

EVIDENCE LACKING IN WEIR MYSTERY

Police Expect Court to Let Defendants Go Free.

MURDER CASE IS WEAK

Unsubstantiated Story of Woman Regarding Girl's Death Considered Insufficient.

Belief that the Weir case—the strange murder story told the police last Wednesday night by Mrs. Helen Leary, in which Cash Weir, aged riverman, was accused of murdering an unknown 15-year-old girl and then, with the assistance of his son, Earl, of burying the body in the river—will pass to the category of unsolved crimes, was the opinion freely expressed at police headquarters yesterday.

The two Weirs, who are in jail, the father on a charge of murder and the son as an accomplice, will have a preliminary hearing in municipal court, tomorrow morning. Unless some unexpected evidence is unearthed before that time, the police frankly admit that they expect that the two men will be released.

Case Standing Still. Last night, the case stood in almost the same condition as at the time when Mrs. Leary first told her story following her arrest. No additional evidence has been unearthed, nothing has been discovered that would tend to substantiate the woman's story.

The woman said that she became acquainted with Cash Weir, elderly water-front character, that she also became infatuated with his son, Earl Weir, river-boat captain. She visited the elder Weir's scow-boat at the foot of East Taylor street and there found a 15-year-old girl. The mysterious child told Mrs. Leary that she had run away from home, was without money, had asked Weir for money on a downtown street, and was asked by the old man to come to the shack and cook for him.

That night Mrs. Leary returned and found Cash Weir in the scow with the dead body of the child. She accused the old man of murder; they fought, she escaped, but on the dock above, where Cash Weir was forced to return to the houseboat. Then followed, she said, a discussion of the means of disposing of the body. Earl Weir went to a launch, returned with the boat in a few minutes, and with his father, loaded the body of the little victim into the craft.

Woman Held Prisoner. The woman returned to the city. A few days later, Cash Weir forced her to return to the houseboat and moved it from its berth at Taylor street to an isolated spot on the shores of Ross Island, where she was kept in exile for several months. The woman also said that Earl Weir took her for an auto ride down the Willamette and pointed out the spot where the child's body had been dumped into the river.

The two men acknowledge certain facts up to the presence of the body. No girl was in the cabin, they declared. No person was killed, no body disposed of in the river. They did not force the Leary woman aboard the houseboat—she went of her own free will, they said.

The case, from the legal standpoint is simply a matter of the story of one woman that is denied by two men—a story not substantiated by any material evidence. The police have suspicions that the story is true; they have listened in on conversations between the three persons, and are firmly convinced that something transpired in that scow on the night of September 23 that the Weirs are eager to suppress and keep quiet.

Woman's Reputation Poor. The woman's reputation is poor. She will be sent to the Cedars regardless of the outcome of the case. Cash Weir's reputation is bad, but that of the younger man is good.

"We have done everything in our power to unravel this mystery," said Captain Moore yesterday. "We have subjected the three principals to endless examinations for the past three days. We obtained an admission from the woman that she had lied slightly in one particular. "Weir and his son are steadfast in their protestations of innocence. The whole affair was gone over twice today and we got nowhere. We are now going to put the matter up to the courts and let them decide. We have done all that we can."

OFFICE HUNTING DENIED

Eugene Man Not Candidate for Accident Commission.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—Ed Turnbull of this city yesterday denied a newspaper story sent out from Salem that he is a candidate for industrial accident commissioner. In a statement yesterday he said: "I notice in the press that Ben F. Derrin has made an appeal to Governor-elect Pierce to appoint me to a position on the state industrial accident commission. As far as I know, no such appeal was made, and if it was it was done without my knowledge or consent. I am not, nor do I expect to be, a candidate for the position. I further note that I have been given credit as having been manager for Senator-elect Flek's campaign. While the campaign was most successful and credit is due to whoever was responsible, I beg to state that I was not Flek's campaign manager."

HORSES SOLD FOR CARE

Ring Stock Owned by Bob Hall Brings Less Than \$100.

HAINES, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Right head of ring stock, consisting of horses used for exhibition purposes in the Haines stampede, Pendleton Round-Up and other wild-west and frontier entertainments given throughout the northwest for the past several years, were sold at auction here today to satisfy a claim for their care and keeping since the close of the show season.

The animals were the property of Bob Hall, who has figured prominently in wild west programmes. Less than \$100 was realized from the sale and the horses will be kept in this vicinity for rough riding stunts during the 1923 shows to be held at Haines, Union and Pendleton.

Phone your want ads to The Oregonian. All its readers are interested in the classified columns.

Society News



MRS. BEN W. OLCOTT, WHO IS A PATRONESS FOR THE CHRISTMAS COLLEGE BALL TOMORROW NIGHT AT THE MULTNOMAH HOTEL.

PLANS for the large Christmas college ball have been completed, according to Miss Georgia Benson general chairman of the affair, which promises to be one of the most enjoyable events of Christmas week. The party, which is given by the Women's League of the University of Oregon, will be held Tuesday night at the Multnomah hotel.

The dance is an annual one. This year part of the proceeds will be given to the foreign scholarship fund which has been established to bring a foreign girl to Oregon and defray her expenses at the university.

The patrons and patronesses include a large list of prominent society folk.

Miss Anne Adams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Adams, returned Saturday from the Bishop school in La Jolla, Cal., to pass the holidays. Her brother, Francis Adams, arrived in Portland Saturday from the Thatchers' school.

Miss Marie Voorhies passed Tuesday in Portland as the guest of her aunt, Mrs. Margaret Burrell Biddle, returning to her home in Medford Tuesday night.

Dr. and Mrs. John Forest Dickson left Wednesday for Berkeley, Cal.

to pass the holidays. Later they will motor through southern California. Mr. and Mrs. Walter D. Heller returned to Portland last week from their wedding trip and are passing a few days with Mrs. Heller's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Abe Meier, before going to San Francisco, where they will make their home.

Miss Jane Talbot, who is attending a French school in New York, is passing the holiday season in Providence, R. I.

Among the Mills college girls home for the holidays are Miss Stella Riggs, Miss Dorothy Reed, Miss Margaret Levinson, Miss Lois Nitche, Miss Elizabeth Godard, Miss Catherine Short, Miss Dorothy Pitcock, Miss Catherine Overbeck, Miss Hylah Fraley, Miss Frances Fliedenthal, Miss May Griffin, Miss Helen Ernst, Miss Edith Ottenheimer and Miss Ruth Blanford.

Franklin T. Griffith has returned from an eastern trip.

C. F. Swigert has returned from an enjoyable trip in Washington.

Colonel J. Cavanaugh arrived in Portland yesterday morning from his home in Duluth, Minn., to pass the holidays with his sister, Mrs. James F. McIndoe. Mrs. McIndoe complimented her brother and her son, William C. McIndoe, with a Christmas dinner party last night.

One of the Christmas balls which is being eagerly awaited by the college set in the dance to be Wednesday night at the new woman's club building by Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. The dance is a benefit for the national scholarship fund of the sorority. The fund is open to all college women.

Mrs. Lou Loomis is convalescing from a severe accident.

Mrs. G. E. Perringler of Pendleton and daughter, Mrs. John M. Dolph and child, Elsie Dolph of Portland, are visiting Mrs. Perringler in Pendleton for the holidays.

They will leave Portland on December 28 for California.

Miss Florence Johnson is entertaining her sister, Mrs. May Trimble of Tacoma, for a few days.

Miss Ruth Cauthorn, after a four month's visit to friends and relatives in New York city, Washington city, St. Louis and other mid-west points, returned home Friday.

The annual Delta Zeta sorority Christmas luncheon will be at the Sovereign hotel, Broadway and Madison. Mrs. Stephenson will act as hostess. Each chapter represented will give a review of the work accomplished.

Correct English: A Daily Quiz

IS XMAS a correct abbreviation of Christmas? What letter is often incorrectly used in the word government? How is it pronounced? What are the two plurals of bandit?

Answers to Saturday's Questions. Titles may be abbreviated only when used with the full name, as Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. A nuncupative will is an oral one as distinguished from a written one. Nuncupative is pronounced "nun-ku-pa-tiv". Insert "for" after "love" in "He had no love or confidence in his master."

Oregon Turkeys Held Best.

ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Umpqua turkeys sold by the Making Produce company at Los Angeles were the finest ever seen in that city, according to a telegram received by O. J. Lindsey, a local dealer, from the firm, which purchased the Douglas county pool of more than 140,000 pounds. The turkeys this year were of exceptional quality, and, according to the California buyer who received the bulk of the birds shipped from this section, finer birds were never seen there. The turkeys were sent to Oakland, San Francisco and Los Angeles and were disposed of at top prices before the market broke.

What's What

By Helen Decie

WHEN entertaining a house guest during the week between Christmas and New Year's, the hostess will make it easier for herself and more comfortable for her visitor if a breakfast tray is sent to the guest room. People on a holiday visit usually appreciate the luxury of breakfast in bed. Then, too, there is no delay in the dining room because of a belated riser, and this expedites the business of the day for housekeeping service.

Occasionally a visitor may wish to come down. The hostess should consult her guest's preference in this matter, at the same time stating the regular hour for family breakfast. A breakfast tray may contain fruit, cereal, eggs, rolls or toast and a pot of coffee, together with sugar and cream. If the guest does not drink coffee, chocolate or tea may be substituted, according to the visitor's choice.

The Home in Good Taste

By Harold Donaldson Eberlein

THE question of the use of a mat within the frame of pictures which are painted or printed upon paper is often a matter of controversy. In the case of etchings and engravings the question is settled by the fact that these are always printed with a natural margin surrounding them, which should be left intact. In the case of photographs, color prints, water colors and Japanese prints the question must be decided by the suitability of framing the special picture under consideration.

Water colors are best in dull gold or silver or in frames painted to harmonize with their dominant color. Photographs in brown or gray tones may be framed without a mat in harmonizing brown or black frames having a fine gold line within the frame or in dull gold frames. The beautiful Medici prints should be framed in fairly elaborate gold frames often treated in the Italian manner with a touch of color.

Mats and mounts should never be of dead white, but of ivory cream or gray and sometimes of darker tones. A gold mat inside a narrow gold edging gives practically the same effect as a wide, flat gold frame.

Things You'll Love to Make

ATTRACTIVE WAY to Make Wide Grids. TO MAKE this gridle have a wide band of chiffon of some bright color that will go well with your frock. Cut strips of the frock material two inches wide and four inches long. Fold these strips lengthwise (on the wrong side); stitch them on two sides and then turn to the right side. Turn in the remaining side of each and overhand it. Join these folds to the chiffon gridle. Have some of them hang down over the edge. You can make your gridle even more attractive if you bead the fold.

A FUR SALE WITHOUT PARALLEL

Entire Stock of Model and Staple Fur Garments AT WAY-DOWN PRICES FOR LIMITED TIME ONLY Many of These Garments Just Completed—Too Late for Christmas.

considering our usual lower prices for superior fur garments these reductions are more than interesting.

A. R. PEUTHERT

Portland's Progressive Furrier, 151 Tenth St. Between Morrison and Alder Opposite Olds, Wertman & King

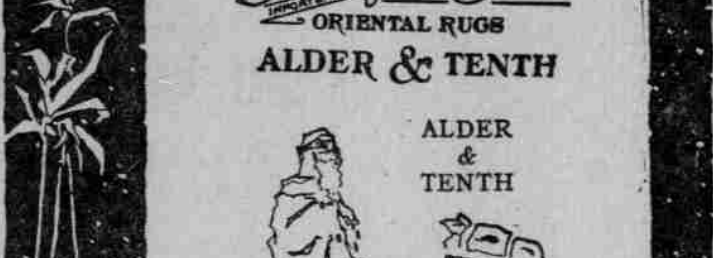
XMAS DANCE TONIGHT

Broadway Hall Fleming 13-Piece Orchestra

Merry Christmas

TO OUR friends and patrons in the Northwest we sincerely extend the season's greetings.

Stijeh Bros. ORIENTAL RUGS ALDER & TENTH



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Broadway Hall Fleming 13-Piece Orchestra



Carry Our Best Wishes Into Every Nook and Cranny—

UPON the atmosphere of Christmastide we broadcast our sincere wishes for your Happiness and Good Cheer—wherever you may be.

Even the four great walls and roof and floors—down to the huge gray vaults have seemed to echo and repeat the cheerful and friendly greeting of our forces to all who came and went—as though to say—"Be Merry—for 'tis Christmas!"

"One of the Northwest's Great Banks"

The United States National Bank

Sixth and Stark.



The Eastern Outfitting Company wish everybody, everywhere a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Happy New Year

De Knight Wishes You a Merry Christmas

For your convenience Store open today 8 A. M. until midnight.

Knight Drug Co.

"Sells the Best for Less"

Washington St. at 5th (S. E. Cor.) 402 Washington Street (Near Tenth)

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BILL FLEMING Sporting Goods Man

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5:30 to 7:30 Christmas Dinner \$1.50 Per Plate

Olives Pickled Peaches Currant Jelly Salted Almonds

Du Barry Soup Tomato and Cucumber Salad

Roast Turkey and Walnut Dressing Cranberry Sherbet

Candied Sweet Potatoes or Mashed Potatoes

Creamed Onions Tea Biscuits

Home-made Mince Pie, Ice Cream and Cake, Nuts and Raisins

E. Jean Campbell Formerly Connected with Campbell Hotel.