

Son Murders to Avenge Mother

Kills Brother's Wife While She Is Sitting in Barber's Chair.

Lincoln, Neb.—The day before Fame Mason was shot by her brother-in-law as she sat in a barber's chair at Leigh, Neb., she had gone with Frank Mason to Fremont, Neb., to decorate the graves of relatives. They have some pretty customs among the gypsy tribes and, in accordance with one of them, a lighted Christmas tree was placed by Fame Mason and her father-in-law, Frank, over the grave of his grandchild. Frank Mason's wife was buried nearby about a year ago.

The gypsy graves are well kept, some of them so beautifully, indeed, that people often drive out to the Ridge cemetery to view them.

There apparently was nothing overt in this visit of the gypsy chief, Frank Mason, and his daughter-in-law to inspire the wrath of his two sons, Duffy and Ted. It probably did, however, fan their growing anger into a blaze. They resented the fondness of their sixty-one-year-old father and chief of his eighteen-year-old daughter-in-law.

Fame Schaffer Mason was not gypsy-born. She was married to Duffy Mason, April 17, 1920, at Pierce, Neb. She had spent the greater part of her life on the road, as her parents are horse traders but not gypsies. Her husband left her a day after the marriage and they had lived together only at intervals since. Duffy Mason says he did not wish to marry her.

Resented intimacy. For all that it is certain he resented the growing intimacy between his father and the girl. They had been in Omaha together some time before the shooting and the chief had bought her some fineries that young girls love. A lot of money he paid for them, too, as much as \$100. That means the profits of quite a bit of horse trading.

Chief Mason allowed he had a right to buy some things for his own daughter-in-law and he had a right to be in Omaha at the same time as Fame. That didn't square things with his sons, however. They put a different interpretation on his gifts to Fame.

So the night after Fame and Frank had placed the little lighted Christmas tree over the body of the gypsy child Fame Mason returned to the camp at Leigh. Her husband, Duffy Mason, said to her, according to the testimony, "Fame, I want you to go home. I don't want to live with you." But Fame didn't go home. She started to prepare supper over the camp fire. The Masons had been living in a covered wagon despite the zero weather.

Right here the ghost of the gypsy woman buried near the child out at Ridge cemetery enters the story. Ted Mason, who shot Fame a short time later, explains it this way: "She comes back to camp all dolled up in some new clothes and starts to get supper. She used a skillet and

some things my mother owned. I couldn't stand to see that girl touch the things my mother used to touch. And I told her so. And I told her what I thought about her and father. "She threw the things down on the ground, and ordered me out of the wagon."

Ted Mason went up to the town. Duffy Mason joined him there. Some time later they heard that Fame had come up to town, and was in the barber shop. Also, that their father was with her.

Ready for Hair Cut. When the brothers entered the shop Fame Mason was seated in a chair ready for a hair cut. Frank Mason stood beside her. The tragedy moved quickly. Holding a revolver about six inches from the back of the girl's head, Ted Mason fired.

As she slumped in the chair Frank Mason caught her in his arms and kissed her. She died in his arms.

The brothers gave themselves up, and their father followed them to the town hall. They were his sons and he was ready to employ a lawyer to defend them. They were of his tribe. He was their father and their chief.

They hurried back at him their accusations, their threats. He did not flinch. Turning to the officer who was guarding them he said, "Marshal, give Ted the gun, and see if he's got nerve enough to finish me."

"I don't want to shoot you," replied his son. "If I had wanted to kill you I could have done it long ago."

Frank Mason was deeply concerned with the funeral arrangements. He asked the undertaker to have a woman assist in the preparing of the body and he and the undertaker sat up all night with it. "This is the code of ethics of our family," Mason explained.

As Fame's body was being prepared for removal to Schuyler, Neb., the home of her family, Frank Mason stood beside it and wept. He bent and kissed the lips of the dead woman. He urged that the remains be placed in a vault, saying that gypsies never bury their dead except in vaults. The request was not granted, her own people taking the body and interring it in their own churchyard.

At the preliminary hearing the father told tearfully of events which led to the quarrel. He said he had happened to meet Fame in Omaha and that they registered at a hotel there, but in separate rooms. He spent \$100 on clothes for her. His sons threatened to cut her new coat off her back if they should catch her wearing it.

From their cell in the dungeon of Schuyler jail, Ted and Duffy Mason talk freely of the quarrel and the crime. They received word that their father would defend them without any show of emotion. "I did not love my wife," says Duffy. "I was forced to marry her. I left her the next day and went West."

Duffy said he had not seen the girl again until about a month before the

Workers Find Strange Bird in Old Structure

New York.—Wreckers demolishing the building on the site for the new building of the New York Athletic club came upon a strange crippled bird recently which defied identification even by that man of diversified knowledge, the foreman. The bird, perched on a rafter, resembled a pigeon, but had a comb somewhat like a rooster.

The bird was taken to the West Forty-seventh police station. A claw and a wing had been injured, the latter having been bound with a strip of adhesive tape.

The bird has a dark gray breast, brown feathers at the neck and white specks around the tail.

shooting. He was requested by his brother to come home, so he rejoined the family wagon. He and his wife had quarreled for several days and he decided to ask for a divorce. His father reminded him that gypsies do not seek recourse to courts, but settle their own affairs, he said.

"I would have nothing to do with my wife," Duffy continued. "We talked it over with the county attorney and he advised us to get along if we could. Then I began to notice that my dad was 'sweet' on her. He would give her money and they were always together. I didn't care. She was a bad woman, but I wouldn't have my father arrested, because we gypsies settle those things ourselves."

Ted Mason, apparently unworried by his plight, agrees with his brother. "She was worthless and bad. She promised to be awfully good to me if I would get Duffy to marry her."

The county attorney characterizes the Mason brothers as "daredevils." Neither can read or write. Duffy asked that some one be allowed to read them newspaper reports of the crime, but was refused. "Dad is to blame for it all," says Ted. "He never gave us an education." This was before the preliminary, when told his father would appear against them. The father later changed his mind.

About a month before the killing Fame Mason was stabbed in the shoulder by a relative of her husband. She was taken secretly to Schuyler and hidden in a house. During the night Ted and Duffy spirited her away in the car and authorities heard no more of her until the killing.

American Woman Gets Home of Ambassadors

London.—Crewe house, the home of two successive American ambassadors to Great Britain, and which was recently vacated when Ambassador Houghton moved to Morgan house, will shortly have another American chateau.

The new American mistress of the old residence, conspicuous among its Mayfair neighbors for its country residence appearance with its wide lawns and shade trees in the heart of London, will be Mrs. Saxham Drury, who before her marriage last year was Miss Mabel Gerry.

Around Orchard

SAY ORCHARDISTS PRUNE TOO MUCH

Horticulturists at the experiment station at Geneva, N. Y., assert that many orchardists prune too much, without regard to the real need of the tree and that there is more danger of injuring the tree with too much pruning than with too little.

Trees which are carefully selected when the orchard is set out require only the removal of an occasional branch which may start out in the wrong place and the cutting out of dead, injured, and crossed limbs, say the station specialists.

If the trees are producing undersized fruits, if the tops contain many dead branches, or if the seasonal growth is short and scant, judicious pruning is recommended as a means of rejuvenation. "This usually consists in cutting back many branches and in entirely removing others," say the station authorities, who lay down the following general rules applicable under such conditions. "Prune weak-growing varieties heavily; strong-growing kinds lightly. Varieties which branch freely need little pruning; those with many unbranched limbs, much pruning. Prune trees in rich, deep soils lightly; in poor, shallow soils, heavily."

The cutting back of all the branches of a tree is practiced regularly only with peaches and some plums, it is said. "This is attributed to the fact that, with these fruits, the wood of the past season, and therefore the crop, is borne progressively further away from the trunk, so that it is necessary to head-in these fruits by cutting back the branches in order to keep the bearing wood near the trunk. On the other hand, apples, pears, cherries and most plums are borne on spurs from wood two or more years old and with these heading-in is not so desirable. Experimental evidence obtained in tests on the station grounds indicates that winter pruning has no special advantage over summer pruning, except that the pressure of other work is less during the winter months."

Geraniol, New Attractor for Japanese Beetle

The new attractive agent, geraniol, developed by the bureau of entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture as an aid in its control work against the Japanese beetle, has been found very successful. Methods have been worked out whereby this material may be used to concentrate the beetles in a relatively small area. It was found that by spraying less than an acre of orchard with geraniol, beetles could be drawn on the leeward side of the orchard for a distance of nearly one-half mile within the first 15 minutes after the spray had been applied. This makes it possible to destroy large numbers of beetles with a comparatively small quantity of a contact spray. Further work has been done on traps baited with geraniol, but although these capture large numbers of beetles, it is not felt that a trap has been developed which can be recommended for general use.

Increased efforts were made last summer to develop a repellent which could be used on fruit trees without leaving a deposit on the foliage or fruit. It was found that certain odors, particularly the odor of tar, are distinctly repellent to the Japanese beetle, and these will be studied further.

New Fruit Varieties Are Described in a Bulletin

Thirty-two new improved fruits produced by horticulturists of the University of Minnesota at the state fruit breeding farm are described and most of them pictured in Bulletin 230 prepared by W. H. Alderman, chief of the division of horticulture, and issued by the Minnesota experiment station. These varieties, which have been given names and introduced among fruit growers, include 14 kinds of plums, three plum-cherry hybrids, four apples, seven strawberries, one red raspberry, one gooseberry, and two ornamentals.

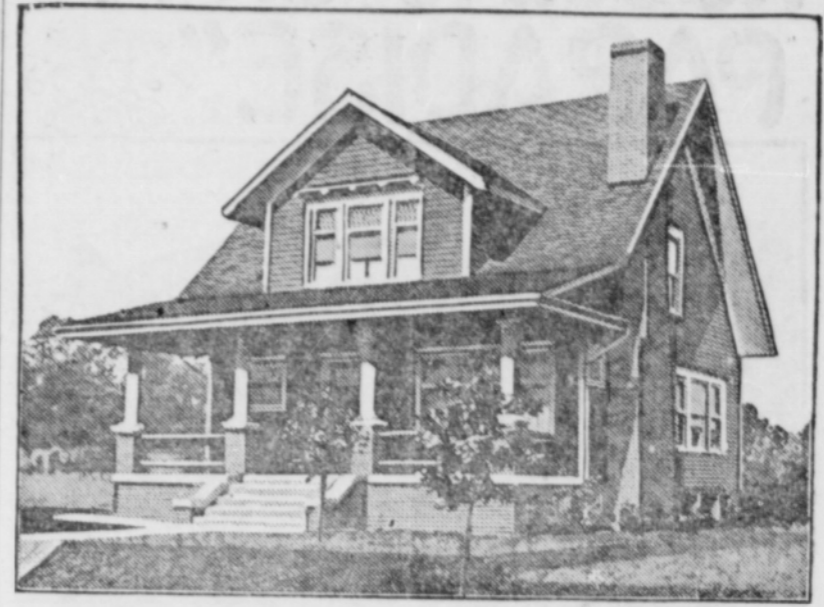
"Many of these varieties are rapidly becoming accepted as standards in this and adjoining states, and the plums are being planted on a commercial scale," says the bulletin. "The wealth accruing to the state each year from the products of these 32 varieties far exceeds the total cost of all the state-supported fruit breeding experiments since the establishment of the first fruit breeding farm in 1878."

This bulletin is for free distribution and copies can be obtained by writing the Office of Publications at University Farm, St. Paul.

Keep an Account

Every progressive farmer should keep an account of his farm business if he is to know at the end of the year whether he has made a profit or loss, after paying all farm expenses; also to help him study his business and make such changes in his organization and operation as are important from the standpoint of increasing his profits. Farmers interested in keeping such a record this coming year, can get both information and help from his agricultural college.

Story-and-a-Half House Is Design That Always Is in Popular Demand



By W. A. RADFORD

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all problems pertaining to the subject of building, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as editor, author and manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on the subject. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 1827 Prairie Avenue, Chicago, for reply.

When the average family begin to plan to build a new home, every member has some idea that he or she would like to see incorporated in the house. In some other home, perhaps, such a feature as appealed to the individual was found and gave rise to the thought that when or if he was to build he would have this feature in his home. It is this desire that makes so many homes entirely different from others.

There is danger, however, in carrying this idea too far. Odd features either in the exterior or interior of a house may not appeal to some one else, and, if the necessity arises, may prevent the sale of the home. Comfort and convenience may be secured for the average family by following the plans that have been found most suitable to the average family. And when this is done it is not difficult to dispose of the place if it is desirable to do so.

One type of house that appeals to the greatest number of persons is the story-and-a-half building, such as is shown in the accompanying illustration. Here is a house of the size and shap that appeals. While it looks large from the outside, it is not, as it contains only six rooms, aside from the inclosed breakfast porch at the rear of the first floor. It contains three good rooms downstairs—living and dining rooms and kitchen—and three bedrooms and the bathroom on the second floor. This number of rooms will accommodate nicely the average family.

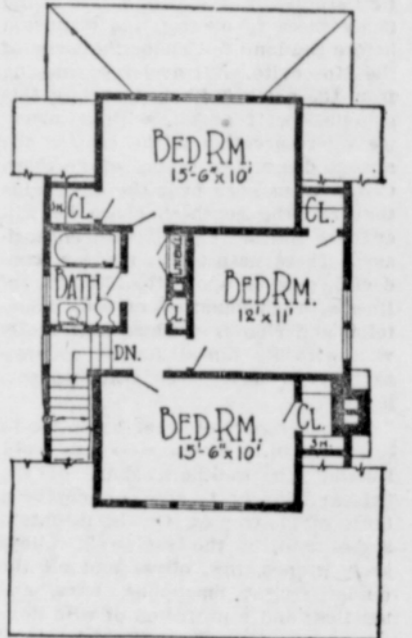
In exterior appearance it is difficult to find a more attractive house than the one shown. The narrow gables at the end, the steep dormer window set in it at the front and the extension of the roof lines to form the porch covering all combine to give this house a graceful, homelike appearance. This exterior appearance is greatly enhanced by the brick foundation and glass of the porch and the wide brick fireplace chimney in the end wall. The porch is inviting in summer, while the chimney gives rise to thoughts of a comfortable, open fire in the winter time.

The floor plans that accompany the exterior view show how the rooms are arranged and their size. The entrance door off the porch leads into a

feet long and 7 feet 6 inches wide. This room also makes a secluded, cheerful sun parlor.

Adjoining the dining room at the left is the kitchen, 11 feet square, whose size and shape make it an efficient workroom for the housewife, a place where the cooking and other kitchen activities may be accomplished with a minimum of steps. The sink is placed under the window in the outside wall, with cases for utensils and dishes on either side. The side entrance leads to a passageway, which is large enough for the icebox and has a closet alongside it for the linens needed in the dining room and kitchen. Back of the kitchen also is a good-sized pantry.

The stairs lead into a short hall on the second floor, off which open the three bedrooms, one at the front, one at the side and one at the back. The bathroom is located in the center of this floor, so that it is accessible to all three bedrooms. Both front and rear



Second Floor Plan.

bedrooms are 15 feet 6 inches by 10 feet, while the one at the end of the house is 11 by 12 feet.

The basement extends under the whole of the house and is reached by stairs just inside the entrance at the side of the house.

Taken altogether this is a very desirable home building design—one that combines exterior attractiveness and interior comfort, and it is not expensive to build.

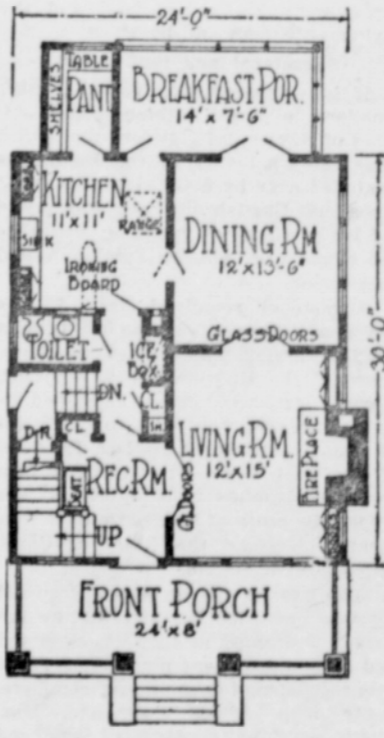
Better Plastering Needed to Give Perfect Results

The old methods of throwing plaster on a wall or ceiling without the proper care and attention have given way to modern and well-defined systems that have resulted in a splendid accomplishment. Plastering is to the home or business building what clothes are to humanity. Appearance counts, always and in everything, and people are becoming interested in improving their ways of living.

Better plastering by a recent decorative method can be done only through the use of the proper products, and among these some stand as the highest representatives in this class. One is an emulsion based on portland cement, sand and asbestos. To say that splendid results have been obtained with this decorative plastering would be to put it mildly. Leading builders and decorators make it a point to insist upon the best as the only logical product that can be employed efficiently. Beauty as well as permanent improvement have been made possible with the use of this material, and it is highly recommended to all those who know of the importance of better plastering to see such splendid material as one that will give everlasting satisfaction.

Concrete Can Be Placed Even in Winter Weather

Concrete may be placed safely even in cold weather if water, sand and stone are heated and the finished work is protected from frost. Heat hastens and cold delays the hardening of concrete. Under conditions favorable for hardening concrete soon acquires sufficient strength to be safe against damage by frost. The warmer it is kept the sooner will it reach this degree of hardness. Concrete which has frozen before it has thoroughly hardened is often mistaken for properly hardened concrete, but when it thaws it will soften.

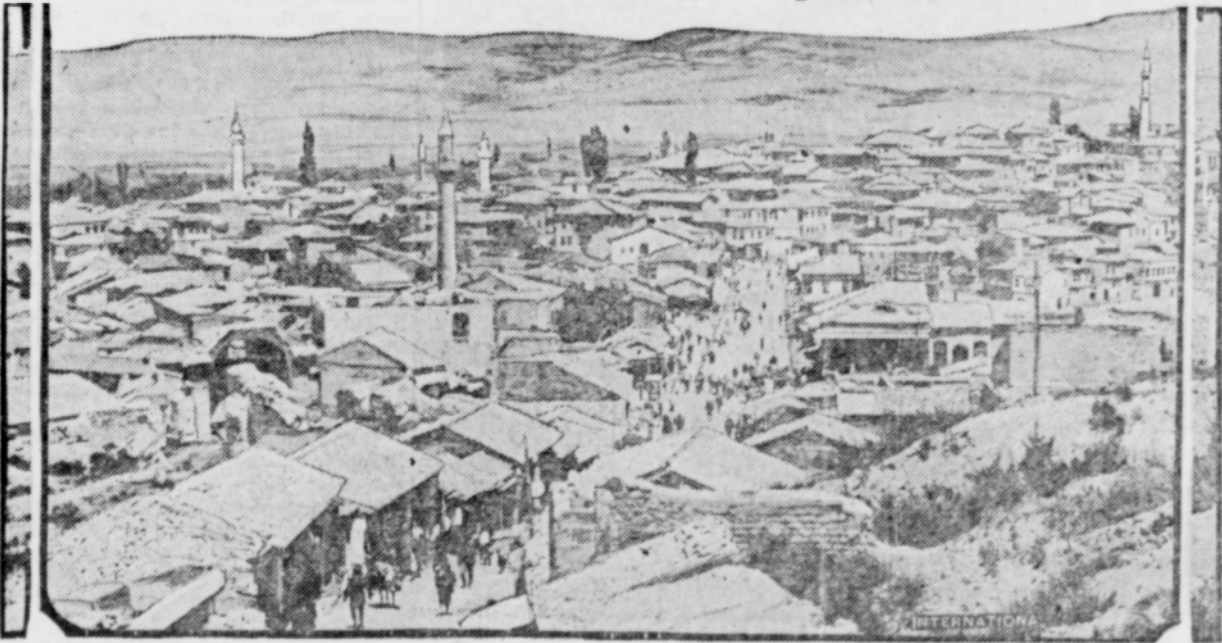


First Floor Plan.

reception room, out of which run the stairs to the second floor. To the right, through double-glazed doors, is the living room, 12 by 15 feet in size. Three windows opening onto the porch and the high windows on either side of the fireplace admit plenty of light and ventilation. The wide fireplace at the end of the room, with bookcases on either side under the window, adds to the attractiveness of the room's finish.

Back of the living room is the dining room, also a light cheery room, 12 by 13 feet 6 inches in dimensions. And opening off the dining room and connected with it by double doors is a large, inclosed breakfast porch, 14

What Turkey's New National Capital Looks Like



Here is the latest photograph showing the city of Angora, capital of the new Turkey of which Kemal Pasha is the President. According to the latest census Angora has a population of 48,000.

Engines Answer 8 False Alarms to Same House

Minneapolis, Minn.—Roaring through the streets of Minneapolis on a fire truck in 21 degree below weather is no joke. And making eight trips to the same house in one night, only to find each time that there isn't any fire there at all—that's worse yet, firemen testified.

Eight telephone calls spreading the alarm that a partially constructed house at 15 West Elm street was on fire, came into Arthur Driscoll, fire department alarm operator. Eight times fire trucks went whizzing to the house.

Each time they found the same thing. Workmen had been plastering the house. When they left at night they started a fire in a stove termed a salamander, inside the house to dry out the plaster and keep it from freezing.

Reflection of flames from the salamander and steam from the drying plaster caused eight persons to send in fire alarms.

SIX IN CANOE IN THE BERING SEA SURVIVE AN ARCTIC GALE

Walrus Hunters Recount Thrilling Tale of Hardship, Peril and Suffering.

Sevoonga, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska.—Swept in an open skin canoe for 300 miles across the Bering sea from Siberia to this island, six survivors of a party of eight walrus hunters recently recounted a story of hardship, peril, suffering and tragic disaster.

Their arms and legs frozen, their eyes distended and swollen and their scanty clothing in tatters, the six men finally reached the Eskimo village of Gambell, on the northern part of the island, from where the story of their ill-fated battle with the elements has reached Sevoonga by radio.

Driven by approaching starvation to seek food, the eight men left a village on Little Max bay, Siberia, on

February 2 to hunt walrus. Venturing farther out on the icy sea after they had failed to find walrus near shore, the party in the frail kayak was caught by the full fury of an arctic gale.

After being lashed about on the waters for several days, the hunters pulled their canoe onto a floating ice pack. There, suffering cold and without food and fire, the little band passed the night in the snow. The next morning two of the party went foraging for food and failed to return. They have not since been seen.

Five of the starving group finally straggled into Gambell, where the United States bureau of education maintains a school for the Eskimos. After a search, headed by Samuel P. Troutman, government teacher at Gambell, the sixth member of the party was found, nearly dead.