSON ARREST

Youth of 19 Alleged to Have Confessed Setting Fires in Harlem.

"Half an hour after he had poured oil on the coal and wood bins in the cellar of the tenement house at 946 Columbus avenue, while his mother was asleep on the fifth floor, nineteen-year-old Edward Putter broke down and confessed to me that he was the firebug whose activities have terrorized Harlem residents and caused thousands of dollars in property losses," said Fire Marshal Brophy yesterday.

Putter's alleged confession followed an examination to which he was subjected Friday night in Engine House 76, 102d street and Columbus avenue. Fear of discovery balked his plan to set fire to the five story tenement where he lives with his father and mother.

While he was busy scattering kerosene soaked rags about the cellar of his home, Fire Marshal Brophy says the youth told him, a white cat which he mistook for a man frightened him so he dropped his oil can and rags and dashed up to the roof, thinking he was pursued. To explain this conduct he invented a story about having chased a burglar who raced from the cellar to the top of the house and then escaped by the roof. It was this story that trapped the youth. Under rigid questioning, said Brophy, he admitted that it was absolutely false, having no basis other than in his own imagination.

According to Brophy, Putter also confessed that he started three other fires in tenement houses in the neighborhood. As many as thirty more besides these three will probably be traced to Putter, said Brophy.

Inspectors of the Bureau of Fire Prevention have had Putter under observation ever since December 13.

When arraigned in the West Side Court before Magistrate Barlow yesterday on a charge of arson Putter waived a hearing and was held in $5,000 for trial. The complainant against him was William R. Ferris, acting fire marshal. Putter told the court he drove a wagon for a bottling concern at 108th street and Columbus avenue.

SILVER CATS TO BE SHOWN.

Proceeds of McAlpin Display Will Go to Animal Hospital.

The Silver Society's third cat show, to be held at the Hotel McAlpin next Thursday and Friday, will be for the benefit of the Free Hospital for Animals at 350 Lafayette street, conducted by the Women's League for Animals. Some of the most beautiful silver cats and kittens in the country will be on exhibition to obtain funds for caring for less fortunate cats, dogs, horses and birds, and even at the present time for one sick goat.

Mrs. James Speyer is president of the league. The hospital was closed after the war began, as Mrs. Speyer felt that the American public was doing so much for war sufferers it could not be asked for funds for the league.

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