

# 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)

When I got inside 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 get no 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 do so.

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 the way. 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 until we were 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 into the room at 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 here."

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?" Stephenson 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."

Ate 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 drank 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 of 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 got back to the hotel with "Shorty" I went up to the room. Gentry had a room next to Stephenson. His was No. 417.

I said to Stephenson to let me go into 417 to lie down and rest. He said, "Oh, no, you are not going in there. You are going to lie right down here by me."

I waited awhile until I thought he was asleep. Then I went into room 417. Gentry stayed in the room with Stephenson. There was no glass in 417, so I grabbed a glass in 416 and took the mercury tablets. 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.

This was about 10 a. m. Monday, I think.

Early in the morning, I had taken Stephenson's revolver, while Gentry was out sending the telegram. I wanted to kill myself then in Stephenson's presence. This was while he was first asleep. Then I decided to get poison and take it in order to save my mother from disgrace. I knew it would take longer for the mercury tablets to kill me.

Became Ill

Later, after I had taken the mercury tablets, I lay down on the bed and became very ill. I think it was nearly 4 o'clock in the afternoon before anyone came into the room where I was. Then "Shorty" came in. He sat down to talk to me and he said to me that he had never mistreated a girl in his life.

He said to me what was wrong, that I looked so ill. I replied, "Nothing."

He said, "Where is your pain?" and I said it was all over. He said I could not have pain without any cause. I said to him, "Can you keep a secret?" He said, "Yes," I said, "I believe you can." And then I said to him that I had taken poison and said to him not to tell Stephenson. I was very ill and almost delirious at this time. I had vomited blood all day and "Shorty" saw

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said to "Shorty" to take the auto license plates off of the car, which he did, and Stephenson said to him to say if questioned that we had parked in the last town we had passed and the auto plates had been stolen.

All the way back to Indianapolis I suffered great pain and agony and screamed for a doctor. I said I wanted a hypodermic to ease the pain, but they refused.

I begged and begged to Stephenson to leave me along the road some place, that some one would stop and take care of me if he wouldn't. I said to him that I felt he was more cruel to me than he had been in the night before. He said he would stop at the next town, but never did.

Just before reaching a town he would say to "Shorty," "Drive fast, but don't get pinched."

I vomited in the car and all over the back seat and grips.

"She Is Dying"

Stephenson did not try to make me comfortable in any way. He said he thought I was dying and at one time said to Gentry, "It takes guts to do things, Gentry. She is dying."

I heard him say also that he had been in a worse mess than this before and had got out of it. Stephenson and Gentry drank liquor during the entire trip. I remember Stephenson having said that he had power and saying he had made \$250,000. He said that his word was law.

After reaching Indianapolis we drove straight to his house, sitting across to Emerson Ave. of Thirty-eight St., some way. When we reached Stephenson's garage he said, "There is some one at the front door of the house."

It was some time during the night when we got to the garage, as I think we left Hammond about 5 o'clock and Stephenson said to "Shorty" to go find see who was at the front door. "Shorty" came back and said, "It's her mother."

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

Stephenson or some one carried me up the stairs into a left 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.

I was suffering and in such agony that I begged and said to Clenck to take me home in the Cadillac car. He said he would order a taxi, but finally said he would take me to Stephenson's car.

He put my clothes on me and carried me to the car and put me in the back seat and drove the car to my home.

Carried In

I said to him to drive up the driveway. He did and then carried me into the house and upstairs into my bed. This about noon Thursday when we got into the house.

I, Madge Oberholtzer, am in full possession of all my mental faculties and understand what I am saying. The foregoing statements have been read to me, and I have made them as my statements and they are all true. I am sure that I will not recover from this illness and I believe that death is very near to me, and I have made all the foregoing statements as my dying declaration and they are true.

Dated, March 28, 1925.

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