

DECKER'S THREE VERSIONS GO TO JURY THURSDAY

Latest Repudiation of Confession Says Dago Joe Killed Lovett.

ITALIAN UNDER ARREST

Special to The Times.
WARSAW, Ind., March 23.—All evidence the authorities have gathered in connection with the mysterious murder of Leroy Lovett, 19, near Atwood two weeks ago, was being whittled into shape today for presentation to a special grand jury which will begin investigating the murder tomorrow.

Sheriff C. B. Moon, Prosecutor H. W. Grant and W. C. Stoekey, special prosecutors in the case, met in Graham's office today for a conference in view of the latest statement of Virgil Decker, 18, confessed slayer, in which the youth said Dago Joe Invagnella was the real murderer.

Deputy sheriffs were summoning witnesses to appear before the grand jury. These include every man who has ever been connected in any way with the case. The Italian will testify as will Virgil and all his immediate relatives.

ONE CONFESSION.

Authorities investigating the mystery were astounded at Decker's readiness to contradict his statements. He has made three statements from his jail cell here—one confession and two repudiations.

Sheriff Moon and detectives are weighing each one and will present all of them to the principal addresses.

In his most recent statement, made late yesterday, Decker said Dago Joe murdered Lovett.

Invagnella was arrested at Elkhart and was to be brought here to stand trial for the killing.

Attorney Robert Buhler, who will try to prove Virgil innocent. Sheriff Moon and other authorities expect it to form the basis of the Decker defense.

According to the statement, Decker and Lovett were going to Albion on Friday, March 18, in a rented automobile. Before the trip, the statement said, Dago Joe approached Virgil and asked if he wanted to make \$1,000 quick.

SAYS HE SAW ITALIAN WITH BLOODY CLUB

With Lovett telling Lovett, Virgil arranged to stop at the Lake Shore viaduct in Elkhart on the trip and pick up the Italian. After the automobile had been driven a short distance, the statement said, Dago Joe asked Virgil to stop it and went into a short distance, then came calling Lovett after him. Then Virgil heard a dull thud, according to the statement, and, running back, found the Italian holding a short club with blood on it and Lovett lying in blood in the water.

"He makes me much trouble," the Italian is alleged to have said.

Virgil said he feared the Italian, who threatened to fasten the blame on him if he did not drive the automobile across a railroad track and let a train strike it to mangle Lovett's body. But, the statement said, Virgil drove to the river, stopped the car, got out and went to a farm where authorities believed the murderer was committed. There he took off Lovett's outer clothing and put his own on the dead youth, transferred the body to an old buggy and placed the buggy in the path of a Pennsylvania passenger train near Atwood, first laying the body of Lovett along the right of way.

MOTHER NOT SURPRISED BY DENIAL OF GUILT

Special to The Times.

ELKHART, Ind., March 23.—When Mrs. Lydia Decker was visited at the little shack she calls home in the suburbs of this city and told that her son Virgil had made a new statement, declaring Leroy Lovett was killed by Dago Joe, she exclaimed, "Well, I'm a son of a gun."

She recalled that the Italian had visited her home Sunday morning, March 13, and inquired for Virgil. He seemed nervous, she declared.

Mrs. Decker said she had believed all along that something would happen to prove that her son was not the slayer.

Detective Clayton McLean of the city has been employed by the Lovett family to aid in clearing up the mystery.

Dago Joe, who was arrested as a result of Decker's latest statement, was to be taken to Warsaw today.

Muncie Plans Quiz in Hospital Affairs

Special to The Times.

MUNCIE, Ind., March 23.—The city council of Muncie, in special session here last night, passed an ordinance authorizing the hospital committee to make a thorough investigation of the hospital here.

A resolution read said the council has heard and received many complaints concerning the conduct and management of the hospital, its rules and regulations, its treatment of patients, and that a number of members of the hospital committee to practice while others were doing that practice; also that the bills filed in the city for payment are not properly itemized and the charges are excessive and unjustified.

The resolution provided for the issuance of subpoenas and writs of attachment, suit and processes before the hospital committee for investigation. The committee is authorized to file charges against persons found at fault.

Tipton Farmer Ends Life; Was Politician

Special to The Times.

TIPTON, Ind., March 23.—Wesley Kinder, 60, well known farmer, living in the western part of Tipton County, just after arriving in the city Tuesday afternoon, went into the Farmers' Trust in the city Company Bank, transacted some business, then went to the rear of the building and swallowed a quantity of acid which caused his death almost instantly. The action was so sudden it prompted by recent financial difficulties.

Mr. Kinder served as postmaster under the Taft administration and was Republican county chairman for two terms. A widow and five children survive.

Arkansas City Quiet After Lynching Bee

MONTECILLO, Ark., March 23.—This place was quiet today, following exciting events last night when a mob of approximately 1,000 persons, including county jail and lynched Phil Shier, 50, negro, who confessed assaulting a white woman near Wilmer, Ark., last week. The negro was hanged to a telephone pole in the public square.

He was the second negro lynched in Arkansas within a week for assaults on white women.

MAN ATTACKED NEAR HOME

John Ulrich, 1819 East Maryland street, was the victim of an attack last night near his home. Two men approached him, he told the police, and, without saying anything, slugged him with a "black jack." The assailants ran west on Maryland street and escaped in a black automobile, he said.

REFRIGERATING ENGINEERS TO MEET

A meeting of Indiana Auxiliary No. 1, National Association Practical Refrigerating Engineers, will be held at the Hotel Sevier Friday evening at 8 o'clock. These meetings are open to the public and every one interested in refrigeration is invited to attend.

Army Man Ends Life With Toe on Trigger

CHICAGO, March 23.—Menemence LaDonna, a private in the 54th Infantry, committed suicide at Ft. Sheridan today by shooting himself with a rifle. He pulled the trigger with his toe. Failing sight is believed to have made him despondent. His home was in New Orleans.

LEGION MEETING TO BE HELD APR. 2

All-American Session Here Put Off One Week.

The all-American mass meeting to be conducted under the auspices of the American Legion in Indianapolis has been postponed from next Saturday until Saturday, April 2. The postponement was made at the insistence of F. W. Cantwell, chairman of the Marion County executive committee of the legion, who is in Chicago endeavoring to obtain Charles G. Dawes or Federal Judge K. M. Landis as a speaker for the occasion.

Plans are under way for the holding of all-American mass meetings, similar to the one to be held in Indianapolis, New York, recently, in every State, according to a statement made at national headquarters of the American Legion here today by Henry J. Ryan, director of the legion's national Americanism commission.

"Each State department of the legion has completed arrangements for the holding of an all-American mass meeting in the principal city of its State," Mr. Ryan said. "These meetings will be held at an early date and speakers of national prominence have been secured to deliver the principal addresses."

The Pennsylvania meeting has been scheduled for April 4 at Philadelphia and Gen. John J. Pershing will be the principal speaker. The meeting will be held in the principal city of its State," Mr. Ryan said. "These meetings will be held at an early date and speakers of national prominence have been secured to deliver the principal addresses."

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