

# HALLUCINATION SEEN IN OPAL'S LIFE STORY

### Psychology Professor Studies Whiteley Girl Case.

## SINCERITY NOT DOUBTED

### Investigations Lead to Conclusion That Belief in Foster Parents Is Not at All Rare in Children.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, March 17.—(Special.)—Dr. E. S. Conklin, head of the department of psychology, believes that Opal Whiteley, whose "Story of Opal" is appearing in the Atlantic Monthly, dwelt so much on the idea from childhood that she was the child of foster parents that she eventually came to believe it. Dr. Conklin has been much interested in the case since the publication by Opal of her biography in the March Atlantic, because he has been making a psychological study of the "foster child fantasy."

He has made a careful study and investigation of the Opal case and last week-end talked personally with Charles Edward Whiteley, whom Opal calls her foster father, with Mrs. A. E. Scott, the grandmother, who lives at Saginaw, near Cottage Grove, and with neighbors, school teachers and many others who know Opal well. His investigation has convinced him that Opal is sincere in saying that she is the child of "angel parents" and that Mr. Whiteley is not her real father.

## Sincerity Not Doubted.

"I do not doubt at all Opal's sincerity in giving this story to the Atlantic Monthly," he says. "She undoubtedly believed that she was the child of other parents. I think the burden of proof is on Opal and on anyone else who thinks she is really a foster child."

All the evidence obtained from friends and from the chronology of her life indicates that the substitution of which she speaks was almost impossible. In all scientific work, when anyone makes a most extraordinary claim, it is always insisted that an unusual number of witnesses must be presented to prove the claim. All the facts seem to indicate that Opal is the real Opal Whiteley. In order to support this, she must present exceptional evidence, which has not been produced as yet."

**Father Recalls Fact.**  
Although the grandmother did not remember Opal's having mentioned the possibility of being a foster child, the father recalls, he told Dr. Conklin, that Opal at one time turned on him and said, "don't you know you are not my real father?" At the time he thought of it as merely the imagination of childhood.

Dr. Conklin has the author of an article which has been published in the American Journal of Psychology, entitled "The Foster Child Fantasy." His studies are based on answers to questionnaires which he placed before 904 college and high school students.

He found through his investigations that the foster child fantasy is a common experience of childhood. Twenty-eight per cent of those who are not my real father," at the time he thought of it as merely the imagination of childhood.

**Power of Suggestion Great.**  
Suggestion, 60 per cent, and supposed mistreatment, 45 per cent, were most frequently given by those questioned as causes for the fantasy. Other causes indicated were: Precocious thinking, 30 per cent; lack of physical or mental family resemblance, 7 per cent; and dissatisfaction with home condition, 5 per cent.

The fantasy was more common to more than half of those reporting, in the period of from 5 to 12 years of age. The duration for those who had actually believed in themselves as foster children was reported to be more than a year by 45 per cent. The longest duration was that of about 15 years, caused by prolonged separation from parents. Twenty-four per cent reported the experience as of very brief duration and 10 per cent as lasting a few months.

Dr. Conklin finds it easy to believe that the diary was written at an early age. It has all the atmosphere of a child of such an age, he thinks. He does not look on "The Story of Opal" as a strict diary, but more as a journal, a recording of the early life of this child, "whom all the neighbors say was most unusual."

**Opal Omnivorous Reader.**  
Mr. Whiteley told Dr. Conklin that he bought Opal small primers when she was between 3 and 4 years old; that she began learning her letters at that time and that she was continually playing him with all sorts of questions and was always after more information. The testimony furnished by neighbors of the Whiteleys at the time that Opal started to school and by one of her schoolmates when she first started to school indicates that she always read everything she could find and all the books the neighbors had.

Dr. Conklin thinks that the names which Opal gave her pets could easily have come from her reading, since she displays no knowledge of the history of the names except in three instances, in the case of Mendelssohn, Savarola and Huber.

He thinks it is doubtful that the two French words, riviere and compare, which appear in the diary, really were so spelled in the original manuscript. Some corrections were made in the spelling, the editor of the Atlantic states, in order to make the diary more understandable for adults. The photograph of the page which appeared in the Atlantic indicated, Dr. Conklin explained, that small words had been omitted in some cases and that words were misspelled. It is possible, he thinks that the "to" was omitted before "compare" and that the word as originally written was simply "compare." "Riviere," he thinks, might have been made into French because of the notion present in Opal's mind that she was of French descent.

## Old Atlas Might Explain.

The five French rivers which Opal mentions are names of obscure rivers, four in north central France and one in Normandy. "Why her 'angel parents' should have taught Opal the names of five obscure rivers in the sea," says Dr. Conklin. "It is much more likely that she came across them in an old atlas or other book and remembered them, since they appealed to her as pretty words."

In his investigation and questioning, Dr. Conklin found traces of all persons mentioned by Opal except "the Uncle Caleb," Larry and Jean and Rob Ryder, who "shouted at God in a very quick way to dam the channel." Dr. Conklin saw the road that does go to the house of Sadie McKinnie, who was really Sadie McKibben. Neighbors also remember the "girl who has no winter." She was burned to death several years ago. The other characters and the geography are just as Opal describes them.

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## CITY ASSURES HOSPITAL

### \$300,000 ORDINANCE PASSES COUNCIL MEETING.

### Contagious Cases to Be Cared For in Building Adjacent to Kelly Butte Rockpile.

After months of indecision, the city council yesterday gave final approval to the \$300,000 appropriation ordinance for the construction of the contagious hospital. City Commissioner Bigelow alone voting against the measure.

The ordinance became effective with its passage and City Commissioner Barbur of the department of public works will begin immediately work on the construction of the hospital, to be located adjacent to the Kelly Butte rockpile. The cost of the building is estimated at \$300,000. Two members of the county board of commissioners have agreed to underwrite the city to the extent of \$25,000.

## FORGED CHECKS CLAIMED

### VETERAN ARRESTED WHEN SIGNATURE IS QUESTIONED.

15-Year-Old Boy Attempts to Pass \$250 Paper on Albany National Bank Cashier.

EUGENE, Or., March 17.—(Special.)—When John D. Pirtle, a veteran of the world war, today presented to W. G. Klusman, merchant at living, a check for \$155.55, the indorsement of which it is alleged he forged, he was a forger and immediately placed in the county jail.

McNutt had lost the check some time ago and Pirtle had evidently found it.

ALBANY, Or., March 17.—(Special.)—James Bault, 15-year-old boy of Tallman, attempted to pass a forged check for \$250 at the First National bank of Albany yesterday afternoon and is now in the county jail awaiting the action of the juvenile court.

The check, which purported to bear the signature of J. E. Jenks, warehouseman of Tallman, where the boy formerly lived, was written crudely and signed "J. B. Bault," the name of whom the lad presented it, recognized it as a forgery. The lad confessed.

WOOD CLUB IS ORGANIZED

Klamath Falls Boosters Organize After Hearing Eloquent Orator.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., March 17.—(Special.)—A Leonard Wood for President club was organized with 50 charter members at an enthusiastic gathering of republicans here last night. The meeting was addressed by Walter L. Toole Sr. of Salem on the problems of the hour, and his eloquent tribute to the soldier and sailor.

WILBUR FIELD HELD TO GRAND JURY ON CHARGE INVOLVING CHILD.

Wilbur Field, 744 East Seventeenth street, was held to answer to the grand jury yesterday on a charge of a serious, statutory character, involving his 13-year-old sister, when he was given a preliminary hearing in the municipal court. His bail was placed at \$750.

Field is a married man and was employed by the Frank L. Smith meat company.

Judge Rossmann held Frank J. Felts to answer to the grand jury on a serious charge, and his bail was placed at \$1000. Charges against Felts were preferred by Hattie Brecht.

Sweeney Blackmar and Stella De Maria were both held to answer to the grand jury on charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Their charges involve a 15-year-old girl.

Their bail was placed at \$250 each.

CHAMBER PLAN EFFECTIVE.

F. E. Andrews yesterday was named by the directors of the Chamber of Commerce as chairman of the membership committee. The Portland chamber is one of the leading commercial organizations of the country.

STUDENT BADLY INJURED

Morris Johnson, 18, on Motorcycle, Collides With Motor Truck.

Morris Johnson, student, 18 years old, of the Klickitat hotel, 328 1/2 Holladay avenue, is in a serious condition at the St. Vincent's hospital as the result of an accident which occurred at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon at East Tenth and Halsey streets, when the motorcycle on which he was riding collided with a truck of the Spring Farm dairy, driven by R. E. Clark.

The hospital reported last night that Johnson was suffering from a possible fracture of the skull, a compound fracture of the left thigh, a laceration over the left eye and a cut lip.

According to a report made by

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**THE MILTON TINY GRAND PIANO**

It is an instrument of which its makers are justly proud and one which we are most happy to represent. Its beauty of architecture and finish and the fact that it is largely sold to discriminating musicians makes us sure that it will please you. Moderately priced; easy payments.

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MASON AND HAPLIN PIANOS

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**KNIFE DRAWN ON JAILER**

**CHINESE MAKES UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO STAB OFFICER.**

**Lee Foo, Chinese suspected of traffic in "hop," who was arrested for investigation by Patrolmen Parker and Smith, made an unsuccessful effort to stab Jailer Gustafson yesterday at the city jail.**

Lee Foo, Chinese suspected of traffic in "hop," who was arrested for investigation by Patrolmen Parker and Smith, made an unsuccessful effort to stab Jailer Gustafson yesterday at the city jail. After he had jerked out a long Chinese knife, with an edge like a razor, his hand was grasped by Patrolman O'Brien, who happened to be standing near.

According to Gustafson, Foo sent a package of tobacco to Fred Sloan, a prisoner doing time for vagrancy, a couple of days ago and concealed in the package were found a half dozen lots of morphine.

It was when Foo's record was being taken down by Officer Gustafson that the effort to stab him was made by the celestial. The officer was sitting at the desk writing and the prisoner was standing to one side and slightly to the rear.

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**Full Damages Awarded.**

**MOTORCYCLE OFFICER SHAD, WHO INVESTIGATED THE ACCIDENT, JOHNSON'S MOTORCYCLE STRUCK THE TRUCK JUST BACK OF THE SEAT WITH SUCH FORCE THAT THE WINDSHIELD OF THE TRUCK WAS SHATTERED.**

**FUNERAL ANNOUNCED.**

**THE FUNERAL OF MRS. ELIZABETH H. THOMAS, WHO DIED TUESDAY AT HER HOME, 612 EAST FIFTEENTH STREET NORTH, WILL BE HELD TOMORROW AT 2:30 AT THE PINLEY PARLORS, MONTGOMERY AND FIFTH STREETS.**

**PHONE YOUR WANT ADS TO THE OREGONIAN, MAIN 7676, A 6095.**

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DIRECTION OF JENSEN-VON HERBERG  
"LIBERTY CORNER"

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# WILLIAM FARNUM

In Louis Tracy's Supreme Story of Love and the Sea

**"WINGS OF THE MORNING"**

Liberty News Review

Cartoon Comedy Prologue

AT ALL TIMES—A NICKEL AND TWO DIMES

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Tax Included.



YOU HAVE MET TODAY AND TOMORROW TO SEE THIS BEAUTIFUL PLAY.

**"THE COUNTRY COUSIN"**

WITH  
**ELAINE HAMMERSTEIN**

A STORY OF YOUTH AND ROMANCE FROM THE FAMOUS STAGE SUCCESS BY BOOTH TARKINGTON AND JULIAN STREET.

AND THEN THERE'S  
**PHILIP PELZ**  
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**PEOPLES AUGMENTED ORCHESTRA**  
UNQUESTIONABLY THE BEST MUSIC IN PORTLAND.

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SATURDAY  
"THE LONE WOLF'S DAUGHTER"

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"THE LONE WOLF'S DAUGHTER"

**SPECIAL MUSICAL MATINEE TODAY AT 3 P. M.**

Director Vincent Knowles and the Columbia Orchestra in their first Portland concert.

There'll be a variety to the programme that will make it unique and "different."

You'll meet the "mysterious voice"; the voice of "Male and Female"—remember? N. B.—No seating after concert starts, so come early.



**Constance Talmadge**

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**TWO WEEKS**

TODAY AND FRIDAY ONLY  
Thousands of delighted people have seen this piquant, peppery picture. It is full of typical Talmadge personality.

**COLUMBIA ORCHESTRA**  
V. C. Knowles—Director

ADmits—TWO-BITS

LAST TIMES TOMORROW

**COLUMBIA**

TODAY'S THE DAY!

**DYE OLD, SHABBY OR FADED FRACK**

**"Diamond Dyes" Make Used Apparel Stylish and New.**

Don't worry about perfect results. Use "Diamond Dyes" guaranteed to give a new, rich, fadeless color to any fabric, whether it be wool, silk, linen, cotton or mixed goods—dresses, blouses, stockings, skirts, children's coats, fashers, draperies, coverings.

**Nature's Remedy**  
NR-TABLETS-NR  
Better than Pills. GET A 25c Box For Liver Ills.

**RIVER PROJECT BEGINS**

**WOODLAND, Wash., March 17.—(Special.)—The Burcham pile driver arrived in Lewis river last night and will drive piling at Robinson bend, about two miles above Woodland.**

**CREW OF SUBMARINE RESCUED.**

**LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 17.—The steamer Mazatlan, bringing the surviving members of the crew of the submarine H-1, beached off Redondo Point, Lower California, reported from Mexico that she expected to reach Los Angeles harbor tomorrow.**