

## TIBBETT FEARS HE KILLED HIS SINGER FRIEND

Opera Companion Dies After Accidentally Stabbed At Rehearsal.

(Continued from Page One)

took Mr. Sterzini's hand, examined it and advised him to leave the stage. But Mr. Sterzini said:

"Oh, no, let's finish the scene."

Dragged From Stage

Mr. Tibbett insisted and dragged his friend from the stage.

A doctor bound up the cut. Mr. Sterzini, a member of the opera company for 30 years, changed to street clothes and later went to a private hospital. He died while Mr. Tibbett was en route to Newark.

When the singer returned to his New York apartment early today, he was met by Assistant District Attorney Sylvester Cosentino and seven detectives. They questioned him for an hour and planned today to question Helen Jepson, a member of the "Caponsacchi" cast, who was on the stage at the time. They said there was no doubt that the stab wound was accidental.

"Accidents such as this happen now and then," Mr. Tibbett said, "but usually they are not serious. Eight years ago Martiniello ran a dull sword into my side while we were playing 'Faust' but it never bothered me."

Wife Sees Accident

"Of course, I feel horrible. This is the most terrible thing that has ever happened to me."

Asked if steel daggers always were used, he said, "Oh, yes, rubber and wooden ones look ridiculous."

Mrs. Tibbett witnessed the accident. She also was in Newark when word reached her that Sterzini was dead.

Members of the company regretted that Mr. Tibbett had been informed. They said he was so upset that he had great difficulty in going through with his part.

At the end of the second act, in his singing of the great aria, "Di Provenza Il Mar," Mr. Tibbett's voice displayed an underrun of strain and anguish that accentuated the pathos of the music. The audience did not know why.

Tells Tragic Story

The opera "Caponsacchi" is based on Browning's "The Ring and the Book." It tells the tragic story of the Soldier-Saint Caponsacchi and Pompilia, wife of the wicked Count Guido.

Caponsacchi helps Pompilia to escape from her husband, who is plotting to kill her and her father, so that he can obtain her fortune. Guido overtakes them, intending to kill the priest. Moved by Caponsacchi's plea, Guido intercedes and forces Guido to carry his case to Rome. There Guido's hired assassins slay Pompilia and her parents, and the guilt is cast on the parents.

The opera ends in the court room of the Vatican, where Caponsacchi is on trial for his life.

Hospital physicians reported that Mr. Sterzini suffered from high blood pressure. They said possible causes of death might have been either a heart attack or a cerebral hemorrhage induced by the pain from the wound.

Mr. Sterzini came to the United States from Ferrara, Italy, 30 years ago when he was 22, and soon after joined the chorus of the Metropolitan Opera Company. He sang in the chorus of the company during the days of Caruso. His wife said his "one interest" in life had been the opera.

## TEETH, JEWELRY AND CLOTHING ARE STOLEN

A burglar took a five-tooth removable back bridge valued at \$35 and a platinum brooch set with three diamonds valued at \$185 from Apt. 2, 3528 Fall Creek Blvd., according to a report made to the police last night by Sam L. Bennett.

Police believe the same burglar

remained in the neighborhood long enough to take jewelry and clothing, valued at \$168.50 from the apartment of Mrs. Joe R. Beckett, 3528 Fall Creek Blvd.

A Cadillac radiator cap valued at \$10 was reported stolen last night from the garage of R. C. Cashon, 3809 Central Ave. Isaac Carver, 74, of 3731 E. Walnut St., told police of the theft of an Elgin watch from his room yesterday afternoon.

## SHORTRIDGE CLUB OFFICERS NAMED

New officers of Shortridge High School clubs are: Fiction Club—Bob Shank, president; Madelyn Pugh, vice president; Bill Barr, treasurer; Mary Bell, secretary; Richard Millard and Julie Jean Rowe, program chairmen, and Mary Kershner and Hirst Mendenhall, party chairmen.

Radio Club—Bob Milholland, president; Claude Richie, vice president; Bruce Cameron, secretary-treasurer, and Dave Kennedy, chief operator of the Shortridge radio station.

The Shortridge Paddle Club, sponsored by Miss Naomi Fike, has started a table tennis tournament. Twenty-three members are participating.

## CHURCH GROUP TO MEET

The Alice Meier Circle of the Broadway Methodist Episcopal Church will meet at 1 p.m. tomorrow at the home of Mrs. J. W. Cox, 208 Eastern Ave. Mrs. Glenn Diddel, of the Y. W. C. A., will speak.

## How to Make Better Cough Remedy Than You Can Buy

A Big Saving, and It's So Easy! No Cooking!

Cough medicines usually contain a large amount of sugar syrup—a good ingredient, but one which you can easily make at home. Take 2 cups of granulated sugar and 1 cup of water, and stir a few moments until dissolved. No cooking is required at all.

Then get from your druggist 2½ ounces of Phenix, pour it into a pint bottle, and add your syrup. This gives you a full pint of truly wonderful medicine for coughs due to colds. It is far better than anything you could buy

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

CRIME FILE ON BOLITHO BLANE

This serial story is the complete file of a crime, with clews and items of evidence as reviewed by police. The crime was a murder. Can you solve it?

### SPECIAL RADIOGRAM

Received at Miami, Fla.

TELEPHONED To M.P. By H.G. Time 9:03 Date 1/17/37

21RS CZ SY GOLDENGULL MIAMIRADIO 12 8 2045

POLICE HEADQUARTERS=

MIAMI FLA=

BOLITHO BLANE COMMITTED SUICIDE STOP

RETURNING PORT IMMEDIATELY STOP=

ROCKSAVAGE.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS,

MIAMI.

9:20 p.m. 7-1-37

M E M O .

To Detective Officer Kettering:

RadioGram herewith passed to you

for attention. Bolitho Blane is a British financier. The yacht Golden Gull left Miami Beach at 7 o'clock this evening. As she was an hour and three quarters out when radio was despatched she should be in about 10:30 p.m.

Meet yacht and undertake investigation.

John Milton Schwab

Lieutenant Florida Police

CHAPTER ONE

Report of Detective Officer Kettering of the Florida Police

ACTING on instruction received I boarded the S. Y. Golden Gull from Police Launch X21 at 10:40 p.m. in the company of Detective Officer Neame, Police Surgeon jacket, Station Photographer Southwold and Officer Gurdon of the uniform branch.

Capt. Derringham received me with the owner, Mr. Carlton Rockavage. I proceeded to the captain's cabin to take statements, Detective Officer Neame acting as stenographer.

Capt. Derringham's Statement

WE sailed from New York at 12:30 p.m. on the 5th carrying five passengers in addition to the owner, Mr. Carlton Rockavage and his daughter, Miss Ferri Rockavage.

The passengers were Lady Welter, the Hon. Reginald Jocelyn and Mrs. Jocelyn, who are Lady Welter's daughter and son-in-law, the Bishop of Bude and Count Luigi Posodini.

We arrived off Miami at 2:35 this afternoon, where we anchored. My instructions were that three new guests would come on and immediately these were aboard. I was to proceed to Nassau, Bahamas.

At 4:30 p.m. a Japanese gentle-

man, Mr. Inosuke Hayashi came on board and at 6:55 Mr. Bolitho Blane, accompanied by his secretary, Nicholas Stodart.

The tender was cleared at 7:05, upon which I gave orders that the ship should proceed to sea.

At 8:38, just after I had sat down to dinner in my cabin, I was sent by the owner to come down to his suite which had been allotted to Mr. Bolitho Blane.

I found the owner there with Mr. Blane's secretary. They explained to me that Mr. Blane was missing and had left a note which gave reason to suppose that he had committed suicide.

The window of the drawing room

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