

Madge Oberholtzer's Dying Statement Made Public

Tells of Night on Train, Occurrences in Hammond Hotel and How She Was Brought Home After Taking Poison.

(Continued From Page 1)

went inside. I saw Stephenson and that he had been drinking. His chauffeur whom he called "Shorty" was there also.

"Shorty" is a young man. Later a man whom they called "Clenck" came in.

So soon as I got inside of the house I was very much afraid, as I first learned then there was no other woman about and that Stephenson's housekeeper was away, or at least not in evidence.

Immediately upon my arrival they took me into the kitchen and some kind of drinks were produced. It was then "Clenck" came in the back door. I said I wanted no drink, but Stephenson and the others forced me to drink.

I was afraid not to do so and I drank three small glasses of the drink. This made me very ill and dazed and I vomited.

Stephenson said to me about this time, "I want you to go to Chicago with me." I remember saying I could not and would not. I was very much terrified and did not know what to do. I said to him that I wanted to go home. He said, "No, you can not go home. Oh, yes, you are going with me to Chicago.

"I love you more than any woman I have ever known."

Tried to Phone

I tried to call my home on the phone, but could not get an answer. Later when I tried to get to a phone they would not let me.

These men were all about me. They took me up to Stephenson's room and he opened a dresser drawer which was filled with revolvers. He told each of the men to take one and he selected a pearl handled revolver for himself and had "shorty" load it. Stephenson said first to me that we were going to drive through to Chicago. He said for me to go with him, but I said I did not wish to and would not go to Chicago.

Later Gentry called the Washington Hotel at Stephenson's orders and secured reservations in a drawing room for two persons. They all took me to the automobile in the rear of Stephenson's yard and we started the trip. I thought we were bound for Chicago, but did not know.

I begged of them to drive past my home so I could get my hat, and once inside my home, I thought, I would be safe from them.

They drove me to the Union Station in the machine, where they had to get the tickets. I did not get out of the automobile all the way.

Before we left the house I remember Stephenson said to Clenck:

Stopped at Hotel

"You get in touch with Claude Worley right away and tell him we are going to Chicago on a business deal to make money for all of us."

Clenck did not go with us in the car. Stephenson and Gentry sat in the car all the time with me until we got on the train. We stopped at the Washington on the way down. "Shorty" got out and went into the hotel and came back. They would not let me out. I was dazed and terrified that my life would be taken and I did not know what to do.

Stephenson would not let me get out of the car and I was afraid he would kill me. He said he was the law in Indiana. He also said to Gentry, "I think I am pretty smart to have gotten her."

Boarded Train

We got on the train, and although I can not distinctly remember, I think the colored porter saw us. They took me at once into the compartment. I can not remember clearly everything that happened after that. I know Gentry got into the top berth of the compartment.

(A portion of the statement here can not be printed.)

I tried to fight but was weak and unsteady. Stephenson took hold of my two hands and held them. I had not the strength to move. What I had drunk was affecting me. Stephenson pushed me into the lower berth. After the train had started Stephenson attacked me.

I did not know and do not remember all that happened. I remember I heard a buzz early in the morning and the porter calling me to get up for Hammond, and Gentry shook me and said it was time to get up, that we were to get off at Hammond.

At this time I was becoming more conscious and Stephenson was flourishing his revolver. I said to him to shoot me. He held the revolver against my side, but I did not flinch. I said to him again to kill me, but he put the gun in his grip.

I had heard no sound from Gentry during the night. Afterwards Gentry and Stephenson helped me dress and the two men dressed and they took me off the train at Hammond. I remember seeing the conductor. I was able to walk to the Indiana Hotel.

I remember begging Stephenson and saying to him to wire my mother during the night. And he said he had or would. I am not clear about that.

Went to Hotel

At the Indiana Hotel Stephenson registered for himself and wife. I tried to see under what name but failed to do so. That was about 6:30 in the morning. There were in the hotel lobby two colored bell boys and two colored girls. Gentry, Stephenson and myself went to the rooms. I had no money. I kept begging Stephenson and saying to him to send my mother a telegram.

I said to the bell boy, "Are there telegraph blanks in the rooms?" Ste-

Accuser



Miss Madge Oberholtzer

DEFENSE WINS STATE EVIDENCE

(Continued From Page 1)

phenson made me write the telegram and said to me what to say. Gentry took the telegram and said he would send it right away. Stephenson lay down on the bed and slept. Gentry put hot towels and witch hazel on my head and bathed my body to relieve my suffering.

We were in room 416 with Stephenson while Gentry was doing this. Stephenson said he was sorry and that he was three degrees less than a brute. I said to him, "You are worse than that."

At Breakfast

Breakfast was served in the room. "Shorty" came in about this time. He said that he had driven up in Stephenson's car. Stephenson ate grapefruit, coffee, sausage and buttered toast for breakfast. I drink some coffee, but ate nothing.

I said to Stephenson to give me some money, that I had to buy a hat. "Shorty" gave me \$15 at Stephenson's direction and took me out in the car. "Shorty" said to Stephenson he had been delayed getting there as he could not find the hotel where we were in Hammond.

"Shorty" waited for me while I went into a store close to the hotel to get a hat. This was a small, black silk hat, similar to the one I had—it cost \$12.50.

When I came back to the car I said to "Shorty" to drive me to a drug store in order that I might get some rouge. We drove to a drug store near the Indiana Hotel and I purchased a box of bichloride of mercury tablets. I put these in my coat pocket. Then we went back to the hotel.

Bought Poison

The clerk who sold me the tablets was tall and slender, about the age an adult of my brother, with black hair. He made no objection to selling me the tablets. During the morning when we were in the hotel the men got more liquor at Stephenson's direction. Stephenson said we were going to drive on to Chicago. Stephenson made me write the telegram to my mother saying we were going to Chicago. Gentry took it.

When I said to him I had taken the poison he turned pale and in a few minutes he said to me he wanted to take a walk. He then went out in a few minutes. Stephenson and Gentry and "Shorty" came into the room very much excited.

Stephenson said, "What have you done?" I said, "I asked Shorty not to tell."

Drank Milk

Stephenson ordered a quart of milk and made me drink it. I said to Stephenson and the others that I had taken six bichloride of mercury tablets, and I said, "If you don't believe it, there is the evidence on the floor."

Stephenson emptied the cuspidor into the bath tub and saw some of the tablets and the cuspidor was half full of blood.

I said to Stephenson, "What are you going to do?"

He said, "We are going to take you to a hospital here and you can register as my wife. Your stomach will have to be pumped out."

He said to me that I could tell them at the hospital I had gotten the mercury tablets through mistake instead of asperlin. I refused to do this as his wife. Stephenson said, "It's her mother."

I remember Stephenson said to me: "You will stay right here until you know me."

Stephenson or some one carried me up the stairs into a loft above the garage. Stephenson did something to relieve my pain. I do not remember anything that happened all night after we reached the garage.

Left In Garage

I was left in the garage until I was carried home. A big man named Mr. Clenck, mentioned before, took me home. He shook me and awakened me and said, "You have to go home."

I asked him where Stephenson was and he said he did not know. I remember Stephenson had told me to tell everyone that I had been in an automobile accident and he said, "You must forget this. What is done has been done."

I am the law and the power.

He said to me several times that his word was law.

Stephenson said that the best way out of this was for us to drive to Crown Point and for us to get married. Gentry said he agreed with him. I refused.

Stephenson snapped his fingers and said, "Shorty, pack the grime." Stephenson helped me downstairs. I did not care what happened to me. Just before we left Hammond I said to "Shorty" to call up my mother. He said: "If I do that she will be right up here." I said: "What could be sweeter?"

Start For Home

Stephenson said to me that he had called her. I said to him, "What did she say?" and he replied that it would be all right if I did not come home that night.

I don't know much about what happened after that. My mind was in a daze and was in terrible agony. "Shorty" checked out for all of us. They put me into the back seat of the machine with Stephenson. We then started for home in the automobile at this time. I had vomited all day and "Shorty" saw

After we got apleice, Stephenson

Accused



D. C. Stephenson

it from the courtroom and copy it." "Oh, we have no intention of doing any thing like that," said Inman.

Remy then said he had no objections to letting the defense see the hotel record and the dying statement in the courtroom.

Parties Turned Over

To this Inman agreed and Remy gave him the papers.

Stephenson and his coterie of attorneys eagerly devoured the contents of the paper, upon which the State relies to great extent to make a case. The conference was a long one.

"We have just finished reading the dying declaration of Madge Oberholtzer. We want sufficient time to photograph or copy it," said Inman.

Attorney Holmes added: "There are some parts of it which we think are objectionable."

"On their own statement that the declaration was to be introduced in evidence, the State produced it. The defense now has reverted to its original position that it desires it for inspection," Remy said. "We protest against the defendant taking it to copy, inspect or for any other purpose than to introduce it in evidence."

Cox backed Remy with an argument to the effect that the rule of a dying statement is that it goes in as a whole, and the defense has no right to make motions to strike out parts.

Copies Ordered

Judge Hines then ruled that the document would be kept in possession of the court and not taken out of its presence. He decided, however, the court would make a copy for the defense under the theory that lawyers could not be expected to remember nine pages of typewritten matters.

A recess was taken while the copies were made. The next witness will be the physicians who attended Miss Oberholtzer, or were called in consultation during her final illness. The list includes Dr. Kingsbury, Dr. Virgil T. Moon, H. U. Mertz and J. A. MacDonald.

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