

LILLIAN SNAVELY WATSON.

The Missing Chicago Bride and Two Companions in Omaha.

A \$750,000 WATERWORKS PLANT

Heavy Improvements to be Made by the Company—Police News—Court Local—Odds and Ends—Other City Matters.

A Rahway-Chicago-Omaha Sensation.

The BEE is prepared to solve a branch of the Rahway, New Jersey, murder mystery, which has on account of certain strange phases, excited much comment of late. It is that branch in which L. C. Watson the young landscape painter and his four weeks' bride figure so unpleasantly.

The case, or this particular branch of it, possesses unusual interest because it was telegraphed all over the country that Mrs. Watson had left Chicago, suddenly and mysteriously, and had come to Omaha, where she was at present in hiding. This is partially, and not wholly, true.

THE CRIME.

In connection it may not be uninteresting to give a brief review of the crime, and the subsequent disappearance of the Watsons, which have, by a singular chain of coincidences, been linked together.

One day last week the dead body of a girl, who had evidently been murdered by some unknown hand, was found by the side of a road leading into Rahway, N. J. There was not the slightest clue which would indicate the perpetrators or motive of the crime. Ever since that time the officers of New Jersey have been searching high and low for some key to the mystery which as yet remains unsolved. The body of the dead girl has not yet been identified in a satisfactory manner.

Just about this time the mysterious murder of the young woman was connected by a coincidence in dates with the newly married bride of L. C. Watson, a young landscape painter of Chicago. She left Chicago on the 21th, went no one knew whither, and disappeared as completely as though the EARTH HAD SWALLOWED HER UP.

Her husband had preceded her east, and as he was seen hanging about the scene of the Rahway murder, evidently laboring under suppressed excitement, it was suspected that the murdered woman was his wife and that he perhaps was guilty of the crime. But of this nothing was known.

The story of Watson's marriage was at once romantic and peculiar. The girl Lillian Snavely was a pupil in a Chicago art studio, and it was there that Watson met her. It was a case of LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.

After a courtship of three weeks the couple were married, being aided by a sister and cousin of the bride. The match was against the wishes of the bride's parents, who resided in Sterling, Ill. After the marriage, which took place at Sterling, the young couple came to Chicago, where they stopped at the residence of a Mrs. Duncan, a friend of the bride.

A few days after that Mr. Watson went east on some pressing private business. On March 24 he had not returned, and on that day his young bride disappeared also. The circumstances which led to the suspicion that Mrs. Watson was the murdered girl of Rahway, N. J., have been mentioned above. The opinion prevailed not only in Chicago, but particularly at Sterling, Ill., the former home of the murdered girl. A picture of the Rahway victim which was received in Sterling was found to be almost an exact facsimile of one taken of Lillian Snavely a few months ago. So great was the excitement in Sterling that many threats against Watson are constantly made, and it is likely he would get a warm reception if he were to step a foot within the town. The girl was a great favorite, and it is the general belief among those who knew her that there was foul play in her disappearance. To make the case against the SUSPECTED HUSBAND stronger it was found that Miss Snavely, when she left Sterling, had taken with her a dark green cashmere dress and a black silk sash with a fur collar, such as that found on the person of the murdered girl.

ON THE WRONG SCENT. Despite the fact that circumstantial evidence is against Watson and point to him as the murderer of his wife, the BEE is able to present positive proof of the contrary. A reporter of this paper who has made a thorough investigation of the Omaha end of the case, has discovered that Mrs. Watson did come to this city as was intimated in a telegram from Chicago, though she has since left.

On March 25, one day after the disappearance of Mrs. Watson from Chicago, a young couple arrived in Omaha from the east. They were driven in a closed carriage to the Cozzen's hotel, where they registered under the name of L. D. Davidson and wife, without giving the name of the place from which they had come. They were assigned to room 52, and afterward to another apartment. They were rarely seen in the dining room but had their meals taken to them to their room, as a general thing. The girl was neatly dressed, and of rather prepossessing appearance. She was about 20 years of age. The man Davidson who registered as her husband was an Englishman apparently, of light complexion and with a sandy moustache. The couple had, when they arrived at the hotel, \$300 in cash which was kept in the safe during their stay. This was just \$100 less than the amount in the possession of Mrs. Watson when she left Chicago on March 21th.

The man Davidson was MOODY AND RETICENT, and did not volunteer any explanation of his visit to Omaha. The girl, however, was more communicative. To two of the ladies about the hotel she volunteered the information that her maiden name was Lillian Snavely; that her folks resided in Sterling, Ill., and that she had contracted a runaway match against the wishes of her relatives. This statement was made several days before the disappearance of Mrs. Watson from Chicago was aired in the press, and before that disappearance was linked with the murder at Rahway. So that the girl could not have been seeking for notoriety when she made the statement to the ladies at the Cozzen's.

Several circumstances led the attendees of the hotel to suspect that Davidson was traveling under a false name. He acted very strangely, as though he were continually afraid that some disaster was about to happen to him. He gave an order to the desk that if any telegrams were received at the hotel for him, they should under no circumstances be sent to his room, but should be held for him until he called for them. He gave as a reason for the request that he might receive some telegrams which he wouldn't care to open in the presence of the girl. On the 27th Davidson was apparently twenty-seven years of age, who registered under the name of M. H. Bell. He was very intimate with Mr. and Mrs. Davidson and seems to be cognizant of all the plans and purposes of the former. On the night of the 29th, the trio suddenly paid their hotel bills and were hurriedly drawn to the depot, where they took the Union Pacific overland train for the west. Before they left the girl had confided to the ladies at the hotel that they were going to Denver and from thence to Portland, Oregon.

"Yes, sir," said Manager Joe Neeldum, of the Cozzen's, in speaking of the case, "there is no doubt but that GILL WAS LILLIAN WATSON, whoever the two fellows with her may have been. The fact that she arrived in Omaha the day after Mrs. Watson is reported to have left Chicago, that she had \$1,100 when she arrived, which is about the amount that Mrs. Watson had in cash when she married, and above all the fact that Davidson came from Sterling, Ill., that her name was Lillian Snavely, and that she had contracted a runaway match against the wishes of her relatives, all prove conclusively that the girl who came on March 25 as the wife of Davidson was none other than Mrs. Watson, the missing bride of Chicago."

As to the identity of the two men with Mrs. Watson when she came to Omaha nothing definite can be ascertained. It is hardly possible that one of them was Watson himself. It is more probable that Mrs. Watson had during her husband's absence in the east, heard the stories about his being a bigamist and had determined to leave him. Following out this theory which has been hinted at by the papers of Chicago, it is probable that Davidson and Bell, the two men who registered at the Cozzen's, were either relatives or friends of Lillian Snavely Watson, who were aiding the girl to escape from a husband whom she believed to be a worthless adventurer and a bigamist.

ENGINEER BIRKINBINE'S OPINION

Office Council Bufile City Waterworks Company.

Editor Omaha Bee: No article has appeared in your paper lately which is more important to the present and prospective manufacturing interests of Omaha and vicinity than the article under the heading of "Slack vs Lump Coal." All that has been said in the above named article is true and has been demonstrated in the works under my charge. Proper combustion is all that is necessary to burn slack coal and it can be had by careful construction or alteration of any plant.

We are now getting the same results from consuming a pound of slack coal under our boiler as we did with a pound of lump coal thus making a saving of 45 per cent in the cost of coal. Our firemen find it pleasant work to burn slack than any other kind of coal. Good strong draft, ample water tight ash pit, properly proportioned furnaces, and last but not least, properly designed grates are all that is necessary. Our plant consists of four 80-horsepower boilers; a stack 90 feet high with a 48 inch flue. We use a flaring furnace fitted with what is known as the Dorrance rocker grates. Some people may say no such results have been obtained elsewhere. For the information of those who will state that neither Illinois nor Indiana produce slack of as good quality as the Iowa mines; therefore the difference in results. There is no reason why Omaha and vicinity cannot purchase iron suitably mixed for foundry work of all characters as cheaply as Chicago. If this section of country can produce power as cheap, or cheaper than Chicago, and castings can be made as cheaply here as they are of the Mississippi river, then why are we not looking for a big manufacturing boom. Surely our light will not be hid under a bushel long.

General Manager and Chief Engineer.

H. A. BIRKINBINE.

To South Omaha Employers.

Why do you live in Omaha, and spend time and money going to and from work when you can still buy choice dwelling lots in the original plat of South Omaha, direct from the South Omaha Land company, at low prices and on very easy terms? Only 7 per cent interest on deferred payments.

C. E. MAYNE, R. E. & T. Co., N. W. Cor. 15th and Harney, Sole Agents

A Cavalry Club.

Some of the young men of the city who own horses are interesting themselves in a scheme to form a cavalry club. It is proposed to form a club of about forty or fifty well-mounted men, armed with sabres and enter into active drill. Colonel Henry, army rifle instructor, has kindly consented to drill the young men as well as their horses. It is probable that the scheme will be carried through and that at once. It is proposed to have the organization run on a similar plan to that of the City Guard Cavalry club of Philadelphia.

The South Omaha Land company

has appointed C. E. Mayne sole agent for the sale of their lots. He will show the property and furnish all desired information upon application.

(Signed) W. A. PAXTON, President.

Her Hard-Earned Money.

Henry Loomis, a high school boy, who was bound over to the district court in the sum of \$1,000, is free, thanks to his mother. That venerable lady came up from Kansas City yesterday and deposited \$1,000 in cash as security for her wayward son's appearance when wanted. Loomis was released and accompanied his mother to Kansas City.

J. D. Riley, Real Estate Broker, Hastings, Neb.

References: City Nat'l bank and Adams County bank.

Attacked by a Bull Dog.

William Easton has been arrested on the charge of setting a ferocious bulldog on a man named Magnus Erickson. It appears that Erickson was cutting sod in Walnut hill, when he got into a dispute with Easton. The two men got to fighting, and Easton would have been soundly whipped had he not set his dog upon Erickson. The latter was badly bitten. The warrant for Easton's arrest was sworn out before Judge Anderson, but the case was taken on a change of venue to Justice Heisley's court.

Hastings.

The Mo. Pacific Northwestern have submitted propositions for bonds which will be voted here. J. D. Riley, the real estate broker, has great bargains in business lots and acre tracts. Dawes & Foss' addition a specialty. Rooms 4, 5 and 6, Opera House.

Seed Sweet Potatoes

Seven Varieties. Phil Schmeiser & Co. 911 & 913 Douglas St. Omaha, Neb. JUST RECEIVED.

NEW WATERWORKS.

Three-quarters of a Million to be Expended at Florence.

Mr. S. L. Wiley, secretary and treasurer of the waterworks company of Omaha, stated yesterday morning that the company had decided upon commencing work at Florence at once upon forty settling basins which will constitute the foundation for the establishment of an entirely new plant for the city. A petition was presented to the council last evening asking for the condemnation and appropriation of fifty to seventy-five acres which the company desires to use. The forty settling basins will have a capacity of 40,000,000 gallons. With such an area of reservoirs the water, when it finally is forced through its pipes to the city will be clear as crystal and the day of gas on buying the aqueous fluid is a thing of the past. No pumping works will also of a necessity be erected, and the whole plant put in perfect condition before any water will be supplied from that source. It is estimated that fully three-quarters of a million dollars will be expended in the works. The company will offer stock at par, and placed upon the market to-day, as will be seen by an advertisement in the BEE, \$50,000 at par, in shares of \$100. It is expected that a year and a half will be required in the construction of the new plant. It will then be as nearly a perfect system of waterworks as can be devised.

Three of a Kind.

With passenger trains on the Belt line, a street car line on Farnam, and the cable line on Dodge street, all of which run through Briggs Place, the proposed addition will have the best facilities for reaching the city of any inside property. The advantages of a lot in Briggs Place are so apparent that it has needed no advertising to sell. It is traversed by six of the principal streets of the city—Harney, Farnam, Douglas, Dodge, Capitol avenue and Davenport, and the greatest part of it lies inside of the Belt line. There are good lots at \$1,000 and \$1,500, and very easy terms. No contracts will be given, but a warranty deed goes with every lot. Go and see C. E. Mayne at N. W. cor. 15th and Harney, if you want a genuine bargain.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Stray Leaves From a Reporter's Note Book.

"Omaha's second hand stores claim that business is very quiet with them. I refer particularly to the furniture department," said a New York drummer yesterday. "I have travelled a good deal among the booming cities of the West and I think Omaha stands alone in regard to it. It is true there are a couple of stores run on the installment plan but they sell new goods and are kept busy. But the second hand furniture dealers do not carry as large a stock as men in the business do in other cities of the size. The fact seems to be there are not as many people parting with their furniture."

"I remember for instance five years ago when Denver was booming, and second-hand furniture stores during that time were attracted from the east by the stories of the fortunes that were being made in the west, and packing up their furniture and other moveables started out for Pike's Peak or bust. I have struck it rich. The result was that in numerous instances the furniture had to be sold to raise money to get back east, and the second-hand dealers had large emporiums filled with the finest furniture. "I think it is a favorable sign to see a city where its inhabitants are not forced to sell their household goods to obtain means of existence. True, some fashionable people dispose of their parlor sets and other furniture to supply themselves with the latest designs, but they are the exception. It is only when the exigencies of life compel people to part with their furniture, which has become familiar and dear to them as household gods, surrounded with some pleasant memory, that evidences of hard times are observable."

Jesse Smith, the colored pugilist, who has won distinction on the occasion of several private prizefights, is now making a living by playing a banjo in a Tenth street saloon. He has a good ear for music and is a very fair musician, although of course he has not had any training. He manages to make a very fair living in this way, and doubtless appreciates it as an easier business than that of pounding up other people's faces.

Real Estate Transfers.

- Real estate transfers filed April 4. Jas O'Connor and St. Philomena church to Jacob E. Marlet, bet. 1st and 2d st. w of 4th sec. 2, lot 15-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-12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