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# The Tacoma Times

THE ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER IN TACOMA.

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Night Edition

WEATHER  
Tacoma: Cloudy and occasionally threatening tonight, Wednesday fair.  
Washington: Same.

## Tacoma and Seattle Clubmen Involved In

# BLACKMAIL SCANDAL!

### HORRORS! A Candidate Begins Talking IDEAS!

We'd like to call the attention of some two dozen candidates for city offices to Fred Shoemaker, who is out for controller.

Though unknown to the Tacoma public and an absolute "dark horse" in our politics, he has stirred up more political excitement in the few days his hat has been in the ring than all the other candidates combined.

**HE CAME FORWARD WITH SOME IDEAS! That is the reason.**

He told us that we are paying an absurdly high interest rate on our bonds, and that we ought to refund them so as to obtain a reduction.

He asserted that the municipal accounts are

not kept in such shape that citizens, by consulting the books, can ascertain vital facts.

He pointed to cases where relatives of officials are holding good jobs and to the costliness of taking an inventory in certain departments.

The Times has not yet satisfied itself as to the soundness of all his statements, but we have observed a pronounced sensation in the city hall.

Controller Meads is one of the busiest men in town right now, trying to prove Shoemaker a liar, and the entire gang of office holders and wouldbes is quite upset.

No wonder! When a candidate for office begins talking IDEAS and FACTS, instead of politics, it's enough to make the whole crowd shudder.

SEATTLE, Feb. 22. — A huge blackmailing syndicate, operating the entire length of the Pacific coast, and having some of the most prominent millionaires of Tacoma and Seattle for its victims, was disclosed today when warrants were issued for Miss Lillian Peterson, of Billings, Mont., and Isabel Clayberg, of Los Angeles. They are charged specifically with blackmailing a Tacoma and Seattle lumberman. Actual photographs of leading business men and club men in compromising positions are in the hands of the sheriff and will be used as evidence against the blackmailing gang.

A confession made last night to Deputy Sheriff M. E. Hally by a Seattle woman disclosed the fact that members of the syndicate have been preying on wealthy Pacific coast business men for several years, reaping huge harvests.

**Law Firm Involved.**  
The two girls for whom the warrants were issued are said to have been working hand in hand with a prominent law firm here. The men victims appear to have been lured to a fine residence on the Capitol Hill residence district.

There, after they were placed in compromising positions, they were photographed. Clever photographic apparatus was built into the ceilings and walls.

When confronted with these snap shots, showing them in the arms of alluring women, sums ranging from \$10,000 to \$15,000 were exacted from them.

**Like Blue Book.**  
The list of victims of the alleged blackmailers reads like a Blue Book of Seattle and Tacoma society.

It includes prominent bankers, owners of skyscrapers and leaders in exclusive club circles. This list is held by the officers, who expect to arrest higher-ups in the syndicate.

**To Arrest Higher-Ups.**  
Warrants against other women of the gang are expected any moment. Arrests of the higher-ups will come later. The arrests may include the members of the law firm which is said to have been working on the scheme along with the women.

The details of the blackmail scheme were unearthed by Deputy Hally's investigation, through a remark which was made by George Healy, a prisoner held for burglary in the county jail.

**Focus Camera on Bed.**  
This prisoner made the statement to the deputy that he was the victim of a "frameup," and that "they were out to get him." When asked to explain his statement he told of having equipped a residence of Belmont avenue with photographic apparatus.

He said he had installed a secret camera in a secret room in the house next to a bedroom. A hole had been made in the wall and the lens of the camera had been focused on the bed.

Similar cameras were installed in other parts of the house, he declared. Deputy Hally investigated and is said to have found conditions just as had been described. When the blackmail victim was in a compromising position the photo would be snapped without his knowledge.

**Gives \$10,000.**  
This discovery is said to have led to the alleged confession of the woman who ran the house.

Through her confession it was learned that one victim had been hounded for two years, after he had been shown a photo of himself, and that at last in desperation he gave the blackmailers \$10,000.

Two bankers, it was learned, were forced to give up \$5,000 each.

After the photos had been shown the victim, according to the confession, the law firm would notify him that a call had been received from another law firm, saying that the victim's wife was about to sue for divorce. Then the millionaire would "come through" with the

### How Gang Worked

The confession of a Seattle woman disclosed the fact that when the blackmailers failed in their attempt to entice the millionaires to their magnificent Capitol Hill rendezvous, they adopted a procedure something like this:

Two of the women would enter the downtown office of one of their prospective millionaire victims.

One of them would engage him in intimate conversation and, at the psychological moment, would pull a string which would release her garments.

As they fell fluttering about her feet she would grab the astounded business man about the neck while the other girl would snap the scene with a camera she had brought for the purpose.

The woman who made the confession told the officer that in December, 1914, she went to see a business man about some insurance.

While there she saw a Mr. F., who called her into his office and asked her if she wanted to take part in a scheme to get some quick money.

He then showed her some photographs he said he had taken of prominent men in the Seattle and Butler hotels, declaring he had made considerable money out of them.

He then induced her to undertake the scheme with him, after assuring her that it wasn't blackmail, she said.

The blackmail syndicate is believed by officials to include at least a score of women in the Northwest.

Officials believe they have unearthed one of the most gigantic crime rings in the history of the Northwest.

**Oregon Hot On Trail of Unjust R. R. Rates**  
Oregon is right on the job, too, in this fight the northwest is making against the \$17.50 preferential rate charged by the allied southern railroads on round-trip tickets from the east.

The Washington public service commission received word today that the Oregon state commission has joined with it, and has filed a complaint in intervention with the interstate commerce commission.

### ÷ Talk o' the Times ÷

Greetings. DID you see that Elks' building?

On this George Washington's day notice these excerpts from the Tacoma directory: Josephine Cherry, Albert Bloom, Christian Hack, Cassius Wood, Warren C. Speaks, Ransom True, Paul R. Haffer, coljob.

In a pinch between that and a suffraget, We'll take a chance at a decollete.

One of our jealous rivals again produces the ancient "Adam had 'em" as the shortest poem in the language. How about this?

Don't crab, Joab!

SPRING IS COME  
Does your nose sort of reach forward for great sniffs of something in the morning air?

Do your woollens seem a trifle heavy?  
Does your wife speak caustically of the inconveniences of apartments?

Do you make mental pictures of a B-I-I bungalow in the country?  
Dear Flaties, you've discovered that you're on the verge of spring.

A newspaper ought to give the people topics of conversation.

Try these: Preparedness. The Elks' building. The Elks' parade. The war. The Lusitania case. The Tiggers. The spring styles. The Rose Garden Husband.

And now another of the Noozenledger higher-up is winking. Twenty-nine in two weeks.

FLOSSIE FLIM FLAM'S ANSWERS

George Shreeder: Julius Thirderail played the part of the hall tree in "The Balled Shirt." I'd like to hear from you again, dearie.

James Dege: Sidney Dandruff before going in the movies worked in a fish store, hence his wonderful facial expressions.



## Are You For Or Against the Low Neck's Uplift?

### PRO-DECOLLETE

"The women with the picked-chicken necks and shoulders. They're the ones, who are doing all the kicking against the descending depths of decollete."

This from Grace Cameron, former opera singer, comedienne, and star attraction at Pantages this week. She has a neck and pair of shoulders that—well, they don't look as if she were underfed. And she's not afraid to display their curves from behind the spotlight.

"You don't hear any of us that have the goods kicking about the lowness of low necks, do you?" said she.

And there's nothing rough or low-brow about Grace Cameron, either. She's a remarkably well educated, intelligent and serious-minded little woman. Her lively little gift of songs and characterizations gets a big hand just because of its wholesome fun.

**Most Beautiful Thing.**  
"One of the most beautiful things in the world to me is a beautiful woman," she said after she had finished her act.

"If a woman has the real thing in neck and shoulders, why not show them off? There can be nothing suggestive or immoral in their beauty. Unless—"

Then she tore off a little phrase which sounded something like this:

"Hone sot qui male pensé."

"Evil be to him who evil thinks," she explained.

**Her Remedy.**  
"As a matter of fact, the woman with a face like a barn door, but with neck plump and curved in nature's own art, can make herself sweet to look upon if only she has sense enough to don a dainty decollete gown."

"Since my last visit here I have gained several pounds. And whether you believe it or not,

### George Washington

The greatest American citizen—the father of our country.

A man truly worthy of the nation's respect and trust.

May we also attain the utmost confidence of our numerous friends and patrons.

H. N. Tinker

PUGET SOUND STATE BANK

they absolutely demand that I shall appear in a low cut gown. "The best remedy for the picked chicken kickers who have nothing else to busy themselves about, is to get down to some good hard work for awhile."

### ANTI-DECOLLETE

The men folks are the ones who must bring about the uplift in low necks, says Police Matron Buck.

"The girls always wear what they think the men like; and if the men tell them low cut dresses are not pretty nor attractive, the girls will build them higher.

"I don't see anything so very attractive in bare neck and shoulders, do you?"

"The decollete gown is the ruination of young girls. I know because I've seen it. I can't understand how some mothers and fathers can allow their daughters to go about in dresses which are cut down almost to the waist in front and back.

**What Can They Expect?**  
"How can they expect that their daughters will not be mistaken by men for common street walkers?"

"The girl freshmen in the high schools are the ones for whom the decollete appears to have the most attraction. When they come out of grammar school they seem to think they have to put on ballroom gowns.

"When they reach the higher classes the low necks begin to disappear.

"Recently a 16-year-old girl who had gotten into trouble came under my supervision. She was the daughter of a Seattle minister and she had run away with a man 26 years old.

**Subjects for Asylum.**  
"Do your mother and father know that you dress like this?" I asked her, pointing to her bare bosom. She seemed to be surprised. Hers was a highly respectable family and allowed her to dress accordingly, she said.

"No wonder this man got you into trouble," I told her. He thought you were a common street walker."

Here's what Dr. Eva St. Clair Osborne says:

"If the women take to wearing the low cut gowns that are on display this spring they will be fit sub-

jects for the insane asylum. "I can say amen to Mrs. Thomas A. Edison's words. The tendency in women's gowns is toward the immodest and the extreme. It is time for women to take a stand against the present day immodesty."

### FLASHES

EL PASO—Villa and 900 of his followers today besieged Guerrero, in Chihuahua. It is said he has executed 80 prisoners.

LONDON—The British public is aroused to a high pitch of enthusiasm through the announcement of the destruction of the 25th Zeppelin during the war.

NEW YORK—Ambassador Morgenthau arrived today for a two months' vacation to familiarize himself with American affairs and the American point of view concerning the European situation.

PARIS—Zeppelin alarms caused the military governor to order all city lights lowered last night at 8 p. m.

PEKING—Rebels made an attack yesterday on the governor's mansion at Chang Sha in the province of Hu-Nan.

SEATTLE—Chinatown is closed tighter than a rat-trap today and no Chinese are venturing on the streets without the strictest protection as a result of the importation of 24 tong gunmen yesterday from Portland.

**What's Doing**

**Today**  
Washington's birthday; all city and county offices, banks and stores closed.  
St. Leo's grammar school boys celebrate holiday with operetta; school auditorium; evening.  
Formal dedication Elks' temple, 2 p. m.; and formal grand ball, 9 p. m.

**Tomorrow**  
Lecture, Larry Altmyer of New York Dry Goods Economist, night school advertising class; Stadium high; evening.

### A TOUCH OF HONOLULU



Hawaiian sunshades, such as Mrs. Frank Henderson is shown carrying, are in vogue among Palm Beach resorters.

### GERMANY IS LOSING PATIENCE

BERLIN, Feb. 22.—Germany's patience toward America is vanishing.

The Germans have not the slightest desire, it appears, to postpone the operation of the Pontonic decree of warfare against armed merchantmen because of U. S. protests.

It is popularly felt that Americans must suffer the consequences if they embark in armed ships instead of seeking passage on neutral, unarmed vessels.

The patience Germany displayed toward America during the Lusitania negotiations no longer exists because popular feeling in America already has hindered many of Germany's plans.

MELFORD, Conn.—At least five persons were killed and more than 50 injured today when a special passenger train ran into the Connecticut river express.

### U. S. HAS PLAN FOR CO-OPERATION

NORTH YAKIMA, Feb. 22.—Five men representing the federal bureau of markets will work out a plan of co-operation between fruit growers and shippers of the four northwestern states for marketing crops.

## LOVER PINNED UNDER AUTO WATCHES SWEETHEART DIE

A boy lover pinioned helpless under a wrecked automobile, condemned to watch his sweetheart dying by inches and unable to help her by so much as lifting a hand—could anything be more awful?

In the case of Allan Harrington the experience was so horrifying that the young college graduate, whose constitution had been injured by over-study, became a physical wreck.

The terrible scene that had been stamped on his mind worked with the ill-effects of a spinal blow to leave him painfully morbid and chair-bound.

The accident occurred seven years ago, and during that

time his mother has been his constant attendant.

Now she is dying—broken by her devotion. Such very briefly summarized, is the status of affairs in the Harrington household on Sunday evening as the family attorney and his wife outline them to Phyllis Braithwaite, the Liberty Teacher.

NOW turn to page 2 and read the second installment of the compelling novel, "The Rose Garden Husband." What we have just been narrating is a synopsis of yesterday's opening chapters. Or if this doesn't satisfy you, the circulation manager still has a few copies of yesterday's paper left.