

GORDON DEATH SPURS WAR ON RACKET KINGS

600 N. Y. Policemen and Detectives Working on Murder Mystery.

By United Press
NEW YORK, March 3.—The Vivian Gordon murder, combining the falsely glamorous elements of dazzling night life with the most sordid phases of vicious criminality, today provoked a new declaration of war upon the twin citadels of underworld power and political corruption.

The dead hand of Vivian Gordon, 40-year-old demimonde with the face of a girl, whose criminality was exploited by others for years, and whose death came when she sought to turn upon her exploiters with all the bitterness of cumulative passion and revenge, has stirred a crusade by outraged citizenry. Its purpose will be fulfilled when vice is divorced from politicos and the evil interlocking of the two "systems" has been shattered.

600 Cops Work On Case

Six hundred detectives and policemen, a majority of them honestly determined to find the slayers of Vivian Gordon—and some of them trembling in fear of the disclosures that may come from it—are engaged in today's hunt.

Already they have clews which carry the thread of Vivian Gordon's life up to a few blank hours before her lifeless body was thrown from a limousine in which she had been strangled, and rolled into a lone some gully of a Bronx park.

The police know from a maid in her employ, that Vivian Gordon was driven in a big car, from Fort Lee street and Broadway to Mt. Vernon, a suburb.

Vivian sat between two men, while the maid herself occupied one of the auxiliary seats.

Maid Tells of Last Ride

At five minutes before midnight, the maid was dropped off at her Mt. Vernon home, and the big car rolled away—toward Vivian's death. At dawn on the following morning, Vivian's body, dressed in delicate silk underwear, an expensive evening frock, and torn silk stockings, was discovered.

The strangler's rope was still knotted around her neck.

Vivian Gordon had written a letter to the commission which has been untangling the tangled skein of political corruption. She had appeared once, in secret, before one of the chief investigators.

She had boasted, in letters to her former husband, John Bischoff, and to patrolman Andrew J. McLaughlin, a vice-squad detective, that she would expose a "frameup" by which she served a term in the Bedford reformatory for prostitution.

Map Cleanup Program

A police guard today surrounded the home of Lenora Halsey, Negro, the maid-witness. The police have been "unfortunate" with many of their witnesses.

Three of them, a Bronx policeman and two taxicab drivers who are said to have heard the screams of a woman—"they're killing me!"—coming from a large automobile as it sped through Van Cortlandt park, were said to be missing today.

Meanwhile, stirring uneasily under the revelations of the paralyzing grip that is held upon the forces of law and order by the princes and queens of the underworld, New York burghers hastily conceived of a far-reaching program for the unification of assault upon the system.

First suggested by Rabbi Stephen Wise, and then receiving the backing of the consumer's guild, through its president, E. C. Riegel, the plan is for formation of a "vigilance committee"—a grand inquisitorial body, perpetual in nature, which will investigate, investigate and investigate, constantly and unceasingly, the activities of all public officials, of courts, or police forces.

Witnesses Seek Freedom

District Attorney Charles B. McLaughlin of the Bronx, in charge of the case, Monday made public parts of Miss Gordon's diary in which she foretold her death and named John A. Radloff and Samuel Cohen as the men who would kill her.

This was taken as an unofficial reply to the habeas corpus proceedings by which the two men hope to gain freedom today.

Radloff, her companion in various allegedly shady transactions and her lawyer, Miss Gordon wrote on Feb. 13, 1929: "If anything happens to me he is to blame."

Some of the connections Miss Gordon had with the racketeering fraternity of Broadway were told to Referee Seaborn of the appellate division inquiry by Mrs. Cassie Clayton of Erie, Pa., a friend of the murdered woman.

Miss Gordon's rise to fame and fortune after her release from Bedford reformatory, where she was sent on an allegedly framed vice charge, was rapid.

Fingers in Many Rackets

In association with Radloff, she progressed from lodgings on the lower east side to apartments in the Waldorf Astoria, the Roosevelt and Park Central hotels, to speaking terms with Arnold Rothstein and other big Broadway gamblers, and to ownership of several profitable rackets.

Authorities have not yet untangled her numerous affairs, but entries in her diary and other sources have produced references to stock selling deals, jewel robberies, and one racket in particular which seemed to have proved profitable—a blackmail system by which she supplied beautiful girls for rich men's parties, instructing the girls to get names and addresses of their hosts.

GASOLINE TAXES GAIN

\$1,282,701 Collected in February, \$175,907 Boost Over 1930.

February gasoline taxes totaled \$1,282,701, a gain of \$175,907 over the same month in 1930, according to the report made to State Auditor Floyd E. Williamson today by Joseph M. Tracy, state gasoline tax collector.

A gain of 4,306,039 gallons to a new high for February of 31,975,887 was recorded.

Maj.-Gen. Edgar Jadwin, Famed Army Engineer, Dead at Panama City

By United Press

PANAMA CITY, March 3.—Major-General Edgar Jadwin, retired chief of the army engineering corps and chairman of the intercoastal canal board, died at Gorgas here Monday night from cerebral hemorrhage.

He was stricken with apoplexy at Ancon Monday night as he was preparing to proceed to Nicaragua, but appeared to be recovering.

The body will be sent to the transport St. Mihiel Monday. Major-General

Jadwin's home was at Honesdale (Wayne county), Pa.

Major-General Jadwin had conferred here with other members of the canal board, S. B. Williamson, F. R. Finch and Dean Amherst Marston, who reported that the construction of a Nicaragua canal was feasible from an engineering and sanitary viewpoint.

Danger of landslides was less in Nicaragua than in Panama, the commissioners reported. They also considered a program for enlarging and improving the Panama canal.

Major-General Edgar Jadwin had a brilliant career in the army engineering corps for almost forty years.

He was graduated from West Point in 1890 and retired with the rank of major-general in 1929.

He served in the Spanish-American war and in the World war, but was best known for his peace-time work in the United States and in the Canal Zone.

The "Jadwin plan" of flood control formulated after the disastrous Mississippi valley floods of 1927 was the army officer's most important work.

The plan called for expenditure of \$225,000,000 and was opposed bitterly in congress, but finally passed with administration support.

As a result of agreement between

Gandhi and Sir George Schuster, representing Lord Irwin, the viceroy, the salt tax problem was solved by granting permission for natives living along the seacoast to gather, manufacture and sell salt which previously had been prohibited be-

cause of the salt monopoly held by British interests.

The "salt making" campaign had been one of Gandhi's most effective means of arousing the public sentiment, similar in many respects to the American colonists' rebellion against the idea of payment of the stamp or tea tax.

The Nationalist congress leaders were hopeful of an immediate solution which would result in ending of the civil disobedience movement against British rule. Gandhi returned to the viceroy's palace at 2 p. m. and resumed conversations with Lord Irwin. It was understood the congress had abandoned its demand for an investigation of alleged "police excesses" in suppressing independence demonstrations due to the fact that the viceroy "expressed regrets," and also to the viceroy's approval of "peaceful picketing" of foreign cloth and liquor shops in the future. Gandhi defined such picketing as not offending the ordinary law of the country and as not being a manifestation of resistance to the government.

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