Oklahoma Town Thrilled as Hamon Hearing Opens

Clara Smith Hamon, in Fight For Life, for Slaying of Her Affinity, Oilman and - Politician.

By SAM BLAIR, Universal Service Staff Correspondent (Copyright 1921 By Universal Service.) (Copyright 1921 By the Chicago Herald and Examiner.)

Ardmore, Okl., March 10.-The murder trial of Clara Smith Hamon

began this morning. Today this little city regards it-self importantly. Throngs course the sidewalks of the main street and congest in store entrances and on the curbing to talk pompously about this matter which is to be the climax of the history of the state.

Each side knows the general trend which the evidence of the other side will follow.

The evidence will be divided thus: The prosecution will attempt to prove that Clara Smith Hamon killed her employer and affinity, Jake L. Hamon, in a cold-blooded and unprovoked fashion. The defense will attempt to prove that a revolver held in Clara's hands was accelentally discharged when the republican national committeeman struck down upon her with a chair after a period of drunken

The state will attempt to prove that Clara achieved a murder inspira-tion after realizing that the oil mag-nate and politician was about to discard her and take up a life of "respectability." The defense will try to show that Clara despised the life she/had led with Hamoh; that she had only remained with him because of his dominion of will; that she, herself, had helped arrange a plan whereby the two should part.

Clara's Story to Stand. The defendant's own story from the witness stand will be identical with the story she told to me when I found her, after the shooting and her disappearance from Ardmore, in Chihuahua, Mexico. Because she vance of Mrs. Hamon came James made to me her first statement of C. O'Brien, Chicago attorney, who the facts of the shooting, I am ex- earned the sobriquet of "Ropes" pected to be a witness in the case. My testimony, however, is not ancipated with special interest by

But there are witnesses whose His retainer's fee has been paid, nor statements are awaited with excitement. One such—and probably the first witness who will be called—is Frank Ketch, general manager of the Hamon properties and Jake

clothing expenses."

when appealing to a jury for a death

pate in the case only insofar as the

volved. The actual prosecution will

Trial Will Be Short.

It appears that this sweetheart of another time also looks back upon

this affair with kindly interest. He

verdict. He is expected to partic

Hamon's business overseer. Mr. Ketch originated and gave first circulation to the fabrication the red necktie he always affected that Jake Hamon accidentally shot himself while cleaning a 25 caliber automatic pistol. Mr. Ketch is exbected to admit on the stand that interests of Mrs. Hamon are inthis story was an untruth, told with the kindly purpose of protecting Hamon from notoriety and announced at a time when he believed Hamon would survive his wounds. This much of Mr. Ketch's testimony is generally anticipated.

Volved. The actual prosecution with the court room.

S. P. Freeling of Oklahoma City, assisted by H. H. Brown of this city. The defense attorneys are Charles A. Coakley, James H. Mathers and J. Much surprise was caused by the rapidity of the selection of prospective jurors. Each side had left this story was an untruth, told with

Can't Forecast Testimony.

Other details, however, of his The defense announces that it fears statements cannot be forecast, Many nothing Mr. Coakley agrees with believe that through Mr. Ketch the Attorney General Freeling in estidead Jake Hamon will speak from mating that the trial will not con-the witness stand. Mr. Ketch was tinue beyond a week. But this estiwith Hamon from almost the hour mate is conditioned on both sides

of the shooting to the moment of his death, last November 25.

Will the witness, Ketch, say to the jury: "Before he died Jake Hamon told me how and why he was shot, and the way of it was this?"

It is the possibility of these extraneous details that lends "piquancy" to the trial prospect. Some of

and the way of it was this?"

When the question is answered.

Probably the most vital element of evidence will have been introduced. Some tears may be shed in the court room; some reputations may be assailed; some political and personal.

And for every reputation assault sailed; some political and personal censations may be developed. But, so far as concerns the matter of conviction or acquittal, the one-important thing is supposed to be Jake Hamon's pointed and business aines. And for every reputation assault there will be a defense.

For instance, the attorneys of the accused woman have subpoenaed one Steve O'Brien, mentioned by Clara in one of her interviews with

The heart appeal will come in the testimony of the two women most conterned with what the verdict will when she was a school girl in Lawbe. The testimony of these two-the defendant, 27, and the slain man's the dominating influence of Jake Hawidow, 42-already has been told in substance in interviews given this correspondent.

Widow Is Present. Mrs. Hamon, the widow, with her will testify, it is understood, that son, lake, ir. and her 11-year-old. Clara was a blameless girl before the

Principals in Murder Trial of Clara Hamon



ures in the trial besides the defendant are Mrs. Jake L. Hamon, widow of surrendered; District Attorney James Mathers of Carter county, excused from the prosecution of the case because he was retained as ministrator of Hamon's estate, who counsel for the defense prior to takthe alleged murdered man; Justice Thomas Champion, who is the trial judge; Frank Ketch, business part- ministrator of Hamon's estate, who counsel for the defense ner of Jake L. Hamon, and ad-holds the secret of the reported ing office on January 1.

(Special.)-Lawrence Yearsley was

daughter, Olive Belle, reached Ard- determined Hamon lured her

more yesterday afternoon. In ad- away. Twelve Men in Box. Clara Smith Hamon, charged with the murder of Jake L when, as an assistant prosecuting Hamon, millionaire oil man and reattorney, he convicted and sent to publican national committeeman of either side, because I already have the gallows a number of murderers. Oklahoma, began shortly after published every important thing she Mr. O'Brien has been retained by o'clock this morning. Judge Thomas W. Champion is presiding. The case is generally regarded as Oklahoma's most celebrated murder trial. Ha-Mrs. Hamon in a personal capacity.

out of the fund withdrawn from the mon was shot and killed last fall. Hamon estate, but out of money saved by curtailing grocery and The court room, which had been virtually empty until a few minutes before the trial opened, filled rapidly. Mr. O'Brien may not take an ac-When the trial started every seat was filled and persons were lining the tive part in the direct prosecution, although he arrived in town wearing

walls on all sides. Mrs. Clara Smith Hamon, the defendant, and mother and sister took seats behind her counsel. Several friends came up to where she sat and shook hands with her. Mrs. Jake L. Hamon was not in

rapidity of the selection of pros-pective jurors. Each side had left nine peremptory challenges.

Nebraska City Man Hurt Nebraska City, Neb., March 10.--

Japanese Naval Officer Is Held; Offered Secrets

Efforts to Sell Important Navy Documents to U. S. Captain Results in Detention of Lieutenant.

Tokeo, March 10 .- (By The Associated Press)-Naval Lieutenant Tsurn Hamaguchi was today arrested and handed over to a courtmartial in connection with an alleged attempt to sell Japanese naval se-crets to Captain Edward Howe Watson, naval attache at the United

States embassy here. Captain Watson, it is said by the Nichi Nichi Shimbun, received two letters signed "Goto Yapada," asking for an appointment, as the writer desired to sell for 1,000,000 yen Japan's mobilization plans against "a certain country." Secret maps of Formosa and documents showing the depths of various parts of Tokio bay were to be included, Captain Watson concluded.

Captain Watson, it is said, turned the letters over to the naval depart-ment authorities, and an investigation resulted in the arrest of Lieutenant Hamaguchi.

Statue of Lincoln Will Be

Erected in Nebraska City Nebraska City, Neb., March 10.-A statue of Abraham Lincoln, preschool in a few days. It is seven class of 1920, has been received and will be placed in position at the high school in a few days. It is seven feet and two inches in height and is Buck Garret, to whom the defendant modeled after the statue in Lincoln park, Chicago.

On Farm Near/Pawnee City

Pawnee City, Neb., March 10.— (Special.)—Frank Boren has an eight legged pig which was born at his farm a day or so ago. The pig has two completely separate bodies injured when a young mule he was leading behind a wagon, became which join at the shoulders. All frightened and jerked him out of Ardmore, Okl., March 10.-The the vehicle and sprained his back and eight legs are absolutely whole and omplete. It has four ears. One

The pig died shortly after birth.

M. E. Smith Shirt Factory

At Beatrice is Closed Beatrice, Neb., March 10.—(Spe-did.)—The M. F. Smith & Co. shirt factory, which opened here a few years ago, has been dismantled. ree rent and a brick building was rected and the machinery installed. t is said that business here did not operating the concern

Pure Bred Hog Sale at

by G. A. Wiebe & Son, which was by G. A. Wiebe & Son, which was ren who are now in the custody of held at the driving park here, prices Mrs. Lenton's parents, who came averaged all the way from \$75 to here from Colorado a few days ago. \$100. There were a number of Moss was an employe of the telebuyers' from various points in the phone company.
county, which included members of
the boys' and girls' pig club.

5 Omaha Ru

Lexington Country Club

Will Improve Grounds Lexington, Neb., March 10.—(Speresident; H. T. Krier, secretary; J. B. Woods, treasurer. Plans for im-proving the golf links, swimming pool and grounds were made. State Agents Start Drive

To Collect Auto Licenses Beatrice, Neb., March 10 .- (Special.)—Carl Schmitt, state agent, and C. W. Wilson, federal officer, ar-rived in Beatrice and will spend a ew days in Gage county rounding up auto owners who have not taken out 1921 licenses.

Beatrice Police Find

Parts of Still in Barn Beatrice, Neb., March 10 .- (Speial.)-Officers searched the premises of Ora Lemmon in West Beatrice and found part of a still in a barn including a cooker and two

pair is in the normal position and large oil cans from which it is althe other pair on the top of the head. leged he has been selling moonshine. The head is about the normal size. Lemmon was arrested and the paraphernalia confiscated by the police.

North Platte Woman Shot

By Jealous Roomer Dies North Platte, Neb., March 10 .- United States district attorney. (Special Telegram.)-Mrs. W. Lenthe company when it established its shoulder received last week when she prisoners plant here was guaranteed two years was shot by Victor Moss in a quarrel. Moss was a roomer at the Lenton home and became infatuated with his landlady. When she tried to check his advances last week. Moss shot her and then turned the

gun upon himself. Moss, who seems to be recovering

Beatrice, Neb., March 10.—(Spe-his victim's death.

At the annual sale of pure-Mr. Leaton is a Union Pacific bred Poland China bred sows owned switchman and has two small child-

5 Omaha Rum Prisoners

Freed Under New Ruling Five federal prisoners were re leased Wednesday from the Douglas Lexington Country club the following officers were elected: D. P. Rankin, president; L. T. Smith, vice president; H. T. Krier, secretary. I

Rankel, John Thompson and

Thirteen other prisoners in juils throughout Nebraska under simila convictions will bt released, but immediately rearrested for alleged violation of the Volstead act, according to Lloyd A. Magney, assistant Federal Judge T. C. Munger ton died here of wounds in the Lincoln gave the order to release the

Hamburg Coffee Importers

Boycott French Merchants Berlin, March 10 .- (By The Asso iated Press.)-The executive connittee of the Association of Coffee Importers of Hamburg has recommended that the members of the as-Beatrice Well Attended from his wound, does not know of Sociation make no purchases from England or France while the gov ernments of those countries continue "their policy of oppression," says a Hamburg dispatch to the Vossische Zeitung today.

The committee is making efforts to induce similar associations in Berlin, Cologne and Bremen to join the boycott, the dispatch adds.

Panama Refuses to Use

White Award for Peace Washington, March 10 .- Panama



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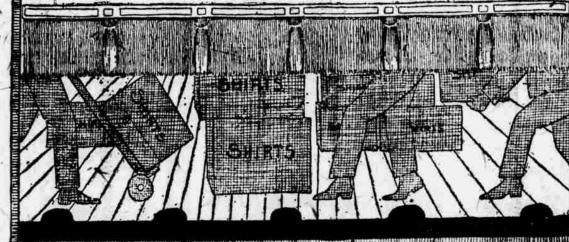
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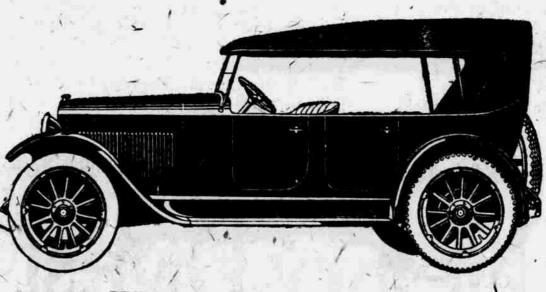
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