

JURY TO PROBE FRAUD CHARGES IN BROOKS WILL

Alleged \$2,000 Offer for Witness' Signature Spurs Quiz.

Grand jury investigation into charges of fraud in wills relating to the estate of Bartholomew D. Brooks, Indianapolis business man, was started today by order of Prosecutor Herbert E. Wilson.

Admission by a witness that he was promised \$2,000 for signing his name to a will, dated Sept. 16, 1924, but which is said to have been signed June 7, 1931, prompted the probe.

Testimony that Robert A. Hackney, 3750 North Capitol avenue, and Ralph Dickison of Monrovia obtained his signature to a fraudulent will for purpose of acquiring major portion of Brooks' \$250,000 estate, was made Saturday by William N. Davis, 537 West Thirtieth street, in probate court.

Hackney Chief Beneficiary

Dickison and his wife formerly cared for Brooks, who died in June, 1930. Hackney, an attorney, was an employee of Brooks and chief beneficiary under both a 1930 and the 1924 will.

Lee Geisendorf, grocer, 2801 North Sherman drive, told lawyers his signature on the 1924 will was a forgery.

He admitted signing a contract with Hackney by which he was to receive \$1,500 for services in helping efforts to set aside a 1920 Brooks' will in favor of a 1930 document.

A jury in probate court, after a month's trial, recently held the 1930 will a fraud and ordered the 1920 will probated.

Charities Drew Bequests

Two charities, the Indianapolis Home for Aged Women and the Indianapolis chapter American Red Cross, were given approximately \$200,000 under the 1920 will.

The 1924 will was reported found in a bureau drawer at the Brooks' home on Elaine avenue, seven days after the trial ended. One provision of the 1934 document would have made Hackney chief beneficiary, attorneys declared.

Prosecutor Wilson declared he would instruct Oscar C. Hagemeier, grand jury prosecutor, to conduct a thorough investigation.

Tells of \$2,000 Offer

Davis testified that Dickison approached him June 6 with the question "How would you like to make a couple of thousand dollars?" "How?" he said he asked.

"Well, sign will as a witness—the will of old man Brooks," Dickison returned, according to Davis' testimony.

The two men then drove to Hackney's home, arranged the matter, and Davis returned at 11 p.m. the next night, June 7, and signed the 1924 will, Davis declares.

Sworn statements of both Davis and Geisendorf have been introduced as evidence in the will trial.

Kivett Threatens Withdrawal

Geisendorf first told Silas Kivett, Martinsville attorney, representing plaintiffs in the 1924 will, that "the signature looks like mine, but is that of my dead uncle," Kivett stated.

Charges that Geisendorf offered to "sell his testimony in the Brooks' case" were made by Kivett. Geisendorf denied on the witness stand he had told Kivett "if you want to be crooked we can fix this thing up."

Flatly refusing, according to his own statement, "to be inveigled by Geisendorf," Kivett has announced he will withdraw from the case if he finds Brooks' signature to the 1924 will is not genuine.

TWO ARE HELD FOR IMPERSONATING COPS

\$2 Robbery Is Laid to Men; Caught as Boys Protest.

Alleged to have represented themselves as police officers, two men today were under arrest on charges of impersonating and impersonating an officer in connection with the \$2 robbery of Marvin Wiseman, R. R. 14, at Pine street and Southeastern avenue, Sunday.

The alleged thieves are Melvin Butler, 25, of South State Avenue, and Joseph Watson, 24, of 427 North Randolph street.

Wiseman said they told him they were officers and searched him, taking the money. They were nabbed after three boys said the duo had chased them from Willard park, later, asserting they were police.

RUTH'S PLANE REPAIRED

Society Girl Aviator May Leave for Harbor Grace Today.

By United Press

NEW YORK, June 22.—With repairs completed on Ruth Nichols' Lockheed monoplane, Clarence Chamberlin, her technical adviser, said today he expects to make a test flight and if everything proves satisfactory, the society girl aviator may start for Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, about 2 p.m.

Mrs. Chamberlin already is on the way to Harbor Grace by boat with various spare parts and equipment for Miss Nichols' plane.

MOTHERS IN CRACKUP

Gold Star Group Unhurt; Four in Other Auto Are Killed.

By United Press

AMIENS, France, June 22.—A group of American Gold Star mothers visiting France were in a motorcar accident Sunday night, but none was hurt.

The automobile in which the women were returning from a visit to the Somme battlefield collided with another machine. Four occupants of the car were killed, but none of the Americans was injured to any extent.

New Freight Line Proposed

Riley H. Shinkle, 415 North Pennsylvania street, has petitioned the public service commission for permission to operate a freight motor line between Indianapolis and the Ohio state line. The route would terminate in Ohio at Cincinnati.

Screen Beauty Topples Over Cliff; Injured



Evelyn Knapp

WOMAN LEAPS OUT OF CAR TO EVADE ATTACK

Two Men Are Charged With Forcing Attentions on Girl Companions.

Two men are under arrest today after they are alleged to have forced two young women to drink and then attempt to attack them as their automobile roared over thoroughfares northeast of the city Sunday night.

Lewis Johnson, alias Jack Latur, 26, of 410 North Euclid avenue, already under indictment as a death auto driver, is charged with drunkenness, vagrancy and operating an auto while drunk. M. H. Paff, 1101 North Beville avenue, is charged with drunkenness, resisting an officer and vagrancy.

By United Press

HOLLYWOOD, June 22.—Evelyn Knapp, New York stage and screen actress, was recovering today from back injuries received when she fell over a cliff, while hiking in the Hollywood hills.

With her brother Stanley, the actress was hiking near Lake Hollywood when she took a backward step and fell thirty feet. At first it was believed her back was broken, but her injuries later were diagnosed as broken ribs and dislocated vertebrae.

After leaving George White's "Scandals," Miss Knapp came to Hollywood, appearing in "Sinner's Holiday," "River's End" and "The Millionaire."

YOGI OUT OF JAIL

Well Dressed Woman Puts Up Bail for Hindu.

The "power" of the Yogi Ramchandra, Hindoo mystic, has freed him from the city prison.

Several well-dressed women, whose names were withheld, appeared at headquarters Sunday and provided \$2,000 bond for the mystic's release on a vagrancy charge.

He was arrested after deputy sheriffs found him and a young woman near their car, parked on a road near Castleton for several hours Friday.

Attorneys for the yogi said they will seek an early hearing.

Parents of the girl charge the Hindoo has a "power" over the girl, but she denied this, asserting she had "a grand time and I love him."

SETS SERMON RECORD

Los Angeles Preacher Talks for Twenty Hours Continuously.

LOS ANGELES, June 20.—Chalk up a new record for long-winded speakers. Dr. A. M. Flitterton of this city is now the undisputed champion marathon preacher, with a record of twenty hours of continuous speech from the pulpit of his church. Beginning at 6 a.m., his sermon lasted until 2 a.m. the following morning. The former record was 12 hours and 10 minutes, held by the Rev. C. Z. Brown of Washington, D. C.

MARRIAGE IS DISCUSSED

Lutheran Walther Leaguers Hear Lindsey, Russell Assailed.

POCONO PINES, Pa., June 22.—Marriage relationship was a topic of discussion at the opening session here today of the International Walther League of Lutherans which brought together approximately 2,000 delegates from the United States and Canada.

The Rev. Walter A. Maier, professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, assured loose marriage relations and characterized the prominence attained by such men as former Judge Ben Lindsey and Sir Bertrand Russell as "notorious accomplishments" of the twentieth century.

MOTORCYCLIST KILLED

NOBLESVILLE, Ind., June 22.—Earl Hill, 17, son of William Hill Arcadia, died here today a few hours after the motorcycle he was riding collided with an auto on Indiana lakes and streams.

It is said that nine out of every ten girls in Sweden are natural blondes.

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Some Crust

By United Press

DUBUQUE, Ia., June 22.—A turtle which found its way mysteriously into the Albert family car crawled between the brake pedal and floorboard just as the driver wanted to make a quick stop at a street car track. The hard shell held up the brake, the car wouldn't stop, and seven members of the family were hurt in the crash.

BUGLE CALLS. FIRST RETREAT

C. M. T. C. to Watch Plane Maneuvers Wednesday.

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