

PEACE ON THE STAND

A North Carolina Cadet Tells About Hazing

HAD BEEN THERE HIMSELF

He had been the subject of hazing and had helped to haze others. He did not think the practice was carried to the point of brutality. Brother of Booz the Sensational Witness of the Day.

West Point, Dec. 27.—The court of inquiry which is investigating the hazing of the late Cadet Oscar L. Booz, reopened this morning at 9:45 o'clock. First-classman Willis G. Peace of North Carolina was the first witness. General Clous questioned him. Peace remembered one occasion when Cadet Breth was hazed. It was during the encampment of 1897 and occurred in the tent of ex-Cadet Bender.

"I don't remember the details of the hazing. I think it must have been just the usual form, sir," the witness said.

"Who were doing the hazing?" he was asked.

"I don't remember anyone but myself and ex-Cadet Bender," replied Peace.

The witness described the usual form of hazing in doing things while there, and going through all the rigmaroles of the cadets have told of in the last seven days. Breth, the witness said, was a very awkward man, one of the most awkward in the camp. He seemed to be rather nervous and subject to raptures.

"I received a letter from him," Peace testified, "some six months after he left camp, in which he tried to explain his inability in doing things while there, and said that he was suffering from some form of sickness all the time he was in camp. He had hoped that he would get better in the barracks, but he did not."

"What was the nature of the sickness?" asked General Clous.

"I don't remember, sir," said the witness.

"Did he ever say anything about the hazing in his room being put up by the inspector?" asked General Clous.

"Yes, sir, he never mentioned any names," replied Peace.

"I would like to vindicate my brother," replied Mr. Booz calmly. "Colonel Mills has said that my brother left because he was deficient in his studies. I know it is absurd. It is absurd from the record he made in the preparatory school. No person could make such a record as he did and then pass the examinations to enter West Point and not be able to keep up with his class. And there is the statement of Lieutenant Coe that my brother did seem to be half-witted. I wish to contradict that statement."

Here some question arose as to Lieutenant Coe having made such a statement and Mr. Booz was asked where he saw it. He said he saw it in a certain New York paper. Captain Dean here interposed the statement that Lieutenant Coe had made some such remark in his testimony. As for Colonel Mills, General Brooke reminded the witness that the superintendent of the academy had not been on the witness stand.

"I saw the statement of Colonel Mills in several papers," continued the witness. "I do not see why my brother should have been picked out especially to be hazed. He was not a coward. The fact that he went out to the fight is sufficient evidence of that. He had no knowledge of boxing. My brother was not untruthful. He was always known as a truthful boy. He was a quiet boy, not a bit forward or fresh, and he was not a boy to take the credit out of hazing. That he was not backward in his studies is shown by his record in the preparatory school. He was not a boy to complain. He would put up with anything and would complain. I am fully convinced that the demerits he got came from the action of the upper classmen who were perfecting him."

Q.—By General Bates: When you say the tobacco sauce was forced down your brother's throat, do you mean that he was thrown down, his mouth forced open and the tobacco thus poured down his throat?

A.—I so understand it.

Q.—By force then you mean physically forced?

A.—I do.

Q.—By Colonel Mills: To your knowledge or by hearsay do you know that your family ever complained to the authorities of the military academy or the war department of your brother's treatment here?

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A.—We were so much overcome by the prospects of my brother's death.

Q.—Your brother was dying a lingering death from the effects of treatment here and no complaint was made to the authorities?

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The witness gave the names of Dr. W. P. Weaver and other Bristol physicians who had treated his brother. The names were carefully noted and presumably their testimony will be taken before the investigation is ended. Mr. Booz expressed a wish to retain for his family the scrap of letter that was introduced, and the request was granted.

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"I expect I will be home some time in the near future, for I have stood the treatment about long enough. I have had trouble with my heart the last two or three days. It is the result of several severe blows I received in the fight. I also received a cut about an inch long under my left eye, and I think it will leave a scar. I am pretty badly bruised, but I feel all right with the exception of my heart. I will ask him about his life there. It was later in 1899 that I talked with him about the way the tobacco sauce was poured down his throat. He said it was forced down his throat in large quantities."

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THREE "JOHN SMITHS"

Strangers Suspected of Being the Omaha Kidnappers

WERE LOADED WITH GOLD

Suspicious of Altoona Police Aroused by the Presence of Roughly Dressed Customers Who Had Yellow Metal to Burn—They All Got Away Before Officers Got on Their Trail—A Woman Run Down for Stealing Her Child

Altoona, Pa., Dec. 27.—The local police think the Omaha kidnapers have slipped through their fingers. Three strangers came in on a train from Chicago Tuesday night. They registered at different hotels as "John Smith." The men were roughly dressed, but were well supplied with money. The "John Smith" who stopped at the Exchange Hotel insisted on buying drinks for everybody who entered the bar, the result being that about 11 p. m. he had to be taken to bed. Up to that time he had four \$20 gold pieces changed at the bar.

After he had retired, "Smith" called the landlord to his room and gave him a bag that he wanted placed in the office safe. The landlord asked what the bag contained.

"Two thousand in gold," was the reply. "Count it and see. I'm from a free-silver State, but that stuff grows on bushes out there."

The landlord counted the gold and found the man's statement correct. During the night it dawned upon him that he might be entertaining one of the Cudahy kidnapers. As he left the phone after talking to the police the stranger demanded his bag of gold, paid his bill and disappeared. He warned the two others and the trio got to the Pennsylvania Railroad station a few moments before the police. Telegrams have been sent to Harrisburg and other points east in the hope of intercepting the party.

The other "John Smiths" paid their hotel bills in gold.

A Woman Steals Her Own Child

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 27.—Sydney Miller, the seven-year-old son of Samuel D. Miller, and grandson of former United States Attorney General W. H. Miller, who was kidnapped by his father, Mrs. Miller, was recovered early today by his father. Mrs. Miller and the child were found at Lawrence, six miles east of the city, asleep in the home of a man named Marshall, where they had obtained lodging for the night. The police reached the place by daylight. Mrs. Miller gave up the child and was not placed under arrest.

The finding of Mrs. Miller and the child was the culmination of one of the longest chases in the history of the police department. When the chief was notified of the case, measures were at once taken to find the hackman who drove Mrs. Miller, the boy and his governess from the Denison Hotel, where the child had been taken to visit his mother. The driver was located finally at his home. He denied any knowledge of Mrs. Miller's intentions, and explained fully how he had taken the party. He said that when the governess jumped from the carriage Mrs. Miller ordered him to drive to Brightwood, where it is thought she intended to catch the Union City accommodation train, which left this city at 4:50 o'clock. He did not reach Brightwood in time for the train, and, forming new plans, Mrs. Miller hired another outfit and was taken to Lawrence. The cabman, whose name is Senour, left her at the Twenty-fifth street corner with a liverman to take her to Lawrence. Senour said he did not suspect for a moment that the child was being kidnapped. After hearing Senour's story, the police started on the right track and the child was recovered in the mother and her child.

Mrs. Miller formerly was Miss Helen Karcher of Potstown, Pa. She married Miller nine years ago. Since last summer Miller has resided here and his wife in New York.

KILLED HIS WIFE

A Granville County Negro Objects to Unbidden Visitors to His Home

Durham, N. C., Dec. 27.—Special.—News has reached the city of a murder that was committed near Creedmoor, Granville county, night before last. The murderer was James (Ban) Green, and the victim was his wife, Green returned home night before last at an earlier hour than was expected and he found some other men in his home. They left and he then began to whip his wife. She tried to escape him and he caught her by the arm and held her until he pulled his pistol from his pocket and fired the fatal shot, the bullet penetrating her heart, killing her on the spot. When he saw what he had done he ventily was recovered out of the house and made his escape and has not been captured. Coroner Hobgood of Oxford held an inquest yesterday, and the jury rendered a verdict in accordance with the facts. It is said that Green had always borne a good character and was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

The rush of holiday weddings in this county is still on, and last night there were three in this city. The contracting parties were Edwin T. Harris and Miss Fannie Bell Goch, married at the home of the bride, "Squire J. E. Owens officiating; Walter P. Hayes and Miss Bessie Link, married at the bride's home, Rev. W. C. Norman, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church, officiating; D. G. O'Neal and Miss Ida Stone, married at the residence of "Squire J. E. Owens. News has also reached Durham of the marriage of a Durhamite to a Virginia lady. Eugene L. Barber and Miss Etta Virginia Borum of Suffolk were the contracting parties. Mr. Barber is a telegraph operator who went from here to Suffolk, where he accepted position with the Seaboard Air Line. They will come here on a bridal tour.

Madison's Home to Be Rehabilitated

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 27.—William Dupont, who lives near this city, has

bought the homestead property of President James Madison at Montpelier, Orange county, Va. The estate consists of about 1,300 acres and buildings. A force of mechanics from this city will soon go there to put the buildings in repair. The buildings were erected about 1774. President Madison spent his last days there.

Mr. Dupont says he has not determined whether he will occupy the property as a residence. Several years ago he bought Woolton Hall, a handsome homestead a few miles north of this city, and he is now living there. Mr. Louis F. Bertrick, of Baltimore, was until recently the owner of Montpelier.

RACES AT NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans, Dec. 27.—Results at New Orleans races:

First race, selling, 1 mile—Blocker 8 to 1, Sunoaks 7 to 5, Petit Matin 6 to 5. Time 1:43.

Second race, selling, 3/4 mile—Synco's Sandy 5 to 2, Matin 5 to 1, Callear 30 to 1. Time 1:35.

Third race, selling, 3/4 mile—Cogswell 8 to 1, Shut Up 2 to 1, Boomerack 4 to 5. Time 1:16.

Fourth race, handicap, 6 1/2 furlongs—Six Floer 4 to 5, Anny 3 to 1, Moroni 5 to 2. Time 1:24.

Fifth race, selling, 3/4 mile—Command 15 to 1, Juanita 15 to 1, Horseshoe Tobacco 8 to 5. Time 1:35.

Sixth race, selling, 1 1/16 mile—Dick Framer 3 to 1, Spurs 8 to 5, Phidias 8 to 1. Time 1:49.

Entries for Today

First race, selling, 1