

# POISONED SISTERS ARE LAID AT REST, SIDE BY SIDE

## FRAIL MOTHER COLLAPSES AT GIRLS' FUNERAL

Distraught From Grilling in Mystery of Fatal Sandwiches.

### FIND STRYCHNINE CLEW

Arrest Believed Imminent as Officials Discover Capsules' Source.

BY ARCH STEINEL  
Times Staff Correspondent

GREENFIELD, Ind., June 24.—A second reunion of the Simmons family of Boone and Hancock counties was held today at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Simmons, seven miles northeast of here, over the biers of their two daughters.

It was a bitter reunion, as bitter as the one that started joyfully Sunday and ended in the poison slaying of the daughters of the wealthy Greenfield farmer and illness for two other members who attended the picnic reunion in Lebanon.

But unlike the first reunion, today's was rife with tears and solemnity from the beginning, as Alice Jean and Virginia Simmons were borne from the family home to a cemetery founded by a great grandfather near Willow Branch.

Weakened by Grilling

The parents were distraught from grillings by authorities seeking information helpful in solving the mystery of the poisoned sandwiches which slew the two girls.

While the Rev. Omar Huffer of Charlottesville intoned the prayer for the dead and pacified the family with the hope of "the life beyond," preparations were being made by Boone and Hancock county officials to request the parents regarding incidents that led up to the tragic picnic.

Selecting an excerpt from Matthew as the text of his sermon, Dr. Huffer declared God is all-powerful and that humans must suffer and fight their way through tragedies of life.

Text of his sermon at the Simmons home was . . . "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father."

May Act Thursday

Boone county and Lebanon authorities conferred with prosecuting officials of Hancock county prior to the funeral of the girls. The officials said they did not intend to request any members of the family immediately after the funeral, but probably would take action Thursday.

They attended the services at the home and cemetery along with members of the deceased girls' family.

As Mrs. Simmons, almost in nervous collapse, viewed the bodies of her children for the last time at the family graveyard, officers laid plans to have her re-enact the scene in her kitchen when she made the sandwiches which killed her daughters.

Curiosity-Seekers Attend

Besides a crowd of relatives, numerous curiosity-seekers attended the ceremonies at the home. Autos lined the driveway and the road in front of the home.

Floral offerings banked the sides of the twin caskets in the front room of the home.

The Rev. E. C. Fisher of Charlottesville aided in conducting the funeral.

"Oh! this is awful!" cried Simmons on the shoulders of relatives and friends as he greeted them prior to the rites.

Only the favored members of the family were permitted to speak to Mrs. Simmons. Her husband kept constant guard to prevent newspapermen from speaking to her.

Mother Breaks Down

Mrs. John Simmons, frail mother of Alice Jean and Virginia, who met death by strychnine poisoning at a family reunion in Lebanon last Sunday, collapsed as the funeral cortège left her home.

Her husband, towering over her, stood stolidly, showed no emotion as he supported her and his aged mother, Mrs. Charity Simmons, who likewise was near collapse.

Every one from the Simmons corner's community, it seemed, was at the funeral, probably a thousand of them in all.

Photographers, representing newspapers and picture services, were ushered bodily from the premises of the old brick mansion when they attempted to "shoot" funeral scenes.

To some who expressed reluctance at departure violence was threatened.

They met with similar hostility at the Simmons cemetery—it, too, bears the name of the family, one of the first to settle this part of Hancock county.

Buried Side by Side

The two girls were buried side by side in the family plot at Willow Branch.

Slowly, authorities have reduced the poison plot to a few only chances in which the strychnine pellets might have been placed in the pressed chicken sandwiches.

On top of this narrowing of avenues for the killer to have poisoned the girls and others in the picnic party, it has been ascertained that another source of poison has been found.

It is this new purchase of poison that it is believed eventually will lead to the arrest of the person plotting the death of the families.

Warrants for arrest on murder charges must be sworn to by Boone county authorities for the deaths occurred in that county. A grand jury will be called into session in Lebanon as soon as definite information is obtained as to the identity of the poisoner.

Grocery Held Up by Gunmen

Two Negro gunmen late Tuesday stole \$20 from Wilbur Phillips, grocery manager at 2302 Columbia avenue. Phillips told police he fired three shots at the fleeing bandits, but believed none found their mark.

## City Policemen Win Promotions



### THEATER PARTY HELD FOR 2,500

#### Reward Children Aiding in Safety Program.

#### SCHOOL BUDGET TO BE SCANNED

#### C. of C. to Hold Public Hearing Tuesday.

#### BANDIT SUSPECT HELD TO JURY ON HIGH BOND

#### 20-Year-Old Niece Legatee of Mrs. Nora Lilly.

#### HENLEY MARITAL ROW TO REOPEN IN COURT

#### Divorce Hearing Against Former Adjutant-General Thursday.

#### CITY SAVES MONEY

#### \$5,113 Decrease in Heating Bill Revealed in Report.

#### One to a Hill

#### Named Army Signal

#### ROYAL CENTER, Ind., June 24.—Kite and sounding balloon work at the Royal Center weather bureau has ended after thirteen years, B. B. Whittier, meteorologist announces. Soundings are being made by other methods.

#### The figures are to be filed at the statehouse not later than July 1.

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