

OMAHAN HELD FOR AX MURDER OF WIFE

Woman in House for Less Laws

Mrs. Mabel A. Gillespie Will Fight to Eliminate Many Now on the Statutes.

Seek Committee Jobs

By P. C. POWELL. Staff Correspondent The Omaha Bee. Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 3.—Mrs. Mabel A. Gillespie, Sarpy county representative, was the first of the three women legislators to take an active part in mulling in legislative halls. By her side was her husband, W. C. Gillespie, a cattle man.

In face, Mr. Gillespie will remain in Lincoln all during the winter. It will be his longest sojourn of the farm in many years, and he expresses doubt as to whether he will enjoy urban life.

Mrs. Gillespie announced she hadn't a single bill for introduction. Instead, she intends to take a hand in killing a number now on the statute books.

"I expect to be a murderer when it comes to handling legislation," she confided to friends.

Mrs. Gillespie is a political protégé of Harold Secord, Gretna editor, and will not make any attempt to obtain committee appointments until Secord appears in Lincoln Tuesday, the day the legislature convenes. Secord is a strong goods roads advocate, and it is expected that Mrs. Gillespie will aid in a fight for better roads this winter.

For Women's Rights.

Sarah T. Muir, Lincoln high school English teacher, another woman member, always has taken an active part in woman suffrage. She intends to fight for more equal laws for boys during the session. Mrs. Clara C. Humphrey, representing the north grass counties of Grant, Loup, Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, Logan, McPherson and Arthur, has not yet put in an appearance.

Omaha members are expected in Lincoln tomorrow to begin their scramble for committee assignments. Undoubtedly, George B. Dyball will receive any house committee assignments he wants this year because of his seniority. Dyball was on the important committee on committees last year and it is taken for granted he will be given the same position this year. This committee comprises a member from each of the six congressional districts. All committee assignments are made by this committee, which will be elected Monday. Dyball selected chairmanship of the cities and towns committee two years ago and he is expected to take the reins post this year.

The house judiciary committee promises to have more than the ordinary number of Douglas county members this year as a glance at the roster of Douglas county senators shows that 10 out of the 13 members are listed as attorneys. This unusually large number of attorneys is taken by senate members to indicate numerous salary hike bills for Douglas county officers. A bill stripping the legislature of the power to regulate salaries will be introduced at this session, according to reports current here.

No Municipal Light Bill.

The Howell municipal light bill, which made the cities and towns committee the center of much controversy in past years, will not be introduced at this session, according to word received by a friend of Senator Howell in a letter which the senator permitted to be made public.

"Does anyone think I would permit an innocent babe like the munny bill to go to a legislature without being on hand to protect it?" Howell wrote.

In the senate it is expected that Senator John W. Robbins will ask for chairman ship of the cities and towns committee if he is defeated for speaker, pro tem. He was chairman of this committee two years ago.

Senator John W. Cooper will request chairmanship of the senate judiciary committee again, while Senator William N. Chambers will seek chairmanship of the committee on manufacturing and commerce. Senator T. B. Dysart, who was chairman of the house judiciary committee at the last session is known to desire a berth on the senate judiciary committee. Other committee assignments desired by Omaha members have not been made public.

POND FUNERAL

Funeral services for Frank M. Pond, insurance man, who died New Year's eve at his home, will be held Monday at 2:30 p. m. at the Scotch Rite cathedral, Capitol lodge No. 3 of Masons will be in charge. Burial will be in West Lawn cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers will be T. L. Combs, G. W. Greene, J. S. Davis, E. L. Hoag, A. C. Pankoski, G. W. Platner, Albin M. Smith, J. R. Stine, G. E. West, Victor White, C. E. Herring and C. F. Huntington.

Bearice Roads Blocked.

Bertrice, Neb., Jan. 3.—Farmers coming to the city report that the highways in places are filled with snow, and it will be some days before they are opened for traffic. The main traveled highways are reported good, although in some places they have been worked as smooth as

Hahne Confined in State Asylum in October, 1919

Records at the courthouse show that charges of insanity were filed against Hahne by his wife in district court August 1, 1919. He was examined by a commission consisting of Alvin Johnson, Robert Smith and Dr. G. A. Young on August 4 and adjudged insane.

He was left in custody of his wife until October 23 when he was taken to the asylum at Lincoln.

Mrs. Hahne told Robert Smith he called up from the station as he was about to be taken on board the train, telling her not to come and see him because he was going to escape and come back and kill her. Mrs. Hahne testified at the hearing he was suspicious and accused her of trying to get rid of him by poisoning him and that she was "an agent of confidence men."

Dr. Young's report of the hearing states that Hahne was quiet and goodnatured then, willing to be examined, provided his wife was also.

Slayer Suspect's Actions in Jail Point to Insanity

Kansas Authorities Pile Up Evidence for McMahon Hearing to Be Held This Week.

Washington, Kan., Jan. 3.—Jack McMahon, alias Owen Ireland, held here in connection with the slaying of Owen Brown, whose charred body was found under his wrecked automobile on a highway south of here Tuesday night, has apparently become violently insane while waiting for the preliminary hearing to be held early next week.

His violent actions have forced authorities to strap him to his jail bunk to prevent him from injuring himself. Doctors cannot agree as to whether or not he is really insane or merely feigning.

The county authorities are completing their investigation of Brown's death and believe that they will be able to present a complete case against McMahon when he is placed on trial.

In a statement to officials, McMahon is said to have admitted that he and Brown quarreled on the night when the latter was killed, as they were returning in Brown's car from Deloit, where they had gone to get some money owing to Brown from McMahon. McMahon denies, however, that he attacked Brown. He asserts that they had several drinks in Concordia and that Brown was unable to control the car when it came to the slippery turn where it overturned.

Indications that the car may have been pushed over deliberately have led authorities to doubt McMahon's story. Stains on the spokes of the wheels are believed to be blood stains left by the fingers of the slayer. Brown's skull has been sent to a Kansas City medical college, where surgeons will attempt to ascertain whether the injuries which caused death were delivered by a weapon or received in the automobile crash.

COOLIDGE NAMES DAKOTA MARSHAL

Washington, Jan. 3.—President Coolidge sent to the senate today the name of John Rooks for United States marshal for South Dakota.

Hahne's Statement:

In a statement to police Hahne detailed his movements Friday as follows: "Left home at 10 in the morning and got a shave in a barber shop at Twenty-fourth and F streets.

Took Crosstown car and transferred, arriving at First National bank, went to Jacobson jewelry store in World-Herald building and bought wrist watch for wife for \$59. Consulted attorney, Wayne Sawtell, in Omaha National Bank building at noon.

Transacted business at Hull coal company office. Paid bill at The Omaha Ice office. Paid life insurance premiums at Omaha National bank. Returned to South Omaha by street car and paid bill at O. K. hardware store. Started home. Met Thomas Brander, a plumber, and asked him to come to the house and look for a leak in a pipe. He said he had to go to 2901 Erskine street and I rode with him to that place and returned with him to my house. I hollered twice for my wife as we opened the front door. Got no response. Looked around and saw something at bottom of cellar steps. Called Brander. He said it looked like a head of rats. We went down. It was my wife.

Body was found at 2:15 p. m.

Evidence and Scene of Murder of Omaha Hatchet Victim



Upper right picture: Hammer and hatchet found in cellar with blood and strands of hair on them. Blood-stained newspaper also found in cellar.

Upper left: The Hahne home at 3837 South Twenty-third street.

Middle left: Blood-stained suspenders, with trousers and coat.

Middle right: Where the body was found, at the foot of the cellar steps, head resting on lower step which was covered with blood. The blood stains on the wall are visible in the picture.

Lower picture: Wrist watch bought by Hahne at a Fifteenth and Farnam streets jewelry store at noon Friday, after she was dead, with "Happy New Year, from Husband Warren" card to go with the watch.

Body Huddled at Bottom of Cellar Steps of Home

The body was huddled at the bottom of the cellar steps. Two dozen gashes were in the head, some so deep that the brains were visible.

The knuckles of the right hand had been scratched and broken as though she had tried to protect herself.

Blood was spattered on the ceiling and walls.

The undertaker who took the

body at 4 p. m., said it had been dead several hours.

A hatchet and hammer, hanging over a work bench in the cellar, had blood and strands of gray hair on them.

A brown flannel shirt, greenish-brown khaki trousers and suspenders were also taken by police. Dashes of blood were on a pair of suspenders attached to the trousers.

Odell Man Dies. Beatrice, Neb., Jan. 3.—Alex Armstrong, of Odell died at Los Angeles, Cal., where he had been receiving treatment. The body was brought to Odell by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Armstrong, old residents of that place.

Hatchet Victim Keen Student of Religion

Second Wife of Man She Married Eight Years Ago.

Mrs. Hahne was formerly Mrs. May Bennett of Colorado Springs, Colo., owner of a cleaning establishment. She and Hahne were married eight years ago.

Relatives say she was highly educated, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and that she studied at the Methodist Theological seminary in Chicago. In her home is a large library of works on religion, poetry and philosophy. It is said she owns property in Colorado Springs, including a cemetery lot.

She was Hahne's second wife. Friends of the family said his first wife died suddenly more than 10 years ago while the couple lived in New York.

The dead woman is survived by her husband, a brother, Edward Shaffer, of Tulsa, Okla., and two sisters, Mrs. Herman Rothoff and Mrs. Charles La Croix, both of Denver, Colo.



HACKED BODY FOUND AT FOOT OF CELLAR STEPS; BLOODY HATCHET NEAR

Coroner's Jury Holds Husband, Protesting Innocence, for Trial for First Degree Murder; Twenty-Four Gashes in Head; Two Diamond Rings Missing; Suspect Utters Sharp Cry at Inquest.

MAN BUYS WRIST WATCH. PAYS INSURANCE PREMIUM AFTER CRIME

J. Warren Hahne, South Omaha real estate man and apartment house owner, was held without bond on charges of first degree murder of his wife, Mae B. Hahne, by verdict of a coroner's jury following an inquest at the Larkin mortuary at 11 Saturday morning.

Mrs. Hahne's body was found at the foot of the cellar steps in the residence, 3837 South Twenty-third street at 2:15 Friday afternoon following an unusual series of activities by Mr. Hahne as stated by him to police.

Though the woman was killed some time in the morning, her husband bought her a wrist watch about noon and also paid the premium on an insurance policy of \$5,000 on her life.

Hahne was brought to the inquest in custody of Detectives Brigham and Wright. A rather short, heavy-set man, bald headed and with a small, choppy moustache, he was dressed in a brown checked suit and black overcoat with velvet collar.

He seemed composed but at one point during the testimony he uttered a sharp cry and bowed his head for a moment. This was when Thomas Brander, a plumber, testified about finding the body.

A great crowd attended the inquest. The jury was out just long enough to write the verdict which reads as follows:

"We, the jury, duly impanelled, do find that Mae B. Hahne came to her death by wounds inflicted by J. Warren Hahne, and recommend that J. Warren Hahne be held to the district court for first degree murder."

Scattered With Blood. Jurors were O. T. Doerr, 3123 South Nineteenth street; J. H. Hogan, 428 Lincoln boulevard; F. J. McKeon, 5635 South Twenty-third street; W. G. Nichols, 2959 North Eighteenth street; Peter Pallenese, 421 North Eighteenth street; and Frank L. McCabe, 892 North Thirty-fifth street.

The lower step of the stairs on which the dead woman's body rested, was covered with blood. The walls were spattered with it.

Mrs. Fred Wasem, 2315 D street, told detectives that she went to the Hahne home about 10 Friday morning and that Hahne came out of the house and told her Mrs. Hahne had gone downtown.

Two large diamond earrings were in the dead woman's ears when the body was found. Two diamond rings, valued at \$1,000 were missing, but Hahne declared they would be found somewhere around the house.

Meets Him Again. Thomas A. Brander, a plumber with a place of business at 4622 South Twenty-fourth street, was the first witness called. He said Hahne came to his shop at 12:45 Friday noon and said there was a leak of some kind at his home which he wanted fixed.

"I told him I had a job at 2901 Erskine street and he left in about five minutes. At 12:50 as I was driving to the Erskine street job I met him at Twenty-fourth and H streets and he asked me where I was going. When I told him he insisted that he would ride up there with me. He did so. After we had been there a short time he said he wanted to look after a furnace in his apartment house and we started back.

Door Is Locked. "When we arrived he went first to his apartment house, the Arcadia, next to his home while I tried to enter his house to look for the leak. But the door was locked and I waited till he came.

"As we entered he called a couple of times for his wife. There was no answer. After a bit he called me to the cellar doorway and asked me to look down at something he had caught sight of. 'What is that?' he asked. I answered that it looked like a bundle of rats.

"Then we went down stairs and as we reached the bottom, he cried out:

Wouldn't Call Police. "Oh, my God, it's my wife. She looks like she is dead." "I wanted to call police at once, but he said no. Then I said we should carry the body up the steps, and finally we did so. I taking the head and going first. Mr. Hahne carrying the feet. We laid it in the dining room and he put a pillow under the head. Then I said again we ought to notify the police, but he said he wanted to get his lawyer, and he called him up. Then he called the drug store at Twenty-fourth and F streets and asked the name of a doctor, and then called Dr. N. Everest.

"Police were not called till about 35 minutes after we found the body. They arrived at the house about 3:20.

Calls to Neighbor. "Even after we had brought the body up from the cellar Mr. Hahne testified that he and his wife left early in the morning for their work. "The first I knew of the murder was when I returned about 4 in the afternoon. Mr. Hahne called to me. 'Do you know what's happened?' My wife is dead."

Mrs. Ruth Payne told how she first learned of the death of Mrs. Hahne, when her husband called her up about 5. She had gone to work at 7:10 in the morning.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. "I returned about 5:45. I did not go down to the mortuary to look at the body, but I went down in the dining room of the Hahne home about 6:30 and noticed blood on the carpet, china closet and buffet. This morning when I looked at it again, it seemed that some had been removed. There was blood in the basement.

"My husband's nose was bleeding the night before and he held it over the tub on the main floor, but did not get any on the towels in the bath room."

24 Cuts in Scalp. Dr. S. McCleanehan, coroner's physician, stated that the cause of Mrs. Hahne's death was bleeding, shock, concussion of the brain and fractures of the skull. He found 24 cuts in the skull and scalp, half of them at least made by a sharp instrument such as an ax, a fracture in the back of the skull, hemorrhage at the base of the brain, contusion of the right hand, fracture of one of the bones at the back of the head, abrasions on the right elbow, contusion and discoloration of the left eye.

"She was a well-nourished woman, her heart in good condition, no sign of disease and could not have fainted," said the doctor.

Blood spots on the carpet in the main floor rooms led Chief of Police Van Deusen to believe Mrs. Hahne was killed there and then thrown down the cellar steps.

Photographs of the scene were taken by the county attorney's office for use in prosecution.

Hahne was born in Polk county, Iowa and came to Council Bluffs when he was 13.

Life insurance to the extent of \$5,000 was carried on the life of Mrs. Hahne, according to police.

Formerly a Farmer. Tom Payne and his wife live on the second floor of the Hahne home. The former is electrician at Armour and the latter employed at Paxton & Gallagher's, so they were absent from the house all day.

The Hahne home stands on the northeast corner of Twenty-third and D streets. Hahne owns also the house to the north and the apartment house on the east.

He was formerly a farmer living 10 miles south of Omaha, Ia., according to Thomas Moore, 4821 Dodge street, who brought Hahne's sister to the south Side station with a package of food for him.

Worried About Fires. He seemed worried during the night for fear the fires in his apartment house would go out.

Detectives found a blood-stained newspaper in the house in a search Saturday morning.

This was added to the evidence in the case which now includes a bloody hammer and hatchet, blood-stained suspenders, an iron bar, one of the dead woman's shoes, her glasses and a pair of work trousers and brown flannel shirt.

Head on Steps. The head of the victim rested on the bottom step of the cellar stairs when the body was found. One slipper had come off and her glasses were found some distance away.

Chief of Police Van Deusen himself inspected the premises Saturday morning.

Injured Skater Better. Beatrice, Neb., Jan. 3.—"Jack" West, Beatrice boy, who sustained a fracture of the skull while skating on the Blue river, was reported slightly improved at last reports. However, little hopes are held out for his recovery.