

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT HAVEN FOR MISSING GIRLS

Policing the National Capital Has Given Mrs. Mina Van Winkle the Opportunity to Demonstrate the Need for the Department



Mrs. Carolyn Votaw, of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department.

BY MARGARET CRAHON JONES.

ON THE top floor of the District of Columbia municipal building there is a long narrow office filled with the clatter of typewriters, the rustle of papers, the low murmur of voices. At a large desk sits a tall, handsome woman, from whom all the activities of the room seem to radiate. There is a certain delicate hauteur about her features, a fascinating stressing of consonants when she speaks, which make her personality unforgettable. She wears a smart dark taffeta dress, with soft lace collar and vest and trim kid walking pumps.

She is Mrs. Mina C. Van Winkle, director of the women's bureau of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department, and is rated as "detective sergeant" but she is thought of as "chief" by everybody in the department, from the patrolmen up to the chief of police himself.

As head of the women's bureau Mrs. Van Winkle directs an organization which differs from all other women's police divisions in the United States in that it functions as a unit. The 18 women officers take their orders from Mrs. Van Winkle instead of from the chief of police, as is the system in other cities.

The bureau's first claim to distinction is the recognition it has received from police departments in the larger cities in this country and abroad despite a struggle against insufficient

funds and a lack of interest on the part of the community in which it is situated. Its second claim is its records, which have elicited commendation from eminent sociologists. Its third claim is that it shelters young women from every part of the United States. It has become the port of missing girls.

Mrs. Van Winkle became director of the bureau February 14, 1919, succeeding Mrs. Marion Spingarn, who had been head of the organization since its inception on September 15, 1918. A wealthy woman of social training and social instincts, Mrs. Van Winkle chose to use her capabilities where they were most needed. She had both theoretical and practical experience and had been director of a girls' reformatory. Because of her independent means she was able to use her salary in the work of the bureau.

"The policewoman generally is confused in the public mind with the police matron," Mrs. Van Winkle said recently. "As a matter of fact, their duties are entirely different. The police matron has existed for 50 years and attends merely to the physical wants of the women in her care. The policewoman, on the other hand, is in large measure responsible for the future social status of the offender whom she arrests. The broader the lines of her education, both general and specialized, the more efficient and socially valuable she becomes."

As general policewomen, the force of the bureau functions just as the policemen do, save that they are particularly concerned with the women and girls. Their duties include the detection and apprehension of criminals, sex offenders, vagrants and shoplifters; helping the courts by furnishing judges and prosecutors with the results of their investigations; caring for the socially diseased women through voluntary and court commitments to hospitals; co-operation with the men of the police department in securing information, by being present with female offenders at the identification bureau and by interviewing and searching female prisoners.

The women officers patrol the streets as do the men. This is especially necessary because of the presence in Washington of thousands of young girls working in the government departments who are particularly susceptible to dangerous outside influences through their separation

from family and friends. Here the work of the force becomes preventive.

One protection to girls is the observation work done by the women officers while patrolling the streets, parks and railroad stations. Without being obtrusive, they observe the woman or girl who makes the acquaintance of men friends in public places and often prevent a second meeting with men known to be disreputable.

One of the chief "beats" of the women officers is the public dance hall. Here again the work is largely preventive. They see that the regulation stipulating the age of admission is observed; that improper dancing is prohibited; that the hall is well lighted and ventilated, and that opportunities for delinquency and vice are eliminated.

Mrs. Van Winkle has found that the

missing girl of today is the social outcast of tomorrow.

The bureau found that the runaway girls and those who left home to be married constituted a large percentage of the "first offenders" in Washington last year.

From the time the "first offender" comes under the surveillance of the bureau every possible step is taken to prevent her becoming a second offender. None of this corrective work is provided for by law. But it is provided for by woman's mother instinct. "Delinquency among young women almost always is traceable to an unhappy home life," Mrs. Van Winkle said. "There are more 'first offenders' who really are not bad girls at all nowadays because the American home is disintegrating. Homes are not made the center of interest. Amusements are found in commercialized places

instead of in the family circle. The average family does not read any more. People buy books and do not read them. They buy magazines and throw them away. General unrest is caused by the failure of the home."

Education would do much to prevent delinquency, in Mrs. Van Winkle's opinion, but attractive homes would do more.

Girls under 17 years of age come under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. Cases of all girls more than 17 years old are handled by the women's bureau.

It is the sentiment of the bureau that all girls under 21 years of age should be under jurisdiction of the juvenile court. They thus would be removed from the influences of degenerates and criminals, while first offenders would not be subjected to the curiosity of police court frequenters.

The bureau last year found homes

for 15 girls and positions for 50. A large number were returned to their homes. Four of the probationers were happily married.

In determining the course to be followed in disposing of a case the offender is given physical and psychopathic examinations. Treatment varies according to the diagnosis. Thorough investigations are made to find out all the negative and positive facts in a case in order to arrive at the inner mental life of the girl so that intelligent help can be extended.

The work of mitigating or removing the causes of delinquency is directed by Mrs. Carolyn Votaw, a woman of great refinement and extensive experience. Frequent contact with this woman, whose cameo face beneath a cloud of snowy hair has smiling eyes as well as smiling lips, cannot fail to have a salutary effect upon a young girl.

One of the best ways to find out what goes on in a girl's mind is to read her diary. So Mrs. Votaw has the probationers, who report to her at various intervals, jot down what they do and think each day. They answer certain questions in their diaries, such as "What is your dearest wish today?" and "What made you happiest today?" Often it is not so much what is written as that which is omitted that gives the key to the girl's inner life. The diaries include an account of all expenditures.

The bureau recently was granted the use of the old district emergency hospital for new quarters. Plans are being made for concentration of all branches of the division in this four-story building so that maximum efficiency may be realized.

The headquarters will combine the bureau itself, the house of detention for women and girls over 17 years of age and the home for dependent children.

On the first floor will be located the director's office, business office, application and complaint desk, and interviewing rooms. On this floor also will be the receiving rooms for wards of the house of detention, shower baths, kitchen and pantry.

The second floor will be devoted to a schoolroom, dining room, recreation room, superintendent's room, psychopathic clinic, social hygiene clinic, nurses' room and emergency rooms for dependent or stranded women and girls more than 17 years of age.

On the third floor will be the caretaker's bedroom, occupation and recreation rooms, separate rooms for wards more than 17 years of age and the separate section for colored wards. The fourth floor will be given over to the dependent children's rooms, schoolrooms, dining room and caretaker's bedrooms.

By this arrangement the different classes of wards will be segregated and the examination rooms will be concentrated on one floor.

Mrs. Van Winkle is looking forward to her work in the new building with enthusiasm.

When asked if her optimism were not put to a severe test by contact with the sordid conditions which daily are brought to her attention, Mrs. Van Winkle replied that the results obtained by the bureau are so encouraging that the workers have a consciousness of service rendered to humanity.

"Women doing this sort of work must learn to drop their cares when they leave the office," Mrs. Van Winkle said. "But it is humanizing work and women anywhere will find satisfaction in doing it well."

SHAH OF PERSIA AMONG STRANGE CHESS OPPONENTS OF WILMINGTON (DEL.) CHEMIST

Game Is Hobby That Has Led Dr. Thomas A. Norton to Take Trip on Goat-Skin Raft Down Tigris River to Meet Strange Adversaries.

SELDOM does an American chess player have the opportunity to match his wits with such persons as the Shah of Persia or the Archbishop of Baghdad. But that is the record of Dr. Thomas A. Norton, a well-known chemist of Wilmington, Del., who has numbered among his opponents more strange characters than has perhaps any other chess player in the world.

Chess playing is a hobby with Dr. Norton and to indulge in it he has traveled on a goat-skin raft down the Tigris river, has spent several days with the Benedictine Monks of Monte Cassino, Italy, playing chess; has defeated the picturesque nomad chieftains of Persia in hot-headed chess games, and last but not least, has held his own with such fellow countrymen as Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, noted food chemist; Simon Newcomb, the famous astronomer; and Benjamin F. Norton, head of the forestry department.

Sometimes Dr. Norton and his opponents spoke in different tongues and in languages unknown to one another. But the barrier of speech made slight difference. Chess, Dr. Norton explained, is a game which is played the same the country over. No language is needed to translate the various moves of the board. The chessmen are "men without a country," and the chessboard is the "melting pot of nations."

At least it has proved so with Dr. Norton.

60 and Still Playing.

He was born in Rushford, N. Y., in 1851 and is 69 years old, but he still possesses the alertness of a man of 40. He has been playing chess since boyhood, having first figured conspicuously in chess circles when he was a senior at Hamilton college. It was then that he became champion player of his class and used to practice with Captain McKenzie, an international chess celebrity of the latter half of the nineteenth century.

With the fever in his blood Dr. Norton went to Edinburgh, where, shortly after his graduation, he defeated Dr. Cameron, who for 13 years had been the Scotch champion. Much interest was attached to the tournament and the records of the games were published in the Glasgow newspapers.

After his graduation from Hamilton

college, from which he went forth as a valedictorian and a prize man in mathematics, chemistry and physics, Dr. Norton studied abroad at the Universities of Heidelberg and Berlin. During his vacation periods while he was in Europe he took long pedestrian trips totaling more than 12,000 miles and it was upon these trips that he met many unusual opponents.

For two whole days, Dr. Norton played in a tournament in the Benedictine monastery of Monte Cassino, Italy. He described the scene as intensely dramatic, with richly-headed monks standing silently round the chess board, their eyes studying every move. The monks were special devotees of chess, so much so that a spacious room had been designated for the game—a room in which a table was the sole article of furniture. The monks played with such fervor that they had no time to recline to easy chairs. They stood around the board in silence.

One Game He Lost.

Yet, in spite of their intense skill, Dr. Norton lost only one game during his visit there. That, he laughingly remarked, was after a special banquet at which the monks served him with their richest and oldest vintage.

Another two-day tournament in which he participated was played on horseback while he galloped through Mesopotamia. His opponent this time was Dr. Shepard, then the leading surgeon in Turkey, who later was a victim of typhoid while ministering to the plague-stricken refugees after the massacres of 1915.

All through Turkey and Persia he journeyed, defeating at chess the tent-dwelling nomadic chieftains and castle-cloistered Turkish noblemen. Once he floated down the River Tigris in Mesopotamia on a strangely devised raft made from inflated goat-skins. The trip lasted a week—seven days during which those on board did nothing but play chess. They were wending their watery way to Mosul that Dr. Norton was the guest of the Archbishop of Baghdad—and in the Archbishop's palace he enjoyed more than one good game with his ecclesiastical host.

Persia was the scene of many a chess adventure for Dr. Norton. In

1904 President Wilson sent him on a special mission to that country, a mission of such a delicate nature that he doubts whether he would have accomplished it so successfully had he not been an expert at chess. But it was an act of self-denial rather than of winning that served its purpose then. The nobleman who had been commissioned by the Shah to meet Dr. Norton had heard of the American's fame as a chess player. He was eager to meet him on their common ground. And, naturally, he was more than flattered when Dr. Norton purposely made him believe that he could beat the American.

Massacre Doesn't Interrupt.

For two hours one fine day Dr. Norton played chess with the British consul at Batum, Trans-Caucasia, to the accompaniment of rifle shots. A massacre had begun during the game but the clatter of the galloping Cossacks and the rumble and roar of the cannon did not interrupt the battle on the chess board.

During the winter of 1905 and 1906 Dr. Norton was American consul at Smyrna and from 1906 till 1904 he occupied the same position at Chemnitz, Saxony. It was during the latter period that Dr. Norton met Capablanca, the champion chess player who was then coming into the limelight. Dr. Norton was one of 30 chess players selected to meet Capablanca at Berlin.

But his opponents have not all been in European and Asiatic countries. For 17 years, from 1883 to 1900, Dr. Norton was professor of chemistry at the University of Cincinnati. It was during this time that he organized and became first president of the Mount Auburn Chess club, regarded in its days as the most scientifically organized chess society in the country. His chemistry pupils joined and among them were such men as Professor H. W. Bettman, famous problem composer and vice-president of the International "Good Companion Chess club," and Professor William Struck of Cornell.

It was in Washington that Dr. Norton played with Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, who is as well known for his skill at chess as the national capital as he is for his scientific knowledge of food values.

He has also met and played fre-

quently with James P. Magee of Philadelphia, author of many attractive studies in medieval chess.

His record has been from the halls of the Alhambra to the mosques of Seville, and from London and Scotland to various cities in the United States.

Wherever he goes he collects around him all the local enthusiasts on the subject of chess and it is the same in Wilmington as it was in London, Persia or Dresden. His presence has so drawn together and organized the city's chess players that now Wilmington ranks as one of the foremost chess playing cities in the United States.

Morphy Ranks First.

The game of chess, says Dr. Norton, was originated in India, but it has spread all over the world. Paul Charles Morphy of New Orleans has so far ranked as the best chess player of America. Spanish blood coursed through his veins, as his grandfather had come to America from Madrid.

Morphy was taught to play chess by his father when he was only ten years old and has played with all the chess champions of every country.

It was at the instigation of Dr. Norton that chess players celebrate the birthday of Paul Charles Morphy every year on June 22. Morphy was born in 1837 and died in 1854.

Dr. Norton is a specialist in the intelligence division of the chemical department of the Du Pont company. He is an expert chemist as well as an expert chess player and has written a number of publications on chemical subjects.

Self-Appraisal.

An illustrator in the west who was once so beset with orders for work of various sorts that he felt obliged to enlist the aid of collaborators tells of his interview with one applicant for work.

After the preliminaries had been settled the youth asked: "And how much are you going to pay me for working for you?"

The prospective employer smiled and answered, "Why, I always pay a man what he is worth."

Whereupon the youth reflected in great gravity and then picked up his hat to go. "No, sir," he said. "I can't work that cheap."

Reason to Hope.

A couple of Irish women were talking of the domestic troubles of a third. Said one: "Mrs. Casey takes it awful hard. Her husband got five years—but he can get a year off for good behavior." "Tell her not to worry," suggested the other. "Sure, he may not behave himself."

OHIO TAKES LEAD IN PRODUCING MEN WITH PRESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Election This Year Assures Buckeye State of Having Sixth Native Son in White House, Thus Breaking Tie With Virginia—Record Is Unique.

THE war is supposed to be a thing of the past and a matter upon which only historians will dwell. But, be that as it may, this fall will bring with it renewed days of strife and by the looks of things, the battle will be confined to one state of our glorious 48. From all appearances this will be the Marne, Flanders and Argonne rolled into one this coming autumn. While millions of baseball fans throughout the country are rooting for their favorites it begins to look as if Ohio has an excellent chance to take unto itself the honor of staging the next world's championship. Cincinnati and Cleveland at this writing appear to be the favorites for the pennants in the two major leagues and most likely will be the two cities which will eventually battle for the championship. But Ohio is certain of staging an even greater battle.

Our two next presidential candidates are both from the Buckeye state with the result that nothing in the world can cheat her out of the honor of producing the next president of the United States. It is hard to say which will cause more excitement Cox versus Harding, or Cincinnati versus Cleveland. A strictly Ohio world's series will therefore bring about the last word in frenzy.

Two Parallels Exist.

The present presidential situation is an unusual honor to confer upon one of the 48 commonwealths which comprise the Union, but it is not the first time that it has occurred. In 1860 when the voters were asked to decide between four candidates, Lincoln, Douglas, Breckinridge and Bell, the first and the second were residents of Illinois. But a more exact parallel to the present case is to be found in 1904, when both of the great parties nominated New Yorkers, the republicans naming Theodore Roosevelt and the democrats Alton B. Parker.

The approaching election will give to Ohio six residents: William H. Harrison, who resided at North Bend; Hayes, from Fremont; Garfield, from Mentor; McKinley, from Canton; Taft, from Cincinnati; and either Harding or Cox. This will break the tie with Virginia and give to Ohio the undisputed claim to the greatest number of presidents.

But the record of Ohio is still more interesting. Not only were Hayes,

Garfield, McKinley and Taft her native sons, but Benjamin Harrison was born upon her soil at North Bend, and Grant at Point Pleasant in Clermont county. In other words Ohio borrowed two of her presidents from Virginia, but in return gave two to other states—Grant to Illinois and Benjamin Harrison to Indiana. Thus of the nine men that have been elected to the presidency since the civil war, all save three—Cleveland, Roosevelt and Wilson, were born in Ohio. So why shouldn't the two votes of her soil go into ecstasy. They should be proud of themselves and of the record achieved by the Buckeye state, and the nation as well should be grateful to her for the leaders she has furnished. Apparently both parties turn to her for presidential candidates because they find there the men they need, because Ohio produced men of presidential availability.

In view of the prolific manner in which Ohio has furnished occupants to the highest office in the land, something about the manner in which other sons of Ohio besides Cox and Harding received their high honors, would not be amiss.

In the convention of 1892 when the spell of James G. Blaine's leadership was definitely shattered, it was also notable for a political coup which brought William McKinley of Ohio into the foreground as a future presidential possibility.

McKinley Great Power.

McKinley had received scattering votes for the presidential nomination at Chicago in 1888. He was there as a Sherman leader, and, following Garfield's example of 1880 he took the floor to demand that nobody should reflect on his honor by voting for him. The lightning didn't strike him, as it struck Garfield. Between 1888 and 1892 he had greatly added to his national celebrity by attaching his name to the McKinley tariff act and by almost carrying an Ohio congress district ruthlessly gerrymandered against him and by beating James E. Campbell for the governorship in Ohio.

McKinley was perfectly content to see Benjamin Harrison renominated, feeling that his own ambition could wait. But McKinley was from Ohio and perhaps therein is the reason for what eventually happened.

McKinley was chosen permanent

chairman of the convention, all factions supporting him. On June 6, the day before the convention met, he gave out this statement: "I am not in any sense a candidate. I take it that only two names are before the convention—Harrison and Blaine." Marcus A. Hanna, who had enlisted on the task of making McKinley president, saw that Harrison would win. But he also figured that McKinley could attract votes which wouldn't go to Blaine and that the votes of the Harrison delegates from Ohio could be shifted to McKinley. Foraker and the anti-Harrison delegates were as willing to vote for McKinley as for Blaine. So with the unification of Ohio as his point of departure, he set out to stage a spontaneous tribute to the presumably unsuspecting chairman of the convention, himself a pronounced and loyal supporter of Harrison.

When Senator Foraker cast 44 votes from Ohio for McKinley and two for Harrison the chairman himself challenged the vote and demanded a roll call of the delegation and had his own lone vote recorded for Harrison. This led eventually to Harrison's nomination.

The real result of this situation which had in reality been planned for the set purpose of making McKinley an important factor in the convention four years following had just that effect. In the convention of 1896 the nomination of William McKinley was a foregone conclusion when the delegates came together and it went to him on the first ballot.

VOLUNTEERS REVIVED

Ulster Forces Take Up Arms to Quell Sinn Fein Raiders.

BELFAST, Ireland.—The Ulster volunteers have been revived as a result of the recent activity of the Sinn Fein in the north of Ireland and for several days the town of Rathfriland, county Down, has been patrolled by the Ulster forces, following destruction of property in adjoining districts. All persons suspected of Sinn Fein tendencies have been prohibited from entering Liffelawn, Fermanagh county scene of recent fighting, although seven Catholic families in the district have not been molested.