

INQUEST FAILS TO SHOW MOTIVE IN GIRL'S SUICIDE

Mother of Mildred Hoeltz Denies Engagement Ring Incident, But Says Man May Know Reason.

Miss Mildred Hoeltz, 15-year-old department store clerk, met her death from an overdose of strychnine Wednesday taken with suicidal intent was the verdict of the coroner's jury following the inquest held yesterday at the undertaking establishment of Stack & Falconer, 3224 Farnam street.

The motive which prompted the act probably will remain a mystery. When Mrs. May Hoeltz, the dead girl's mother, took the witness stand yesterday she said that she had no explanation in detail she was told by Mr. Steinwender that she would be excused from telling anything she did not care to relate.

Mrs. Hoeltz told a reporter for The Bee that she quarreled with her daughter following a visit Tuesday night to her daughter by A. J. Smith, a traveling salesman.

"I heard my daughter and Mr. Smith engaged in an earnest conversation," she said. "I heard my daughter say several times, 'That subject is too deep for me.'"

Conversation Not Revealed. "My daughter always had been in the habit of telling me everything. I insisted on knowing what Mr. Smith was talking so seriously about, and she refused to tell me. Our disagreement followed."

It is his opinion that the subject of this mysterious conversation and his scolding Mildred caused her to end her life. Unless Mr. Smith tells the subject he was discussing with my daughter, the secret will have died with her."

Denies Ring Incident. Mrs. Hoeltz denied that her daughter took off her engagement ring before leaving the Brandeis store. "It could not be true, because she was not engaged to marry," she said. "She did not take off any rings in the store. I remember she had them all on when I arrived home after she took the poison."

Mrs. Hoeltz was the first witness called. She told of the bitter exchange of words between herself and daughter Tuesday night. "I told my daughter if she did not tell me what her visitor had been talking to her about, she could find some other place to live."

The witness related her story with streaming eyes, and several times was overcome with emotion.

Engagement With Man. "When Mildred, according to her daily custom, failed to spend the lunch hour with me Wednesday, I did not think anything of it, because I knew she had an engagement with a man to go to lunch," she said.

Mrs. Hoeltz declared later that the man's name was Rockway, and said he was a locomotive engineer. "My daughter had been acting strangely for two weeks," continued the witness. "I know why, but it is necessary for me to tell."

She was told by Mr. Steinwender that it was not necessary for her to relate anything that she did not feel like telling.

Walker at Inquest. Harvey D. Walker, alleged to be one of Mrs. Hoeltz's suitors, and whose wife is suing him for a divorce, attended the inquest. He declared he was not a friend of the Hoeltz family.

Simply a neighbor and spectator, he said. Mr. Walker interrupted the inquest when he saw The Bee artist making sketches of the witnesses.

"What right has this reporter to come in here and draw pictures of these women," the neighbor and spectator inquired in angry and excited tones.

"I have mighty little use for reporters, anyway," he said. Mr. Walker was told to take his seat.

Later he displayed the interest of a close neighbor and spectator when he remained by Mrs. Hoeltz's side advising her and comforting her for three-quarters of an hour after the inquest had been concluded.

Mrs. Walker is interviewed. While Walker was hovering around Mrs. Hoeltz at the inquest, Mrs. Walker was talking to a reporter for The Bee at her residence, 2787 Capitol avenue.

"I am sick of this publicity," she exclaimed. "I am glad, however, Mrs. Hoeltz's and my husband's names have been connected at last."

Mrs. Walker refused to deny or affirm Mrs. Hoeltz's statement of the meeting in Elmwood park between Walker and Mrs. Hoeltz. She declared that she did not know Mrs. Hoeltz, but had known Miss Mildred.

Mrs. Walker is suing her husband on the grounds of cruelty. Another feature the inquest failed to clear up was the two lines in the note left by the dead girl in which she told her mother to "forget and forgive her and lead a good, clean life."

Denies Girl's Meaning. It was in connection with this note that Mrs. Hoeltz Thursday emphatically denied that the girl's meaning could in any possible way be construed as referring to her alleged friendship to Mr. Walker.

Her explanation of the death note was that Mildred had lost all faith in man. "Mildred was old for her years and was simply tired of life because she had lost all faith in the truthfulness of men," she said.

Dr. Sam McCleneghan, the coroner's physician, declared that his autopsy revealed that the girl had died of strychnine poison. He said Miss Hoeltz was in normal physical condition and that there was no indication, as far as he determined, of any disorder with the exception of the poison in the stomach.

Found Girl on Bed. Miss Sylvia Boesberg, who lives in the house with the Hoeltz fam-

MRS. MAY HOELTZ, MOTHER OF THE DEAD GIRL and friend of Harvey D. Walker, who assumed the role of adviser to the stricken woman, and strenuously objected to the presence of reporters at the hearing. Mr. Walker's wife is seeking a divorce from her husband. Miss Sylvia Boesberg, who was the first to arrive at the dying girl's bedside, and whom Miss Hoeltz, rolling in convulsions, begged to shoot her and end her suffering. Paul Steinwender, who presided at the hearing, and told Mrs. Hoeltz she need not relate anything on the witness stand which she did not want the jury to know.



ly, testified to calling the police and notifying the girl's mother soon after she heard screams coming from Miss Hoeltz's room. She told of finding Miss Hoeltz rolling in agony on the bed. Miss Boesberg found the empty package from which the poison had been taken and a box of capsules on the bureau. "Mildred called my attention to a loaded revolver which was lying on the bureau," she said. "She told me to be careful with it that it was all ready to shoot and asked me to put it away. Then as her suffering increased she begged me to shoot her and put her out of misery."

Miss Hoeltz swallowed five grains of strychnine in a capsule, she told.

Patrolman John Coffey, who responded to the call phoned the police station. Coffey was accompanied by Dr. Julius Johnson, who worked with the girl for two hours in an attempt to save her life. Miss Hoeltz told the policeman she purchased the poison from the drug department in the Brandeis store.

F. M. Crowl, the druggist who sold Miss Hoeltz the strychnine, produced his records showing that the girl bought five grains of the poison from him Wednesday. She told him, he said, that she was 19 years old and wished to kill a cat with it. "She seemed to be a girl with no evil intentions and I did not hesitate to let her have the poison," he said.

beautifully portrayed by Mile. Evelyn, one of the highest paid stars of a famous circus before she signed a contract to star in "The Masque of Life."

Thirty-five Receive Diplomas From High School of Commerce

Thirty-three students of the High School of Commerce were graduated last night at commencement exercises held in the Central High school auditorium. Dr. C. A. Fulmer, head of the state vocational department of the University of Nebraska, delivered the commencement address.

Fifteen graduates of the four-year course received their diplomas, together with 18 students who have completed the three-year program. W. E. Reed, president of the Board of Education, presented the certificates.

Dr. F. H. Smith of the First Central Congregational church offered the invocation. Cadet certificates were presented by Arthur Wells of the board to the graduates who had acted as commissioned officers.

Commerce High is the only local school following a quarterly program. A class of about 50 students will be graduated in June.

Those receiving their diplomas were:

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| Helen Lindquist | Anna Greenberg |
| Anna Molner | Leona Elperle |
| Elio Schagan | Edward Munson |
| John Nowak | John Nowak |
| Mildred Schmitz | Douglas Dunn |
| Allice Leon | Meyer Colnie |
| Beata Friedman | Carl Teas |
| Anna Glover | Sam Green |
| Gertrude Castellan | V. C. Williamson |
| Helen Noon | Erna Horvack |
| Gertrude Lerene | Raymond Simmon |
| Irene Hagen | Wilbur Cramer |
| Martha Robb | David Greenberg |
| Stendaspinner | Mary L. Wallace |
| Martha Robb | David Greenberg |
| Gertrude Cooper | Vanya Korf |
| Anna Karman | David Potashuck |
| Edith Lacer | Joanette McDonald |
| Clara Schrieblman | |

Nelson Elected President of Omaha Noonday Club

Frans Nelson was elected president and J. L. Jacobson, vice president of the Noonday club of Omaha at the annual meeting for the election of officers held Friday evening at the Chamber of Commerce.

The following are the other officers elected: Charles O. Anderson, secretary, and Victor A. Johnson, treasurer. About 50 members were present at the meeting.

Billie and Dot, a duo of the daintiest girls vaudeville has seen this season, are heartily greeted at each performance at the Empress theater. Billie's boy impersonations are as clever a bit as the vaudeville stage has yet revealed. The surprise of the bill is offered by Jarrow, whose manipulation of cards is so clever as to border on the mysterious.

Fun runs riot when Vic LeRoy and Jack Dresdner step on the stage.

"Three Faces East," presented by a company headed by Miss Lillian Tucker and Mr. Everton, assisted by David Torrence, A. F. Davies, Arthur V. Gibson, Sydney Miller, N. St. Clair Hales, Arthur Elliott, Leo Stark, Florence LeClerc, Maud Leslie, Rubi Trelease, J. M. Hollicky, Ralph Belmont, Guy Cunningham and Isabel Garrison, will play at the Brandeis, April 9, 10 and 11, with a Thursday matinee.

"The Masque of Life," which will be seen at the Brandeis for three days, April 6, 7 and 8, is a seven-reel film starring Rita Jolivet and Hamilton Revelle.

The heavy emotional scenes are

COMMISSIONER MANLEY TALKS TO SECRETARIES

Says Commercial Clubs and Chambers of Commerce Will Eventually Become Social Centers for Big Interests.

Commercial clubs and chambers of commerce are to be something more than meetings of men to discuss business phases of community interests. They are to become social centers where larger interests than is included in merely commercial affairs will be presented and discussed, according to Robert Manley, commissioner of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, who was on the program for a talk to the delegates of the Iowa Secretarial association at its concluding session in Council Bluffs Friday afternoon.

Self-Interest Barred. The attendance yesterday was double that of Thursday, many of the newcomers being representatives of Nebraska commercial clubs. Commissioner Manley's theme was how the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, formed, but he got out of the dry narrative of common facts very quickly and aroused a lot of interest when he began to tell what the Omaha organization must become to reach the helpful place destined for it. It must become a community center, he said, where everything relating to the welfare of the Omaha metropolis should be considered with self-interest. He said the Omaha organization had already become something of a club for business men where they tell their troubles if they wanted to or forget them, but where they could get helpful companionship and larger ideas of citizenship.

Keep Youths Busy in Gardens and They'll Stay Out of Mischief

The establishment of a course in gradeaig, elementary farming and canning in public schools was advocated by N. M. Graham, assistant United States regional director of the school garden army in Iowa and Nebraska, and by Mrs. John Dickinson Sherman, special assistant director of the United States school garden army at a meeting of Omaha clubwomen held at the Chamber of Commerce Friday evening.

Mayor Smith urged the support by Omaha women and his school boys' and girls' market project. Joe Ihm, boys' and girls' garden club leader, narrated some of his experiences in dealing with boys and girls interested in gardening.

Juvenile delinquencies would be greatly lessened if the boys and girls would be kept busy at some kind of work during the summer months, according to Mr. Graham. Gardening is the ideal occupation for the youth of the land and would serve to keep them out of mischief, he continued. It would also result in the year-around school for which educators have been agitating, he stated.

An open discussion closed the meeting.

See Want-ads pay big profits to the people who read them.

Monday April 7th

French Army Band

Capt. Fernand Pollain, Conductor

Wounded Soldier-Musicians, all decorated for Bravery in Battle. Featured Soloists: Georges Truc, Pianist; Alex De Bruille, Violinist.

A Patriotic Symphony Concert

Auspices Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Retailers' Association, Alliance Francaise. Benefit French War Charities.

Seats on Sale Auditorium Box Office.

Prices: Lower Floor, \$1.50, \$1.00, 75c. Balcony, \$2.00, \$1.50, \$1.00, 50c.

FLASHES from FILMLAND

PHOTO-PLAY OFFERINGS FOR TODAY

On the Screen Today. MUSE—DUSTIN FARNUM in "THE VIRGINIAN" with Ethel Lynn. RIALTO—ANITA STEWART in "A MIDNIGHT ROMANCE" with Wallace Reid. SUN—TOM MIX in "FIGHTING FOR GOLD" with Wallace Reid.

STRAND—WALLACE REID in "ALIAS MIKE MORAN" with Ethel Lynn. EMPRESS—ALICE JOYCE in "THE CAMBRIC MASK" with Mack Bennett. LOTHROP—24th and Lothrop—NORMA TALMADGE in "THE PROBATION WIFE" with Wallace Reid.

BOULEVARD—3rd and Leavenworth—WILLIAM FARNUM in "FOR FREEDOM" with Ethel Lynn. GRAND—16th and Binney—BRYANT WASHBURN in "THE GYPSY TRAIL" with Mack Bennett. APOLLO—35th and Leavenworth—FRANK MAYO in "THE MORAL DEADLINE" with Ethel Lynn.

SUBURBAN—24th and Ames—"THE BELLA" with Mack Bennett. HAMILTON—4th and Hamilton—FRANK KEENAN in "THE RULER OF THE ROAD" with Ethel Lynn. ORFÈRE—8th, 24th and M—BESSIE HARRISALE in "HEARTS ASLEEP" with Ethel Lynn.

ELINOR FAIR, now playing with Albert Ray, has no desire to be a one-part actress. She has a nice light comedy touch, and also welcomes a dramatic role. Already she has written over a half-hundred of scenarios, some of which have been recommended for production and which she hopes to see screened later.

Ray Tincher, Molly Malone, Patricia Palmer, Harry Depp, Bobby Vernon, Jay Belsaco, Ethel Lynn, Dorothy De Vore, Earl Rodney and Harry Edwards are all playing now in Christie comedies. Al Christie, Scott Sidney and William Beaudine are the directors.

"Marie, Ltd." Alice Brady's Select picture, is now being distributed to

AMUSEMENTS.

BOYD ONE WEEK

Starting Sunday Mat. April 6. JUST BACK FROM INDIA. MURDOCK "The Man Who Knows"

TEARING THE CURTAINS FROM THE FUTURE. DO THE DEAD RETURN? BELIEVE NO ONE! COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF. ALL NEW \$5000 SHOW. PRICES—Mats. 25c and 50c. Nights, 25c, 50c and 75c.

"I BELIEVE"

Is Here Today, Last Time. Also FATTY ARBUCKLE in "A FARMYARD ROMEO". BOYD THEATRE Shows at 1-3-5-7-9 P. M.—25c.

Orpheum

Matinee Daily 2:15. Evening Night 8:15. LAST TWO TIMES "THE ONLY GIRL" and Current Bill.

Matinee Today—2:15 EARLY CURTAIN TONIGHT, 7:55

Next Week—Ray Samuels; "White Coupons"; Foster Ball and Ford West; Santon & Hayes and Excellent Bill.

BRANDEIS

Today—Mat. & Evening Last 2 Times. Klaw & Erlanger's Perfect Musical Comedy.

"MISS SPRINGTIME"

Aglow With Youth and Beauty. Special Orchestra. Urban's Scenery. Nights, 50c-\$2.00. Mat., 50c-\$1.50.

EMPRESS

TWO SHOWS IN ONE LOUIS HART & CO. "As in a Dream" LEROY & DRESNER. FARROW, BILLIE & DOT. Photoplay Attractions. ALICE JOYCE in "THE CAMBRIC MASK". Mack Bennett Comedy. Pathé Weekly.

"OMAHA'S FUN CENTER"

Gaiety Daily Mat., 15-25-50c. Ev'ngs., 25-50-75c. \$1. Peter S. "OH, GIRLS" Musical Offering. Burlesque.

With Johnnie Jess and Danny Murphy in "Friendly Rivals." Chorus of Twenty Singing and Dancing Witches. LADIES' DIME MATINEE WEEK DAYS.

the making of stories into screen drama. The dream of the pioneers in the film industry has been realized in the use of natural color photo processes to embellish and add further interest to the screen reproductions of stories in scenario form.

PHOTOPLAYS. BOULEVARD 33d and Leavenworth WILLIAM FARNUM in "FOR FREEDOM."

LOTHROP 24th and Lothrop NORMA TALMADGE in "THE PROBATION WIFE."

MUSE

Last Day The 1919 Revival of Dustin Farnum in his best play "The Virginian"

"Ambition" is the tentative title of the picture in which Dorothy Phillips, the star of "The Heart of Humanity," is working under Allen J. Holubar's direction.

Prizma Pictures, or some have called them "natural color" photo-plays, are now being employed in

PHOTOPLAYS. Strand 16th & Douglas Wallace Reid ...IN... "Alias Mike Moran"

SUN TOM MIX IN "FIGHTING FOR GOLD"

RIALTO

Direction of A. H. Blank

Will Present for the LAST TIME TODAY Talented and Charming

ANITA STEWART

IN A DELIGHTFUL STORY OF Love and Mystery

"A MIDNIGHT ROMANCE"

Next Week—Ray Samuels; "White Coupons"; Foster Ball and Ford West; Santon & Hayes and Excellent Bill.

HOTEL FONTENELLE

TEA DANCES Saturday Afternoons, 4 to 6 SUPPER DANCES Monday and Saturday Evenings, 11 to 12:30

A DUNDEE TAILORED MAN

is satisfied. He knows he is stylishly clothed---that the material will "Stand Up" and that the fit is certified. And the prices? They are surprisingly low, everything considered.

With Easter at hand, we urge you to let us measure you up tomorrow.

New Styles Radiate From Dundee

Dundee

WOOLEN MILLS N. W. Corner 15th and Harney Streets



New Shoe Styles

For Spring

The newest and most distinctive spring shoe styles—fashionable models measuring up to the Fry high standard of quality in every way—that will appeal to discriminating women who seek only the best. The prices, too, are attractively low.

FRY SHOE CO

