



The Indianapolis Times

Unsettled with light rain tonight and possibly Saturday morning; lowest temperature tonight about 40, somewhat colder Saturday.

HOME

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BEAUTY QUEEN MAY NOT FACE MURDER TRIAL

Investigation Bears Out Charlotte Nash's Self-Defense Claim.

CALLED 'GOOD MOTHER'

Family of Slain Husband Is
Unlikely to Push
Prosecution.

By United Press

NICE, France, March 13—Police investigation of the death of Fred G. Nixon-Nirdlinger indicated today that his widow, the former Charlotte Nash of St. Louis, who admitted shooting her husband, might never face trial for the killing.

As police were re-enacting the shooting at the home of the couple on the Promenade Des Anglais, it appeared likely that the traditional French attitude toward "crime passionnel" would come to the aid of the girl who won second honors in the 1924 Atlantic City beauty pageant.

Preliminary investigation was said to bear out her contention that she shot in self-defense.

It was pointed out that the police had partly verified Mrs. Nixon-Nirdlinger's story by determining the angle at which a bullet found in the wall of the room had been fired.

She said she fired the first shot from the bed while her husband was choking her. Doctors also said that the bruise on her neck indicated she had been severely handled.

Charge Not to Be Pushed

Furthermore, Charles Loeb, the American lawyer representing the Nixon-Nirdlinger family in Philadelphia, did not indicate that he would push the prosecution. He arranged to have the body of the theatrical man sent to Philadelphia.

Police questioned friends of the couple at Nice and Saint Moritz, where they were frequently seen at sports events, and received a favorable report on Mrs. Nixon-Nirdlinger, who was widely praised as a good mother.

It was said that most of their friends also testified to her husband's jealousy and blamed the tragedy on "another case of 54 marrying 20."

The Philadelphia man and his wife had returned only a few days before the shooting from St. Moritz, where Mrs. Nixon-Nirdlinger was one of the best fancy skaters.

Never Marry Beauty Queen

It was recalled that soon after their return an Englishman acquaintance had complimented the American on having such a beautiful wife.

"Let me warn you, young man, never marry a beauty queen," Nixon-Nirdlinger was said to have replied. "Nature can not give intellectual companionship and a perfect face."

The American girl was often mistaken for the daughter of Nixon-Nirdlinger, who was more than thirty years her senior, but he always appeared to be amused by the error.

Their two children, one 18 months old and the other 3 years, were in charge of a Swedish nurse at San Quentin prison for burglary, was questioned by police in connection with the slaying.

Davis' admission that he was in San Diego, Feb. 11, when Virginia disappeared and that he had herded sheep on the Mesa at Camp Kearny, where her body was found, led police to delay his removal to San Quentin pending word from San Diego authorities.

All's Lost

Jobless, Destitute Man
Suicide for Allowing
Wife's Disgrace.

By United Press

A KRON, O., March 13.—A jaded romance that led a wife to disgrace and her husband to suicide, today provided one of the most dramatic tragedies on Akron police records.

Jobless and driven to remorse for having permitted his wife to disgrace herself for love of him, Amos N. Shenk appeared at the women's detention home, where she was taken after her arrest and asked for her.

"I want to bid farewell to my wife," he told Mrs. Anna Deneen, custodian. "I am going to kill myself in a few minutes."

He handed her his purse containing \$23, his watch and a diamond ring.

Alarmed, the matron retired from the room to call police. Seeing them arrive, Shenk lifted a vial to his lips and gulped the contents.

"You're too late, boy," he said calmly. "It's the most deadly poison known."

HE walked to the police car, staggered into city hospital emergency ward and died two hours later in the arms of his wife.

An impassioned note of love and self-condemnation was found on his person. It read:

"Oh, how I love you, but I am not worthy to be your husband. If I could only hold you in my arms again, I love you, I love you, I love you."

Weeping bitterly, Mrs. Shenk told officers she had gone to a disorderly house after her husband futilely had sought work and their funds were exhausted. She was arrested in a police raid.

MURDER SPOT BELIEVED FOUND

Police Think Virginia
Brooks Was in Shack.

By United Press

SAN DIEGO, Cal., March 13.—In the belief they may have located a shack in which 10-year-old Virginia Brooks was held captive prior to her murder, police today sought identification by the girl's mother of portions of an undergarment found in the building.

It was generally believed that the progressives, consciously or not, had served notice on the Democrats that, if that party wants the support of liberals throughout the country, it must nominate a liberal candidate.

It was also felt that, in view of the friendly exchange between the progressive promoters and Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, of New York, he would stand the greatest chance of obtaining progressive support.

Denounce Hoover's Policies

Almost every speaker, including the senators and industrial and agricultural spokesmen, denounced the Hoover administration's policies.

Thursday night when Dr. Ernest Mundt announced after an examination that the girl's body had not, as at first believed, been mutilated, its condition, he said, was due to the natural decomposition.

Jerry L. Davis, 21, under sentence to San Quentin prison for burglary, was questioned by police in connection with the slaying.

During the night, chemist Macay of the police department subjected the fabric to a chemical analysis.

Investigators received a setback.

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