

POLICE FIERY WITH GIRLS WHILE MERION IS AT CROOKS' MERCY

Hold Feasts, Take "Naps" and Have Good Time in General, Citizens' Probe Shows.

The surprise sprung by Edward Bok, president of the Merion Civic Association, at the dinner of the association last week, when he announced that Merion detectives had been working at Merion for six weeks, was augmented last night at a special meeting of the board of directors of the association held at the residence of George D. H. Darby...

Mr. Bok announced that it was decided some weeks ago to ascertain just how vigilant were the Lower Merion Township policemen. There are supposed to be two officers at night and one during the day. The Burns Detective Agency was engaged for some of its brightest men were employed to "shadow" Merion during the daytime to see how vigilant was the day officer. During the course of 20 days Merion was not seen at all or when the officer was not seen at all or only once, and during the 10 days of the month he was seen two or three times. One of the officers of the Merion Civic Association then patrolled the Merion station for eight successive afternoons and only met the day officer once.

The night officers came in for the greatest "showdown," however. A Burns man was detailed at the railroad station every night on a "special piece of work," and he became "chummy" with the Merion officers. He was soon told that he would be introduced to some "chickens" with whom he could "do all kinds of business." These "chickens" turned out to be servants employed in some of the best houses in Merion, and every household of the little suburb is now all agog as to what evidence is in existence against their servants.

POLICEMEN STEAL FOOD. With these servants the police on duty went regularly to their employers' homes, had feasts and enjoyed themselves with the expense of food and drink of the owners at the homes. When they could not get food in this way, they would, as they do on every evening, deliberately break into a refrigerator of one of the Merion homes and steal food. A detective was put down by the Merion policeman as an "easy mark" and a "good fellow," and he was sent into Merion and to neighboring inns for whiskey and food. These were brought to the railroad station at Merion, a cozy fire was made in the waiting room, a supper was had and then, regularly each night, after the last train was in, the policemen and the detectives lay down on the station benches to sleep. When the morning came, they were awakened by the railroad's trackwalker at 5 a. m.

TELEPHONE GIRLS CO-OPERATE. Merion, a goodly procession of girls came to the Merion station and the place became a veritable trysting place for them and the police. One of these was a telephone operator. She was handy to the police and "stood in with them," so that instead of being compelled to break their sleep each hour and go to the boxes in the Merion district to report to the Ardmore station, they are required to do, this girl at the exchange would ring up the Ardmore station and report for them, leaving the police to their undisturbed sleep. Recently, however, the telephone girls have been doing everything possible to co-operate with the residents of Merion in putting a stop to this practice.

OFFICIALS VERIFY EVIDENCE. When all the facts were carefully collected, several of the officers of the Merion Civic Association got out of their remaining beds for a few nights at 1 a. m. and continuously went down to the station. At exactly the hour of the detective inside the station would stand at the glass door and strike one or two matches, indicating how many policemen were inside the station. The resident fathers would then look in the windows at the sleepers and watch until they hurriedly came out of the station at 4 or 5 a. m. This was done for verification evidence.

TRAP IS SPRUNG. The investigation was then taken up by Chief Donaghy, the head of the police of Lower Merion. George Darby, president of the Lower Merion Civic Association, and Mr. Sullivan, chairman of the Police Committee, were taken into the confidence of the investigators and the facts were laid before them. To satisfy themselves of the condition as reported they each in turn visited the Merion station, one at 1 a. m. and 4 a. m., and found the undisturbed sleepers. The telephone operator was then taken into the matter and they instituted a "wire" with the result that the charges against the girl employee involved were proved. The authorities were then notified of the manner in which their property was being used and they also made an investigation.

TO ENLARGE FORCE. The result of this excellent piece of civic work has opened the eyes of the Lower Merion Township Commissioners to the inadequacy of their police service, and measures will be taken at the next meeting to increase the force from 18 to 25 men. The "beat" will be shortened, and an entirely new and direct service of reporting will be installed, so that officers will "beat" direct from their boxes to the Ardmore station and avoid the telephone exchanges.

at Merion. The question was thrust out in executive session. The board would not disclose the nature of its further action, however. "We are considering," said Mr. Bok, "an entirely new method of police protection for Merion, something that has never been carried out in any community. It will be novel and effective. We are determined that Merion shall be the safest place on the Main Line for a person to live in, and when we perfect our arrangements we will strike, I think, a new note in community protection." "The Lower Merion police have a very difficult problem of protecting a widely spread-out district with a small force, and the residents are going to help," Mr. Donaghy in his efforts. Merion is not going to be a healthy place after this for crooks.

CONVENTION OF PAINTERS INDORSES PAPER ON LIQUOR

Pittsburgh Delegate's Plea for Temperance May Start Crusade.

The convention of the Master House Painters and Decorators' Association of Pennsylvania, which has been in session at the Adelphi Hotel for the last three days, closes today. The meeting this morning was devoted to the election of officers and the completion of unfinished business.

There was much discussion today of the paper read yesterday by Frank Brown, of Pittsburgh, advocating the abolishment of intemperance among employers of the trade.

Mr. Brown declared that, though he could see no good whatever in strong drink, he would not undertake its complete abolition among the workmen because such a step would not make for much greater efficiency. His plea was confined to moderation, which he asserted was an economic necessity to the painter's business. He said that all the qualities in a workman that were required for doing good work as a painter were drugged and deadened by the effects of whisky.

The paper received the unanimous indorsement of the association. A copy of the address has been forwarded to the International Association of Master Painters for consideration, and is expected to form a nucleus for a country-wide movement for temperance among painters.

"A COUSIN OF CHARLIE'S" SWINDLES HAVERFORD FOLK

Poses as Relative of Governor Carey at L. Leeds Miller's Home.

The police are today looking for a suave gentleman with a broken front tooth, a "cousin of Charlie's," who swindled Mrs. D. Leeds Miller and her son-in-law, Stephen Morris, both of Haverford, out of \$70 and hospitality, and who probably is playing the same trick on another person now.

The stranger called on the Millers the other day—just dropped in, you know—and told them he was a relative of Charlie's, meaning Governor Carey, of Wyoming, whose son married Miss Nellie Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Miller. He was very pleasant and before he left he asked, in an embarrassed manner, for a small loan to tide him over till a check came. He got \$20 and left.

Then Mr. Morris, who lives in the same house, came home and was told about the pleasant visitor. He was told that the man was driving a motor car to New York from me by posing as a friend of Charlie's," he said.

A telegram was sent to Governor Carey. The reply read: "Some man, representing himself as a friend of yours, swindled me recently. I should like to meet him again."

WALTER ERBEN, JR., KILLED WHEN AUTO HITS WAGON

Young Radnor Man, Socially Prominent, Loses Life in Accident.

Philadelphia social circles were shocked today by news of the death of Walter Erben, Jr., of Radnor, who was killed when his auto ploughed into a bakery wagon on the Lancaster pike near Wynnewood, injuring another man. The injured man is Emil Branicik, 2218 Aler street, owner and driver of the wagon.

The accident occurred late last night. Branicik said he was driving slowly up Lancaster pike, when the automobile appeared over the ridge of a hill. It was a six-wheeled motor truck, and Branicik said he drove as far to the right as he could, but when the machine was abreast of him it swerved directly into the horses. One horse was killed, Branicik and his assistant, Michael Brennan, 2137 Horllick street, were hurled out, and wagon and touring car were wrecked. The pole of the wagon went through the windshield of the car, killing young Erben.

Erben and the injured baker were hurried to the Bryn Mawr Hospital in an automobile. Branicik had a broken leg, but his assistant escaped unhurt. Erben was socially prominent. His father is head of the Erben-Harding Company, yarn manufacturers. The body was removed to the Erben residence in Radnor.

\$500 LEFT TO ORPHANS' HOME

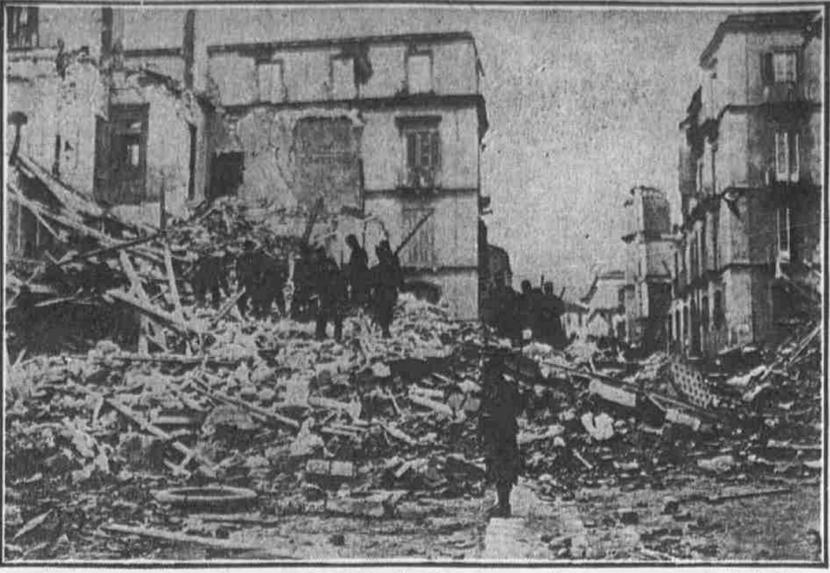
Will of Alexander B. Cunningham Admitted to Probate.

The will of Alexander B. Cunningham, late of 1224 Judson street, bequeaths \$500 to the Huntington Home for Orphans and Friendless Children. The residue of the \$38,000 estate is left to the testator's wife and relatives.

Michael Conway, who died at 1543 Ridge avenue, January 4, left an estate of \$6000 in personal property to his widow and at her death to be divided among five daughters and three sons. The testator wrote: "I have made no provision in my will for my son Edward because of his continued disobedience and the constant worryment which he caused me during my lifetime."

Other wills admitted to probate today are those of Charles Korb, 819 South 46th street, who left an estate of \$15,000 in private bequests; William H. Embury, 4617 Girard street, \$6000; Joseph M. Hobson, 3705 Girard avenue, \$3500.

DESTRUCTION LEFT IN PATH OF ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE



This is a view of the ruins caused in Messina in 1908, when one of the worst earthquakes in Italy's history took more than 77,000 lives. The city of Avezzano, 50 miles from Rome, has now been visited by a similar shock and doubtless like scenes will be left in its trail.

LIST OF TOWNS IN ITALY IN EARTHQUAKE ZONE WHICH SUFFERED LOSS

ROME, Jan. 14.—While details are still lacking the reports of the various officials in charge of the relief work show the following cities and towns affected: Albe, 1000 reported dead in and near town. Avezzano, 10,000 inhabitants; at least 1000 dead and 1500 injured; town completely destroyed; death list in adjoining territory very large. Aielli, 1000 reported dead; 500 hurt, many fatally. Arpino, 150 known dead, many hurt. Albano, some dead, number unknown; town badly damaged. Ariccia, 40 reported dead. Bussi, reported destroyed. Campo-Isauro, partly wrecked; 20 known dead; rumored that many are buried in ruins. Caserta, buildings damaged. Ciprano, many houses destroyed; no loss of life reported. Cast. partly demolished; no loss of life reported. Cervetri, seven reported dead. Cuccullo, reported destroyed. Galliano, three reported dead. Galiano, several dead in ruins of noted cathedral; others reported buried in ruins of their homes; no details as yet obtainable. Mezzano, entire city reported demolished; feared death list will be large; no details obtainable. Monte Rotondo, three known dead, including the noted Professor Luigi Megalini. Naples, none dead; many injured. Potenza, 50 miles east of Naples, entire city reported badly damaged; population about 20,000; no loss of life reported. Pofi, 600 out of total population of 4000 reported killed; town practically demolished. Paliano, slight loss. Perete, buildings damaged; several killed. Pozzillo, buildings damaged. Poggioreale, reported heavily; no details as yet obtainable. Palestrina, five dead; many hurt. Rome, none dead in city, but many hurt; 89 buildings destroyed. Tivoli, 15 reported dead; many injured. Sorra, 100 reported dead; town reported completely wrecked. Sarno, Sonnina, Subiaco and Sanvita, many reported injured in these towns, but none dead. Tivoli, 100 killed. Torres Cajenti, at least 150 believed to be dead and many injured. Tivoli, one dead; many hurt. Terra Chino, ten dead; many hurt. Trevi and Torrice, many reported injured; none dead. Viroli, two killed; 40 injured. Velletri and Vicovaro, many injured; none known dead.

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ORIGINAL GENUINE Horlicks Malted Milk. Others are Imitations. A Food-Drink for All Ages. Rich milk, malted grain, in powder form. For infants, invalids and growing children. Pure nutrition, upbuilding the whole body. Invigorates nursing mothers and the aged. More healthful than tea or coffee. No chemical substitutes. Ask for HORLICK'S.

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VILLA PLANS COUP; CARRANZA'S FORCES REPORTED IN CAPITAL

With Obregon Said to Have Replaced Zapata, First Chief's Rival Seeks His Overthrow.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—Villa has cast the die to win or lose all in Mexico, according to advices reaching here today. His plan of campaign, the messages stated, is to wipe out the Carranzistas in the northern section. Then sweeping on to Tampico and Puebla, he hopes to crush the remaining forces, thus compelling Carranza to give way permanently to Gutierrez.

This information comes simultaneously with a report from El Paso emanating from Carranza headquarters at Vera Cruz, to the effect that General Obregon, first lieutenant of Carranza, had entered the suburbs of Mexico City, from which General Zapata was said yesterday to have withdrawn. The report was emphatically denied at the Villa headquarters in Juarez, where it was alleged no Carranza troops were in the vicinity of Mexico City.

Carranzistas here today asserted that their leaders had massed 25,000 troops for the Torreon-Saltillo campaign, with 9000 arriving fresh yesterday at Tampico. At the same time the Villistas maintained they had added 8000 new troops to their Tampico forces, and were predicting that the impending battles will be the turning point in the internal struggle. Simultaneous attacks at Torreon and Saltillo were imminent today, together with a "clean-up" battle in the Saltillo region. State Department officials were awaiting confirmation of the reported re-election of Gutierrez by the new peace convention. In the meantime they were inclined to credit the report and to believe that Villa still supported him. Trouble from Zapata over this move, however, was feared, although the Administration is inclined to pin its faith on Villa in this crucial moment of Mexico's warfare.

RISE OF WATERS OF DELAWARE THREATEN

Continued from Page One devices for elevating the platforms could not raise them enough. No injuries were reported as a result of this, but John Harper, who works around the dock with the steam barge Hercules, moored at Pier 24, fell into the icy water while trying to climb into his vessel. On Camden the water is up to Delaware avenue.

At Federal street the flood extends to Van Selver's furniture establishment, nearly a block from the ferry, and passengers are obliged to take cars to pass it or wade through it. Conditions are worse at Kalen's Point. The wharves there are dilapidated as a result of the recent fire, and the water finds little resistance. Several sewers have overflowed and one collapsed near the ferry.

The Vin and Shackamaxon street ferries are not running, as the water is so high on the Camden side that the ferry-boats cannot get into their slips. The Delaware has gone over its banks at Gloucester, Washington Park, Banksboro and many other places, and traffic to Gloucester and Woodbury and other points is cut off.

The boathouse of Herbert Ducher at Gloucester was flooded and sunk. Many families who occupy boathouses the year round were compelled to move to the second floors for safety. The trolley tracks were completely submerged and service from Woodbury north was interrupted at Timber Creek, while the southbound cars from Camden could go no farther than Jersey avenue.

Wreckage floating down the stream indicated that houses had been swept away at other points. Traffic on the West Jersey and Seashore Railroad is threatened. Wrecking crews were sent to several points along the line and are making barricades of railroad ties along the river banks in a final effort to stem the tide. The Public Service Railway Company hopes to be able to continue its service.

BLANK'S Luncheons 50c. Hot Turkey Sandwich, Cranberry Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Coffee, Ice Cream. 1024-26 Chestnut Street.

Clearance Sale. Thousands of pairs of the Season's Smartest Shoes. No few days' selling can skim the cream off this great stock. You are sure to find all of the styles, your size and values just the same as the early buyers. That's what makes this a real sale, and worth while.

Perry & Co. "N. B. T." 16th & Chestnut Sts. Values up to \$7.50 cut to \$3.40 and \$3.90. Women's "short lines" of Evening Slippers and Boots, formerly \$4 to \$6, now \$2.99.

SNOW AND ICE JAM SUSQUEHANNA

Hamlets along the banks of the river were almost obliterated by the gorging of the ice flow. The house here shown is at Safe Harbor, and shows in condition when the occupants were taken out during a midnight storm in a boat. A score of other homes in the same town suffered a like flooding.