

**SWEARS ATTEMPT MADE TO BRIBE HER IN MURDER CASE**

(Continued from Page One.)

Miss Trumbull to help influence the jury to accept the bribe.

**Trial of Highway Talk.**

"This woman may be a notorious sinner," said Fouts, in arguing before the court. "Every time a big case is tried comes this talk of bribery. I am sick and tired of it. I think we ought to be allowed to go into this to determine the responsibility of these serious attacks."

Judge Morrow, while he would not allow the attorneys to pursue the bribery question further, admonished the jury not to read matter in the newspapers relating to the trial.

Strong corroboration for Miss Trumbull's damaging testimony against Webb was given this morning by Patrolman W. C. Epps, who talked with her soon after she returned from her automobile ride to the road houses with Webb and Mrs. Kerah, after the arrests were made. Epps said she then told him of seeing Mrs. Kerah with a large roll of bills, that Webb tried to "make a date" with her while they were dancing at the Seven Mile House, and that Webb told her he had made a large sum of money for Mrs. Kerah that day.

**Bell Boy Knows Much.**

John C. McCue, attorney for the defense, brought out most of this on cross examination and vainly sought to break the force of the statements he elicited. He tried to make it appear that Miss Trumbull did not tell of these things until the next day, after she had been quizzed by the detectives. But Epps insisted the woman told him in his first interview with her.

By the testimony of Jesse H. Long, bell boy at the New Grand Central hotel, Deputy District Attorney Fitzgerald, in charge of the prosecution, expects to clinch his theory that hastily preparations for the murder of Johnson were made by Webb and Mrs. Kerah before Johnson was killed.

Long, who was called to the stand shortly before noon, will testify that when the new trunk ordered by Mrs. Kerah to take the place of the one into which Johnson's body was crammed was delivered at the hotel, he saw Johnson alive. If this be the fact, the state holds it has proved its contention that Webb and Mrs. Kerah conspired to kill Johnson long before the deed was committed.

**Testimony Corroborated.**

Testimony corroborating this theory was given yesterday by David Stein from whom Mrs. Kerah purchased the new trunk, and by Albert Link, the expressman who hauled the trunk to the hotel. Stein said he sold the trunk between 3 and 4 o'clock on the afternoon of the murder, June 20, and Link was positive he called for the trunk between 2:30 and 3:30 o'clock. The bellboy says the trunk was delivered at the hotel about 4 o'clock. That Johnson was not killed before 4 o'clock is held by the state to be shown by the testimony of Long, who saw him in the hotel after 3 o'clock, and the fact that the body was still warm when it was found at the depot.

Evidence tending to show Johnson was not killed by the blows on the head, but was strangled to death after he had been knocked unconscious, was brought out by the testimony of Drs. Ray M. Matson and S. C. Slocum, who performed the autopsy on the body of Johnson.

**Johnson Was Strangled.**

The effect of this effort to show an atrocious, cold-blooded crime was sought to be avoided by the defense by showing that marks on the body made by

the shirt sleeve tied around the neck of the victim might have resulted after death. Dr. Slocum declared the results of the autopsy showed strangulation before death. Dr. Matson, who was not cross-examined, gave equally damaging testimony.

Dr. Matson described wounds on each side of the head, penetrating to the bone. Lines on the neck indicated strangulation, there being small hemorrhages in the skin produced by pressure. Vessels inside the windpipe were ruptured and it contained a frothy fluid, all pointing to death by suffocation. There was no fracture of the skull, but small hemorrhages on the brain, due either to blows on the head or alcoholism. Dr. Matson gave the opinion death was caused by strangulation, following concussion of the brain.

Dr. Slocum's testimony followed the same lines. He gave the opinion the two blows on the head caused concussion of the brain, but not sufficient to cause death, the job of the slayer being completed by strangulation.

**Identifies Bank Roll.**

By the testimony of J. O. Tiffany, paying teller of the Traders' National bank of Spokane, Wash., the date Johnson drew his money out of the bank in Spokane was fixed. Tiffany identified a check by which Johnson drew his balance of \$1999 on June 17, three days before he was slain.

The teller also identified the bank roll of bills taken from Mrs. Kerah as the money he paid to Johnson, particularly two bills, on which were traces of the receiving stamp of the bank. He identified a picture of Johnson, which was admitted in evidence, over the objections of the defense.

That Webb and Mrs. Kerah were casting greedy eyes on Johnson's bank roll even when he drew the money was one theory brought out by the paying teller's testimony. When he paid out the money, he said, another man stood behind Johnson and spoke with him. A woman was standing near and went out either with Johnson and the other man or just behind them.

A. H. Davis, proprietor of the Willamette hotel at Sixth and Stark streets, where Webb, Mrs. Kerah and the latter's little boy went late in the afternoon of June 20 and engaged a room, was an unimportant witness.

**Cared for Child.**

Mrs. Alice Davis, wife of the preceding witness, told of taking care of the boy by request of Mrs. Kerah, who said they were strangers in town and intended to go for an auto ride. The little boy told her his name was Willie Webb. When they first came she did not notice any bandage on Webb's hand, but when they came again, an hour or so later, Webb's hand was bandaged.

Frank M. Dane, deputy coroner, was recalled to clinch the formal proof of death of Johnson. He said the body was lifeless, but warm, when taken from the trunk.

Irene Trumbull in her testimony yesterday told of meeting Webb and Mrs. Kerah at the Cliff Inn on the night of June 20. Mrs. Kerah wanted her to

join them, and she agreed to do so as soon as she had returned to town with her escort, Will Harkins, and had "dressed" him. She is a hairdresser, and Mrs. Kerah had promised to give her some work, she said, so she thought to combine business and pleasure by the trip to the Seven Mile House.

**Tried to Make Date.**

Reaching the Seven Mile house about 1 a. m., she danced with Randall, the chauffeur, and with Webb. While dancing with Webb, she said he tried to make a date with her. She refused one dance with him, because he did not dance like she did, and he seemed offended. She later danced with him again, she said, and he remarked: "You don't like me, do you?"

She said he continued by telling her "I got Mrs. Johnson, that little woman with me, \$1999 today." She asked him how he made so much money in one day, but he made no reply.

On cross-examination, Mr. Fouts went into Miss Trumbull's past history. He traced her to several cities. She said she was divorced in Spokane about two years ago and has a child 8 years old. The child is in Portland and she is supporting it in the hall in front of room 119 in a roadhouse or grill until about five months ago, and came to Portland eight months ago. About five months ago, also, she took her first drink of intoxicants.

Miss Trumbull insisted she did not

drink to excess two cocktails while she was with Webb and Mrs. Kerah, or during the whole evening. Part of those she poured out, and the rest of the time she drank lemonade or ginger ale, without "spikes." She said she could feel the effect of the liquor, but her head was clear and she was not hilarious. She said she did not know a highball or the difference between a Manhattan and a Martini.

**Saw Johnson on Bed.**

Mrs. A. M. Tilley, housekeeper at the New Grand Central, testified she saw Webb in the hotel hat about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of June 20, at which time he asked her not to go into room 119, as there was a very sick man in there. About 20 minutes later she did go in to attend to the curtains, which were floating out of the window. On the bed she saw Johnson, stretched slantwise across the bed, as though asleep. She did not disturb him. The next she saw of either man was when Webb was helping load the trunk into an express wagon, shortly before 5 o'clock.

Mrs. Tilley said she saw Mrs. Kerah standing in the hall in front of room 119 with her head close to the door, as though listening to something within. This was after she saw Johnson on the bed. The theory of the state is that Webb at that moment was beating out the life of Johnson with the black-

jack while Mrs. Kerah stood guard at the door.

A dramatic moment came when Mrs. Tilley was called upon to point out the woman she saw standing in the hall in listening attitude. She scanned the woman in the court room closely and finally pointed her finger at Mrs. Kerah, who sat beside the jail matron, Mrs. Cameron. Mrs. Kerah avoided the glance of the accusing eye and tried to look disinterested while Mrs. Tilley was making the identification. Attorneys for the defense said they would admit Mrs. Kerah stood at the door as Mrs. Tilley testified.

**Found Blood on Trunk.**

Another story of the finding of the body in the trunk at the depot was told by W. L. R. Thrush, a baggage man. He was the one who first observed blood on the trunk.

A. H. Randall, a typical chauffeur,

was the driver who took Webb and Mrs. Kerah to the roadhouse the night of June 20. He testified the pair first accosted him on the street and asked several questions. He told them the price of the machine he drove was \$5 per hour, directed them to the Quail for dinner and told them where they could leave the little boy who was with them. They engaged the machine to call for them at 10 o'clock that evening.

When he went for them, said Randall, they wanted to know if there was "any excitement." He suggested the roadhouse and they said all right, they would try that. He drove them to the Lakeview and to the Cliff Inn, on the Linnton road. At each place they danced and drank.

**Another Woman in Party.**

At the Cliff Inn Mrs. Kerah made the acquaintance of Irene Trumbull, who was sitting with an escort at another table, and invited the stranger to join them. It was arranged that both parties return to town, where Miss Trumbull would sidetrack her escort and would then be picked up by the Webb-Kerah party for a trip to the Seven Mile house. This program was carried out.

The chauffeur said he was invited to drink each time Webb did, and several times he accepted. He believed he did not take more than half a dozen nips, because he had lives in his hands and

could not drink much. Webb was drinking whiskey and Mrs. Kerah beer. Neither became intoxicated. As for Miss Trumbull, she drank soft drinks and was sober all the way.

Albert Link, the expressman who hauled the new trunk purchased by Mrs. Kerah from Stein's store to the New Grand Central, said he was called to haul the trunk between 2:30 and 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon. Cross-examination failed to shake his testimony as to the time he hauled this trunk.

**Uncle Sam Investigates Oil Fields.**

(United Press Local Wire.) Los Angeles, Cal., Oct. 12.—Frank Pierce, assistant secretary of the interior, is in this city to begin an investigation of conditions in southern California oil fields. Alleged irregularities in titles to oil lands will be the principal object of his investigation, which precedes expected federal legislative activity this winter. His findings will probably be embodied in new laws to be drafted by the interior department and submitted to the next congress.

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