

### 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

Admore, Okla., March 10.—The murder trial of Clara Smith Hamon began this morning.

Today this little city regards itself importantly. Thronging 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 when 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 accidentally discharged when the republican national committee man struck down upon her with a chair after a period of drunken abuse.

The state will attempt to prove that Clara achieved a murder inspiration by realizing that the oil magnate 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 Hamon; that she had only remained with him because of his domination of will; that she, herself, had helped arrange a plan whereby the two should part.

Clara's Stry 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 Admore, in Chihuahua, Mexico. Because she made to me her first statement of the facts of the shooting, I am expected to be a witness in the case. My testimony, however, is not expected with special interest by either side, because I already have published every important thing she told me.

But there are witnesses whose 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 Hamon's business overseer.

Mr. Ketch originated and gave first circulation to the fabrication that Jake Hamon accidentally shot himself while cleaning a .25 caliber automatic pistol. Mr. Ketch is expected to admit on the stand that this 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.

Can't Forecast Testimony. Other details, however, of his statements cannot be forecast. Many believe that through Mr. Ketch the dead Jake Hamon will speak from the witness stand. Mr. Ketch was with Hamon from almost the hour 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?"

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 resentments 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 deathbed statement to his friends.

The heart appeal will come in the testimony of the two women most concerned with what the verdict will be. The testimony of these two—the defendant, 27, and the slain man's widow, 42—already has been told in substance in interviews given this correspondent.

Widow Is Present. Mrs. Hamon, the widow, with her son, Jake, Jr., and her 11-year-old daughter, Olive Belle, reached Admore yesterday afternoon. In advance of Mrs. Hamon came James C. O'Brien, Chicago attorney, who earned the sobriquet of "Ropes" when, as an assistant prosecuting attorney, he convicted and sent to the gallows a number of murderers.

### Principals in Murder Trial of Clara Hamon



JUDGE THOMAS W. CHAMPION. CLARA SMITH HAMON. JAKE L. HAMON. DIST. ATTY. JAMES H. MATHERS. CHARLES A. COAKLEY. SHERIFF BUCK GARRETT. FRANK L. KETCH. MRS. JAKE HAMON.

Clara Smith Hamon is on trial charged with the murder of Jake L. Hamon, multimillionaire "Empire Builder" of the west. Prominent figures in the trial besides the defendant are Mrs. Jake L. Hamon, widow of the alleged murdered man; Justice Thomas Champion, who is the trial judge; Frank Ketch, business partner of Jake L. Hamon, and administrator of Hamon's estate, who holds the secret of the reported

determined Hamon lured her away. Twelve Men in Box. Ardmore, Okla., March 10.—The trial of Clara Smith Hamon, charged with the murder of Jake L. Hamon, millionaire oil man and republican national committeeman of Oklahoma, began shortly after 9 o'clock this morning. Judge Thomas W. Champion is presiding. The case is generally regarded as Oklahoma's most celebrated murder trial. Hamon was shot and killed last fall. The court room, which had been virtually empty until a few minutes before the trial opened, filled rapidly. When the trial started every seat was filled and persons were lining the 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 the court room. After examination of 21 veniremen, 12 men who had not disqualified themselves were in the jury box. Much surprise was caused by the rapidity of the selection of prospective jurors. Each side had left nine peremptory challenges.

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

Clara recalled this romance as the bright, clean period of her life—when she was a school girl in Lawton and just before she yielded to the dominating influence of Jake Hamon. It appears that this sweetheart of another time also looks back upon this affair with kindly interest. He will testify, it is understood, that Clara was a blameless girl before the

### Japanese Naval Officer Is Held; Offered Secrets

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

Tokyo, March 10.—(By The Associated Press)—Naval Lieutenant Tsuru Hamaguchi was today arrested and handed over to a court-martial in connection with an alleged attempt to sell Japanese naval secrets to Captain Edward Howe Watson, naval attaché at the United States embassy here.

Captain Watson, it is said by the Nichi Nichi Shinbun, received two letters signed "Goto Yopada," 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 Tokyo bay were to be included, Captain Watson concluded.

Statue of Lincoln Will Be Erected in Nebraska City. Nebraska City, Neb., March 10.—A statue of Abraham Lincoln, 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 modeled after the statue in Lincoln park, Chicago.

Pig With Eight Legs Born. 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 which join at the shoulders. All eight legs are absolutely whole and complete. It has four ears. One

pair is in the normal position and the other pair on the top of the head. The pig is about the normal size. The pig died shortly after birth.

### At Beatrice is Closed

Beatrice, Neb., March 10.—(Special.)—The M. E. Smith & Co. shirt factory, which opened here a few years ago, has been dismantled. The company when it established its plant here was guaranteed two years free rent and a brick building was erected and the machinery installed. It is said that business here did not demand operating the concern longer.

### Pure Bred Hog Sale at Beatrice Well Attended

Beatrice, Neb., March 10.—(Special.)—At the annual sale of pure bred Poland China bred sows owned by G. A. Wiebe & Son, which was held at the driving park here, prices averaged all the way from \$75 to \$100. There were a number of buyers from various points in the county, which included members of the boys' and girls' pig club.

### Lexington Country Club Will Improve Grounds

Lexington, Neb., March 10.—(Special.)—At the annual meeting of the Lexington Country club the following officers were elected: D. P. Rankin, president; L. T. Smith, vice president; H. T. Krier, secretary; J. B. Woods, treasurer. Plans for improving the golf links, a 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, arrived in Beatrice and will spend a few 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.—(Special.)—Officers searched the premises of Ora Lempert in West Beatrice and found part of a still in a barn including a cooker and two

### North Platte Woman Shot By Jealous Rouser Dies

North Platte, Neb., March 10.—(Special Telegram.)—Mrs. W. Lenton died here of wounds in the shoulder received last week when she was shot by Victor Moss in a quarrel. Moss was a roomer at the Lenton home and became intimated with his landlady. When she tried to check his advances last week, Moss shot her and then turned the gun upon himself.

### Hamburg Coffee Importers Boycott French Merchants

Berlin, March 10.—(By The Associated Press.)—The executive committee of the Association of Coffee Importers of Hamburg has recommended that the members of the association make no purchases from England or France while the governments of those countries continue "their policy of oppression," says a Hamburg dispatch to the Vossische Zeitung today.

### 5 Omaha Rum Prisoners Freed Under New Ruling

Five federal prisoners were released Wednesday from the Douglas county jail under the recent ruling of the circuit court of appeals at St. Louis that declared the internal revenue liquor laws invalid. They were Leo Sokol, James McKeena, Frank

Rankel, John Thompson and J. Murray.

Thirteen other prisoners in jail throughout Nebraska under similar convictions will be released, but immediately rearrested for alleged violation of the Volstead act, according to Lloyd A. Magney, assistant United States district attorney.

Federal Judge T. C. Munger in Lincoln gave the order to release the prisoners.

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 refuses to accept the White award as a basis of peace with Costa Rica, it informs the American government in a note made public today by the State department.

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