

## Grilled 7 Hours, Willie Stevens Balks Lawyers

(Continued from page one)

assist them in their hunt for the murderer.

About 1:30 o'clock this morning Willie's absence became a matter of concern to Mrs. Hall and the police were asked to look for him, and he was officially recorded at headquarters as "missing." It is probable that a hunt for him would have been organized earlier except for the fact that a half dozen guests were at the Hall home last night and his absence was not noted.

**Returned After 3 A. M.**

It was after 3 o'clock, according to one of Willie's entertainers, when they returned him to his sister's home. The house was lighted up and there was every evidence of excitement within the home.

Mr. Pfeiffer, after making a protest to prosecutor Beekman, issued this statement:

"My interviews with all the prosecutors have been on the point that at any time they wanted to communicate with anybody in the Hall family, not only were they entirely at liberty to do so, but I would co-operate in getting them at the quickest possible moment and would not ask to be present."

"Although it is nearly three weeks since the murder was committed, detective David went to the back door of the Hall home at 7 o'clock last night and sneaked out with Willie Stevens. He made no statement to anyone concerning his movements or anything else, and kept Mr. Stevens at Somerville until 2 o'clock in the morning."

"The nearest words you can use are that he kidnapped Mr. Stevens. The family did not know that Mr. Stevens had left the house until some time later. Miss Peters telephoned both prosecutors' offices, but could get no reply, so notified the local police. In questioning Mr. Stevens they used the third degree methods and then stopped just short of force."

**Abuse of Stevens Charged**

"During his examination Mr. Stevens was repeatedly called a liar and there was a considerable amount of profanity in the epithets hurled at him by Mr.

Toolan. Mr. Stricker apparently was not present. The questioning was done by Mr. Beekman and Mr. Toolan. The detectives had typewritten copies of previous statements made by Mr. Stevens, and they went over and over previous answers he had given. They dwelt particularly on the occasion when he accompanied Mrs. Hall to the church on Thursday night. They even questioned him as to my connection with the case.

The search for information within the church has developed the fact that every member of the choir replies to questions with stereotyped answers. All of them admit having seen Mrs. Mills and the rector frequently in each others company, but the choir singers insist that they believed that the couple were merely together because of church work. To-day the authorities learned that on the Monday after the bodies were found the choir was called together and an agreement reached that all would tell the same story if they were interrogated.

Many questions were asked to-day of Ralph V. M. Gorsline, one of the vestrymen, when he was invited to the courthouse. Mr. Gorsline, one of those who signed the resolution expressing the vestry's confidence in Dr. Hall, was asked if he was in the vicinity of the Phillips farm on the night of September 14. He denied that he was anywhere near there but admitted being asked to account for his time that he had been out motoring with another member of the choir.

**Name of Woman Concealed**

Gorsline said that he was at the Y. M. C. A. until 10:30 o'clock that night and then while driving home passed a young woman member of the choir. He offered to take her to her home and she accepted the invitation. Neither Mr. Gorsline nor the prosecutor's staff would divulge the name of the woman.

Mr. Gorsline is assistant manager of Rickitt's, Ltd., a concern manufacturing laundry blueing. The manager is William G. Bearman, who is also a vestryman, and whose wife is a relative of Mrs. Hall.

Soon after Governor Edwards I. Edwards issued a statement to-day declaring that the entire forces of the state would be used, if necessary, to catch the murderer, it became known that Prosecutor Joseph Stricker is likely to resign as campaign manager for George Siler, Democratic candidate for Governor. Stricker said he would reach a decision by Monday.

## Convict's Dash for Liberty Is Checked by Orange Peel

William Lane, a convict on his way from Clinton prison, Dannemora, to Sing Sing prison, at Ossining, made a break for liberty yesterday in the Grand Central Terminal and came within a small piece of orange peel of getting away. The bit of orange peel sent him flat on his back at the very threshold of freedom, and a crowd which raced after him through the railroad station piled on top of him.

E. J. Ryan, parole officer at Sing Sing, had charge of Lane. He intended to take him back to Sing Sing on a train which leaves the lower level at 8:05 p. m. At 2:30 o'clock Ryan stepped into a telephone booth on the lower level of the station to inform Warden Lewis E. Lawes of the hour at which he would reach the prison.

A slot machine telephone does not lend itself to use by a man who is shackled by one wrist to another man, as Ryan promptly found out. He slipped the handcuff from his left wrist to use the instrument, put a coin in the box and lifted the receiver from the hook, all the time keeping a vigilant eye on his prisoner.

Lane was on his way from a disciplinary prison to one in which numerous privileges are extended to prisoners, but the chance to escape, which

suddenly cropped up in the very city in which he had lived before being sentenced to from four to ten years for grand larceny three years ago, was more than he could resist.

He forgot the tedious months in which he had amassed the good conduct record entitling him to return to Sing Sing and flung his weight sharply against the door of the telephone booth, slamming it shut upon the parole officer. Then he took to his heels.

He was still in sight, however, pelting up the ramp toward the upper level, when Ryan sprang out of the booth. Ryan set out in pursuit, shouting to commuters, who were staring after the fugitive, to join the chase.

A hundred or more men responded to the summons. They rushed in a solid mass through the lobby of the main station, upsetting the nearest onlookers and causing those at a distance to run toward the scene of excitement.

Lane made for the taxicab exit opposite the Biltmore Hotel, and was just emerging into the street, several yards ahead of the foremost pursuer, when his foot hit the orange peel and down he went. In an instant he was buried beneath a human avalanche. Ryan dug him out, somewhat disheveled and bruised, and hustled him off toward the lower level, where they took the 3:05 for Ossining. They were coming to notify Warden Lawes they were coming.

In his statement Governor Edwards said: "I have sent Colonel Schwartzkopf to New Brunswick to get the murderer and told him not to come back to Trenton until he does. I want the murderer arrested, whoever he is. I expected an arrest yesterday and I was surprised because none was made."

**Week Sees More Hard, Less Soft, Coal Produced**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—Bituminous coal production dropped off a trifle during the present week, as compared with previous weeks since the settlement of the national coal strike, according to estimates made public to-day by the Geological Survey, whose officials said the output probably was insufficient to allow the country to build up its depleted stocks and at the same time provide for current consumption. The present week, it was indicated, saw about 9,600,000 tons of coal mined, as compared with 9,776,000 the preceding week. During the corresponding week of 1921 the output was 9,134,000 tons.

Anthracite production for the week was about 1,900,000 tons, the survey estimated, as compared with 1,802,000 tons a week ago.

In all the large producing fields demand for coal is active, survey officials reported, and the only limit on output is that placed without bothering to roads to transport the tonnage.



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