



LOUISE ARBOGAST ARRESTED

Daughter of Former New Ulmite Accused of Fiendish Crime.

Beats in the Head of Her Father With an Ax While He Sleeps.

Then Sets Fire to the Bed Clothing to Destroy the Traces of Her Terrible Deed.

For Four Days Mother Tried to Shield Daughter, but Finally Told Whole Story.

County Attorney and Chief of Police Satisfied that Girl is Insane.

A tragedy, mysterious in its motive and plot, and frightfully brutal in the execution of its closing scenes, was brought to light in St. Paul early Thursday morning.

The victim was Louise Arbogast, a wealthy Seventh street butcher, the husband of a former New Ulmite and the father of several bright and intelligent children.

The weapon used was an ax. This had been brought from the woodshed and used to beat in the victim's head as he slumbered peacefully in his bed about four o'clock in the morning. Then it was taken to a hiding place in the cellar. Tell-tale drops of blood along the floor and stairways led to its prompt discovery by the detectives.

Following the awful butchery with the ax, the bed clothing was saturated with kerosene and set afire.

Who committed the awful crime and who, beside the perpetrator, was the first to be aware of its commission was a mystery which puzzled the police as nothing has puzzled them for years.

At first Mrs. Arbogast told one story of the murder, her daughter, Ida, another and her eldest daughter, Louise, still another.

This peculiar action on the part of the members of the household led the police to the conviction that the tragedy was a family affair and all but the smallest children were placed under the strictest surveillance.

A son-in-law, who had married one of Arbogast's daughter's against his wishes, was the first to be suspected, but so easily were his whereabouts on the night of the murder accounted for that he went out of the reckoning immediately.

Then the shadow fell across the wife. The police found many strange circumstances connecting her with the night's horrible work, but at every juncture they were met with the most inexplicable thing of all—the lack of motive.

Finally Louise came in for her share of investigation and by bringing the mother and daughter together under a searching fire of examination the whole mystery was solved.

The dramatic meeting took place at the city hospital where Mrs. Arbogast is being cared for by Dr. Belle Wairath.

Louise, as she sat by her mother's bed with the county attorney and the police, target of that battery of searching eyes, maintained an absolute denial when urged to confess her guilt. Finally the mother, in an outburst of desperate appeal, cried:

"Louise, it is either you or me! Tell the truth—tell the truth. You were outside father's door when I came from the bathroom. You must tell the truth!"

The girl was silent. The mother persisted. She almost shouted: "You say you didn't do, but I know you did!"

But Louise professed to remember nothing, and stared straight ahead in silence, until the terrific strain was broken by their sobs, and the two embraced, weeping bitterly, the girl kneeling by her mother's bedside.

The police delayed no longer. A formal complaint was made against the girl and Monday morning she stood in Judge Hanft's police court to answer to the awful charge.

"You are not required," Judge Hanft said, "to plead at this time, but may defer pleading if you wish until you have consulted an attorney."

Then, for the first time, the girl seemed to realize fully that she had to speak, and the words that had been choking in her throat, all through the long reading of the complaint, rushed to expression with the eagerness of pitiful despair.

"God will be my attorney!" she exclaimed. "I did not harm my father, truly I did not harm my father!"

Stretching one hand toward the judge, she cried:

"Good sir, I do not need an attorney. Mr. Daly," turning to the detective, "I don't need an attorney, do I? I did nothing; Mr. Daly knows I did nothing!"

There was a dramatic instant of pause, and then, turning her face, framed in rich black hair—a face in which brown eyes, dry with the greatness of grief, begged tearlessly—full to those who stood by, she stretched both arms toward Prosecuting Attorney Michael Doran, and her voice wept the bitterness of her appeal:

"Mr. Doran, please, Mr. Doran, do I need an attorney? You've known me a long time, and I've done no wrong! Do I need an attorney?"

"No, you don't," said Prosecutor Doran, to quiet her; but he turned away and could not look at her.

Then she went to the county jail, there to remain until the courts have decided whether she did the brutal murder with which she is charged, or whether she is irresponsible and killed her father in a moment of demoniacal frenzy, caused by hallucinations which have for months been pursuing her.

Chief O'Connor says she is plainly irresponsible.

County Attorney O'Brien also says she is insane and not accountable for her acts.

The story of the mother—the accusing story which brought Louise Arbogast to the bar of justice—bears out the theory of the authorities.

Mrs. Arbogast in her statement of the case says that Louisa had only recently returned to her home from a hospital where she had been taking a "rest cure." The doctors at the hospital did not want the family to take the girl home so soon and warned her father that she would do violence to some one, possibly to him.

The father insisted. Their relations were of inseparable companionship. Louise had for several years been cashier in his store. At home she had been with him as a comrade in the

most intimate sense. On the night of the party—Wednesday night, before the murder—when several of Arbogast's friends were entertained and a prospective trip to the Yukon had been discussed, Louise was more than usually restless. All that night she remained awake, walking through the house, passing and re-passing the door of the room in which her parents slept.

Mrs. Arbogast, who had been ill for some time, arose about four o'clock and went to the bathroom where she remained for some minutes. When she returned to her room she was horrified to find Louise standing in the doorway, while the bed was on fire and her husband was lying in the flames, his head crushed in and the pillows covered with blood. Mrs. Arbogast said she pushed her daughter aside and rushed into the room, where she tried to extinguish the fire. But in the excitement she fainted and fell on the bed, thus accounting for the burns she herself received.

Mrs. Arbogast remembered nothing more until Ida, one of her daughters, who had been sleeping in an adjoining room, ran in and pulled her away from the fire. Louise was gone—nowhere to be seen—and the room was filled with smoke. She and Ida struggled, Ida to get her away and she to go back to her husband. The whole household was aroused.

Realizing who had done the murder and knowing that police investigation would surely follow, the sisters hurriedly cleaned up what blood they could that might betray the identity of the murderer and the whole family united in a determination to keep the facts within their own knowledge.

But the younger children became excited, and when they ran into the street crying for help and thus attracted the police, the work of concealment had not been completed.

Mrs. Arbogast said further that Louise had an hallucination that some one was trying to harm her, and she was constantly on the lookout for an attack. The mother explained the use of gasoline by her daughter. She said the gasoline was used for house-cleaning. The house had been cleaned only recently, but Louise insisted upon cleaning it again, on the day before the murder. She was permitted to do so, only to humor her, the argument being that physical employment would save her mental disturbance. The cunning of insanity displayed itself there, according to the mother's story, for after using the gasoline for house-cleaning purposes, she hid it away to use in the cremation she had planned for her father's body.

In the light of her relation of companionship with her father, it has been difficult to explain why she should attack him; but it seems that her only hallucination had been that harm was to come to her through a man, and she might have attacked any other man, had she been seized with the frenzy at any other time or in any other surroundings. Her first fear of man began with a prediction by a fortune teller, that the house would be entered by a man who would attack herself and Ida, her sister. She was for several months in deadly fear of this mysterious stranger, and used personally to see to all the door and window fastenings. Recently, the hallucination became more general as to who would make the attack and more confined as to who was to be attacked, as she became convinced that a man within the house would attack her and her only. As there was only one man in the Arbogast home, all the children being girls, it was easy for the hallucination to become definite and her fear to be fixed on her father.

Mrs. Arbogast, the mother, was born in New Ulm fifty years ago, the daughter of the late Fred Meile by his first wife. Her mother died when she was quite young and therefore she was raised by her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Siler. After finishing school she went to St. Paul to work and in 1885 married Mr. Arbogast.

She has no blood relatives in New Ulm, but her stepmother, Mrs. Meile, has taken sufficient interest in the unfortunate woman's troubles to go to St. Paul in a laudable effort to attend and comfort her.

Her half-brother, William Meile, also attended her husband's funeral.

At this funeral Louise Arbogast is said to have refused to look at the face of her murdered father when given an opportunity.

Rudolph Marti was in Redwood county last week looking after his farming interests.

Capt. Oliver J. Quane, the military editor of the St. Peter Herald, was in the city last evening. He came here to confer with Judge Olsen.

NEW RICHMOND IN THE FIELD

Hutchinson, Fair McLeod County City, Makes Bid For Dr. Martin Luther College.

Offers Ten Acre Site and Former Danish School.

The board of managers of Dr. Martin Luther College met in this Friday with the following members in attendance: President Andrew Schroedel of St. Paul, Secretary Naumann of Wood Lake, Treasurer Knuth of Milwaukee, Rev. C. J. Albrecht, F. H. Retzlaff and John Boock of New Ulm, August Gundlach of Denver, Henry Hellmann of Nicollet and J. Schwartz of Milwaukee.

They met at the college at nine o'clock in the forenoon, and, after transacting some routine business, listened to the annual report of Prof. A. Ackermann, the college director. This report showed that during the year the college had an enrollment of 115 students, the largest in the history of the institution; it also showed that the school is badly cramped for room, that larger quarters are needed in almost every department and that the institution is sorely deficient in almost every modern convenience. This was made so apparent to the managers that they immediately voted to recommend to the synod, which meets in June, either enlargement of the present building or removal to some town that could afford better and more commodious facilities.

At the afternoon session a surprise was sprung when a delegation appeared from Hutchinson, representing the Business Men's club of that city and composed of Rev. Thurrow of Litchfield and Rev. Fritzke, Ernest Harms, Henry Braun and J. Lindenburg of Hutchinson. This delegation made a strong bid for the college and set forth that they were able to offer the former Danish college, a three-story building costing originally \$36,000, located on a commanding bluff, capable of accommodating five hundred students, supplied with ample water, light and sewer facilities, and situated in the heart of a strong Lutheran district. A definite proposition, including additional inducements, would be made, it was said, to the synod at the meeting in June.

The proposition met with favor, and it is evident from the temper of the meeting that New Ulm must meet all the demands of the synod if it would retain the institution.

A good watchword from now on would be "Get Busy."

Burns-Johnson Fight.

A moving picture reproduction of the Burns-Johnson fight, which occurred in December at Sydney, will be the attraction for a matinee and night at the Turner Theatre next Sunday.

This is not a local affair, but a traveling organization under the direction of Hugh D. McIntosh, the promoter and referee of the fight, who is in America trying to arrange a match between Johnson and Jeffries, and who has brought the moving pictures with him. They are being shown simultaneously in various parts of the country, including the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, and are attracting a great deal of attention on account of the fact that they were made in the open air, and are said to be the clearest of the kind ever attempted. There has been a great deal of interest manifested in the fight between Burns and Johnson, which decided the world's championship, and, as it occurred in Australia, this is the first time that Americans have had opportunity of passing judgment on the relative values of the two heavyweights.

The pictures show every detail, and are long enough to occupy an evening in the presentation. There is a lecturer with the films who explains the various interesting events.

Nearly fifty church dignitaries and priests honored Rt. Rev. Monsignor Sandmeyer with their presence at the ceremonies attending his investiture as a prelate of the papal household last Wednesday. Among them were Archbishop Ireland, Rt. Rev. Monsignors Plut of Shakopee and Salmone of La Crosse and Revs. Heer of Dubuque, Zachman of St. James, Kaessen of Nassau, Van Hoenackere of Minnesota Lake, Lydecker of Wabasso, McCarron of Corcoran, Mamer of Searles, Quessel and Haas of Glencoe, Pozek of St. George, Schatz of Lucan, Ziskowsky of Comfrey, Rant of Arlington, Goovers of Norwood, Mazer of Nicollet, Goergen of

Fairfax, Moran of St. Peter, Klein of Madison, Schiffer of Redwood Falls, Martin of Meiro Grove, Blum of Buffalo, Gregory of Collegeville, Jager of St. Boniface, Carry of Killenny, Funke of Morgan, Gillean of Marshall, Kern of Sleepy Eye, Humpesch of Oakdale, Jagermann of Lambert, Huber of Mankato, Boresch of Madelia, Scherer and Dick of New Ulm, Reichl of Adams and Solnce, Stelmes, Jung, Schaefer, Heffron, Alto, Arcander and Losleben of St. Paul. Others, prominent in Catholic church work, who were in attendance were Editor Matt of "Der Wanderer," J. Q. Juenemann, secretary of the German Catholic Benevolent Society and George Stelzle, state agent.

Chas. Silverson will return from the Twin Cities today with a new "Peerless" auto, a two-seated touring car of the most approved make. His "Royal Tourist," which he used on his trip west, is now being overhauled and repainted in Minneapolis.

Mrs. Theresa Schell enjoyed a visit this week from her brother, Edward Hermann of Cincinnati. This makes Mr. Hermann's first visit to New Ulm since the Indian outbreak in 1862.

Miss Florence Arhard, nurse at the St. Peter hospital for insane, came home yesterday to see her brother who is here on a visit from South Dakota.

District Court.

The May term of the district court was convened in this city yesterday with Judge Olsen presiding. Clement Halvorsen of Linden was appointed as forman of the grand jury and C. H. Stuebe will act as clerk.

The following cases were set for jury trial: August Utecht vs. Edward F. Berkner; Maria Weicherding vs. John Krueger; Bernhard Reinhard and John Sturm vs. Chas. Rusch; Ernst Strelow vs. the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway Co.; William Graupmann and others vs. John Reinhart; Gottlieb Ryffel vs. Adolph Klaus and others; Jos. Prokosh vs. Jos. Bruckbauer and Barbara Bruckbauer; Wenzel Remiger vs. Jos. Bruckbauer and Anna Bruckbauer;

and the four appeals from the probate court decisions in the matter of the estate of Anna Brust, deceased.

The cases of M. F. Price vs. A. J. Meyer, Edward Berkner vs. Julius and Mary Ranweiler, J. C. Shadegg Engine Co. vs. Andrew A. Backer and others and Henry Hummel vs. the Sleepy Eye Milling Co. were settled. All the other actions were either continued, dismissed or set for trial by the court in vacation. Hummel, it is understood, received \$1,500 in settlement of his claim.

Base-Ball Notes

The "Autos" took a drubbing from the Tracy team Sunday, but not without a struggle. Up to the end of the seventh inning the score stood 2 to 2, but in the eighth the New Ulm boys made a couple of errors and the game ended with a score of 5 to 2 in favor of Tracy. Mueller and Alwin constituted the battery for the "Autos."

Springfield defeated the strong Sleepy Eye team at Springfield Sunday with a score of 7 to 2. "Lefty" Marsh, the crack Sleepy Eye twirler, was touched up rather lively by the Springfield batters in the sixth inning, when six runs were scored. Smith for Springfield pitched a beautiful game, striking out thirteen men.

The "Daniel Websters" went to Hanska Sunday and suffered defeat at the hands of Anderson's players by the narrow margin of 7 to 6.

The local J. L. D. club had its first try-out Sunday. The opposition was the evenly-balanced Winthrop team and the boys put up a fine showing, the final score being 5 for the New Ulmites and 3 for Winthrop. Neumann and Bleck constituted the battery for the visitors and McDonald, Simonson and Finley that for the locals. Neumann, in the box, struck out six men, Backer and Neumann made two base hits and Larson and Backer made a double play.

Next Sunday the "Autos" will meet the Fairfax bunch on the local diamond. The J. L. D. club will go to Waseca to cross bats with the "Ar-lingtons."

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