

'AUTO PICKUP' LOVER PLEADS SELF-DEFENSE

Grain Dealer Contradicts Story of Woman Whose Mate He Slew.

By United Press
NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 30.—The central figure in an eternal triangle which ended in murder is pleading self-defense, telling a story which directly contradicted the story of the woman in the case.

Walter L. Liggett, prosperous Nashville grain dealer, who entered into an illicit love affair with Mrs. Era Helen Cunningham, on trial charged with fatally shooting Turney M. Cunningham, the woman's husband and a hotel proprietor here, testified Tuesday.

The accused man's account of the tragic love affair began with the assertion that Mrs. Cunningham, who had testified she feared him and had sought to terminate the liaison, erred when she said he "picked her up" in an automobile to make her acquaintance, that he was the "aggressor" in their relations, and that he had threatened Cunningham's life.

Induced to Come Back

He met Mrs. Cunningham through a mutual friend, casually, in front of the Cunningham home—ultimate scene of the murder, he said. Several months after the first meeting, Liggett said, he told Mrs. Cunningham, "I am going to give a good girl and get married," he testified.

"She cried," he said, "threw some kind of a fit, and induced me to come back with her."

Somewhat later there was a "conference" at the Cunningham home, he said, at which Cunningham accused him of "running around with my wife," and told him "I don't want you to be seen with her again."

"I said, 'yes, sir, I have been seeing her,'" Liggett continued. "But Mrs. Cunningham remarked, 'As a lady, I demand that he speak to me any time he sees me.'

"He said, 'Well, all right.' And added to me:

"Walter, I don't blame you for all this. It is not her first offense. You may go."

After that, the accused man said, Mrs. Cunningham wrote him a letter, "and we slipped back into the same old relations."

Fired in Self-Defense

On the night of the murder, Oct. 29, Liggett said, he had gone to the Cunningham home to see Mrs. Cunningham, who told him "We are being watched."

"As I reached the alley back of the house I saw two men running toward me," he testified. "One was shouting that he was going to kill that—

"Suddenly I saw one of the men start shooting at me.

"I grabbed my pistol and started shooting at the flame directed at me."

Liggett emphasized that at least two shots were fired at him before he drew his own weapon—which he insisted was done in self-defense.

The two men proved to be Cunningham, who mortally was wounded, and Earl Kiger, a private detective employed by Cunningham.

OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS

Policemen and Firemen's Children Benefit at Butler.

Establishment of two \$250 a year scholarships to Butler University were announced today by Mayor L. E. Slack.

A scholarship will be awarded to a son or daughter of a policeman and fireman who makes the best scholastic record in high school this year. Money will be raised through the second annual police and firemen's circus, which will be staged in May.

Funds from the circus go to the police and firemen's emergency fund, of which Slack is chairman. Edward Richardson is making plans for the second annual circus for the safety board.

Doesn't Like Indianapolis

By Times Special
MARION, Ind., Jan. 30.—Earl Ratliff has a divorce complaint on file here in which he alleges that Mrs. Florence Ratliff refused to accompany him to reside in Indianapolis, where he had obtained employment. They were married Dec. 19, 1907, and separated Nov. 29, 1928.

Pain
Neuritis, Rheumatism

"Heet" relieves instantly! With applicator attached to cork, just brush "Heet" over the pain area, whether in knee, feet, legs, hands, shoulders, back, neck or body. Instantly you feel this harmless, glorious, penetrating heat draw the pain, soreness and stiffness right out of the aching or swollen joint, muscle or nerve. "Heet" contains two soothing, penetrating ingredients, too expensive to use in ordinary liniments or analgesics. It is a clean, pleasant liquid; doesn't stain, blister or irritate, and costs only 60 cents at drug stores.

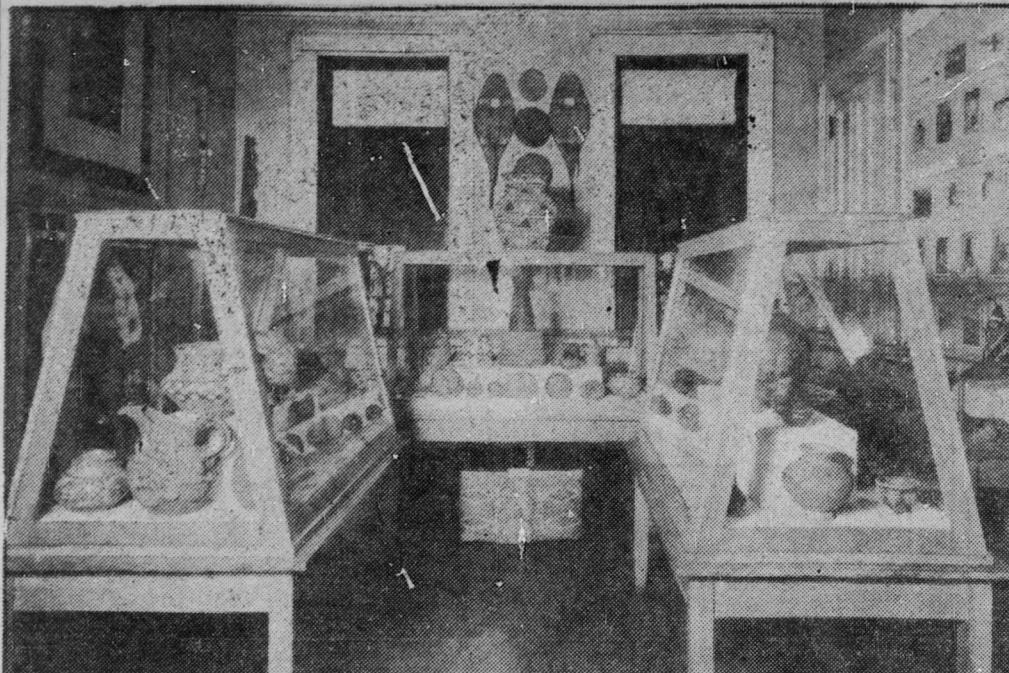
SPECIAL AGENTS MEET
Legislation is Discussed by Railroad Police Association.

Past and pending legislation of interest to law enforcing bodies in Indiana was being discussed today at the first triennial convention of the Indiana Railroad Police Association at the Sevierin. J. C. Molter, secretary-treasurer, was presiding at the meeting.

After luncheon the convention will clear up all routine business and listen to talks and opinions of the members.

W. R. Manning, chief special agent Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad, is president of the organization and J. F. Lanning, inspector of police, Nickel Plate Railroad, vice-president.

Old Peruvian Pottery in Museum



Part of the collection of Peruvian pottery of the days when Incas ruled the land, in the Indian relic room at the Indianapolis Children's museum. The collection is regarded as the best in this section of the country and many students come here from distant points to study it. The museum is conducting a membership campaign.

COLLEGE HEAD DIES ON TRAIN

Body Taken Back to South Dakota for Burial Today.

The body of Dr. Robert Lincoln Slagle, president of the University of South Dakota, was started on its final trip to Vermillion, S. D., at noon today.

Dr. Slagle died on a Big Four train just after it left Lebanon Tuesday night.

The train arrived in Indianapolis at 6:05 p. m., and the body was removed to the Flanner & Bulchanan mortuary.

Slagle, who is 35, will be one of the youngest college presidents in the United States.

EDUCATORS ARE INVITED Six State College Presidents Asked to Russell Sage Inauguration.

Presidents of six Indiana colleges and universities have been invited to attend the inauguration ceremonies of President-Elect J. Lawrence Meader of Russell Sage college, Troy, N. Y., Feb. 22.

Those invited are William L. Bryan, Indiana university; David M. Edwards, Earlham college; Homer P. Rainey, Franklin college; Lemuel M. Marvin, De Pauw university; Edward C. Elliott, Purdue university, and W. H. T. Dau, president of Valparaiso university.

Meader, who is 35, will be one of the youngest college presidents in the United States.

FIX BIRTHDAY OF CIVILIZATION

Put at 6,929 Years Ago
After Excavations.

By United Press

CHICAGO, Jan. 30.—Civilization is enjoying approximately its 6,929th year, according to archaeologists of the Field Museum of Natural History.

They announced that, according to findings in Mesopotamia, they could place the dawn of civilization shortly before 4,000 B. C.

The announcement said the archaeologists, after sifting through successive layers of bones, broken earthenware and other indications of man, had struck virgin soil at the site of the ancient city of Kish.

By computation of the time required to lay each stratum, the scientists were able to arrive at the approximate figure for civilization's advent.

A sealed verdict was returned in court today after the jurors deliberated several hours Tuesday night.

Six other defendants in the case previously had been dismissed by Federal Judge Robert C. Baltzell.

Miss Robinson alleged she purchased Texas oil land from Charles M. Watson and brother, whom the defense said was her partner, in 1920 and defendants in 1921 filed a cross complaint in a creditor's proceeding ordering two checks for \$22,000 cashed and \$17,000 paid to defendants. Three years later, it was charged, the suit was dismissed for want of equity and the \$17,000 returned to Miss Robinson.

She asked \$500,000 damages for injury to her credit and handicapping her working capital in the oil land leasing business.

Officers of the Mueller Realty and Investment Company are J. Belle E. Bish, Seymour.

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