

## WRITERS OF ANONYMOUS LETTERS TO BE RUN TO EARTH

Postal Department Is Very Active in Its Effort to Discover Authors of These, and Scurrilous Letters.

### PUNISHMENT FOR THIS OFFENSE VERY HEAVY.

### Greatest Number of Offenses Come in the Fall Months And the Officials Believe the Weather Affects.

The malicious tendencies of the people are governed by the seasons of the year. The statement is a broad one, but Postmaster Spekenhier, his corps of local assistants and in fact the entire federal postal force are inclined to think that the tendencies of the people as a whole the country over are influenced at certain seasons in the year toward wrong doing. It seems so to them at least for the number of criminal acts of various character invariably occur at certain seasons in the year.

This fall, as has been the custom in past years at this time of the year, local postal officials are receiving many complaints against anonymous letters of scurrilous and defamatory nature which are not alone being sent through the Richmond mails but are also being written by Richmond people. Complaints are being registered almost daily with Postmaster Spekenhier in regard to the practice, which, although young this year, is rapidly increasing. Postmaster Spekenhier is led to the belief that crime waves are always governed by the weather, in that little or no complaint is registered against the anonymous letter practice, except in the fall months.

The practice is a dangerous one, the maximum penalty for such an offense being \$5,000 and five years imprisonment, or both. The court hearing the case may determine just what sentence shall fall on the writer of the letters. As the practice is a most abominable one, both Postmaster Spekenhier and the federal postal officials will endeavor to capture every anonymous and scurrilous letter writer in the city of Richmond. The task is not a difficult one either. In fact, it is about the easiest task the inspectors have to handle and an arrest invariably results when but once an inspector starts on a case.

#### Disguise Is Futile.

The writer in most cases during the course of the letter, speaks of only those things known to himself and to the one written to. A disguise at handwriting is always futile, as the correct writing invariably is used before the letter is completed, and by watching the letters to the complainant, the source of the letter is ascertained, while further proofs are always forthcoming and an arrest naturally follows. The postal inspectors and postmasters have a system which they use and which will bring retribution upon the heads of the annoyers.

Several months ago a well known young man in Richmond wrote a scurrilous letter. The writer's identity was easily ascertained. Hearing that a federal inspector was camping on his trail the young man left the city suddenly and has not since been heard of by local postal authorities.

Recently a complaint was made against a defamatory letter, and a glance at the hand writing immediately determined the fact that the woman for it was a woman—writing the letter was more than sixty years of age. The cramped nervous "hand" determined this. The writer of the letter is now known definitely, other proofs having been gained.

Still another man wrote an "outlaw" letter trying to disguise his handwriting. This was unsuccessful as he at different times drifted back to his natural script. The identity of this man has also been learned by the systematic set of tracers used by the postal officials.

Postmaster Spekenhier is inclined to think that at least 95 per cent of the scurrilous and defamatory letters are written through a spirit of pique or jealousy.

Souvenir post cards of different character can also be classed as scurrilous and defamatory when sent at wrong times. If a woman should her husband and she should receive a card bearing an inscription making light of her husband's death and recommending a new matrimonial bureau, or other such inscription, they can be classed with the scurrilous letter and proper fine assessed. The practice in Richmond has to be broken up, says Postmaster Spekenhier.

### City and County STATISTICS.

#### Deaths and Funerals.

McMULLEN—The remains of Father D. J. McMullen will arrive here this evening at 9 o'clock and will be taken to St. Mary's church where they will lie in state until 10 o'clock Friday morning, at which time the funeral services will be held. Members of the congregation and friends of the deceased will have opportunity to view the face from 9:30 this evening until 10:30 Friday morning.

## SOCIETY NEWS

(Conducted by Miss Florence Corwin. Office Phones, Both 21; Residence Phone, Home 1310.)

Richmond Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will be represented at the state conference at Bloomington Oct. 8-10, by Mrs. W. W. Gaar, regent, who will appear on the program, and possibly by one delegate. The program, which will not only be of interest to the local members of the D. A. R., but which serves to show what the organization is doing, features the following: On the evening of the 8th, will be given the address of welcome by Mrs. Harriet C. Hughes, of Bloomington, and welcome addresses by Dr. William Lowe Bryan, president of Indiana University, and Claud G. Malott, Mayor of Bloomington. The response will be made by Mrs. Charles Warren Fairbanks. On Wednesday, the ninth, Mrs. William A. Guthrie, state regent, will speak and Mrs. W. W. Gaar of Richmond, will speak on "The Sixteenth Continental Congress." A reception will be held at the home of Judge H. C. Duncan at 8 o'clock, p. m. the same day. On Thursday, the 10th, reports of the various departments will be made and each chapter will respond to the roll-call. On Thursday evening of the conference the Bloomington chapter will tender a reception to all the visitors. In addition the program calls for much else that will be of special interest to the D. A. R.

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Boyd, Miss Bessie Boyd and Miss Inez Martin, were guests at a dinner party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Lashley, of Centerville.

Mrs. U. B. G. Ewing entertained the Foreign Missionary society of First M. E. church Wednesday afternoon at her home on South A street. An address on missionary work was made by the Rev. R. J. Wade, pastor. A solo was rendered by Mrs. C. M. Hamilton, and a duet by Mrs. Coil Bevington and Mrs. Hamilton. At the conclusion of the program refreshments were served. The next meeting will be a joint one with the Home missionary society and will be the last of the month.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Shafer of South Sixteenth street, will leave soon for California, where they will spend the winter.

A meeting of the Frances E. Willard W. C. T. U. will be held at Rhoda temple Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock and an business of importance is to be transacted all members are requested to be present. Reports will be made by all of the officers.

Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Knollenberg, South Fourth street, took place the marriage of their daughter, Elizabeth Knollenberg, to Mr. Clarence Foreman. The Lutheran marriage ceremony was used, the Rev. E. G. Howard officiating. The ceremony was performed without attendants. Following the ceremony, a several course dinner was served to the large number of invited guests. The house was charmingly decorated in smilax and garden flowers and the tables were done in green and white. Mr. and Mrs. Foreman will reside in this city, the groom being an employee at the local postoffice. They have many well-wishing friends.

A very pleasant social was given Wednesday evening at Reid Memorial church under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid society. The social was well attended and the feature of the evening was an old fashioned spelling match. Mr. Frank Glass captained one side and Dr. S. R. Lyons the other, the former squad winning. Music and refreshments concluded the program.

Wednesday evening, at her home on North Seventh street, at 7 o'clock, was solemnized the marriage of Mrs. Fannie Brown and Mr. George Rhodes, the Rev. R. J. Wade officiating. Following the ceremony, a wedding dinner of three courses was served. The rooms were very tastefully decorated. The guests present numbered about thirty. The bride is a well known woman of this city and the groom is a prominent photographer of Dayton, O. As favors, the groom presented each of the guests with a faint glass goblet, in the bottom of which was reproduced a likeness of the bride.

The home was tastefully decorated with flowers and ferns, the color scheme being pink and white. The bride wore a gown of point de soie over white taffeta. The bride's going away gown was of brown cloth with hat and gloves to match. After a short trip east Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes will be at home to their many friends at Riverdale, Dayton. The out of town guests were Mr. and Mrs. Chas. McCrea and Mr. Theodore Crear of Bradford, Ohio. Miss Hazel Vance of Ansonia, O., Miss Opal Renner of Kokomo, Ind., and Miss Grace Stout of Kokomo.

The King's Herald band of Grace M. E. church will meet at the church Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

A very enjoyable box social was given Wednesday evening by the Epworth Leagues of Grace M. E. church in the church parlors. Lunch boxes for two were sold at auction, each box containing the name of the owner of the box. The one purchasing the box ate luncheon with the owner. Over ten dollars was realized on the sale of boxes. Games and music constituted the program.

The first meeting of the fall season of St. Paul's guild, of St. Paul's Episcopal church, was held Wednesday afternoon at the parish house. In addition to routine business, several special features for the winter's work were considered and it was decided that the annual supper of the guild would be given on Wednesday evening of next week in the parish house. Some time later in the fall an enter-

The Music Study club which was to have met Wednesday evening will meet Tuesday evening of next week when Prof. Fritz Krull of Indianapolis will give a song recital. All members are invited to be present and there will be a number of invited guests. The recital will be in the Starr piano rooms.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Turner of North Twentieth street, entertained a small company of friends at dinner today in honor of their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

Miss Bessie Thompson was hostess Wednesday evening at her home on North Twelfth street, to a dinner par-

taiment of some sort will be undertaken under the auspices of the guild.

It will be with delight that the music loving people of Richmond greet the announcement that Mr. Cecil Fanning is to give a recital in this city. He is a young baritone of rising popularity, for though only twenty-four years of age, he is most enthusiastically written of, in the various newspapers and musical journals of the country. At the present time he is taking a more prominent part than any other one person, in the musical festival at Portland, Maine. Among others on the program are such artists as Mme. Calve and Miss Janet Spencer. St. Agnes Guild is to be complimented upon its choice of an artist and no doubt a large and representative audience will welcome Mr. Fanning and his teacher and accompanist, Mr. Turpin, on the evening of October twenty-first and twenty-eighth at the Pythian temple.

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Mrs. H. M. Kramer of North Seventeenth street was hostess for the Woman's Foreign Missionary society of Grace M. E. church Wednesday afternoon. The address of the incoming president was the chief feature of the meeting, Mrs. T. A. Mott paying a tribute to the memory of Mrs. Julia Robbins in whose home the October meeting was to have been held, but who has been called away by death. The remainder of the time was devoted to routine business, after which dainty refreshments were served.

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Mrs. Mark Wilson was hostess Wednesday afternoon at her home on South Thirteenth street for the Wednesday Duplicate whist club. Mrs. John M. Lontz was chosen as the new president. Cards were played at three tables and luncheon was served. The next meeting will be in two weeks, Mrs. W. A. Sample, of North Thirteenth street to be the hostess.

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The members of the Ladies' Aid society of Grace M. E. church will meet at the church Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock and will spend the time in need work.

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The Ladies' Aid society of the First Presbyterian church will meet Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the church. A full attendance is desired as work of importance is to be transacted.

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Miss Anna Althaus returned to her home in Greenville, O., last evening after spending several days with relatives and friends in this city.

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