



THE SECOND TRAGEDY.

In Mitchell Family—Esther Shoots Brother at Seattle.

"Esther shot and killed George in depot this afternoon—L. T. Sandell."

Such was the dispatch sent from Seattle at 5 o'clock Thursday night to O. V. Hurt, that shocked Corvallis and sent a shiver of horror over all who listened to the direful news.

Liberated from prison only two brief days, after standing all the agony of suspense incident to a trial for murder in the first degree, George Mitchell was shot down in cold blood by the sister whom he desired to protect.

O. V. Hurt, the man who has perhaps suffered most from the unholy teachings and influences of the late Holy Roller Creffield, was nearly over come by the horrible news contained in Sandell's telegram. Mr. Hurt stated that he had known, when in Seattle, that the two women, Esther Mitchell and Maud Hurt-Creffield, were carrying loaded revolvers and they told Mr. Hurt at that time that Mitchell had better leave them alone. Mr. Hurt warned George Mitchell of danger and advised him not to molest the two fanatics, but to leave Seattle as soon as possible and avoid the possibility of further danger. That Mitchell would have been wise in following this advice is proven in the recent tragedy.

Mr. Hurt states that during the Mitchell trial, in Seattle, Maud Creffield and Esther Mitchell declared that they would willingly walk to Walla Walla to see George Mitchell hung.

With such cold-blooded, merciless natures, and with minds completely dominated by Creffieldism, to the apparent effacement of all womanly feelings, it is little wonder that George Mitchell was shot like a dog by a sister who, all along, has shown no appreciation of his love for her.

Whether Creffield's influence and Holy Rollerism will end even now, is a matter seriously doubted by the majority of Corvallis people familiar with the history of the cult.

Claimed By Death.

At the family home several miles southwest of Corvallis J. P. McBee died Friday night, from the rupture of a blood vessel in the head.

A week ago Sunday morning Mr. McBee was in Corvallis for the purpose of consulting a physician. On his way to the doctor's office he suddenly fell on the street, but managed to arise and proceeded to the office. An examination showed that Mr. McBee had suffered a slight stroke of paralysis and he was taken home. Tuesday two local physicians were hurriedly summoned by phone and Mr. McBee was found to be helpless from a second and more severe stroke. He was unconscious for about two days before death came to relieve him.

"Doc" McBee, as deceased was familiarly called, was born in Missouri in 1847, and came to Benton county when a young boy. He was one of the best known and wealthiest farmers of the county, and had just fairly started to enjoy life, having built a handsome new residence last fall and surrounded himself and family with every comfort.

The funeral occurred from the family home at two o'clock Sunday, and interment was in Newton cemetery.

The immediate survivors are the widow and four children.

Diving Chute.

Inspired by Milton Morgan and Byron Taylor, a large number of men and boys about the city made contributions toward the installation of a diving chute which has been placed on the river bank at the point known as the old C. & E. warehouse. Here men and boys gather of warm evenings and enjoy a plunge in the Willamette.

The chute which has just been placed in commission is 32 feet long and extends from the top of the bank to within about a foot of the surface of the water. When near the water the lower end of the chute turns up a trifle in order to give the "chuter" the proper skim over the surface of the river. The chute was constructed by Mr. Goldson at the Colbert furniture factory and is so placed that it can be raised or lowered at the pleasure of the bathers.

The chute is in the shape of a groove and it is lined with zinc after the fashion of a bathtub. Arrangements have been made whereby water can be run down the chute, thereby keeping it as slick as though it had been greased. The sensations of a slide through one of these chutes baffles description—one has to make the trip to know what it means. At any rate the boys have a chute which affords them much pleasure.

IN SALT LAKE PAPER.

Account of Oregonian Contest Party's Visit to Utah.

Last Monday's issue of the "Deseret Evening News," published in Salt Lake City, in telling of the visit of the Oregonian contest party, of which Miss Agnes Wilson of Corvallis is a member, has the following to say:

Yesterday they had reserved seats at the regular tabernacle services where they listened to a discourse by Elder C. W. Penrose. Following the services they were tendered a musical recital by Asst. Organist Edward Kimball, assisted by Emma Ramsey Morris, and in the evening visited the Holmes art gallery.

Today it was a case of "Wake and call me early," for the crowd was out sight-seeing with the dawn. This morning they did all there was to do in the way of a speedy "seeing Salt Lake" trip in automobiles and cars, and at noon repaired to the Commercial club for luncheon. The club was the host on this occasion, and there were present several prominent guests, besides the party.

To welcome them to Salt Lake and Utah a committee went to Ogden yesterday. It was composed of Gov. Cutler, Adj. Gen. Ray C. Naylor, N. P. Nelson, private secretary of the governor, Fisher Harris and J. C. McDonald. After the tabernacle recital Gov. Cutler thanked the organist and Mrs. Morris on behalf of the visitors for the courtesies shown them.

This afternoon following the luncheon the party went out to Saltair, from which they plan to return in time to catch their train out on schedule time, at 8 o'clock tonight.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Ralls and Mrs. Wesley Hinton, all of Monroe, visited friends in Corvallis Saturday and attended to business affairs.

Kenneth, the little son of Prof. and Mrs. G. A. Covell, has been suffering with an abscess on the back of his neck. Saturday the attending physician, opened the abscess, and the little patient is doing nicely.

Ethel Rooker, telephone operator for the Home Telephone company at Plainview and for a farmers' line connecting with the Home, committed suicide at the home of her brother-in-law Friday morning by shooting off the top of her head with a shot gun. The act was committed with suicidal intent, as established by the investigation held by the coroner a few hours later.

PLOTTED TO KILL.

And Willing to Face Punishment—The Seattle Tragedy.

Mrs. Maud Hurt-Creffield and Esther Mitchell are the ones, and the only ones, who plotted to kill George Mitchell, according to their own declarations.

They did not tell Mrs. Burgess Starr because they say she talks too much. They feared to tell other Rollers lest their plans should miscarry by some chance word being spoken.

The women both vow that their plans were made with utmost deliberation and they scoff at the idea that they are insane.

A relentless war is to be carried on in Seattle to drive every Holy Roller from the city and from King county.

Experts are to examine both women for insanity, but these will not be called upon to report their findings at present.

The state has abandoned any idea held immediately after the shooting of George Mitchell of treating the women as insane persons and is determined upon a vigorous prosecution.

"I am positive that no insanity exists in any member of the Mitchell family, that is any that I have seen, and our office will make a hard fight against this plea," said Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Miller in a statement Friday night.

"Since the first appearance of Esther Mitchell in this city, which was shortly after her brother shot Creffield," he continued, "I have been in contact with her a good deal, and she has never at any time displayed any form of insanity. We merely asked to have her retained in the custody of the police matron until after the other trial was completed.

"All stories that she was to become the mother of a new Christ was denied to me by the girls. I investigated these charges while in Portland and received corroboration of Esther's statement. She stated on several occasions that her brother had no reason for shooting Creffield on this account.

"I do not believe that any person outside of Esther and Mrs. Creffield will be implicated in this murder. I really believe that it was the result of their secret consultations. Of course, we cannot tell what evidence we might secure at a later date, but from information that we have in this office at the present time I feel safe in making the statement that Esther Mitchell and Mrs. Creffield are alone responsible for the murder of George Mitchell."

The women themselves corroborate Mr. Miller in his belief. Both positively assert that no act of theirs was ever more deliberate or less free from motives of insanity than the murder of Mitchell.

"I am not insane," declared Esther Mitchell today. "Before I killed my brother, Mrs. Creffield and myself talked it over, and we knew that we would be arrested and the law would punish us. After my arrest I told the chief everything.

"I only told the truth. I knew the law would not consider the reason which makes me believe I did right, and any way I don't see what harm it can do, for I am going to be punished anyway, I suppose.

"He," continued Miss Mitchell, speaking of Creffield and in answer to a question, "was a holy man. My brother was of the world and was defiled. It was right for him to be punished for what he did, and the law set him free.

"I have no money," she said reverting again to her own affairs, "and have no friends to whom I could go, if I would,

and I would not. If they ask me I shall say that I killed George, but I will never say that I was insane. I don't see what is the use of a lawyer, so far as I am concerned.

"I do not know Judge Upton. His message was read to me last night, but I never heard of him in my life, and I do not know why he should offer to help me. What can he do? I would not let him tell the jury that I was crazy, for I am not, and you say that is the only way I can keep from being hanged.

"Yes, George was set free that way, but he did not enjoy his liberty long, did he?" The girl spoke as calmly as if George had been a total stranger.

Esther Mitchell asked anxiously for Mrs. Creffield, and wistfully begged for a chance to see her.

"I would like to see her," she said. "I volunteered to shoot George." Then, apparently anxious to shield Mrs. Creffield further, she added: "She did not want me to, but we knew that she could not do it, for they were afraid of her, so I did it."

Mrs. Creffield does not attempt to justify her part in the shooting on the ground of religious training, nor does she insist that the Creffield influence is still alive. She was asked whether the spirit of Joshua had been heard or whether she expected him to return to her.

"I never said he would," she declared.

"But the men at the morgue all said you did after the funeral," it was urged.

"Yes, I suppose a great many things have been said. Oh, I didn't want to deny anything," she added wearily. "Then of the killing of Mitchell she stated:

"I had as much right to cause his death as he had to kill my husband. I would have done it myself if I could, but I could not because they were afraid of me. Esther knew this and volunteered to do it for me. At first I did not want her to, but when we had talked it over for a while I told her to do it if she could.

"I knew we would be arrested and I was afraid I would be killed before I was locked up. "Oh," she added hurriedly, "I should not have said that! But I didn't know what they would do with me."

"They can't hang me, can they?" she added. Both capital punishment and imprisonment for life were suggested as extremes, and of the latter she said:

"I don't care. I would be just as happy there in the state penitentiary as I have been since my husband was killed, or as I ever can be anywhere."

Mrs. Creffield, like Esther Mitchell, insisted that she was not insane.

The Toledo Leader says: Dr. R. D. Burgess, who was knocked out in a ball game at Waldport on the Glorious Forth, is still undergoing repairs, but expects to be out soon to look after his other patients.

Mrs. Emma Frink drove to Corvallis Saturday from her home in Philomath, and went to the Jesse Moses home for a brief visit. She was suddenly taken ill with heart trouble and a physician was summoned, and in a few hours she was resting easy. The intense heat no doubt had something to do with the illness.

E. C. Ogg, wife and two sons, are to leave Newton, Iowa, this week for Corvallis. They come for the purpose of joining O. J. Blackledge and family in a three weeks' camping expedition at Yaachatt, having come here three years ago for the same kind of a trip. Two thousand miles to go camping! and there are hundreds in Corvallis who never get outside the city limits for a vacation rest.

LOST—Big yellow cat, marked by having half of left ear cut off. One dollar for return. Notify farm or store.—Mrs. F. L. Miller.



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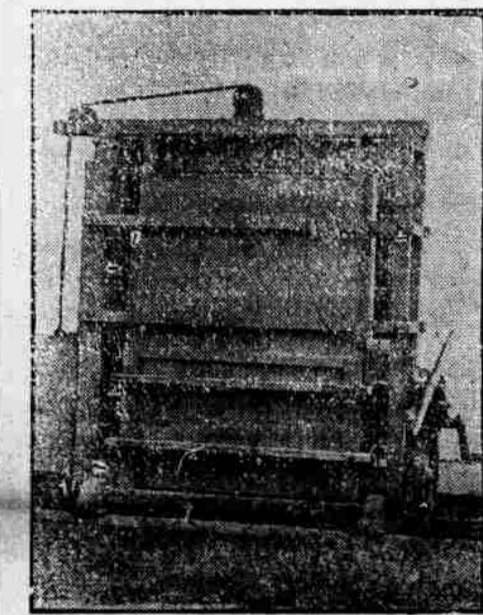
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