

ESMOND QUIZ SHIFTS FROM MURDER TO SUICIDE

"MOONSHINE" VICTIM IS FOUND DEAD IN HIS BED

BOTTLE WITH QUANTITY OF LIQUOR IN IT DISCOVERED

CONDUCT IN QUEST

LITHUANIAN, EMPLOYE OF KING & HAMILTON PLANT, DIED. IT IS THOUGHT, FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS "CELEBRATION."

Anton Papavskis, aged about 59 years, was found lying dead across the bed in his bedroom, on the upper floor of his house, west of the King & Hamilton factory, shortly after 7 o'clock this morning. On the floor near the bed was a pint bottle filled about one-third of the way full of moonshine whiskey.

The dead man's body was found by Felix Wajaculis, who resides on the lower floor of the house in which the two men kept a bachelor hall. Papavskis had not been seen since sometime Christmas day. On his dresser was a Waterbury watch, which had almost run down. Papavskis was lying partially dressed across his bed. He had removed his shoes and coat, and aside from that was fully attired.

In the closet of his room was an envelope containing \$50 in currency, and \$550 worth of war saving stamps. A bank book showing deposits of \$700 in a savings account were also found. There was nothing in the room, nor any marks on his body to indicate any kind of foul play. A small bruise on his nose, looked as though he might have fallen out of bed, or taken a tumble in some manner before the end came.

Papavskis is in the habit of visiting home in Spring Valley, and when Wajaculis did not see him for two or three days after Christmas he did not become alarmed. This morning he became worried because he had not seen his friend, and went to his room. Unable to rouse him, he unlocked the door which was fastened on the inside by a key, and entered, across the bed lay the body.

Wajaculis ran from the room and phoned to Dr. Dana Palmer, who is Commissioner of Public Health and Safety, and head of the city police department. Dr. Palmer and Patrolman Jesse Holmes, rushed at once to the home.

There they found no signs of a struggle, no indications of foul play. After examining the room, the authorities arrived at the conclusion that Papavskis sat down on the bed, leaned his head toward the pillow and expired without making any struggle.

Papavskis has been employed at the King & Hamilton factory for some time. He is a Lithuanian, and his only relatives in the United States live in the east.

Blame Bad Heart.

At the coroner's inquest a verdict of death due to cardiac apoplexy was returned by the jury.

Felix Wajaculis, a bachelor who roomed down stairs from the dead man, was the chief witness at the inquest which was held in Gladfelter's morgue. Wajaculis told as much as he knew about his friend. He said that the deceased man had a brother in Baltimore and relatives and a sweetheart in Lithuania. He stated that Christmas morning when he last saw the deceased alive he was in the best of spirits as he had just received a letter from his fiancée, who soon was to sail for this country.

No records were available as to the deceased's age but on the strength that he was allowed to register for the last draft, he was about 45 years old. He worked for the King & Hamilton company for the past five years as a machinist.

According to Wajaculis the deceased has been on a drunk for the past two weeks and complained of his health. On several occasions he has consulted Ottawa doctors, but he treated himself mostly by the use of self-manufactured medicine.

In his testimony Wajaculis declared that he last saw his friend alive Christmas morning, but that he heard him walking about the house about noon of that day and later heard him leave the house. That was the last time he heard or saw the man alive. Saw "Death" in Dream.

The "Q" railroad accident of yesterday and the blood of it made Wajaculis spend a night of terror and dream of death. So this morning when he was allowed to register for the draft, he went upstairs to see how Papavskis was feeling and found him lying on his right side on the bed partially dressed. He called him and when he refused to answer went to the factory and secured aid and the men who came with him declared the man dead. When Wajaculis heard that Papavskis was dead, he ran from the house and when told to watch until the police were called

BOAT CLUB ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY A FESTIVE OCCASION

GAY CROWD ATTENDS FORMAL FUNCTION LAST NIGHT—BEAUTIFUL GOWNS LEND RICH TONE TO SOCIAL FUNCTION.

One of the gayest and most elaborate affairs of the Yuletide season was the annual formal dance given last evening at the Boat Club, with about one hundred and eighty guests in attendance. This annual affair is the largest social attraction of the year in both attendance and gaiety.

The lounge room and ball room were beautifully decorated in green and red, and poinsettias were used in profusion. A large Christmas tree, prettily decorated, added much to the effect, and together with the many and beautiful gowns worn by the ladies, created a beautiful picture.

Each lady was gowned in the prettiest of dresses fashioned of the latest styles and colors, and each was so pretty that it would have been a hard task to choose the loveliest. An orchestra furnished the music for dancing, from 9:30 to 1, and all who attended spent an evening of much enjoyment.

During the course of the evening light refreshments were served in the dining room. A large number of out-of-town guests were also present. Following is the list of guests who attended.

Messrs. and Mesdames Sidney Steffel, Sumner Cullen, Dr. A. Roberts, L. M. Payne, James Catlin, Harley Pettit, F. C. Beem, Horace Hull, Charles Woodward, Lorenzo Leland, P. A. Sapp, Charles Breen, George Wiley, Dr. P. G. Stordick, C. H. Kingman, Sidney Weiss, George Fisher, Walter Hahn, E. Z. Mercer, Dr. C. B. Sharp, J. Hansen, Frank Simons, M. J. Flanagan, P. G. Schoch, J. M. Meagan, Roy Shackleton, William Osman, Clarence Griggs, Charles Irion, W. F. Stanton, Dr. S. E. Parr, Charles Irion, Sr., Dr. C. C. Karr, Jason F. Richardson, Gus May, Harry G. Cook, W. G. Johnson, Nevo Strawn, Lethrop Perkins, H. C. Lockwood, Charles DeBerard, O. C. Johnson, Charles Bradford, Frederick Knowles, Charles Hornung, B. Baumgartner, Fred Scherer, Jr., Karl Haeblerle, A. J. O'Connor, Riley Trumbo, Ernest Pool, I. L. Hanna, C. P. Taylor, G. B. Bissell, Bruce Davidson, Melvin French, C. B. Chapman, Gus May of Ottawa, Sam Cobb, Columbus O. Harry Smadley, of Chicago, Stuart Duncan, Walter Duncan, and V. J. Diamond, of La Salle.

Mesdames W. K. Kay-Fugh, of St. Louis, F. A. Sherwood, G. M. Trimble, Nettie M. Duncan, of DeKalb, Ill., C. P. Ryan and Trumbo.

Messrs. Harold Butters, E. H. Van Schoick, Harry Zimmerman, of Peru, Harold C. Woodward, Harold Wiley, Rev. Hugh McWhorter, Olen May, of Urbana, Harold Sanders, Theodore Damgard, Porter Taylor, Strawn La Clair, Louis Woodward, Frank Suttle, Walter Scherer, Fred Sanders, Phil Godfrey, Dale Morahn, Walter Schmidt, Clifford Noonan, Ben Seltzer, Strawn Trumbo, Jack Edwards, of La Salle, James Merrill, Ben Seltzer and Luther Bangs, of Chicago, Frank McClosky, of Morris.

Misses Ann Hatheway, Marjorie Beator, Helen Milligan, Mary Caton, Rachel Bradish, Vera Morley, Katherine Lacey, Lola Lincoln, Louise Bedford, of La Salle, Florence Hanna, Katherine Davis, Helen Bull, Wanda Dillon, of Chicago, Marcella Comiskey, of Streator, Alvena Scherer, Josephine Snow, Ina Snow, Helen Ryan, of La Salle, Margaret Wagner, of Morris, Katherine Lincoln, Helen and Margaret Scherer.

SHOOTS WIFE, THEN EVADES ARREST

Chicago, Dec. 29.—Police still were searching today for Gus Johnson, for the shooting of his wife, Mrs. Pearl Johnson, from whom he had been separated. She is in a serious condition with a bullet wound in her neck. The shooting occurred on a crowded street Wednesday, as Mrs. Johnson's mother Mrs. Rachel McGinnis, accompanied her home from work. The mother had been escorting her daughter from work each day for a month, in fear of some act by Johnson.

He did so in the yard rather than in the house. With the conclusion of Wajaculis' testimony Harry Funk stated that the man was not dead over ten hours and that the cut on his face was fresh, being of about the same age evidently by coming from a bad fall.

NO WONDER THE WORLD HAS A HEADACHE



7 INJURED WHEN C. & P. CAR CRASHES INTO FORD MACHINE

PARTY IN NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH WHILE CROSSING FIRST AVENUE INTERSECTION WITH VAN BUREN STREET—AUTO A WRECK.

Seven people narrowly escaped death or serious injury, while all suffered minor cuts and bruises when the south bound interurban car smashed into a Ford touring car driven by Fred Just of Streator, at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The crash occurred at the intersection of First Avenue and Van Buren Street.

The tourists, six of whom are said to be residents of Streator, and the seventh to be from Hinsdale were en route from Streator to Peoria to spend the holidays with relatives.

According to an eye witness of the accident the auto was traveling at a slow rate and it was apparent the driver did not observe the approaching interurban until he was directly in its path. The trolley smashed into the Ford throwing it with its occupants onto the curbing. The entire front of the car was demolished and the windshield broken into bits. Flying glass cut all the occupants. They all were taken to the Clarence Hill home nearby where Dr. E. P. Hatheway was summoned to render medical attention. George, the small son of Mr. Just, suffered a bad gash on his head. His father received a gash on the right arm while his mother's nose was badly cut and bruised. The other three children received several small bruises and bumps, while the uncle of the children, who resides in Streator, suffered a sprained wrist.

After their wounds had been dressed the party went to Streator by the Danielson Motor company garage for repairs. At the garage this morning the machine was shown to be in a badly wrecked condition and is reported to be damaged to the extent of over \$125.

Each Blames the Other. Two automobiles, both traveling at fair rates of speed, one a Ford delivery truck driven by John Cruise and the other a Dodge roadster owned and driven by H. S. Law, of Walnut street, collided at the intersection of Sycamore and Jefferson streets about noon today with such force that one car was turned completely around, while the Ford was knocked to one side and with such force that it slid ten feet away and piled up against the curbing.

Officer John Clayton was called to the scene of the accident and ordered both men to appear at the police station this afternoon.

According to Cruise, who was driving the truck for the Al Slesker grocery, he was going east on Jefferson street at a slow rate and claims he had the right of way over the other

7 INJURED WHEN C. & P. CAR CRASHES INTO FORD MACHINE

car. He declared his speed to be about fifteen miles an hour and that of Law to be around thirty miles an hour. He alleged that the speed and carelessness of Law were the fault of accident.

In an interview regarding the accident Law stated his speed to be around twenty miles an hour while the other car was traveling thirty miles an hour. He declared that his car was over half way across the street when the crash came and exhibited his machine which was considerably smashed up, as having been hit on the right side. He stated that Cruise was traveling at a reckless rate of speed and that the accident was his fault.

Both men escaped without injuries although both were shaken up as a result of the crash.

THREE BOYS ADMIT VANDALIZING SOFT DRINK PARLOR WED.

La Salle, Dec. 29.—(Special)—Three young boys, Stanley and Louis Schudewski and Edward Slusarch residents of this city confessed in Woodford county today, that they were the "bandits" who robbed and sacked the Panneck Soft Drink Parlor here on Wednesday night, and the Hudson grocery store on Tuesday night.

The boys are also said to have confessed to a series of old crimes in La Salle, including the robbery of the John Charley soft drink parlor, the Hess soft drink parlor, the M. & H. Zinc Co. office, and an earlier robbery at the Panneck place of business, as well as some other burglaries and attempted burglaries.

The trio are said to have burglarized two stores in Minkon last night. They boarded a train there. The officers get on their trail, and caused their apprehension in El Paso.

This morning three La Salle police went to El Paso, and secured alleged confessions, after putting the lads on the carpet.

They were bound over to the grand jury by a Woodford county justice of the peace this morning. When released they will be turned over to the La Salle county officials.

The La Salle police suspected the trio of the Panneck robbery, and hunted for them all yesterday.

TRAIN VICTIMS ARE HOLDING OWN AFTER TRAGIC EXPERIENCE

TRIO DRAGGED WITH AUTO BY "Q" PASSENGER CONTINUE AS PATIENTS AT RYBURN HOSPITAL—FEAR FOR THEODORE MEYER'S RECOVERY.

The condition of two of the men who were hit by the 11:21 "Q" passenger train yesterday was reported unchanged today with a slight change for the worse with Theodore Meyers the most seriously injured of the trio. Mr. Meyers is reported to have been delirious through the night and all efforts to put him to sleep met with little success.

At the hospital it was said that unless he regained consciousness today little hope was held out for his recovery. No examination to determine the nature of his internal injuries has been made as yet at the hospital. If he can be quieted down today such an examination will be made tomorrow.

C. B. Calhoun spent a restless night but his condition is not regarded as serious and it is expected that he will come out of the accident without any serious after effects. However, he has a bad gash on his head which may cause some unlooked for serious results.

Grant Meyers was placed on the operation table this morning and his fractured ankle reduced. He is expected to prove to be the least serious injured of the trio, the only one to suffer broken bones as far as is ascertained as yet.

Beagle Goes To Master. While his master lies in the hospital a beagle hound, the property of C. B. Calhoun parades the streets. The hound was taken on the hunting trip with the men it is reported but as to whether it was in the car or not can not be learned as yet. However, many claim that the dog was in the rear seat with Grant Meyers when the locomotive hit the auto. If this is true the dog with its instinct must have leaped from the car and escaped injury. The hound was not found until after 6 o'clock last night when it was discovered pawing at the hospital floor. It is thought that the dog became bewildered when the accident happened and it took it until last night to find where its master had gone.

TEXAS COS. CUT PRICE OF GAS AND KEROSENE

Houston, Texas, Dec. 29.—A reduction of two cents in the price of gasoline and kerosene in Texas was announced by oil companies today. Gasoline will retail at 19 cents less three cents and kerosene at 11 cents.

General decline in refined prices was assigned as the reason.

REVOLVER TRACED TO BASEMENT OF DEAD MAN'S HOME

STANDING ROOM AT PREMIUM AS GIRL BARES SOUL TO JURY

PATHETIC FIGURE REVEALS STORY OF HER DOWNFALL, IN WHICH SHE CLAIMS DEER PARK YOUTH WAS IMPORTANT FACTOR.

Only standing room could be obtained in the county court room today, when the paternity trial of Maurice Coffield, well known Deer Park resident, was called for its third day hearing. Several women were among the spectators.

The defendant was called to the stand yesterday afternoon and was recalled this morning. He denied all of the complainants charges. He followed the complainant, Miss Mildred Horning, on the witness stand.

Miss Horning was the only witness to testify in her behalf. She accused Coffield as being the father of her eighteen months old baby daughter.

Dr. J. S. Geen, was called to the stand by the defense following Mr. Coffield's testimony.

Dr. Roswell T. Pettit followed Dr. Geen on the stand. Both he and Dr. Geen told of physical examinations they had made of the defendant on Tuesday.

Doctors Called. At a late hour this afternoon with a jammed court room it seemed as though several more days would be consumed taking testimony. Two more witnesses for the defense had been introduced both Doctors, Dr. Hathaway was asked many questions regarding child birth by the attorney's and at a late hour Dr. A. J. Roberts was on the stand answering the questions of the lawyers of both sides.

FORMER COUNTY T. B. SUPT. BECOMES BRIDE

Friends of Mrs. Bertha Logan, former superintendent of the La Salle County Tuberculosis Sanitarium today announced that on Thanksgiving Day she and Harry Hanger were married in Indianapolis. The ceremony was not made public at the time, as Mrs. Logan had not resigned her position as superintendent of the County Sanitarium, and did not wish to announce her marriage until she was relieved from her duties.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanger will be at home to their friends after February 1, in Indianapolis.

The bride is very well known in Ottawa, having served for three years as superintendent of the south side institution. On October 1, she took a three month's leave of absence to take a needed rest. She was a very efficient superintendent, and has a wide circle of friends here.

On December 1, she tendered her resignation as head of the sanitarium, asking to be relieved from duty so that she would not have to return when her leave of absence expired.

Mrs. Hanger, formerly was a resident of Chicago. She served as superintendent of the Rockford Municipal Sanitarium before coming to Ottawa. During the war she served as an army nurse. She was an active member of the Zonta Club. Mr. Hanger is known in Ottawa. He is connected in business with Will Ross, a nationally known hospital supply man. The main headquarters of the company is in Milwaukee. Mr. Hanger is located in Indianapolis, where he and his bride will reside.

THOUSANDS DIG NEW YORK CITY OUT OF SNOW

New York, Dec. 29.—Thousands of volunteer snow handlers were called to the streets today to help dig New York City out of its first big storm of the season, a blizzard of snow and sleet which started yesterday and became overnight an icy gale, which threatened to paralyze transportation.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The situation to the country's supply of bituminous coal is now good, while current production of anthracite is exceeding expectations. Conrad E. Spens, who retired as U. S. fuel distributor, January 1, reported to President Harding today in a final estimate of fuel conditions.

A radical change came in the quest today for some solution of the tragic death on Dimmick hill of Ralph Esmond. The scenes were radically shifted from the possibilities of murder to the probabilities of suicide following uncovering of two important facts in connection with the baffling mystery.

It has almost been definitely established that the bullet which killed Esmond was fired from his own gun. State's Attorney Kelly and Sheriff E. J. Welter today revealed the sensational turn taken by the investigation today.

First they made known that they had traced the revolver, found lying twenty-five feet from Mr. Esmond's body, to the basement of the building where he lived at the time he was killed; and second, that Mr. Esmond's watch, which was at first believed to have been stolen by bandits, was found fifty feet from where his dead body lay.

Facts Kept From Public. The authorities have been in possession of these facts for several days, they stated today, but have refused to make them public before.

No further information was obtained about the gun other than that it was stored in the basement of the Noonan Building where Mr. Esmond and his wife resided for the past two years on the second floor.

The revolver was in the basement there several months ago. An examination of Mr. Esmond's watch today, showed that while the watch containing the numerals had been broken, as though it had been thrown, the glass crystal was still in good condition. One hand had been broken off the watch and was lying across the face. The hour hand was stopped shortly after 1 o'clock.

The watch was found fifty feet from the body on the south side of the concrete highway. The revolver was found twenty-five feet nearer Mr. Esmond, and south of the concrete road.

Stage Well Set, if Suicide. In cases Esmond's death was due to suicide, the stage setting was one of the best and most baffling imaginable. While previous cases have been recorded of men walking some distance with a hole thru their heart, it was not generally believed that it could have been possible for a man to shoot himself thru the heart, and then throw a gun a distance of twenty five feet.

Drs. Burrows and Parr, at an autopsy performed after the body was removed to the undertaking rooms, declared that it would have been impossible for Mr. Esmond to have killed himself.

Before this verdict was given by the physicians, some of the officials had expressed the opinion that the death was due to suicide. All theory of self-destruction was then abandoned, and the murder motive has been untiringly worked on ever since.

The disclosure of these facts gave rise to the theory that possibly Esmond was not the victim of robbery or of foul play, as has generally been supposed up to the present time. The coroner's jury, after thoroughly investigating the death, returned a verdict of murder.

Water in Running Condition. Esmond's watch was in good running order on Friday. At that time he had about \$15.00 in his pocket, so far as the authorities have been able to determine. Among his papers near his dead body was found a lone \$1 bill.

The watch was found at the side of the highway. How it could be tossed with such force that the face could be broken, and still the crystal would remain undamaged, is unknown.

Believed to Have Been Alone. Esmond is believed to have left Ottawa alone, and to have traveled to the scene of the tragedy by himself. The left front wheel of his car was jacked up, as though he were changing a tire, when his dead body was found.

Relatives of the dead man declare that there was not a reason in the world why he should seek to destroy himself. Aside from an attack of rheumatism, his health was good. Friends of the deceased, who spent the afternoon with him at the Elks' lodge in this city, declare he was in the best of spirits when he left the club, about an hour before his remains were found.

Rewards totaling an amount of \$1,600 have been offered for the apprehension of his slayer. \$500 of this was given by the board of supervisors, \$100 by the La Salle Elks and \$1000 by his widow, mother and brothers.

TWO IRISHMEN ARE SHOT BY FIRING SQUAD

Dublin, Dec. 29.—(By the A. P.)—Two men named Murphy and Whelan were executed at Kilkenny this morning.