

ALLAN BYNON GIVES CLEAR EXPOSITION

Explains His Connection With the Evidence in the Kelso Murder Case

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Editor Statesman:

Some days ago the state press carried a story relative to my participation in solving the Kelso murder case. Sufficient time has elapsed for public opinion, at first aroused by the stories published, to give consideration to the facts of the case and therefore, because I prize my good name, I am writing you briefly concerning what actually transpired.

First of all, I am privileged by the government to maintain a private practice in addition to my work as assistant United States attorney. I have maintained a private office in Portland for several years. One of my clients, C. G. Hill by name, came to me some two weeks ago and asked me to find out for him if the information a friend of his had developed relative to the Kelso murder case was of any use to the authorities there, and if there was any reward offered. Mr. Hill did not name his friend, nor did he give me any further information concerning him. He informed me that his friend, acting as amateur detective, had established the identity of the owner of the gun used, as well as the name of the man who had borrowed the gun shortly before the date of the alleged murder. Mr. Hill did not know the names of any of these parties, and explained to me that his friend came to him for advice because if the friend's part in the case became known, bodily harm would come to him from the associates of the alleged murderer. I communicated Mr. Hill's request to Mr. Tom Ward, who said he had known the sheriff at Kelso for 25 years. Mr. Ward said he would ask Sheriff Studebaker of Kelso, if the information available was helpful to the authorities at Kelso, and ask if there was any reward therefor. Mr. Ward was in Kelso shortly thereafter, and informs me that he advised Sheriff Studebaker of Mr. Hill's enquiry. Sheriff Studebaker stated to Mr. Ward that this information was of great value to the authorities. He declared that the community had been in an uproar as the result of this murder and its consequences. He stated that \$40,000 could be raised in Kelso within 30 minutes if necessary for this information. The sheriff thereupon informed Mr. Ward that he would personally guarantee \$5,000 reward for this information, and that he would get the county commissioners' approval on the reward at once. This the sheriff did. The sheriff then came to

Portland, introduced himself to me, and stated the commissioners had approved the \$5,000 reward. He informed me, however, that the reward was conditioned on the conviction of the murderer. When Mr. Hill and his friend, whom I then met for the first time, were advised of this, they stated that they did not know the political situation in Kelso; that they disliked to speculate on the manner in which the case might be prosecuted, or on the verdict of a jury. They stated that there had evidently been an honest misunderstanding about the reward, and thereupon offered to take half the reward offered when the evidence developed was proven, and the other half when conviction was

obtained. The sheriff returned to Kelso that night with their offer, and next morning returned bringing with him the county commissioners, district attorney, the investigators, and Assistant Attorney General Sharp and his stenographer. When Mr. Hill arrived, the commissioners submitted a contract already drawn, and signed and sealed by the commissioners, and asked Mr. Hill to sign on behalf of his friend. Hill stated the contract called for more evidence than his friend could produce, so Mr. Sharp redrafted the contract to his stenographer, whereupon the contract was signed by Hill and the commissioners, and the matter closed, until the party returned to Kelso with their

murder case solved, whereupon they promptly repudiated the contract. My part in the transaction was altogether incidental, as I acted at all times in a purely private capacity as attorney for my friend and client, C. G. Hill. No demand was ever made upon any person. The only wrongful circumstance in the entire transaction occurred when Sheriff Studebaker asked me to advise my friend to accede to the sheriff's wishes, for which Sheriff Studebaker offered me the appointment as special prosecutor in the murder case, with \$1,000 as my fee. This offer I immediately refused. Several days after this contract was signed, Mr. Baker, one of the investigators who came with the

commissioners, informed me that before the party left Kelso to go to Portland with their contract, Mr. Sharp, assistant attorney general for the state of Washington, pointed out to the commissioners and the sheriff several loopholes he had purposely incorporated in the contract and gave the reasons why the contract was not binding stating that they could repudiate the contract as soon as they returned home. I am convinced that such conduct and such actions, combined with bad faith from the outset, explain why Kelso has been in turmoil and uproar for many months last past. Doubtless the Kelso authorities were unaware or indifferent to the consequences to me when they published their malicious libel relative to this matter.

I shall be very pleased if you see fit to publish any part or all of this letter, so that my friends and acquaintances in Marion county may know that my conduct in the matter was above reproach. Respectfully,
ALLAN A. BYNON,
Portland, Or., Oct. 16, 1925.

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CLUB RESUMES PROGRAM OFFICERS ARE ELECTED AT HAYESVILLE FRIDAY

The Hayesville Community Club resumed their meetings for the winter Friday night, and after a short business session the following officers were elected for the next three months: president, L. T. Reynolds; vice-president, W. M. Moriarty; secretary; treasurer, Mrs. C. W. Reed.

After two very fine selections rendered by the Moriarty family orchestra, president Lengren called on a number of those present for memories of days gone by or a good story to which the following persons responded, Mr. Mr. McAfee, Mr. Fox, Mr. Welch, and Mrs. Godsey.

It was then moved and seconded that the club have a Halloween evening program on the evening of October 30th.

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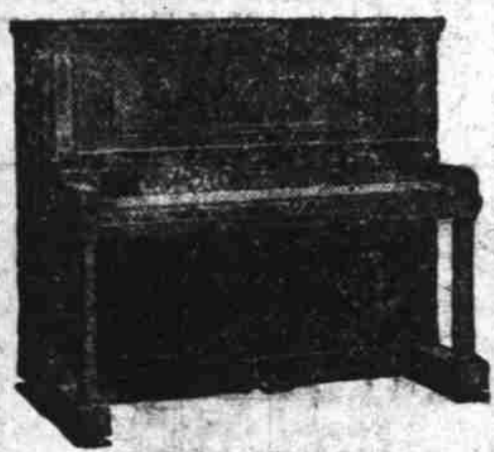
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