

THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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THE INDEPENDENT HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY WEEKLY IN THE STATE

First Section

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JURY SAYS DEMENTIA CAUSE OF HAVRE MURDER AND SUICIDE

Mrs. Margaret Carleton, Former Minot Dancing Teacher Was Sleeping Powder Addict—"Bishop of all Outdoors" Much in Woman's Company.

Havre, Nov. 1.—Leonard J. Christler did come to his death by a bullet wound from a bullet fired from a gun in the hands of Margaret Carleton, on Friday, the 27th day of October, 1922, at about 1 o'clock a.m., in the home of said Leonard J. Christler, 812 1/2 Third avenue in the city of Havre, Montana, and that said shot was fired while Margaret Carleton was temporarily deranged.

"Margaret Carleton did come to her death by a bullet wound self-inflicted on Friday, October 27, 1922, and that said Margaret Carleton was temporarily deranged when the pistol shot causing said wound was fired."

The above is the verdict of the coroner's jury in the Havre double tragedy. Temporary mental derangement on the part of Margaret Carleton was responsible for the tragic death of herself and the Rev. Leonard J. Christler, rector of St. Marks church, early Friday morning, according to the verdict of the coroner's jury, which conducted an inquest into the murder and suicide, and which rendered its verdict shortly before midnight, Saturday.

For the first time the full details of the shooting and conditions leading up to the tragedy were recounted by Anna W. Christler, widow of the rector, when she testified at the inquest. In a calm, modulated voice, full of feeling, she told the story of the shooting.

At times she paused, yet throughout the trying ordeal, she maintained the calm attitude that has characterized her actions since the tragedy, and for the first time she left the bier of her beloved husband.

Alone at times in the house with her dead, she insisted on always being with the body, and she stood silent sentinel at the church where the body lay in state on guard with the plumed Knights of Templar. The manner in which she bears up is the marvel of all. Last night she left with the corpse for the old home in Waterloo, N. Y., where it will be interred "neath an old tree, a burying site chosen long ago by the Rev. Christler.

The body of Mrs. Carleton is still at the morgue and no arrangements have been made for the funeral. Her mother, Mrs. Pyle of Helena, is here but funeral arrangements await the arrival of her husband from the east.

Horror stricken with deep sorrow Havre and all northern Montana mourns the loss of the rector, and yesterday hundreds of people came from all over the state for a last look on the face of the "Bishop of All Outdoors."

The coroner's jury, which heard the testimony, was composed of prominent business men and a most thorough investigation was made of the tragedy. Attorney Chas. B. Ellwell represented the state and Judge Frank N. Utter appeared for Mrs. Pyle, the mother of the dead woman.

The bodies and the scenes of the tragedy were viewed in the afternoon and at 8:00 o'clock last night the taking of testimony commenced with Mrs. Anna W. Christler, widow, as the first witness.

Clearly and distinctly, and without hesitation, she answered the questions. Frail in stature, dressed in deep black, with lines of sorrow and suffering written on her face, she sat in the big witness chair and told the tale of the tragedy.

Returning to her home about 10 o'clock in the evening, she told the jury, she was surprised to see a light in her home, and she called to Attorney O. C. Hauge, who lives next door, and asked him to stand on the porch of his own home, while she went into the house.

Entering the house she found Mrs. Carleton there, carrying a picture of Rev. Christler and destroying it. She admonished her for the act and said that Mrs. Carleton seemed anything but in her right mind. She finally induced her to take a walk to the business section of the town with her. They met the Rev. Christler and the Rev. Mr. Chapman of Butte and walked to the corner of Third avenue and First street, leaving her there while they went to the station with Mr. Chapman. Mrs. Carleton saying she would wait for them. On their way back which must have been after midnight, she said she did not see Mrs. Carleton, but went on home, thinking she might have preceded them.

Asked if Mrs. Carleton had made any threats, she replied "no." Asked if Mr. Christler had said anything that might have angered Mrs. Carleton, she said "No. Mr. Christler was everybody's friend." Mrs. Carleton, she said, did most of the talking.

Mr. Christler arose and started for his sleeping room, she said, and Mrs. Carleton also arose, as if to depart, and she went to the front door and opened it, with her back to Mrs. Carleton who had followed Mr. Christler.

Two revolver shots came in quick succession, she said, and she turned in time to see Mrs. Carleton fall in the doorway of a very small hall leading into the bath room and to Mr. Christler's room.

She saw that Mrs. Carleton was dead, and, stepping over her body, she tried to get to Mr. Christler, but he had fallen in such a manner as to partially block the door. She then went to the telephone and asked central to call some doctor and the chief of police.

She testified as to the arrival of the doctors and her conversations with Bishop Faber at Helena, whom she called on long distance phone and as to a conversation over the telephone with Mrs. C. Pyle, mother of Mrs. Carleton, who called her when Bishop Faber notified her of the tragedy.

Attorney O. C. Hauge confirmed the story of Mrs. Christler that she had called him to stand on the porch and that after she had entered the house she had stepped out and said, "Everything is all right, Mr. Hauge." They retired and did not know of the tragedy until the next morning.

Mr. Hauge said that last Sunday afternoon, returning about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, he had seen Mrs. Carleton trying to get into the Christler home and he said that on the night of the tragedy, shortly after 10 o'clock he had glanced out of the window and saw Mrs. Carleton reach up and turn a light in the Christler home.

Mrs. F. E. Martin, librarian of the Havre public library, a close personal friend of Mrs. Carleton, described the condition of the dead woman on the evening of the tragedy.

Returning from the library to her room in the hotel, where Mrs. Carleton also roomed, she said she went to the room of Mrs. Carleton in response to a call and found her in bed suffering from a sort of hysteria. The Rev. Christler was there at the time, trying to quiet Mrs. Carleton. She informed Mrs. Martin that she had taken an overdose of sleeping powders—three powders—and had just awakened from a sleep of 30 consecutive hours. She said the condition of Mrs. Carleton was very bad and she thought she needed food and went to her room to prepare some and when she returned the Rev. Mr. Christler was still there, but departed. There was not an action or a word out of the way in the relations of Mr. Christler and Mrs. Carleton during her time in the room, she said.

She induced Mrs. Carleton, who said she was lonely, to go to the Martin room and spend the evening. Mrs. Carleton departed for her own room about 9 o'clock and she seemed much improved physically and mentally when she left. She did not see her again. Mrs. Carleton told Mrs. Martin that she was extremely tired and nervous as a result of her summer's work. She also talked about her daughter and her future plans.

Dr. D. S. McKenzie testified as to answering a call from the Christler home and taking the revolver from the hand of Mrs. Carleton. He said he extracted three bullets and one shell and one shell was in the cylinder. The weapon, which was introduced, is a .38 calibre, double action, Smith & Wesson, and the shells and bullets appeared to have been fired from the weapon for some time. The barrel of the gun, however, gave evidence of recent use.

Dr. C. H. Ross, who was the first to reach the scene and who was the Christler family physician, told of finding the bodies and of informing Dr. McKenzie's description as to the position in which they lay. It also developed that he was Mrs. Carleton's family physician.

About six months ago, before Mrs. Carleton departed for her work on a Cheyenne street in the city, she had mysteriously disappeared and had been reported as having been shopping powders, giving a prescription for eight, one of which he said was sufficient for a period of eight hours. He also testified that he had operated upon the deceased woman to correct troubles which had made her extremely nervous, but had thought she was better.

It was developed that Mrs. Carleton had had the prescription filled this week, getting eight powders. Four empty powder papers were found in the room she had occupied and four in her purse.

Dr. Ross said that while the prescription is a common use by physicians, an overdose such as Mrs. Carleton had taken would produce a prolonged sleep, even 30 hours, and a very small amount of it would be a long time to wake up. He said that the actions and such condition might last almost into the next.

V. E. STENERSON THE RIGHT MAN FOR STATE'S ATTORNEY



V. E. STENERSEN

V. E. Stenersen, assistant state attorney of Ward county, is making a particularly strong and pleasing campaign for election as state's attorney on Nov. 7.

As a rule, the Ward County Independent does not interest itself in any great extent in the election of candidates for county office, but in this particular case, this paper believes that all advocates of good government should take off their coats and work for the election of Mr. Stenersen.

This is a very important office. The man who is to be elected our state's attorney should be on the square. If Mr. Stenersen is elected, you can rest assured that under no circumstances can he be bought off.

Mr. Stenersen is well fitted by education, training and temperament, to hold this office in a manner that will be a credit to our county. He is regarded as one of Ward county's very best citizens.

The editor of the Independent has known Mr. Stenersen since his boyhood days and has watched his progress with a great deal of interest and satisfaction. We knew him as a student in the Minot schools. He graduated from the Minot high school in 1903 at the head of his class and later secured his Arts degree at Macalester college. He attended the law department of Harvard University and graduated from that department at the University of Minnesota.

Following his graduation from the Minnesota institution, he spent a year and a half at Bowbells as Assistant State Attorney under States Attorney Hanson. With the exception of that period, and a year and a half spent on his homestead near Parshall, which he still owns and operates, he has resided in Minot.

Mr. Stenersen has been honored in various ways. He is a Past Master of Star in the West Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of Minot and at present is Exalted Ruler of the Minot Lodge, No. 1089, B. P. O. Elks. He is president of the Minot Town Clerks Club.

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COL. HILDRETH ASKS SPECIAL FEDERAL GRAND JURY TO INVESTIGATE PERJURY CHARGE

The Independent Will Publish Official Proceedings. As has been the custom of the Ward County Independent in the past, this paper will continue to publish the proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of Ward county, even after this publication has ceased to be the official paper for the county. This will be done as a service to our readers who might not otherwise be able to see them.

THE ORIGIN OF THE NONPARTISAN LEAGUE

Duluth Herald: Princeton university reports that its fossil collection has been enriched by the acquisition of the skulls of a giant titanothere, of several saber-toothed cats and of some three-toed horses. They were found last summer in the Bad Lands of South Dakota by a group of paleontologists sent out by Princeton. Professor Lawlor of Dublin University was along, probably to escape for a while the sniping in the Irish capital.

Certainly these discoveries are thrilling. It is conjectured that the titanothere originates from a Burbanian arrangement between the three-toed horse and the saber-toothed cat and following evolutionary lines that the Nonpartisan league leaders of North Dakota are lineal descendants from the titanothere, which inherited and transmitted the more prominent features of its ancestors.

But this mere territorial hypothesis cannot be finally accepted without more proof than is now available. Mere resemblance in characteristics is not sufficient. It is objected also that the Nonpartisan league leaders trace ancestry from Europe as all Americans except the Indians do, and therefore they could not possibly be descendants of the titanothere.

This objection is strong; and yet it is remembered on the authority of our own Ignatius Donnelly, himself a doughty leaguer in spirit, that in ancient geologic days when the titanothere was in being, a great continent named Atlantis existed where the Atlantic ocean now rolls. This Atlantis perhaps formed a land link between America and Europe, and it is believed that the titanothere, which grew enormous and migratory, would easily have pastured its way to Europe and become the remote ancestor of the present Nonpartisan chiefs.

It is not disputed that the evidence in support of this theory is tenuous. At the same time, what was the mysterious call, the irresistible urge, the homing instinct that brought these militant leaguers after the lapse of geologic time to the Dakotas? Were they not returning to their ancient haunts?

It is true that these skulls were found in South Dakota and our leaguers are mainly in North Dakota, but that circumstance is not important. Indeed, it is reasonable to assume that the titanothere was driven from what is now South Dakota to the Bad Lands further north by the saber-toothed cats who had neither pride in, nor love for, their descendants and relations, the titanothers. But really, this subject must not be pursued further. It must remain a problem for the professors who love such discussions and can make a living in dealing with them.

RENVILLE COUNTY BABE DROWNED IN WATER TANK

Nov. 1, October 30.—Wesley Bartholomew, the 2 1/2 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Bartholomew of Clay township was drowned in a tank of water Monday afternoon. The child had strayed away from the house and when missed Mrs. Bartholomew went in search of him. Guided by what she called "the instinct" she went to the tank in the pasture, about a quarter of a mile from the house, and there she found the body floating in the water. She rushed to the house with the baby, reaching there just as County Nurse Larson was passing. The latter rendered first aid and endeavored to resuscitate the child but he was extinct.

Woman With Both Arms Broken Picks Up Infant With Her Hands

Altho both arms of Mrs. Guy Funnor, residing about 13 miles southwest of Minot, were broken Friday when she was struck by a car and her husband and Mrs. Fred Rock, her children, had her little 11-month-old child riding, tipped over when it was struck by another car. The injured woman rushed to her daughter's side and picked up the infant with her hands.

Glenn Walrath, a high school student, was taken into custody by the police and held on a charge of reckless driving. The incident occurred on the highway near the town of Minot.

Invitations to Wedding. Invitations have been issued to the wedding of Miss Laura Colton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Colton, to Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Linnertz, prominent farmers living northwest of Minot, which will be held in St. Leo's Catholic church on Wednesday morning, Nov. 22. The reception will be held at the home of the bride.

POLICE RAID KING'S GAMBLING JOINT

Local police, headed by Police Commissioner Gross, made a raid on a gambling den, conducted by E. J. King, in the basement under the Huskell New and Second Store, north of the Soo track, Monday night, and arrested 65 men who were caught gambling in the place. This is the largest haul ever recorded for gambling in the city of Minot.

King, charged with conducting the gambling den, put up cash for \$250.00 and he put up \$45 extra for the appearance of the other men before Judge Lynch, at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. King pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$100.00. Three defendants put up \$15 bail each which was forfeited. The coffers of the city were enriched to the extent of \$100.00 by the deal.

There were so many men arrested that the police made no attempt to take them to the police station. A list of the names was taken and their bail taken.

The police found four tables in operation and considerable money was stolen. The tables were playing draw and stud poker and a dice game was in operation.

James Milloy, general secretary of the Association of Commerce, lost his good warm fur trimmed overcoat, the night that "Jeffy" O'Connor spoke at the auditorium. He had placed the overcoat over the radiator of the car and the proved to be tempting for some shivering individual. As there is a long id winter ahead, Mr. Milloy will appreciate a rest in a new coat and he has selected one which he dares any thief to purloin.

PIPER-HOWE LBR. CO BUY FOUR MORE YARDS

The Piper-Howe Lumber Co., one of the largest lumber companies in North Dakota, have purchased from the Bovey, Shute & Jackson Lumber Co. a lot of four yards, at Ryder, Minn., Parshall and Van Hook and are now in charge of them.

The company's yards, which there will be no change in the local managers of those yards.

The yards are located in the heart of one of the best agricultural and dairy districts in northwestern North Dakota and the farthest yard away from Minot, where the general offices are located, is one at Van Hook, 75 miles distant.

The Piper-Howe Lumber Co. has been operating in North Dakota for fifteen years and established their general offices in Minot, eleven years ago.

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