

# PLEA OF NURSE'S RELATIVE UNSEALS LIPS LOCKED BY FEAR

Some of the characters in the recent developments in the Swan murder case. In the center are the nurse, Marie Messerschmidt, and Detective Richards; at the left is August Borman, brother in law of the nurse, who induced her to confess; at the right is Fred Keats, chauffeur for Doctor Grant, and at the bottom Henry Swan, uncle of the murdered girl.

## DR. THOMPSON NEAR COLLAPSE, BUT IS SILENT

### Physician Accused of Causing Girl's Death by Woman and Paul Parker

### Famous Athlete Admits Knowing of Girl's Condition, but Denies Responsibility

Immediately questioned by Wren, Burke and Detective G. H. Richards, placed in defiance and afforded counsel in the person of Attorney Jesse Bryant. Parker's father, James Parker of Salinas, was immediately communicated with and the detectives, after an effort of 48 hours, declared that their labors were ended.

#### Formal Charge Today

The formal charge against the physician will be made today and the attempt to locate Homer Hatch, William Saack and the others who were thought to have information bearing on the crime, will cease. Parker will not be charged with any criminal offense, but the detectives, in spite of denials, insist that the circumstantial case against him is complete. When placed under arrest he was confronted with the nurse, who identified him as the Parker who called on Eva Swan three times while she was at the Golden Gate office of Thompson, and this he admitted. Neither the nurse nor any one else has been able to say Parker directed the girl to the physician. He admits knowing of her condition and of holding a firm conviction that she died in the offices of Thompson. Many questions he refused to answer, and when informed of the nurse's confession, immediately betrayed signs of a nervous collapse. Soon after holding a consultation with Attorney Bryant he offered to make a complete statement on the condition that he be given his release, but Detective Wren declined to give his consent to such an arrangement.

#### Suitcase Found

The last link in the chain of evidence against Thompson was secured during the evening by Detective Richards, who visited again the offices of the doctor and discovered the suitcase in which the cement was taken from the Golden Gate avenue address to the Eureka street place. Miss Irene Canty of 229 Eureka street presented herself at headquarters yesterday and, after positively identifying Thompson as the man she had seen about the premises where Eva Swan's body was discovered, told of the suitcase and a hatcase which he carried on one or two occasions when she saw him. Both were found at his office last night, the suitcase containing a small quantity of cement, which on examination proved to be of the same quality as that over the cellar grave of the girl victim.

The confession of the nurse came after half an hour of pleading by August Borman, a brother in law, living at 975 Sixty-third street, Oakland. Borman was given an audience with her in her cell away from the detectives and attendants, and after assuring her that Thompson would be unable to do her any bodily hurt, he announced her resolution. She was immediately taken into the office of Wren and there, in the presence of Borman and the other detectives, who have been working night and day on the case, surrendered herself to the protecting arm of the law.

#### SHOWS SELF CONTROL

During the time that she was making her declaration to the detectives she displayed the same remarkable self control and presence of mind that has characterized all her conduct since she has been under arrest. She was clear and certain about dates and circumstances and any effort to shake

her was unavailing. Before launching into the facts, she prefaced her confession with the statement that the constant fear of death was the only thing that had made her silent for two days. Not only had the accused man threatened her with an end like that of an apartment to which Parker made her return the next two days and absented herself on the third, returning April 29 in a highly dangerous condition. The girl was immediately placed under the care of the nurse and given an apartment to which she made repeated visits. Her condition grew alarming and several days before she died, Thompson, the nurse and Parker were advised of the inevitable. Approaching that end was fast approaching. Thompson and Willie Saack rented the house at 327 Eureka street and awaited the end. The patient died at midnight April 29, being escorted from Detective Wren's office to the Eureka street premises secured. Thompson, the day after she died, and in the presence of the nurse, knifed and sawed the remains so that he could force them into a trunk and under cover of darkness had the trunk conveyed to the spot where the girl's body was later unearthed.

#### FOILED BY MOON

While William Saack accompanied the trunk in the express wagon, Thompson rode to the cottage on the street car and had arranged to bury the body in the back yard that night. However, the night was ill-favored, for the moon was full and the yard was flooded with the light, giving the neighbors, who were observed by the physician, a full survey of the spot where he ground was to be opened.

"When he returned," she continued, "he told me that he had not been able to bury it because the neighbors were curious and were watching him. That night (the second night) he went back a second time to the house where the body was and remained there all night. He came back the next morning at 11 o'clock and said that he had been unable to bury the body in the yard because the night was bright and moonlight and that he would have been seen. He said, however, that he had buried it in the basement under the cement floor."

With this information in hand and what evidence they already possessed, the detectives, in the hope of breaking down Thompson, asked the nurse to confront the physician in the prison and make a direct accusation. At first the woman recoiled from this, but on the advice of Borman, consented, and, when her mind was at ease, she was escorted from Detective Wren's office back to the prison cell, where Thompson was held in waiting. As she approached him he glanced at her with a confidential smile, but as she passed, he lifted her hand and announced that he was Robert Thompson, the man she referred to in her confession, he swayed away from her and almost fell when she dropped at the very feet of the man who had threatened to kill her.

#### PARKER IS BROUGHT

The jail matron administered restoratives to Miss Messerschmidt and the doubly accused physician was taken away from the presence of the detectives, stoically refusing to utter a word, though barely possessing the strength to walk beside the officer. While efforts were made to revive the woman, Detective Burke sped to the Ware home to get Paul Parker and Richards made a visit to the office of

Thompson on Golden Gate avenue. When Parker, who was not informed of the confession, came into the prison he was first brought to the cell of Thompson and declared that he had seen him and that he did visit the office when Eva Swan was there as a patient. He was next taken before Marie Messerschmidt, who declared him to be the "Mr. Parker" who visited the girl at the room in which she died.

The circumstances which seemed to warrant the statement of Wren that the quest is over, point directly to Parker as being the only friend of the girl who could have shared her anxiety and secret. While in defiance last night he admitted that he knew of the girl's visit to the office of Thompson, whom he knew as Grant, and that he knew the purpose of her visit the day after it was made. He also admits that he made the three visits to the place while she was dying and that he was convinced that she did die, and believed she had been done away with. He insists that he asked Thompson what became of her and that Thompson told him her sister, Mrs. Nettie McKendzie of Washington, and Mrs. August Borman of Oakland had sent her \$200, and that she had been sent to a sanatorium in the interior.

#### VISITED MORGUE

Subsequent to this Parker reported her absence to the police and also made a visit to the morgue, but during the numerous times he has been interviewed by the detectives he has denied that he had visited the morgue. He insists that he was in no way responsible and did not advise the girl to go to a doctor. When placed in the city prison he gave a letter to Richard Adams, a friend, directed to his father, and sent immediately for counsel.

Eva Swan's uncle, Henry G. Swan of Berkeley, visited police headquarters yesterday and inquired about the coroner's inquest, which may be held Tuesday. He has made arrangements to take care of the girl's remains. Thompson's attorneys, Greely & Fitzpatrick, were in close conference early in the morning with the physician's chauffeur, Fred Keats, who was dispatched on a mysterious errand across the bay. It is the belief at headquarters that the application filed with the Remington typewriter agency by Eva Swan, after the date of her disappearance, was a ruse resorted to by Doctor Thompson.

#### ATTORNEY DECLARES PARKER AWAITED THE INQUEST TO TELL ALL

The arrest of Paul F. Parker, Stanford graduate, famous athlete and an editorial writer for agricultural journals, followed within an hour after the nurse had made her confession. In talking to the detectives Miss Messerschmidt declared that a man named Parker had visited Miss Swan when the latter was at Doctor Grant's sanatorium. "I'll have the man in half an hour," said Detective Burke. He immediately went to Parker's residence, 2040 Scott street, and there found him. "I think I want you, Mr. Parker," said Burke. "You have not given us all the information you have on the Swan matter," said Burke. Parker did not reply. The arrest took place in the presence of Richard Adams, a friend of Parker, who was visiting the latter at the time. He offered his automobile to Burke, and the trio hurried down to the central station. Parker was taken before Miss Messerschmidt and immediately identified as the man who had visited Miss Swan at the sanatorium. Once under arrest Parker offered to make a statement. "I am quite willing," he said at the city prison, "to tell you all I know."

"I will talk to you later," said Detective Wren. He turned and looked Parker squarely in the eyes. "I believe," he continued, "that you are the man who got the girl into trouble." Parker did not answer. He seemed absolutely dumb at the rapidity with which the affair was working. Taken to the cell of Doctor Thompson, alias Grant, he identified him as the man who had charge of Miss Swan.

With Parker's arrest the detectives ceased their labors for the day. Parker's friends secured the services of Attorney Jesse Bryant, and Bryant refused to allow his client to talk for publication. "Parker is too dazed to stand any questioning," he said, "but for him I wish to say that his relations with the girl were merely those of a friend, and did not care to discuss an embarrassing subject with Miss Swan."

"Toward the middle of April he had to leave San Francisco for a short trip in the country, and on returning found a message on his desk to call up a certain telephone number. He did so, and discovered that the message was from Miss Swan, who at that time was at Doctor Grant's place. He had never heard of Doctor Grant before this time, and it was not until he called there—Miss Swan's message being a request to visit her—that he realized the nature of the business. His sole purpose in visiting her was that of a friend, and he called on her twice at the hospital, but on neither occasion did he speak about her case. He knew from the general appearance and the advertisements the kind of sanatorium it was and did not care to discuss an embarrassing subject with Miss Swan."

"When he called a third time he was informed by the hospital employees that Miss Swan had gone to the country, that some one had sent her money and that she had gone away to recuperate from the effects of the operation. The story did not ring true to him. He came to my office and told me the circumstances, saying he was afraid all was not well with his friend, and asking my advice. My first step was to look through the death records, and, not finding any trace of her death, came to the conclusion that Parker was unnecessarily worrying himself. I told him that the tale of the sanatorium employees was evidently correct and that it was quite natural that the girl wished to go to some quiet place and away from friends and relatives, who would question her as to the cause of her ill health. "Of course, there was no thought of any secret burial in my mind at that time. When the body was discovered last Friday Parker acted on my advice. I told him that his name was being dragged into an ugly mess and that the best thing for him under the circumstances was to keep quiet until the proper time came to speak—at the coroner's inquest. My thought was that by this way he could escape the notoriety."

"There was no intention, however, of either of us keeping the facts away from the authorities. Saturday I visited Assistant District Attorney McNitt and informed him that Parker would like to be a witness at the inquest, as he had some facts which might clear up the situation. I did not go into the details at the time. "This morning, after reading the papers, I saw that Parker's knowledge of seeing the girl at the sanatorium was extremely important and I hurried down to the central station to inform the detective who was on duty at the time, and neither was Captain Wall. I decided to return later in the day, but before I could do so Miss Messerschmidt declared that she had seen Parker at the sanatorium, and he had been arrested. "There is not the shadow of an excuse for holding the young man and I presume that he will be released

very soon. I wish to emphasize Parker's denial of the police belief that he was responsible for the girl's condition. I asked him, regarding this point when he first mentioned her disappearance last April and again today, and on both occasions he denied it. "The stories that he received money from her are distorted. The fact is that the two would go out together and at times Parker would borrow small sums to tide over the evening's entertainment, which he repaid at the first opportunity. The transactions were simply little ones common among young persons who have known each other for years."

#### DR. GRANT COLLAPSES WHEN ACCUSED BY HIS FORMER NURSE

All the stoicism, the cynical indifference and the confidence of Dr. Robert Thompson, alias Dr. James T. Grant, was shattered yesterday afternoon when Miss Marie Messerschmidt, his nurse, confessed the terrible details of the death and secret burial of pretty Eva Swan. From the man of iron nerves he became in one second a wreck, so complete and terrible that the hardened detectives who witnessed the change were rendered speechless from surprise. In his cell last night Dr. Grant was the picture of despondency. The one prop upon which he relied to hold his head above the increasing wave of public antagonism and police incrimination was suddenly and without warning pulled away and he was left foundering, undefended, unaided. The man who considered himself impregnable, who laughed away the charges made against him, found himself suddenly accused beyond denial, involved beyond redemption.

Saturday he was strong, self-reliant, confident of vindication. He is a big man, nearly 300 pounds in weight and more than six feet tall, and when he talked his voice carried the conviction of his own belief. "I can't talk about these charges," said he, waving aside the question as if it were of no importance. His case, he said, was in the hands of his attorneys, and a little investigation, a little work by his lawyers, would establish his innocence and send him out into the world a free man. In the face of the proof that had already been obtained his confidence was colossal. It was just after 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon when Miss Messerschmidt made her confession to the detectives. Grant was led into the anteroom of the prison and was confronted by the nurse who had just told him the details of the crime to the detectives in the central station. His manner was buoyant, his air was confident. The same smile of mystery and contempt was upon his face that has met all previous questions as to his complicity in the murder. "That's Doctor Thompson," said the nurse. "That's the man I was telling you about, in whose office Eva Swan died and who cut up her body and buried her under the cement sidewalk of the Eureka street house. I've told all," she shouted in Grant's face. "I've told everything I know. I've got it off my mind and I'm not afraid of you any more."

As if struck by a thunderbolt Grant stopped. His face went pale. His smile disappeared. Into his eyes crept a look of fear, the fear of immediate death. He seemed to be trying to understand, but couldn't. It was too stupendous, too impossible. His lips were bloodless. He turned aside his face and put up an arm as if to protect himself from some terrific blow. Then he collapsed completely. He staggered back and fell against the iron bars of the prison. His bloodless lips seemed to be murmuring but one word, "God! God!" He murmured

it over and over, unbelieving. He dared not look at the nurse who had betrayed him. He shielded his face from her gaze with an arm over which his eyes tried to stagger back into his cell. But he was blinded and seemed unable to find the doorway. The detectives offered no aid, and he finally staggered through the door and fell in a heap upon his cot. As silent as one dead he lay there for half an hour, not a muscle moving. Then he rose, and, his head between his hands, sat for hours.

#### NURSE'S CONFESSION IS SECURED BY HER BROTHER IN LAW

The confession of Miss Marie Messerschmidt was brought about directly by the efforts of August Borman, her brother in law, who lives at 975 Sixty-third street, Oakland. She had been questioned and cross questioned all day by Detectives Wren, Burke and Richards and, late in the afternoon, at the psychological moment, Wren ushered her brother in law into her presence.

The sight of a friendly face amid the unfamiliar surroundings had the desired effect. She poured out her heart to Borman and, having spoken once, he had little difficulty in getting her to speak again. Borman argued gently with the girl. He pointed out that by refusing to give the police the facts she had implicated herself and that her determination to stand by her confession would result in more trouble to herself. The two talked alone. Under the soothing words of her relative the nurse seemed to lose her fear of Dr. Grant.

"All your family," said Borman, "is waiting for you to tell the police what you know about this affair. By remaining silent you are causing them great pain." The interview was long, but the result was evident in the watching detectives almost from the outset. At the moment the girl signified her willingness to talk the three were around her, ready to take down her statements.

#### PAUL PARKER AND EVA SWAN LIVED IN SAME HOUSE SEVEN MONTHS

Paul Parker first met Miss Eva Swan in Salinas. They had been playmates since Parker came to this city to live and write for the numerous periodicals, to which he was a steady contributor, he took lodging with a very close friend of his family, Mrs. Ware of 2040 Scott street. Later Eva Swan came to this city and at first took a room in Haight street, but afterward moved to 2040 Scott street, the same house in which Parker had lodgings. While living there seven months before her disappearance, the two renewed their friendship.

When Parker came to this city to live and write for the numerous periodicals, to which he was a steady contributor, he took lodging with a very close friend of his family, Mrs. Ware of 2040 Scott street. Later Eva Swan came to this city and at first took a room in Haight street, but afterward moved to 2040 Scott street, the same house in which Parker had lodgings. While living there seven months before her disappearance, the two renewed their friendship.

#### PLAYMATES TOGETHER

In explaining their relationship, Mrs. Ware, the landlady of both Parker and Miss Swan, last night said: "When Eva Swan came to this house looking for a room Mr. Parker had been living here for over a year. Parker was on his way down the stairs when the bell rang and Miss Swan asked for apartments. They passed each other on the stairs. Paul had gone but a few feet when he came back and, looking at Miss Swan, asked if she wasn't Eva Swan of Paso Robles. The two had been playmates together. "Mr. Parker was in and out of town considerably and was too much taken up in his writings to pay any attention to any of the roomers. He attended numerous parties while in the city, but never took Miss Swan into any of them. "When Miss Swan disappeared from my house it was Mr. Parker who went in search of her, he visiting the morgue and numerous other places where she might have been if she had met with an accident. When the mysterious person who had been telephoning Miss Swan every night called up after she had disappeared Mr. Parker endeavored to find out who he was and from whence he was telephoning, but was unable to do so.

#### MYSTERIOUS VOICE

"The last time that this mysterious man rang up on the telephone I answered and he said he wanted to speak to Miss Swan. It informed him that she had not been home for several days and said that if any one could tell where she was I thought it was he. He answered by saying that Eva was visiting friends in Berkeley and would return shortly. He never rang up again." Attention was first directed to Parker when letters were placed in the hands of the police by Henry Swan, an uncle of the dead girl. The letters were from a brother of Eva Swan, R. W. Swan, in Rome, Iowa, and a sister, Nettie Mackenzie, who lives in McMurry, Wash. In one letter from her brother, bear-

## EVA SWAN'S LOVER FAILS TO ARRIVE

### Homer Hatch Due Yesterday Morning, but Did Not Put In an Appearance

### Police to Abandon Search for Saack and Depend on Marie Messerschmidt

ing the date of August 30 last, is stated: Dear Uncle: Enclosed find letter from Nettie and one from Miss Mackenzie. I believe myself like Nettie, that Paul Parker knows more about Eva's disappearance than anyone else. Have you ever had him investigated in any manner? I think it would be well to have him interviewed.

In another letter from the same relative bearing date of June 24, it is stated: Dear Uncle: I have been thinking that it would be very good policy to investigate Paul Parker. He had access to Eva's bankbook while she was in Seattle last summer. I think that he probably is making a stall. Of course I hate to accuse him of such if it is not true. But I think that it would do no harm to look up his record.

The letter from Eva Swan's sister, Mrs. Mackenzie, in Washington states: Mrs. (meaning Eva) was keeping company with a fellow named Paul Parker. He went with her for nearly three years. Am sure that if you found him that he would know something of her. My him. If he was a gentleman he would have written me right after her disappearance, for he knew her address. Perhaps he has disgraced her and she has put an end to herself. My God, I can imagine anything in this world.

#### CORONER SAWYER CALLS FOR JURY AND HINTS AT FORMAL CHARGES

The inquest over the body of Eva Swan will be held Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock in the office of the coroner in Fell street. Coroner Sawyer yesterday notified the jurors already selected that with the confession of the nurse and developments expected today the detectives working upon the case might have sufficient evidence at hand to warrant returning a formal charge.

**VIGOR PURITY AND EXCELLENCE CELESTINS**  
(FRENCH REPUBLIC PROPERTY)  
**Natural Alkaline Water**  
Ask your Physician  
**Not Genuine without the word CELESTINS**

**CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY**  
SAME RATE AS DIRECT LINE  
MAKE YOUR EASTERN TRIP VIA THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY  
Take the Daylight Trip on Puget Sound from Seattle to Victoria and Vancouver, on the magnificent Steamers of the Canadian Pacific.  
See the Six Hundred Miles of Unsurpassed Scenery of the Canadian Rocky Mountains  
LOWEST RATES LIBERAL STOP-OVERS  
Call or write for Rates and Information  
**E. E. PENN**  
GENERAL AGENT, PASSENGER DEPARTMENT  
645 Market Street (Palace Hotel Building)  
SAN FRANCISCO

**Mayerle's German Eyewater**  
Makes your eyes bright, strong and healthy. Gives instant relief. A reliable, drug-free, 50-cent, by mail, 35-cent.  
**George Mayerle**  
German Expert Optician  
900 MARKET STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.  
Insist on Getting Mayerle's.

**VENUS PERFECT-PENCILS**  
FOR ANY USE AND EVERY USER  
17 Black Degrees—6B to 9H  
2 Copying Degrees—Soft and Hard  
**FREE** Send your business card or letter head and dealer's name for a free trial sample VENUS Pencil.  
AMERICAN PENCIL COMPANY  
49 West 4th Street, New York

**Brain Workers**  
need to keep the digestion strong, so that the food may renew the supply of nervous energy. Use  
**Beecham's Pills**  
Sold Everywhere. In boxes 10c and 25c.  
**W. T. HESS, Notary Public**  
ROOM 112, CALL BUILDING  
At residence, 1460 Page street, between 7 p. m. and 8 p. m. Residence telephone Park 2797.

**Advertising Talks**  
"You have to talk to people in language they will understand," said an advertiser a few days ago.  
Certainly, you have to do that. But if you are talking to the "man in the street"—and most of the advertising is aimed at that individual—and imagine for one moment that you have to talk down to him to be understood you are making the mistake of your life.  
For general all round information this man is hard to beat. He is a "mixer"; he mingles with all sorts and conditions; he reads the newspapers and magazines; he knows "what is doing," and he takes a broad human view of things in general. Straight talk, aimed at his intelligence, catches him every time, because he sees behind that talk the man who wrote or inspired it.  
When a man comes to your store to buy goods he comes as an individual; he expects to be treated as an individual, talked to as an individual, and your advertising must appeal to him in the same way, or he will have nothing to do with you.  
Gentle, don't be narrow in your advertising—you are talking to, trying to impress, trying to sell something to the great general public, the "man in the street." Give them the credit of knowing as least as much as you know.  
Talk to them freely, humanly; tell them your store news in simple and pure English. They will understand you, and buy your goods.  
Mr. Merchant, the advertising columns of The Call are read by 150,000 intelligent people every day.  
We have an advertising service written and illustrated for your business, prepared by men of a big and broad view of the needs of advertiser and consumer.  
Phone Kearny 86 and make an appointment with our advertising manager to call on you.