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BEATTIE PAYS THE PENALTY

Henry Clay Beattie Makes Murder Confession Before He is Executed.

THE BURIAL IS PRIVATE.

Mental Preparation for Death Study for Psychologist.

Richmond, Va., Nov. 25.—Henry Clay Beattie, Jr. went to his death at dawn yesterday, the self-confessed murderer of his young wife, although the confession was not made public until four hours after he had paid the toll exacted by the law. He maintained to the end the remarkable nerve he had exhibited since first he was accused of killing his wife on the lonely Midlothian turnpike last July. His last expression was a sneer when he observed the chair that was to launch him into eternity.

The confession was made public in the rotunda of a downtown hotel by the Rev. Benjamin Dennis, one of the ministers who had labored with Beattie to repent.

As a matter of fact, it was acknowledged by the minister, Beattie first admitted his guilt Nov. 9, the day after he entered the death cell and before the fruitless appeal for a commutation of sentence was made to Governor Mann. It was not until Thursday that he would agree to its being put in writing for his signature. Then all hope that the governor would interfere was gone.

Beattie's attitude throughout the trial and the imprisonment that awaited only on his death, was a study for a psychologist. He read the newspapers with avidity. Every reference to his iron nerve and to the fact that he was going to the chair without acknowledging his crime in the hope of saving his aged father further sorrow, according to those who were with him to the end, seemed to afford him supreme satisfaction. Apparently, he gloated over the notoriety his crime had brought him.

Even after his confession he maintained his air of bravado. What had since Nov. 9 been called stoicism now is recognized as cynicism. His remarkable nerve now seems to have had its basis and support in the knowledge that he was being applauded as a man of "Spartan courage and inflexible will." The secret of his confession was held inviolate by the ministers until yesterday. Not even the brokenhearted father knew of its existence, friends of the family declared. Not until four hours after he had been pronounced dead in the death chamber in state's prison were the murderer's attorneys cognizant that he had made a clean breast of his guilt. With the same intrepidity that had marked his conduct from the beginning, Beattie went to the chair and brought the sordid story to a dramatic end.

The shock that killed Beattie was given at exactly 7:19 yesterday morning. Three times the current was turned on and at 7:23 it was shut off. Drs. W. T. and St. Julien Oppenheimer a minute later announced that death had been instantaneous. The twenty-two persons in the death chamber thereupon fled out and the end of a long and costly battle for justice had ended. In addition to the two physicians there were gathered in the death house when Beattie appeared, the twelve witnesses to the electrocution as required by law, the Rev. John J. Fix and Benjamin Dennis, Major James B. Woods, superintendent of the penitentiary, the electrician, and four deputy wardens.

The room was flooded with light from a group of incandescent lights set in a low ceiling and a light that swung on its cord immediately above the chair. There was no conversation. The witnesses labored under too great a strain, and all, even the hardened prison attendants, seemed anxious to be done. The electrician brought a board studded with electric bulbs and laid it across the arms of the chair. The lamps blazed brightly. Then the instrument of death was tested and finally, at a signal, attendants went over the apparatus, attaching the deadly electrodes and testing every strap and clamp.

When the preliminaries were over Superintendent Woods, accompanied by two deputies, threw back an iron studded door and started for the death cell. Instantly the death chamber was plunged in blackness

with the exception of a vivid circle of light from the hooded and powerful lamp above the chair. The chair, an oaken bit of furniture, which, except for its straps and steel bands, might grace any library, was on a rubber mat. All but it was obscured, the dazzling rays from a low swung lamp throwing everything in darkness so dense as to be almost felt.

The little party in the chamber heard the superintendent a few feet away droning out the death warrant. Beattie listened to it with intensity, but did not flinch. He stood during the reading, and when it was ended he swayed just a trifle, but quickly recovered. Then, without assistance, he took his place between the guards and began the march to the chair.

His entrance to the death chamber was as dramatic as anything he had done since first he commanded the public eye. He halted a brief moment on the threshold, looked on the chair with an inscrutable smile that had in it the hint of a sneer and walked briskly forward. Not once did he deign to strive to pierce the blackness outside his circle of glowing light.

It had been feared the prisoner would flinch when the dread moment came to seat himself in the chair, but there was no trepidation and not a hint of hesitation in Beattie's attitude. Still wearing his peculiar smile, he stepped lightly into the seat, settled himself as though he had been looking forward to the rest and assisted the attendants in adjusting the straps and clamps by placing his arms and hands in the proper positions. The only indication that he was under a nervous strain was disclosed by his tightly clenched left hand. During the few brief seconds preceding the turning on of the current Beattie moved once. While the attendants were stepping back out of the light, he squeezed himself back as through to seek a more comfortable position. At the same time he raised his head, now almost completely hidden by the leather helmet that covered the upper part of his head and face. The next second the shock came.

When the law was avenged and the witnesses were gone the prison attendants removed the body to the mortuary room, which adjoins the death chamber. There it lay for four hours until an undertaker authorized by the Beattie family to prepare it for burial removed it to his morgue. Later it was taken to the Beattie home, where funeral services, attended only by the family, will be held.

Interment in Maury cemetery will follow Sunday.

When the funeral cortege moves to the cemetery Sunday afternoon the morbid will not find places near the grave to satisfy their curiosity. The police have received orders to clear the cemetery during the services there and to permit no one to enter the burial ground, save the Beatties and their dead.

GET YEAR'S SENTENCE

Two Others Are Found Guilty of Tar Party Crime.

A. N. SIMMS ACQUITTED

Court Also Rules That Convicted Men Must Pay Costs of Case.

Lincoln Center, Kans., Nov. 25.—Two of the defendants in the "tar-party" case, John Schmitt and Sherrill Clark, late yesterday were found guilty of assault and battery by a jury in Judge Grover's court that had been out continuously since 11:30 o'clock Thursday morning. A. N. Simms, the third defendant, was acquitted. Sentence on the two men was deferred to permit attorneys to argue for a motion for a new trial.

Earlier in the day in the same court sentences of one year each in the county jail, the extreme penalty in Kansas for the offense charged, were passed on Everett G. Clark, Jay Fitzwater, Watson Scranton and Edward Ricord, confessed assailants of Mary Chamberlain. These defendants were accused of the same crime as the other men.

In addition to the sentences the court ruled that the men must pay the costs of the prosecution. An effort was made by attorneys for Fitzwater and Clark to have the court entertain a motion to grant an appeal to the supreme court on the ground that the sentence was excessive. This motion was not passed on yesterday.

Ricord already was in jail, having been surrendered by his bondsmen several days ago. The court told the three other men they might have a short length of time in which to straighten up their business affairs.

Fitzwater says he will go to jail next week. Clark's immense business interests may make it necessary for him to be free for a month or more. Scranton said he would be ready for jail in a few hours and he would not appeal his case.

Both the convicted and sentenced men took their fates calmly.

The four confessed men expressed themselves as actually being glad the long period of waiting was over. Sherrill Clark and John Schmitt hardly expected conviction but they had no complaint to offer. They are still free on their bonds. It is expected they will be given plenty of time to arrange their business affairs as were the other defendants should they finally be sentenced.

Only a few spectators were in the court room at any time yesterday. This was due to the dual reason that it was not generally known the convicted men were to be sentenced and also because the jury was expected to be hung.

Arm Caught in Shredder.

Protivin, Ia., Nov. 25.—Frank Andera, 17 years old, was injured yesterday in a corn shredder. He was feeding the machine when his mitten caught in the rollers and his arm was drawn into the knives clear to the elbow. A broken spring in one side of the machine is all that saved his life, as he was able to hold on until the power was turned off. All the flesh and muscles were scraped from his arm, but the bones were not crushed.

The lad was held fast in the machine an hour before he could be released, and showed great grit, directing those who were working to release him.

Killed by Freight Train.

Cherokee, Nov. 25.—Joseph McCoslin, a car tapper on the night force of the Illinois Central, was killed by being run over by a freight train Thursday night. McCoslin had stepped from one train to near the caboose of another when it started up. In some manner he was thrown underneath and run over, both legs and one arm being mashed. An operation was performed in hopes of saving his life, but he died at 6 o'clock this morning.

Fire in Theater Endangers Lives.

Nashua, Nov. 25.—The explosion of a moving picture film during the progress of a show at the Orpheum theater here last night caused the partial destruction of the building and endangered the lives of several hundred people who composed the audience. Quick work on the part of several cool heads prevented a panic and enabled all to escape in safety.

WOMEN ARE ON WARPATH

Rambunctious Over Presentation of Alleged Immoral Exhibitions.

Ottumwa, Nov. 25.—"Rambunctious," as they expressed it, over the presentation of burlesque shows and alleged improper moving picture exhibitions, as well as the sale of immoral postcards, members of the City Federation of Women's Organizations held an excited session at the Young Women's Christian association building yesterday afternoon.

The result of the bitter talks by the women was the unanimous passage of a resolution that the mayor and chief of police enforce the city ordinances and the state laws with reference to shows.

Several ministers of Ottumwa were present at the meeting by invitation, and while all of them expressed willingness to join the women in any campaign for the public welfare, they admitted they knew nothing of the alleged conditions from personal investigation. Mayor Harper attended and assured the women that the few picture shows he had seen at Ottumwa were of educational value and not immoral. He concluded, however, by adding he was not in a habit of attending the exhibitions.

The fire of the federation was aroused by the recent visit of a burlesque show to Ottumwa.

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11-20-13-d5*

W. Dilman Chalfant.

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