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HORRIBLE MURDER DETAILS TOLD TO CORONER'S JURY

(continued from page one)

bed immediately, however, she went to 900 Comox Avenue, where she lived. When she passed Esther Solomon's house, she saw deceased sitting at the window reading a book. Deceased beckoned her to come over, this being custom as they were quite friendly and (witness) often went there. She did not feel like going in, however, and she shouted that she was going home. She stayed at 900 Comox Ave. only five or six minutes and then she came back to 809 Comox Avenue, past Esther Solomon's place again. She looked over and saw her blind still up but she was not at the window and the door to the bedroom was closed. When she got back to 809 Comox Avenue she told them there that "everybody along that way was in bed but Esther and she was busy." On Tuesday afternoon, they went down town and when she got home there were a number of girls in the house. It was their breakfast time. Carmen Davis, who was among those there, said that the clock in the house was fast and set it back twenty minutes to correspond with her (Davis' watch). Then they sat down to breakfast. With the change in the time of the clock, that would make the hour referred to in the morning when she took the walk as 20 minutes past three instead of 20 minutes to four.

HEARD DOOR SLAM

Leola Smillie, living next door to the house of deceased, stated that she went to bed at 2 or 2.30 a.m. Tuesday morning. She did not go to sleep immediately but lay reading. Babe Oswald was the other in the house with her. She heard nothing unusual until about 3:30 when a door slammed and some one came bumping against the house as though staggering. This person walked part way down a narrow passage way between the two houses and then went back and came around by the back of witness' house and thence reaching the street. The first noise which direction this person went after reamhing the street. The first noise she heard was the door slam. She could have heard other noises. She had, however, heard no disturbance in the house next door that night. Esther was usually quiet. Though from her house it was possible to hear conversations next door, she had heard no voices that night. It was absolutely quiet. Witness' bed room was on the side of the house next deceased's. It was the back door she had heard slam. She was certain of the hour 3:30 as, in conversation with Babe, it was remarked, when the noise was heard in the passage, that it was a strange time of the night for any one to be around. Witness then looked at her watch and it was 3:30 a.m.

Inspector Spiller stated that her evidence was merely corroborative of that of Leola Smillie so Babe Oswald was not called.

DOCTOR'S EVIDENCE

Dr. J. P. Cade told of being called to 857 Comox Avenue on Tuesday evening. Sergeant Hannah and the coroner were already there. On being conducted to the bedroom he found the bed saturated with blood. The body was lying partly on the bed and partly fallen over on the floor. The backs of both hands were touching the floor and the head was nearly on the floor. The head and face were covered with a comforter. This was removed and a sports sweater was found crammed into the gash in the neck.

Dr. Cade then testified as to the post-mortem which had been performed by himself and Dr. L. W. Kergin at the undertaking parlor. The woman was well developed about 5 ft. 1 in. in height and weighing about 130 pounds. The dark brown hair was matted with blood. There was a wound 1¼ inch long extending perpendicularly in front of the right ear. On the left side of the face were five abrasions as if made by finger nails. On the centre of the cheek was an abrasion which appeared to be older than the others. There was also a cut on the left side of the nose and an abrasion on the chin. There was a large gaping wound just below the left ear passing downward and across the throat to about 2½ inches beyond the centre line toward the right side. This incision was about one half inch from and parallel with the lower jaw. All the structures were severed on the left side juglar veins and arteries. There was a second cut about half an inch below this one. This only pierced the skin and tissue and was parallel with the other. Both arms were smeared with blood on the inner sides. Two finger-like prints were left on a forearm. The index finger of the right hand had a wound about three-quarters of an inch long crosswise. This had been cut down to the bone and tendons were severed. There were extensive blood marks on other parts of the body which an attempt had evidently been made to wipe with a rough cloth. There were a few adhesions on the lungs which were otherwise normal. The brain was normal and the blood vessels empty. Abdominal organs were normal and not injured. The heart was bloodless but normal. Cause of death the doctor gave as hemorrhage from the large wound. A fairly sharp and moderately pointed instrument had evidently been used. The injuries could not have been self-inflicted.

COULD NOT SCREAM

"Could those injuries have been inflicted quickly enough to stop struggling or screaming?" the doctor was asked.

"Probably a hand was over her face so she could not scream," replied the doctor who judged that, from the cut on the finger, there must have at least been a weak struggle. "She might not have been given a chance to scream.'

Everything in the room but the bed was in order, the doctor stated, and the bed itself was not markedly disarranged. He told of the position of the pillows and the finding of two false teeth plates. The woman had not been in bed but had been on the bed he judged.

Consciousness would probably be lost half a minute after the wound had been inflicted and bleeding to death would follow. The doctor judged that death had occurred 16 or 18 hours before he viewed the body first at 8 p.m. Tuesday. The doctor was positive that the wound could not have been self-inflicted

ALL WAS QUIET

Florence De Merla, 855 Comox Ave., who lived in the next house east of deceased's, said she retired at 3 a.m. About ten minutes to three she had been outside and had seen deceased sitting at the window. Soon after going to bed she went to sleep and she woke up at 1 p.m. Tuesday. She had heard no noises before she went to sleep nor throughout the night. Ordinarily she could hear every movement in the house next door. Esther walked heavily as if on her heels. It was possible to hear conversations from one house to the other.

Sergeant J. P. M. Hannah, next took the stand, described police work at and around the scene of the crime. On the back porches of both 861 and 857 Comox Avenue were blood stains. The back door of 857 would not open by knob or pass key. Finally a small axe was obtained and the door pried open. The door was not locked but had been caught by a bolt which worked loosely and could possibly have slipped into the hasp when the door was slammed. There were numerous bloodstains on the floor of the kitchen in which the light was on. The shades were down and the bedroom was dark. The door to the front room was closed but another was open to the kitchen. There were only the three rooms in this section of the double house which in turn opened into the other portion. Sergeant Hannah gave a detailed description of the furniture of the house and the position in which the body was found. The woman wore a black silk dress. Blood pools and stains were minutely described. The house was in first class order, not a burnt match or a cigarette butt being found. Inspector Spiller and Coroner Watt were notified and further examinations made.

Whoever had come out of the house, the sergeant testified, had gone between 857 and 861 and down the side of that house to the sidewalk. Drops of blood twelve or fifteen feet apart from each other were traced a distance of 100 feet west along Comox Avenue. Rain had come on, obliterating the blood spots and preventing their further tracing. "We might have been able to trace the blood further had it not been for the rain," the sergeant opined.

NO TRACE FOUND

"Further enquiries have been made but, up to the present time, no trace of the guilty party has been found," declared Sergeant Hannah.

A basin had been found practically one third full of blood. Blood had struck the side of a vessel below and had trickled down. The blood had been taken to Dr. West for analysis. On Wednesday morning at 7:15 the body was removed to the undertakers.

The party coming out of the bedroom, Sergeant Hannah testified, had apparently continued straight forward to a sideboard with a china cabinet on top. He had gone to the first drawer in the sideboard in which drops of blood had been found. Opening the next drawer, he had found a face towel and a hand towel.

The police later found a sum of money amounting to over $200 in the bureau. This money was in various sums in different envelopes and containers. Search had been made for two pocket books which could not be found. The front door key was also missing. There was a wardrobe trunk in the bedroom and also a trunk in the kitchen. Both were locked and neither had yet been opened.

Search had been made all around the back of the house and from Comox Avenue up the hillside to the ball grounds but no weapon or other clue could be found. "The search is continuing and will continue," stated Sergeant Hannah.

Drops of blood around the kitchen and into the street were similar in size. The person leaving had apparently been cut deep as thick spots congealed. Judging from the position on the sidewalk of these drops of blood, he would say that it was the right hand which had been cut. There was no indication of the supposed bumping on the wall as described by a previous witness. No one else lived in the cottage but deceased.

"Do you believe that theft was the motive of the crime?" the sergenat was asked.

"All I can say is that two pocketbooks are missing" replied Sergeant Hannah. Of course the money had been left in the several envelopes in the bureau. Nor had the locked trunks yet been searched.

INSPECTOR SPILLER

Inspector Spiller went on the stand to give evidence corroborative of Sergeant Hannah's. Blood stains had been found corresponding with the point where an earlier witness had said that the departing person had leaned against the house.

Dr. L. W. Kergin gave his report on the post-mortem. It was his opinoin that a sharp cutting instrument had been used. It was possible that death might have been caused without struggle or noise. The woman would lose consciousness within at least three minutes of the attack. Deceased might have put up some sort of defence. It was his opinion that the wounds had been inflicted by some person other than deceased.

Sergeant Hannah was recalled to give the jury a demonstration of the exact position in which the body had been found.

Inspector Spiller stated that the investigation was proceeding but probably no object would be gained in further delaying the inquest. He suggested that sufficient evidence had been submitted upon which to direct the jury. If necessary, more witnesses could be obtained.

Coroner Watt felt that there was ample evidence to enable the jury to come to an intelligent decision as to the manner and cause of death. He defined the offences of murder and manslaughter from the code. Clearly, this crime had been committed with malice aforethought, thus eliminating the possibility of manslaughter. Medical witnesses had testified that the wounds could not have been self inflicted so it could not be suicide. While there had been no evidence to indicate who was the person who had caused death, there was not the slightest doubt in his (the coroner's) mind that murder had been committed. It was not his place to instruct the jury as to the verdict it should bring in but, nevertheless, his conclusions might aid the jury in reaching his decision. The coroner read extensively from the law.

The jury, consisting of W. W. Wright (foreman), Joseph Brown, Claude V. Symes, George Frizzell, Alex McLeman and William Blair, retired at 3.10 to consider its verdict which was reached within an hour.

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