

Hall Had Planned Murder Of Five Others, Clergyman Who Interviewed Him Says

(Editor's Note: The following account of the execution of Carl Hall and Bonnie Brown Heady was written at the invitation of The Kansas City Star by Austin Hall and Bonnie Brown Heady, one of the eight clergymen who

saw, talked to and gave spiritual counsel to the two in preparation for their execution early Friday. The author insists on remaining anonymous and has written this in an effort to point out the Christian values involved. It was made available to the Associated Press by the Star.)

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Carl Hall died a tremendous witness for Christ.

And it saved the lives of five others.

This he declared, for the world to know, just before he and Bonnie Brown Heady were executed at 12:12 Friday morning for the kidnap-murder of little Bobby Greenlease.

"I can see good in this, father," he said to one who was ministering to him. "I only killed Bobby. If I had had just 12 hours more, I would have killed five more. God saved me from that."

Did he mean five more from among those identified with the case?

"Oh, no," said Hall. "I mean five that I've hated all my life. I'd have gotten them too, with all that money, it would have been easy. See what I meant — killed only one, and was caught. It might have been six—five more."

He paused, and then said with emphasis:

"That's the working of Christ. It had to be. I had murder in my heart. God knew, and saved those five others."

He lit a cigarette.

"I'm glad," he added, "and you can do something for me, father. Tell the world. Tell them that only God is important. I know now. And tell them that if it weren't for whisky, these penitentiaries would be closed."

"Tell the world, father. Look — if Christ could do this for me, a mean, drunken, miserable so-and-

so, Christ could do it for anybody. I know."

"Father, I'm an intelligent man," he said. "This isn't a conversion because I'm afraid of death. I've never been afraid of death. All my life I've been wondering, thinking. And if it made sense to intelligent men all over the world, there must be something to it."

"And now I'm ready for God, my Judge, and I'm glad."

But what about Bonnie? was she equally repentant?

"Sure," said Hall. "She'll tell you. She loves me and I love her. I know her better than anyone else."

"Bonnie was drunk for a year... I was drunk daily for months. After a while anything seems all right. I'm the guilty one. She couldn't say no to me. The only sin she's guilty of was loving me."

That was 9 p.m. Thursday night. Three hours to go. Hall asked the time and laughed.

"I haven't got long to live, father," he said, "not here, anyway. And I'm looking forward to meeting my Judge."

Mrs. Heady was hesitant about speaking her mind, until the hours dragged along and 11 p.m. arrived.

"I'm not going to go down there crying," she said. "Of course we're both sorry for this horrible crime. We want to be forgiven."

Both Hall and Mrs. Heady received holy unction.

Both accepted crucifixes gladly. And each went to the execution chamber with a crucifix clutched tightly in the left hand.

Eleven-twenty came. Final ministrations in the death row took place. Hall and Mrs. Heady were led willingly out into the corridor, past 7 locks, into the prison yard.

Quietly, the 32 witnesses walked to the death shack.

Inside a room, perhaps 30 feet square, was the cubicle, in which two chairs were fixed to the floor. A psalm was read. Together the two priests and the condemned repeated the Lord's Prayer. Then confession and absolution. They held hands, despite the cuffs.

In the adjoining room guards were mixing the sulphuric acid and water.

"OK, out of the way," called the deputy marshal.

"See you later," said a priest to Bonnie.

"Sure," she said. "Thank you, father."

"See you later, Carl," he said to the other.

"You bet you will, father," Hall said.

Then, quickly, they were strapped into the chairs.

A final questioning by the marshal, asking them if they had anything further to confess, if they

knew of the whereabouts of the missing ransom money.

No, they didn't.

The door was closed and sealed. Bonnie spoke to Carl. He licked his lips.

Those watching had no trouble reading her lips.

"Carl, I love you."

"I love you, Bonnie."

The cyanide was spilled. Gas fumes soared to the ceiling of the cubicle.

They started.

Bonnie moved as if to spring from her chair.

Fanned breathing, diminishing. And then death. In seven minutes, at 12:12 a.m.

"I never saw such resignation," said Marshal Hoag. "It was won-

derful. Wonderful to really accept Christ like that."

Soon the gas was blown out of the cubicle. The witnesses marched out again, and back to the main gate.

"Boy, said his friend as they walked along, 'say, it's cold. Coldern'n hell!'"

And so it ended as strangely as it had begun.

Neither had any hatred or malice.

A contrast, in many ways, to some of those who witnessed their deaths.

The cell block again came to life. You could hear the prisoners chant: "They bumped them."

"O God," said one of the 32. "why do we have to wait so long to find out the eternal truth about living?"

Theft Of 656 Mink Pelts From Car Is Reported

PORTLAND — The theft of 656 mink pelts from a parked automobile was reported to police here Thursday night.

Joseph H. Wagstaff, Salt Lake City mink grower, said he valued the pelts at \$21,000. He told police a window of his car was smashed and the pelts taken while he was eating dinner here.

He said the furs, representing the entire year's output of his ranch, were packaged in cardboard. Wagstaff said he had stopped to eat here while driving to Seattle, where the furs were to go to the Seattle Fur Exchange.

GIVES UP SINGING ROLE

N.J.W YORK — Tenor Jussi Bjoerling, ailing the past two weeks with laryngitis, tried Thursday night to sing the title role of "Faust" at the Metropolitan Opera but had to give up after the first act.

The opera was delayed 15 minutes as Thomas Hayward, who never before had sung the part at the Met, sped from his home and took over.

The car was parked on a downtown street. Wagstaff said the furs were insured.

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NO TIME TO SLIP—Marge Rowell, of Walton, N. Y., the only woman student ever to attend the Royal Academy Barbers School in Schenectady, N. Y., practices on Mike Bellow, a fellow student from Grandville, N. Y. Instructor Guy Shafer supervises as Mike keeps his fingers crossed. After graduation Marge is expected to be the only working lady barber around Schenectady.



Mrs. Alton's False Arrest Suit Dropped

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Suit of Mrs. Mary Ellen Alton, wife of a University of Oregon professor, for false arrest damages was ruled out so far as the city of San Diego and its police chief are concerned in superior court here Thursday.

The court held that the city and the police chief could not be held liable for false arrest in the case, but left standing the question whether Chief A. E. Jansen libeled Mrs. Alton in a letter to the Eugene, Ore., police chief.

Mrs. Alton was cleared of the charge of passing forged checks by handwriting evidence. Later another woman was convicted of the charge.

BRUTALLY BEATEN — Linda Frey (above), 14-year-old San Francisco high school freshman, who was brutally beaten by a neighborhood boy with a heavy pipe. She will recover. The boy, 13-year-old honor student, could give police no explanation for the senseless crime.

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