

FATHER CLEARS GIRL, SUICIDE, OF BLAME

Jump From Ferry Attributed to Love for Husband.

ROMANCE FOUND TRUE

Charges of Improper Conduct Made in Poison-Pen Letter Attacked by Milwaukee Business Man.

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NEW YORK, Nov. 23.—(Special.)—

In order that "the public may know the whole truth and that the fair name of his daughter may be cleared of the stain which mistaken reports have cast upon it," Frederick Schmitter, a business man of Milwaukee, father of 19-year-old Elizabeth Schmitter, "poison-pen" victim, who took her life by jumping from a West Shore ferry boat on November 14, six weeks after her marriage to Edmund Moffett, a law student of West New York, has made an affidavit briefly recounting the events leading up to his daughter's death.

The girl was driven to leap to her death by a series of letters addressed by a mysterious "Lieutenant Brown" to her supposed admirer and fiance, which, she declared in her final letter to her mother, were calculated to injure her in his eyes. It was while crossing to Manhattan on a ferryboat to keep an engagement with her husband that her grief apparently overcame her and she decided to end it all.

Letters Contain "Vile Threats."

The news of the tragedy brought the girl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick C. Schmitter, from Milwaukee to New York. Mrs. Schmitter is reported to have voiced no objection to the engagement. Mr. Schmitter, however, who claim descent from the British house of Stuart, are said to have insisted on delay until their son should have graduated from college. Moffett himself reported that he had destroyed the letters and could not remember their contents, except that they embodied "vile threats" because of the announcement of the engagement.

All avenues of search so far have failed to reveal the identity of the Washington officer who gave his name as "Brown." After rehearsing the girl's early life in West New York, where the family attended a local Dutch reformed church, "also attended by Edmund Moffett, a schoolmate of Elizabeth," Mr. Schmitter says of his son, "who was greatly attached to each other."

Lieutenant Visits Girl.

"Affiant had preceded his family to Milwaukee in June, 1918," the affidavit continues. "While affiant's family was on the train en route from New York to Milwaukee, Lieutenant Irving Brown, whose home is at Salem, near Boston, Mass., but who was stationed at Camp Grant, Ill., was quite intimate with the girl and her younger children, and as he was clad in his service uniform Elizabeth and affiant's wife became quite well acquainted with him.

"As a patriotic duty, Elizabeth invited said Irving Brown, when on leave, to call at their home in Milwaukee. Brown accepted the invitation and later visited at affiant's home for a period of three weeks. "Last spring Brown was transferred to Hampton, Va., to assist in the debarcation of a year's absence from New York, Elizabeth became very anxious to see her old home and her sweetheart, Edmund Moffett, who had entered as a student in the law school of New York university. She asked affiant if she might take a trip to West New York, as she was invited to visit with Mr. Moffett's married sister, and affiant, to please her, permitted her to do so.

Brown Cleared of Blame.

"That her trip might be more pleasant, affiant arranged that Elizabeth stop at Cincinnati, where she has friends, and at Washington, that she might see the capital in the midst of its war activities. "While at Washington Elizabeth called on Brown and several girl friends engaged in war service work, who were stationed nearby at Hampton, Va. Brown offered to accompany Elizabeth on the remainder of her journey to New York. As he wished to visit his folks near Boston, Brown traveled on the same train with Elizabeth from Washington to New York, but, as shown by her last tense statements written just before her death and now in my possession, Brown made no improper advances to her, and upon their arrival at New York Elizabeth went to the home of Mr. Moffett's married sister and Brown proceeded to his home near Boston.

Elizabeth Renews Friendship.

"Elizabeth renewed her friendship with Edmund Moffett and a few days after her arrival they became engaged. Brown learned of the engagement and wished to call on her, but Elizabeth, who had never favored him as a suitor, did not desire to see him. Brown then decided to go to the Pacific coast, but on his way there stopped at Milwaukee, and, uninvited, came to affiant's home, where he remained as a visitor for a period of two weeks.

"When Brown left affiant's home, after such two weeks' visit, he stated that he was leaving for Rockford, Ill. The day after Brown left affiant's home a letter from Elizabeth arrived informing affiant of the receipt by Edmund Moffett, her fiance, of the poison-pen letter which bore the postmark "Boston, Mass."

Affiant Searched for Brown.

"Affiant searched out Brown and found him still in Milwaukee. Affiant confronted Brown with the letter from Elizabeth. Brown denied writing the poison-pen letter and agreed with affiant's statement to him that any man who would write such a letter was a skunk. Brown then made a written statement showing that his relations with Elizabeth at Hampton, on the journey from Washington to New York, and at all other times, were entirely proper, and declared to affiant that he knew nothing of the letter attacking Elizabeth's character.

Early Marriage Urged.

"Affiant wired to Elizabeth of such written statement and mailed same to her and Edmund Moffett, her fiance, to show his faith in her, urged an immediate marriage, even though he had not yet been admitted to the bar and was not in a position to support her. Elizabeth consented and they were married by the clerk of New York City October 6, 1919. They kept their marriage secret, as Moffett was being supported by his folks and desired to finish his education.

Elizabeth, who had a high-strung, impetuous nature, was deeply in love with Edmund Moffett and this false charge preyed greatly upon her mind.

Her letters to her parents showed she was in a very nervous state and that

her mind was weakening. To the last Elizabeth vehemently denied the false charges made against her in the poison-pen letter sent her intended husband and her heartbroken letters to us show how highly she valued her good name.

Quarrel Not Indicated.

"Elizabeth's great love for her husband made the thought of his doubting her finally drive her insane. Moffett does not appear to have quarreled very much with Elizabeth, as the letter now in my possession, written by her to her husband the day of her death, does not upbraid him but tenderly swears to her innocence by her faith in God and her hope of life hereafter and reiterates her great love for her husband and refers to him as her prince.

"My daughter's whole conduct and every word show beyond a doubt that she was entirely guiltless in this matter and that her great love for her husband caused her to lose her reason when the poisonous letter came between her and the absolute confidence of the man she loved.

"I make this affidavit to show that after full investigation I know that not only was that letter to Edmund Moffett written for the purpose of breaking his engagement to my daughter, but that the subtle insinuations contained in that hellish letter, which cost my beloved daughter her life, were absolutely false.

"Y" TRAIN MAY GO EAST

NORTHWEST TO BE WELL REPRESENTED AT DES MOINES.

Interest Is Shown in Student Volunteer Convention; Transportation Committee Is Named.

John H. Rudd, county Y. M. C. A. work secretary for Oregon, who is directing the work of arranging for delegates to the student volunteer convention, to be held in Des Moines the latter part of this month, reports great interest in the meeting throughout this state and Idaho. All delegates must be registered in New York at once and he says this section of the country will be well represented.

There is a movement on foot to arrange for a special train for the northwest delegates and to handle this subject a special committee has been named, consisting of Miss Florence Reed of Reed college, Oregon region and chairman; James MacPherson, university Y. M. C. A., Moscow, Idaho, northern Idaho region; Miss Gertrude Shoemaker, College of Idaho, Caldwell, southern Idaho region. All transportation matters will be attended to by them.

The honor group, although not complete, probably will be Willamette university, Pacific college, College of Idaho, Reed college, Pacific university and the Lewiston normal Kimball college is planning to send at least one and possibly two delegates.

Oregon Agricultural college will send 22 delegates and the University of Oregon will send 19. The convention is a inter-denominational and is to be held for the purpose of inspiring men and women to give their lives to special work in the religious world. This will be one of the largest conventions ever held, and will continue from December 31 to January 4.

STORM RAKES MONTANA

Fierce Blizzard Sweeps Out of Hell Gate Canyon, Near Missoula.

MISSOULA, Mont., Nov. 30.—A terrific blizzard swept out of Hell Gate canyon, east of the city, today, and gave their lives to special work in the religious world. This will be one of the largest conventions ever held, and will continue from December 31 to January 4.

HELENA, Mont., Nov. 30.—Heavy snow fell in this section tonight and the thermometer is hovering about zero.

BOY BURGLARS CAUGHT

Lads, 10 and 9, Captured on Roof of Apartment House.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 30.—Two boys, Donald Robertson, 10, and George Clark, 9, captured late last night on the roof of an apartment house and charged with burglary, are believed by the police to be responsible for a series of home and apartment thefts.

JUDGE MORROW SPEAKS

Everyman's Club Hears Court Attitude to Litigation Parties.

Interesting stories of incidents in his career Judge enlivened the discourse of Judge R. G. Morrow before a large audience at Everyman's club, 245 Couch street, last night. The attitude of courts toward parties in litigation was the subject of his address, which was so well received that Judge Morrow has been requested to appear again at the club.

CHEST CLOGGED UP WITH HEAVY COLD?

Don't Give it a Chance to "Set In"—Use Dr. King's New Discovery.

THAT dangerous stage where a cold or cough or case of gripe might get the better of you may be nearer than you think. Prompt action with Dr. King's New Discovery will avert a long siege.

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Purgatives, never pleasantly corrective, sometimes habit-forming, should not be taken to rack the system violently. Nature's way is the way of Dr. King's New Life Pills—gently but firmly functioning the bowels, eliminating the intestine-clogging waste and promoting the most gratifying results. Cleanse the system with them and know the boon of regular bowels. 25c at all druggists.—Adv.

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3 ROBBERIES REPORTED

POLICE HOLD SUSPECTS PENDING INVESTIGATION.

Highwayman at Ellevest and Mill Streets Said to Have Worn Sailor's Uniform.

After three robberies had been reported for the preceding night the police yesterday arrested two suspects for investigation. Inspectors Pat Moloney and Bob La Salle, however, who were investigating, were unable to get any evidence yesterday connecting the men with any of the crimes.

S. V. Cox, San Marco hotel, reported that he had been held up the preceding night about midnight at Ellevest and Mill streets by a man in a sailor's uniform. The highwayman failed to obtain anything.

M. C. Bond, 525 Johnson street, also reported being held up by a gang comprising two men and three women at the corner of Fifteenth and Couch streets. Mr. Bond did not report any money lost.

Fifteen dollars was secured from A. L. Lanebox, 224 Harrison street, who said he was held up by two men at First and Madison streets.

Klamath Has New Firm.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., Nov. 30.—(Special)—Henry D. Davis of Wisconsin, known throughout the United States and Canada as one of the shrewdest and most experienced lumbermen in the industry, has entered the local field, heading an organization called the Valley Lumber company. Articles of incorporation have been filed with the secretary of state. The capitalization of the corporation is \$100,000. Associated with Mr. Davis are his sons, Henry C. and Robert D. Davis, and George A. Stephenson.

Shipping Board Agent Resigns.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—Captain Frank E. Ferris, for the past year managing agent at New York for the United States shipping board, has resigned to become vice-president and general manager for the Export Steamship company, it was announced today.

Drain Workman Injured.

DRAIN, Or., Nov. 30.—(Special)—E. G. Whipple of this place met with a serious accident yesterday in the Leona mills three miles north of here. His left arm was severed above the elbow by one of the large saws. He was brought at once to Drain and later was sent to the hospital in Portland.

Many Offer to Care for Leper.

YAKIMA, Wash., Nov. 30.—(Special)—The Yakima county commissioners have received applications from a number of persons who are anxious to undertake the care of Otto Wagner, alleged leper, under a ruling of the state board of health. Their proposals are conditioned, however, on payment by the county of \$10 a day for the service. It was declared yesterday that Wagner probably would be sent to some institution for the care of lepers.



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