

SLAYER OF HOOSIER SET FIRE TO BODY BEFORE DEATH

FIEND'S WORK LAID BARE IN MEDLOCK CASE

Inquest at Bloomington lays Murder to Unknown Person.

KILLING WITHOUT CLEW

Probe Under Way Since Sunday Fails of Results.

BY CHARLES C. STONE
State Editor, The Times

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Jan. 24.—One of the most brutal killers in the history of Indiana is still at large today—the person who ended the life of Ellis A. Medlock, 23, farmer near Kirksville, Monroe County, setting fire to an inflammable liquid on the body while it still held life. Sheriff W. S. Curry today gave little hope of an early capture of the slayer, if ever. It is "the murder case without a clew."

Although Medlock had been missing since Friday, 13, the case was not reported to authorities until last Friday. Sheriff Curry declared today that this delay gave the slayer a good start in escaping.

Slayer "Unknown Person"

The inquest held by Dr. F. P. Turner, Monroe County coroner, resulted in a finding that Medlock came to his death by being struck on the head with a blunt instrument, "in the hands of an unknown person." That Medlock was still alive when flames enveloped his body was proved, the coroner held, by the fact that there were blisters on the body. Burning of a corpse will not produce blisters.

During his investigations Monday, Sheriff Curry was handed a note by a man known to him but whose identity he refuses to disclose, and he is also keeping secret the contents of the note. He said today, however, that the note "didn't amount to anything," comparing it to emissives school children pass to each other.

Women Accusers, Belief

Other information regarding the note was to the effect it contained the names of men suspected by the writer, evidently three women. The sheriff denied any persons were accused.

So far there has been no developments affecting the theory that Medlock was the victim of liquor dealing trouble, his wife having admitted that when he left home Saturday it was for the purpose of delivering a gallon of white-mule whisky. The battered, partially burned body was found in a thicket near the Medlock home, Sunday.

Body Frozen in Ground

Sam and George Hughes, brothers, found the body. It was badly frozen and so deeply imbedded in frosty earth that steel crowbars were used in loosening it. After removal to a morgue here cold water was played over the body to thaw it sufficiently to be prepared for burial.

Funeral services for the murder victim were held this morning. Besides the widow and two daughters, 2 and 5, respectively, Medlock leaves his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Medlock, three brothers and two sisters, all living here.

CLUB TO HEAR WETZEL
Keystone Press Head Will Speak at Dinner Tonight.

RULES ON PARK LANDS
Gilliom Decides State Has Power to Condemn Property.

Attorney General Arthur L. Gilliom ruled today that the Governor and the State conservation department have the power to exercise the right of eminent domain in condemning property wanted by county commissioners for parks to be turned over to the State.

The meeting has been designated as Father and Son night.

Dinner will be served at 6:30, by members of the Women's Service Circle of the Church. Musical numbers by Herbert Rennard, violinist, and the Carrollton Avenue Quartet, and other entertainment will be presented. The dinner and meeting are open to all men of the community.

INSTRUCT STATE POLICE
Criminal Bureau Officials Teach Cooperation to Men.

Twelve members of the State police assigned to the northern district were given instruction today in the best methods of cooperating with police authorities in the apprehension of criminals, and in working with the recently established criminal identification bureau.

The meeting was held at the Lincoln. Speakers were Chief Robert Hume, Chauncey Manning, bureau head, and Frederick E. Schortemeyer, secretary of State.

QUESTIONED ABOUT FIRE
Negro Held by Police Quizzed in Four Arson Cases.

John Barber, 35, Negro, 652 Atlantic St., is held in city prison today for questioning in the investigation of four incendiary fires on Johnson, Douglas and Kinney Sts., in the last month. All the fires were within a half block. He was arrested on a vagrancy charge by Sergt. John Sheehan Monday night.

"Ghost" Dodges Bullets

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Jan. 24.—The latest episode in the effort to lay "the ghost of the Red Hog quarry district" south of Clear Creek, was a shooting party led by Noble Sicoe and including six other men. Shots were fired, but the "ghost" is still at large.

BOY, 13, USES GUN TO ROUT BURGLAR

Reading Alone, His Parents Gone, Lad Chases Away Intruder.

Robert Osborne, 13, sat reading in the living room of his home, 736 Cottage Ave., late Monday. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Osborne, were away.

Suddenly Robert saw the family cat arch his back and spit in the direction of a bedroom door.

Then Robert heard a footstep in the bedroom.

Cold chills electrified the youngster, but his nerve stood the test. He tells the rest thus:

"I knew where my father's revolver was. I got it out of another bed-

room and was just starting for the room where I had heard the noise when a man opened it. He jerked when he saw I was pointing a gun at him and began in a nervous voice to try to make me out of it.

CAR PLUNGE IN RIVER KILLS 7
Family Trapped in Sedan by Crash.

By United Press

NEW LONDON, Conn., Jan. 24.—Seven members of the family of Robert Whittaker were drowned today when their motor car plunged off a bridge into the Thames River after a collision with a motorcycle.

Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker and their five children were in the machine. The bodies of all but two of the children have been recovered.

The auto was struck by a motorcycle ridden by Harris Preston. His leg was fractured.

Apparently none of the occupants had opportunity to escape from the closed motor car before it fell into the river. One door was partly open and only three bodies were found in the sedan, so it was believed the mother had tried to get her children out of the car to safety.

It was extremely cold and the shock of the icy water contributed to the deaths of the seven.

Five Burned to Death

By United Press

RAWLINS, Wyo., Jan. 24.—Five members of a family were burned to death at McFadden, an oil town ten miles north of Rock River, today when their home caught fire from an over-heated stove, reports received here.

The dead were John King, his wife and three sons, aged 6, 8 and 10.

BURGLARS ACTIVE

Negroes Sought for Thefts at North Side Homes.

Police today hunted two Negroes suspected of robbing two north side homes Monday night and attempting a burglary at another.

Mrs. Bertha Brown, 3650 Fall Creek Blvd., found two Negroes attempting to open a window as she arrived home. They walked leisurely away, she said.

The same two men are believed to have broken into the home of Albert Metzger, 3120 N. Meridian St., taking clothing valued at \$300, and L. Schmidt, 5426 Carrollton Ave., taking jewelry valued at \$365. The Metzgers are in Cuba. The burglar was reported by a maid.

Max Merritt, 5414 Guilford Ave., reported a child's bank and \$3 stolen from his home. Mrs. F. S. Hassler, 1450 College Ave., valued a ring taken from her home at \$200.

MAYOR ASKS DIVORCE

Herbert Males, Evansville, Says Wife Won't Live With Him.

By United Press

EVANSVILLE, Ind., Jan. 24.—Asserting that his wife, Mrs. Anna Males, has refused to live with him for three months, Herbert Males, Evansville mayor, has filed suit for divorce.

The complaint contains charges that Mrs. Males "quarreled, nagged and fussed" at the mayor and finally refused to live with him. The mayor and his wife were married in 1945.

Two Sued in Auto Death

By United Press

BERLIN, Jan. 24.—The first known deposit of helium gas in Europe has been found at Rüsselsheim, Boden, 600 meters under the surface. The deposit is said to be extensive.

HARVARD ISN'T HARVARD ANY MORE—TO ALUMNI—FOR 'COPEY' HAS RESIGNED

By United Press

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—Life may go on at Harvard, the old school may take its annual football licks from Yale and even Princeton, but for many of its most famous alumni and equal numbers of its most obscure hinds, the tang has gone out of Harvard. "Copey" has retired.

"Copey" is Charles Townsend Copeland, and he resigned the Boylston professorship of rhetoric while the ink was still wet on an article in the New Yorker by Hey-

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Robert Osborne

"He said if I wouldn't shoot or call the police he would go and ran out the back door."

The boy notified neighbors and then called police. The burglar had ransacked the bedroom.

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