

# Retired Merchant Tells Police He Strangled His Wife, Buried Her Body

MILTON, Ore., Jan. 22 (P)—Roscoe Lee Hayton confessed early today, Chief of King County Detectives Adam Lyskoski said, that he choked his third wife, Mrs. Ellen Buckingham Coyte Hayton, to death and later buried the body.

The 63-year-old carpenter and retired merchant, a member of a prominent pioneer Skagit county family, made the statement in the presence of Lyskoski and Detective Phil Sands, and later signed a statement in which he described the slaying.

In the signed statement, Hayton said: "On January 8, 1948, between 9 and 10 a. m., I killed my wife in our home by choking her. About 30 minutes later I put her in my car and drove to ——. I think it was about 30 feet off the highway where I laid her on the ground and covered her up with leaves. I took a shovel with me. I also put some dirt over her. I then returned to Seattle.

Information as to the place where Hayton said he disposed of the body was withheld to permit authorities to search without outside interference.

Hayton said in his statement that he killed his wife because she was "double-crossing me."

"She was squandering my money. We had words as to what she did with the money. I also found two letters where she had been corresponding with men. I also found pictures of these men.

He said the slaying occurred in the bedroom of their Seattle home.

"We were dressing and changing clothes. . . . I put my arms around her, and she slapped me. Then I put my hand on her throat, as I am showing you." (This was demonstrated on Captain Lyskoski.)

Put in Bag "I kept my hands on her throat," the statement continued, "until she became limp. I then took her in her present condition without clothes and put her in a white duffel bag, like the army or navy has, and then took her and put her in my car."

The swift turn in efforts to solve the two-week-old disappearance of Mrs. Hayton followed nearly nine hours of questioning during which Hayton admitted his story of a \$17,000 cache in the Blue mountain foothills near here was a hoax.

hid it at his home in Seattle several months ago.

"I'm not sure it's there now," he added. "I haven't looked for it since because I saw suspicious men hanging around the house and watching my movements."

Lyskoski, who praised the cooperation of Umatilla County Sheriff Robert E. Goad and Milton Police Chief W. E. Dunstan in assisting the Seattle officers, said Hayton would lead detectives today to the scene where he said he left the body of his wife.

**HOP MEETING**  
FOREST GROVE, Jan. 22 (P)—The first of a series of 11 district hop growers' meetings will be held here January 30 with proposals for a new hop marketing agreement heading the program.

Several specialists from Oregon State college will speak at the meetings as will Rapul T. Rowell, associate manager of the Salem office of the U. S. Hop Growers' association. The meetings are to precede the Western Hop Growers' convention at San Francisco February 19-21.

**QUITS**  
MEDFORD, Jan. 22 (P)—Gordon Gilmore, executive of the Crater Lake council of Boy Scouts the past five years, has resigned to take a similar position at the Cascade council headquarters, Salem. Gilmore is expected to go to Salem in mid-February.

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