Murder Complaint Due Against Student for Slaying of Socialite

Los Angeles —(U.P.)— Detectives indicated today that blackmail and not unrequited love led to the slaying of a socialite divorcee by her former houseboy.

The detectives said police have possession of letters in which John B. Crooker Jr. threatened to bare alleged intimate relations with the socialite, Mrs. Norma T. McCauley.

"I wonder what your husband and parents would think if they knew," one of the letters was quoted. Detectives said this letter was dated shortly before Crooker stabbed Mrs. McCauley to death in her fashionable Bel Air home.

Police said Crooker admitted the 33-year-old divorcee had given him $300 three weeks ago and had been generous with lesser sums over a period of time.

Crooker denied blackmail or extortion had anything to do with driving him to slay Mrs. McCauley.

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — District Attorney S. Ernest Roll said a formal murder complaint would be issued today against law student John R. Crooker Jr., 34, confessed murderer of Mrs. Norma T. McCauley, 38-year-old socialite divorcee.

Roll said the nearby Santa Monica district attorney's office would issue the complaint and that the confessed slayer would be arraigned in West Los Angeles Municipal Court.

Killing Confessed

Crooker, after 14 hours of intense questioning by relays of detectives broke down Wednesday and confessed he killed the society matron in a fit of rage because she spurned his love.

The law student, a former house boy at Mrs. McCauley's home, said he became infuriated early Tuesday when the attractive woman fell asleep while he pleaded with her in her fashionable Bel-Air home to resume their alleged love affair.

Screamed Before Death

He said he grabbed a kitchen knife he previously had picked up and stabbed her five times. Then, the Maine-born former sailor said, he took her white lace stole and twisted it around her neck until he was sure she was dead. He said she tried to fight for her life, bit him, scatched him and screamed before she died.

Mrs. McCauley was divorced last March from Frank E. McCauley, a former Air Force major. They were the parents of three children. She was the daughter of J. Arthur Thompson, millionaire electrical contractor.

SLAYING ADMITTED—Los Angeles police say John R. Crooker, left, a houseboy and law student, stabbed and strangled, Mrs. Norma McCauley, right, Bel Air socialite, to death. A broken romance was assertedly the cause.

Coos Bay Union Files Suit for Employees

Portland — (U.P.) —An officer of the Coos Bay local of the CIO Woodworkers union has filed suit in Federal Court here for $15,936 in back wages allegedly owed 330 employees of the Coos Bay Lumber company.

The suit, filed by local business agent Dave Rice, arose out of last year's three-month-long lumber strike.

Rice claimed the lumber company had refused to honor an agreement to make the 7½-cent hourly wage increase granted in the industry-wide strike retroactive to the date employees returned to work.

Rice said the employees resumed work Sept. 13, 1954, while the so-called governors' fact-finding board investigated strike issues but were granted the wage hike effective Jan. 1, 1955.

FOX AND GOOSE

Narragansett, R.I. —(U.P.)— A fox in search of dinner made a dash for a goose standing with some colleagues on a frozen pond. The fox drowned. The geese were standing around a hole in the ice.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 1 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day

In and Around Jacksonville

Jacksonville—On Friday, July 1, the regular potluck dinner was held at the Rebekah and Odd Fellows hall. Twenty-six members were present.

Guests from Medford lodges included Mr. and Mrs. Bill Dyer, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Murry and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Scriptner. Two old time members, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hawkins, were also present, having returned from Portland after two years absence from Jacksonville. They will reside at their former home on Bishop creek.

The Rebekahs announced that a rummage sale will be held at the hall on July 14.

Miss Donna Whiteley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Churchman, 105 Winema Way, Medford, was married on June 24 at Midland, Nev., to Richard Leon Teal, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Teal, 409 Sterling rd., Jacksonville. The newlyweds are temporarily residing at Stokes Auto court on South Riverside, Medford.

Miss Joyce Sandell, Oakland, Calif., daughter of Emil Sandell, formerly of Jacksonville, returned here for a visit with Miss Rita McBeth and Miss Clara Mae Anderson after they had spent a week's visit in Oakland with Miss Sandell.

Mr. and Mrs. George Christ, Santa Rosa, Calif., left Tuesday after visiting Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Pence and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Rhoten of Jacksonville Hill. Mrs. Christ is a cousin to Mrs. Pence and Mrs. Rhoten.

Mrs. Lizzy Hodson has returned to her home here after a two month visit with her son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Hodson, Spokane, Wash. Lee Hodson, another son, also returned this week from visiting his son Jack and family at Westminster, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Rock and son, Joe, Old Stage rd., Mr. and Mrs. Fred Christean, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Legg and son, Charlie, returned the evening of July 4 after a four-day deep sea fishing trip at Crescent City. Joe Rock was reportedly best fisherman of the crew.

Mrs. H. C. Penick, Medford, spent July Fourth weekend at the home of Mrs. Ida Wright.

Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Fretwell and daughter, Bennie, and Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Simon, Portland, were weekend guests at the home of Mrs. James Fretwell and daughter, Joan.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Bradley and two sons, Linn and Eddie, and daughter, Mary, Cottage Grove, were week end visitors at the home of Mrs. Bradley's mother, Mrs. Yinn Rumley. Linn Bradley will remain with his grandmother for the remainder of school vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lee Jr., and son are visiting Mrs. Lee's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Serry, Jacksonville, and Lee's father and family on the Applegate. The Lees are from La Grande, Ore.

Recent guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hewlett were his sister, Mary Rehr, Wasco, Ore., and her nephew, Loren Mitchell, Troutdale, Ore.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hackert visited over July 4 with their son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hackert, Albany, Ore. While there they attended the Timber carnival.

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Jordon and two sons, David and Harold, left last week for a month's vacation trip to Hanna, N.D. In their absence Richard Gravelle is taking charge of their service station.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse L. Groves are the new owners of a 15 foot trailer house in which they had a camping trip at Union Creek over the July 4 week end. They were joined there by Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hewlett, Jacksonville.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Jones have returned from a two week visit with relatives in New Meadow, St. Marie and Boise, Ida.

Miss Grace Hamaker, Horse Creek, Calif., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Hamaker, visited last week in Jacksonville at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. J. B. Noble, and also at the homes of her aunts, Mrs. Carl S. Hoskins and Mrs. Milton James. She returned to Horse Creek Saturday with another aunt, Mrs. C. M. Smith, 215 North Columbus ave., Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Sharp and sons, Jerry and Gary, Independence, Mo., were recent guests at the Carl Hoskins home. Mrs. Sharp is Mr. Hoskins' sister whom he hadnt' seen for 20 years.

Allied War Prisoners Moved To China Province

Taipei, Formosa —(U.P.)— Some 50 Allied war prisoners, including a number of American and Canadian officers, have been moved from Manchuria to the Fukien Province on the South China coast last month, according to the Nationalist Tatao News Agency.

The agency, organ of the Ministry of Interior, said the prisoners had served with the Chinese Communist artillery for "quite a long time." It did not elaborate.

PI Uninterested In Downtown Center

Portland —(U.P.)— The Pacific International Livestock Exposition told Portland's exposition-recreation commission yesterday it wouldn't be interested in a downtown site for the proposed civic center.

Officials of the PI said that the Delta Park, or East Vanport, site would be preferable.

The commission received a report in six of eight proposed sites for the center with conclusions and recommendations delayed pending study of the other sites.

Lost Fishermen Walk To Safety

Vancouver, Wash. — (U.P.) — Paul Schemchek, 26, and Ralph Conway, 15, both of Vancouver, were safe today after being reported missing on a fishing trip.

They had gone fishing Tuesday on Swift creek, in rugged country about 30 miles northeast of here. They were reported missing after two other fishermen said they failed to keep a rendezvous Tuesday night.

Relatives notified the Lewis river ranger station late yesterday that Schemchek and Conway had walked out to a highway.

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