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THE CONCORD SENSATION

Rich Woman Who Was Killed There Presents a Mystery Which Keeps on Growing and Connects Up With Chicago and New York — Was It Accident or Murder?—Astonishing Story of Means Career

Concord has a sensation which bids fair to grow and grow. Wealth, women, high finance mystery, death, perhaps murder, all these comprise facts or suspicions in the story.

On the 29th of August a Chicago woman, the widow of a very rich oil lumberman, and the divorced wife of a subsequent husband, was shot and killed at Blackwelder spring, near the public road a few miles from Concord. The tragedy took place just at dark. The woman in company with Gaston and Afton Means, sons of a prominent lawyer of Concord, and one Capt. Bingham, a dog trainer, and a negro chaffeur, went out to the spring for the stated purpose of target practice, though up till this time it has not been explained why the hour of darkness was specially adapted to that pastime. Arriving on the public road near the spring, Gaston Means and the woman, Mrs. Maude King, went down to the spring, which is in a secluded spot, and at that time dark. The others remained on the road with the car. Soon the woman was shot behind the left ear and died before they could get her to the hospital. Means explained that she remained on the hill while he went to the spring. She picked up a pistol which he had placed on the stump of a tree and while holding it fell, waiving the pistol over her head and shot herself accidentally, or rather that is the way he supposed it to be as his back was turned when the pistol fired. Mrs. King and her sister were visitors in the Means home and Gaston Means had brought her from New York where he had been represented as her business manager. The coroner declared that the death was accidental. But when the body got to Chicago, after several days, the coroner there declared that it could not have been accidental, and asked for an investigation. Solicitor Clement has been to the scene and says that he will investigate if there appears any indication of foul play, which he has not yet seen. The King woman was said to be about fifty years old and was what was called a high flier. Means got in with her in New York some years ago and has since been closely associated apparently transacting business for her. She spent money lavishly, and is reported by some papers to have been about broke.

Mr. Means has made the important statement that he is a southern gentleman and seems to have expected that gossip would thereupon cease, but from all the talk it looks like there will be a lot more.

A Chicago dispatch says: Sixteen years ago pretty Maude Robinson left Morrison, near Chicago, to become the wife of James A. King, the millionaire lumberman and stock operator. The sensation caused by the marriage of the young woman of twenty-four to the astute broker of seventy-two was the first of several in which she was destined to figure.

On the death of her aged husband four years later, it was discovered he had willed \$2,000,000 to a home for old men in this city, and that only \$100,000 was left to the widow under an ante-nuptial contract.

Asserting that this contract had been made in ignorance of the wealth of her future husband, Mrs. King contested the will, and after a number of hearings that were widely reported in the newspapers obtained a settlement under which she received \$1,000,000.

Her Hand Sought by Many Fortune Hunters. With ample means a her disposal, Mrs. King returned to Paris, where she had been for a year studying music prior to her marriage.

The handsome young widow at once became the object of many fortune hunters in the French capital, and it was not long before her name began to appear regularly in the cable dispatches. A particularly persistent suitor was count Hippolyte de Serre, and but for the wit of the widow's maid and the fact that the count did not speak English he might have succeeded.

The next wooer was Dr. Perry Chance, an American dentist from Canton, O., settled in Paris. He was successful in his suit and on his marriage with Mrs. King received from her an annuity of \$5,000. The marriage in September, 1909, was followed three years later by an action by the wife for divorce.

Chance Fought in Vain to Avert Divorce. The publicity following upon this was increased by the fact that extraordinary effort was made by Dr. Chance to avert the decree, as, if it were granted, he would lose the annuity. He failed in his effort, and after months of legal struggle and attendant publicity, Mrs. King was again free.

In 1914, Mrs. King again figured in the newspapers, when Paul Gross, a lawyer, brought suit against her for fees in connection with obtaining the divorce. She has not been prominent in the news from that time until her tragic death.

In the interval Mrs. King had lived quietly in this city, giving much attention to her mother, Mrs. Robinson, who has been in poor health for several years. Through her sister, Mrs. Mary C. Melvin, also a widow in good circumstances, she became acquainted with a young woman named Mrs. Gaston Bullock Means, in whom Mrs. Melvin was greatly interested.

Two years ago, when some of her business affairs were giving her trouble, Mrs. King was induced by Mrs. Means to send to New York for Mrs. Means' husband. Means came to Chicago.

At that time he was working for a large detective agency, but he gave up this employment and devoted himself to Mrs. King's affairs. The first small tangle was quickly straightened out and the rich widow was so pleased with the result of Means' efforts that she intrusted other matters to his care.

Induced to Move to New York by Means. In a short time Means began to exert considerable influence over both Mrs. King and Mrs. Melvin, it is declared. He induced them to move to New York and in a short time they were installed in two apartments at No. 1,155 Park Avenue, the rent of which is said to be \$4,500 a year.

Each of the women had an apartment, and in a short time Means moved into a less expensive apartment in the same house. Before his departure for Chicago to answer the summons of Mrs. King, he had been living at No. 105 West One Hundred and Seventh street.

At the new apartment where he installed himself and his wife with several servants and maintained an automobile, Means was known as Mrs. King's secretary and business adviser.

Ten months ago Mrs. King, accompanied by Mrs. Melvin, Mrs. Robinson, Dr. Bert Clark of No. 200 West 86th street, New York, a maid, and Means and his wife, returned to this city. Mrs. Means did not remain more than a month, leaving again for New York.

One month ago Means induced the two women to take a trip with him to his boyhood home at Concord, N. C., in the Asheville section of that state.

Details of Tragic Automobile Drive. Last Wednesday a party made up of Means and his brother, another man and a negro chaffeur, with Mrs. King, left Concord in an automobile. It is reported that they had intended to go far enough into the country to engage in target practice with a revolver. This to friends of Mrs. King here is regarded as strange, in view of the fact that Mrs. King is known to have had a terror of firearms that amounted almost to obsession.

Thus while she was always afraid of some one entering her room at night and never failed to lock her bedroom door, she steadily refused to keep a revolver in her bedchamber.

According to the reports of what happened on this automobile trip disclosed at the inquest yesterday, the party stopped about two miles from Concord, and while Means got out to get a drink of water from a roadside spring, the other men of the party walked ahead along the road.

Means declares that, in order to have his hands free to get a drink of water, he placed a loaded revolver he had been carrying in the fork of a tree. He says he was stooping over to get a drink when he heard a shot, and looked up to see Mrs. King falling. When he reached her, after calling to the other men, he found her with a bullet hole behind the ear, already dead.

Means, After Meeting Widow, Left \$20 Flat for \$3,500 Apartment. Gaston Bullock Means came to New York from Concord, N. C., the place where Mrs. King met her mysterious death last week, about six or seven years ago, to act as representative of a milling company in his home town, and established an office at No. 53 Worth street. He is about thirty-five years old, heavily built and dark complexioned and those who know him best say he is a most convincing talker. He claims to be a distant relative of Col. Roosevelt, through his alleged connection with the Bullock family of Georgia.

He first came into public notice in this city in 1911 when he figured as the defendant in a \$25,000 breach of promise suit brought against him by a Miss Edith Poole, daughter of a Denver lawyer. At that time the newspapers referred to Means as a man of wealth, but it is understood his family has never been in anything but moderate circumstances.

Four years ago his finances had reached the point where he was willing to accept a job as detective with the William J. Burns Agency. According to the best information, it was a few weeks after Means had served his connection with the Burns Agency that he entered the services of Mrs. King. That was two years ago, and it is alleged that almost immediately his financial condition took a spectacular jump.

From a \$20 a month flat in West One Hundred and Seventh street, off Central Park West, he moved his family, consisting of himself, wife and baby, to a \$3,500 apartment at No. 1155 Park Avenue, one of the most exclusive apartment houses in that section.

His apartment was on the same floor as the twelve-room suite occupied by Mrs. King and her mother, Mrs. Robinson, and a slightly less expensive apartment occupied by Mrs. Melvin, a sister of Mrs. King.

There are several stories as to how Means established himself with the wealthy Mrs. King. The one vouched for by her friends is to the effect that he met her through his wife's acquaintance with Mrs. Melvin. Means' wife, whom he married three years ago, is a Chicago woman and was said to be a protegee of Mrs. Melvin.

Means Called to Chicago for Confidential Work. All Mrs. King's friends agree that she was a woman of the most trust-

THIRTY-FIVE MORE MEN ADDED TO THE LIST

Their Claim For Exemption Refused, But Many Will Appeal.

COUNTY'S QUOTA NOT SECURED

The exemption board this morning posted thirty-five additional men on the army list. These men were among those in the second call, who were examined several days ago. Their claim for exemption has been refused by the local board, but it is understood that many of them will appeal to the district board.

The addition of the 35 names today brings the war list up to nearly two hundred. Nearly one hundred more men will have to be added before the county's quota is secured.

Those posted today were: John Fred Lowry, Marshville, Rt. 1; John Calvin Terry, Monroe, Rt. 1; John Rorie, Waxhaw, Rt. 4; Henry Funderburk, Monroe, Rt. 10; James S. Rogers, Monroe; Albert Oats, Monroe; Henry Wilson Presley, Monroe, Rt. 3; Blanchard Williams, Wingate, Rt. 1; Jas. Alex. Hough, Marshville, Rt. 6; Wm. C. Robinson, Monroe; Isaac Rushing, Matthews; Ben Medlin, Monroe, Rt. 3; Pearl Cowick, Waxhaw; Albert Craig Ross, Marshville, Rt. 4; Odell Smith, Waxhaw, Rt. 1; Clyde Smith, Marshville, Rt. 3; Adams C. Baucum, Unionville, Rt. 1; Oliver Vernon McGhee, Monroe; John Burns Simpson, Monroe; James Ely Armand, Indian Trail; Kinney Morrison, Monroe, Rt. 9; Ben Stockton Monroe; William M. Pope, Monroe; Henry Belk Simpson, Matthews; Asa Petty, Waxhaw, Rt. 5; Reuben Perry, Monroe; Augustus B. Serrest, Monroe, Rt. 6; John McMillan, Monroe; Filas C. Efrid, Unionville, Rt. 2; Willie Crawford, Monroe; Melton C. Austin, Marshville, Rt. 4; Sam Ray Gaddy, Wingate; Arch West, Monroe; Joseph Deese, Matthews, Rt. 6.

WITH NO COOKS, SOLDIERS WERE MINUS THEIR BREAD

But Officers Wired to Monroe, and Citizens Came to Their Rescue With Auto Load of Biscuits and Loaves.

Pennsylvania soldiers, who passed through here in droves Saturday and Sunday, entertained the citizens of Monroe with music and drills, but the local folks had an opportunity to do the troops a favor Sunday night when a message was received here stating that a troop train was minus its daily bread, owing to the lack of cooks, and with the request that people here get all they could in town for them.

Immediately there was a stir and a bustle. Ladies went home, and soon the odor of cooking biscuits was abroad. Grocery store proprietors were notified of the predicament of the Pennsylvania troops, and they did their share by donating all the bread in their respective shops. By the time the train arrived nearly an auto load was had, and it was all turned over to the soldiers.

An officer of the company, in appreciation of the courtesy extended by the Monroe folks, handed Mr. G. B. Caldwell the following note:

"We the men of the first squad of Co. M, 10th Pennsylvania Infantry, wish to thank the people of Monroe for their kindness during our stop."

ing character. They declare that two years ago, Mrs. Melvin, having learned that her former protegee had married a man with detective experience suggested to Mrs. King that Means be brought to Chicago to do some confidential work for her. Mrs. King acted on this suggestion and Means left for Chicago as soon as he received word from her.

From that moment, Mrs. King's friends insist, Means' control over, not only Mrs. King, but her mother and sister, has been almost hypnotic. Mrs. Robinson, the mother, is close to eighty years old.

A nurse employed by Mrs. King and in her confidence for many years and several physicians who have attended the three women, say that Means would not permit any of them to make a move of which he did not approve. One of the first things he did, it is alleged, was to have Mrs. King give him power of attorney. It is alleged that Means convinced the three women, especially Mrs. King, that every one who sought to interest themselves in the affairs of the three women was a blackmailer.

Every time the three women moved Means is alleged to have assured them they were trailed by private detectives. This is alleged to have influenced them to the point where Means practically dictated every move they made.

Directed Affairs of Mrs. King From Home. Means directed Mrs. King's affairs from the house in Park Avenue, in which all concerned lived. He engaged a secretary and also brought in his brother, Afton Means, to assist in running her affairs. One of the strange features of the relations between Means and Mrs. King and her relatives was that every one who came in contact with Mrs. King—servants apartment house employees, physicians, nurses, etc.—were amazed by the completeness with which Means dominated them.

RED CROSS HAS EXPENDED \$12,000,000 FIRST SIX MONTHS

Chairman of War Counsel Makes Statement of Various Activities of Organization — Help all Allied Countries But Main Business Will Be to Look After American Soldiers

Approximately \$12,000,000 for war relief work in Europe will have been expended by the American Red Cross in the first six months since the United States has been at war with Germany, according to a report addressed "To the American People" on Saturday by Henry P. Davison, chairman of the Red Cross war council, in which full details are given of the activities of the organization in various nations abroad.

More than \$10,000,000 of this sum, appropriated up to and including August 31, by the war council, since its appointment May 10, is for use in France. Other countries to receive relief are Russia, Rumania, Italy, Serbia, England and Armenia. The grand total amounting to \$12,339,681, the greater part of which will be used by November 1, although some of the appropriations cover a year. Most of the persons in charge of the Red Cross work in France are giving time and paying their own expenses. A special fund of \$100,000 has been privately contributed to meet the expenses of members of the commission to France unable to pay their own way.

Five Commissions Sent.

The war council has sent to Europe five separate commissions, each composed of representative Americans skilled in business administration, in medical and surgical work and in other lines of Red Cross effort. The work covers a wide scope of relief, from the establishing and maintaining of hospitals for soldiers in the American army in France to civilian aid, including the care and education of destitute French children and the rehabilitation of the devastated areas in France and Belgium. Relief and preventive means against tuberculosis, which has greatly increased since the war, also will be supplied. A plan has been devised to extend aid to soldiers and civilians held as prisoners by the enemy. These are only a few of the many avenues through which Red Cross relief will flow to the countless thousands of war victims.

War Relief Clearing House.

The Red Cross in France has assumed the management of the war relief clearing house. It has taken over under control of the United States army the administration of the American ambulance hospital at Neuilly. It has assumed final responsibility for Dr. J. A. Blake's American hospital in France. It has allied with itself the work of the American surgical dressing committee which distributed in France in July 782,949 dressings among 435 hospitals.

Policy of Co-ordination.

The effort has been in accordance with the expressed views of President Wilson and of the civic and military authorities of France to co-ordinate along helpful lines all relief work being done in France and America. The first and the supreme object of the task is to care for the United States army and navy. Toward this end the Red Cross is establishing field canteens which will provide for every corps of the French army as well as for the American camps. There are now large reception camps near the coast where United States soldiers are received.

Along the route to the firing line the Red Cross has established infirmaries and rest stations. At railway stations canteens are being established where American soldiers may find rest and refreshments. Baths, food, games and other comforts will be available. When American troops start for France the men are given comfort kits. Christmas parcels will be sent later.

MR. BRASWELL HURT AT MARSHVILLE

Porch Roof Fell Upon Him — Mr. Rollins Got His Hand Crushed—Local and Personal Items.

Correspondence of The Journal.

Marshville, Sept. 10.—Miss Kate Bailey returned to Greensboro last week to resume her studies at Greensboro Female College.

Misses Virginia Bailey of Concord and Mary Austin of Charlotte spent the week-end with the Misses Long here.

Misses Pauline Taylor and Annie Lee Plyler left today for Davenport College at Lenoir.

Quite a number of our boys are leaving today and tomorrow for Chapel Hill, among whom are Messrs. Grier and Earl Marsh, Clayton Brewer, Gwynn Griffin, Myron Green and Jessie James.

Mr. Charlie Rollins of Rollins Bros., at this place, had the misfortune to get his hand badly mangled by the machinery at his shop last week. Mr. Rollins was adjusting the machinery preparatory to dressing some moulding, when his hand slipped and was cut and torn considerably before it could be extricated. Drs. Armfield and Perkins dressed the injured member, requiring a dozen stitches, and we are glad to report that it is healing. Only three weeks ago Mr. Will Rollins, of this firm, lost two fingers in the machinery and it is especially unfortunate that both members should be incapacitated at the same time and from similar accidents.

Mr. Homer Leonard of Charlotte spent Sunday with his parents at this place.

Mr. W. D. McRae of Belk Bros., Charlotte, is moving his family to

that place this week. Mrs. J. C. Bailey will accompany her daughter, Mrs. McRae, and reside in Charlotte also.

Messrs. J. B. Harrill and C. E. Bailey left today to join the working force at Camp Greene, Charlotte.

Mr. J. T. Garland will occupy Mrs. Bailey's residence in the eastern part of town, upon his return from the northern markets.

The new firm J. T. Garland & Co., will occupy the building formerly used by the Marshville Bank. The front will be changed, partitions removed and both first and second floors be remodeled into an up-to-date dry goods and notions emporium.

Mr. Timothy Braswell of New Salem township was seriously injured here Saturday morning while remodeling a dwelling in the eastern part of town. Mr. Braswell had removed a post from the porch and before he could place a support under the roof, it fell on him bearing him to the ground. Upon removing the timbers, Mr. Braswell's injuries were such it was deemed advisable to carry him to Charlotte Sanatorium to ascertain the extent of the same. Mr. Martin Braswell accompanied his father, returning last night with the report that his father's spine was injured, causing paralysis of both lower limbs; one rib was broken and another rib torn loose, but he was resting very well when he left him.

Marshville's unwonted zeal and industry has prevented much comment or notice of troop trains on week days, but yesterday being Sunday and church services only taking up a small part of the day, taking it for granted everybody attended, and troop trains passing through every few hours the crowd at the depot did not diminish. Each train load was considered the finest looking yet and we can see Germany's finish in the near future.

Rev. K. L. Whittington returned Saturday from a week's visit to his home-folks at McLeansville, N. C.

Miss Selma Thomas of Rockingham arrived Sunday to spend the winter with her uncle, Mr. J. E. Thomas, and attend the Marshville high school.

The Radcliff Chataqua is billed to be here September 19 to 21, inclusive, and the guarantors are quite busy advertising the dates. This company was here last year and everyone was pleased with the interesting and instructive lectures as well as the quality of the entertainment given.

Mr. R. C. Newsom has returned from the northern markets where he has been buying goods for the United Cash Store.

Mr. Uriah Tadlock of Crawford, Texas, arrived today to spend some time visiting friends and relatives in this community.

Rev. J. W. Little has returned from a six week's trip to Arkansas. Mr. Little put in his time holding evangelistic services in different places during his stay west.

Mrs. Mark Sinclair has returned home from a week's visit at Mr. Geo. Stewart's in Lanes Creek township.

Mr. Wilton Sinclair returned Sunday from Charlotte where he has been employed and joined the student body at Marshville high school this morning.

STANLY MAN HELD FOR SEDITIOUS UTTERANCES

Martin Dennis Alleged to Have Said He and His Friends Would Resist Draft—They Had Bought Guns.

Albemarle, Sept. 9.—Martin Dennis, who was arrested three weeks ago upon a charge of having violated section three of the selective act, was given his preliminary hearing at 3 o'clock this afternoon before R. C. Hill, United States commissioner, and was bound over to the full term of United States court for the western district at Salisbury, October 3, 1917, in a bond of \$2,000. United States District Attorney W. C. Hammer of Ashboro was present and conducted the prosecution. Dennis was defended by G. D. B. Reynolds, of the local bar. District Attorney Hammer did not put but one witness on the stand to testify, but stated that he had four other witnesses who would corroborate the statement of the witness examined.

The witness sworn and examined, was Edmund Russell, who lives about one and one half miles from the home of Dennis. He stated in substance that sometime about the last of July Dennis was at his home and that among other things he stated that he "and several others had purchased guns and were not going to the war; that if they had to die they would die at home where their wives and children could see them buried." Russell stated that his son heard Dennis make this statement at the same time he heard it.

The defendant Dennis did not put up any evidence and after the hearing and the argument of the counsel for the government and the defendant, Commissioner Hill adjudged that Dennis enter into a bond in the sum of \$2,000 for his appearance at the next term of the federal court. The bond was readily executed by Dennis and his friends. It is not known what Dennis' defense will be at the trial as he has not made any statement as to that, neither has his attorney, Mr. Reynolds. It seems that nothing has come out as to who the other parties referred to by Mr. Dennis were.

Dennis is a well to do farmer of the eastern Stanly county section, and heretofore has borne a good character.

Hereditarily runs deep, and the girl who is lazy and selfish and surly to her mother may expect the same treatment from her own children in after years.

THE FIRST FIFTEEN LEFT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING

Union County's Drafted Men Were in Charge of W. B. Cole.

ARE NOW IN NATIONAL ARMY

With the exception of a bare handful of friends and relatives who were at the station, the first contingent of Union county soldiers, fifteen in all, left at 6 o'clock Sunday morning for Columbia, where they were enlisted in the National army. The men were in charge of Mr. W. B. Cole, who was one among the number selected for the first call from this county.

According to Saturday papers, Union county's quota of fifteen men have been assigned to train guard duty. It is not known just what this duty is, but the opinion is advanced that they will be in a detachment to welcome the incoming soldiers for the present.

The fifteen men were: 2—Joseph Hampton Price, Route 5, Monroe; 3—Charley Maness, Route 18, Matthews; 21—W. B. Cole, Monroe; 74—Ernest Harry Broom, Route 4, Monroe; 98—Murphy Dudley Honeycutt, Monroe.

186—John M. Niven, Waxhaw; 190—Dan Smith McCollum, Route 3, Monroe; 351—Vade Helms, Mineral Springs; 377—Lee Calvin Broom, Waxhaw; 426—Anthony Wayne Brooks Route 3, Monroe.

455—Joel Solomon Collins, Monroe; 547—Henry Morgan, Route 2, Unionville; 53—Clarence A. Wingate, Waxhaw; 630—Filas C. Efrid, Rt. 2, Unionville; 975—Stephen Lee Welsh, Monroe.

MAINTAINS SET PRICE OF WHEAT

Food Administration Says It Will Disregard Farmers' Profits—Hoover Foresees Some Actual Suffering Among North Dakota Farmers as Result.

Washington Sept. 8.—The price of \$2.20 a bushel for wheat fixed by President Wilson will be maintained. It was made clear today at the food administration, despite isolated protests from farming interests that the figure is too low. Virtually the only objection of any consequence, it was said has arisen in North Dakota, where the crop was unusually poor.

North Dakota farmers are demanding \$3 a bushel for their wheat and are asking for removal of the food administration's rulings designed to prevent speculation. They particularly object to restrictions against "elevators" storing grain more than 90 days.

The result of the price fixed, food administration officials say, is that the farmer will receive about 33 per cent more a bushel than last year. On the other hand, through arrangements made for the elimination of speculation and to control distribution, the consumer should, they contend, obtain a saving of at least \$3 a barrel on flour, or 20 per cent under the average of the last four months.

Herbert Hoover, the food administrator, foresees the actual suffering among farmers in North Dakota and in localities in other states whatever the price. The wheat failure in some districts, he said today, means that some growers will lose money.

"The plan generally," he said, "is running smoothly, except for the necessarily expected local misunderstandings, and the food administration will not depart one iota from the prices determined on by the President for government purposes either now or throughout the year.

"The arrangements made by the railroads permit their handling wheat more rapidly this year than last."

J. W. Sullivan, who represented the American Federation of Labor on the wheat price-fixing committee, said today that if the price of wheat came up again for review, labor would demand a lower figure.

No Mixing of Negroes and Whites at Camp Jackson.

Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C., Sept. 8.—There will be no more mixing of negro and white troops at Camp Jackson, the Columbia cantonment, according to an announcement made this morning by Maj. Adna Chaffee, adjutant general for the Eighty-first division.

"Plans have been made and are being made for the entire segregation of the white and negro troops," said Major Chaffee this morning. "A certain section of the camp will be assigned them, and they will be kept there."

Major Chaffee said that orders had been received to the effect that one negro regiment be formed, but as the number of negroes to report for military duty at Camp Jackson would probably be far more than sufficient for one regiment, other regiments would be formed. Twelve negroes from Florida have reported at Camp Jackson.

Military duties have already been assigned to the men who have been selected to serve in the national army and who have reported. Uniforms have been supplied most of them. They are very enthusiastic over their new duties, as well as their surroundings.

If a man deceives you once, that is his fault; if he deceives you twice, that is your fault; if he deceives you three times, it is because you are a fool.—Arnold White.