

Father Murders Three Children In Fit Insanity

BROCKTON, Mass., Oct. 23.—(United Press)—A father, his unbalanced mind giving way after months bordering on insanity, murdered his three young daughters with an axe here today.

The bodies, one child still holding tightly to an old rag doll, were found in bed by neighbors called by the fourth child, who escaped her father's insane rage.

The father, James D. Stoddard, 38, was in a padded cell in the police station tonight, giving crazed explanations for his act, but unable to appreciate that he had done anything horrible.

"I'm sorry I didn't kill the other kid," he said.

The children killed were Florence, 17; Edna, 12, and Mildred, 7. Marian, the other daughter, who is 14, was struck by her father with the ax, but it was a glancing blow and she was able to get out of the house.

A sordid story is revealed by the tragedy. The mother died 18 months ago and the father, a laborer, showed little interest in his motherless children. Marian, the oldest, acted as mother to the little family.

Stoddard was brought to court for his neglect, and arrangement was made whereby his married sister should visit the house occasionally to help with the work.

Brooding, sometimes drinking heavily, although he told police he had been comparatively sober for the last few months, Stoddard continued to live in the house, ignoring the children.

The end came soon after dawn today when he took an axe, crept into the room where Marian and Edna were sleeping, and killed Edna.

Marian tried to fight him off, but he hit her with the flat side of the axe and she fell, crawling through the door to safety. Then he entered the bedroom and killed Florence and little Mildred.

"I thought a coal dealer was going to set our house afire and I wanted to kill them before they burned to death," was one of his explanations. He showed no emotion. He was standing in the center of a downstairs room when the police came.

"I've just killed my three kids," he announced in a tone of satisfaction. "After I killed them I went downstairs and got a drink of water," he said.

"Water—water—there was no fire. When I drank the water I thought maybe I had made a mistake."

Stoddard was charged with first degree murder, but it is believed he will be put in an asylum.

SCHOOL CHILDREN GUILTY TAKING COW TO SCHOOL

TAYLORSVILLE, Ill., Oct. 23.—(United Press)—The legal explanation of bringing a cow into a schoolroom is "unusual disturbance and malicious mischief." Taylorsville authorities decided in attempting to punish 18 boys and eight girls of the local high school.

No Early Victory Church, State in Mexican Republic

MEXICO CITY, Oct. 23.—(United News)—After nearly three months of acute conflict to determine whether church or state shall predominate in republican Mexico, all parties to the struggle have today relinquished hopes of early victory.

Recent developments have been in favor of the state, but the church stands fast. For 70 years the forces now engaged have contended against each other in their efforts for supremacy with the pitch of conflict varying according to the principal inclinations and the vigor of the men who have possessed political power.

Today the most vigorous of the anti-Catholics sits in the presidential palace. He is Plutarco Calles, socialist, reformer and leader in the campaign to perpetuate the revolutionary principles embodied in the constitution of 1857.

At midnight, July 30, the present acute conflict began with the withdrawal of the priests from the temples in protest against the presidential regulations, even then, which interpreted and made effective vague anti-religious articles which have been contained in the constitution since 1857.

Of these the most distasteful to the priesthood was the provision that priests must register themselves with the government. The government explains this as a sanitary measure designed to improve

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made by the Adams committee. Information obtained at the interview will be placed before the Marion county grand jury when it begins the third week of its political inquiry Monday.

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INDIANA EDITOR IS VISITOR TO KLUXER

INDIANAPOLIS, Oct. 24.—(United Press)—The spotlight in Indiana's sensational investigation of alleged political corruption under Ku Klux Klan influence, was turned

again today on the cell of B. C. Stephenson, former klan dragon, in the state prison at Michigan City.

Thomas Adams, head of a committee of republican editors, whose independent investigation of Stephenson's political activities brought about a grand jury and senate in-

quiry into state politics, went to the prison to interview Stephenson.

Permission for the interview was granted by prison authorities after repeated refusals to permit Adams to see Stephenson in an effort to secure evidence supporting the charges of corruption and graft

the condition of the churches and also to provide the state with knowledge of those who administered church property which had been confiscated as state property.

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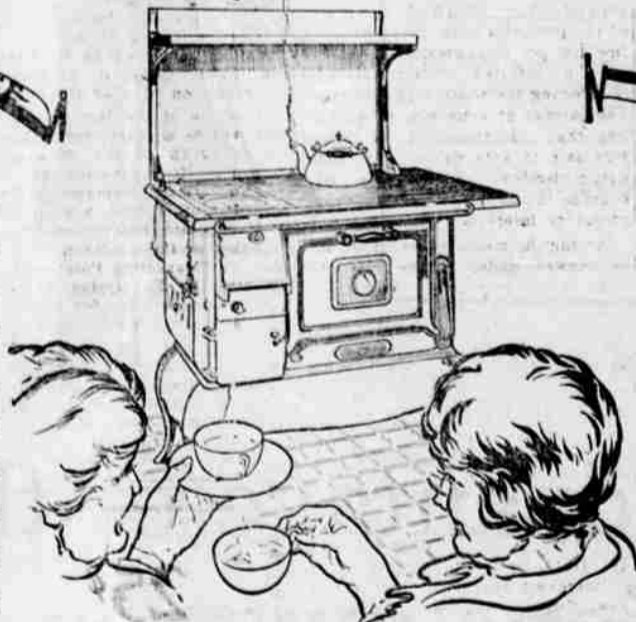


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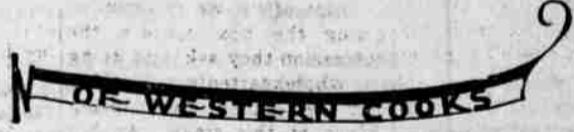
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