

Mother Plans To Testify in Child's Death

Husband Charged In Beating of Stepson

MARTINSVILLE, Nov. 27—A grieving mother is expected to testify before the grand jury against her husband charged with first degree murder after he confessed the fatal beating of her 23-month-old child.

Held on a vagrancy charge as a material witness, Mrs. Florence Brummett Edwards, 26, is expected to testify how her husband, James Edwards, 19-year-old farm laborer, shook his stepson as a means of punishment.

After shielding her husband through hours of questioning while both stuck to a story that Victor fell off a step of their cabin home, she finally broke down and told authorities Edwards had punished her son over her protests.

The grand jury hearing is set for Dec. 15. Mrs. Edwards has indicated she will turn against her husband in the proceedings only because her feelings are stronger for her dead son.

Edwards signed a confession this morning. Prosecutor Hugh M. Couch said, in which he stated, "I took the child by one arm and shook him violently and in doing so might have hit his head on the floor."

He told officers he sometimes beat and shook the child in an attempt to correct his habits, Prosecutor Couch said.

The baby's death came to the attention of authorities last Monday night when a motorist sped to Morgan County Memorial Hospital with the Edwardses and the unconscious form of the baby. The baby died two hours after it was admitted to the hospital.

Its body was covered with cuts and bruises, its neck was broken and there were evidences of cerebral hemorrhage. After the funeral Wednesday the Edwardses were arrested.

Invites Testimony In School Probe

BLOOMINGTON, Nov. 27—Monroe County Prosecutor Robert McCrea today issued a last call for patrons of the county's rural schools to testify before a Grand Jury impaneled to investigate alleged inadequacies in buildings and fixtures.

The grand jury, which recessed Wednesday for the holiday weekend, will reconvene Monday. It is expected to report to Judge Q. Austin East Tuesday.

Protests by parents who declared they would remove their children from the schools unless changes were made resulted in the calling of the grand jury to investigate the whole system, composed of 34 schools.

Square Dancing Tougher Than Jitterbugging, Teen-Agers Learn



Swing Your Partner . . . Not too many years back the "jitterbug" craze sent the older dancers retreating to the sidelines, fearing for life and limb. Now the tables are turned. There's a current nation-wide revival of square dances, schottisches and polkas and it's the teen-agers who watch in awe as the "oldsters" strut their stuff. There was a heavy sprinkling of gray and balding heads in the crowd at the Indiana Roof's Hayride Frolic last week—the Roof's first experiment in alternating square and ballroom dancing. The Haymakers (background) shelled out the music and calls for the square dancing. "Tougher than jitterbugging" was the opinion of teen-agers, who thought square dancing was strictly for squares until they saw these experts in action.



"Here's how." . . . One of the first couples out on the floor when the band struck up a schottische was Mrs. Ralph Sapper and Sewell Simmermon, both of Noblesville. It wasn't long, however, before dancers who had never heard of the Scotch folk dance caught on to the "one-two-three jump."



"Like a conga, huh?" . . . Quick to learn the schottische were Patricia Todd and Lewis Battista, both of Indianapolis. They just reversed the conga's backward kick to a forward motion and substituted a jump for a kick. The old-time dance was such a hit with oldsters and youngsters alike that another is scheduled Jan. 12.

Killer Pooh-Poohs Hex, But Tosses New 2-Ply Whammy

TACOMA, Wash., Nov. 27 (UP)—Jake Bird puffed on a fat cigar, smiled slyly when asked about his double-whammy which already is supposed to have claimed five lives, and then hinted at a new hex list.

"Who's next?"

"I didn't have nothing to do with no hex," the 46-year-old condemned killer said. "That stuff you say about my hexes is bad. Even the Supreme Court is getting to believe those things—that's why they denied my appeal."

"You're all hypocrites," he said. Then, referring to reporters and police officers whom he accused of blocking his appeal, he singled out one and said:

"It would make me so happy if he should happen to die. Why, I'd drop my appeal."

It was a little less than a year ago that Jake heard Judge E. D. Hodge sentence him to be hanged Jan. 16, 1948, for the murder of Mrs. Bertha Kludt and her 17-year-old daughter.

"Wait and see," Jake told Detective Lt. Sherman Lyons. "You policemen and judges will be settin' and waitin' at the pearly gates a long time before I roll up."

Since then five men connected with the trial have died suddenly—all of heart attacks.

First it was Judge Hodge, only a month after he pronounced sentence. Undersheriff Joe Karpach, who questioned Jake two days

We're getting so disgusted with him that no one wants to help him anymore."

Bird says he was a porter for a ring.

While and that he was baptised a Baptist. He quotes scripture

whenever he wants to prove a point, although many of the pastimes don't have a very familiar ring.

About five feet 10 inches tall, weighing about 160 pounds, he

has admitted at various times of now he jokes about the serum. "Sticks, I could tell 'em about what I wanted to tell 'em," he said. "That stuff doesn't bother me."

Firemen Cut Costs

BOSTON, Nov. 27 (UP)—Firemen, working in their spare time, have built Boston a \$37,000 new ladder truck, using materials that cost the city only \$1133.

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