

# FISHER ASKED COURT TO BE LENIENT IN DISBARMENT SENTENCE

## MURDERER OF LIGHT OF FINCH



James A. Finch, from a sketch taken at the city prison yesterday afternoon by Seid.

(Continued from Page One.)

For years what his loss has been. And even the wife and mother realizes only for a few moments at a time the terrible nature of the crime. The assassin gave his victim no chance for his life but shot him to death from behind as Mr. Fisher sat at his desk. Mr. Fisher never saw the man who killed him. Finch entered the office where Fisher and his stenographer, Miss Verha, Burkhardt, were sitting. He said "Hello, Ralph." At the same instant he reached in his hip pocket and pulled out the revolver which he had purchased specially for his murderous work and fired.

The first bullet struck the lawyer at the base of the skull. As the mortally wounded man fell back, the bullet struck the impact of the bullet, Finch fired again, but missed, the bullet breaking the pane of glass of the window. A third time the assassin pulled the trigger and a bullet fell to the floor stone dead, a bullet through his brain. He fell on his right shoulder, his legs under the desk and partly bent. He must have been dead before his head reached the floor, and he never moved again.

The murderer hesitated only long enough to make sure that he had committed his work, then with the smoking revolver still in his hand, left the office and ran down the corridor to the elevator, which he entered at the same time as did the assassin. The stenographer who had witnessed the crime and who, frightened almost into hysteria, had fled from the room with the sound of the shot, saw the murderer enter the elevator and ran after him. He laid his hand on Finch to hold him, but the murderer reached for his pocket to draw the revolver again, but at that instant Chester V. Dolph ran in, and with a revolver in his hand, Dr. Leonard and Mr. Dolph succeeded in wresting the gun from Finch's grasp and led him back down the corridor to the door of the room where he had slain.

The police were immediately notified by the stenographer and the murderer shot, though when he telephoned, Dr. Davis did not know who it was. Officer Casser, Patrolman Deane, Officer Leley and Detective Tichenor arrived within a few minutes and took charge of the murderer, who was being held by Dr. R. Scully Dr. Dolph.

Dr. Dolph, Finch was taken into the room where his victim lay dead upon the floor. He immediately rushed to the body of the man, who had been shot, and allowed to view his work. But he expressed no regret at what he had done, and he had no interest in the man whose nervous and useful life he had a few minutes before snuffed out. His only thought was for his own safety.

"Send for the sheriff," said for the sheriff, he implored, evidently fearing that the presence of the police would mean his summary punishment for the cowardly murder.

**Dentist Arrives First.**  
Dr. W. A. Roberts, a dentist whose office is in the room where the murder was committed, was working with a patient when he heard the shots and the screams of the frightened stenographer. He immediately rushed to Mr. Fisher's room, empty at that moment of all but the dead body of the attorney, and tried to revive Mr. Fisher, but in vain, as he was too late. The man was dead.

Finch was at once upon the arrival of the officers removed to the city jail, but he was taken shortly afterward to the county jail, where he now is. He refused to make any statement when questioned, and after the police plan the insanity dodge, and denying all knowledge of the affair, though it is evident that he had carefully planned it to murder Mr. Fisher.

**Know By Intuition.**  
Mrs. Fisher knew by intuition, and through the fact that for some time she had been told that an attempt was to be made upon her husband's life, who it was that lay dead on that third floor. She immediately rushed to go to Mr. Fisher's office to see him. They were delayed a few minutes or they would have been there before Finch arrived. As it was they reached the Mohawk building when the crowd was packed about the entrance, attracted by the rumor that a murder had been committed.

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James A. Finch's friends have already begun to explain his reasons for shooting Ralph Fisher. The assassin's law partner, C. H. Piggott, who will represent Finch in court, declared yesterday afternoon that the direct cause of the shooting was the breaking of an agreement between him and Finch concerning the prosecution of the disbarment proceedings against the latter. Mr. Piggott further expressed the opinion that Finch was not in his right mind and had been in a dazed condition for several days prior to the tragedy.

If they attempt to prove, however, that Finch has been acting strangely for the past few days, they will find a disbarment proceeding pending against him in Finch's own office. Piggott says that Finch has been dazed and hysterical since his suspension by the supreme court, and that he is a member of the office, says that he has been cheerful and in the best of spirits, but he noticed nothing out of the way with him, and that he attended to his work regularly, even dictating a lengthy brief yesterday morning.

**Stenographer Tells Story.**  
Miss Verha H. Burkhardt, Mr. Fisher's stenographer, a pretty girl of 20, living at 428 East Thirty-fourth street, is too nervous and worked up over the terrible crime of which she was the only eye witness to be able to tell a very lengthy story. She says that Mr. Fisher was seated at his desk working when Finch came through the outer room to the door of the room where she and Mr. Fisher were. She was standing in the door of the private office at the moment. "Hello, Ralph," she said. At the same instant he reached into his pocket and drew the revolver, a .38 caliber Iver-Johnson, and as Fisher started to turn his head to see who had spoken, the assassin fired. "I was very close to him when he fired," says Miss Burkhardt. "I turned and ran to the door, screaming, I suspect."

That is all Miss Burkhardt knows about the matter. She did not reenter the room after Fisher was shot, but was taken at once to her home.

**Threatened Over Phone.**  
The telephone messages always came from the same man, Mr. Fisher judged from the voice, but the man always refused to give his name. The messages were in the nature of warnings, the one sending them telling Mr. Fisher that he would be killed unless he stopped the disbarment proceedings, that Finch wrote the anonymous letters, and was the one who called up over the phone and warned Fisher to discontinue the proceedings. An effort will be made to connect Finch with the two letters, which are in the hands of the police now.

**Send for His Partner.**  
Soon after being taken to the county jail Finch sent for Piggott, who happened to be in the city, and had a short conference with him before the latter was taken from the jail whether or not he was going to defend his partner, but stated that he would not say anything definite in regard to it. He also stated that he had no statement to make to anybody at present.

**Coroner Will Hold Inquest Over Body of Fisher Monday.**  
An inquest will be held over the body of Ralph B. Fisher in the Dunning chapel at 9 o'clock Monday afternoon. Miss Verha H. Burkhardt, Mr. Fisher's stenographer, who was standing but a few feet from Finch when he fired the fatal shot, will be the only eye witness, will be the most important witness summoned.

**Chief Justice Bean Pays High Tribute to Ralph B. Fisher.**  
Chief Justice Bean today paid a high tribute to the memory of Ralph B. Fisher, who was killed by the assassin James A. Finch. He said that he had known Finch for many years, and that he was a man of high character and of great ability. He said that he was deeply grieved by the death of Finch, and that he hoped that the law would be able to bring the murderer to justice.

**Finch's Record as Publisher.**  
Finch's record as a publisher is not very bright. He was the publisher of the "Populist" for a short time, but he was not successful. He was also the publisher of the "Oregon Silver" for a short time, but he was not successful. He was also the publisher of the "Oregon Evening Herald" for a short time, but he was not successful.

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# DOOR KEPT CLOSED FOR FINCH BY LAWYER

Ralph B. Fisher was born in Smithfield, Polk county, on a farm about four miles from Dallas in 1882. He was the son of C. G. Fisher, a pioneer of Oregon, who came across the plains in the early days and established a home in Polk county. The father was prominent resident of Polk county during his life and was elected to the legislature, serving as representative in the session of 1889.

Ralph Fisher received his education at Monmouth, entering the normal school there in 1898 and graduated from the institution in the next year. He then taught school at Woodburn and Hubbard for several terms, reading law during his leisure hours.

Mr. Fisher went to Idaho in 1902, where he entered the law office of Thomas Jolley, at Moscow, where he completed his law studies and was admitted to the bar of that state. After practicing there for some time he came to Portland in 1906, entering into a partnership with G. Everett Baker. This partnership was dissolved some time ago, Mr. Fisher opening law offices in the Mohawk building.

Mr. Fisher was made special prosecutor for the grievance committee of the Bar association a short time after the annual meeting a year ago, which office he held, until the last meeting of the association, when he resigned the office for another term.

Although Mr. Fisher did not hesitate to accept the position of prosecutor for the grievance committee, he was personally vindictive toward Finch or other men whom he convicted. When the news of the action of the state bar in suspending Finch in the practice of law was received, Fisher told a Journal reporter that he had been "stomping" Finch from permanent disbarment.

"Finch is a young man," he said, "and may turn out all right in the end. I do not believe in turning a prosecutor by trade and during the Populist movement edited a Populist newspaper in Albany when this died he worked on papers and in printing shops in Albany and later went to work for Ernest Hofer of the Salem Capital. He was a steady worker and industrious, but he was not a lawyer, and he never regularly. He took the examinations and was admitted to the bar 10 or 12 years ago.

**Fisher Made Plea to Court for Leniency.**  
Salem, Or., Nov. 28.—The generous attitude of the court in granting toward James Finch is splendidly portrayed by the following letter written to the supreme court regarding Finch's case.

"To the Honorable Justices of Supreme Court, Salem, Or.—Directing your attention to the fact that Finch is a young man, who at either a charge with murder in the first degree or have been convicted in some degree, and all but three of these are in custody of the state in the order in which they were incarcerated, are Lem Woon, Yee Gaung, Edward Hugh Martin, Tony Jackson, Carl Logsdan, John Johnson, Charles Bickelstorf, Harry Daily and James A. Finch. In No. 7 are Jack La Ross and William Barkley, and in still another number in John Johnson, Logsdan and Barkley are federal prisoners.

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# AWARDED HONORS FOR GOVERNOR

(Salem Bureau of The Journal.)  
Salem, Nov. 28.—Many honors have come to Governor Chamberlain since it has been learned that he will be present at the next meeting of the conservation convention at Washington. In addition to the invitation of the administration to represent all the 46 governors at the meeting at the opening of the conference Tuesday, December 2, and to address the irrigation congress that will meet at Pittsburgh the same week, the governor has been asked to be one of a committee to present to the president, vice president and speaker of the house the resolutions adopted by the convention to the great waterways convention.

A letter was received by the governor today from Secretary Saunders saying that he was president of the waterways organization, W. K. Kavanagh, had requested that Governor Chamberlain be made one of the number to present the need of better harbors and better waterways to President Roosevelt. John Cordale, chairman of the Speaker Cannon.

The governor will leave for the east over the O. R. & N. Monday morning. During his absence, about 25 days, Secretary of State Benson will act as governor. Upon his return the governor will have a number of tasks to perform because of the near approach of the 1909 session of the legislature.

**Eight of Finch's Cell Mates Face Murder Charges.**  
When James A. Finch was placed behind the bars in the county jail yesterday afternoon he became an inmate of corridor No. 2, and shared the cell with eight other men charged with taking the lives of their fellow men. In all there are now 12 men in the cell, and the other six are in the order in which they were incarcerated, are Lem Woon, Yee Gaung, Edward Hugh Martin, Tony Jackson, Carl Logsdan, John Johnson, Charles Bickelstorf, Harry Daily and James A. Finch. In No. 7 are Jack La Ross and William Barkley, and in still another number in John Johnson, Logsdan and Barkley are federal prisoners.

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**FREE COUPON**  
Mark location of Eruption on Diagram and mail to:  
DR. W. S. RICE  
345 Main St., Adams, N. Y.  
Age.....  
Time Erupted.....  
Cause of Rupture.....  
Name.....  
Address.....

**FINCH DRANK BRANDY AND BITTERS**  
Walls in the saloon of S. A. Arata on Third street near Stark, shortly after noon yesterday, Finch was accosted by a man soliciting orders for dressed poultry. Finch ordered a pair of spring chickens sent to his home at 223 Co-

**FINCH'S RECORD AS PUBLISHER**  
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)  
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**Fireplace Goods**  
We are headquarters for Fireplace Goods of all descriptions. Our stock is the largest to be found in the northwest, and consists of Andirons, Fire Sets, Screens, Coal Hods, Bellows, Brushes, etc., in both Black and Solid Brass. We have just received a shipment of these goods, containing a number of very low priced Andirons and Fire Sets, and if you are in need of anything of this description you will find it to your interest to inspect our stock early this week.