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GIRL SET FREE

Aledo Jury Acquits Tona Dunlap of Murder Charge.

OUT FOR 17 HOURS

Exciting Scenes in the Closing Hours of Trial.

Aledo, Jan. 3.—Miss Tona Dunlap, after months a prisoner in the Mercer county jail accused of causing the death of Miss Allie Dool, is again a free woman, the jury returning a verdict of acquittal at 9:30 this morning. The jury had been out 17 hours, indicating that at the outset of the de-



MISS TONA DUNLAP.

liberation on a verdict there was not unanimity as to the innocence of the defendant.

The trial, the most sensational in the history of Mercer county, had been in progress since Dec. 1, and was followed closely in its details throughout the country, many of the metropolitan newspapers having correspondents in attendance.

The acquittal of Miss Dunlap is a personal victory for Charles J. Searle, of Rock Island, who was assisted in the defense by Judge Connell and L. D. Thompson. The prosecution was conducted by State's Attorney W. B. Graham and Hon. Guy C. Scott, the latter being employed as special attorney by the Dool family.

Closing Hours of Trial.
Aledo, Jan. 3.—Miss Tona Dunlap awaits the verdict of the jury which is to determine whether or not she is guilty of the murder of Miss Allie Dool, who died last August of strychnine poisoning. The 12 men who have been listening for weeks to the facts connected with the mysterious death of Miss Dool retired to the jury room yesterday afternoon shortly after 4 o'clock. They had not reached a verdict at a late hour, and were locked up for the night.

State's Attorney Graham went to bed feeling confident that a conviction would be secured. The attorneys for the defense were not sanguine as to the outcome of the trial. Public opinion, as revealed by the expressions of representative citizens, leans to the side of the prosecution.

Miss Dunlap, looking like the ghost of her former self, was on the point of collapse when the jury went out. Her aged mother, worn out with weeks of worry and constant attendance at her daughter's side in court, also was in a critical condition. It was deemed unwise to remove the defendant from the court house to the jail when the jury went out, and Miss Dunlap was given a couch in an ante-room. She refused to take any nourishment when it was brought, although her mother and sister urged her to do so.

Prosecutor is Merciless.
For nearly five hours Attorney Guy C. Scott, special prosecutor on behalf of the Dool family, addressed the jury in the closing argument for the prosecution. He likened the defendant to another Borgia or the famous Marchioness Brinvilliers, and declared she had no other motive for the murder of Miss Dool than the ambition to take her place as a clerk in Felix's dry goods store.

"I say there is a motive in this crime," said Mr. Scott, "and I contend it has been proved. This girl for some reason locked within her own breast wanted to work in Felix's store. Men have been murdered for \$1,000 and they have been murdered for 50 cents. The defense claims that the motive ascribed to the defendant in this case is insufficient. What is inadequate motive? A few hundred years ago, as French history tells us, the Marchioness Brinvilliers poisoned one of her daughters because she was not bright mentally. She poisoned one of her sons because he had a club foot, and poisoned a servant because she was awkward. The Borgias, that famous aristocratic family of Italy, poisoned many persons for the most trivial of reasons, but history has never questioned the sufficiency of motive in any of those cases."

Ridiculous Accident Theory.
The accident theory, Mr. Scott de-

clared, was entirely outside of the testimony presented by the defense. All of the facts, he said, went to prove that Tona Dunlap had bought strychnine for the ostensible purpose of treating a corn; that she had used some of this strychnine in doctoring one or more chocolate creams; that she deliberately gave this poisoned candy to Allie Dool in the presence and without the knowledge of Miss Margaret Miller while they were being waited upon in Felix's store; and that the candy was given for the purpose of killing Miss Dool and obtaining her position as a clerk.

It was the theory of the state, Mr. Scott declared, that Miss Dunlap either carried the poisoned candy in the sleeve of her shirt waist or in her pocketbook with her handkerchief. The candy, it was argued, had been bought the day before the visit to the store and doctored and then slipped into the sack of candy purchased at Frank Miner's store an hour or so before the visit to Felix's store.

Says Suicide Theory is Absurd.
The theory of suicide advanced by the defense was assailed by Mr. Scott. He declared there had not been produced a shred of evidence in support of such a theory. It hung upon a letter written two years ago by Miss Dool to her lover, Frank Owen, in which the breaking of their engagement was discussed. In the same vigorous manner Mr. Scott attacked the testimony of the defense, going to show that the defendant had bought strychnine for her corns.

"Her story about the corn cure," said Mr. Scott, "is improbable and impossible, a fraud and pretense not entitled to a moment's consideration by this jury. It is an invention, pure and simple, just as is the story she had told about her sickness on the night Allie Dool died. Her sickness was feigned after she heard over the telephone that Allie Dool was dying from the effects of poison."

Attorney Scott made no demand for the infliction of the death penalty upon Miss Dunlap, but he insisted upon her punishment in justice to the community and the laws of the state.

Throughout his bitter attack upon the defense Miss Dunlap sat without emotion, apparently hearing nothing of what he said.

Mrs. Will Dunlap, her sister-in-law, who testified for the state, wept while Mr. Scott was praising her for the part she has played in the case.

Great Crush at the Trial.
The keen interest felt in the outcome of the trial reached its climax yesterday. An hour before the court room opened hundreds of men and women were standing before the door waiting for admission. The stairways were packed from the ground floor to the landing on the third floor, where a force of bailiffs stood in guard to prevent further encroachment on the jury quarters.

When Sheriff Larrance ordered the doors opened to the court room there was a rush which swept the bailiffs off their feet. Men and women struggled in the fight to get seats. The glass in the doors was smashed and several women were thrown to the floor in their eagerness to secure places near the railing behind which the prisoner sits.

A similar scene was witnessed when court took a recess of five minutes in the forenoon. A crowd that would have filled the court room to overflowing was waiting in the corridors and on the stairs, expecting to occupy the seats of those leaving during the intermission. Few of those who had obtained admission, however, were willing to leave, and another jam ensued which kept the sheriff and his bailiffs busy for a long time. The same trouble was experienced in the afternoon.

Many Lawyers Present.
Among the visitors were representatives of the bar of every county in the circuit. There was not a township in Mercer county which did not contribute its quota to the attendance on the trial. Last night the two hotels and every boarding house in Aledo were crowded with those who were determined to witness the end of the case.

SOCIAL DOINGS.

Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Loosley last evening at their home on Twentieth street entertained University of Illinois students who are here on their holiday vacation, in honor of their son, Fred, who is one of the Rock Islanders attending the university.

Miss Allene S. Hollowbush was hostess at a delightful holiday party at the home of her parents, Dr. and Mrs. J. K. Hollowbush, on Twenty-third street, last evening. Her guests were: Misses Elizabeth Craig, Maude Hartz, Marguerite Potter, Maude Young, Mary Simpson, Alice Guyer, Madeline Murphy, Florence McCandless, Kate and Mary Stroeger; Masters Albert Huesing, Hugo Simon, Peter Connor, Charles Montgomery, Edward Guyer, Howard McCandless, Joe Herbert Reek, Richard Carter, Rob Mitchell, Fred Mitchell and Kenneth Frazer.

A Scientific Discovery.
Kodol does for the stomach that which it is unable to do for itself, even when but slightly disordered or overloaded. Kodol supplies the natural juices of digestion and does the work of the stomach, relaxing the nervous tension, while the inflamed muscles of that organ are allowed to rest and heal. Kodol digests what you eat and enables the stomach and digestive organs to transform all food into rich, red blood.

Harper House pharmacy; A. J. Reiss drug store, corner Seventh avenue and Twenty-seventh street.

SON IS SILENT

Parents of David Swathwood Exercised Over Joliet Mystery.

POLICE INVESTIGATING

Have Not Heard From Boy For Several Weeks.

Members of the family of David Swathwood, at 402 Third avenue are becoming worried as to the whereabouts of Lewis A. Swathwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Swathwood, who has not been heard from for several weeks. The young man left home during the fall and has been following the vocation of commercial traveler in the state.

When he last wrote home three weeks ago he was at St. Louis and he expected to go from there to Cairo. He promised to send a package home and also to be home for the holidays.

Since that time neither his family nor other parties who had been hearing from him regularly have received a letter from him.

Fears It is Her Son.
Mrs. Swathwood, upon reading the account printed in yesterday's Argus of the finding of the body of a stranger in Joliet, became possessed of the fear that the person was her son and she accordingly asked the police to investigate the matter.

Folleo Points.
James Bowes, of Taylor Ridge, was arrested and brought before Justice Schroeder yesterday on the charge of child abandonment on complaint of his wife, Jessie. He took a change of venue to Justice McFarlane, where, it being shown that he was supporting the woman, the case was dismissed.

A very light business was done by the police for the month of December. The total number of arrests, according to the report of Chief James Darnell, was 24, 16 being city and eight state cases, as follows: Disturbing the peace, 8; drunk, 6; disorderly conduct, 4; larceny, 2; vagrancy, assault with a deadly weapon, assault and battery and burglary, each 1. The number of station lodgers was 75 and 11 meals were furnished prisoners. The jail bill was \$2.20. There were 22 wagon calls and 36 ambulance calls. Magistrate Johnson collected in fines and police fees the sum of \$42.55.

Such complaint is coming to the ears of the police on account of the recklessness of a number of boys in the west part of the city who use small rifles in shooting sparrows, pigeons and targets in the streets and alleys. Several persons have narrowly missed being shot and the police are prepared to make an example of the first offender caught.

SHIFTING OF OFFICES AT WOODMEN HEADQUARTERS

A shifting about has been made at the Woodmen head office. The most important change has been the removal of the office of J. F. Mungler, head of the auditing department, with a corps of his assistants, to the first floor in the room recently occupied by the mailing department, the object being to facilitate the handling of money orders and checks, which are now taken directly from the mails and passed to the auditor without being handled as often as formerly.

SCHOOLS ARE INSPECTED: TO REOPEN NEXT MONDAY

The members of the board of education and Supt. H. B. Hayden today inspected the various school buildings in the city to see that everything was in suitable condition for the resumption of school work Monday. The health department fumigated the Longfellow school, which was attended by members of the family of John Morilhorst, who is now quarantined at his home on Forty-fourth street with smallpox, in order to destroy any germs that may have chanced to find lodgment there.

ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS IS IN PROGRESS AT CLUB

The Rock Island Club election for four directors for the ensuing year is in progress this afternoon and will continue till 8 p. m. There are two tickets in the field, the "Directors" ticket composed of Maj. C. McD. Townsend, L. C. Blanding, Gus Tegeler and F. W. Bahusen, and the "Members" ticket, composed of B. D. Lamont, H. A. J. McDonald, H. O. Rolfs and M. S. Heagy.

New Century Comfort.

Millions are daily finding a world of comfort in Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It kills pain from burns, scalds, cuts, bruises, conquers ulcers and fever sores, cures eruptions, salt rheum, boils and felons, removes corns and warts; best pile cure on earth. Only 25 cents, at Hartz & Ullemeyer's drug store.

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GREAT FURNITURE VALUES.

We are offering before spending any money for housefurnishings. The special buying advantages we enjoy in the best markets of the world enables us to give you values that no other house can give you. Give us your trade and we will save you money.

DAVENPORT FURNITURE & CARPET CO. 123-125 West Third St. Davenport, Iowa

BOYS' Clothing Reductions

Every Suit of Boys' and Young Men's Clothing Now in Stock Materially Reduced in Price.

The kind of boys' clothing we sell has a distinction in style and excellence in quality that distinguishes from the ordinary grades of clothing sold at reasonable prices, and for that reason a special sale in this section is of great importance to all parents who are looking for opportunities to secure reliable clothing at saving prices.

- Boys' Knee Pant Suits \$6.50, \$7, reduction sale price..... 5.00
- Boys' Knee Pant Suits \$5, \$4.50, \$4, reduction sale price..... 3.00
- Boys' Long Pant Suits, \$9, \$8.50, \$8, reduction sale price..... 6.00

Sommers & La Velle

1804 Second Ave., Rock Island. 207 W. Second St., Davenport.

A Happy New Year



It is my wish to all. My Xmas trade was the largest in the history of our establishment, showing, we believe, that our goods and prices are right. Our stock was enormous and after the holiday rush comes the "clean up." We intend to close out what holiday goods we have, and to do this quickly we intend to make the prices so low that the goods will sell themselves.

Once a Customer Always a Customer at

SIMON LEWIS', RETAIL LIQUOR STORE Market Square, Corner Seventeenth Street and Third Avenue.

Liberal warmth and fuel economy

The IDEAL Tank Heater extracts double the amount of heat from the fuel and distributes it evenly throughout the house.

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