

GUNNESS, WHOSE LIFE REFLECTED Holmes, Hoch and Others May Have Been Eclipsed by This Strange

Woman Peculiar Features of a Case That Has Surprised the World's Best Detectives—Matrimonial Advertisements Lure Many Men to Their Death—A Tale of Deep Mystery

By Charles H. Deichlter, Chicago Record-Herald.

MURDERER HOLMES, who dealt out death as a druggist does an ordinary prescription; **LAPORTE**, of savage fame, who put his wife under the knives in his factory and destroyed her body in a vat of acid; **Kate Bender**, who inveigled men to her sheet curtained frontier room, where they were knocked in the head by her masculine relatives; **Johann Hoch**, to whom bigamy became a profession and selling a pastime; **Herbert Billik**, whose "big game" was high in numbers—the homicidal achievements of these past masters of crime and their prototypes pale into insignificance when compared with the apparently proved accomplishments of Mrs. Belle Guinness, of Laporte, Indiana, a woman whose disclosure during the past week

Underlying the course of the tragedies laid bare by police investigation of all these crimes are of course the questions of lust and avarice. The two incentives are intertwined with the common presumptions there are presented in the latest discovered case of a female murderer.

That this modern *Lucretia Borgia*—course and avaricious as she undoubtedly was—so thoroughly commingled her intellect with her intelligence and strength that she was able, not only mentally but physically, of herself to perform the tasks of a monster.

arts of murder, would be able to do away with as many victims as it now appears have been buried on the Guinness farm during the eight years or so of Mrs. Guinness' occupancy.

In any event, whether the woman had accomplices or whether she did not, the means with which she worked indicates that even Holmes, the archmurderer of modern times, was a "selling plaster" compared with this woman of Norwegian extraction.

Mystery worse confounded has been ejected into this latest horror tale through the presumably tragic death of the woman and her three children. The entire family is supposed to have been wiped out in a mysterious fire which razed the two-story brick residence, one of the most notorious houses in northern Indiana, formerly the home of Mattie Aitk, a member of the demimonde whose exploits made her notorious through the country.

The destruction of the Guinness house occurred on the night of April 23. It came as a climax to a strenuous investigation inaugurated by a brother as to the whereabouts of Albert Helgelein, a South Dakota rancher, who is supposed to have been one of the last, if not the last, victim of the wiles of the Norwegian widow.

Matrimonial "Ad" Lures.

Helgelein, like probably several others of the Guinness farm victims, was lured to the snare of a viper through a matrimonial advertisement inserted in one of the numerous "soul-mates" publications which the United States authorities recently have been so assiduously

prosecuting. He was a bachelor and had come to a state of competency where the question of marriage became a desirable consideration. Living alone on his section of land, near Aberdeen, South Dakota, his thoughts naturally turned to a home wherein a wife and family would enable him to enjoy the fruits of his industry. Like many another man who has lived long and especially in the desolate expanses of the west, the solution of the problem of securing a helpmeet came through the matrimonial advertisements appearing in a paper printed in his own language, with which he and his hired man were accustomed to while away their lonesome hours.

Woman Twice Married.

After one or two weeks of love-making these men usually disappeared. Until the disappearance of Helgelein but little suspicion appears to have been directed against the woman. She had been twice married and at the time of the death of her second husband rumors were current to the effect that he had met with foul play and a superficial investigation was made by the local authorities.

Fond of Children.

It was her habit to come from her home, a mile north of Laporte, on a road long known by the residents of the Indiana city as the "red light" district, in a curtained buggy, drawn by a piebald pony with a docked tail. Winter and summer she wore over her lap a sheepskin robe and a rubber blanket. Usually she wore a shawl over her head and when addressed would answer necessary inquiries in a very gruff and somewhat indignant manner. During her long residence in Chicago, she was fond of children. She had a mania for adopting youths, and one of her victims was a girl, the daughter of a relative, whom she had taken at a tender age and reared to almost womanhood.

Search for Bodies in Ruins of Farm House.

The bodies uncovered in the barnyard of the Guinness farm indicate the victims to have ranged in years from mere infancy to womanhood. Almost all of the bodies were dismembered with a good knowledge of surgery or that she had a professional accomplice. This peculiarly also accounts for the belief indulged in by many people that her farm was a clearing-house for a murderer. She was a member of the Guinness household, as remembered, the head being separated from the trunk, and the limbs cut off at the joints. At one time the body of a young girl, a 15-year-old girl, who disappeared two years ago, was discovered upon the farm. The girl's sweetheart and others who knew her intimately have fully identified

one of the bodies disinterred from the barnyard graveyard as that of the missing girl.

The body of Andrew Helgelein, supposedly the last victim of this human murder machine, was cut up in much the same manner. Unlike most of the other bodies, this one had not been put in quicklime. It had been buried probably not longer than two months, and its condition was such that identification was easy and the features were readily distinguished. The particular articulations of this body which led the surgeons identified with the case to the belief that the murderers had knowledge of surgery was indicative of the severance of the arms from the trunk. The ligaments and muscles connecting the portions of the human body are so constituted that such an operation is one of the most difficult in surgery. The bodies of all the victims were dissected in the same way, and that of Helgelein, being the freshest, showed plainly the cuts of the knife. The clearing was practically as clean as would have been accomplished by an expert surgeon.

Another peculiarity in the dissection of the bodies was that the legs of the victims had been cut off two or three inches above the knees, the bones being sawed off. This is a true of every body so far uncovered.

Is Mrs. Guinness Dead?

To add to the mysterious circumstances surrounding the case, there comes the considerable doubt as to whether or not Mrs. Guinness, whose body was at first supposed to have been

found with her three children in the ruins of her burned house, is dead or not. The body of the adult female found in the ruins was headless. The search party found the body of what is presumed to be the 5-year-old son of the woman lying on her breast, incased in a blanket, which had been burned, but covered with a night gown which was scarcely scorched. The bodies of the other two children lay on either side of the headless corpse, and all rested in such mathematical precision as to lend color to the suspicion that they had been placed there before the house had been set on fire.

Jealous Suitor Retired.

Sheriff Smulser, who has been most industrious in investigating the terrible mystery, advocates the theory that the woman herself met death in the flames which consumed her house. He was one of the party that discovered the remains, and he expresses the belief that, from the position of the bodies with relation to the house, it is probable that Mrs. Guinness may have been burned entirely from the body. Opposed to this belief, which is shared by many others, is the fact that the searchers could not cover absolutely no trace of the head of the adult female body. Mrs. Guinness

had an exceptionally large amount of gold filling in her teeth, and this, in addition to the impossibility of destroying teeth except in the very best kind of fire, and the further fact that the searchers naturally would have been the lookout for every portion of a burned body possible to be recovered, accounts for the belief held by many others that the burned body of the adult female was not that of Mrs. Guinness, but another of similar address and that Mrs. Guinness herself is still at large.

Property to Orphans.

The story that the woman did not perish in the flames is objected to further, because of the fact that she left in her safety deposit vault a considerable amount of cash and also the means for the support of her children. The event of the death of herself and children to an orphan asylum in Chicago. This fact eliminates the motive for the woman's substitution of another body in place of her own, with the possible exception that she herself might be financially interested in the asylum which she made the beneficiary in her will.

Fascinated Many Men.

The case of Laporte appears to be an indication of the power the woman exerted over men. Unusually as she was, she seems to have had a peculiar fascination over the members, particularly of her own nationality. One of the bodies uncovered appears to have been that of a woman, who, it is alleged, made the woman a beneficiary of his generosity.

Searches for Bodies in Ruins of Farm House.

Helgelein, the man whose murder brought about the downfall of the murderous scheme, is known to have turned into the woman's hands a very shortly before his disappearance about 1890. His brother, Asie K. Helgelein, who instituted the inquiries which it is believed induced the woman to fire her house and drop out of sight, either by death or otherwise, apparently was aided by Mrs. Guinness as one of her future victims.

After he had had correspondence with the First National bank of Laporte and with Mrs. Guinness about the prolonged absence of his brother, she wrote him, urging him to dispose of his brother's cattle, horses and land and bring the proceeds with him and together they would go in search of the missing brother. Instead of doing that Asie Helgelein went to Laporte and put at his disposal the information in the hands of the authorities. Before this he had such communication with one of the Laporte banks as undoubtedly led Mrs. Guinness to believe that her murderous methods were about to be uncovered. A letter which apparently was a copy of the investigation of the Guinness household was received in Laporte the day before the house was burned and in which, presumably, its mistress and her children.

Surpasses All Other Cases.

The total number of deaths for which Mrs. Guinness is believed to be responsible is now 15, with grave prospects that this will be materially increased—more than 100, it is believed. The most recent days of the Holmes investigation, the "Castle" murderer never was accused of killing more than 35 people. The total number of deaths for which the woman was proved to be responsible numbered less than a dozen.

How Olive Oil is Made.

The finest olive oil in the world is made in Tuscany—the garden of Italy. The trees blossom in Tuscany in the month of May. The fruit begins to mature in June and is generally in full maturity by January.

It is a risky crop, says What-to-Eat, maturing as it does during the winter months, and is subject to frost and other causes of damage to the fruit.

Sometimes the fruit remains on the tree until the autumn, when it is picked, but which speedily develops rancidity. The process of extracting the oil is similar in the extreme to that of crushing in a mill to a uniform paste, then the paste is transferred to circular rollers, which are made of iron and fiber. A pile of these are placed in a press and the exuding oil flows into a collecting tank below.

Essential conditions are that the mill should not revolve too fast, or it will overheat the olive paste and give a bad flavor to the oil. The fact that the mill should not be of metal for the same reason.

Under the degree of pressure, when the object is to get the finest quality of oil—"oil from the pulp," as the term runs—must not be excessive. The grinding is essentially a cold-draw oil. Heat is prejudicial to quality.

However, when all possible care has been taken in the process, the oil remains that olive oil can be made only from freshly gathered, perfectly sound, ripe olives of the proper kind, which are not subject to an aqueous temperature can never yield a delicately flavored oil.

The newly made oil must be allowed to settle. It is then clarified simply by passing it through purified cotton wool in a suitable filter. Really fine olive oil calls for no other treatment whatever, chemical or otherwise, to render it fit for the table. On this point it is well to be clear, as reference has been made before now to processes for refining olive oil so as to obtain a specially fine quality—one might as well try to "paint the lily or adorn the rose."

After being brought to America the clarified oil is preserved in warehouses in large slate-lined tanks, holding up to 30,000 gallons each, wherein the oil is kept at an equable temperature. For bottling and can filling purposes it is transferred by pipes from these large tanks to other smaller tanks in the packing rooms.

the result that the woman and her children died.

It is interesting to note that the woman, who appears to have been for a considerable time on very friendly terms with his employer, the Mrs. Guinness, will be absolutely sure, any malice, although he was arrested several times at the instigation of the widow, he is known to have declared that he could "send the woman over the road."

Setting aside the theory that the woman did her murderous work alone, Lamphere logically appears in the light of a possible accomplice. However, he has been the recipient of considerable information with regard to the visits of different people to the Guinness farm, and he has shown a most unparent willingness to talk, coupled with the respectability of his antecedents and his own lack of peripatetic, it is interesting to note that he is not guilty or was at best a mere tool in the hands of an exceptionally intelligent and cold-blooded murderer, who held him by her devious lures and impelled him through her favors to do and indirectly, in the same inhuman and inhuman way, his lips.

French Chemical Scorecard.

From the London Globe.

According to recent experiments by Semilas Tetaud, a widely known French agriculturist, wheat and other cereals can be protected against the ravages of crabs, which are particularly fond of the grain when the sprouts are just pushing above the ground, by treating the seeds before they are sown with a mixture of coal tar, petroleum and phosgene gas.

This treatment, which delays the growth of the seed for a day or two, does not injure the seed, and the wheat which is sown after the sprouts have attained a larger growth, which they are not so susceptible to the ravages of the crabs.

Holmes Case Eclipsed.

The discovery of the bodies of almost a score of presumable victims of this fiendish woman on the grounds of her suburban home at Laporte and the developments that undoubtedly will come with further investigation already indicate the case of this woman will eclipse even the wholesale murders of H. H. Holmes, whose operations extended from Chicago, Philadelphia and from Indianapolis to Canada. The score of Holmes' victims, as near as it can ever be figured, ran well into the thirties. His operations extended over a considerable period of years, and the unraveling of the black skein of his criminal career contained the attention of the police of the entire country for many months.

Woman Master of Crime.

In the present case, the disclosures of which have made the world stand agape, the preponderance of evidence so far uncovered indicates that the supreme master of criminology was a woman, who superficially was coarse, almost vulgar, and not accredited, even by those who knew her best, with even average intelligence.

Yet this woman, it now appears, has been able to outwit for many years her neighbors and the police of several communities. In her suburban home near Laporte there is no question but that she did to death at least 15 people, dismembered their bodies from which the bodies of an as yet untold number of victims were taken and without ceremony dumped in holes in the barnyard or thrown into vaults, was the clearing house for a band of murderers whose principal scenes of operation was Chicago and the larger cities, and with whom Mrs. Guinness, herself formerly a Chicago woman, was closely connected.

It is another theory, which her supporters would indicate that the woman herself committed all the crimes, dismembered the bodies, and profited by her own hand and profited from their money and private effects.

Mystery in Tale.

Except for the increasing number of gruesome exhibits, the latter theory would probably have the greatest weight. But in the light of discovery of fresh tracks and indications of the way to come it seems scarcely credible that any person, however astute, capable, cold-blooded and versed in the

MRS. GUNNESS AND HER CHILDREN.



ALL ROADS THAT LEAD TO GOD ARE GOOD

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

IT IS always a compliment when our friends want us to think just as they think about the matters in this world or the worlds to come. It is a proof of their interest in us, and of their solicitude regard for our welfare.

Every man naturally believes his own ideas the true ones; and when he wants us to hold the same ideas he wishes us to have the best life can offer from his viewpoint.

There is no kind of heaven made by the creator or imagined by man to which I have received amiable invitations to accept as my ideal by kindly disposed friends.

Fortunately my belief includes almost every doctrine, heavy and knowing reincarnation to be a fundamental fact, I hope it may be my privilege to see these realms in time. A man who has lived six decades writes me upon the question of prayer and belief, and among other things says: "I have never believed in the world God ever dispenses special favors; if so, then in doing it he must of necessity do away with the source of 370 children the other month in Ohio, the Ironquols theatre? Does he ever grant you a little favor? Then why does he send me heart-rending griefs as you have had in your life?"

To reply to the last query first, no grief of trouble or sorrow came in my life for which I am not deeply grateful today, because I have come to an understanding of why every experience was sent to me, and why every seeming misfortune which confronted me at various periods, as they confront every individual, was an important part of my greatest happiness afterward. My want, my woe, my sorrow, and my mourning, all were needed lessons for my betterment.

I believe in a creator. Not the personal God of Genesis, but a vast unthinkable God, the very God who formed this glorious system of worlds beyond worlds, suns beyond suns, universes beyond universes.

Astronomers have discovered over 5,000,000 burned out suns, all larger than our own sun, which will in time burn out and circle around with other corpses of suns in space. But new suns will be born, new planets will live again, in these planets as well as already existing ones, and others from the inconceivable beginning to the now.

Death, the transition of the spirit from one life to another, is of small consideration to the creator of such a universe. It is because we cannot see the very things which we call God "cruel" to let people die when we pray for them to live. In a great scheme, the only important matter is the building of character. Whether that is done here or some-

where else does not matter. When people come to that knowledge, then great calamities which result from cheaply and dishonestly built ships, school buildings, tenement houses and bridges and railroads will no longer occur. When the religion of the world enters into the work of its individual nine-tenths of the disasters which we now place on the shoulders of God will be averted.

When men are educated to an understanding of the geological

formation of the earth they will cease to build enormous cities on volcanic rocks or under the shadow of fire-spitting mountains. And when, in spite of all these wise precautions, disaster comes, they will understand it is only an incident in the unbroken chain of events. Again my friend says: "The other day you said you loved to hear the expression 'God bless you.' So I do I, but do you really think the request ever caused God to do to humanity what

otherwise he would not have done had the 'God bless you' never been uttered.

"I want to impress you with the fact that until I was 40 years old I believed that God dished out to every one just what he wanted them to have, the same as a boarding house woman would fix dishes which she thought would suit her boarders. I don't think so now. Cause an effect, 'survival of the fittest' and the 'laws of nature' rule this universe. I do not think that sends a storm which would kill a hundred people can ever did, or ever will avert the calamity."

My belief causes me to understand that direct waves in the center of the brain is an electric wave, and if the wave takes the form of a "God bless you," it carries with it a part of divinity. Every good, kind, tender, loving thought has great force, because "of such is the kingdom of heaven;" in other words, of such electric waves in the center of the brain made which we call God. An evil thought or a curse can harm only the mind that sends it out. The waves of curses are created by mortals; they have no origin in divinity. So far as the power of the universe is concerned, the human beings knew the unlimited power of concentrated thought they could use from a part of the head. At the time, because they are the greatest expression of nature.

They are on the eve of vast discoveries in this realm, and all of the great miracle workers and Yogis of old proclaimed to be possible is to be proven scientifically true by our means of physical science in the next 50 years. Possibly sooner. Already it has been proven that gold can be changed to a base metal by and by the reverse will be proven, and then the alchemists' fables will be found to be fact. So far as the power of the universe is concerned, this wonderful universe will be revealed.

Another comment of my correspondent: "Miss Stone wired in a hurry to the United States for the \$70,000; she said she would be killed if it didn't come quick. Just as soon as she reached home she declared that 'she knew that God wouldn't let her suffer, and that she never believed she would be hurt.' If she told the truth she added the brigands to extort the \$70,000 from her American friends, and she would have been arrested for helping them perpetrate a fraud, thereby by false pretenses obtaining money unlawfully.

Prayer oftentimes brings an answer by awakening the mind of the one who sends it forth to a material method of proceeding. Personally, I believe only in prayer for light and guidance until we have used every possible means within our power as intelligent human beings to accomplish a result.

Otherwise we become spiritual loafers and mendicants. The soul who prays for answers to be revealed to him without studying his lessons deserves no response. And none will be given. He is in a state of mental torpor, and he will make far greater progress and receive great illumination if he asks each day that light and guidance and strength be given to him by

HOW FLOODS MAY BE CHECKED

WESTERN IRRIGATION PLANS

WHEN President Roosevelt confers with the governors next month about the conservation of natural resources, he will discuss the five irrigation projects now under construction, a fine illustration of such conservation.

It will be shown at the conference that these five irrigation projects will give high agricultural value to a total of about one million acres of land. That is their direct purpose. But incidentally they will have a material effect in doing away with floods, clarifying the waters of the Missouri, and maintaining a steady flow in those rivers, and developing a large amount of power. The five objects to which the president will be able to point are the irrigation projects known as the Milk and Sun river in Montana, the Shoshone in Idaho, the Belle Fourche in South Dakota, and the North Platte in Wyoming and Nebraska.

The chief object of each project depends upon catching and holding flood waters which formerly ran off unhelpfully into the sea, and by storing them and augmenting the floods of the dread Missouri. In connection with each project a great dam is being constructed. With it will be formed a man-made reservoir, in which the flood waters of the spring and fall will be held. The smallest of these reservoirs will hold enough to cover 263,770 acres of land with water one foot in depth, and the largest will hold enough to cover 1,025,000 acres to the depth of one foot. Altogether the reservoirs will have a storage capacity of 2,586,770 acre feet.

The importance of each project is known, through figures gathered during many years, that each reservoir is large enough to hold all of the flood water which the particular river will pour into the lower river. Upon the South Platte, which also contributes to the floods of the Missouri, the reservoir has no reservoir. But private interests, encouraged by the success of government irrigation, are already constructing dams, and it is thus cooperating in restraining floods.

In a similar way the Milk and Sun rivers are being directly affected by the headwaters of the Missouri in northern

HOW OLIVE OIL IS MADE.

Fruit is Crushed into a Paste From Which the Oil is Pressed.

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Sometimes the fruit remains on the tree until the autumn, when it is picked, but which speedily develops rancidity. The process of extracting the oil is similar in the extreme to that of crushing in a mill to a uniform paste, then the paste is transferred to circular rollers, which are made of iron and fiber. A pile of these are placed in a press and the exuding oil flows into a collecting tank below.

Essential conditions are that the mill should not revolve too fast, or it will overheat the olive paste and give a bad flavor to the oil. The fact that the mill should not be of metal for the same reason.

Under the degree of pressure, when the object is to get the finest quality of oil—"oil from the pulp," as the term runs—must not be excessive. The grinding is essentially a cold-draw oil. Heat is prejudicial to quality.

However, when all possible care has been taken in the process, the oil remains that olive oil can be made only from freshly gathered, perfectly sound, ripe olives of the proper kind, which are not subject to an aqueous temperature can never yield a delicately flavored oil.

The newly made oil must be allowed to settle. It is then clarified simply by passing it through purified cotton wool in a suitable filter. Really fine olive oil calls for no other treatment whatever, chemical or otherwise, to render it fit for the table. On this point it is well to be clear, as reference has been made before now to processes for refining olive oil so as to obtain a specially fine quality—one might as well try to "paint the lily or adorn the rose."

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western Montana; the Shoshone project will affect the Big Horn, whose waters ultimately enter the Missouri; the Belle Fourche project will affect the Cheyenne, which has a reputation for floods; and which adds to the volume of the Missouri.

The holding of 2,586,770 acre feet of water by these five reservoirs means more than a million acres of land in preventing floods. It means that these waters lose their power to carry down and sit into the Missouri. And if it were not for mud and silt the Missouri would not have such an avil reputation. It is this burden of solids which clogs the channel, and which causes the cutting of new channels and the destruction of agricultural land.

In the dry season the five reservoirs will be the means of swelling the flow of the Missouri and its tributaries. From the reservoirs the water will be gradually released, and it will be used for irrigation, but not all. And that which is used upon the land it is estimated upon good authority that into 30 per cent will find its way into the streams, largely through seepage.

All of these irrigation projects except the Milk will guarantee to each neighborhood abundance of very cheap electricity. As construction has progressed a little further, the municipalities in the direct vicinity of each project will be able to obtain the installation of the necessary machinery and operation of the plant will be in the hands of the Federal government temporarily, the reclamation act providing the necessary legal authority. Power will be sold at cost, an allowance being made for operating and maintaining, and depreciation. At the end of five years, after the cost of the reclamation construction has been made good by the land owners, the power will pass into their possession. Thus the communities in the vicinity of each of the five reservoirs will have a perpetual ownership of a public utility, which will become more and more prized as the fuel supply diminishes. The cheapness of the electricity will make it serviceable in families of very moderate means for light, for power in great many activities about the farm, and ultimately for heat.

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