

# IMPORTANT SHOW GIRL WITNESS IN ARBUCKLE CASE DISAPPEARS

## ARREST OF ANOTHERS PROBABLE

Weight and influence should not count in favor of a defendant; neither should they count against him.

Nine witnesses were heard by the grand jury during its long session. Mrs. Bambina Maude Delmont, who has assumed the role of prosecutrix, first told her story of the party and the events that followed it. She is understood to have related in detail the story she had already given to the police. In this she declared Arbusckle dragged Miss Rappe into his room and locked the door; that she remained there an hour despite her urgings that the door be opened; that when the door finally was opened Miss Rappe lay moaning on the bed, disheveled and in a semi-conscious condition. She further told of the medical treatment of the girl at the hotel and later at the hospital.

Miss Zey Frevon, Ira G. Furloughs, Dr. William Ophuis, an autopsy surgeon, and Mrs. Rose Foster, mother of Miss Frevon, and John Reiss, her brother, were the other witnesses.

**Fatty's Counsel Elated.**

Counsel for Arbusckle were plainly elated with the failure of the grand jury to vote an indictment. They had no statement, however, to add to their plea for the public to withhold judgment.

"We, with a complete knowledge of all the facts, know that he is innocent," said this statement, signed by three of his attorneys.

"The patrons of the silent drama, having a knowledge of the smile and the heart of the famous 'Fatty' Arbusckle, will not believe that he is guilty of the charges made against him until proved in the court of justice," the statement continued.

"The whirlwind and typhoon of unjust criticism is now on, but will be mighty and will prevail and the courts of this land will sustain the basic principle of the Anglo-Saxon ideal, that the presumption of innocence prevails until the same has been disproved beyond a reasonable doubt."

"We ask the public of our common country to suspend judgment in this case until such time as a jury of the peers of Roscoe Arbusckle shall determine his guilt or innocence."

Mrs. Bambina Maude Delmont, who swore to the complaint charging Roscoe Arbusckle with the murder of Miss Virginia Rappe, loomed today as the central figure in the still drama. Mrs. Delmont is to be the chief witness at the inquest which authorities were unable to complete yesterday.

**Mrs. Delmont Hysterical.**

Early today it was declared that Mrs. Delmont might not be able to testify because of her almost hysterical condition. After swearing to the formal complaint against Arbusckle, she suffered a collapse, and it was reported that her nervous condition today was unfavorable.

Completion of the inquest and indictment of Arbusckle by the grand jury were expected to be the chief developments in the case today.

Mrs. Delmont is expected to tell the coroner's jury her version of the fatal party at the St. Francis Hotel, where Miss Rappe is supposed to have been assaulted by the fat film comedian, sustaining injuries that resulted in her death four days later. Mrs. Delmont was a member of the party and helped care for Miss Rappe after she became ill.

Five physicians were the chief witnesses at the coroner's inquest late yesterday. Dr. M. E. Rumwell, Dr. William Ophuis, Dr. J. Reed, Dr. Emmett Rexford, and Dr. Charles H. Boeh, each of whom at one time or another attended Miss Rappe during her last illness, were the witnesses.

**Testimony Unprintable.**

Much of the testimony given by the physicians was of an unprintable nature. The line of questioning followed by officials was chiefly with the nature of the injuries that caused Miss Rappe's death, with particular stress on the possibility of the injuries being of spontaneous origin.

Arbusckle, plainly nervous and worn, was taken back to his cell in "felons' row" after the inquest and locked up for the night.

**Grand Jury Meets.**

The grand jury met at 7:30 last night to hear the testimony of witnesses rounded up by District Attorney Brady to support a demand for the indictment of "Fatty."

Members of the drinking party in Arbusckle's rooms at the Hotel St. Francis and physicians and nurses who attended her were among those summoned.

They also included Mrs. Sidi Wirt

## Another Ruin by Rum, Declares Dr. Stratton

By the REV. DR. JOHN ROACH STRATTON. (Noted Baptist Clergyman.)

NEW YORK, Sept. 13.—Rum has wrought another ruin. It kindles and feeds the fires of lust. It pours gasoline into the sleeping volcano of human passion. It involves innocent and guilty alike in a common conflagration.

The smoky fires of secret sin, fed by alcohol, blaze up into the roaring flames of crime. Character is wrecked. Restraint is destroyed. Outrage, violence and murder rear their horrid heads in its train.

Men become beasts. They do the deeds that beasts do—and worse.

Prohibition has diminished the danger. It has dammed the dangerous floods of whiskey and diminished the amount of tragedy and misery they caused.

There are still leaks in the dam. What happens when those leaks afford the opportunity to human weakness and wickedness provides a lesson. We should stop the leaks.

Public and private parties where liquor flows freely still occur. They disgrace the community. Their existence reflects on the efficiency of enforcement officers.

The present tragedy should spur public officials to greater zeal. No self-respecting citizen should give even tacit approval to any violation of the Volstead act.

Spreckels, widow of John D. Spreckels, Jr., who met Miss Rappe several years ago and was telephoned when Miss Rappe was dying and begged her to go to her bedside.

**Inquest Given Details.**

Some of those who had testified earlier in the day at the inquest opened by Coroner Leland, when they told their stories of what had happened at the party and afterward.

The inquest followed Arbusckle's arraignment before Police Judge Daniel S. O'Brien, when he was formally accused of the murder in a complaint signed by Mrs. Bambina Maude Delmont, who accompanied Miss Rappe on her visit to Arbusckle's rooms. This complaint took the place of the charge laid against Arbusckle by the police when they arrested him Saturday night.

The outstanding features were the stories told by witnesses at the inquest, and a clash between Frank Dominguez, Los Angeles attorney directing Arbusckle's defense, and District Attorney Brady.

**Hotel Man Testifies.**

H. J. Boyle, assistant manager of the St. Francis Hotel, told of being called on the telephone and of meeting Arbusckle, who came out of the room wearing the hat of the dying woman on the side of his head. He told how Arbusckle had carried Miss Rappe to the room, and of calling the hotel doctor.

To bring out the story of Arbusckle's presence behind a locked door in the room where Mrs. Delmont charges he dragged Miss Rappe, he testified that when the door finally was opened, her illness and statements by her to nurses before her death, Brady submitted his witnesses before the grand jury.

New evidence obtained during the day from Joyce Clark, another member of the party, was withheld by the prosecutor for the time being.

**Dry Agents Take Hand.**

Federal agents have taken a hand in the inquiry in an effort to learn where the liquor in Arbusckle's rooms came from. They are interested, of course, only in the prohibition aspect of the case. Thomas J. Coleman, manager of the Hotel St. Francis, and his assistant, Thomas Keating, were summoned to appear at the office of Prohibition Director Thomas A. Brown to throw light on the source from which Arbusckle obtained the liquor for the party at the St. Francis, which resulted in Miss Rappe's death.

With the three-sided investigation going on, the silence that has marked the attitude of the defense since Arbusckle's arrest is broken. It is at no time was he alone in a room with Miss Rappe was broken for the first time at the inquest by Frank E. Dominguez, of Los Angeles, directing Arbusckle's defense, and the prosecutor, a postponement of the inquest until after the grand jury had met.

"We want the full facts placed before the people, and we want it done today at this inquest," said Dominguez.

The prosecutor retorted that the silence of Arbusckle and his attorneys was not contributing to his efforts to bring out the facts.

**Arbusckle Nervous.**

While the inquest was in progress Arbusckle showed signs of nervous strain. Following his arraignment he was "mugged" by the police bureau of identification and his Bertillon record was made.

The record was: Two hundred and sixty-six pounds, five feet five and three-eighths inches, thirty-four years, actor, born Kansas, fair, medium chestnut; complexion, ruddy; eyes blue, marks, scar at root of nose and on fourth finger, right hand.

While posing for the official photographer he showed no sign of the violence he displayed in the screen pictures, and the famous smile known to movie fans was absent.

This ordeal, expectation of others to come, and the news from all over the country that house managers are canceling his films combined to make him appear uncomfortable at the inquest.

Mrs. Delmont, in bringing the formal charge of murder against Arbusckle, said she went to the St. Francis with Miss Rappe, who had been invited by telephone to go to Arbusckle, whom she had known for five years and who was supposed to be a friend of her fiancée, Henry Lehrman, movie director, now in New York.

They were accompanied by Al Semmner, Miss Rappe's manager; Lowell Sherman, actor; Fred Fishback, director, and Zey Frevon and Dollie Clark, show girls. They were in Arbusckle's rooms when she and Miss Rappe arrived.

After they had had two or three drinks, Miss Rappe drinking gin and orange juice, Mrs. Delmont said Arbusckle pulled Miss Rappe into an adjoining room.

"I've waited for you five years and now I've got you," Arbusckle cried, said Mrs. Delmont, and he locked the door.

**Heard Victim Scream.**

Not being well acquainted with Miss Rappe, Mrs. Delmont said, she did not care to interfere, but when she heard her screaming she became alarmed. She pounded on the door and kicked, but got no reply. Finally, after more than half an hour, she kicked on the

## 'HARD TO SLAY OR TO BE SLAIN BY A FAT MAN'

Arbusckle Says So In Recently Printed Magazine Interview, "Love Confessions."

NEW YORK, Sept. 13.—"It is very hard either to murder or to be murdered by a fat man."

So said Roscoe Arbusckle. He made the statement in his last accredited interview antedating the amazing scene at the St. Francis Hotel.

Arbusckle's interview, headed "Love Confessions of a Fat Man," is in the Photoplay Magazine for September. He is quoted as saying at the beginning of the interview:

"Nobody loves a fat man except a temperamental woman."

In the amazingly interesting paragraph dealing with "murder," Arbusckle prefaced his utterances with:

"A woman today has got to have a good-looking husband. Statisticians show that there have been more love murders, marriage murders, and suicide love pacts in the last few years than ever before in the history of the world."

At another point in the interview, Arbusckle is quoted as follows:

"I wouldn't marry the most beautiful woman in the world if she asked me. A beautiful wife is like a diamond necklace—nice to have around, but a lot of bother to take care of."

That remark is illustrated by a picture of Arbusckle standing beside a flight of stone steps, looking into the eyes of a young beauty, his right hand clasping her left.

Arbusckle, speaking of love affairs, said the fat man "is going to have his day." He added:

"He will be sought, chased, even mobbed, because a man will not be enough of him to go round—not individually, but as an institution."

"Like the shrinking violet have we languished for love these many years, but we are about to come into our own and make a little bit of the other fellows. I feel that I was born at the auspicious moment for the fat man."

Arbusckle is represented as having granted an interview while clad in pajamas. He told his interviewer that he was "afraid of women."

## DOESN'T BLAME HIS FIANCEE FOR VISITING FATTY

Lehrman Says Comedian Was Amusing, Although Miss Rappe Disliked Him.

NEW YORK, Sept. 13.—"I excuse Miss Virginia Rappe's going to 'Fatty' Arbusckle's apartment in the San Francisco hotel, because he was in a strange town and lonesome," said Henry Lehrman, fiancée of the dead woman, in commenting further today about the tragedy which has caused him unhappiness.

"Miss Rappe was escorted by Mrs. Bambina Delmont, who has stated Virginia did not know Arbusckle was in the apartment when they were invited to call," said Lehrman.

"Even if she had known Arbusckle was to be present I would have excused her going. For despite her physical aversion to him, he could have been entertaining."

Lehrman, though grief stricken, is still bitter against Arbusckle, whom he thought was his friend.

## JARDIN DE ST. MARKS OPENS AS NEW PALACE OF DANCE

The Jardin de St. Marks, at Twenty-first street and Pennsylvania avenue, held its formal opening under the new management of Joseph Robbins, who has leased the former Penn Gardens for five years.

The new building has been refurnished and redecorated. Mr. Robbins announces that a new policy will prevail, and that the Jardin will be conducted in a manner to attract the most critical of patrons.

Dancing instructors will be at the service of patrons and caterer service will also be maintained.

## Today

(Continued from First Page.)

dicting is not harmful. It makes men think, and wars usually come by surprise. Watched pots and discussed wars don't boil.

## HOW "FATTY" LOOKS ON MORNING AFTER THE WILD NIGHT BEFORE



ROSCOE (FATTY) ARBUCKLE, movie star, held on a charge of murder in connection with the death of Miss Virginia Rappe. "Fatty" is shown here in a comedy pose, trying to wear off the bad effects of a big booze the night before. He plays the part to perfection, doubtless having experienced the feelings many a time and oft.

## Story of Spittoon-Cleaner's Climb To Millionaire Actor

### I—EARLY LIFE.

The early life of Roscoe Arbusckle on his father's not overproductive farm in Kansas consisted of hard work and little schooling. In those days the country schools were open when the boys were not needed in the fields to help their fathers and the girls could be spared from the kitchens by their mothers.

In the meantime, as Roscoe has often told the story, he used to sit around the kitchen stove and listen to his father and mother discuss his future. This was the principal evening topic. His father thought Roscoe would do well as a country doctor. His mother was equally sure Roscoe would win fame and glory sooner as a minister of the gospel.

Roscoe was never consulted. He had about made up his mind that he might as well be a doctor as a minister when the first big event of his life occurred. A one-ering circus came to the town near Roscoe's home.

Months after the circus had been forgotten by every other boy on the nearby farm, Roscoe dreamed of that show. In secret he rehearsed the part of the clown or pretended he was the ringmaster while a bare-backed rider galloped about him. A few years later a one-car minstrel show came to the town and Roscoe slipped away from the farm long before dawn on the day that show arrived. He has often told how he hung over the rail in that theater gallery, how he drank in every word and joke of the minstrel men and how he made up his mind that his father and mother were both wrong and that his future lay on the stage.

When still in his teens Roscoe left home. He drifted West, working at any odd jobs, but always with the thought uppermost in his mind that he was going on the stage. At one time he was bar boy in a San Francisco saloon, his duty being to clean out cuspidors.

### IV—BECOMES STAR.

Not long after Roscoe was placed under contract by Sennett he was turned over to a director by the name of Walter Wright. Wright was the assistant cameraman on the first moving picture ever made and Roscoe was largely responsible for Charlie Chaplin's early success and contributed in no small measure to the name made by Ford Sterling and Fatty Arbuckle.

Wright took hold of Arbusckle in earnest. He coached him day and night and at home Minta Durfee urged Roscoe on to better things. She also played with him and appeared in more than forty of the old Keystone comedies that made Roscoe famous.

Sennett then cast Arbusckle opposite Mabel Normand and they began to make the "Fatty and Mabel" comedies that continued as long as both remained with Sennett. As this time Roscoe was under contract to Sennett and getting about \$150 a week.

One day Sennett walked into Roscoe's room and pulled an old Sennett trick on Roscoe. Sennett believed that you could always place an actor under a long-term contract cheaper and easier if he pretended he had not noticed the actor's work enough to know just what he was doing. He opened the conversation in the usual way by asking Roscoe "what he was doing."

Arbusckle was thunderstruck. He explained the length to Sennett just what he was doing and what a great comedian he had become. Sennett sighed and said he would like to raise Roscoe's salary, but did not see just how he could, as Roscoe was then under contract.

Roscoe fell into the trap, and suggested that they might destroy the old contract and make a new one. This was just what Sennett wanted, and a little later Roscoe signed his name on the line with the cross and was tied up to Sennett for two years at a salary almost double his last one.

### V—FAME IN EAST.

This contract expired in 1916 and in the fall of 1915 Sennett decided to send a company East. He selected the "Fatty-Mabel" company, which included Minta Durfee, Al St. John, two camera men, a band of prostrated men, electricians and others.

This company arrived in New York and went to the then Triangle Studio in Fort Lee, where they began to film a picture that after a few days had become known under the title of "The Walters' Ball."

The filming of the "Walters' Ball" dragged through the winter and early spring. Mabel's contract expired and Roscoe was about to run out while the pair were on Broadway and Sennett 4,000 miles away. Through Kessel and Bauman, who owned the Keystone Company, Sennett got Mabel to renew her contract, but Roscoe refused to sign.

A famous Broadway producer of the time, Mack Sennett, began making movies Roscoe decided to move to Los Angeles as his first step to get into the movies.

There was no such person as a casting director in those days and Roscoe hung around the Bennett lot hoping and praying Sennett would notice him and put him to work.

### III—ENTERS MOVIES.

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## TRAGEDY SEEMS LINK TO REUNITE FATTY AND WIFE

Mrs. Arbusckle Ignores Agreement Separation and Will Go West to Aid Comedian.

NEW YORK, Sept. 13.—"Mr. Arbusckle is innocent in this terrible affair and I am going to California with him until he is cleared—what else should a wife do when her husband is in deep trouble?"

Mrs. Minta Durfee Arbusckle, who is separated by agreement from the comedian accused of murder, paused in packing her trunks last night long enough to make her position in the case absolutely plain. Grief shown from her eyes as she spoke, but her words carried the conviction of clearest confidence in her husband.

When reminded that, less than a year ago, she signed a separation agreement under the terms of which both were free to live as they choose, the wife brushed all that aside with a wave of her hand and said:

"We are still married. There never was a court action for divorce or even separation. It was not thought of by either of us. What ever differences we may have had in the past are quite forgotten now, and this is no time to bring them up again."

"I am sure that all this is a frightful error and that my husband is an innocent victim. He is not at all such a man as is described in these charges. Others may think what they will—but I know."

Listening to Mrs. Arbusckle's defense of the accused screen star, the thought came to all who heard it that out of the murder case may develop a reconciliation between the comedian and his wife. Mrs. Arbusckle is in the country and will leave for San Francisco without coming to this city.

Even before she spoke, Mrs. Arbusckle sent a telegram to the comedian expressing deepest sympathy, assuring him complete belief in his innocence and adding that she was starting West to him at once.

This message was sent when the news of the comedian's arrest was carried to his wife. She had heard none of the details of the gay party which developed into tragedy so suddenly. She forgot the causes of their estrangement and, as she said, forgot even that they were separated.

The formal contract signed in the presence of lawyers, with all the legal details that could be imposed on it outside of court, became of less value than so much waste paper when the wife learned of her husband's plight.

Mrs. Arbusckle shook her head at all questions concerning the persons present at the banquet that preceded the death of the girl, nor would she discuss that phase of it in any form. Neither would she go into the differences that led to her separation from the comedian at the height of his career. She simply said:

"He is in great trouble. He must need me. I am going to him. That is all."



## For Dinner Tonight Hot Sausage Sandwiches!

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