

HARPS BOY FRAUD, SAYS DR. GILBERT

Mother Indignantly Denies This, and Says Lad Has Occult Power.

HIS ALLEGED CONFESSION

Physician Keeps Boy in Home and Says He Gets Boy to Admit He Is Responsible for Most of the Peculiar Occurrences Noted.

Trickery, deception and mischievousness on the part of 11-year-old Ernest Harps, are what Dr. J. Allen Gilbert assigns as the causes of the mysterious happenings in the house at 546 Marshall street on October 28 last.

"I am satisfied in my own mind that Ernest is possessed of an unseen power," says the boy's mother, who is indignant at the way the physician disposes of the case.

Before the Academy of Medicine Thursday night, Dr. Gilbert read a report of his investigation of the Harps boy. For some time he kept the boy in his home, watching him closely, and in his report he hierarchically characterized the little fellow as a fraud. He says he wrung a confession from the lad to the effect that he had done by physical means all but two of the things that have been ascribed to a supernatural power.

Occult Power Ascribed. For two hours on the October afternoon furniture, tinware and crockery in the Marshall-street home danced about. Tables were moved, chairs apparently of their own accord changed their positions, dishes were hurled from the tables and other such things happened. These were laid to the action of an occult force.

Many people saw these things and could not account for them by any other explanation than that some outside power was active. Ernest Harps stood and watched the peculiar antics of the furniture. Dr. Gilbert says the boy confessed that he was responsible for all but two of the strange things that were seen.

One was the movement of plaster from the wall in the home of his grandparents, on Seventeenth street, and the other the overturning of a heavy table in an upstairs room of the Marshall-street house.

Boy Denies Two Things. A few weeks before the occurrences in the Marshall-street house, the Harps boy was present in the house occupied by his grandparents on Seventeenth street, when the plaster in a room straggled and suddenly dropped from the wall. A huge chunk of plaster was carried across the room and slammed violently against the opposite wall, breaking in thousands of pieces.

A heavy table in a bedroom upstairs in the Marshall-street home toppled over and fell with a crash on the floor. This occurrence was noted during the series of mysterious happenings. The boy denied his presence in the bedroom when the table fell.

Touching upon his participation in the occurrences in the Marshall-street house, Dr. Gilbert says the boy confessed that he lifted a couch by human strength when he was not observed by other occupants of the rooms.

"I ran across the lounge and when it fell it came near striking grandma," the lad is quoted as saying in his confession.

Peculiar Things at Valley Hotel. Three days after the happenings in Marshall street the lad was taken to the Valley Hotel, at Second and Main streets, where his mother was employed as housekeeper, and where he now is. Here followed an apparent repetition of the occurrences. Knives slid from the table, cushions flew across the room and a lemon pie was said to have been seen to rise from the table and poise a moment in the air and then fall to the floor.

Young Harps was said to be within a few feet of where the pie stood from the table. These and other antics were attributed by some to the occult power seemingly manifested by the boy. In his report Dr. Gilbert cites the expressions of 23 persons who witnessed these things.

Dr. Gilbert Observes Boy. During an illness from the shock suffered by Mrs. Harps after the demonstration at the Valley Hotel, Dr. Gilbert took the boy to his home and for a month had him under constant surveillance. Numerous occurrences were noted in the Gilbert home during the lad's stay. Dr. Gilbert adopted various methods of investigation. Automatic readings, clairvoyance and other such means employed by Dr. Gilbert, he says, failed to receive any favorable response from the boy. Invariably, he says, the answers advanced to the doctor's queries were a denial or a boyish effort to conceal the facts.

After assuming the various incidents in the case, Dr. Gilbert, after vainly endeavoring to withhold his conclusions from the public, gave out a signed resume of his conclusions relative to the phenomena and his convictions concerning the boy.

Dr. Gilbert's statement is as follows: Dr. Gilbert Gives Resume. "I am very sorry that the Harps affair has been made public in the way it has, for all reports to the Academy of Medicine are supposed to be behind closed doors. I had desired to keep the report in strictly scientific channels. As reported, a wrong impression has been conveyed in many ways. Rather than let it stand as it is, I feel the statement of my conclusions should be corrected.

"Though study of the testimony and the case in general showed many weak points, witnesses testified to seeing things which were impossible to be seen from the position they occupied. Some told different stories in very different recitals of what they saw. All experiments and tests in our home were negative. Fitting together parts of different conversations brought to light discrepancies and contradictions.

"All the phenomena in our home were evidently done by Ernest himself. Mrs. Gilbert kept accurate concurrent notes of the happenings in our home which would convince the most credulous that they were done by the boy, though he was not caught in any individual act. On the contrary, she was careful to give him liberty unrestricted by open accusations. I saw none of his performance.

"Being thoroughly convinced that Ernest did many of the phenomena, and having enough data to defend myself in that opinion, I decided to probe him. Up to this time he had no idea that I suspected him of trickery. I had purposely avoided anything which might make him suspect that I distrusted him in the least. In fact, notwithstanding that I was certain of his wrongdoing, I even now scarcely believe it possible that he, an 11-year-old boy, had done all the things mentioned by witnesses.

"On Sunday, January 30, I brought Ernest to our home without telling him what I wanted. In the presence of witnesses I told Ernest that I knew how many of the things had been done and told him plainly that I knew he did them. I had sifted evidence till I was able to explain how many of the things had been done and told him plainly that I knew he did them, and I told him how he did them.

"At first he denied emphatically having done anything at all at the Marshall-street house. Seeing that I knew more than he thought I did, he admitted having done the things I described. Further cross-examination led him into such a maze of contradictions and inconsistencies regarding the things that he denied, that he finally, step by step, admitted having done numerous other things. Cornered still further by his own contradictions, he finally admitted having done all the things at the Marshall-street house except two."

"Mrs. Harps, the mother of the boy, has him with her at the Valley Hotel, where she is employed as housekeeper. She denies Dr. Gilbert's contentions and maintains Ernest is possessed of a supernatural power. Last night she indignantly denied that her boy was a 'spiritualistic fraud,' as asserted by a local evening newspaper.

"I am satisfied in my own mind that Ernest is possessed of an unseen power," said Mrs. Harps. "All those things that occurred in the Marshall street house and here in the hotel he did not do."

EVIDENCE AGAINST GORDON SHUT OUT

Prosecution of Great Northern ex-Attorney Reduced to Utter Impotence.

CASE AGAINST HIM WEAK

Judge Kennan Excludes Bank Record of Drafts and Gordon's Confession, Though Gordon Decided Contrary When Judge.

SPOKANE, Wash., March 13.—(Special.)—By decisions rendered by Judge Henry L. Kennan in the Gordon embezzlement case today, the state is not permitted to prove:

By Cashier W. D. Vincent, of the Old National Bank and by the books of the bank, the payment of Great Northern money to Gordon on the Gordon drafts, because the drafts themselves, in the possession of the Great Northern Railway, are in law the "best" evidence.

By N. E. Nuzum, of the law firm of Nuzum & Nuzum, associate attorneys for Gordon, that Gordon confessed his shortage to Nuzum at a conference in a room in the Tourist Hotel in Seattle, August 15, 1908, the confession being held to be privileged, although Nuzum testified that he had not been retained by Gordon at the time.

Evidence Is Only Skeleton. Turned back in every direction by adverse decisions of the court on the admissibility of proffered evidence, Prosecuting Attorney Fred C. Pugh and his assistants fought all day to get before the jury the facts held by them to be material in the case and to bring their case almost to an end with only a skeleton of proof in support of the allegations in the information.

Only two witnesses were heard, and their testimony was brief and comparatively unimportant, practically the entire day being devoted to argument by attorneys on the admissibility of the testimony which the state offered to introduce. But one witness remains to be called by the state, W. W. Tolman, who has been once on the stand and will be placed on again Monday morning for the purpose of supplementing his testimony in one particular.

Gordon's Own Decision Against Him. In arguing to the court the admissibility of bank records in the absence of drafts, Mr. Pugh cited a decision written by Gordon on the same time he was a judge of the Supreme Court, holding in part:

"I think it was not indispensible to the introduction of only the bank book that the checks should be produced. As already stated, the proof of the appellant's passbook was balanced from time to time with the books of the bank and found to agree with such bank books, and that there was no return of any checks or receipts together with the checks. This, we think, was competent proof for the purpose of showing that the charges made upon the books of the bank, in account of the appellant, because of checks drawn by him on his account, were proper and legal charges."

7 MEN DESERT JAIL

IRON BARS TO CORRIDOR WINDOW ARE SAWED AWAY.

Prisoners Escape While Sheriff Is Busy With Saturday Crowd of Taxpayers.

PENLETON, Or., March 13.—(Special.)—One of the most successful wholesale jail deliveries ever effected in Umatilla County was pulled off at the County Jail about 5 o'clock last evening. Seven prisoners escaped, and a number of them were seen to be on the street at midnight not a single one had been apprehended.

Someone had passed in a saw from the outside, and while Sheriff Taylor and his deputies were busy handling the Saturday crowd of taxpayers, the prisoners took advantage of the liberty they had been accorded in the jail corridor, sawed the bars to a back window, dropped 10 feet to the ground below and escaped from the Courthouse yard without being seen.

Three bad-check artists and four burglars are in the escaping party. Will Sully, of Freewater, George Simpkins and James Carter, of Pendleton, are the forgers, while Leo Lent, Peter Bloom, George Gould and Harry Ray, all of this city, and vicinity, are the burglars.

The officers have thrown out a net over the surrounding country and hope to have them all apprehended by morning.

MILLS MAY GO ON BOARD

Portland Man to Have Support for Harvard Overseer.

SEATTLE, Wash., March 13.—At a dinner given tonight by Samuel Hill, good road advocate and son-in-law of James J. Hill, to 150 members of the Harvard Club of Portland, Tacoma, Spokane and Seattle, a movement was set on foot to bring about the election of a Pacific Coast man on the Harvard Board of Overseers at the June meeting of the alumni.

The men present at the dinner voted unanimously to support A. L. Mills of the class of '81 and a resident of Portland, Or., for the place. Assurance has been received from the Harvard clubs of San Francisco and Los Angeles that they will support the movement.

RIVAL CITIES ARBITRATE

All California to Aid in Settling San Francisco-San Diego Dispute.

SANTA BARBARA, Cal., March 13.—The Chamber of Commerce directors voted today to call a committee of three delegates from each commercial or civic body in California, to meet here on March 22, to consider the dispute between San Diego and San Francisco as to where the Panama Exposition should be held.

SUNNY SUNDAY PROMISED

Weather Man Predicts Opportunity to Wear Spring Raincoat.

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weather for today, as issued by the Weather Bureau. The cloudy weather with southerly winds, predicted for yesterday afternoon, failed to put in an appearance, and Saturday ended with eight hours and 50 minutes of sunshine. The maximum temperature yesterday was 73 degrees, the warmest day of the season. During the early morning hours the thermometer dropped to 44 degrees.

Spring rains are very much in evidence on the streets yesterday and everybody able to spare the time was out. Easter is still two weeks off, but headgear and fine clothes are rushing matters by a fortnight.

There has been a slight fall in the barometer over the entire Northwest, but the distribution of pressure is such as to cause a continuation of fine weather. There has been no rainfall in this district in the 24 hours, ending at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The Willamette River at Portland is slowly falling, and has reached a stage of 10.7 feet.

FARMING TO BE STUDIED

IRRIGATION IN VALLEY TOPIC OF COMMISSION.

Oregon Conservationists Also Outline Other Subjects for Investigation During Year.

Important among the subjects considered by the Oregon State Conservation Commission at a meeting in Portland yesterday was the matter of undertaking a campaign having for its purpose improved methods in horticulture and agriculture in the Willamette Valley through irrigation. This was only one of the many details, involving the plans of the commission for the year, which were discussed.

First among the subjects considered was the protection of the timber of the state, in this connection the commissioners considered informally the character of laws that would be needed for protecting this leading resource of the state. It was proposed that a law be enacted creating a State Forester who shall have charge of the forests of the state and their protection. The commission during the year also will study the subject of reforestation of logged-over lands.

An effort by the organization also will be made to induce the Legislature to increase the annual appropriation of \$2500 to defray expenses of topographical surveys in the general country, provides for this purpose an amount equal to that appropriated by the state. It is complained that the total of \$5000 now available for this work is not adequate and that the needs of the state demand increased funds for this important work.

The commission also will make a study of the question not only of protecting the salmon industry, but of propagating this species of the fish family. This will include a study of all subjects of legislation concerning the industry.

Present at yesterday's meeting of the commission were the following members: Professor F. O. Young, of Eugene; J. C. Stevens, J. N. Teal and Dr. J. R. Wilson, of this city. Business or sickness prevented the attendance of the other three members: Justice E. B. Watson, of Ashland; Senator Miller, of Albany, and Senator Hart, of Baker. Mr. Young, formerly of the Forest Service, and State Forester, had attended the conference, having been invited for the purpose of consultation.

ADVANCED IS CONDEMNED

Grange Protests Against Higher Rate on Second-Class Mail.

The recent recommendations of the Postmaster-General that the postage rates on all second-class mail matter be advanced, will be opposed by a constitutional convention in Oregon and postal savings banks were discussed yesterday afternoon at the meeting of the Grange by Eugene Palmer and others.

As to the increased postal rates to make up the deficit in the Postoffice Department, Mr. Palmer declared there was no call for such increase and that it would work a hardship on the farmers. He said that Congress ought to be flooded with resolutions and memorials protesting against such increase.

Judge Lionel Webster, representing the Oregon Good Roads Association, who was invited to address the meeting, was detained, but the work of the association was indorsed.

NEWPORT READY FOR RUSH

Postoffice Enlarges for Summer Trade, Water System Progressing.

NEWPORT, Or., March 13.—(Special.)—Newport has had a busy week. The postoffice has been moved back to its old location across from the boat landing and contains 100 new private boxes for the accommodation of summer visitors. The building itself is larger and facilities for quick handling of mail are much improved.

The injunction filed by a Kansan to hold up the city's waterworks system will be dissolved. Summer business is progressing on both sides of the location affected by the injunction. No time has been lost in continuing the work. The city's waterworks system is progressing and real estate sales have been active.

FALLS CITY ORATORS WIN

High School Defeats Ballston in Interscholastic Debate.

FALLS CITY, Or., March 13.—(Special.)—Falls City won the debating championship last evening, when the Ballston high school team, taking the affirmative on the subject, "Resolved, That Immigration Should Be Further Restricted by the Literacy Test."

The debaters composing the winning team are Lamar Thomas, Ella Murray and Leslie Tozot. They composed the Ballston team are Gerald Treley, John Seufert and Warren Gould.

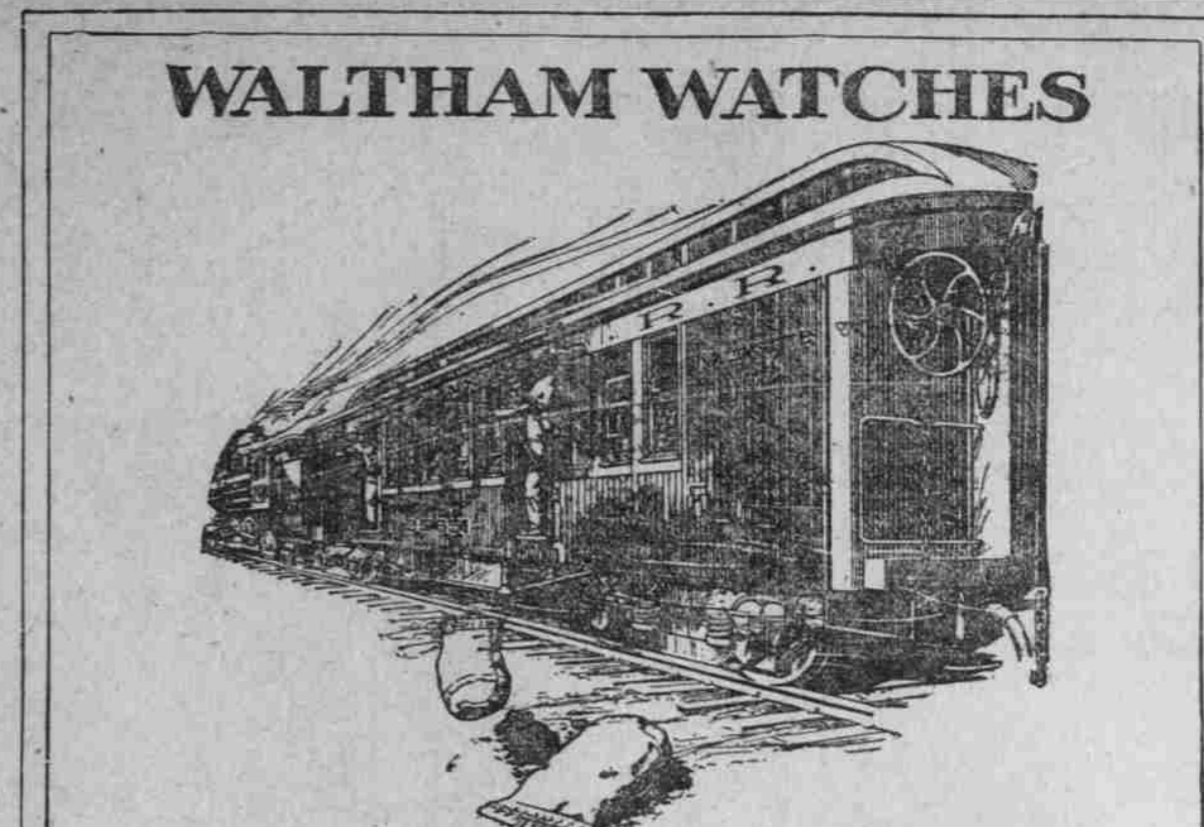
LIQUOR SELLER ARRESTED

Sheriff Sappington Confiscates Whisky Supply at Camas.

VANCOUVER, Wash., March 13.—(Special.)—For selling intoxicating liquors in Camas, the dry town, Paul Heinz was arrested by Sheriff W. D. Sappington today. Heinz was released on a \$500 bond, which he himself furnished.

The third and fourth 400 and 400 bottles of whisky in the cellar of Heinz, who is proprietor of the Commercial Hotel of Camas, he seized it and will hold it awaiting instructions from the County Attorney, J. P. Stapleton.

This is the first offense in dry territory under the local option law.



Do you want your watches delivered this way? Every American knows that Waltham Watches are good watches. A watch should always be bought from a responsible jeweler. Jewelers are educated in watch-making. They can see if a watch is in the same perfect condition as when it left the factory and can detect and remedy any little accidental defect it may have received in transportation, as well as regulate it to your personal habit and occupation. Moreover, the Waltham Watch Company will guarantee every Waltham Watch sold by a recognized watchmaker or jeweler. Never buy a watch, Waltham or any other, except from a jeweler. Mail order houses are not, in our opinion, properly equipped to handle good watches. The Waltham Watch Company will not guarantee watches bought from such concerns. WALTHAM WATCH COMPANY. WALTHAM, MASS. Send for the "Perfected American Watch," our book about watches.

LAD SHOT WHEN PLAYING

BANK EXAMINER'S SON MAY DIE FROM ACCIDENT. Companion Too Frightened to Tell How It Happened—Doctor Offers Slight Hope.

SEATTLE, Wash., March 13.—When playing with a .22-caliber revolver, Joseph Mohundro, the 15-year-old son of State Bank Examiner E. L. Mohundro, was accidentally shot and dangerously wounded this afternoon.

The boy and his playmate, George Nadeau, the 15-year-old son of I. A. Nadeau, former Director-General of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, were playing in the bathroom of the Sunnyside hotel of Mr. Mohundro, near Port Lawton, where the accident happened.

The ball entered the Mohundro boy's left side, near the armpit, and ranged downward. The injured boy was taken to the hospital at Port Lawton, where he received medical attention.

The attending physician says that there is slight hope for recovery. George Nadeau was so frightened by the affair that he has been unable to give a clear account of the accident. The Mohundros were formerly prominent residents of Spokane.

MRS. HEWITT ASKS DECREE

Son of ex-Mayor of New York Sued in Reno.

RENO, Nev., March 13.—(Special.)—Louise A. Hewitt, who was formerly

RENO BECAME KNOWN TODAY

only upon the filing of these papers, so quietly and obscurely has she lived for the past six months. None but her attorney knew her identity, she having assumed a fictitious name.

RAYMOND, Wash., March 13.—(Special.)—The Quinault Lumber Company is erecting a large new office building. Two concrete vaults will be part of the equipment. One of these was an experimental dry kiln and when fitted up will make an ideal fireproof safe.



THE MILTON PLAYER-PIANO STANDS IN A CLASS BY ITSELF. There are more expensive instruments, of course. We have them in such magnificent instruments as the KNABE, HARDMAN, FISCHER AND EMERSON PLAYER-PIANOS.

But at a popular price there is no instrument on the market that compares with the MILTON PLAYER-PIANO. Its individuality is as marked as is the personality of the great pianists.

With the MILTON PLAYER-PIANO the performer is able to give faultless expression and interpret the most intricate and difficult compositions with ease and a freedom that is admitted by no other instrument.

Come in and hear the Milton. You cannot afford to purchase without first having seen our stock and learned our prices. Old instruments taken in exchange, and the terms on our payment plan are as low as could be desired.

The Wibley B. Allen Co. KNABE PIANOS. 304 OAK STREET, BETWEEN FIFTH AND SIXTH. Other Stores: San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, Stockton, San Jose, Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa, Los Angeles and San Diego, Cal.; Reno, Nev.; Phoenix, Ariz.

That Sharp, Alcoholic Flavor is found only in ordinary, inferior vanilla—never in Burnett's Vanilla. The rich, subtle flavor of Burnett's Vanilla is too precious to ruin by adding too much alcohol. That is why the delicious, delicate flavor never varies. That is why you should always insist on getting Burnett's Vanilla. S. S. KANSAS CITY (L. N. NOPANDER, Master) SAILS 4 P. M. FRIDAY, MAR. 18 Reduced Rates and Quick Trip to Los Angeles. M. J. ROCHE, C. T. A., J. W. RANSOM, DOCK AGENT, 142 3d St. Main 402, A 1402. Alsworth Dock. Mata 268, A 1234. SAN FRANCISCO & PORTLAND STEAMSHIP CO.