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THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.

BRISTOL WAS INSANE BEFORE BATHTUBBING

Thought to be "Queer," "Crazy" and "Very Peculiar" by Persons Who Knew Him

FIVE STUDENT WAITERS IMPLICATED IN AFFAIR

Boy Kept "Chained Knife" and Took Rifle to Bed With Him

Ralph Bristol, who, it is claimed by a story in the Portland Journal, was made a raving maniac by bathtubbing at the University dormitory, is now known to have been insane before the bathtubbing on Thursday evening, December 17, by five waiters. So noticeable were his peculiar actions that he was almost turned out of his room at 796 A street, soon after the opening of college, but the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Goodenough prevailed over the impulse of their daughter, who did not want to let young Bristol remain.

The cause ascribed for the insanity by those who knew the boy best are that his trouble was due to kidney complaint or some similar ailment from which he suffered severely; or over study, or some difficulty with his father. The boy took medicine for the first of these. Those who knew him thought that a wild look, which appeared in his eyes frequently before he was bathtubbed, was due to this pain.

Before he came to the University he was known as a hard student. Here he took little physical exercise, and he complained much that he could not concentrate his mind. Many times he said that he would not go home; that he and his family could not get along well together, and that his highest ambition was to please his parents, but that he could not.

From these things some of those most intimate with the lad thought that he had had trouble at home. Bristol gradually grew worse during the college year until the bathtubbing. Then he became very bad. As Mr. and Mrs. Goodenough were going away they would not let him stay in the house alone, and after consultation with Bristol's second cousin, Professor Lee, of the faculty, they took him to the train and sent him to his home at Portland.

Fewed Burglars

The boy showed his insanity by a constant fear of burglars and a hundred little incoherent actions, which a sane man would not do. Repeatedly he asked that the doors be locked, that the windows be shut, and that such men as electricians or any one else wishing to enter the Goodenough home be kept out of the building. Whenever he entered his room he slipped the catch.

Chained Up His Knife

The boy also kept a knife with a blade about three inches long chained to his bedside. He would also take to bed with him a .22-calibre rifle, but he had no cartridges. He said that he would burn them up if he had them.

For weeks at a time, perhaps a month, he would not speak to the other men who roomed in the house. One of them brought to him one day a book that had been left for him. The youth immediately told him not to leave the doorway and would not take the book. Such actions as these made one of the students tell the landlady that he was "crazy," and Mrs. Goodenough was also quite certain there was something wrong with her roomer.

Mrs. Goodenough describes Bristol as restless, nervous and very hard to please. At first he would have little or nothing to do with anybody. Then his fears, as the college year passed, drove him to seek the society of the people downstairs. His speech was frequently incoherent and senseless, and to other students a short time before he was bathtubbed he made very peculiar statements and contradicted himself in an idiotic manner.

The waiters who are accused of bathtubbing Bristol are Chester A. Downs, the well-known track man, and an all "A" student; Wilfred Wattenberg, John V. Rast, Byron Goodall and James K. Neill. Many other students were present, and as the infliction was due to the constant breaking of the traditions of the dormitory, the bathtubbing was considered by the men as a just punishment. Bristol was continually late to meals, sometimes half an hour, when all others were through.

Bathtubbing Light

The bathtubbing (the writer saw it) was a mild form, the water not being very cold, and the boy was merely dipped in and let out. He did not complain of it being painful, and he was put in said that it was all right. If the fellows thought he deserved it. None of those who participated or were present knew that he was queer or peculiar in any sense.

After the affair Bristol was given dry clothes, and he seemed to take it as a joke. He bought a copy of the "Midnight Doughnut," which was then issued as a paper on a typewriter, for twenty-five cents, the paper giving a humorous account of the bathtubbing. The family and men where Bristol stayed say that he then rapidly grew worse. The faculty was informed of

his condition, and he was sent home to Portland. He was taken to the train by Mr. Goodenough, who bought his ticket for him. Just before the train went he escaped from Mr. Goodenough, but in the last few seconds clambered on the train of his own accord. Before he got to Portland he had to be taken care of by the train crew, and after his arrival seemed to be better for a time, and then relapsed.

Hazed Before

Bristol was hazed the first of the year. He took part in the barrel parade up Willamette street, but there was no mistreatment, according to the stories of various students.

Wrote Curious Letter

Bristol on December 12 gave to C. A. Osterholm, a roomer in the same house, a letter which he wished him to read when he (Osterholm) arrived in Portland, the place where he was going. After the bathtubbing he also sent to Osterholm in Portland an unintelligible telegram and a Postal money order for five dollars.

The letter is as follows: "Dear Osterholm:—As you are to be soon in Portland, I give you this letter to you in this manner. As you are to be there during the holidays, I shall not be in Portland but will remain in Eugene. I just hope that you will have a fine time, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. When you get any spare time on Sunday do not forget to go up to your own church up on Twelfth and Taylor streets. There you shall hear "Mr. Brougher" one of the greatest of your church in one of the most beautiful churches in Portland.

During the week time do not let anything come between your studies. You will have temptations of all kinds, but be diligent with your heart. "These are strange sayings but we are strange neighbors. But it is a secret, is through, keep it. Do this from me.

"Your Friend."

Regents to Investigate

The father of Bristol took the matter to the board of regents some time ago. This body has appointed an investigating committee, consisting of Fred V. Holman, chairman, and J. C. Ainsworth, of Portland, and Judge William Smith, of Baker City. A meeting will be called in about ten days, probably one in Portland, of a preliminary nature, and a more important and formal one in Eugene.

Faculty Statement

Professor F. G. Young, of the faculty, says:

"The faculty investigated carefully the case of the unfortunate student, and, after getting all possible evidence, was convinced beyond a doubt that Mr. Bristol had not been in his right mind for several weeks. He was a quiet student, taking his work seriously and apparently keeping apart from the others, so that his habits were not generally known."

Hazing Story Exaggerated

Chester Downs, one of the boys who put Bristol in the tub, said: "Bristol was not in my class and none of us knew that he was suffering from mental trouble of any kind. His habit of constantly being late was very trying, frequently putting us behind in class work. I don't think the bathtubbing could have caused his breakdown. He seemed to take it good-naturedly enough, resisting only when we took charge of him at the bottom of the stairs. He was not in the tub more than five or six seconds, and came out of it in good spirits.

James Neill, another waiter, said: "I was well acquainted with Bristol, but did I know at the time of his mental troubles or worries, I don't think any of the fellows knew much about him. He seemed to take his tubbing philosophically, and I do not think the excitement could have affected him so seriously. Eight or ten of the students in the dormitory had been tubbed before Bristol, and nothing was thought of it."

NEW INSTRUMENT ARRIVED

Dr. Franc Lucille Hard has just received a fine new ophthalmometer from Hardy & Company, of Chicago. This instrument is electrically lighted and of the very latest pattern and make, and is for the purpose of accurately measuring the curvature of the cornea of the eye, which measurements are decidedly necessary to a correct diagnosis of eye troubles.

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