

MYSTERY SOLVED IN RECTOR MURDER

Witness Says She Returned
Later to Scene.

SOBBING WOMAN SEEN

Figure Declared to Have Been
Leaning Over Forms of Mur-
dered Rector and Friend.

(By Chicago Tribune Licensed Wire.)
NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Oct. 27.—
The Hall-Mills murder mystery
has been solved.

Soon the world will know how the rector of the Church of St. John the Evangelist and his favorite choir singer met death on the night of September 14 beneath a scrubby crabapple tree on the Phillips farm on the outskirts of the city, just over the Somerset county line.

It became known tonight that Mrs. Jane Gibson, who has already told how she witnessed the killing late in the night of September 14 under the dim light of the stars, made a second visit to the scene of the murder at 1 o'clock on the night of September 15 and there saw a sobbing woman leaning over the forms of the murdered minister and choir singer.

Second Visit Related.
Mrs. Gibson made a second statement to authorities in which she told of her second visit to the Phillips farm. She swore that the weeping woman was the same who had been earlier on the fatal night in the light of an automobile lamp in De Russy's lane.

It was further disclosed tonight that authorities have in their possession evidence to the effect that Hall was killed first; that Mrs. Mills made a desperate struggle for her life and was killed after a frightful battle with her assailants, who chased her 20 feet when she attempted to flee and dragged her back to the crab apple tree, where the minister had been killed and there shot her three times and cut her throat.

Mystery Declared Solved.
Ex-Judge Wilbur A. Mott, special assistant attorney-general, declared tonight that the case "is a mystery no longer."

Mott clearly indicated that he will within a very short time present evidence to the Somerset county grand jury, on which he will ask one or more indictments.

Mrs. Jane Gibson will be the state's chief witness.
Judge Mott and his chief investigator, Detective James Mason, assert their belief in the statement made by Mrs. Gibson of what she saw and heard on the fatal night.

For some reason, which is not explained, Judge Mott will not order an immediate arrest, though he has stated that the time has arrived to take some definite action in the case.

It is believed Mott favors the plan to delay the arrest or arrests until after the evidence gathered in the thrilling investigation has been presented to the county inquisitorial body.

A flurry of excitement was caused by the appearance in the case of a mysterious woman—a girl of 23 and pretty, who, in company with state troopers, passed an hour near the scene of the murder.

Whence this girl came and whether she departed was not divulged. The troopers admitted that they had taken her to De Russy lane, leading to the Phillips farm, at the direction of Mr. Mott, but they declined to state the purpose of the journey.

They wandered up and down the lane, which played so big a part in Mrs. Gibson's graphic story of the shooting, never getting out of sight of the crabapple tree under which the bodies were found. Later the troopers brought the unidentified girl back to town and she disappeared.

Judge Mott was interviewed today as follows:

Q. This is a complex mystery, isn't it?

A. It's complex, but it's a mystery no longer.

Q. Do you still believe in the credibility of Mrs. Gibson's statement?

A. I do.

Q. Have you talked with anyone who corroborates her story?

A. Most certainly. That was the first thing to do.

Q. Have they corroborated it?

A. Oh, sure.

Q. Who are they?

A. I don't care to say.

Q. Do you consider it time to make an arrest?

A. It is time to act.

Q. Why don't you act?

A. It's a matter of judgment.

Judgment Is Asked.

Q. What is your judgment?

A. You must judge by my acts.

Q. Have you any information as to the automobiles mentioned in Mrs. Gibson's statement?

A. Yes.

Q. Sufficient to identify them?

A. I have not seen them. I have descriptions and a combination of numbers.

Q. Do you know the number of the automobile named in the Eastern avenue—the one Mrs. Gibson first saw?

A. I have a combination of numbers.

Q. Don't you think that if Henry Stevens' alibi stands up you should say so?

A. Don't worry over justice for Henry Stevens. Don't worry over more consideration being shown him than Mrs. Hall.

Q. Have you sent for Ralph V. M. Gorsline?

A. No.

Gorsline Not Summoned.

Q. Are you following any lead but that in which the Gibson woman's story figures?

A. I'm following every lead I have.

Q. When in your judgment the time comes for decisive action will you order an arrest or take the case to the grand jury first?

A. I don't know, but unless there should be some extraordinary developments I should be inclined to take it to the grand jury.

Q. With an eyewitness statement you have characterized as credible, what corroboration, in your judgment, is necessary?

A. None is legally necessary. Still it is open to question of persuasion before a jury by corroborative evidence.

Q. Isn't it a fact you have been informed there was another eyewitness?

A. No.

Hypothetical Question Dodged.

Q. When you find that any alibi in this case stands up will you make a statement naming the person?

A. That is a hypothetical question.

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NOTED RECTOR IS SLAIN

(Continued From First Page.)

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Dr. Christler was one of the pioneers in the development of the oil industry in Montana. Standing six feet and one inch in his stocking feet, built in proportion and with a mass of brown hair, he was a man of great energy and a devoted public servant.

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Covering a church area of several hundred square miles from the Canadian border south to the Missouri river, which in Montana flows from west to east, he frequently traveled over a part of the country which has retained much of its rugged frontier aspects.

Much Hiking Is Done.

Speaking often in the open and hiking across country in leggings and khaki in pursuit of funds for the construction of a church edifice, he came to be known as "the bishop of all outdoors," for he claimed when on such financial expeditions that his parish territory was limited only by his ability to obtain transportation.

Much local notoriety resulted from an extensive argument which he conducted with the head of one of the large railroad companies in the west over freight rate charges on material used in the construction of his imposing church structure at Havre. It appeared that he had had much of the material shipped under the name of a commodity which had a cheaper rate and in his argument with the railroad president he quoted the Bible freely to the effect that building a church was a religious duty.

Mr. Christler was a man of equipment and other building materials, when used in the construction of a church, were not such as are commonly classified as building materials on which interstate commerce regulations fixed a higher rate.

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Finally winning the railroad president over to his view and getting the lower rate established, he prevailed on the railroad man to make a personal contribution of a sum which completely offset the freight charges.

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