Defendant on Stand in Hamon Murder Trial

Clara Smith Relates Events Leading Up to Fatal Shooting Which She Claims

Self-Defense.

(Continueed from Page One.) noticed that the lights in the car were on and I said 'wait a minute, I want to turn the lights of my car off.' He turned me loose and I walked to the car and switched off

"When I passed by him, and turned to get through the door he again grabbed me by the arm and jerked me down on a chair and cursed me. I said 'go to the room Mr. Hamon, if you want to abuse me, there are some men standing came down on me and it knocked the there; you must not talk that way gun out on the floor like this and here in public, so he got up and I it went off as it fell or I pulled the went up stairs to my room.

Was Afraid of Him.

"I was afraid of Mr. Hamon, very atraid of him. I saw a look on his He was drunker than I had ever seen him in all the years I had her story and getting back to a known him. He was drunk and question and answer basis. crazy. I don't think the whisky was good red whisky as Mr. Nich said. He usually drank good whisky and he was not usually crazy like that. He was crazier and drunker than he had ever been in all the years I had known him. When I got to my room the doors were locked between our rooms, that is the bath room door was locked. I rang for Bill, the porter I thought I had better eat some-thing. I had not had anything to eat all day. At breakfast I could

and when Bill came and knocked on the door he came in with ice water and Mr. Hamon slipped in with him. I had to unlock the door for Bill. was afraid of Mr. Hamon. I wanted to keep away from him for 24 more hours so I could go to California and wait for him to sober up and come to me, looking the sweet, kind lover he had been before.

Sneaked in Room. "So he came in as Bill came in, Bill poured the ice water in the pitcher. Mr. Hamon paced up and down, running his hands through his hair as he did when he was agitated, and the minute Bill went out and the door was closed Mr. Hamon said with an epithet, 'Where have you been,' and grabbed me and at the same time he choked me and he rhoked me until I was blind and I

could not seem to think." Now, Miss Clara, "interrupted W P. McLean of her counsel. "Just a minute. I will finish the story, Mr.

McLean," she said "He choked me and hit me and somehow he threw me over on the shot, after the pistol was fired-what to her she decided to return to Ardbed by one of his licks, and after he took place, what did you say to Mr. got me on the bed he beat me and Hamon, if anything, relative to the slapped me and hit me two or three light in the room?" queried her countimes and took me by one foot and sel. Clara replied: ierked me off the bed on my back. "He said 'Clara, you hit me; or it I had been operated on in the back hit me' something like that, I don't and it hurt me extremely; and he remember positively. I said 'Mr. Hamon I am sure I did not hit you'; and he kicked me and choked me, I said 'lie on the bed and I will call and I struggled to get up and he choked me again and backed me up he against the window and choked me again and again and slapped me; and hospital.' I said 'but I must call the doctor if you are hit; I must call the and he twisted the skin on my hand. and he twisted the skin on my hand; he twisted and he was not satisfied I will go to the hospital myself; he and he twisted the skin on my hand; with that; he bent my fingers back and tried to break them, and then he said 'I will cut your throat,' and he reached for his knife.

Knife Was Missing.

pocket in the afternoon while he was lying on the bed and I picked it up anyone asks you about this tell them and put it over on the table after he walked out of the room; then when planations," she quoted him. he did not have the knife in his pocket he reached for the knife I had given him on a little gold chain, and somehow, some way, that knife was not there. He looked around and meantime he was choking and beating me very bad. I cannot remember all of it, it is too much for anybody to remember."
"Did he make any remarks to you?"

McLean asked, "Well, I am getting to that, Mr. McLean," she replied, continuing: "I am getting to that. He said, 'you have been riding with somebody, haven't you?' and I said, 'no, you know I have not.' I knew that he knew I had not.' He was crazy drunk. When he did not find his gold knife, he saw a knife over on the dresser he had given me a long time ago, an old knife of his, just to sharpen pencils and use around the room, and I had it sharpened. It was very, very sharp. He reached for that knife and said, 'I would just as soon slit your throat as draw on this cigar. Anyway, when he reached for that knife I knew the time had come. I unconsciously or consciously or somehow reached back

got my little gun. I asked him to stand back and let me pass."

"Well, what did you do with the gun, with the pistol, when you got hold of it, what did you do with it?" McLean asked.

and in my purse on the window sill

Shot in Self-Defense.

"What did I do with it? What would anyone do with it if they thought their life was in danger?" she replied.

Never mind that, what did you do with it?" her counsel asked. "I held it on him," she went on.

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a chair and put his hand on the back main?" she was asked.

"He did not raise his hands. I did not ask him to. I passed him, too. He backed around to the door bethe door to get out, holding my hand like this, (indicating), to back up to the door to unlock it. He had locked for the estate, testing the gave Clarator for the estate, testing the gave Clarator for the estate, testing and the gave Clarator for the estate the gave Clarator for the gave Clarator for the estate the gave Clarator for the gave Clarator for the gave Clarator fo I unlocked the door I had to let him for two hours then was ordered, out of my sight.

Raised Chair to Strike.

hair to strike me and did strike me. could see from the light of the hall through the transom. He struck me

The defendant left the stand and walked before the jury box to illus- told her at the hospital when she

trate her version of it. "And I was unlocking the door like this and holding the gun on Mr. Hamon, but he was just out of my sight for a minute and he go around the corner and the chair trigger, or something as he hit me. don't know. The gun went off.

"I had the pistol in my hand when Mr. Hamon hit me with the chair face that I had never seen before, and it went off, I did not mean to shoot him," she continued, closing

Finishes Her Story.

on the stand. Defense counsel requested the extra 30 minutes so that the state could read 56 letters written to the defend- structions of Mr. Ketch. ant by Colonel Hamon and which it lesires to read into the record. Immediately upon recess Mrs. Hanon, the widow, joined Attorney fied he was, but she denied she car-

ing the letters. "They are all old letters," the widow said, after having read a half ticket for El Paso, Tex. dozen or so. "They were written a way back in 1914 and 1915 when he really was infatuated with her. There three days and then went to Chihuaare none written lately."

Marriage of Convenience. Before leaving the stand at noon

Hamon's nephew was for the former's convenience and that she never lived with him a minute, "and it was did not," when asked if she had told not supposed they would live to- Sallis she had shot a man and that

Smith part of the time and also un-der the name of Hamon," she said. discussion on the subject of wepons best for killing men was had. 'I used the name Hamon for Mr. Hamon's convenience. I have given checks signed Clara B, Smith when had the money in the bank as Clara he said he had been shot and that

was killed.

Mr. Hamon gave me the money and told me to buy it.'

Hamon Was Sorry. "Upon the day Mr. Hamon was

raised his vest to show me where he was hit; there was a spot of blood Get about that big around, (and she curved her fingers to illustrate) breaking down at this point and "The knife had fallen out of his crying. He left the room, she said. "I will say it was an accident; if

She Changed Clothing.

She said after the shooting she changed clothing, which she said had been torn badly in the fight, went out and put away her motor car and returned to her room where she spent the night.

"Now the next morning-what was the first place you went to the next morning?" Mr. McLean asked. I went to the hospital to see Mr. Hamon," she replied. "He had asked

the nurse to call me." She said she remained at the hospital only a few minutes and then went to Mr. Ketch's office.
"Now, you heard Mr. Ketch's statement on the witness stand as to what took place there. Was his

"No. I can't remember all of his statement, but I know much of it was incorrect," she replied.

when Bill went out. I could not \$5,000 on Hamon's instructions and see him, for he was a little back of the corner of the bath room, so when and remain away. The noon recess

Clara did not answer questions in the dramatic tones in which she had detailed the story of the shooting of "And, understand, when I and detailed the story of the shooting of Hamon at the morning session. She hoped the door to go, in that instant space in a full firm low voice and te turned off the light and raised the spoke in a full, firm, low voice and

did not waste words in her replies, Mr. Hamon held out his arms and oulled me down and kissed me and with that chair and the gun went asked me to forgive him and said it never would have happened if he had not been drunk, she said Hamou visited him the morning after the

Weeps As She Testifies.

Her voice wavered and tears came nto her eyes as she said that. She said Mr. Hamon told her she should leave town to save scandal, but to come back that afternoon. She described the conference with

Mr. Ketch at which she was given noney with which to leave Ardmore. She said she motored to Durant, Okl., intending to return to Ardmore, but changed her mind and drove on south to Denison. From Denison she said she motored to Dallas, where she tried to

get an airplane to San Antonio. She Court recessed at noon until 2 said she could not get a plane for an with the young woman still an hour and that the ship did not look safe, so she started to motor to San Antonio. She said she was acting on

Denies She Has Guns.

She said Everett W. Sallis was her chauffeur from Dallas, as he testi-General Freeling in the task of read- ried two pistols, as he had said. She said she was driven to Cisco Tex., where she bought a railroad

> She said she went to Juarez, Mex. across from El Paso, and remained Clara said when she left Oklahoma

she was not fleeing from a crime she Clara said her marriage to Colonel had committed, but left because Mr. Ketch told her to.

nothing had been said to Sallis about "I went under the name of Clara her having shot a man and that no

Hamon Took Pistol.

"If that is true, I want to kill myself," she said she told Hamon when Hamon took the pistol from her. She She told about having purchased said she did not want Mr. Ham to die. Her voice wavered again. said she did not want Mr. Hamon Mrs. Hamon, the widow, listened to Clara's testimony intently, but

without changing expression. "Leave and never come back." Clara said Ketch told her, but that when her uncle, Ben Harrison, went

more, "While in old Mexico did you meet

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she had read what purported to have cleared after the applause ceased, your husband work for him and lived was what she had told the court

this morning. Hamon Not on Bed.

She said she never had gotten any motion picture properties, owned court room and a one-hour recess was ordered. jointly with, respectively the Hamon estate and Ketch.

while lying on a bed. "I certainly did not," she replied when asked if she had placed her

hand on Hamon's head and fired the shot which killed him. On cross-examination she said she would be 30 and "had been living stand when the remarks of the coun-

"No, sir, not when I began living with him," Clara said, when asked it Hamon was born in 1893 and is 27 she was 17 when that arrangement years old, but a few moments later

least two years.

Clara Breaks Down. The court room was thrown into in uproar when spectators started wild handclapping and the defendant broke into tears and was led from

the court room with tears streaming from her eyes. The outbreak of applause and Clara's breakdown came after W. P. McLean, of defense counsel, re-plied heatedly to H. H. Brown, spe-cial prosecutor, who had told the

"Well, we are willing for the jury o know how they took it, the old voman and all."

By the "old woman" Mr. Brown referred to Clara's mother. Mr. McLean, prior to Mr. Brown's remark, had said that he wanted the ury to know how the entire Smith amily took the association of Clara with Colonel Hamon.

"That old woman, as he calls her will be on the witness stand and can testify, as she is in my judg-

been an interview with her and that but the spectators were reluctant to in his house?" Mr. Brown asked. move. After efforts of deputy sherit's and bailiffs to remove them, "It was on the lease." the court reversed itself, but gave a lecture on court room decorum. Clara Hamon could not compose money except \$125 from her oil and herself sufficiently to return to the

"I don't care what they do with him?" the attorneys asked.
"Yes, sir, we did. We were friendly and he treated us nicely." "He certainly was not," Clara replied when asked if Hamon was shot while lying on a had."

After the contract they do with me," she said as she wept, "but they must let my poor old mother alone." Bud Ballew, a deputy sheriff, took the grown son of one of the attorneys connected with the prosecution from the court room and searched him for firearms, but found none.

Mrs. V. B. Walling, sister of the

was 29 years old and next October defendant, had just left the witness! with Mr. Hamon eight or nine sel precipitated the outbreak of ap-Mrs. Walling testified that Clara

said that she was about 29. She said she began working for "Did you know Jake Hamon Mr. Hamon in 1913 and worked at during his life time?" she was asked. "Well, I knew him, yes sir, but was not very well acquainted with him. I only saw him a few times,"

she replied. "Did you know of the improper relations existing between him and your sister?" Mel our of

"Not for several years after they began," she said.

Knowing all of these facts, all or



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"Did he back away, sort of behind a fellow going uncer the name of a chair and put his hand on the back of the chair?" McLean asked.

Says Ketch Story Wrong.

"It was not his house," she said. "Well he controlled it, managed it,

is that right?" counsel asked.
"Yes, sir," Mrs. Walling replied.
"And, knowing those facts, you continued to live there and work for

the witness replied On redirect examination, Mr. Mc-

tained. Mr. Brown rose and injected the

remark, "well, we are willing for on Thanksgiving day, 1920, and that separation and marry Clara, Mrs the jury to know how they took it, her daughter's breast was bruised smith testified.

The court record at this point Mrs. Smith said Clara's right hand

ing the atterneys' clash.

hand was bruised.

shows "cheers by the audience." was skinned and said the skin was Phyllis Walling, 14-year-old niece almost twisted off her right wrist of the defendant, took the witness. She said she had met Colonel Ha stand as the first witness when court mon at a hospital where Clara w reconvened after the recess follow- undergoing treatment.

g the attraces clash. She said . . aunt was at Walling Hamon came to her door and asked fore and that the defendant bore

home on Monday, November 22, her not to let Clara have anything after Hamon was shot the night be- more to do with Colonel Hamon. She said she heard of no other to bruises on her throat and her right lations between Colonel Hamon and her daughter except that of em-The defendant's mother, Mrs. J. L. ployer and stenographer on other Smith, of El Paso, Tex., took the occasions than that on which Mrs "Do you remember your father coming up here to kill Jake Hamon and about the sheriff disarming the control of the sheriff disarming her third child and is 29 years old. Which then was in Lawton, Okl. Tears stood in Clara's eyes as her "I love Clara and I can't give her

"Yes, sir," Mrs. Walling replied, mother answered questions. Mrs. up. 1 expect to marry her some Smith's voice quivered at first, but day," Mrs. Smith quoted Colonel she spoke in a good voice.

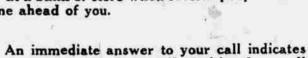
She said Clara came to El Paso sion. He said he intended to get a Hamon as having said on one occa-

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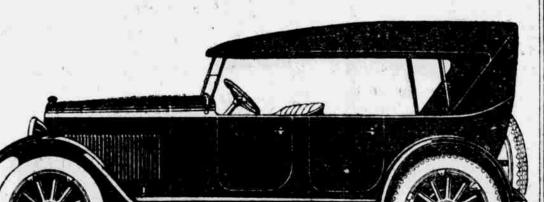
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