

Student Plans to Plead Innocent in Co-ed Murder

IOWA CITY, Iowa, Dec. 13 (AP)—A University of Iowa psychology student today turned to poetry as he waited in jail for a preliminary hearing in the strangulation slaying of a beautiful coed.

The hearing was set for December 21 when the broad-shouldered Robert E. Bednasek, 24, was brought before Justice of the Peace C. J. Hutchinson here yesterday.

He is charged with the first degree murder of pretty Margaret (Gege) Jackson, 20, whose body, clad in a white, strapless evening gown was found early Sunday in a men's rooming house.

With his manacled hands clasped together, Bednasek shook his bowed head sadly from side to side in a negative fashion as he heard the charge against him read in the crowded justice of the peace office.

Innocence Plea
No formal plea was entered for the senior student from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but his lawyer in asking for a preliminary hearing said his client would plead innocent.

Bednasek has said he "loved that girl more than my life" and that she loved him.

A friend who described Bednasek as an easy-going, popular fellow, upon his request, books of poems to the prisoner. Officers brought him the book of love poems, "This is My Beloved" by Walter Benton. Bob Carpenter, of Cedar Rapids, said he took to the book of poetry by Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning.

Bednasek, in a signed statement released by County Attorney Jack White yesterday, said that he had his hands on the girl's throat just before his mind "went blank."

Tragic Evening
The statement related how he and the girl, also a senior in psychology, had a candle lighted wine and lobster dinner in a room at the rooming house where he stayed, went to a fraternity dance where they had several drinks, and then returned to the rooming house for a nightcap.

"I poured out a drink for us. . . I kissed her a few times," the statement said.

He said Miss Jackson had placed her hands on his throat "in a playful manner," and he had told her "that was too high up to choke a person."

"I showed her the proper place on the throat to choke a person," Bednasek's statement said.

On Floor
He said the next thing he remembered Margaret was lying on the floor and was not breathing. He said he tried to revive her as she lay on the floor, and then laid her on a bunk bed and "tried to bring her to by using artificial respiration."

The girl's father, William E. Jackson of Burlington, Ia., a member of the Iowa State parole board, said his daughter was "a naive, innocent, trusting girl" who "put too much trust in her companion."

He said the girl was not in love with Bednasek, and said authorities had verified there was "no wrongdoing on the part of my daughter."

Letters
Letters found to Bednasek's room showed the couple corresponded during the summer when the girl was employed in Denver.

One letter was signed "Lots of love — Geege." Geege was Miss Jackson's nickname. In another letter, similarly signed, Bednasek was referred to as "Pucl."

Her father's statement called the affair a "one-sided romance." Jackson pointed out his daughter had invited another youth to her Kappa Alpha Theta sorority dance the night before her fatal date with Bednasek.

C. Warren Shelton, of Denver, Miss Jackson's guest at the sorority dance, said he met her in Denver last summer and did not know Bednasek.

In a statement released by authorities yesterday, Bednasek said he was "somewhat perturbed" because the girl had invited another man to the sorority dance but added that he wasn't "sore" about it "after Margaret explained it to me."

Among things found in Bednasek's personal belongings in his

third-floor attic room at the "Empty Arms" rooming house Sheriff Albert Murphy said, was a small wallet size calendar card with these notations:
Feb. 6 — "Met G-G."
March 10 — Steady.
June 10 — "Had G-G last time."
June 11 — "G-G left for summer."
July 16 — "G-G said we were through."

School Bus Safety Aids Proposed

In response to a recent petition by the school board, the traffic safety committee reported certain recommendations to the council last night for improvement of school bus service in the city.

The report advised that four-foot cutbacks be made of the northwest and northeast corners at 11th and Main Streets.

At the intersections of 9th and High, and 11th and High, it was suggested that parking be prohibited for a distance of 20 feet from the corner.

It was also suggested that widening of the street be done at Main and Mill streets and that a shed on the northeast corner be removed by the owner.

Zone Study
A request by the school board for establishment of a bus zone at Fremont school on High street be held up for further study.

The school board also sought a cutback of the southwest corner at Main and Riverside, but it was decided this would be too costly a procedure. The request was denied.



PRINCIPALS IN SLAYING— Margaret Jackson, 20, Burlington, and Robert Bednasek, 24, Cedar Rapids, Ia., are shown together at a formal dance last May.

Hoover Cites Inflation, Tax Dangers

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (AP)—A campaign for government reform today boiled down to a program drawn up by Herbert Hoover. The forecast that it would save the taxpayers \$2,000,000,000 a year.

The former president, addressing the national reorganization conference last night, predicted that this fiscal year's \$5,500,000,000 excursion into red ink may be exceeded in the following year.

Villains
"We may be turning two Frankenshtains loose in the land," Hoover said. "Their terrifying names are 'Higher Taxes' and 'Inflation.'"

The estimate of a \$5,500,000,000 deficit for his fiscal year, ending next June 30, is President Truman's.

The two-day conference, sponsored by the non-partisan Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report, neared its close today. Its wind-up schedule included presentation of an award to Secretary of Defense Johnson for "courageous efforts" at cost-cutting and unification in the military establishment.

Dr. Robert L. Johnson, national chairman, told the conference that "the public is being aroused, as at no time in our history, to the necessity of adopting a fundamental, intelligent reorganization program for the executive branch."

People's Strength
Chairman Johnson, the president of Temple University, Philadelphia, told the 500 civic leaders from every section of the country:

"If the people demand these reforms that can save them millions a year and guarantee our survival as a free people, they will become law."

Senator Democratic Leader Lucas (Ill.) said today that Truman plans to send about 10 reorganization plans to congress this session.

New Fire Dept. Jobs Proposed

Fire Chief Roy Row advised councilmen last night the civil service commission advised strengthening the fire department by creating several new positions.

Besides the chief, Rowe said there should be a first and second assistant chief, two captains and a fire marshal.

On the recommendation of Councilman Matt Finnigan it was decided that the fire committee, the city attorney, fire chief and civil service commission should look into the matter.

Hall Hotel Remodeling Permit OK'd

Building permits approved by council action last night amounted to \$29,225.

Of this amount \$20,000 was for remodeling of the old Hall hotel at 4th and Main.

Other permits included addition of a room to a residence at 1605 Siskiyou, \$500; enlarge a private garage, 1420 Pacific Terrace, \$600; new used car office, 2154 S. 6th, \$300; a new bedroom and remodeling of residence at 1170 Crescent, \$2000; remodeling of a business building at 475 Spring Street, \$1000; enlarge living room of residence at 2027 Applegate, \$850; new partitions to building at 6th and Broad, \$900; repair fire loss at 230 Klamath, \$1500; repair fire loss at 2430 Orchard, \$1500; new roof for residence at 514 Walnut, \$575.

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Births

CORNETT — Born at Klamath Valley hospital, Klamath Falls, Ore., December 9, 1949, to Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Cornett, 2944 LaVerne, a girl. Weight: 6 pounds, 13 ounces.

CHEYNE — Born at Klamath Valley hospital, Klamath Falls, Ore., December 9, 1949, to Mr. and Mrs. Dale Cheyne, Rt. 1, Box 857, a boy. Weight: 8 pounds, 11 ounces.

CUNNINGHAM — Born at Klamath Valley hospital, Klamath Falls, Ore., December 12, 1949, to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Cunningham, 1818 Hope, a boy. Weight: 6 pounds, 14 1/2 ounces.

NASH — Born at Klamath Valley hospital, Klamath Falls, Ore., December 12, 1949, to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Nash, 4304 LaVerne, a girl and a boy. Weight: girl, 4 pounds 11 1/2 ounces; boy, 5 pounds, 5 1/2 ounces.

ADAMS — Born at Klamath Valley hospital, Klamath Falls, Ore., December 12, 1949, to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Adams, Box 195, Chiloquin, Ore., a boy. Weight: 7 pounds, 1 ounce.

MICKA — Born at Klamath Valley hospital, Klamath Falls, Ore., December 13, 1949, to Mr. and Mrs. F. Micka, Malin, Ore., a girl. Weight: 6 pounds, 1 ounce.

Man Begins 75th Year with Firm

COATESVILLE, Pa., Dec. 13 (AP) Charles Lukens Huston Sr., tomorrow will begin his 75th year of continuous service with the Lukens Steel company.

Huston, who is 83, started with the company as an 8 1/2 week clerk in 1875. Grandson of the Charles Lukens for whom the firm was named, Huston is now first vice president.

Still spry despite a leg injury which recently has prevented his daily walks from home to office, Huston attended a directors meeting three weeks ago in a wheel chair.

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"GREAT LOVER"

Elizabeth Taylor was belle of the ball and her date, Bob Precht, the envy of other students at the UCLA junior prom. As winner of the student-sponsored "Great Lover" contest, 13-year-old Bob, as the university's greatest romancer, escorted 17-year-old Liz to the ball. More than 3000 students crowded Paramount studio's largest sound stage, in Hollywood, Calif., where the prom was held.

Merrill Cub Scouts To See Movie

MERRILL — A movie for the benefit of the Cub Scouts will be held in the Oddfellows hall Friday at 8 p. m. A film "Alaska Adventures" will be shown plus several comics, and cartoons. The public is invited.

Merrill Patrons Meet Thursday

MERRILL — Merrill Parents-Patrons organization will meet Thursday evening at 8 p. m. in the high school recreation room. Main topic for discussion will be plans for the Teen-Age club which is unable to meet in the recreation hall now that school is being held there.

All parents are urged to attend.

Rotarians Invite 'Anns' to Lunch

A. D. "Deb" Addison, Rotary president, has announced that all Rotary Anns, the wives of Rotarians, are invited to attend the club's regular noon meeting this Friday at the Willard hotel to enjoy the annual Christmas program featuring the KUHS a capella choir under the direction of Andrew Loney Jr.

Rotary meetings regularly convene at 12:10 p. m. each Friday.

Most of the Indian Totem Poles still standing in the northwest are less than 100 years old.



ELECTED BY MAYORS

New president of the American Municipal Association is Mayor Quigg Newton of Denver Col., above. Newton was elected at the recent AMA convention in Cleveland, O., to succeed Mayor deLesseppe S. Morrison of New Orleans.

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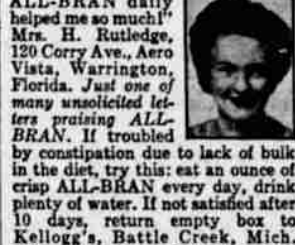
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