

BIG RANSOM LAY UNNOTICED IN STORE

(By United Press Leased Wire.) CLEVELAND, O., March 29.—Ten thousand dollars in bills thrown carelessly in the midst of \$10 worth of candy, bananas and souvenir postals—this was one angle of the ransoming of little Willie Whitla, the Sharon, Pa., boy who was kidnaped.

Mrs. Bernard A. Hendrickson, a machinist's wife, who helps her mother in the little candy store in the heart of Cleveland's manufacturing district, was the innocent intermediary between the kidnapers and the boy's father.

The weekly profits of the store do not amount to \$10. The stock at the time the ten thousand was added to it wasn't worth much more. Yet Mrs. Hendrickson threw the precious package carelessly behind the counter and forgot about it.

All Mrs. Hendrickson knew of the ransom was that a well-dressed man came into the store about noon with a little package. "A man named Hayes will call for this," he said. "May I leave it with you?"

The sun was shining brightly. There was no atmosphere of tragedy or dark deeds or plots or huge ransoms.

Mrs. Hendrickson smiled pleasantly. "Certainly," she said. "Just throw it over there anywhere. "Nice springlike day, isn't it?"

A moment later a man with reddish face and dark mustache, dressed like a workingman, stepped in. "My name is Hayes," he said. "Is there a package for me?"

Mrs. Hendrickson looked up from her sewing. "Right behind the counter," she said. "You're welcome."

EVER SEE A GAS CO. HAND BACK MONEY? OH, IT'S GREAT! BETTER TAKE IN THIS SHOW



MOTHERS AND BABIES, AND MEN WITH GLAD POCKETS AT AN EAST-SIDE GAS REBATE OFFICE.

NEW YORK, March 29.—Oh, come to New York and see it!

The spectacle of your life. Better than Niagara, or Yellowstone park or Vesuvius.

It's a gas company giving back money!

The Consolidated Gas Co. of New York is rebating \$9,000,000 to its customers. And here's how it is:

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In the spring of 1906 the New York legislature passed a law fixing the price of gas at 80 cents a thousand feet.

The Consolidated Gas Co., which charged \$1, began to fight right away, but the courts said: "You charge the old rate, but lay

aside 20 cents on every dollar until this case is finally settled. If it's yours then pocket it."

John A. Shields was appointed to take charge of this money. The gas company had to run an extra set of books and clerks for this special accounting. This cost, during the 33 months of litigation, nearly \$300,000.

As the fight went on the public began to see how much money it had been paying the gas company. Pretty soon Shields had \$2,000,000 on hand.

The court gave him permission to put the money in the banks. Here it drew from 2 to 2 1/2 per cent, and by the time Mr. Shields' pot contained \$9,000,000 he had a few hundred thousands extra in interest.

The court decided that this interest money should not be given to the customers. To figure out the tiny bits of interest on over 2,750,000 gas bills would be the limit, so it was agreed to make

it pay the cost of passing back the rebates to gas users when 80-cent gas was won.

When the highest court decided for the people, the gas company made one final stand against paying back some of the money, but lost.

So, the first of March, the gas company announced that it had established nine branch offices in New York for the express purpose of paying back the \$9,000,000.

The bills the gas company owes range from 20 cents to \$6000.

In all households there was a great scrambling and search for old gas bills. The average monthly gas bill was good for a quarter. As there were 33 bills during the litigation, the whole thing, in the average home, means new pairs of shoes and new hats.

Over on the East Side, at the Christie st. office, where a nickel means as much as \$50 on Broadway—more, because it means the bread that keeps the family alive

—there were scenes of panic on the morning of the first payment. East Side mothers brought their babies and bills, that meant, in some instances, as much as \$3 to them.

During the first two weeks the gas company paid out \$1,052,000.

There will be several hundreds of thousands of dollars left in the fund, for it will be impossible for the gas company to find every one of its creditors. The court hasn't decided who will get what is left over.

WOMAN DIES IN ELECTRIC CHAIR
(Continued From Page One.)

arms of the chair. The head-piece, holding a wet sponge, slipped down over the woman's eyes. The chain strap almost covered her mouth, leaving little of her face visible. It was the work of but an instant as these men have been trained to act quickly.

Dies Instantly. Then State Electrician Davis, watching closely as the woman breathed and as he saw the chest sink at an exhalation, swung the switch into place. The body jumped into the creaking straps and the breath never came back into the lungs of the woman, who died practically instantly.

Though Davis had been careful to bring the contact when the lungs held no air, there was a slightly audible moan, which was the only sign of the woman's death other than the stiffening of the body.

The first contact was given at 6:05 3-8 o'clock, when 1,850 volts, at seven and a half amperes were used. This contact was maintained for one minute and two seconds. A second contact was given at the suggestion of the doctors and was maintained five seconds. A third of three seconds was applied as a precaution and at 11 minutes after 6 the doctors pronounced her dead.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT
NEWS and GOSSIP OF THE STAGE

AT THE TACOMA.

"MARRYING MARY"

The audience which witnessed the first appearance of Florence Gear at the Tacoma theater last night was small—but everything it lacked in size was accounted for in its applause. It couldn't help cheering. Had the house been filled with wooden Indians Miss Gear would still have been applauded to the last echo.

For it must be understood that Florence Gear is not Marrying Mary—nor is she Mary Montgomery—or any other name she desires to hide under. She is just Florence Gear, and as Florence Gear she last night captivated each and every auditor in the house.

The company supporting Florence Gear is mediocre, but Florence is superb. The part of "Mary Montgomery" was filled by Marie Cahill last year, but Florence Gear has taken the Cahill interpretation by the ears, and turned it inside out, giving the audience her own sweet little version—and with delightful results. "We've Changed That Now," written and composed by Miss Gear, was the distinct song hit of the evening.

"Marrying Mary" will be repeated tonight.

"GIRLS" THIS WEEK.

"Girls," the breezy Clyde Fitch comedy which won such instant favor in the East, will be seen at the Tacoma Friday and Saturday under the direction of the Shubert Brothers.

AT THE GRAND

Manuel Romalme, in his abbreviated musical travesty, "Down Music Row," heads the grand bill this week.



Scene from "Marrying Mary," at the Tacoma again tonight.

AT THE PANTAGES.

"Sa-Hera," the famous Oriental Mystic, will be seen this week at the Pantages in an original line of mysterious tricks and thought reading.

AT THE STAR.

The McRae players at the Star theater, achieved a triumph yesterday afternoon. They gave the first presentation of "Frenzied Finance," one of the most tedious and difficult of the modern dramas, without a hitch, a breakdown, or even the least tendency of embarrassment. When you consider that "Frenzied Finance" is composed of four acts of rigidly strenuous dialogue, that the emotions are the prime factors of the play, and that the curtain is up exactly two hours and thirty-five

minutes, you must at least give the players credit for their initial efforts. "Frenzied Finance" is not a "dramatic triumph"—nothing of the sort. It is just an ever-acting drama dealing with Wall street intrigues, but it is staged so well and worked out in a way that it cannot fail to please the average audience. Special credit is due Allen Holuber, who has the part of William Seabury, a defaulting bank cashier, and to Edward Lawrence, Miss Oswald and Denton Vane have parts which need clever work and each is seen to great satisfaction. There are 21 members in the cast.

BUSINESS MEN FORCED TO CLEAN UP

Health Officer Sargentich is prosecuting the pure food campaign with vigor. Yesterday he got back of a grocery store in the city and found 40 sacks of potatoes stored in a little stable where four horses were kept, and the spuds were being contaminated by the stable refuse. He dragged the whole lot out, poured on some oil and there were plenty of baked potatoes in that neighborhood.

One big bakery was given 48 hours to clean up and get its filthy aprons off its employees.

Food dealers will have to clean the mark under the new pure food ordinance.

The Owl Drug Co. has moved to 904 C St., Theater Bldg. near

FREE Deafness Cure
A remarkable offer by one of the leading ear specialists in this country, who will send you his medicine free to prove his ability to cure Deafness, Head Noises and Catarrh. Write Dr. G. M. Branam, 15th St., Kansas City, Mo.

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