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## BLAST OF CRIME SWEEPS OVER QUIET SANDY VALLEY

### Murder and Suicide at Dead of Night Follows Celebration

Reed Broscius, of Conifer, Fires Two Bullets Into His Wife then Placed the Revolver at His Own Breast.

#### BOTH DIED WITHIN HALF HOUR

The Couple Had Been at Reynoldsville Celebrating the Fourth and were Driving Home After Midnight.—Quarrel and Shooting Occurred in the Orchard at Home of L. D. Perkins, a Short Distance Above Sherwood.

#### A WAYWARD WIFE AND JEALOUS HUSBAND

The most sensational tragedy in recent years in Jefferson county occurred at the home of L. D. Perkins, east of Sandy Valley, about two o'clock Sunday morning, July 5th, when Reed W. Broscius shot and killed his wife, May, and followed the murder by deliberate suicide.

The double killing is shrouded in mystery which may never be cleared away. It occurred in the dead of night in an isolated spot and the bodies lay long alone before physicians arrived. If there was foul play, all direct evidence had vanished and when Coroner J. C. Sayers, of Reynoldsville, held his inquest Sunday morning, there was but little evidence aside from the position of the bodies and the rusty revolver in Broscius' hand by which to arrive at a verdict.

The house of the Perkins couple stands alone along the road leading from Reynoldsville to Falls Creek. An apple orchard surrounds the old house and a small barn stands between the house and wagon road. Beneath the trees and stretching to the Pennsylvania Railroad, running along the east side of the house, is a field of tall timothy, part of it just mown. In this orchard, mid-way between the house and barn, at two o'clock in morning, with apparently but one witness beside Perkins and his wife, the quarrel took place between Broscius and his wife which ended in the death of both.

The timothy had been piled in small heaps and beside one of the stacks the woman fell to the ground when shot. A yard from her, the man swooned, rose, fired yet another shot into his breast, and then fell back on the stubble. A half hour they lay moaning in agony and slowly dying. No one had the courage to go to them, Perkins and his wife retreating into their house and the other witness fled at the first shot. Physicians arrived from Reynoldsville in the early hours of the morning, found both cold in death and departed after throwing a few old pieces of carpet and bags over the pair. The sun came up and beat upon them, the coroner came and examined them, rendered his verdict and went home, and still the murdered woman and the suicide, with the thickened blood caked on their breasts and on the ground around them, lay on the earth while curious sight-seers came up the road and walked around them in gruesome awe. Only when the undertakers arrived at eleven o'clock were the stiffened corpses raised from the grass and placed in the funeral car.

Reed Broscius was but 29 and his wife 24 years of age. The former was the son of J. F. Broscius, of near Stanton. The maiden name of the woman was Irene May Brumbaugh. She spent her girlhood on the Wayne farm near DuBois and it was there that Broscius met her. She was a girl of attractive appearance, with a mass of dark chestnut hair and Broscius is said to have become madly infatuated with her. One year ago the couple went to Rochester, N. Y., and were married returning to Falls Creek and later moving to Conifer, a little mining town near Summerville, where they lived until a week ago. Their married life was rendered miserable by the waywardness of the young wife and jealousy of the husband, but though never happy Broscius seemed fascinated by the girl and refused to be separated from her.

A week ago the pair came to the home of Mrs. Broscius' mother, near DuBois, and on July Fourth drove to Reynoldsville to participate in the celebration. They were seen on the streets of town during the day and until eleven o'clock in the evening. It is believed that both had taken liquor and a pint flask of whiskey was found on the man by the coroner Sunday. About midnight Mr. and Mrs. Broscius started to drive towards Falls Creek. At one o'clock, as they were passing the home of L. D. Perkins and his wife, Mrs. Broscius complained of illness and asked her husband to wait until she went to the home of the Perkins, whom she knew, and got a cup of coffee.

For what followed there is only the testimony of Mr. Perkins and his wife, two old people who are widely known all over this section of the country. They say that Mrs. Broscius entered their home and was given the coffee. That she stayed fifteen or twenty minutes and her husband became impatient. He came into the house and asked his wife to hurry and return to the carriage. The woman refused and Broscius attempted to force her out. A violent quarrel ensued just outside the door and continued for some time. There is said to have been one other witness to the quarrel, a man who was a school mate of the Broscius woman and of whom her husband is alleged to have been very jealous. Mrs. Perkins claims to have come out of her home and attempted to restore peace, as did the other man present. To them Broscius replied that all his married life had been made unhappy by quarrelling and curtly advised them not to interfere between man and wife.

Immediately after two shots rang out on the night air and Mrs. Broscius, screaming but two words, "Don't shoot!" fell to the ground. The one witness says he fled at this point. The Perkins' took refuge in their home. Broscius then apparently turned the revolver on himself and fired a bullet into his breast which struck a rib and lacerated the flesh sufficiently to make him fall to the ground. It is the

opinion of the coroner that Broscius still retained consciousness enough to know that wound was not fatal and that he coolly raised himself to a sitting posture, extracted the three used and two good cartridges in the weapon, dropped them on the grass where they were found by the coroner, and placed three new cartridges in the revolver. Then he fired another shot through his own breast, penetrating a lung. The couple lived for about half an hour and died within a few minutes of each other. A messenger hurried to Reynoldsville and secured Drs. H. B. King and T. F. Nolan, who found both parties dead when they arrived.

When Coroner J. C. Sayers examined the bodies Sunday morning, he found that the bullets had hit the woman low in the breast, passing through the lungs. In the morning the Perkins found the revolver of Broscius, an old, rusty 38-calibre Smith & Wesson containing two unfired cartridges and one which had been used. Under him were three empty cartridges and two good ones.

The bodies were brought to Reynoldsville at noon and prepared for burial at Hughes & Fleming's morgue. Afterwards they were laid on stretchers and during the afternoon and evening hundreds of persons visited the rooms to gaze on the faces of the murdered woman and the suicide.

The body of Reed Broscius was taken to home of his parents, near Stanton, Monday where funeral service was held at 10.00 a. m. yesterday and interment was made in a cemetery near Summerville.

The body of Mrs. Broscius was not taken from Hughes & Fleming's undertaking rooms until yesterday forenoon, when short funeral service was conducted by Dr. A. J. Meek and the body was taken to Prospect cemetery and interred.

### Independent Party Ticket in the County

Will Bear the Name of A. C. Smith for Office of County Commissioner.

The statement was made in THE STAR last week that A. C. Smith, of Brookville, had taken out nomination papers on the Democratic ticket for county commissioner and that the Democrats would have two candidates on the ticket this fall for commissioner. We were misinformed. Mr. Smith will be a candidate for commissioner on the independent ticket and the Democrats will only have one candidate for county commissioner at the fall election. Below we publish the affidavit for the nomination of Mr. Smith, which shows that the party supporting him will be known as the independent party. We understand that the nomination papers were signed by Democrats and Republicans. Following is copy of affidavit:

In the matter of the nomination of A. C. Smith for the office of County Commissioner. In the Court of Common Pleas of Jefferson county. No. — of August term, 1908.

AFFIDAVIT.  
State of Pennsylvania )  
County of Jefferson ) ss:

W. C. Smith, A. Kunselman, H. P. Katz, R. T. Kelly and A. W. Edwards, having been duly sworn according to law, deposed and said that they are all electors composing a political body making a nomination by nomination papers, viz: the nomination of A. C. Smith for the office of County Commissioner of Jefferson county; that they have adopted a certain political appellation to designate their policy, to-wit: The Independent Party, subject to the limitations of the act of July 9th, 1897 regarding the selection of names, and that they desire that hereafter such political body shall have the exclusive right to use the said name or appellation for the election for which such nomination is made, pursuant to the terms and provisions of the said Act of July 9, 1897, §1, P. L. 225.

[Signed] W. C. Smith, H. P. Katz, Robert Kelly, A. W. Edwards, F. M. Kunselman.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 27th day of June, 1908.

CYRUS H. BLOOD,  
Prothonotary.

[Seal.]

### THE FOURTH CELEBRATED

Large Crowd in Reynoldsville and a First-Class Program was Presented.

#### THE FIREMEN DESERVE PRAISE

The two-day celebration at Reynoldsville July 3rd and 4th, under the auspices of Hope Fire Company, was attended by large crowds both days and everybody seemed to have a good time. The fire ladders were a little late in deciding to take charge of the celebration, and on that account they were not able to give the people as good attractions as they had expected, or hoped to, when they took the matter up. However, the celebration at Reynoldsville was not surpassed by a celebration in any other town in this section.

The celebration began Friday morning and there was almost a continuous boom, bang and hurrah from that time until midnight Saturday. The two-day program of hurdle race, foot race, bicycle race, shoe and stocking race, potato race, old men's race, band concerts, ball games, high wire performances, daring slide for life, the eccentric pantomimist, knock about comic acrobatic performance at Eagle Inn, was carried out as advertised. A number of the business places were beautifully dressed in holiday attire, in fact it was a big celebration, but it failed to come up to the "Old Home Week" affair, with which, no doubt, some people made a comparison and may have been a little disappointed with the two-day celebration on that account. We understand the fire company expended \$80.00 more than was taken in, leaving the fire company \$80.00 in the hole.

One of the features of the celebration on the 3rd was the industrial parade in the afternoon. All the business places that agreed to be represented in the parade did not turn out, yet there were enough of our business houses and industries represented to make a very creditable parade. The prize winners during the two days were as follows: Hurdle race, Leo Nolan first prize and John Bohren second; 100 yard dash, Leo Nolan first and Fred McEntire second; Italian bicycle race, Harry Sarbelli first and Frank Passalacqua second; shoe and stocking race, George Bashor first and Ira Ellenberger second; potato race, Leo Nolan first and John Bohren second; old men's race, Mr. Rickey first and John King second.

The ball games both afternoons were won by the Reynoldsville team. Friday afternoon the Eriton team played here. Score 10 to 5 in favor home team. Saturday afternoon the Eleanor team played here. Score 8 to 1 in favor of home team.

The high wire and trapeze performance by Monsulla, the "lille for life" by Mlle. Russell and the comedy acrobatic performance by the Monte Myro Troupe were witnessed each time by large crowds. These were free attractions.

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### Girl Burned to Death At DuBois on Fourth

Dress Ignited by an Exploding Firecracker; Suffered for Seven Hours.

Mary Olson, 17-year-old girl of DuBois, was walking on one of the streets of DuBois about five o'clock Saturday afternoon of July 4th when a fire cracker, which had been carelessly thrown by some person, exploded under her skirts and set them on fire. The girl became frightened and ran about fifty yards, which fanned the fire and burned her limbs and body terribly. Several men caught the girl and smothered the fire out, but not until after it had done its deadly work. Miss Olson died about midnight—seven hours after she was burned.

J. S. Bartle, of Verona, spent Saturday and Sunday in town.

### Slavs at Pardus Fight and One Has His Skull Crushed

#### MID-SUMMER CHAUTAUQUA.

Rare Treat for Eight Days at Punxs'—Special Trolley to Reynoldsville During Entertainments.

A number of Reynoldsville people will go to Punxsutawney next week to attend the Chautauqua course to be held in the Jefferson theatre from July 14 to 21. It is seldom that the people of this community have an opportunity to hear such talent as Senator J. P. Dolliver, Edgar G. Folk, Dean Henry L. Southwick, Chas. Laing Herald, Otterbein Male Quartette, Mozart Concert Company, Miss Josephine Bridgeman, Virginia Fern Concert Co., The Great Walzen in Chinese Magic, and many others.

The Chautauqua will continue for eight consecutive days, including Sunday, July 19th, both afternoon and evening sessions, making sixteen different, distinct programs for \$2.00 for the entire course. \$1.00 for children's course tickets.

Eight large electric fans have been installed in the Jefferson Theatre that the house may be perfectly comfortable at all times. Arrangements have been made to run special cars to Reynoldsville after each evening's entertainment. All those desiring course tickets should call at National Hotel, Reynoldsville. Single admissions, adults 50c; children 25c.

### Reynoldsville Lady Weds at Sharon

Miss Mollie Driscoll and James Carlos, of New Bethlehem, at Hymen's Altar.

One of the prettiest weddings of the season was the one that occurred this morning, when Miss Mary Driscoll, sister of Father Driscoll, rector of St. Elizabeth's R. C. church of this place, and Mr. James Carlos, of New Bethlehem, were united in marriage. Solemn High Nuptial Mass was celebrated at 9 o'clock by Father Driscoll, assisted by the following priests: Deacon, Father Aussenmacher, of Sharon; Sub Deacon, Father Miller, of Sharpsville; Master of Ceremonies, Father McAdams, of Sharon. He was assisted by following priests in the Sanctuary: Father Rudolph, Father Maglory and Father Craney of this place, Father Rooney, of Sharon, and Father O'Mahony, of Mercer.

The little church was beautifully decorated with palms and cut flowers and never looked more cozy than this morning. The wedding march was played by Miss Rose Budd and the full choir rendered fitting music during mass. The bride wore a gown of white batiste, embroidered with white lace, picture hat and carried white roses tied with white ribbon. The bridesmaid, Miss Nonnie McGarrity, of New Bethlehem, wore white organza, also a picture hat and carried white roses tied with yellow ribbon. Thomas Benson of Butler acted as best man.

Immediately after Mass breakfast was served in the parish house. Mr. and Mrs. Carlos left this afternoon for an extended trip through the west and on their return will make their home in New Bethlehem, where Mr. Carlos is interested in the mercantile business.—Sharon Telegraph June 30.

#### Married in February.

Friends of Max Riggs, a freight conductor on the Penna. and Miss Elizabeth Reitzel, until yesterday a telegrapher for the same line at this place, were surprised this morning when the mail brought them an announcement of the marriage of the popular young couple. It was learned that they had quietly slipped away on the 27th of last February and had the knot tied without any of the numerous friends being any the wiser. Their little secret was cherished until Miss Reitzel resigned her position the first of the month. Congratulations were numerous sent them to-day. Mr. and Mrs. Riggs will make their home in DuBois.—DuBois Express July 2.

W. M. Riggs is well known in Reynoldsville, having resided here with his mother a number of years.

George Adam, a Youth of Twenty-Three, May Die as a Result of Being Hit on the Head with a Stone.

#### FISTS, PICKS AND STONES USED

Were Having a Quiet Sunday Celebration and an Altercation Between Two Slavs Soon Started a General Row.—Adam Laid in the Street Two Hours Before Medical Aid Arrived from Reynoldsville.

#### MICHAEL HARDIK, A SLAV, HURLED THE MISSILE

As a result of a fight in the streets of "Little Italy" at Pardus Sunday afternoon, July 5th, George Adam, a young Slavish miner, is at the point of death and in all probability another murder has been added to the criminal annals of the county. Adam was at a neighbor's house during the day participating in an after-the-fourth celebration and during the afternoon became involved in a scrap with a little old man and had an easy victory. Afterwards friends of the old gentleman began to take his part and Adam seized a pick with the intention of going across the street and attacking a countryman. As he emerged from the door of the house three or four other Slavs grouped themselves in front of him and dared him to come ahead. Adam began to back into the house waving his pick to defend himself, but he claims, without intent to hit anyone. Mike Hardik, also a Slav, one of the group around Adam, was carrying a heavy sharp cornered stone and when Adam swung his pick, Black threw the rock with all his force at Adam's head. It hit just above the right ear, fractured the skull and sunk deep into the brain. Adam fell into the street, apparently dead. Friends ran to Reynoldsville for a doctor but while waiting for Dr. Nolan to arrive no one touched the wounded man. Laying prostrate in the dust of the street where he fell with the hot sun beating down on him, with hundreds of his excited fellow-workmen gathering around the house, no one would touch him to render aid. When the physician arrived two hours later, Adam was carried into his boarding house and his head swathed in bandages. From the nature of the wound it is probable that death will ensue in time, or if by any chance Adam recovers, it will likely be to live the balance of his life in partial insanity.

Adam is 23 years old, unmarried and of a fine physical build. He was employed in the coal mines at Pardus. At last report he was still living. Hardik has been arrested.

### Two Highwaymen Hold Up 'Squire Martin at Sherwood

Not Having Any Money he was Politely Requested to Move Along and Lost No Time in Doing So.

About ten o'clock last Wednesday night as 'Squire Harry Martin and two young ladies were driving from Sandy Valley to Reynoldsville two men stepped out of the woods at the darkest place between the Pardus railroad and school house and demanded a halt. 'Squire promptly responded to the request of the unknown chaps and they asked him if he had any money. When he informed the highwaymen that he had only 30 cents in his pocket they said: "You are not the man we are looking for. Drive on, and be quick about it." 'Squire was as prompt in granting their last order as he was the "stop" order. The men were medium height and both wore slouch hats pulled down over their eyes.

### Was There Another Crime At Sandy Valley Sunday?

Evidence of a Desperate Struggle Along the Pennsylvania Railroad Tracks Near Scene of the Murder.

Sunday morning residents of Sandy Valley who went up the Pennsylvania railroad tracks to the scene of the Broscius shooting at the Perkins place, were surprised to notice along the tracks in a field about five rods from the place of the murder, evidence of a desperate hand to hand struggle in the shape of numerous articles of male wearing apparel apparently torn off some person. A collar, black four-inch hand necktie, pieces of torn underclothing and shreds of cloth were scattered along the road and stuffed in the mouth of a sewer pipe passing under the roadbed. The grass in a radius of ten feet was trampled down and the yellow clay retained clearly the heavy imprint of men's shoes in such fashion as two men struggling together might make. What they were and what the result of their encounter is left to conjecture. Its proximity to the scene of a murder and suicide the same night gave opportunity for much curious speculation.