

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Wednesday, September 20, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 4

SIX MURDERED IN MOST BRUTAL TRAGEDY IN CITY'S HISTORY

**VICTIMS MEET DEATH SUNDAY NIGHT,
BUT CRIME NOT DISCOVERED UNTIL
TODAY; HEADS CRUSHED WITH AN AX**

**Dead: Alice May Burnham, Wife of A.J. Burnham; Son and
Daughter, 321 West Dale Street; Henry F. And Blanche Wayne
and Baby, 742 Harrison Place, Rear Burnham Home**

BURNHAM ARRESTED BUT NO CLEW AGAINST HIM

Murdered in their beds by some unknown fiend with an ax, the bodies of six people, three in each of two neighboring houses, were found at 2 o'clock today, each with the head smashed and mangled in horrible fashion. The dead are:

Mrs. Alice Burnham, wife of A.J. Burnham, cook at the Modern Woodman sanatorium, and two children, Alice, aged 6 years, and John, aged 3 years, all at 321 West Dale street.

At 742 Harrison Place, in rear of Burnham home:

Henry F. Wayne, recent Modern Woodman sanatorium patient, aged 30 years; Mrs. Blanche Wayne, his wife, aged 25 years, who came here three weeks ago from Indiana, and baby of dead couple, aged 1 year.

In all the annals of criminal history of Colorado nothing more shocking than the sight revealed today at these two homes has ever been seen. Absolutely no clue to the perpetrator of the horrible deed has been obtained and one of the strange features of the case is that the bodies have evidently lain in the charnel houses in which the killing was done since Sunday night.

The ax with which the deed was done was found yesterday by Mrs. J.R. Evans, who lives next door to the Waynes, and from whom it was borrowed last week. It was standing outside the Wayne door covered with blood, and Mrs. Evans merely thought the family had been killing chickens.

The discovery of the bodies was made today when Mrs. June Ruth, 931 South Sierra Madre street, sister of the murdered Mrs. Burnham, who went to the latter's home to do some sewing, accompanied by Miss Anna Merritt of 730 Pine street. The front door was locked and the women gained entrance by the rear door. On entering the horrible odor which greeted their nostrils warned them of the worst, and on reaching the front room they were horrified to find the body of Mrs. Burnham lying covered in bed with her life blood spattered on the walls and about the floor. Besides her, one on each side, were the bodies of her two children with their heads similarly smashed, apparently with an ax. The covers had evidently been carefully replaced by the hand of the fiend who did the deed, and not an article in the humble little home had been disarranged.

Rushing to the street, the women gave the alarm and neighbors flocked to the scene of the tragedy. Instinctively a dozen persons rushed to the house in the rear, the Wayne home, where no sign of life had been seen since Sunday afternoon. The rear door was found unfastened and in the bed in the front room, the scene witnessed in the Burnham home, was almost exactly duplicated. Covered in the bed as though in natural sleep were the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne, and between them the body of their year-old baby, all with the skulls horribly mangled as with the blow of an ax just as in the case of the Burnhams. The bedding was flooded with blood which had overflowed the mattress and dripped to a pool on the floor where it had coagulated into a black mass. All the bodies were cold and the odor was such as to warrant the belief that the blows which had ended the lives of both families had been dealt as far back as Sunday night, at which time the members of both families were both seen alive, so far as can be learned, for the last time.

Telephone messages to the police station, Coroner Jackson and the sheriff's office brought officers to the scene in automobiles, and within an hour the six bodies were removed from the blood bespattered slaughter house in which they had rested for three days and taken to the undertaking rooms of Fairleys and Law. That such a terrible murder could be committed in a thickly settled neighborhood and left unrevealed for three days, without a clew being traceable, seems incredible, but such is the case and the officers are at a total loss to even give a guess to the perpetrator of the crime. Not even a foot print is to be found on the floor of either house and not a person could be found who had seen a man about the premises since Sunday afternoon when all the murdered people were at different times in the grocery store of Grant Collins, on West Dale street, opposite the place where the murders were committed.

The Burnham home stands on the corner of Dale and Harrison place and the two houses next to it on Dale are vacant. Directly in the rear is the Wayne home and close to it is that of J.R. Evans, who loaned Mrs. Wayne an ax last week and whose wife found her ax Monday near the back door of the Wayne home and thought the family had been killing chickens. The blood-stained ax furnished absolutely the only clew obtained so far to unravel the mystery surrounding the most perplexing murder that has ever been presented to the officials of El Paso county for solution.

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Was at Home Sunday.

A.J. Burnham, the husband of the murdered Burnham woman and father of the two children, is a cook at the Modern Woodmen sanatorium, a member of the Colorado Springs camp No. 7226, M.W.A., and a native of Michigan. He was last seen at his home Sunday afternoon when he paid a visit to his family and is said to have left there about 5 o'clock. He has been working at the sanatorium about two years and has been married for seven years. He has always borne a good reputation, according to his neighbors, and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Emma B. Hill, 932 South Sierra Madre street, today said:

Defends Burnham.

"I cannot think for a minute that Burnham would ever think of doing such a deed. He has always been the best father and husband in the world and he and my daughter never had any trouble. I do not believe that he had anything to do with such a crime. They have always lived happily and he is a good man."

Although they have absolutely no clew to the murderer, and have no reason to suspect Burnham of the deed, the officers have taken him in custody and he will be held as a witness at least. Burnham has been a steady employee at the sanatorium for two years, and previous to that time was employed for some time as a cook at Tucker's restaurant. Mrs. Ruth, sister of his dead wife, substantiates the mother-in-law's statement that the couple never had any trouble and that Burnham has been a good father and husband. All his people live in Michigan and he has no blood relatives in this city.

Wayne a Newcomer.

Little is known of the Wayne family in this city except that Wayne came to the Modern Woodmen sanatorium about 10 months ago from Indiana as a patient. One month ago his term in the institution was up, and he brought his wife and child to this city and all that is known of them is what can be gathered from neighbors who have seen very little of them in the brief time they have lived here.

Families Not Related.

One of the mysterious features of the crime is that there is no connection between the two families murdered and they were not even intimately acquainted with each other as neighbors. Why the murderer should invade both homes cannot be comprehended by the officers, but it has been suggested that the murderer slaughtered the people in one home, and on being discovered by the neighbor, entered and slew the inmates of the other place. This is untenable from the fact that the members of both families were murdered while in their beds with only their night clothes on as they had lain down to sleep. The position of the bodies and the fact that the persons had evidently never moved after being struck, showed that the murder was committed after the victims had all been asleep.

Burnham denies guilt.

A.J. Burnham, husband of one of the murdered women, was placed under arrest at the Modern Woodmen sanatorium at 3:30 this afternoon by Sheriff George Birdsall. He denied guilt and seemed to be greatly shocked and grief-stricken over the crime.

Dr. Rutledge, superintendent of the sanatorium, says that Burnham and Wayne have always been on the best of terms and were good friends. "Wayne took Burnham's place once while he was on a vacation," said Dr. Rutledge. "The two men were not related but became good friends. Burnham is about 55 years old and is not a man of strong mentality or strong physique. I do not believe he has the strength to kill a baby, let alone to swing an ax on six people. Of course, it is for the officers to find out whether Burnham is guilty or not and I will help them all I can. I feel sure Burnham did not leave the sanatorium on Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday and he was out here today. He seemed deeply attached to his family and never left the sanatorium except to visit them. Wayne was 41 years of age."

Mother's Heart Broken.

"Oh, my poor children, my poor children., I can never believe it. Oh, it is awful, how could it happen?"

This pathetic, tearful cry echoed over the neighborhood as Mrs. Emma B. Hill, mother of Mrs. Burnham, sobbed out her grief on the porch of a neighboring house, where friends were trying to console her. It was heart-rendering to hear the cry and, ever and anon, Mrs. Burnham's sister, Mrs. June Ruth, joined her mother and the moaning and cries were redoubled.

Never was this quiet neighborhood so thoroughly stunned and shocked, then stirred. It was unbelievable at first and it took some time for the people to realize that such an atrocious crime could have been committed within sight of their very windows; but the somber significance of the undertaker's wagons, the significance of the presence of the sheriff's officers and police and the significance of the men carrying concealed bodies out of the houses to the undertakers' wagons made the fact real to all.

The people had not recovered from the stunning blow at 3 o'clock this afternoon. They could not realize how it could happen, although there was a strong sentiment of smoldering vengeance for the inhuman brute or brutes that committed this almost unspeakable atrocity.

Scene at the Morgue.

When brought into the morgue the bodies were almost unrecognizable. The head of every one of the six victims was either cut or smashed open and in almost every case the number of wounds indicated that the murderer had cut and smashed until he was absolutely sure that he had destroyed life.

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From the mangled, bloated bodies arose a stench that sickened even the undertakers when they tried to remove the bodies from the baskets in which they were brought to the morgue. The head of the man was the worst mangled. It not only had been cut but it had been smashed until it was an unrecognizable pulp.

The first call was received at 2 o'clock and three trips were required to remove the bodies to the morgue. Long before the first body was received news that an atrocious murder had been committed had been circulated about the city and scores of curious flocked to the morgue to learn whether the report was correct and who the victims were.

City Excited Over Deed.

The city of Colorado Springs has been stirred as never before over a crime. The news was slow in spreading but the indignation of the people was not slow in rising. The news was so amazing that the people could not fully appreciate it for a few minutes, but then they wanted to know the name of the murderer.

The Herald-Telegraph office, the police department and the sheriff's office all were besought by indignant citizens wanting information, and a strong sentiment formed that no effort should be spared to run down the criminal and punish him to the fullest extremity. If conclusive evidence is found against anyone, the people, judging from their sentiment this afternoon, will demand that there be no delay of the law but that speedy justice be meted out.

FORMER HUSBAND OF MRS. BURNHAM HAS CONFESSED?

It is reported that the former husband of Mrs. Burnham, one of the murdered women, was arrested by the officers at 4:30 this afternoon and that he has confessed. At that hour it was impossible to verify the report, as the officers were still working on the case.

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 1

SIX KILLED IN WHOLESALE MURDER MAN, TWO WOMEN, THREE CHILDREN MEET DEATH AT HANDS OF FIEND WITH AX Two Whole Families Almost Completely Annihilated; Henry F. Wayne, Wife and Infant; Mrs. Alice Burnham and Two Babes the Victims; A.J. Burnham, the Surviving Husband Taken Into Custody

The most fiendish murderer this city has ever known stalked red-handed in Colorado Springs Sunday night, and all his victims, six in number, were killed as they slept, their heads crushed with an ax.

The dead:

Henry F. Wayne, aged 30 years; his wife, Blanche McGinnis Wayne, aged 26, and their baby daughter, Blanche, 2 years old, 743 Harrison Place.

Mrs. Alice May Burnham, 25 years, wife of Arthur J. Burnham, a yardman at the Modern Woodmen Sanatorium, and her two children, Alice, 6 years, and John, 3 years old, of 321 West Dale Street, but a few steps from the Wayne home.

Little Alice Burnham, judging from the position in which her body was found, was awakened and tried to escape. But the murderer struck her down and she fell partly across the body of her mother. With the exception of the little girl, all the victims were evidently killed either before they awoke or before they had a chance to move.

Burnham was brought to Colorado Springs from the sanatorium an hour after the wholesale murder was discovered, shortly before 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and is being held at the county jail.

He is not charged with having committed the brutal crime, but the authorities are working on clues that may make it extremely difficult for him to disprove their theories.

At the county jail last night Burnham declared to newspaper men:

"You will have to look elsewhere for the murderer."

In the absence of any clues Burnham will be called upon to tell where was between 7:30 o'clock last Sunday evening and 5 o'clock the following Monday morning.

The crime, committed Sunday night, as nearly as can be determined, was not discovered until about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Nettie Ruth, 931 South Sierra Madre Street, a sister of Mrs. Burnham, and Miss Anna Merritt, 730 North Pine Street, were the first to find the bodies in the Burnham home.

An odor of decayed flesh greeted them as they opened the back door of Burnham's house with a key secured at the home of Miss Merritt, half a block away.

"Oh, suppose we find May and her babies dead in the house," exclaimed Mrs. Ruth as she and Miss Merritt neared the Burnham home. "It would be terrible, terrible!"

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Together the two women unlocked the door in the rear of the house. The lock caught and it was a minute or two before they could turn the key. On a table in the little rear room, used jointly as a kitchen, dining room and bedroom, were the remains of Sunday evening's supper, "just the same," Mrs. Ruth declared last night, "As when I left my sister's house Sunday night about a quarter after 9."

The bed in the rear room had not been disturbed. The women pushed open the door leading to the front bedroom, half-expecting to see some signs of a tragedy, but little suspecting the shocking sight that confronted them.

Over on a bed there appeared to be a pile of bed-clothing, but Mrs. Ruth declared she did not at once see the dead forms upon it. She first saw the great splotches of blood on the wall and then the body of her little niece, lying on the edge of the bed with her skull crushed.

The women did not look further. Both ran screaming from the house.

Two men who were passing the house went in while the women waited. A moment later they rushed out and the story of the triple murder spread like wild fire.

Authorities Notified.

The coroner, police and sheriff's office were notified by telephone and officers rushed to the house of death in automobiles. Almost immediately after the arrival of Coroner Jackson at the scene, neighbors remarked that no one had been seen about the Wayne house, just a few steps from Burnham's back-door, since Sunday last. Assistant Police Chief Springer and other officers forced an entrance into the house and found Wayne, his wife and baby lying dead in the same bed. Their skulls, as was the case in the house next door, had been beaten in with some heavy instrument. A blood-stained ax was found at Wayne's backdoor. It had been borrowed from Mrs. J.R. Evans, a neighbor, by Wayne, a few days ago to chop wood.

Hundreds flocked to the scene of the wholesale murder. Men cursed and swore and threatened lynching if the murderer could be found; women and children, with faces white and tearstained, formed in groups and talked in whispers of the terrible tragedy.

Inside the houses of death the coroner, the police, the sheriff and his aides and Deputy Attorney Burns of the District Attorney's Office and his assistants were searching for clues and probable motives of the crime.

Robbery Not Object.

That robbery was not in the mind of the murderer was shown in this -- gold bracelets were upon the arms of Mrs. Wayne; a gold watch lay on a dresser in the Burnham home. Nothing was molested in either house; the midnight intruder was content when he saw the bodies of his six victims stretched out before him.

The doors of both houses were locked with keys, showing that the murderer, for reasons not yet brought out, made his exit in each instance from a window. The authorities have arrived at the conclusion that at Wayne's home the rear door was opened with a skeleton key made of twisted wire. This was close to the door sill. A part of the screen door, sufficiently large to allow the murderer to reach through and raise the hook that fastened it had been cut away. The murderer left the house, it is believed by a window.

At Burnham's home entrance was made through a window on the east side of the house. A bottle of ink, standing on the sill, was overturned, some of it spilling on the floor, and an attempt had been made to wipe it away.

Where is Burnham? was the question that at once suggested itself to the officers. Where is the only survivor of two families?

Burnham in Custody.

"Find Burnham," was the order, and deputies and detectives shot away in an automobile toward the Woodmen Sanatorium, 12 miles away, where the man is employed as a yardman.

Burnham already was on his way to town, having been notified by telephone that his wife and children had been murdered, and the officers met him a few miles north of the city. He was riding in a laundry wagon.

"My God!" he exclaimed, "how did it happen? Did they get killed in a railroad accident?"

He joked and talked with the officers about other matters on the remainder of the trip back to the city, the party reaching his home about 3 o'clock. With police on each side, he was taken into the house and up to the bed where his wife and babies were killed.

If the officers and newspaper men present expected to see the man break down at the sight, they were disappointed. Burnham, to all appearances, was the least affected of any of those who stood about in the little room. If his face blanched at the sight, it was not detected; if a tear dropped from his eye, it fell unnoticed; if his hand trembled or an eyelid twitched, no one saw it.

Appears Unmoved.

Burnham was unmoved, outwardly, at least, and he betrayed no sign.

He moved about the room, making a clucking sound with his mouth, and occasionally murmuring, "It's terrible, it's terrible."

"Nothing's torn up around here," he remarked as he glanced about the room.

"This is where one of the little babies lay," said Deputy Attorney Burns pointing to a crimson spot on the bed.

"God! but it's awful: said Burnham, scarcely above a whisper.

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"I don't see how a man could commit such a crime and sleep over it," one of the other officers remarked to which Burnham shook his head from side to side and made the clucking noise with his tongue.

Asked if he wanted to see them," Burnham replied that he wanted to see his children."

Stepping into the other bedroom, which had not been occupied Sunday night, Burnham noticed a little pile of ashes in front of a stove.

"How did that get there?" he asked.

The officers said that they did not know.

Burnham's demeanor was the same when he was taken to the Wayne house, and he did not display any unusual interest when shown the ax with which the six murders had been committed.

Sees Wife and Children.

From the two houses Burnham was taken to the morgue, where the bodies lay. Here, too, those who may have expected to see the man break down or give way to emotion were disappointed. The few words that he spoke in answer to questions were in a voice that had no tremor; his face was its natural color and his eyes were dry.

As he was led up to the bodies in the morgue, he said:

"That isn't my little child. My girl's got lighter hair than that." Afterward, however, he recognized his child. He made no comment as he stood looking at the body of his wife. While he was still at the morgue, Burnham declared that he had done nothing.

"Don't waste time with me," he said to the officers, "but get busy with someone else. Whoever did this must have been an enemy of hers (Mrs. Burnham) -- it couldn't have been of mine."

He made no protest, showed no sign of concern or alarm, when officers and Deputy Attorney Burns informed him that he would be held for further investigation.

At the county jail, where he was taken from the morgue about 5 o'clock, Burnham again declared that the authorities would have to seek elsewhere to find the murderer.

Today Coroner Jackson will swear a jury over the bodies. The inquest will be held this afternoon, probably at 2 o'clock.

Tried to Fire Burnham's Home.

That the murderer tried to set fire to the Burnham home with a view to burning the bodies of three of his victims is a feature of the case brought out yesterday afternoon.

Officers found part of a Sunday newspaper, crumpled and partly burned, lying close to a window curtain in Burnham's home. The bottom of the curtain was charred, and the theory is that the murderer, after crushing out the life of his last victim, sought to fire the house.

With the exception of Burnham, no arrests have been made in connection with the crime. No one, so far as the police have been able to learn thus far, saw anybody enter or leave either the Wayne or Burnham home Sunday night.

So far as has been discovered, Mrs. Ruth, a sister of Mrs. Burnham, was the last, with the exception of the murderer, to see the members of the little family alive. This was after 9 o'clock Sunday night.

From the condition of the bodies, as well as from the opinion of physicians and the statements of the neighbors, the authorities are proceeding on the theory that the murder was committed late Sunday night or very early Monday morning.

Boy Calls at House.

A grocer's boy, whose name is not known to the police, called at the Burnham home Monday morning to collect a bill. He rapped on the door a number of times, but received no answer. He supposed that the family was asleep and returned to the house again Tuesday morning. Again he received no reply and for the third time, yesterday morning, the boy went to the house. He attached no significance to the fact that the house was closed and had been so for two days supposing that the family was away.

Relatives and friends of Burnham were united last night in expressing the belief that he is innocent of any connection with the crimes. His sister-in-law, Mrs. Ruth, said that the man had always been on the best of terms with his family and that there were no enemies known to her. His thoughts, she declared, were always of his two little children, and the day, twice a month when he had a holiday at the Woodmen Sanatorium, was always spent with his family. His day off heretofore has been on a Sunday; last week he changed to Wednesday and that day, Mrs. Ruth declared, he was home with his wife and babies.

Burnham and his wife had been married for seven years and there were only two children. It was learned at the examination at the morgue yesterday that Mrs. Burnham was in a delicate condition.

Well Known Here.

Burnham, his sister-in-law says, is about 40 years old. He has been a resident of Colorado Springs for about 16 years, and is known to many here. He has been employed at the Woodmen Sanatorium for the last two years and for five years as a cook and baker at Tucker's Restaurant. Before that time he conducted a candy store at different times in various localities in the downtown district. He was a member of the Colorado Springs camp of the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mrs. Ruth, nearly prostrated with grief, said last night that there had been no family discords. She was unable to throw any light as to the probable cause leading up to the crime of why the murders had been committed.

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It was evident from her statements, however, that her sister, Mrs. Burnham, was the favorite daughter of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Hill, 931 South Sierra Madre Street, and cited an instance in which Hill had given a house and lot to Mrs. Burnham. An action for divorce, it is said, has been instituted by Mrs. Hill in the local courts.

Mrs. Hill was at Mrs. Ruth's home last night under the care of a physician. She is 55 years old, and the terrible manner in which her daughter and two little grandchildren were killed, completely prostrated her. Fears were entertained last night for her recovery. Mr. Hill is away in Mexico on railroad work. Efforts were made last night to advise him by telegraph of the murder.

No Late Developments.

Early this (Thursday) morning there were no special developments in the case.

But little is known here about the Wayne family, except that they had lived on Harrison Place for about a month. Wayne, who was a Modern Woodman, lived at the sanatorium north of Colorado Springs for several weeks as a patient. Recently he brought his wife and baby here from Indiana. The couple was married there August 29, 1908.

Burnham and Wayne were acquainted and apparently both men and their families were on friendly terms. Burnham, it is said, told Wayne of the vacant house near his own home a short time ago and Wayne subsequently rented the place.

An examination of Wayne's personal effects disclosed the fact that he had deposited \$55 in the Colorado Savings Bank August 31, soon after his arrival in Colorado Springs from Indiana. This money, Mrs. Wayne is said to have told neighbors, was received from the sale of furniture at their home in the east.

The police are convinced that robbery was not the motive in the murder of either family. Jealousy or revenge perhaps both, forms the theory on which the investigation hinges at present.

It was long after midnight when the investigations of a crime which for cold-bloodedness and brutality, has never been equaled here.

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 6

SIX KILLED IN WHOLESALE MURDER TERRIBLE TRAGEDY A MYSTERY TO ALL Close Friends and Relatives Talk -- Details of the Discovery -- Dr. Rutledge of M.W.A. Sanatorium Believes Burnham to Be Innocent -- Wild Rumors Are Circulated

It was at the suggestion of her murdered sister that Mrs. Nettie Ruth, 931 South Sierra Madre Street, gathered a few of her sewing articles and started for the Burnham home yesterday afternoon.

The story leading up to the occasion of the visit and of her discovery, which gave residents of Colorado Springs the first inkling of the worst murder in the history of the city, is best told by Mrs. Ruth.

"I was over at sister's house Sunday evening," Mrs. Ruth said between sobs, as she sat on the front porch of an adjoining house, amid a throng of sympathetic and curious women. The sister referred to was Mrs. Burnham. "We had a good time talking with each other."

"I was just getting ready to go home when she told me that she had a lot of sewing to do. That I told her that I was in the same fix."

"Then, why can't you come over Monday afternoon, and we'll work and talk together?" she asked. I had other work to do on Monday and Tuesday, but said that I could come over Wednesday afternoon."

The two sisters agreed upon the time Mrs. Ruth said. Very little preparation was necessary on her part to carry out the engagement.

Blinds Were Drawn.

"I wasn't in any particular hurry," Mrs. Ruth continued, "knowing that we had all the afternoon to sit and talk and sew. But I never felt that anything was wrong when I tried the door and found it was locked. I started around the house to try the other door, which I noticed that the window blinds were drawn.

"She's gone over to Anna's, was the first thought that entered my mind. So I started over there to find her."

The Anna referred to is Miss Anna Merritt, 730 North Pine Street, who was a particular friend of Mrs. Burnham, and who was with Mrs. Ruth when the murder was discovered.

At the Merritt home, Miss Merritt had not heard of nor seen Mrs. Burnham for several days. Then it was that a suspicion entered the mind of the sister and the friend, Miss Merritt, that something was wrong.

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But before going further, Mrs. Ruth called the Modern Woodman Sanatorium over the telephone and asked for Mr. Burnham. He had not been to town since the preceding Wednesday, he said, and could give them no information as to his wife's whereabouts. But there was a note of worry and anxiety in his tone, ending with the query if anything was wrong.

Open Door With Another Key.

It was with a rush that the two woman found a key -- it was Miss Merritt's house key, and started for the Burnham home, hoping against conviction that there was a note of explanation in the house that would allay all fears. It was Miss Merritt who turned the key in the door and started in.

At this point Mrs. Ruth broke out anew, and found refuge for her solace and troubles on the shoulder of her friend Miss Merritt.

She had reached the point in her story where the two women pushed through the door and were met with a stench that almost stopped them in their tracks even though they were in the kitchen. With but little hope left, but bound to know the worst, they advanced to the half open door that led into the combined bedroom and sitting room, Miss Merritt leading the way.

"We first saw the red blotches on the wall," Mrs. Ruth managed to lift her head up and say, "and then and then we saw a form on the bed. It must have been little May."

Mrs. Ruth was unable to proceed her grief was uncontrollable. It was Miss Merritt who hinted, through glances, for the questioner to leave.

MISS MERRITT'S STORY

The statement from Miss Anna Merritt, 730 North Pine Street, corroborates in full that by Mrs. Ruth concerning the discovery. Although completely unnerved, and forced to find refuge in bed from the nervous shock and grief, she was able through a friend to go further and explain how the news was spread.

Miss Merritt and Mrs. Burnham were friends for years. It was at the home of Miss Merritt that the murdered woman and two children stayed in the latter part of last winter and during the early part of spring, while Burnham was working at the sanatorium. So firm was her friendship with Mr. and Mrs. Burnham and the children, that Miss Merritt was almost considered one of the family.

"I was naturally worried about Mrs. Burnham from the first, Miss Merritt gave out. We were always intimate, and I thought it rather strange that she had not been over to see me. It just happened, I guess, that I didn't go over to see her. But I just naturally concluded that she was off visiting with some of her folks or out at the sanatorium."

Surprised by Mrs. Ruth.

"I was greatly surprised when her sister came and asked me where she was. It was then that I got the key and went with her to the house."

"I didn't want to think of it, but I could not help but feel that something awful had happened, when I first entered the house," Miss Merritt continued. "I nerved myself, and had hold of Mrs. Ruth's hand. I was certain that we would find something in the other room that would be awful, but we couldn't help but keep right on."

"The room was dark, owing to the window blinds being down, and we could not see very much in the bedroom. The first thing I noticed was the blood on the wall. We got to the door and saw the form of one of the children lying on the bed. We didn't wait to see any more, but went right out."

Across the street at the Collins grocery store, two telephone calls were made by Mrs. Ruth and Miss Merritt. One was to the police and the other was to the coroner. This was about 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

AT THE WAYNE HOUSE.

News of the murder spread like wild fire, but not until several minutes after Mrs. Ruth and Miss Merritt told of what they had seen in the Burnham home, and some of the officers had arrived on the scene, was their attention called to the Wayne cottage, a few yards away.

But more than one neighbor had wondered during the last day or two, prior to the discovery of the murder, why the house was so silent? Why were the window blinds drawn? Why the strange disappearance of the girlish looking wife, the happy father and the laughing little baby?

Almost all were of the same mind -- what would they find, upon investigation, another scene just like the one that confronted the officers when they entered the Burnham's home?

There is a probability though, that the murder in the Wayne home would still be undiscovered, had not Mrs. F.E. Campbell, 315 West Monument Street, told of her fears.

It was to F.H. Springer, Assistant to Acting Police Chief Himebaugh, that she first told of her feelings that there was a horrible solution to the quiet that had reigned about the Wayne home for so long. Other neighbors gave voice to the same misgivings.

Fears Corroborated.

It took just a minute for Springer to act. He rushed to the front door of the Wayne home and almost broke the door down in entering. He was followed by other officers and authorities and the fears of the neighbors were corroborated at the first glance.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Everything was in plain sight. The bed, on which were found the almost nude and hardly recognizable bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne and their little baby was but a step or two from the door. The light from the open door was sufficient for the officers to take in all the details of the horrible scene. Little variation from the manner in which the Burnham murder took place, was found at the Wayne home. There were the bodies of father and mother, with their faces and heads crushed, and there was the form of the little baby, with gashes, cuts and bruises over its facial features and head.

"I don't believe that I felt any different than any other of my neighbors," Mrs. Campbell said last evening. "I just couldn't help but think that something was wrong, when I found out what had happened at the Burnham home. I was hoping, but what was the use? But why did they want to kill that poor little baby?"

The finding of the bodies in the separate homes followed in quick succession. In fact, almost as soon as it was generally known that there was a murder at the Burnham home, the second wholesale killing became public.

NEAR NEIGHBOR TALKS.

No one was more surprised at the murder than Mrs. C.L. Brown, colored, living at 317 West Dale Street. She was the closest neighbor to the two families.

A narrow street, almost like an alley, separates the Brown and Burnham homes. South on the street, about 40 feet is the Wayne home. Mrs. Brown was probably the only one in a position to hear a noise, if there had been any at either home.

"We were never over-neighborly," was the statement made by Mrs. Brown, but the Burnhams and Waynes were always nice to me, especially the Burnhams. I did not know the Waynes very well. They came here only a week or two ago.

"I never had an idea that anything was wrong. I know that Mrs. Burnham and Mrs. Wayne visited each other quite often and they seemed friendly and nice to each other."

"I left home Sunday afternoon -- went to church. I remember seeing someone on the back porch of the Burnham home when I left, but I never paid any particular attention, other than to know that it was one of the members of the family. I was gone until late, returning about 5 or 6 o'clock in the evening.

Recalls No Noises.

"I went out again after supper, but returned home about 8 or 8:30 o'clock. I didn't pay any attention to either one of the two homes and do not recall if there was anyone around the places or if there were any lights. I was home the rest of the evening and do not recall any unnecessary noises during the whole night."

"I noticed that the blinds were drawn at the Burnham and Wayne homes on Monday and I thought they were away on a visit. I never gave it a second thought until today, and even then I did not have a suspicion that a crime had been committed."

None of the roomers at the Brown home recall any noises or cries at the Burnham or Wayne homes on the night of the murder is supposed to have been perpetrated.

LAST SEEN SUNDAY.

One of the last persons who saw the victims alive was Grant Collins, who runs a grocery store diagonally across the street, east from the Burnham home. This was on Sunday afternoon when every member of the two families but Burnham was at the store.

"Wayne was a friendly sort of a fellow, and I liked him very much although we had only been acquainted a little more than a week," Mr. Collins said. "They all came in here Sunday afternoon about 2 o'clock. I was loafing and we went in the back part of the store and stayed until about 4:30 o'clock."

"We talked of several things and were getting well acquainted. Wayne told several good stories and I was sorry when he told me that he had to go home. I thought it was kind of funny that I did not get to see him either Monday or Tuesday. It was the same way with the Burnham family. Someone from one of the two houses was in the habit of visiting the store and buying something almost every day."

NEWS SPREADS QUICKLY.

With almost the same breath, seemingly, that broke the news to the police and county authorities, the public in general was told the fearful facts. As if it had been carried by the wind, the crime was the talk in almost every home and store in the city, within a short time after it became known.

People were talking about it on the streets. Business men would stop each other, and ask: "Have you heard of the awful crime?" Even in Colorado City and Manitou it soon became a matter of general conversation, and many were the telephone calls made to The Gazette, police headquarters and sheriff's office, asking for further information. There was no cessation during the day of inquiries made by persons wishing to follow the advance of the authorities in their efforts to obtain some clew that would lead to a motive for the crime. And late last night and at an early hour this (Thursday) morning calls kept coming in at The Gazette office, asking for the latest news.

It would be hard, to describe the scene on West Dale Street in front of the Burnham home, and at the Wayne home. People in automobiles, buggies, motorcycles and bicycles began arriving almost simultaneously with the officers. Later they were followed by persons afoot, and the street car company did a good business hauling men, women and children on the Tejon and Spruce Street lines to Dale Street.

Crowds Rush to Scene.

Homicide

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Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
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Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

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In the crowd could be found some kindly sympathetic friends of the murdered families, but the majority was composed, of what one officer termed "the morbid curious." Two hours from the time when the crime became known, the street in the 300 block on West Dale Street was filled with automobiles, vehicles of every description and pedestrians.

Seemingly, the greatest delight of those called to the scene through curiosity, was to follow the coroner, policemen and officers from the sheriff's office as they went about their work, looking for clues. They gathered at the windows and it was difficult to keep the crowd back, when a door leading to one of the homes was opened.

Mrs. Ruth and Miss Merritt came next in serving to appease the curiosity of the visitors.

Then came the men and women who had stories to tell of incidents touching upon the lives of members of the two murdered families. One man could not recall whether it was last Saturday, or a week ago last Saturday, that he had seen Wayne standing in the doorway of his little home, but the story served its purpose. He was the center of a group of men, women and children, who were anxious to gather any kind of gossip that might pertain to the crime. Darkness alone dispersed the throngs. Then they apparently moved their headquarters to a place in front of the morgue, where the bodies are held. There was a big crowd in front of the place until late last night.

SAYS BURNHAM INNOCENT.

"The idea is preposterous," is the comment made by Dr. J.A. Rutledge, superintendent of the Modern Woodman Sanatorium, in regard to the theory held by some that Burnham is responsible for the six murders.

"When it first became known that Burnham was suspected," Dr. Rutledge continued, "I started an investigation, and so far as I have found, there is no possible way to connect him, although the investigation was made with a view to spare no one. Wayne is a Modern Woodman as well as Burnham, and we are deeply interested in trying to find out the guilty person or persons.

"Inmates and workers at the sanatorium are in the habit of getting one day in every two weeks for themselves. Burnham is a laborer, and Sunday was his regular day off. He had made arrangements so that he could get away Wednesday last week. This he did but he was back at work Thursday morning.

Can Account for Movements.

"I can account for him from his coworkers for every minute of every other day up to the present time. Sunday, on which evening the murder is supposed to have happened, he was at work in the kitchen as usual. He peeled from 200 to 250 pounds of potatoes during the day. He quit work about 7 o'clock."

I have the word of J.C. Shriver, the man who occupies the same cottage with him, as to his whereabouts Sunday evening. One or two other men were at the house. Although Burnham works here, he is a sick man, and they tell me that they heard him coughing and working about his part of the cottage until after 10 o'clock. At different times during the night Shriver says he heard him, and he was up at the usual hour Monday morning. He always is one of the first ones up at the sanatorium.

"Then we must take in consideration the distance between the sanatorium and Colorado Springs. It is almost 12 miles. I am positive that a man in his condition could not walk the distance and be back the same night. Inmates say that he is not strong enough to walk from the kitchen to the barn without stopping every few feet to get his breath."

Cites Other Points.

"I have accounted for every horse, buggy and vehicle of every description on the place Sunday evening. There was no chance for him to catch a ride at the road. The probability is small he could have hired an automobile and have it meet him near the grounds for a ride into the city. There is a night watchman, and he would have heard the noise of a man leaving the grounds at any time of the night. Furthermore, I doubt if Burnham has the strength to lift an ax and perpetrate the crimes that were committed."

"Then they remark about his actions, appearance and apparent indifference after the sheriff arrived, and when he was taken into the house. The man was in a dazed condition, and I doubt yet if he realizes in full the crime that has deprived him of his wife and children."

Burnham and Wayne were friends for weeks prior to the murder. They first became acquainted when Wayne arrived in Colorado Springs from Indiana several weeks ago and entered the hospital as a patient. When Burnham went off on his vacation, Wayne took his place in the kitchen.

Friends of Burnham at the sanatorium say that it was the accused man who got Wayne to take up his home near the Burnham residence on West Dale Street. The two men were friends ever since, they say.

RUMORS THICK AND FAST.

Stories some with merit and others without any foundation, were flying thick and fast yesterday regarding the murder. A man would whisper some theory, or repeat a rumor in the ear of a neighbor, and almost in an instant it would sweep over the crowd gathered in front of the homes, and revert back to the man highly magnified. And if the same man, after telling the tale would start for the city, he would be met with the same story, going from mouth-to-mouth, on the streets.

It was evidently from such a wild source that it became rumored that there was a former husband of the late Mrs. Burnham, and that he had been arrested for the crime. Before the story stopped, rumors had it that the alleged former husband had

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confessed to the crime. Then, when the report had been told to persons who were in a position to know the real facts, it was found that there was no former husband, other than Mr. Burnham, now under arrest.

The police had a hard time dodging those anxious to advance theories. Then there were other men who had heard of certain rumors, accepted them as facts, and were willing to give the police the "full benefit of their knowledge."

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 3

MURDER MYSTERY UNSOLVED
Officers Completely Baffled as to Perpetrator of Foul
Crime -- Evidence Secured Does Not Tend to Fasten
Deed on Burnham -- Purcell Is Certain Work
Was That of Madman -- Developments Expected
Today -- Finger Prints May Give Clew of the Slayer

Mystery inscrutable surrounds the massacre of six members of the Wayne and Burnham families in this city Sunday night, and not a single clew has been developed in the last 24 hours that would point to the perpetrator of the most atrocious slaughter of human lives in the history of the west.

The entire city is shocked by the tragedy. Little else is the topic of conversation to day, and the news stories flashed over the wires have caused a thrill of horror over the entire country.

The fiendishness of the apparently motiveless crime, is regarded as nothing less than an outrage against humanity, far beyond what ordinary murders are, and the only theory that seems possible is that the butchery was the work of an insane man possessed with the devilish desire to shed human blood.

With the subsidence of the general excitement that prevailed after the discovery of the bodies yesterday, a clearer view of the tragedy is possible and a hundred minor details that may or may not have a bearing on the case have developed.

The officers have now had time to carefully sift the meager information at their disposal and the result is that the general suspicion that was attached last night to Arthur J. Burnham, the consumptive head of one of the slaughtered families, is greatly mitigated. Burnham is still in the county jail, where he broke down utterly this morning and wept bitterly in a state of physical collapse.

Officers' Conclusions.

The conclusions of the district attorney's and sheriff's officers, today is that unless Burnham was actuated by maniacal frenzy for the moment, it would have been a physical impossibility for him to deal the tremendous and repeated blows that crushed the heads of every victim, and the only other conclusion possible is that the deed was the work of a maniac, who had no other motive for the slaughter than a thirst for blood. Certainly the motive was not robbery.

Burnham's guilt or innocence may be established, at least partly, this afternoon when a Bertillon expert from Denver, summoned today, makes a comparison of the finger prints taken of Burnham's hands. The marks of the finger grips of both hands of the murderer are still visible on the ax handle and the famous French system of crime detection will be called into service to assist in solving the mystery.

Only One Alternative.

If, as appears probable, Burnham is not connected with the crime, the theory of Assistant District Attorney M.W. Purcell that some irresponsible madman committed the slaughter, seems the only alternative.

It has even been suggested that there is a wandering crazy man in the hills near this city and the case of Andrew J. James, who has been lost for some time and may be wandering insane in the hills, has been mentioned, but with little or no foundation. The power of suggestion plays an important part in Purcell's theory and he apparently believes that there is such a thing as a man being in a mental condition where he has an overwhelming thirst for human blood. The sight of an ax on the outside of the Burnham home, Purcell thinks may have started the trail of suggestion in the mind of the supposed maniac, who entered the home, found the sleeping inmates, followed the devilish suggestion to slay, and completed the work in the Wayne home. Instances have been known in criminology of similar crimes perpetrated without motive, and it is even possible that a modern Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, either a tramp or resident of the city, may be responsible.

The insane cunning which marked the entire tragedy is seen in the fact that the ax was left almost in the exact position where it is believed to have rested previous to the murder. No attempt was made to clear it of its death-telling blood stains, which a deliberate murderer would probably have done, and Mrs. Evans, who found the weapon, mistook the human gore for chicken blood.

From members of the Burnham family and their intimate associates, absolutely nothing tending to clear the mystery can be learned, and the officers are convinced that they are all acting in good faith. Mrs. Hill, the mother of Mrs. Burnham, and the

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murdered woman's sister, Mrs. Ruth, are firm in their assertion that the Burnham family relations were happy and that the husband is innocent. Mrs. Hill is prostrated by the blow, for she evidently doted on her little grandchildren, whom she took to the Majestic theater last Friday night, the last time she saw them or their mother alive.

Mrs. Ruth saw her sister alive for the last time at 9:30 o'clock Sunday night, after taking tea with the family, and says the kitchen and house arrangements now are exactly as she left them at that time, indicating beyond a doubt that the murder was committed that night. At 10 o'clock Sunday night Burnham is known positively to have been in his bed, and at 5 o'clock the next morning he arose. This, in brief, is the sum and substance of the direct information obtainable from family and sanatorium sources, and not a jot of evidence throws any light on the mystery.

Wild Rumors Afloat.

The rumor circulated yesterday that Mrs. Burnham had been married to a former husband, who had been arrested and confessed the deed, was entirely false. She has been married only once -- to Burnham, seven years ago.

Another rumor to the effect that Burnham had a penitentiary record at Leavenworth, Kansas, was exploded today by The Herald-Telegraph, which caused a search to be made of the records at the prison and received a message fully clearing the man of such a charge.

Whether anything in the history of either the Burnham or Wayne families will throw any light on the murders remains to be seen. Mrs. Burnham is the daughter of John A. Hill, who is a bridge foreman in the employ of the Mexican Central Railroad and is now somewhere in Sonora, Mexico.

He left Denver to go there three years ago, leaving his wife Mrs. Emma Hill, in Colorado Springs. He has made several efforts to get his wife to join him in Mexico, but she has refused to leave her children -- the murdered woman and Mrs. June Ruth.

Mrs. Hill has, or was about to start proceedings for divorce. Her husband, so far as is known, has not been in Colorado Springs for about three years. He did not correspond with his wife, but wrote regularly to Mrs. Burnham, who was his favorite daughter.

Parrot the Only Witness.

Two months ago he sent her a young parrot. At the same time he sent another parrot to her with instructions to give the bird to Miss Anna Merritt of 730 North Pine street, who is a close friend of the family. Miss Merritt received her parrot, and the other bird, retained by Mrs. Burnham, was in its cage in the front room of the house when the woman and her two children were slain.

The parrot is probably the only witness to the tragedy, outside of the perpetrator of the deed.

"Oh, if that parrot could only talk," said Mrs. Ruth last night. "Then we would know all about who killed my sister and her babies. But it is only a young bird and has not been taught to speak yet. The parrot was in the same room in which the murders took place and saw it all."

Mrs. Ruth evidently believed that a parrot's intelligence is of a high order and that a properly trained bird is capable of telling what it sees.

Wires Her Husband.

Mrs. Hill sent a telegram to her husband last night, believing that his fondness for his dead daughter will bring him to her side in the hour of her grief. The telegram was as follows:

"May and babies murdered Sunday night. Come at once. Emma Hill."

The mother of the murdered woman, as well as Mrs. Ruth, her sister, are confident that Burnham had nothing to do with the killing. They believe that the police are on the wrong trail in arresting him and trying to sweat him into making a confession.

Mr. Ruth, at the instance of his wife and mother-in-law, Mrs. Hill, sent three telegrams to relatives of Burnham in the hope of securing financial assistance for him.

The first telegram was addressed to E.E. Hartwick, Clay avenue and the Grand Trunk railway, Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Hartwick is an uncle of Burnham and reputed to be wealthy. He has often sent him money, clothing and other gifts. He is at the head of a large lumber concern.

Asks Financial Assistance.

The telegram was as follows:

"Your nephew, A.J. Burnham under arrest in connection with the murder of wife, children and three others. Believe he is innocent. He needs your help. (Signed) June Ruth."

A second telegram was sent to Elbridge Horton, 1830 Grant avenue, Denver. Mr. Horton is a cousin of the accused man and was notified of the murders in this telegram:

"Burnham under arrest. Come at once. June Ruth."

The third telegram was sent to an aunt of Burnham's -- Mrs. Frank Suerland, 1651 Summit street, Kansas City, Missouri, and read as follows:

"Your nephew, A.J. Burnham, charged with murder of wife, children and three others. Believe he is innocent. June Ruth."

Married Seven Years.

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Mrs. Burnham, before her marriage was May Alice Hill. Her marriage to Burnham was her first matrimonial venture, and they were married seven years ago at 932 South Sierra Madre street, the present home of Mrs. Hill.

Mrs. Burnham was born 26 years ago at Lawrence, Kansas. Her parents came here 21 years ago, bringing her with them. Mr. Burnham has never been married before as far as is known. He is 15 years older than his dead wife. Mrs. Burnham had lived with her children in the house in which they were murdered for only three months. Before that they lived at 730 North Pine street.

The head of the household has been at the sanatorium for three years, first as a patient and later as an employee. Before that he worked at Tucker's cafe as a baker. At the sanatorium he does little jobs around the kitchen, such as peeling potatoes and washing pots. According to his wife's relatives, it is only a question of a short time before he will die of tuberculosis.

Was a Good Husband.

"The murders were committed by an insane man," declared Mrs. Ruth last night. "Burnham had nothing to do with it. He was the kindest and most loving and considerate husband that any woman ever had. We thought just as much of him as we did of my sister, because he was so good.

"We couldn't feel that way toward him if he had not always been good to her. If we thought that he killed my darling sister and her little children we would be the first to ask for his punishment.

"I believe the murderer is some made man and that he is hiding in the woods. They ought to get bloodhounds and track him to his hiding place.

"Mr. Burnham is a man with one foot in the grave. If he killed my sister and babies he would have committed suicide, because he has such a short time to live anyhow.

Was at Home Wednesday.

"He had a day off every two weeks at the sanatorium, and that day was Wednesday. He was at my sister's home last Wednesday, but was not there Sunday, as has been claimed. I went over to my sister's house at 6:30 o'clock Sunday evening and stayed there until about 9:15. She didn't say anything about Art (Mr. Burnham) being there that day.

"He got \$35 a month at the sanatorium, and always sent her his check. Sometimes she would send him 50 cents out of it for tobacco, but generally he made all the spending money he needed by selling beer bottles and shaving people at the sanatorium.

"A man like that isn't going to kill his wife and children. He worshiped them all, and nobody could make him believe anything against her.

"Mr. Burnham was born near Jackson, Michigan, and came to Denver 15 years ago from Joplin, Missouri. He brought an uncle with him for his health, and the uncle died. He is insured in the Modern Woodmen for \$3,000 and his wife was named as the beneficiary."

Mrs. Ruth's Story.

The story of how she discovered the crime was told by Mrs. Ruth as follows:

"I went to my sister's house with Joe Sorrick, 7 years old, who lives a few doors from here. It must have been about 15 minutes after 2 o'clock when I got there. We went to the front door and I knocked loudly two times, without getting an answer. I thought then that my sister was working for one of the neighbors, or that I would find her at Anna Merritt's, so we went over there.

"I told Anna Merritt that I thought perhaps my sister was at her house, but she said that she had not seen her for several days. 'Perhaps she went out to the sanatorium -- Art got worse and she went out to see him,' Miss Merritt suggested to me.

"We had lunch and then I called up Mr. Burnham at the sanatorium. I asked him if my sister was there, and he said 'no,' and I told him that she was missing since Monday.

"Then he appeared to get anxious and spoke as though he was worried.

" 'If there is anything wrong,' he said, 'let me know as soon as you can.' Mrs. Colman, who lives next door to Miss Merritt, said that she had a skeleton key and maybe if I took it I could get in the house and take a look.

"I said, 'suppose they are dead.' Then I took the key and Anna went with me. We went around to the back door and opened it with the key. I am not sure whether it was locked or not, but we turned the key and then tried the door and it opened. Then we went in the kitchen. I saw the dishes were on the table, the same as they were Sunday night when I left to go home -- and they had not been washed.

The Worst Revealed.

"There was a bad odor, and I thought the parrot had died and made the smell. The door between the second room and the front room was closed and fastened with a thumb latch. Anna opened the door and we went in the front room.

"We saw something on the bed with clothes on it, and thought at first that the clothes were just rolled up that way and that there was nobody on the bed. Then I looked close and saw that it wasn't clothes, but a form underneath. The curtains were down and it was not very light.

"I said to Miss Merritt, 'Anna, is that her?'

"She said, 'It looks like it.'

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"Then we noticed that the walls were spattered with blood. We came right out. I was screaming at the top of my voice, I was so badly frightened. An express wagon with two men on it was going by and I screamed to them to stop.

"I know my sister has been murdered,' I called to them, but at first they didn't pay any attention to me. Then one of them got off the wagon and went into the house.

"Yes, it is so,' he said, and he went and telephoned the coroner. A colored woman, who lives on the other side of the street, came over and when she heard that three people had been killed she said, 'I expect those people in that other house have been murdered too. I haven't seen any of them for a couple of days.' And somebody looked in the other house, and the people there were dead too.

"My sister had only about 80 cents in the house. She had a diamond ring worth \$25 and a diamond stud worth \$50, which belonged to her husband, but when we went to the house we couldn't find either one of them."

This jewelry and other articles of value in the house were found by the officers afterward, thus effectively disproving the robbery theory held by some of them at first and thus tending to darken the mystery.

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 4

Dr. Rutledge Says Burnham Could Not Have Been the Man

"Burnham is in the third stage of consumption," said Dr. Rutledge this morning at the office of Attorney J.F. Sanford who has been retained by Burnham as counsel. "He could not possibly mount a horse and if he walked 100 yards in the cold night air he would have to stop and cough his head off for 10 minutes. We have a night watchman making rounds of the premises all the time and it would be impossible for Burnham to leave the grounds without attracting attention from the very fact that his cough could not be restrained. All he does during the day is to sit still and peel potatoes and when he comes to his supper at night he has to use both hands to lift his bowl of milk to his mouth.

Home at 10 O'clock.

"Shriver and another man, a teamster, who visited with Shriver Sunday night up to 10 o'clock, positively state that Burnham was in his side of the cottage at that hour because they heard him coughing. Burnham arose the next morning as usual at 5 o'clock and called the other men. He has acted very natural in the meantime and the fact is that such a deed was a physical impossibility to the man who was in his bed 10 miles from the scene of the tragedy at 10 o'clock the previous night.

"When I say it was a physical impossibility for Burnham to come into Colorado Springs, let alone commit the crime, I am talking from an intimate knowledge of the man's condition and I say positively that such a trip was a physical impossibility for him. He could not walk a quarter of a mile without stopping to cough half a dozen times and the fact is he is on the border of the grave.

Fond of His Family.

"Last Wednesday he was at his home and Thursday he was telling the men at the sanatorium how comfortably he had his family situated and how he was pleased at getting home for them at only \$8 a month. His little girl had just started school and he was as pleased as any ordinary man would be at winning an election. He has all along doted on his children and has told the men frequently things that indicated his home conditions were his main interest in his life.

"Miss Fechter, the telephone girl at the sanatorium, received the first call for Burnham yesterday at noon and called him from the kitchen to answer it. She heard Burnham say: 'Are the children gone too? I do not think she would take the children with her. Find out about it and let me know.'

"Turning to the girl, Burnham told her to bring him the message in the kitchen and about two hours later a woman, evidently in tears, called again and asked for Burnham. She would not give a message to the girl but insisted on talking to Burnham and the girl called him. The woman had said to Miss Fechter, 'Something horrible has happened.' and so the girl listened with interest. She heard Burnham say: 'Well, tell me what is the matter?' He repeated this two or three times and finally turned from the telephone and said 'Something has happened to the family?'

"He looked dumbfounded and walked to the kitchen to tell Decker, the chef, about it. Decker told him he better go right in with the laundry man and if he found anything wrong to let them know if they could be of assistance.

Had to Be Aided.

"Burnham moved like a man ready to collapse with anxiety, and Doctor helped him into his clothes and to the wagon. Riding in they met the officers, who told him the story and informed him that he was suspected of the murder. When they returned to the sanatorium with him in the machine, I saw him for a moment as I passed and he did not even recognize me until I spoke. I saw that he was on the verge of collapse and he asked me to call up Sandford, who has been one of his close friends ever since he came to the city and who got him entered at the sanatorium although his condition was such that at the present time he would have no chance of getting in, being incurable.

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Unknown

"I went to call Sanford but could not reach him then and returned to the machine. I told Burnham to cheer up and realize that he had some friends in the world and to say nothing, which I think any friend would do under the circumstances.

"I have no interest in protecting Burnham and if he is guilty would be the first to demand punishment but I know positively that he is not in a physical condition to do such a stunt in the night time and I do not believe that he could even wield the ax with force enough to deal such blows if he was right on the spot and had no previous exertion to tire him. I know what a man in his condition can do and I am sure of his innocence. He could not walk into Colorado Springs in a week; he could not ride a bicycle a mile, and he could not even mount a horse or harness one. Moreover, he could not leave the ground unseen or unheard because he cannot go 100 yards without coughing like fury, especially in the cold night air. The officers are wasting time trying to fasten the crime on this poor fellow and the sooner they get busy on some other trail the sooner will they clear the mystery."

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 4

BURNHAM ATTENDS FUNERAL OF FAMILY

**Two Children Buried in One Casket.
Coroner's Jury Is Secured.
Inquest Delayed.**

Guarded by Jailer Charles Birdsall, Arthur J. Burnham this afternoon attended the funerals of his wife. Alice May Burnham, his 6-year-old daughter, Alice, and 2-year-old son, who were among the victims of the West Dale street tragedy.

The funeral was held from the undertaking rooms of Fairleys & Law at 3 o'clock, the Rev. J.P. Koehler officiating. The services were in charge of the Modern Woodmen of America. The two Burnham children were buried in one casket by the side of their mother's casket, the interment being in a plot owned by Mrs. Emma B. Hill, mother of Mrs. Burnham, in Evergreen cemetery.

Burnham made no request to attend the funeral and when it was suggested by Sheriff Birdsall that he should attend, he at first refused. Later he expressed a desire to attend. He was taken from the county jail in an automobile to the funeral. He showed considerable emotion at times.

The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne and their baby will be sent tonight to Medaryville, Indiana, for interment.

The inquest probably will not be held until Saturday or Monday. The following jury was impaneled this morning and sworn in over the bodies of the murdered sextet by Coroner Leonard Jackson: C.C. Hoyt, general ticket agent of the Santa Fe; B.G. Robbins, prominent clothier; L.G. Howard, George F. Dayton, former undersheriff; A.P. Marin, prominent Woodman and real estate man, and L. Hiner, real estate man and former police magistrate.

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 5

Bertillon Man Is Coming to Examine Finger Prints

The murder mystery will be solved tonight or Burnham will be eliminated from the list of possible suspects.

A Bertillon man from the Denver police department, an expert on fingerprints, has been ordered from Denver by the police and district attorney's office and is expected here this afternoon or tonight.

One good fingerprint -- where the murderer's ink-stained fingers clasped the middle of the ax handle with which the six people were brutally slain -- appears on the ax handle. Apparently it was made with the third finger of the right hand. The officers say that this print is almost perfect. The ink prints on a tub that was hanging by the window at the Burnham home, although slightly blurred, also will be compared with prints taken from the fingers of Burnham.

Burnham's fingers are small and the print on the ax handle and the prints on the tub appear to have been made by small fingers. So thorough is the finger print test, when made by an expert, that it will take more than a similarity in size to establish his connection with the case.

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 6

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

BURNHAM STOUTLY DENIES HE IS THE GUILTY PARTY

**"I Have No Idea Who Did It, but I Wish to God I Did!"
He Exclaims -- Advises Officers to Waste No Time on Him.
Appears to Be Dazed -- Questioned by Sheriff**

"Have I any idea who did it? No. But I wish to God I did," exclaimed Burnham as he was being led away to solitary confinement in the county jail last yesterday afternoon. It was his first expression of feeling, so the officers say -- the first time that he had expressed a hope that the crime would be avenged.

At 5:20 o'clock yesterday afternoon Burnham, guarded by Deputy Sheriff S.D. Burno and City Detectives C.S. Railsback and T.J. Gavin, was brought to the county jail in an automobile. He jumped lightly from the machine and walked into the jail. Once inside he readily consented to pose for a Herald-Telegraph staff photographer. Just before the picture was taken, he asked permission to brush down a few locks of hair which had been displaced by the wind during his ride with the officers.

Burnham is very careful of his personal comfort. Evidently expecting to be confined for some time, he asked permission to have his eyeglasses in order that he might read in his cell. He showed absolutely no fear and appeared to have perfect control of himself. When searched, Burnham, as he handed over his purse, explained that there was a check for \$35 in it.

Burnham claims Leavenworth, Kansas, as his home. He went from there to Joplin, Missouri, and shortly after came here for his health. He has lived in Colorado Springs for the last 10 years. Since coming here he has been employed as baker at Tucker's restaurant and for a time conducted a little store at the corner of Weber and Pikes Peak avenue. He had been married seven years.

"How long had you known Wayne?"

"Not very long. The first I saw of him was at the sanatorium, where he was a patient. I never knew him very well and never had any trouble with him. No, our families were not intimate. We lived close together, but that was about all.

"The last time I was in town was last Wednesday. I only had a day off every two weeks and spent that with my family.

"Do you think that the man who committed those murders can keep it to himself or will he have to tell somebody?"

"He can't keep it to himself. He'll have to tell - he'll have to tell, some time," Burnham muttered to himself as he was led away by the officers.

"I have no more idea than you have of who murdered my wife and children," declared Burnham at the county jail last night to Sheriff Birdsall, who had an hour's talk with him before he was taken to the solitary cell upstairs for the night. "It seems to have been the work of a fiend or thug who just wanted to see the blood fly. You have a hard job ahead of you if you are to get the man who did that work. You can see the condition I am in. I am too weak and light to do any such a deed."

Sheriff Birdsall closely examined the hands of the prisoner with a view of finding ink stains, and Burnham said:

"They are in pretty bad condition -- you see I have been peeling potatoes. Here is a scar on this hand at the base of the thumb that I received many years ago.

Blood and Ink Stains.

One of Birdsall's reasons for examining the hands of the man so thoroughly was that the man who handled the ax and did the killing must have had ink stains on his hands and such stains are liable to last for some time in spite of washing. The murderer gained entrance to the Burnham home through a window in the dining room and in going so upset a bottle of ink standing on the sill. The ink streamed over the sill and down the outside of the house. Some of it was spilled on the handle of the ax and after getting into the dining room the murderer took a rag, wiped the handle and threw the rag on the floor. On the ax handle are to be seen the stains of the fingers of both hands and the plain traces of the passage of the rag over the entire length of the handle. The condition of the rag is also showed plainly that it had been used to wipe the handle.

Burnham Murder First.

First the fact the ink stains remain on the ax handle after the blood stains had been washed away, the officers believe that the ink was spilled before the ax was used on any of the victims. This is also borne out by the fact that there are no blood stains on the rag used to wipe the handle. From this it is judged that the murder at the Burnham home was committed first. After slaughtering his victims in the front room of the Burnham home, the murderer extinguished the lamp which was on the dresser, retreated through the door into the dining room, locked it with a thumb lock on the dining room side and left the house by the rear door, which was found fastened, but not locked. The front door was locked with a key on the inside and the screen door was hooked on the inside.

Entrance to the Wayne cottage was obtained by the rear door, the murderer having evidently used a piece of wire to unfasten the hook which held the screen. There was a defective lock on the door itself and this offered no resistance to the intruder. No lamp was found in the Wayne home, but on the floor of the bedroom, where the murder was committed, was found a newspaper twisted into a roll and half burned. The supposition is that the murderer lighted this to give him sufficient light to strike his blows and left the paper to burn itself out, or that he intended to burn the house and his victims.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

A comparison of the finger prints on the ax handle with Burnham's fingers will be made by officers, and it is likely that for this purpose an expert in this feature of Bertillon detective work will be brought from Denver to pass his opinion.

Shows Nervousness.

At the jail late last night Burnham was perfectly composed, but appeared to be under suppressed nervous strain, which was shown when Jailer Grant Darby took him in a blank sheet of paper to write the addresses of his uncle, aunt and cousin in Michigan, Kansas City and Denver, respectfully. He held up the paper to the wall of his cell with his left hand, which Darby remarked was steady and cool, but when he came to write the names the fingers of his right hand trembled violently and it was with difficulty that he controlled his movements in writing.

Otherwise he appeared nonchalant and complained that his bed was "not fit to sleep in."

"Is that all the bed you are going to give me?" he asked, and on being told that it was the usual bed for the cell, he added, "It is not fit to sleep in."

He called for his supper about 6 o'clock, saying that he was hungry, although he had partaken of his dinner at the usual hour. When Darby brought him his supper he ate heartily and said:

"They have the wrong man in this case. I wish they would hurry and find the man who murdered my wife and children. This cell is poor business."

May Be Blood Spots.

While it seems impossible that Burnham in his physical could have committed the crime, the police and sheriff's officers have thoroughly investigating his case and have secured his clothes on which they have found spots that might be dried blood. Suspicious spots have also been located on his shoes and a local chemist is making an analysis of these to determine whether or not they were caused by human blood.

Burnham Collapses.

In his solitary cell in the county jail this forenoon, the grief which apparently stunned Burnham yesterday afternoon and last night found vent and in the presence of a member of the undertaking firm of Fairleys & Law, who called to see about arrangements for the burial of the prisoner's wife and children, the man utterly collapsed and broke into a paroxysm of weeping.

"I could not swing an ax on a dumb brute, let alone a human being," he wailed, "for acts of violence never were a part of my nature. I have not the strength to kill anything, and when a man has been sick with consumption as long as I have been, an act of violence is the last thing he thinks about. God knows I never had any temptation to destroy life in any form, much less those of my wife and children."

According to Turnkey Swaim, who has been in charge at the jail with Grant Darby today, Burnham is a pitiful object of physical collapse. He made no fuss during the night, but the turnkey on duty during that period cannot say whether or not he slept.

Attorney Sanford was denied admission to see Burnham this afternoon, but gained admission this afternoon.

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 7

CITY AND COUNTY TO OFFER REWARD

Council May Take Action This Afternoon and Commissioners Tomorrow -- Whole City Aroused

So aroused are residents of Colorado Springs and city and county officials over the West Dale street horror that steps likely will be taken today or tomorrow to offer a large reward for the arrest and conviction of the murderer. The county commissioners are out of the city but when they return tomorrow it is likely that they will consider the reward proposition.

"The council and myself have been busy all morning on the paving questions and have not considered the plan of a reward," said Mayor H.F. Avery at noon. "However, we are to meet again this afternoon and if we have time it is possible that the question of a reward may come up. Certainly, nothing should be left undone to track down and punish the murderer."

Colorado Springs is more stirred up about the Burnham-Wayne tragedy than it has ever been before in its history. It is generally believed that the murderer is still at large, and women are fearful of leaving their homes after dark. Last night the streets were practically deserted several hours earlier than usual.

There was a large sale of firearms at the hardware stores, men buying the weapons to leave their homes as a means of protection if the murderer appears again.

There is no talk of lynching the murderer, if he is caught, as the people here are inclined to let the law take its course.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 4, Column 7

Earl Tucker Says Burnham Was a Trustworthy Man

"Burnham worked in our bakery shop and in the store room for three or four years and was a very efficient man," said Earl Tucker, one of the proprietors of Tucker's restaurant, this morning. "He was a man of steady habits, always paid his bills, and appeared to think a lot of his family. Just after he came he was figuring on how he could buy a little home. So far as I know he never was in any trouble. He attended strictly to his own business and appeared to be all right mentally.

"I can't believe that Burnham had anything to do with this crime. I can't conceive that Burnham is the least bit insane. He left here about three years ago and bought a little grocery store. When the M.W.A. sanatorium opened, he was one of the very first patients and has been at the home ever since."

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 5, Column 3

Wayne Family at Collins Grocery Sunday Afternoon

One of the last persons who saw the Wayne family alive was Grant Collins, who has a grocery store nearly opposite the Burnham cottage on Dale street. Mr. and Mrs. Wayne and the baby spent about two hours Sunday afternoon visiting at the grocery store and Collins says they left about 5 o'clock.

"Wayne was in the best of spirits," said Collins, "and told a number of humorous stories during his visit here. I was sorry when the time came for them to leave as they were agreeable company and I anticipated getting better acquainted with them. I was surprised at not seeing them the next day as they usually came to the store ever day as did also the Burnhams. When Tuesday and Wednesday forenoon passed without me seeing them I was still surprised but did not get alarmed as the idea of anything happening to them never occurred to me."

There is a letter for Henry Wayne from Rensselaer, Indiana, at the local post office and the postman on whose route the Wayne's live says he was at the door Monday forenoon but when he could not get an answer to his knock he retained the letter and repeated the performance on the two succeeding mornings. He was not especially surprised at the supposed absence of the family from home as they were comparative strangers in the neighborhood and he knew nothing of their habits. Mrs. Brown, the colored woman who lives close to the Wayne home, told him she thought the family was away visiting.

Dr. J.A. Rutledge, superintendent at the Modern Woodmen sanatorium, is firm in his conviction of the innocence of Burnham, who slept in one side of a double tent cottage occupied on the other side by J.C. Shriver. When Dr. Rutledge heard of the tragedy he started an inquiry and was told by Shriver that he heard Burnham in the cottage as late as 10 o'clock Sunday night and heard him coughing several times during the night. Burnham was up at his usual hour, 5 o'clock, Monday morning and did his usual work for that day, a feat which would seem impossible for a weak man if he had spent the night in a trip to Colorado Springs and in doing the horrible butcher work of which he is deemed possibly guilty.

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 1, Column 5

"I DIDN'T DO THIS," HUSBAND SAYS; "GET BUSY"

IS HE STUNNED OR STOIC?

Burnham Admits He Borrowed Ax, but Says It Was For Cutting Kindling.

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 20 -"You'd better get busy. Don't waste your time with me. I didn't do this," A.J. Burnham told the officers tonight.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

They had rushed him in automobile from the scene of the crime to the morgue and shown him the bodies of his murdered family.

It is regarded as a strange incident that, when asked if he wanted to see them, Burnham replied. "I want to see my children."

The man ignored his wife completely and a first doubted that the body of the little girl was his child.

"My God, that isn't my child," he exclaimed. "My girl's got lighter hair than that."

In a moment he was convinced that the child was his.

"It must have been an enemy of hers" (meaning his wife), said Burnham. "It couldn't have been an enemy of mine."

That Burnham seemed to show no special emotion over his wife is puzzling the officers. Assistant District Attorney M.M. Burns is not certain, however, that it was stoicism on Burnham's part, and is inclined to think that the man may have been too stunned to give way to demonstration.

"Yes, I borrowed the ax from Mrs. Evans," Burnham admitted tonight. "I got it to cut some kindling wood."

The dead woman's sister confirms this statement, but in so doing says that it is merely supposition on her part.

An examination late tonight disclosed that Mrs. Burnham was in a delicate condition.

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 1, Column 6

SIX MURDERED IN BEDS AT SPRINGS, HEADS SPLIT WITH AN AX

ONE VICTIM'S HUSBAND, ARRESTED AS SUSPECT, PROTESTS INNOCENCE

Woman, Alarmed When Sister Does Not Appear, Breaks Into Home and Finds Bodies of Mother and Two Children on Blood-Soaked Couch; Neighbors Force Entrance to Near-by Dwelling and Discover Man, Young Wife and Child Slain; Crime Three Days Old.

Deed Is That of Madman or Unknown Enemy, Is Only Tangible Theory of Police, Who Are at Sea and Admit That Evidence Against Man Held Is Weak; "Get Busy; Don't Waste Time on Me," Says Burnham; Does Not Deny He Borrowed Ax, but Says It was Used for Cutting Kindling

Special to The News

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 20 - Six persons murdered with an ax, their heads split and faces hacked, and only one member of two families left to throw possible light on the wholesale slaughter, is the record of a single night of crime in Colorado Springs.

That the two families, who lived in adjoining houses, were murdered while they slept in their beds is the theory of the police, but the affair is shrouded in such mystery that the wildest guesses are being made. The discovery of the bodies was made today, shortly after noon. It is supposed the crime was committed Sunday night and that for three days the victims lay in the charnel houses.

SIX VICTIMS OF MURDERER'S AX

Mrs. Alice May Burnham, wife of A.J. Burnham, cook at the Modern Woodmen Sanitarium.

Their two children, Alice, aged 6 years, and John, aged 3 years.

Henry F. Wayne, consumptive, until recently a patient at the Woodmen sanitarium.

Mrs. Henry F. Wayne, Wayne's wife of three years, and their 1-year-old baby girl.

Ms. Nettie Ruth, sister of Mrs. Burnham, and Miss Anna Merritt, a neighbor, discovered the bodies. Not until the officers had investigated at the Burnham house was it discovered that a similar wholesale slaughter had taken place in the Wayne cottage next door.

Miss Merritt collapsed at sight of the bodies and is suffering form a severe heart attack.

Events in History Of Baffling Crime

Mrs. Nettle Ruth of Colorado Springs yesterday afternoon became alarmed when she did not see her sister, Mrs. Alice Burnham, she broke into the house. She found her sister and two children dead in bed, their heads crushed with an ax.

Neighbors went to the adjoining house of Henry F. Wayne, which like that of the Burnham, had been locked since Sunday night. They found Wayne and his wife and baby murdered.

The only member of the two families left alive is Burnham, and he is being held by the police as a suspect.

Coroner's inquest will be held today.

Authorities are at sea, and crime is unsolved mystery. Deed appears to be that of madman or unknown enemy.

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

SUSPECT(S):

A.J. Burnham, husband of one of the murdered women, has been taken into custody pending an investigation. The police have no information now to fix the crime on anyone.

Miss Merritt, who was a near friend of Mrs. Burnham, called with Mrs. Ruth at the Burnham house early in the afternoon. Getting no response to their knocks, Mrs. Ruth, it is said, opened a rear door with the key of her own house. Entering, they were staggered by an odor coming from the front room. On investigation they found Mrs. Burnham and her two children lying on the bed in the front room. The bedclothing was saturated with blood.

GIRL RUNS SCREAMING INTO STREET

Miss Merritt ran screaming into the street. Her screams attracted a passing expressman, who entered the house, and immediately a call was sent for the police

and coroner. Mrs. Ruth, meanwhile, became hysterical.

A crowd quickly collected. While the officers took charge of the bodies, interest centered on the Burnham house, with no suspicion that a crime had been committed in the adjoining house.

Mrs. F.E. Campbell, one of the neighbors, called the attention of the officers to the deserted appearance of the Wayne cottage with its drawn shades and Sergeant J.H. Springer and Detective Tom Gavin forced an entrance.

They found the three members of the Wayne family dead in one bed, their heads having been split with an ax, as were those of the Burnham family, while they slept.

The ax, it developed, was the property of J.R. Evans. It was borrowed by Burnham, it is said, three weeks ago. On Monday morning last, Mrs. Evans went to the Wayne house to get the ax and receiving no responses to her knocks, found the ax near the back doorstep and took it home with her.

That the murderer tried to set fire to the Burnham home with a view to destroying the bodies of the three victims became evident upon further examination of the house. Officers found a part of a newspaper, crumpled and partly burned, lying close to a window curtain. The bottom of the curtain was charred.

Burnham himself stoutly maintains his innocence, though saying little, and his attempts to establish an alibi are being reinforced by officers and patients at the Modern Woodmen sanitarium, where he was employed.

A man who occupied the tent adjoining Burnham's testifies to Burnham having called him as usual at 5:15 o'clock Monday morning. Superintendent Rutledge of the sanitarium declares that Burnham was at the sanitarium declares that Burnham was at the sanitarium at 7 o'clock Sunday night. Others will testify it is said of his presence on the grounds all night.

Crime Committed Sunday Night.

The authorities concur in the opinion that the crime was committed Sunday night.

Mrs. J.G. Ruth, sister of Mrs. Burnham, left the latter's home at 9:15 Sunday night.

"The children were asleep and I asked my sister what bed she was going to occupy," Mrs. Ruth told *The News* tonight. "I remember the hour for I glanced at the clock when I was leaving. And I said today to Anna Merritt, when I went to her house to inquire if she knew what had become of my sister, 'what if May and her babies should be dead in that house?'"

Mrs. Ruth frankly discussed the family troubles. There were none in the Burnham family, but the parents of the two women had separated. John A. Hill, the father, is in Mexico. Mrs. Hill is here suing for divorce. A little piece of property, which the husband had sought to have transferred to Mrs. Burnham, figures in the wild speculation about today's tragedy.

Was there any bitter feeling in the family? Their friends are wondering and openly expressing their wonder.

"There was not," is Mrs. Ruth emphatic disclaimer. To prove it she tells of the frequent and pleasant visits, her taking her sister to the theater Saturday night last, of the Sunday night visit, of the mother's trips to and from the two sisters' houses, of Burnham's devotion to the family and of old man Hill's devotion to Burnham.'

"My father let my brother-in-law have money," said Mrs. Ruth. "My mother prevented him from transferring the property to my sister because my mother had homestead rights on it, but there was no feeling between us girls and our parents.

Kim Blames Negro.

"A Negro did this foul thing," declared Mrs. Ruth.

What incentive other than jealousy could contrive a murder of such proportion if the murderer be in the family?

This is one of the questions with which the authorities have to reckon. Nothing that neighbors have said supports this theory.

Burnham's apparent disregard for his wife's body, despite the delicate condition she was in, his centering of emotion on his children at the morgue, may be viewed as a circumstance.

Also that Burnham was in his fifties and his wife only 26 may be viewed as a circumstance in connection with Wayne's youth. The latter was in his early thirties it is said and his devotion to his bride of three years was not less than usual so far as anyone has noted.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

The Wayne's had come out from Indiana only a few months ago. They had lived beside the Burnhams but two weeks. Other neighbors hardly knew them. The two men worked side-by-side at the Woodmen sanitarium Wayne was a photographer, and had taken a picture of Burnham, or Mrs. Burnham, it was said today. Cornell Jackson said the picture could not be found.

Burnham's employment kept him from home nights, except once a week. Wayne, too, had been at the sanitarium as a patient until he took a cottage next door to Burnhams. Then he lived as home.

No neighbors have been found who heard any noise that would indicate commotion in either house on Sunday night when the crime is supposed to have been committed. A family of Negroes, living near, heard nothing unusual.

The district attorney's force worked all night with the sheriff's office and police. Reports at midnight that Burnham had confessed were disproved.

That a confession is not unexpected was admitted. Meanwhile Burnham's family relations are being investigated and the wires are working between here and the place from which young Wayne and his girl wife came.

Had No Chance for Life.

The position of the bodies in both houses would indicate that the victims had not a chance to make a struggle. In the Burnham home, Mrs. Burnham lay on the north side of the bed with the little boy next to her. Apparently, the girl had gotten away from her pillow, as her body lay slightly across that of her mother and towards the foot of the bed.

The circumstances at the Wayne house were similar, even to the minutest detail. The family occupied one bed in the front room, and the murderer, after completing his work, carefully covered the bodies, even the faces of his victim, with the bedclothes. So carefully was this detail attended to at the Burnham home that articles of underclothing, a little coat belonging to the girl, and the everyday clothing of the victims were piled on the beds and were saturated with their blood.

The Burnham home is at 321 West Dale Street and the Wayne Home adjoins it on the rear at 742 Harrison Place. The neighborhood is on a little street in north west Colorado Springs congested with houses of the three-room cottage plan. An amazing feature of the crime is that it could have been committed and concealed for three days.

The murderer evidently worked quickly, wielding his axe first with the broadside and then striking full blows with the dull edge and even slashing the children and women. Mrs. Burnham's forehead was shattered and face cut in several places. Wayne's forehead was flattened with a heavy blow and the face of Mrs. Wayne was hacked with the axe. The children were evidently killed by blows on the back of their heads. A detailed examination, however, has not been made of the blows, although in the opinion of the authorities it has been established without peradventure all of the victims were killed with the same axe, one borrowed three weeks before from Mrs. Evans by Burnham.

Neighborhood Thickly Populated.

The two houses are almost identical in construction. The Burnham house is on the corner of Dale Street and Harrison Place and to the west of it are two vacant cottages. Also, the two cottages next to the Wayne house are vacant. Otherwise the neighborhood is thickly populated.

It is not clear which house was entered first. The Wayne house was entered by tearing the screen off the kitchen door and picking the lock, an ordinary one, with wire. The wire used has been found. The murderer must have come out of the Wayne's house by the back door, as it was found unlocked.

The Burnham house was apparently entered through a window on the east, or Harrison Place side. The screen on this window is rent, and it is also evident from the littered state of the house in the vicinity of the window that the murderer at least made his exit in that manner. A bottle of ink that had stood on a table by the window had been spilled and the ink carefully wipe up with an old piece of rag. The murderer overlooked a detail, however, in permitting the bottle to fall on the outside, where it was found tonight. A sash curtain on this window was soiled and evidently had been pushed to one side.

Diamond Ring Missing.

If the motive was robbery, as some suspect, it is not apparent, as Wayne's watch was still in the pocket of his clothing, which lay on the bed, where he probably had left them. Mrs. Burnham's rings ordinary value were on her fingers, but a diamond ring, which, according to Mrs. Ruth, her sister wore, had not been accounted for tonight.

No money was found either house by the officers. An incident, supporting the robbery motive, is the fact that August 31 Wayne deposited to his credit in the Colorado Savings bank a lump sum of \$455. His bank book, found among his effects, shows that credit. The theory is advanced that someone may have thought he still had the money in his possession. The neighborhood is peopled by families in moderate circumstances, and it seems to have been a matter of comment that Waynes were supposed to have money in their possession. Letters were found indicating that they had sold their household goods in Indiana recently, and Burnham told the officers tonight that in reply to a question he had asked his wife about the circumstances of the Waynes, she had replied that they had some money resulting from the sale of their furniture.

Two weeks ago an attempted burglary was reported on Center Street, near the scene of today's tragedy. The police have no clue to the identity of the supposed thief in that case.

Conflicting stories were told tonight as to the last time that Burnham saw his wife alive. He answered a rumor that he had seen her Sunday afternoon by stoutly maintaining that the last time he saw her alive was a week ago today. He has been

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

employed as a cook at the National sanitarium of the Modern Woodmen and previous to three weeks ago was given a two weeks' vacation. His homecoming day had been Sunday. A week ago it was changed to Wednesday and on that day he claims he saw his wife and children the last time. Mrs. Ruth supports her brother-in-law in this claim.

Meet Him Coming In.

An hour after the discovery of the bodies, Burnham was brought from the Woodman sanitarium. Undersheriff Stanley Burno and Detective Tom Gavin started out for him in an automobile, but met him coming in in a laundry wagon. A telephone message had reached him and he was hurrying in.

According to the officers, Burnham showed no emotion when told that his wife and children had been killed.

"Did they get killed in a railroad accident?" he asked.

Afterward, it is said, he laughed at a joke that was cracked on the way into town.

Arriving at his home, Burnham's manner caused much speculation. Apparently, he was unmoved or at least showed no emotion.

"No man could do that and sleep tonight," the district attorney and sheriff remarked to Burnham as they showed him the blood-stained bed from which his wife and children's bodies had been removed.

"My God, it's awful," Burnham said, and then remarked: "But nothing is torn up around here."

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 2, Column 3

JAILED HUSBAND WEAK; COULDN'T USE HEAVY AX

Burnham at Work During Time Crime Must Have been Committed, Say Employers.

Special to *The News*.

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 20 - A.J. Burnham, husband of Mrs. Alice May Burnham, one of the women murdered, who is held on suspicion, is in his forties. He came to Colorado several years ago from his former home in Michigan. It is thought for his health. Six years ago he was married to Alice May Hill, then 20 years old.

Burnham is small in stature and is plainly afflicted with tuberculosis. The superintendent of the sanitarium where he worked expressed the opinion that Burnham was not physically or mentally strong. Mrs. Ruth stated that he was too ill to do manual labor, and Mrs. Burnham assisted in supporting the family by working as a domestic.

"It's terrible to think that they suspect him just because he didn't cry and carry on," said Mrs. Ruth.

Burnham was placed under arrest soon after the discovery of the crime, but there seems to be nothing to implicate him of the tragedy. He is thought to have been an ideal husband, and his employers say that he was at work during the period when the crime must have been committed. He is a member of Colorado Springs camp No. 7226 MWA, and is a native of Michigan.

Burnham worked at the National Home for Consumptives, conducted nine miles north of Colorado Springs by the Woodmen of the World. He was in the culinary department, acting as assistant cook.

Some of the neighbors declared, after Burnham had been arrested, that he could not have wielded the ax to strike the people murdered, much less to bury the weapon in their brains, on account of his weakened physical condition.

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 3, Column 1

'WHAT IF MY SISTER IS DEAD IN HOUSE?' SEARCHER ASKED

BLOOD-STAINED WALL BESIDE BED WHERE THREE BODIES LAY

Woman Had Premonition of Tragedy as She Broke Into House of Death.

DENIES RUMOR OF STRIFE

Mrs. Ruth Admits That Her Mother Has Filed a Suit for Divorce.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Special to *The News*.

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 20 - "What if my sister and her two babies should be dead in that house?" Mrs. J.G. Ruth, sister of the murdered Mrs. Burnham, says she asked Miss Merritt when the two were leaving Miss Merritt's yard to force an entrance into the Burnham house.

"You see, I had gone over to my sister's house from my own home in the south part of town, and, finding the doors locked, supposed she was at Miss Merritt's. When I found she wasn't, we both went to Art Coleman's, a neighbor, and he said the hadn't seem my sister or any of them since Sunday. He suggested that we go back to Miss Merritt's and get a key, which we did. I felt sure something had happened and I remember expressing my fears to Miss Merritt just as we left her yard to go to my sister's house with the key. Miss Merritt didn't share my fears, for she said it wasn't possible that anything had happened.

"Well, I don't know," I said and we walked back to my sister's again."

"I don't think the key worked very well. It seems to me now that I think of it, we had some trouble in getting the door opened, but we finally go in the kitchen. No, I don't know which went first, I think we both went in together."

"What an Awful Smell!"

"My, what an awful smell," I said to Miss Merritt.

"And there are my sister's supper dishes on the table, just like they were Sunday night when I left her."

"We went through the kitchen into the middle room and we found the door leading into the front room latched from our side. I remember this. We unlatched the door. Anna (Miss Merritt) went in first. She stepped back and pulled me in."

"Look at this," she said.

"Oh, I don't know what I saw. I don't think I saw my sister's face. I am sure the bedclothes were pulled over her and the children, but there seemed to be a body lying across the bed. I saw the blood and then I looked upon the wall and saw that it was spattered with blood.

"Oh, It's My Sister."

"Oh, it's my sister!" I screamed, and then I ran out of the house and into the street. I didn't cry; I couldn't. I just screamed to two expressmen who were passing. Anna came out and the men went into the house.

"They came out and said, 'Yes, it's true' and they telephoned for the police."

Mrs. Ruth saw her sister last alive on Sunday night.

"I went to her house, taking a little boy with me, and had supper with he and the children. I remember it was 9:15 o'clock when I left, because I glanced at the clock and remarked that I must be going. My sister wanted me to remain longer, but I told her that my husband would be home and expecting me, and I left."

"Were the children in bed when you left?" Mrs. Ruth was asked.

"Yes, they were asleep in the front room. I remember asking my sister what bed she was going to sleep in, and she said she didn't know; just any one she happened to decide on."

Denies Rumors of Trouble.

Rumors of trouble between the Burnham and Ruth families were denied by Mrs. Ruth tonight, who, in answer to questions said there had been no bitter feeling between herself and her sister.

"Why, we were at the theater together Wednesday night last," said Mrs. Ruth. "I remember I wanted Mr. Burnham to go, too, but he insisted on remaining at home, and my sister and I went.

"Yes, it's true that our mother is suing for divorce, and that our father, who is in Old Mexico, tried to turn some property over to my sister, and my mother prevented it.

"There was no feeling on this account, however," added Mrs. Ruth. "My mother divided her time between my sister's house and my own, when she wasn't working out, and my sister felt all right about the property.

"We wired for my father tonight. I don't know whether he will come, but if he does and clears this thing up, I think my mother will go back to him. Oh, I know she will," declared Mrs. Ruth.

Mother Collapses From Shock.

Mrs. John A. Hill, the mother, was at Mrs. Ruth's to night under the care of a physician. She is 55-years-old, and the shock, it is feared, my unbalance her mind.

Mrs. Burnham, who was only 26 years old, was at least fifteen years younger than her husband. She came to Colorado Springs when she was 4 years old. According to Mrs. Ruth, though she had other suitors when she grew up, she was never engaged to anyone but the man she married.

Thursday, September 21, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 3, Column 8

'WHAT IF MY SISTER IS DEAD IN HOUSE?' SEARCHER ASKED

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

CRIME STUNS POLICE AND THEORIES ARE VAGUE AS AIR

Murder Committed by Enemy, Not Robber, Say Officers, Then They're Silent

HOLD HUSBAND AS SUSPECT

But Authorities Admit Evidence to Connect Him With Tragedy Is Not Strong

Special to *The News*.

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 20 - In the absence of any clue to substantiate robbery as a motive, the police and sheriff's office are hoping to connect the crime with some enemy of one if not both families. It is granted that the assassin, in committing wholesale slaughter in one family, may have stopped to conceal his motive and give it the appearance of robbery by murdering a neighbor family in the same manner.

District Attorney Purcell is actively, at work and Deputy Martin Burns directed today the work of several officers. Sheriff George Birdsall, Undersheriff Stanley Burno, Sergeant Springer and Detectives Tom Gavin and Charles Railsback of the police force are running down clues, none of which, they declare, is tangible or offers more than a suggestion of the solution.

Hold Inquest Tomorrow.

Coroner Lem Jackson is swearing in jurors for an inquest tomorrow. Admittedly, the crime has more mysterious features than the Bessie Bouton murder of six years ago, which stirred the Pike's Peak region and in a fortnight grew to a crime of national, then international interest, culminating in a triple tragedy.

Not in the history of El Paso county if, in fact, that of the state, has a crime of today's proportions been committed. The officers tonight were loath to speculate on any theory.

Husband is Held.

A.J. Burnham, husband of one of the murdered women, from the first has shown a reticence bordering on stoicism, and while his manner may argue against him, viewed from a psychological standpoint, it is not regarded as incriminating.

"I haven't a guess to venture," said Burns tonight. "We are hold Burnham, though not by any means convinced of his guilt."

His detention is more formal than otherwise, and in a nutshell, the authorities are up in the air and they may have to explode several theories before the mystery is solved.

Friday, September 22, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 1

SECOND MURDER SUSPECT IN JAIL; AWAITS INVESTIGATION

Authorities Believe Capture May Solve Mysterious Crime.
Tony Donatel, the Prisoner, on Friendly terms with
Late Mrs. Burnham -- Other Clews

WAS FORMERLY EXAMINED AS TO HIS SANITY

Supposed Blood Found on Burnham's Shirt, Which He Wore Sunday Night, Will Be Analyzed,
Although Case Against Surviving Husband Appears Weak -- Probably Use Bertillon
System in Tracing Identity of Ink Stains on Ax and Washtub -- Ignition of
Lace Curtain at Burnham Home Explained -- Day's Developments.

Tony Donatel, an Italian laborer who rooms at 309 Cameron Avenue, is the second suspect arrested in connection with Sunday night's murder of the Wayne and Burnham families.

Donatel was taken in charge by the authorities yesterday afternoon at 1 o'clock after a number of other clews had been run out, and it is believed he may be able to throw some light on the wholesale crime. He is in the county jail and will be held pending a close checking up of his whereabouts between the hours of late Sunday evening and early Monday morning.

Donatel is about 40-years-old and it is claimed by the authorities, there is unquestioned information that he was on too friendly terms with Mrs. Alice May Burnham, one of the six victims of Sunday night's brutal crime. He has known the Burnhams for years.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Arthur J. Burnham, husband of the slain woman, made sufficient admissions to authorities yesterday to give rise to the theory that the capture of Donatel is important, and one that may lead to some startling developments.

That he returned home unexpectedly one afternoon and found Donatel and Mrs. Burnham in a questionable attitude was the statement Burnham made yesterday when questioned about the relations of the two. Donatel, he said, tried to explain away his alleged actions by declaring that Mrs. Burnham had been hurt by a barbed wire fence and he was endeavoring to relieve the pain.

The theory that the murders may have been committed by a maniac dovetails in to some extent, the authorities believe, with Donatel's case.

About a year ago the district attorney's office, through M.W. Purcell, caused Donatel to be investigated as to his sanity. His actions at that time were sufficient, it was claimed, to question his sanity. The man was examined by County Physician E.L. McKinnie, but his mind was not considered sufficiently unbalanced to warrant sending him away for treatment.

Other clues pointing the finger of suspicion at Donatel were run down yesterday.

C. Marshall, a workman at the Golden Cycle Mill and who passes by the Wayne and Burnham homes to and from work, saw a man shortly after midnight Sunday acting in a suspicious manner near the houses where the six murders were committed.

Marshall says the man was about as tall as Burnham and that he wore a light, soft hat. Donatel is about the same height as Burnham. Donatel wore a light soft hat when he was taken into custody yesterday; Burnham too, wears a light-colored hat.

Spots on Clothing.

There were two or three places on Donatel's hat yesterday that showed evidence of having been cleaned recently, but whether this was done to remove traces of ink or blood has not been determined. Two spots, which the officers say may later prove to be ink stains, were found on Donatel's trousers and any analysis of the fluid responsible for the marks is being made by the city chemist.

Where was Donatel Sunday night between 9 o'clock and the time Marshall declared he saw a man wearing a light-colored hat and loitering about the homes of Wayne and Burnham? Can the man prove an alibi?

Will he be able to disprove the positive assertions of the authorities and show that there was nothing out of the ordinary so far as his acquaintance with Mrs. Burnham was concerned?

If medical experts decide upon another investigation as to his sanity, can Donatel show that his mind is sound and that he is free from attacks of mental laxity?

Can he show that he is not the man?

These, and scores of others, probably, are some of the questions that Donatel will be asked to answer in the examination to which he will be subjected.

One by one, the dozens of theories that have been entertained or suggested as to a solution of the murder mystery are being dropped by the police.

The criminal of Sunday night not only worked quickly and silently, but he covered his tracks so completely that detectives and deputies thus far have been unable to pick up a clue that looks tangible, unless the right man is in custody.

That jealousy and revenge are features that ultimately will play a conspicuous part in the solution of the sextuple murder now is generally believed by those working on the case.

Burnham Appears Guiltless.

Each day's development seems to clear whatever suspicion may have been entertained that Burnham had anything to do with the case. Statements of the resident physician at the Woodmen home, where Burnham lived in a tent, are to the effect that it would have been almost impossible for the man to have come to Colorado Springs Sunday night unless conveyed here. "The man's physical condition handle of the ax the Dale Street murderer wielded will go a long way toward proving or disproving as the case may be the theories that link Burnham and Donatel with Sunday night's tragedy.

On the smooth handle of the weapon the police have found the imprint of a thumb, its outline traced in black hair-lines, and the aid of the Bertillon system may be invoked by the police to determine whether imprints of the suspects' thumbs correspond.

Three inky fingerprints were also found on a metallic washtub that hung outside the window at the Burnham home from which the murderer made his exit. In raising the sash a bottle of ink was spilled on the floor and efforts made by the intruder to wipe it up.

His fingers were stained black and the imprints on ax and tub, compared with similar marks made by the prisoners' fingers and thumbs, will play an important part in connecting them in any way with the crime.

May Get Bertillon Expert.

A Bertillon expert, it is said, cannot be reached any nearer than Leavenworth, Kansas, and it is probable, the authorities said last night, that one will be brought to Colorado Springs to make the tests.

A shirt belonging to Burnham, and one which he is said to have worn last Sunday, is in the possession of the officers working on the murder.

Red spots found upon it are now being analyzed by the city chemist to determine whether they are caused from blood and also whether from human blood. Burnham when asked about their presence replied that he did not know they were there.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

No great importance, however, is attached to the presence of the supposed blood-stains, for it is pointed out that they may have been caused by a hemorrhage.

Relatives and friends of Burnham are working hard to secure his liberty at an early date, and it is not considered improbable that he will be released from the county jail soon.

Telegrams and letters have been sent out by Mrs. Nettie Ruth, a sister of Mrs. Burnham, telling of the triple tragedy that occurred in the Burnham home Sunday last.

John A. Hill, Mrs. Burnham's father and who is doing railroad construction work in Sonora, Mexico, has been telegraphed to and asked to come to Colorado Springs at once. Mrs. Burnham was his favorite daughter, and it is believed by the family that the plea will be answered.

An uncle of Burnham, E.E. Hartwig, of Detroit, Michigan, also has been advised of the murder. He is reputed to be wealthy, and it is said has frequently sent money to Burnham. The message read:

Telegrams Are Sent.

"Your nephew, A.J. Burnham, under arrest in connection with murder of wife, children and three others. Believe he is innocent. He needs your help.

JUNE RUTH

A cousin, Eldridge Horton, 1830 Grant Avenue, Denver, was advised of the crime in the following telegraph:

"Burnham under arrest. Come at once."

JUNE RUTH

Still another wire was sent to an aunt, Mrs. Frank Suerland, 1651 Summit Street, Kansas City, Missouri. The message read:

"Your nephew, A.J. Burnham, charged with murder of wife, children and three others. Believe he is innocent."

JUNE RUTH

The theory that either the home of the Wayne's or the Burnham's was entered Sunday night with a view of robbery has been discarded by the police. Nothing was taken, so far as closer examinations disclosed yesterday. Two small diamonds, one a right and the other a pin, were found in a dresser drawer, as well as other articles of lesser value. Wayne's gold watch also failed to attract the attention of the murderer.

Another theory, that after the Burnham family had been killed an attempt was made to fire the house, was exploded yesterday, although a charred newspaper and a partly burned curtain gave rise to the belief that a hurried attempt had been made to burn the building.

The curtain was accidentally set afire by a photographer when he put off a flashlight. Owing to the darkness of the room a greater amount of powder than usual was used and a tongue of fire reached to the curtain.

Burnham Well Thought Of.

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, September 21 --Arthur J. Burnham, held in connection with the murder of six people at Colorado Springs, was a resident of Leavenworth 13 years ago. At that time he was unmarried, and resided with his grandmother and a cousin.

He was employed in different capacities during his residence here, and for a few months was driver of a mail wagon for the post office. He left here for Kansas City, and shortly afterward went to Colorado Springs. It was known that he was a sufferer from asthma, and desired to remove to a climate in which his health might be benefited. He bore a good reputation while here.

Relatives Believe Him Innocent.

DETROIT, September 21 -- A.J. Burnham under arrest at Colorado Springs in connection with the murder of his wife and five others, is a cousin of E.E. and J.W. Hartwig of Detroit, and both of his relatives have strong faith in his innocent.

J.W. Hartwig says he recently received a letter from Burnham in which the latter spoke endearingly of his wife and family. Hartwig, like officers of the sanatorium where Burnham was employed, believes that Burnham's frail strength sapped by tuberculosis and bronchial troubles, would not have been sufficient to enable him to wield an ax with enough force to inflict such injuries as disfigured the six victims.

Friday, September 22, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 2

NO INQUEST YET; BURNHAM AT FUNERAL OF FAMILY

Hundreds crowded in and around the morgue yesterday afternoon, where the funeral of Mrs. Alice Burnham and her two children was held. The Reverend I.H. Kohler conducted the service, and interment was in Evergreen Cemetery.

Arthur Burnham attended the funeral of his little family under guard of Jailer Charles Birdsall, and then returned to his cell in the county prison, wifeless and childless.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

As the pallbearers were carrying out their burdens, Mrs. Hill, mother of the murdered woman, threw her arms about Burnham's neck and sobbed:

"He's innocent! Oh, I know he's innocent."

Burnham was greatly affected and his eyes filled with tears. He did not ride with his relatives on the way to the cemetery, but was taken out in an automobile by Birdsall.

There were two caskets, the bodies of the children being placed in a single white coffin. Burnham did not ask to attend the funeral, and when it was first suggested to him he said he would not go. Later, however, he expressed a desire to go. It is believed that his grief the last two days has been such that it has dazed him.

The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne and their baby were taken to Medaryville, Indiana, last night. The coroner's jury, sworn in over the bodies yesterday morning, is composed of the following: C.C. Heyt, general ticket agent of the Santa Fe; B.G. Robbins, clothier; L.G. Howard, George F. Dayton, former undersheriff; A.P. Martin, real estate man; and L. Hiner, real estate man and former police magistrate.

Coroner Jackson said last night that the inquest will not begin until tomorrow afternoon or Monday morning. This delay is caused by the desire of the officers to run down all possible clues first.

Friday, September 22, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 4

DONATEL PROBED FOR FOUR HOURS CLOSELY QUESTIONED AS TO RECENT ACTIONS Statements of Murder Suspect Will be Checked Up by Officers

It was a serious crowd that gathered in the office of Sheriff Birdsall yesterday afternoon, shortly after 1 o'clock, when Donatel was picked up at his home, 200 Cameron Avenue, by Deputies Burno and Compton. Furthermore, it was a very secret one. Only the once inside the private office, with the possible exception of one or two others, knew what was going on.

All the clerk and one or two visitors could tell was that Sheriff Birdsall, accompanied by other officers and an unknown man entered the main office, passed through the door and into the interior office. There was scarcely a glance to either side by any of the men, only the usual hint, "we want to talk a while," was given before the door to the sheriff's private office was closed.

While only a few hints were given out as to what was going on, they were sufficient to indicate that the man Donatel was going through a severe grilling and "a supreme test." The sheriff, after it was over, called it a "mere investigation."

Verifying Donatel's Story.

There was no room for an outsider. Once or twice during the afternoon a man would leave the private room, rush through the outer office, down the steps and away, never to be seen again during the afternoon. It was hinted that they were trying to "see if Donatel was handing them the right dope."

Only thing on the inside are in a position to tell what was said and done. They will give out nothing only after everything was over, Sheriff Birdsall was asked.

"Will you state positively that you did not find out anything that would tend to incriminate Donatel with the Burnham and Wayne murders?"

"No, I would not say that," came the reply. Then, after a pause in which it seemed that he was through talking, the sheriff added, "Neither will I say that we did find anything."

But one thing that the officers seem to think important, is an admission by Donatel during the investigation, that last Friday afternoon he was engaged within half a block of the Burnham home in excavating for sewer work. He said he did not know where the Burnhams lived, but that he knew that the home was somewhere in the vicinity.

"I don't know a thing about the murder," is about the first comment offered by Donatel, following his arrest. He seemed indifferent, an officer said.

Displays Shrewdness.

Not only did he have a ready alibi, but the man was shrewd in answering the questions of the investigators, the officers say, with all his apparent willingness to tell everything. He admitted that he had been very friendly with Mrs. Burnham both before and after her marriage.

"I am not in a position to tell," Donatel said, "the last time I met her and we were together. It has been a long time, though. I did not even know where they were living. I was told that it was somewhere in the vicinity of where I was working last Friday, but I never investigated."

Donatel said that he was home all day Sunday and Sunday night. He retired about 9 o'clock, he said, and never left his bed. The officers are trying to prove or disprove his alibi, and are questioning the neighbors.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

It was not until after 5 o'clock last evening that the officers were through with their work for the day, and Donatel was taken to the county jail for the night. The events of today probably will prove whether the officers discovered anything having any particular bearing on the case.

His Peculiar Actions.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Rohrbach, 340 Portland Boulevard, admitted last night their close friendship for Donatel and talked freely about the man.

"Tony's wife left him 10 years ago and ran away with another man," said Mrs. Rohrbach. "They were then living in Manitou, and from what Tony has told us I understand that he obtained a divorce on the ground of desertion. He has said that he never would marry again."

Donatel's former wife, according to the Rohrbachs, is living somewhere in Colorado, presumably having married again. There is a son 18-years-old, who is with his mother.

"Yes, Tony went out sometimes with girls and even older women," said Mrs. Rohrbach. "He would take them to the theater and other places of amusement."

"Tony was at our house Sunday night and remained as late as 9:30. He was at our house again Monday and had supper with us. He come on Tuesday also and sat on our porch during the afternoon. He never mentioned that Burnhams during these visits, although I remember his telling, probably a year ago, of having known Mrs. Burnham since she was a child."

Donatel, according to his neighbors, is a peculiar character. They tell of his acting strangely, although they regard him as harmless. Interviews with his neighbors brought out some of his peculiarities. For example, it is said, he imagined at time that he was being followed by witches and that they had mutilated his property. Although he lives alone in a shack, he collects rent from cottages he owns. According to the neighbors, he often scrubs the outside of his dwellings in places, explaining that he is obliterating the marks left by the witches.

Friday, September 22, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald – Telegraph - Page 1, Column 3

Birdsall Offers Reward for Man Who Committed Murder

A reward of \$100 for information leading to the discovery of the perpetrator of the West Dale street massacre was offered today by Sheriff George Birdsall.

The reward is offered by Sheriff Birdsall personally and is not made by the office or for the county. The county commissioners say that they have no authority to offer any reward unless the banks of the city will guarantee it. The city council has been busy with paving problems and has not considered the reward proposition.

Birdsall's action in offering a reward lends color to the belief that neither Burnham nor Donatel is the murderer. Certain it is that the officers are by no means confident that they have the right man.

"I will gladly pay \$100 to have this crime cleared up," said Birdsall. "I only regret that I am not able to offer a larger sum as the larger the reward the greater the incentive for outsiders to help in tracking down the criminal."

County Commissioner Harry Hutchinson is in favor of sending out a posse to scour the hills and the plan is being considered by Sheriff Birdsall. The sheriff, however, believes that nothing would come of the scheme and thus far has not organized a posse. Every available man in both the sheriff's office and police department is busy in the city.

Friday, September 22, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 4

"BEFORE GOD I AM INNOCENT"

Burnham Says His Maker Knows He Did Not Commit Crime

GRAVE SCENE PATHETIC

Relatives Express Complete Confidence in Murder Suspect -- Minister Also Believe in Him

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

“Before God I swear I am innocent of the death of these children!”

With his hands crossed above the coffin containing the bodies of his murdered children just before it was removed from the undertaking room yesterday afternoon, Arthur J. Burnham, with tears streaming down his face, registered his oath with his Maker declaring his innocence of the horrible crime of which he has been suspected. Throughout the services, which were conducted by the Rev. H.I. Kohler, pastor of the church which the little family had attended. Burnham sat dry-eyed and dazed near the coffin of his wife and, those about him were moaning and weeping relatives moved to the depths of their souls by the heart-touching words of the sermon, the husband and father sat dumb and appeared as a man from whose heart the extremity of sorrow had wrung the last trace of tears and dried up the fountains of the soul.

Burnham Breaks Down.

It was not until, at the conclusion of the service and the doors had been closed so that the little family group might join hands in privacy for the last time about the bodies of their dear ones that the pent-up grief asserted itself and Burnham broke into a flood of tears. Sobs that shook his frail form head to foot, betokened the depth of his despair and in the midst of his passion, with face upraised to heaven, he registered the vow of innocence, which if it were perjury, would brand the poor consumptive as the arch-fiend of a century.

Yet in the midst of his violent emotion, Burnham's ears were not sealed to the grief of others and when his mother-in-law, Mrs. Emma B. Hill, in a voice almost inaudible, asked for some flowers that covered the coffin. Burnham was the first to respond. With trembling fingers the husband leaned over the coffin of the murdered woman and plucked two or three of the roses from the handsome bouquet, his eyes blinded by the tears which he vainly strove to check. Passing around to the other side where lay the bodies of his children, Burnham blindly pinched from their stems a few of the white blossoms spread on the last resting place of his innocents and it was then that the extremity of his grief broke out in a wild appeal to heaven to witness his innocence of the crime.

Asserts His Innocence.

“I am innocent -- I am innocent.” he repeated two or three times in the midst of his wailing relatives.

“I know you are innocent, Arthur, and will spend my last cent to help you,” declared Mrs. Hill, who was on the verge of collapse after suffering an hour of violent weeping and moaning such as bring the tears to the eyes of strong men and stir the hearts of the most hardened to pity for gray hairs that all too palpably are being brought “in sorrow to the grave.” The aged mother has suffered much in life and the burden of her moan. “My children, my children,” indicated that the last fond tie that bound her to life had been severed.

“There is a way that seemeth good unto man but the end thereof is death.” This was the text from which Mr. Kohler spoke and the sermon, instilled with deep human sympathy and filled with spiritual consolation though it was seemed but to intensify the heart throes of the mother and other relatives. Mr. Kohler pointed out that the deep mystery surrounding the death of these people rested in the hands of a supreme being who, in his own time and way, will make all plain and bring to light “those things that are hidden.”

“For now,” he quoted from St. Paul, “We see as through a glass darkly, but then face to face.”

A Touching Scene.

Burnham, who had been permitted to attend the funeral in the charge of Jailer Charles Birdsall, was importuned by his relatives to ride in their mourners' carriage, as the solemn cortege was forming to the cemetery.

“I am under arrest,” he said, with a vacant stare of helplessness, “and must go with this man.” pointing to the jailer.

“We know you are innocent, Arthur, and we will not believe anything wrong against you,” was the reply of Mrs. June Ruth and a half dozen voices of friends and relatives echoed her words. Burnham quietly and once more composed as usual, left the room in company with his guard and was taken in an automobile to the cemetery.

Thinks Wife Was Pure.

On his bended knees above the newly made grave of his wife and children, Burnham yesterday afternoon gave expression to his absolute confidence in the constancy and virtue of his wife, the mother of his two adored children, in a heart-to-heart talk with the Rev. Mr. Kohler, to whom he seems to cling with the fondness born of long slumbering spiritual hope newly awakened and who is the only man to whom he seems to have opened the secrets of his heart.

“I never have been worried in the least about the constancy of my wife,” he declared, “and if she was intimate with other men I never had any suspicion of the fact and never bothered my head about it.”

At the implication that Henry F. Wayne, his murdered neighbor, might have had illicit relations with Mrs. Burnham, the husband said in the most natural tone possible.

“Wayne had a wife of his own: why should he bother with mine whom he has not known very long?”

“But some men are not satisfied with their own wives?” suggested the clergyman.

“If there was anything wrong between them, I never suspected it.” was the stolid reply of the husband, and the subject was dropped.

“What do you think of it?” asked Burnham presently.

The Pastor's View.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

"I do not believe that you are the guilty man, and I do not think the officers believe that you struck the blows that ended these lives, but they may think that you know something of the circumstances that you have not told, or that somebody else may have been secured to do the murder which to you was a physical impossibility," said the pastor.

"It was a physical impossibility to me anyhow -- anybody can see that," said Burnham, but did not seem to care to follow the discussion any further and relapsed into silence. He drove back to the jail with Jailer Birdsall and the minister, and on parting with the latter in his cell asked that he might see him often.

Friday, September 22, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 5

OFFICERS STILL AT SEA; ANTONE DONATEL, ITALIAN LABORER, UNDER ARREST

Evidence Against Second Murder Suspect Seems No Stronger
Than That Against Burnham -- Is Known, However, to
Have Been Well Acquainted With Mrs. Burnham

BOTH MEN BEING HELD IN JAIL FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION

Portland Mill Employee Says He Saw Prowler at Burnham Home After
12 O'clock Sunday Night -- County and City Officers Hold Different
Theories About Perpetrator of Crime

Investigation into the Burnham-Wayne tragedy Sunday night, in which half a dozen lives were wiped out, has resulted so far in the arrest of only two men -- Arthur J. Burnham, the head of the Burnham home, and Antone Donatel, an Italian laborer living at 309 Cameron avenue, near the southern limits of the city and in the neighborhood where Mrs. Burnham's family, the Hills, had lived for years.

The evidence tending to connect either man with the crime is of the most intangible and disconnected character and there is a division of opinion between the sheriff's and district attorneys' officers and city detectives C.S. Railsback and Thomas Gavin, who have also been working on the case. The sheriff's and district attorney's officers admit they have practically abandoned all suspicion that Burnham dealt the fatal blows, but Railsback and Gavin both declared positively this morning that Burnham is the one man above all others whom they still suspect. Sheriff Birdsall and Assistant District Attorney Purcell do not claim that they have any positive evidence against Donatel, but say they are merely holding him until his case can be thoroughly investigated.

The facts in the case against Donatel so far as learned are that the man was in love with Alice May Burnham eight years ago, a year previous to her marriage, and had at frequent intervals been in the woman's company since then. Four years ago Burnham says he found Donatel in his home, but claims that the incident caused him little worry at the time and that since then he has seen very little of Donatel and does not believe his dead wife had. More direct evidence that Donatel still retained his affection for Mrs. Burnham, was furnished today by June Ruth, the brother-in-law, who says he heard Donatel more than once declare that "May had no business to marry that lunger."

This evidence Against Him.

Further evidence that Donatel has been friendly with Mrs. Burnham comes from R.J. Griffith, 213 Center street, an expressman who last May and June worked alongside of Donatel on city street work.

"Donatel," he said, "frequently boasted that he was a friend of a woman whom he referred to as a fat woman living in the northwest part of the city and married to a consumptive, and when some of the men warned him that he might get into trouble, he replied that he had no fear of such a thing. Donatel also boasted that he had bitten the ear off a man in Italy and in general gave the impression that he was a bad man."

As an offset to this wild talk regarding the character of the murdered woman and the supposition that Mrs. Burnham was the woman that Donatel referred to, is the statement today by sheriff's officers that after the most persistent sleuth work possible, they have been unable to find anything that would even point the finger of suspicion against Mrs. Burnham's character, or intimate that she was in the habit of receiving visits from men at her home.

"In such cases," said a deputy sheriff today, "if a woman is of a loose character, the neighbors have some inkling of the fact. In this case not a neighbor has been found who even intimates that she was receiving visits from men other than her husband, and we have been unable to find a scrap of evidence to show that she was not a virtuous wife."

Says She Disliked Him.

Homicide

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Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

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SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

June Ruth, the brother-in-law, says that Mrs. Burnham was well aware of the feelings which Donatel entertained towards her but that she always treated them as of no importance and had a positive dislike for the man on account of his filthy habits, the statement being frequently made in the family that "he never took a bath." His appearance would render him repulsive to any woman with an atom of self-respect left and, in fact, there has not been an incident divulged to show that Mrs. Burnham ever received him at her home, except the little incident mentioned by her husband as having happened about four years ago.

Works for the City.

Donatel is employed by the city as a laborer, and last Friday was engaged at work on a trench near the Burnham home. He declares to the officers that he did not know where the Burnhams lived but had an idea it was somewhere in that neighborhood. The facts related by Donatel's neighbors and acquaintances indicate that he is a man given to wild and irresponsible talk and his sanity has been commonly questioned because he has often declared his belief in witches, spooks, etc., and spoke of charms he had for driving them away. Men of his nationality are frequently superstitious to a degree and the officers are not disposed to take much stock in the theory that Donatel is insane enough to commit such a crime or that his mental condition is of a maniacal character. He is rather of the easy-going, happy, irresponsible Italian type and never has been considered dangerous.

The prisoner can prove by Mr. and Mrs. C. Rohrback, 340 Portland boulevard, that he was at their home Sunday night until 9:30 o'clock, and claims that from there he went home to bed and did not leave home until next morning.

Donatel's wife ran away with another man 18 years ago and he has always declared that he will never marry again. He lives alone and owns some property from which he receives an income in the way of rents.

If Donatel is the murderer why should he kill the Wayne family? This is one of the numerous questions which bring the officers up against a blank wall, no matter from which angle they view this mysterious tragedy. Every apparent theory leads to a blind alley where nothing but absurd conclusions seem possible.

Theory of Detectives.

Detectives Railsback and Gavin base their suspicions against Burnham largely on the statement of C. Marshall, a workman at the Golden Cycle mill living near the Burnham home, who says that after midnight Sunday he was on his way home past the Burnham cottage and saw a man loitering about the Burnham and Wayne cottages. He turned the headlight of his bicycle on him and obtained a good view of his dress and features. Marshall describes the man as being of small stature, with a small mustache and wearing a soft, light-colored hat. Both Burnham and Donatel have soft-colored hats and are of medium or less than medium height. Both have mustaches, but while Burnham's is small and thin, Donatel's is heavy and black and the most significant feature of his face.

That the Burnham home may have been the scene of a prowler as early as 9 o'clock Sunday night is indicated by a statement made by Mrs. June Ruth, who visited at the Burnham home Sunday night and left about 9:30 o'clock.

Did Girl See Prowler?

"While we were sitting in the front room," said Mrs. Ruth, "Nettie, the 6-year-old girl, suddenly sprang back from the front window with a cry of alarm and clasped her arms about her mother as in a tremble of fright. Her mother asked her what the matter was and she said, 'Oh, nothing, I guess it was the cold wind.' Her mother then told her to put down the window and she replied, 'Oh, I can't,' so my sister stepped to the window and pulled down the sash and the blind. Our conversation that night was of a very ordinary character and my sister took quite a time telling me all about the story in a novel she had just finished. I kissed her good-by at the door and when I took the car on the street corner, a half block away, I saw her still standing on the step. This would seem to indicate that she had no dread of anything and, in fact, she was remarkable for her fearless disposition."

Whether or not the little girl saw a prowler at the window will never be known, but the circumstances may indicate that someone was peering through the open window.

Vacant Houses Examined.

In the course of their work on the case the sheriff's officers have investigated every vacant house in the neighborhood of the murders with the suspicion that an insane man may have had his lair in one of them. Nothing that would indicate this has been revealed, however, and the officers are at sea of this theory.

The supposition that Burnham could loiter about in the night air without coughing violently and repeatedly and thus revealing his presence is held to be absurd and he would not dare to enter a house by stealth for the same reason. These and a hundred other considerations seem to warrant the belief of the sheriff's officers that Burnham is entirely innocent and the opinion expressed today by Detective Gavin that Burnham is the guilty man seems untenable.

A Wild Theory.

Granted that Donatel is the guilty party the only theory the officers have to account for his slaughter of the Wayne family, whom he never knew, would be that he went to the place in search of Mrs. Burnham with murder in his heart. Not knowing the location of the place exactly, he peered through the window of the Wayne cottage, saw the people in bed, mistook them for Mrs. Burnham and her husband and entered to slay the former and thus secure the widow, enriched by the \$3,000 life insurance policy carried on her husband's life. With the ax he crushed in the skull of Wayne before learning his mistake and

Homicide

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Blanche Wayne
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SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

then finished the deed in that house to escape detection. Frenzy may have led him to search the next house in the hope of finding Burnham, and rage at not finding his intended victim by the side of the sleeping wife may have induced him to slaughter the family and thus rid himself of what may have been a constant preying temptation on his mind. This theory is as wild, absurd and far fetched as any other that has been advanced but the murder is so mysterious that any theory may fit.

Doesn't Look Like Murderer.

Donatel does not have the appearance of a murderer. He is a tall, lanky individual, 40 years of age, and though he says he is an Italian he looks more like a Yankee farmer than a native of Italy.

He continually smokes a big corncob pipe. When brought from his cell in the county jail last night he readily agreed to be photographed.

"Why, sure, take my picture if you want to," he said. "Fire away. I have done nothing to be afraid of. I didn't commit those murders any more than you did."

Whereupon Donatel took another draw at his big corncob pipe.

Donatel was taken to the county jail at 5:15 o'clock last evening after he had been interviewed by Sheriff Birdsall and Deputies Burno and Compton.

Almost nothing is known about Wayne in the neighborhood. After spending nine months at the Woodmen sanatorium, he moved two weeks ago to the house in which he was afterward murdered.

The Burnham and Wayne families became intimate at once. Burnham had known Wayne while he was at the sanatorium. When Wayne's time was up at the institution Burnham suggested to him that he get a residence near his own. The suggestion was acted upon by Wayne and he went back to his home in Indiana, brought his family to Colorado Springs and started housekeeping.

Wayne Acted as Substitute.

Wayne suggested to Burnham that he ought to have a vacation at the sanatorium and volunteered to take his place in the kitchen while he was gone. Burnham accepted the offer and for two weeks he was at his home. What occurred in those two weeks is not known to the police, but it is possible that it may have a direct bearing on the subsequent tragedy in the two homes.

Mrs. Wayne Married Twice.

Burnham completed his vacation a week ago Wednesday and returned to his place in the kitchen. Wayne then rejoined his family.

According to the neighbors, Mrs. Wayne said she had been married twice and that Wayne was her second husband. Facts concerning this angle of the family history of the Waynes are being sought by the police, on the possibility that the first husband of the woman might know something of the crime.

Mrs. J.R. Evans, the neighbor from whom the ax with which the killing was done, said this morning that her husband used the ax so many times that it would be impossible to distinguish inky finger prints made on it by the murderer.

Not Taking Any Chances.

"We have an ax and a hatchet," said Mrs. Evans. "We now keep them both locked up in the basement. The ax with which the killing was done was the best one we had, but the police have that now. We are not taking any chances any more of anybody being killed around here with an ax belonging to us.

"I'll never leave an ax or a butcher knife where anybody can get it handy for the rest of my life.

"Now when I think of it I cannot understand why I did not have some suspicion that everything was not right when I went over to the Burnhams' house. The ax was just covered with blood, half of the handle being splattered with it. I thought to myself at the time that Mrs. Burnham must have killed a chicken with it, and then after cutting the chicken's head off allowed the blood to drip on the ax handle.

"Another thing that I ought to have noticed was that the window shades were all drawn down. Now Mrs. Burnham never pulled her shades way down even when she went away from home. The murderer must have done that before he left the house, after killing then all."

Ruth Gets Telegram.

The following telegram was received this morning by June Ruth, brother-in-law of Arthur J. Burnham:

"Burnham surely innocent. Has excellent record. Worshiped his family. Writing Mrs. Frank Sauerland, Kansas City, Missouri."

Mrs. Sauerland is an aunt of Burnham.

Friday, September 22, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 5

DETECTIVE SEYMOUR TO WORK ON CASE

Homicide

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Blanche Wayne
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Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

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Is Bertillon Expert and Will Examine Finger Prints on Ax Handle -- Is Coming Today

The Bertillon system of identifying finger marks will be used this afternoon when Officer Seymour of the Thiel Detective agency in Denver will arrive for this purpose. The ink-stained finger prints on the handle of the ax are very indefinite with the exception of one, and may prove valueless, but at least this clue will be exhausted by the work of the Bertillon man. Yesterday afternoon the marks of three blood-stained fingers were found on a lace curtain in the bedroom of the Burnham home where the murder took place, but owing to the nature of the material the prints are not plain enough to furnish a good clue or to permit of a comparison.

Sheriff Birdsall has also found an old blood-stained coat in the rear of one of the vacant houses adjoining the Burnham home, which was evidently used by the murderer to wipe his hands of the blood-stains. For identification purposes, however, this is valueless, as the finger prints are not definite. Little importance is attached to the suspicious looking marks on clothes belonging to both Burnham and Donatel and so far not even a chemical analysis of the stains has been made.

Friday, September 22, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 6

DESCRIPTION OF MAN THE OFFICERS WANT

Mrs. Susan Stanford Furnishes the Authorities With a New Theory to Work Upon

This is a description of a man the police and deputies from Sheriff Birdsall's office are looking for, and whom there is a good reason to believe is the sextuplet murderer:

Height, five feet, 9 inches
Weight, about 175 pounds
Dark complexion.
Clean shaven.

Wore, a medium grey suit of clothes.
Hat, black with a broad brim.
Age, about 30 years.

This man, whose description was given to the police at 11 o'clock today, was seen in the neighborhood of the Burnham and Wayne homes two weeks ago, and was driven into the railroad yards of the Rio Grande railroad by a dozen women.

Attacked by Women.

His insane actions attracted the attention of the women to him, and they telephoned the police, but before their arrival with a patrol wagon the women had taken summary action themselves and attacked him with broomsticks, hoes and any other weapons they could pick up in their backyards.

The description of the man was given the police by Mrs. Susan Stanford, 392 North Pine street. Mrs. Vera Bradshaw, 318 Nichols court, half a block around the corner from Mrs. Stanford's residences, substantiated the story told by Mrs. Stanford.

The man has been seen hanging around the neighborhood since then, but has avoided a second clash with his feminine adversaries of two weeks ago.

His actions were those of an insane degenerate, according to Mrs. Stanford, and she believes he is the man who killed Mr. and Mrs. Wayne and their child, and Mrs. Burnham and her two children.

Police Accept Theory.

The police are inclined to accept her theory.

The corner of North Pine street and Nichols court is only a block from the Burnham and Wayne homes. The degenerate was seen in the alley in the rear of both of these streets.

The fact that the police are looking for this man would indicate that they are not satisfied that either the Italian or Burnham, committed the murders.

Within a block and a half of the houses in which the sextuplet murders occurred is Palmer Park, a good hiding place for an insane man bent upon murder, and a place in which he could escape discovery after the murder had been committed.

Homicide

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Unknown

The Burnham home was at 321 Dale street. The two adjoining houses, 323 and 325 Dale street, are vacant, and have frequently been used as sleeping places by tramps. South of the Wayne home, 742 Harrison place, are also two vacant houses. The first one is 740 and the second 738 Harrison place, where the murderer evidently took temporary refuge after committing the crimes.

Friday, September 22, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 2, Column 3 - By J.V. Breitwieser

Deed Was That of a Pervert or Maniac, Says Breitwieser

Colorado College Psychologist Gives Analysis of Burnham's Character -- Says Application of Third Degree Would Be Cruel Blunder -- "Can't Conceal Crime Long If Guilty"

By J.V. BREITWIESER

Chair of Psychology, Colorado College.

The wholesale murder here in Colorado Springs is the work of a pervert, of some of the diabolical work that at times is done by pervers. Had someone been near when the inhuman wretch had finished the murder of the Wayne and Burnham families they no doubt would have heard a cackling laugh of hideous glee. The type of being that would deal death in such a brutal manner would gloat over it with an insane joy.

The murderer may be stalking in the midst of us, he may be one of the curious crowd, secretly proud of the disturbance and excitement he has wrought.

If the ripe experience of Dr. Adolph Meyer, formerly clinical-psychiatrist at Ward's Island asylum, means anything to us, it means that whoever did this deed is abnormal, for, according to Dr. Meyer, at the bottom of atrocious murders that have in them the element of brutal butchery without any apparent motive, such as robbery or revenge, we will always find the work of a perverted mind that has built up a mass of morbid ideas.

The question has been asked, "What do you think are the mental characteristics of Arthur J. Burnham, the surviving husband of one of the murdered women, judging such characteristics as well as you can from his physical appearance and actions after information of the murder reached him?"

EYES HAVE FIXED, BLANK STARE.

We see, of course, a man that is sick; a man who seems to have little vitality. His forehead is rather broad and intellectual. The width of his forehead is increased in appearance by the thin, pinched face. The eyes have a peculiar, fixed, blank stare. This stare is often seen, however, when one poses for a photograph, and I note this as I look at him. He has had his characteristic stare since he has been detained pending further investigation.

This, I think, would be quite natural to a man dazed or stunned by what has just transpired. One would expect this man to be somewhat moody and under such conditions to be inexpressive. If he is feeling grief, out of sympathy one could only wish that he might shed tears.

Not knowing the man's past history, I should judge that he is moody, being very happy at times and at other times gloomy. I should not expect him to be very expressive; in fact, as far as his features are concerned, I doubt if they would betray his real feelings much.

MOUTH HIGHER AT RIGHT SIDE

His mouth seems to be higher on the right side, giving that part of his face a peculiar expression. It is interesting to look at only the upper half of the face and note the fine lines of his forehead and eyes.

The forehead and eyes are those of any intelligent, refined man. If you cover the upper half of the face and see the nose and mouth you get the face of a man almost effeminate, gentle and mild. The face nowhere expresses determination or strength of resolution. I do not see much will power, and it is no surprise to me that he is perfectly passive when deprived of his freedom by the officers.

I do not believe that Burnham's actions before the police will either free or condemn him. To be suddenly plunged into a situation similar to his means that all the paths of association become blocked or inactive. The expression of his emotional states would be extremely difficult.

DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE GUILTY SECRET

From present indications it does not appear that he is under any great voluntary strain in attempting to cover or hide any secrets. From a psychological point of view it requires much effort to repress information when some kind of information is

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SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

desired. This strain would soon wear out a sick man. Therefore, a reasonably sensible investigation should soon establish either his innocence or guilt.

To use excessive hammering methods on this man would not only be criminal, but also likely lead us farther away from the truth than we now are. It looks to me that we have a fine opportunity to study a man with the psychological association method. If guilty, there are some things that the guilty and the guilty only know. If innocent, these same associations would arouse no emotional complex. Here would be an opportunity for some impartial device such as we know in the laboratory to be of service that would be an everlasting benefit.

Friday, September 22, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 6, Column 2

Bloody Clothing Found Near Garden of the Gods Today?

Some bloody clothing was found near the road between Glen Eyrie and the Garden of the Gods this afternoon by a Colorado City police officer, according to information telephoned to the sheriff's office by Chief of Police Taws of Colorado City, and Deputy Sheriff Compton went at once in an automobile to the scene. He had not returned at the hour of going to press. At best, however, the clothing, if found by Compton, can no more than furnish another clew for the officers to work on in connection with the score of others they are already confronted with. Whether the clothing was that worn by a man or a woman, is not known at this hour.

Sheriff Birdsall and Deputy Sheriff Burno are this afternoon in conference with Assistant Chief of Police Springer and Detectives Railsback and Gavin, and it is probable that a new line of action will be decided on. It is said that the conference was called at the suggestion of the city detectives who have an entirely new theory. This, however, could not be confirmed.

It was also reported today that blood spots had been found on the clothing worn by "Tony" Donatel, and that one of his neckties, partly burned and bearing an ink spot, was found in his shack in the south end of the city. This also appears to be a wild rumor and the officers disclaim any knowledge of such circumstances.

In the last analysis, the crime is as much of a mystery as ever, although important developments are looked for any moment.

Friday, September 22, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 1, Column 7 - By E.C. MacMechen

BLOODY CLOTHES IN BURNHAM'S TENT MURDER-HORROR CLEW

NIGHT SIX WERE BUTCHERED MILKMAN MET LONE CYCLIST RACING TOWARD SANATORIUM

Italian, Friend of Mrs. Burnham, Whom Husband-Suspect Accused of Finding in Home With Wife, Jailed at Springs; Denies He Slew 2 Families With Ax as They Slept

Invalid Prisoner, Released From Cell to Attend Funeral, Weeps First Time Over Bodies of Wife and Babies; "How Could I Do This," He Cries; "You're Wasting Time;" Didn't Know Mate Was About to Be Mother.

DAY'S DEVELOPMENTS IN SPRINGS MURDER

Blood stains found on clothing in A.J. Burnham's tent at sanitarium.

Tony Donatel, Italian and friend of Mrs. Burnham, arrested as suspect.

Milkman says he saw bicyclist riding away from the neighborhood in early morning, about time crime was committed.

Mrs. Burnham and children are buried. Bodies of Wayne victims shipped to former home in Indiana.

Homicide

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COLORADO SPRINGS, September 21 - Blood-stained clothing found at the Modern Woodmen sanitarium in tent of Arthur J. Burnham, husband of one of the murdered women, the discovery of a milkman who, on his way to Colorado Springs in a wagon, met a man riding a bicycle rapidly along the deserted road leading to the sanitarium at 3 o'clock last Monday morning, and the arrest of Tony Donatel, friend of Mrs. Burnham, as a suspect, were developments today in the Colorado Springs sextuple murder horror.

Burnham, around whom a net of circumstantial evidence is being drawn, was held incommunicado today. Whether any confession was made, as is hinted, only the officials know.

DONATEL WAS FRIEND OF MRS. BURNHAM

Donatel, who is an Italian, 40-years-old, for many years before their marriage had known the two Hill girls, Mrs. Burnham; one of the murdered women, and Mrs. Nettie Ruth, her sister. He was said to have been a close friend of Mrs. Burnham.

Was that man seen racing to the sanitarium on a bicycle, the fiend who brutally murdered two families with an ax here on that night? Was he Burnham, the patient, consumptive potato peeler at the sanitarium, fresh from the murder of his family and that of a neighbor?

Or did Donatel conceive, in a degenerate mind, a slaughter of innocents to appease some fancied or real insult which he had suffered from a woman he is said to have loved?

These are the clues furnished to District Attorney Burns tonight by which the officers hope to unravel the black and sinister mystery.

CONSUMPTIVE HEMORRHAGE MAY EXPLAIN BLOOD

The testimony of the milkman is indefinite. It is doubtful if, from that slender thread, a rope can be woven to cut short the life of a little man who, already, it is claimed by physicians, has one foot in the grave. But it is one more thread to follow. The blood-stained clothing may yet be explained also upon the grounds that Burnham recently suffered from a violent hemorrhage.

But a significant fact is contained in the condition of Mrs. Burnham. An investigation has disclosed that she was about to become the mother of a child. Burnham told Jailer Charles Birdsall yesterday he did not know of his wife's condition, a decidedly strange fact in itself, the authorities declare.

To only one crime in history or literature can the murder of the Burnham and Wayne families be likened. De Quincy, the peerless dopest of literature, detailed such a crime in one of his London murder stories, and painted in his famous Williams with revolting but vivid touch such an inhuman devil as the author of the Colorado Springs murders must be, and it has been accredited to the great author and psychologist as the figment of an opiumed brain.

But here in the fashionable Springs among people, respectable if poor, the slaughter of two households in a night has been duplicated with terrible exactitude.

The mystery has by no means been solved by the police, the district attorney and the sheriff's force, all of whom have been working without rest for thirty-six hours upon the crime. They have run into a blind wall, and it is only by patiently piecing together details which in themselves would prove nothing that it can be cleared. No motive of the crime has been established. No enemy, unless it be Donatel, has been discovered of either the Burnham or Wayne family.

And if Donatel committed the crime no explanation has been offered as to why he should include the Wayne family in his slaughter pen, unless he is a pervert or a maniac. Words cannot describe the horror with which the crime has filled Colorado Springs. It is the sole topic on every hand among all people at all times. It has cast its gloom over the little city, dampening the joyous air of festivity which the preparations for the Knights Templar invoked. The streets are hung with strings of colored lights, but the spirit of the murders has dimmed their kindly luster. In his cell in the county jail, where Dr. J.A. Rutledge, superintendent of the sanitarium, says he will speedily die if not released, Burnham sits and moodily protests his innocence.

Wasting Time, Says Burnham.

"You're wasting your time," he says. "Look elsewhere for the murderer."

As he returned to the jail after attending the funeral service over the bodies of his wife and two little children, he said to Jailer Birdsall: "Nobody but a devil could have committed that crime."

The theory that Burnham committed the murder out of a spirit of jealousy and that Wayne, his former acquaintance at the sanitarium, was the cause, has not been borne out by developments. The neighbors of the two families say that they had little to do with one another and were barely acquainted.

Indeed the officers of the law, the officials and inmates of the sanitarium and the people of Colorado Springs refuse absolutely to believe that the weak consumptive slaughtered the six victims. They think that he is innocent and will be released.

Further pity for the emaciated figure of the husband was excited at the funeral services this afternoon. He broke down and wept bitterly as he gazed upon the remains of his wife and children.

"It is awful enough as it is," he said, "without having to stand charged with having murdered one's own family."

Could the officers point to a single motive for the crime progress would be easier. There are only scant number of motives for murder, history and psychology have taught this. Robbery, jealousy, revenge, ambition, insanity and perversion, these are the cause of the deadliest of sins.

Homicide

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Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Robbery Not Motive.

Examination of the premises precludes the theory of robbery. Not a thing was stolen from either house, not a piece of furniture was ransacked not was any attempt made to take the rings from Mrs. Burnham's fingers or the watch from Wayne's clothes.

The theory of ambition in connection with these poor people is absurd. Perversion and insanity have too often led to such acts but the two men under arrest show no signs of being victims. It is between jealousy and revenge then that the blame must lie, and no valid clue has been discovered yet to indicate that Burnham suffered from either feeling.

In one of his bursts of confidence to the jailers he said today: "I do not know of an enemy in the world who would commit such a crime as that. I have no enemies. I have taken many things during my life because I was a little man and unable to resent them."

Whether Donatel had such sentiments rankling within his breast and grew mad with blood lust when he had committed one crime is an explanation which the officers consider possible. Mrs. Burnham, it is said, did not lead an entirely blameless life before her marriage to Burnham.

At the sanitarium the idea that Burnham committed the deed is scouted.

"If they had sought, throughout the state of Colorado for a man above all other who did not commit the murders," said Superintendent Rutledge of the sanitarium today, "they could not have found a fitter subject than Burnham."

Was Devoted to Family.

"He was devoted to his wife and children. About the middle of August he got a vacation for two weeks and moved his family to where they lived when killed. Every month he took his check of \$35 to his wife and she gave him back perhaps a dollar.

"Just a few days before the crime he told patients that he had found a new house where rents were lower and said that his little girl had started out to school. He was filled with pride over that.

Burnham was in the last stages of consumption and would not live over six months under the most favorable conditions. I suppose he has been fighting the disease for twenty-five years and had learned a patience that was wonderful. He could not go out into the night air without coughing and he could not walk a have mile or ride a horse or bicycle without being utterly exhausted.

"I explain his silence and his dazed condition of mind after his arrest to his lack of re active power. A man in his condition has not the nervous force to regain possession of his mental qualities after a severe shock. His mental powers are at a low ebb because of his weak physical condition. A shock will suspend his mental faculties."

Alibi Not Positive.

Even so the alibi for Burnham is not positive. He retired Sunday night at 7 o'clock and as late as 9:30 Oscar Shriver, who occupies one-half of the tent in which he lived heard him coughing through the partition, while conversing with Bill Shuntberg, a teamster at the sanitarium. Shuntberg also testifies to this. At 4:45 o'clock the next morning he awoke his fellow inmates as usual. When Miss Helen Fechter, the telephone girl at the sanitarium, called Burnham to the phone in answer to the first call sent him from town. Burnham was told, said the girl, that his wife was missing. He appeared to be troubled and asked if she had taken the children with her. He said he did not understand the matter.

Burnham then told Miss Fechter to take the message if he was called again, as he had asked his informant over the phone to find out further news about his family.

She called two hours later and was weeping. She asked for Burnham, and when Miss Fechter asked for the message she said she could no tell it over the phone, it was too horrible.

Burnham was called and seemed worried and agitated. The telephone girls listened. He asked his informant several times to tell him what the trouble was, but she kept repeating that it was too horrible to tell.

When Burnham left the phone he said; "She says something terrible has happened." He was advised to go to town, and went in with the laundry man. On the way the sheriff was met and he was told the news.

"I saw him when he came back in the hack," said Dr. Rutledge. "In the mean time I had heard the news. He said: "Have you heard the terrible thing that has happened to me?" I said that I had and was sorry for him.

Not Strong Enough, Says Doctor.

"No one cane ever make me believe that he is guilty. He could not possibly strike half a dozen blows vigorous enough to kill six people. He held down the job of potato peeler because he had not the strength or ambition for anything else. Other men of more vitality have been unable to keep it. But he sat by his tent all day long going through mechanical motions. He was depressed always, but never moody. At the end of the day he was worn out, exhausted even with this small amount of work."

Bill Myers, a rancher living one mile from the sanitarium, was reported in Colorado Springs as having said that a few days before the murder Burnham had told him that his wife and Wayne were too friendly. He was seen by a News correspondent at the sanitarium yesterday, where he has been employed. He denies having made such statements or of having heard Burnham say anything of the kind. He roomed with Burnham eight years ago in Colorado Springs.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Burnham claims Leavenworth, Kansas, as his home. From there he went to Joplin, Missouri, and then came to Colorado for his health. For sixteen years he has lived at Colorado Springs as cook once, and the proprietor is one who is convinced of his entire innocence. Seven years ago he married Alice Hill, and had two children by her.

Finger Print Expert Called.

A Bertillon expert has been asked for from Denver by the Colorado Springs police to examine finger marks in blood on a tub in the Burnham yard.

Attorney J.F. Sanford has been asked by the Woodmen authorities to defend Burnham if necessary. The sheriff will not let anyone see the prisoner, even his counsel, unless he is present.

Sanford called upon Burnham at the jail yesterday to inquire after his comfort. Burnham said that he was comfortable and would be contented if given air and plenty of food. Only two meals a day are served in the jail. Burnham has been accustomed to five. He will be furnished all the milk he requires and friends may take him fruit or similar food if they so desire, the rules of the jail forbidding the furnishing of such food to prisoners.

Burnham has been placed in the extension ward where there is plenty of air. He also objected to his bed when first shown it, but he told jailer Birdsall that he had suffered for twenty years in silence and could do so no longer.

Burnham claims that even had it been possible for him to commit the murder, his physical condition would have forbidden it. Considerable force was used in the blows which killed Mrs. Burnham was so heavy that it splashed the wall two feet away. Burnham at first refused to attend the funeral of his family, but afterward asked to be taken there. The jailer accompanied him and he wept frequently during the service.

The citizens of Colorado Springs and the vicinity are so aroused over the murders that a large reward for the author of the crime will probably be offered as soon as the board of County Commissioners can be called together. It is probable Burnham will be released from custody in a few days if no incriminating evidence is uncovered.

Friday, September 22, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 2, Column 7

CORONER'S JURY IS SWORN

Business Men Probably Will Begin Murder Robe Saturday

Special to *The News*.

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 21 - Coroner Lem Jackson today swore in a jury of business men to probe the murder. It is not probable however, that an inquest will be held Saturday.

The jurors are C.C. Hoyt, general ticket agent of the Santa Fe in Colorado Springs; B.G. Robbins, clothier; I.G. Howard, George F. Dayton, former undersheriff of El Paso county; A.P. Martin, prominent Modern Woodman, and L. Hiner, former police magistrate.

Friday, September 22, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 2, Column 8

BURNHAM WEEPS AT BURIAL OF WIFE AND TWO BABIES

ESCORTED TO GRAVE BY SHERIFF; PROTESTS INNOCENCE AS BODIES ARE LOWERED.

Special to *The News*.

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 21 - For the first time since the bodies of his wife and two children were found butchered yesterday, A.J. Burnham today shed tears. The man accused of sextuple murder wept at the grave where Mrs. Burnham and two murdered babies were buried and protested his innocence.

Burnham was granted permission to attend the funeral and went to the grave in company with the sheriff.

The funeral service was conducted by the Reverend Irving Kohler and interment was made in the Hill family lot in Evergreen cemetery.

The funeral was held from the morgue. Mrs. Burnham laid in a black casket and the children in white ones. The bodies were buried in two graves.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

The bodies of the Wayne victims were sent to Medaryville, Indiana, their former home, today.

Friday, September 22, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 2, Column 8

"I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING OF MURDER," SAYS DONATEL

SUSPECT ADMITS THAT HE HAD BEEN ON FRIENDLY TERMS WITH MRS. BURNHAM.

Special to *The News*.

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 21 - "I don't know anything about any damn murder," was the substance of all that Sheriff George Birdsall, after four hours probing, could get from Tony Donatel.

Donatel admitted that he had been on friendly terms with Mrs. Burnham for a long period, both before and after her marriage.

Donatel stated that he been working on a sewer near the Burnham home on Friday last and knew that the Burnhams lived nearby.

Sheriff Birdsall declined to make a statement. He said he wouldn't admit that Donatel had incriminated himself in any way. Neither would he say that he hadn't.

Saturday, September 23, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 1

OVERHEARS MAN SAY "WE'VE KILLED 'EM" Seventeen-Year-Old Girl Gives Important Clue to Police -- Another Young Lady Questioned -- Busy on the Trail REMARK DAY AFTER MURDER Authorities Spend Day and Night Running Down Various Tips More Clothing, Supposedly Blood Stained, Found Northwest of Springs, on Road to Modern Woodmen Sanatorium

"We've killed 'em"

The man who made the above remark, and who was overheard by a 17-year-old girl who has been in the hands of police since noon yesterday, is now the most sought for person in connection with the mysterious Dale Street murders.

Two girls, one of whom is Helen Young, said to be employed at an East Boulder Street house, were questioned by the police from early yesterday afternoon until late last night.

The name of the other girl, brought to headquarters in an automobile, and who also is supposed to have given important information relative to Sunday night's sextuple murder, will not be given out by the police at this time. To do so, they saw, would seriously hamper them in working out new theories that have developed after hours of questioning the young woman.

Helen Young and the other girl, however, have made statements which the authorities say throw an entirely new light on the murder mystery and clears up a number of perplexing points in the case.

That the girls taken in charge yesterday know much more about certain incidents and conditions leading up to the tragedy that the police are willing to make public, was also admitted. The police say they have a strong clue that so far as it has been run out, looks promising, but they refuse to give out a description of the suspects.

Remark Overhead Monday.

The remark of a man. "We've killed 'em," according to the girl at police headquarters yesterday, was made early Monday evening in the northern part of the city.

This was the day following the murder, if the crime was committed Sunday night, as is believed, and a day and a half before the six bodies were discovered.

Who is the man, and is he still in Colorado Springs, mingling with persons on the streets and laughing at the lines being laid to trap him? Is he a foreigner and an accomplice of Tony Donatel, the Italian, who is being held at the county jail as a suspect, and where can he be found?

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

These are some of the conundrums the police spent yesterday and last night trying to solve. The girl in the case, whose first name is May, declares that she will be able to identify the man whose statement: "We've killed 'em," tends to establish, the police believe, the identity of the murderer.

She does not think the speaker was Donatel, yet there are features surrounding his case that are considered suspicious enough to warrant his further detention for the present at least. Theories that the murderer had an accomplice are also advanced in view of the fragment of conversation overheard early Monday evening.

The May girl's story told to the police yesterday furnished the brightest ray in the murder mystery, and it is thought that aid in learning the name of the man with whom it is said that Wayne quarreled late Sunday afternoon, a few hours before the sixfold crime.

Quarrel Admitted.

It is admitted that such a quarrel took place in Wayne's yard and but a few steps distant from the Burnham home. The girl, while not knowing the name of the man, will be able to identify him if he can be found and be brought before her. Details of the quarrel, it is said, are not known at present, but it is claimed that threats passed between the two men and that they parted in anger.

Wayne, it is hinted, threatened an expose of someone, now presumed to be the murderer, and the latter, reasoning on the line that dead men tell no tales, decide to kill him. Mrs. Burnham figures in this phase of the case to the extent that she is supposed to have been aware of the bitterness between Wayne and his enemy, that she sided with Wayne and in turn threatened to turn informer against the foe of Wayne should he carry out his alleged threats.

The police practically are united now in the belief that Sunday night's crime was committed solely out of revenge. They decline to state, however, why or how they have arrived at that conclusion.

While neither of the girls taken in charge yesterday and last night was spent in running down clues, seeking to establish the identity of the man whose remark has sent the police on an entirely different tract, other evidence that may have a bearing on the Dale street tragedy was gathered.

More Stained Clothing.

The sheriff's office found a bundle of apparently blood-stained clothing northwest of the city on the road to the Modern Woodmen sanatorium. The garments consisted of overalls, shirt, shoes, hat and a handkerchief. They bore a number of stains, which will be treated to determine whether they were caused by blood.

Deputy Sheriff Compton brought the clothing to the city, and later turned it over to the police. At headquarters last night the authorities expressed the opinion that little importance is attached to the discovery. The discarded clothes were worn and apparently had been tossed one side of the road as of no further use to the owner. No especial attempt had been made to hide them, although they were partly concealed by rocks.

In the absence of the city chemist, tests of supposed blood spots on various articles of wearing apparel that have been turned in to the police, including Burnham's shirt and effects belonging to Donatel, have not been made.

James Maguire, arrested in Colorado City Wednesday night, on a charge of drunkenness and resisting an officer, has not furnished the police with any information that would assist in the murder mystery. Maguire was detained at the county jail as a witness when it became known that he was formerly employed at the Modern Woodmen home, and with the idea that he might throw some light on the case.

Another Suspect.

Still another suspect, for whom both the police and the sheriff's office are looking, is described by Mrs. Susan Stanford, 829 North Pine Street. And Mrs. Vera Bradshaw, 318 Nichols Court. He is clean-shaven, dark complexioned, and about five feet nine inches tall. His weight is given as 175 pounds, and when seen in the neighborhood of the Wayne and Burnham homes, two weeks ago, wore a gray suit and black, broad-brimmed hat. He is about 30-years-old.

Whether he is the man who is said to have quarreled with Wayne a short time before the murder has not been established. Attention was attracted to him because of his peculiar actions, which caused a score of women to band together and drive him from the neighborhood.

Women regarded the man as insane and a degenerate, and he was driven away with clubs and stones. The police attach considerable importance to Mrs. Stanford's story, and efforts are being made to locate the man.

With the discovery of new clues, yesterday, Tony Donatel, the Italian suspect in the county jail, did not receive much attention. He could not be shaken in his statements that he knew nothing about the murder, and declared that he has done nothing that will not bear investigation.

Admits Donatel's Affection.

June Ruth, brother-in-law of the murdered woman, admitted yesterday that Donatel cherished an affection for Mrs. Burnham, and that he had heard the Italian declare that "May had no business to marry Burnham."

C. Marshall, the Golden Cycle workman, who saw a man loitering around the Wayne and Burnham homes after midnight, Sunday, told officers yesterday that the man he saw resembled Burnham. He wore a light hat, Marshall said, and also had a small mustache.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

In checking up Wayne, yesterday, the police learned that he was his wife's second husband. He was at the Woodmen Sanatorium and became acquainted with Burnham several months before he sent for his wife and baby, back in Indiana. Efforts are being made to obtain a trace of Mrs. Wayne's first husband, on the theory that he may know something of the crime or be able to tell of enemies of the Wayne family.

Reports yesterday that Wayne was an occasional gambler to the extent of indulging frequently in card-playing, could not be confirmed by the police. The gambling theory is advanced as a possible explanation of the fact that a few days before his death Wayne deposited \$45 in the Colorado Savings Bank. This sum, Mrs. Wayne is said to have told neighbors, was received from the sale of furniture.

Saturday, September 23, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 2

Posse to Search for Murderer in Foothills Today

A posse of eight men, working under the direction of Sheriff Birdsall, will leave Colorado Springs early this morning for a tour of the foothills, looking for the murderer or murderers of the Wayne and Burnham families. This was the step decided upon at a joint conference of the county commissioners, Sheriff Birdsall and M.W. Purcell, assistant district attorney, yesterday afternoon.

The men will be equipped with guns and plenty of ammunition. They will take horses with them and be prepared to spend the day and night in the woods, until they have searched the hills thoroughly.

"While it may be a wild goose chase," County Commissioner Hutchinson said, "still we would not be satisfied that we had done our full duty until we had made the search."

Saturday, September 23, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 5

BURNHAM EXPECTS TO BE FREE TODAY

Says He Will Do All in His Power to Aid in Tracking the Murderer

Arthur J. Burnham, held in the county jail on suspicion of being the Dale Street murderer, experienced keen disappointment last night when he learned that he was not to be liberated.

Early in the day Burnham believed that his discharge from custody was but a matter of a few hours, but he watched the minutes and hours slip by without the welcoming sound of the jailer's key at his cell.

At police headquarters in the afternoon the immediate discharge of Burnham was recommended, but in a conference between police and sheriff's office men it was subsequently decided to hold him for another night at least.

Acting Chief of Police Himebaugh was one of those who believed that Burnham should be liberated on the theory that he is not the man wanted for the crime.

Burnham, although deeply disappointed last evening when he learned officially that he was not to be given his freedom, was in excellent spirits.

He was brighter, more talkative and more interested in the case, apparently, than he has been at any other time. More than that, he welcomes the arrival of Superintendent Seymour of the Thiel Detective Agency, Denver, who will make Bertillon measurements of Burnham's finger prints.

Says Will Assist Officers.

"I will be glad when the expert arrives," said Burnham, "and will do all I can to assist in solving the murder mystery."

"No, I do not feel angry or revengeful toward Tony Donatel," he said, in reply to a question. "I do not hold anything against him, and I do not believe that he is guilty of the murders."

"Neither do I fear for my own life as a result of what the authorities may secure in the way of information as to the guilty man. I simply know that I am innocent -- that is enough. I did not kill anyone -- I could not do it -- and I am satisfied to let the law take its course. I have always chosen good companions and my friends are good people. Even after I am liberated I will report to the sheriff or to the police every day, if they so desire. I have nothing to hide and want to help the officers all I can."

Burnham brightened perceptibly when talking about himself and the tragedy, and he confidently expects to be given his freedom this morning as soon as the Bertillon expert make his tests.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

He sleeps well and spends much of his time reading the newspapers telling of the progress being made in solving the Dale Street tragedy.

Saturday, September 23, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 6

WILL ACT IF OFFICERS FAIL

Citizens Criticize Indifference City and County Regarding Murder Case PROMISE BIG REWARD FUND Gazette and Many Others in Line Unless Council and Commissioners Get Busy

Much criticism is being expressed by the citizens of Colorado Springs because of the fact that no reward has been offered by either the city council or the county commissioners for the arrest, information or evidence which would lead to the conviction of the perpetrator or perpetrators of the wholesale murder which has set the people of this city agog with amazement and shame that such a crime could have happened in this city.

That the council and the county commissioners have let three days pass without offering any special inducement, or having employed expert aid, for the capture of fiend or fiends, has aroused a feeling of resentment among many of the better element of this city.

Credit is given the police and sheriff's department for the work they have done on the case, but the general sentiment is that this mystery is one of such vast depth that the highest talent in the country should be secured to track down the criminal, and that such help should be employed immediately or a suitable reward should be held out without delay in order to attract it.

The county commissioners stated yesterday that they can offer no reward, nor can they employ expert detectives, because of lack of funds, and presumably for the same reason, the city has taken no action in connection with a reward. The local police and sheriff's force alone are trying to solve the criminal mystery which is baffling every attempt.

So far only \$100 has been published as a reward. Sheriff Birdsall has volunteered that amount from his personal funds and not as a reward offered by the county.

Citizens Ready to Donate.

Many prominent men of the city, among them former Mayor Henry C. Hall, R.L. Holland, James F. Burns, E.P. Shove, George Rex Buckman and others, last night declared that they cannot understand the attitude of the city and county officials and that in the name of public decency they will contribute to a fund today in case the authorities fail to take immediate action. It is the general opinion that this is a thing to be taken care of by the city and county, but these men and others are, prepared to contribute to a fund today if no action is taken, and The Gazette will lead the list with \$100. Said Mr. Hall last night:

"It is astounding that no reward has been offered. The city and county officials who have the matter in charge should not have lost a moment in offering large sums for the capture of the perpetrator of this most atrocious crime. I am ready to contribute \$100 to a fund to be included in a reward or to be used in the employment of expert detectives. If this happened under my administration, my first action would be to offer \$1,000 reward."

Attorney Rush L. Holland said:

"I think this matter calls for immediate attention and that the city and county authorities should raise the necessary money to come out of the general tax fund. In case they refuse to do so, however, the situation is such that private citizens are under an obligation to act at once, and I shall be glad and anxious to contribute to The Gazette's fund in this event."

Said James F. Burns:

"I think it is a disgrace that nothing has been done in this matter and I stand prepared to do my share in aiding whatever steps it is the consensus of opinion are best."

Hundreds of dollars are pledged to The Gazette Fund, which will be available for immediate use this afternoon if the authorities, by failing to act, compel private citizens to take the matter into their own hands.

Saturday, September 23, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 3, Column 3

SHERIFF TO GIVE \$100 FOR CAPTURE MURDERER

Sheriff George Birdsall yesterday announced that he will pay a reward of \$100 leading to the discovery of the person or persons who committed the Dale Street murders last Sunday night.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

The sheriff makes the offer personally and separate from any similar reward that subsequently may be announced by the county.

"I wish I could make it larger amount," he said yesterday, "for naturally the greater amount offered, the greater incentive for outsiders to help clear up the mystery."

The proposal of the county commissioners to send a posse into the surrounding hills to search for a supposed maniac, as the murderer, has not yet been carried out. It is believed by the authorities that little, if anything, would result from such a move.

Saturday, September 23, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 4

BERTILLON EXPERT BEGINS WORK TODAY

Superintendent Seymour of Thiel Detective Agency, Denver, Arrives in This City

Five minutes work this morning by Superintendent Seymour of Denver, the Bertillon expert, who has been called into the murder mystery, will determine in large measure the guilt or innocence of Arthur J. Burnham and Tony Donatel. Seymour reached Colorado Springs last evening, too late to make his tests under the most favorable conditions.

This morning he will go to the Burnham and Wayne homes and make Bertillon prints of the hundreds of finger and thumb marks that he will find on the window sills, doors, chairs, tables, walls -- and, in fact, wherever it is considered probable that a finger has touched. No ink prints will be taken, contrary to the popular understanding, since clear prints are better.

From the home of the two murdered families the expert will go to the county jail, where he will take impressions from the hands of Burnham and Donatel.

The suspects will place their finger and thumb tips on a smooth board, or similar substance. Seymour will sprinkle a dash of fine, white powder away with a camel's hair brush.

In less time than it takes to tell it, imprints of every line of the finger tips will lay before the expert of the Bertillon system tens of thousands of thumb marks have been made and examined, and there is a distinguishable difference between every one.

It matters not whether a hand touches a window sill or a table lightly or heavily; whether the contact was made yesterday or a month ago, the Bertillon operator sprinkles his powder on the suspected spot, whisks it away with his brush and an imprint is secured that is more accurate for absolute identification purposes than a photograph.

And it is this expert of the Bertillon system, Seymour, whom Burnham declared yesterday he would welcome to his cell, for it is the result of the tests that Burnham looks to bring about his freedom.

With the arrival of Seymour there is much speculation as to what his examinations today will show. If he finds an imprint of Burnham's fingers on the window sill, what Burnham say? If he does not, Burnham confidently expects to be discharged from custody without further delay.

The same is true in the case of Donatel.

Saturday, September 23, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 4

PITIFUL STORY TOLD BY MRS. JUNE RUTH

**Had Planned to Take John Burnham
Home With Her Sunday Night,
but Child Was Top Sleepy**

A pitiful story is told by Mrs. June Ruth, sister of the murdered Burnham woman. It is the story of a 2-year-old boy who would be alive today but for the juvenile faculty of sound sleep.

Mrs. Ruth had visited her sister that night before the murder and had remained at the Burnham home until about 9 o'clock. She planned to take John, the little Burnham boy, to her mother's home for the night. The lad wanted to go, and Mrs. Burnham had consented. But the two women sat and talked far into the evening, and the little boy grew drowsy. Finally, Mrs. Ruth arose and said:

"Well, I guess we must be going, Johnny."

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Boy Too Sleepy to Go Away.

The boy, who had been lying on his mother's lap, stirred a little and seemed about to arise, when slumber overpowered him and he sank back against his mother's breast again.

"Guess you better not try to take him with you tonight," said Mrs. Burnham. "He is so sleepy he will be a bother to you on the way."

Then, as an after-thought, half jesting, Mrs. Burnham added:

"I guess he is safer with his mother anyway, ain't you Johnny?" And Johnny had nodded sleepily.

Later in that evening, when Johnny was sleeping beside his mother, a man with an ax entered the bedroom and crushed his skull.

Mrs. Ruth wept as she told the story.

Saturday, September 23, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 5

A.J. BURNHAM IS RELEASED AND WILL AID OFFICIALS IN SOLVING MYSTERY

Given His Freedom After Fully Satisfying
Sheriff of His Innocence -- News Clews
Being Run Down -- Donatel Held

TWO GIRLS GIVE INFORMATION THAT MAY BE OF VALUE

Unknown Man Is Said to Have Threatened to Kill Wayne.
Finger Print Expert at Work Today Trying
to Shed New Light on Crime

Arthur J. Burnham, the head of one of the families murdered in the Burnham-Wayne tragedy Sunday night, is a free man.

Even the city detectives, who longest held to the theory that he might be guilty, announced this morning that they had abandoned all such idea.

The murderer must be looked for elsewhere.

In future Arthur J. Burnham is free from police surveillance and will do whatever he can to assist in unraveling the deepest mystery that has ever confronted officers of the law in this part of the state.

Detective Seymour, the Bertillon expert from Denver, more as a matter of formality than anything else, this morning took prints of Burnham's hands and immediately afterwards he was released from the sheriff's office, where the prints were taken.

Burnham realizes that he is a man not long destined for this world and said today that he has made up his mind to transfer the \$3,000 life insurance policy which he carries in the Modern Woodmen of America to the two little children of his cousin, E.E. Hartwick, Detroit, Michigan, his nearest living blood relative.

Hartwick has sent a message to the sheriff which has not been made public, but Burnham is looking for a personal message from his cousin today.

The insurance was formerly made out in favor of the murdered Mrs. Burnham.

From the sheriff's office Burnham this afternoon went with his attorney, J.F. Sanford, to the latter's office where he was greeted by his brother-in-law, June Ruth, and a number of friends. He talked freely to a representative of The Herald-Telegraph of his experiences of this week.

Does Not Blame Officers.

"Surely no man has been called on to bear more than I have borne this week," he said, while the tears coursed down his cheeks and his voice broke in sobs. "Under the circumstances I cannot blame the officers of the law that keeping me in custody and the fact that I have nothing left in this world to care for has enabled me to bear it with calmness. Sheriff Birdsall and his officers at the jail have been most kind and considerate as far as the circumstances have permitted and I feel very grateful to Birdsall for the consideration shown. I think it did not take him long to feel satisfied of my innocence but he realized that there was no great harm in holding me for a few days. In fact, I was just about as well there as anywhere else. I also want to thank all my friends who have believed in my innocence for the knowledge of their sympathy has helped me very much.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Asked if he knew anything in the history of the Wayne and Burnham families that would lead to the suspicion that either had a secret enemy, Burnham said:

Has Told All He Knows.

"I do not think I or my wife had an enemy in the world, and as for the Wayne family I knew very little about them. I had seen Wayne once in a while when he was a patient in the sanatorium and used to go about the grounds taking pictures, just as I ??? plenty of others, but at that time I did not know his name and recall him only by sight. When my vacation time came in August, Decker, the chef, brought Wayne to me to take my place peeling potatoes, and I talked with him about five minutes, telling him of my duties. Then I left on my vacation and Wayne held the job only three days and went east to bring back his family. In the meantime, I got back to work and sometime after Wayne called me on the telephone to ask me about a vacant house to rent, which it seems he had heard me mention. I did not recognize his voice but when he told me his name I recalled him and told me his name I recalled him and told him of the houses near my place, which I thought were cheap, as I was only paying \$6 a month rent. A few days afterwards he called me again and said he had his family in the house in the rear of my place.

Only Slightly Acquainted.

"The next time I saw him was for a few minutes on the Wednesday afternoon I was at home for the last time before the murder, and we talked for about 20 minutes, mainly about trivial matters and the sanatorium. The only time I ever saw Mrs. Wayne was just before I left that afternoon when the Wayne baby wandered over to our place and the mother came after it. At supper I expressed wonder to my wife as to how Wayne could keep his family without working as he did not seem to be looking for work and lay around doing nothing 'I know I can't do it,' I said to May. I told this to officers and they took it for granted that I had been curious about Wayne's finances with the purpose of robbing him.

"I asked my wife if she knew Mrs. Wayne and she said she had met her and she seemed to be a very nice woman.

"Now that gives a good idea of the relations between my family and the Waynes. If Wayne was a gambler or had enemies I do not know it and would not reasonably know it, in view of our slight acquaintance and the brief residence of the family there."

Heard Threats to Kill.

The officers have obtained information from some source to the effect that Wayne and some unknown man had a violent quarrel Sunday afternoon in the vicinity of the Wayne home and that the unknown man made this threat:

"If you do not pay me, I will kill you and your family too."

This information came from a young girl, Mary Whitesel, and her chum, Helen Young, yesterday afternoon, and last night they called on Mrs. Ruth to substantiate the story, thinking that she had been at the Burnham home all afternoon, which was not the case, as she arrived there about 6:30 o'clock. Mrs. Ruth says that if Mrs. Burnham overheard any such a quarrel, she said nothing about it, and might never have taken notice of it, as she was deeply interested in reading a novel that afternoon and told her sister all the story that evening. The officers believe that the unknown man may have quarreled with Wayne about a gambling debt, for the officers have been informed that somebody heard Wayne threaten to expose the stranger.

The theory that the officers are working on is that Wayne and the man quarreled over a gambling debt, the stranger made such threats in such a manner as to be easily overheard by neighbors, and that when he came to kill the Waynes he determined to exterminate the ones whom he may have believed to be the only witnesses that could appear against him. This is the one theory that the officers are working on today and little importance is attached to Tony Donatel's connection with the family. In fact, the officers are morally satisfied that he was not the author of the horrible crime, but he is being held in the county jail more as a blind than anything else.

Saturday, September 23, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 6

DONATEL ONCE FINED FOR ASSAULTING BOY

Was Assessed \$10 and Costs on April 13, 1905, for Striking 7-Year-Old Lad

Tony Donatel was fined \$10 and costs, amounting to \$50.35, in Justice W.N. Ruby's court, April 13, 1905, for assaulting a 7-year-old boy.

Herbert Beay, it was alleged, had fastened a ticktack, on the door of the Hill home while Donatel was visiting there. Donatel rushed out of the house and hit the lad on the head. He was found guilty by a jury. The warrant was issued from Justice Dunnington's court April 7, and the case went to Justice Ruby's court on a change of venue.

On May 2, 1905, Arthur J. Burnham, Mrs. Emma Hill and John Sorrick were arrested on a warrant from Justice Dunnington's court. They were charged by Mrs. Anna Farrell with malicious mischief. Mrs. Farrell claimed that they had torn screens from her house, smashed down her fence and annoyed her generally. It is said that she also made other allegations concerning

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

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Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

alleged happenings in the Hill home, but these could not be substantiated. In Justice Ruby's court May 11, 1905, they were acquitted.

Mrs. Farrell says that in order to get her two sons from under the influence of the Hills, she told the officers that Michael (her younger son) was a deserter from the navy and had him went to jail for six months.

Saturday, September 23, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 4

COUNTY WANTS TO GIVE REWARD

Will Do so if Someone Will Guarantee It -- Movement to This End Is on Foot

SHERIFF TO HIRE HELP

Birdsall Is Given Free Rein by the Commissioners and Will Not Spare Expense

Sheriff George Birdsall this morning was urged by Commissioner Harry Hutchinson to employ outside help in solving the murder mystery. He was given carte blanche in the matter of employing detectives and special officers.

"Forget the expense," was Hutchinson's order. "If you think you need more men, wire the Pinkertons or any other detective agency in the country. Whatever you do will be all right with us. Only do not let a little question of expense stand in the way of solving this mystery."

"If the business men of the town or the banks or business firms or private citizens will guarantee the reward we will offer at least \$2,000 at once for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for that horrible crime. Our hands are tied unless someone will guarantee the reward. Any citizen of the county could come in and prevent the payment of a reward offered. But if the reward guaranteed by subscription, and no opposition develops, the man guaranteeing it will have no expense to bear."

County Attorney W.L. Strachan made the following statement:

Strachan's Views.

"The county commissioners cannot pay a reward if any taxpayer objects. Therefore, it is up to private citizens to guarantee the reward which the commissioners are anxious to make. At the time of the Bessie Boughton mystery a reward of \$2,000 was offered and was guaranteed by 20 of the leading citizens and firms of the county. The commissioners are anxious to offer this reward as quickly as possible but it is up to someone to guarantee this reward. They want to give at least \$2,000 and possibly more."

All over the city the suggestion is being made that there should be a more systematic search. Sheriff George Birdsall is suggested by many as the logical man to direct the work, with the police working under his orders as well as the deputy sheriffs. Instead of having several men trailing one another on one clew, each man could be running down a clew. Every man would report and take his orders from Birdsall who, would remain at headquarters and keep in touch with every man. Everyone appreciates the difficulties which must be overcome in unraveling a case as mysterious as this and much commendation is heard for the hard work which the officers are doing. The police department is without a regular chief and in such an emergency as this the people feel that the police and sheriff's office should cooperate to the utmost.

Former Mayor Henry C. Hall, attorney R.L. Holland, James F. Burns, E.P. Shove, George Rex Buckman and others have expressed a willingness to raise a fund for reward. It is likely that some arrangement will be made this afternoon for guarantee so that the county can offer a reward.

City May Act Monday.

The city council probably will offer a reward of \$500 or more on Monday.

"We discussed the reward proposition yesterday afternoon," said Mayor H.F. Avery today, "and all but Commissioner Himebaugh of the department of public safety favored it. He did not think it necessary. I do not believe that the council has a legal right to spend money for a reward if any taxpayer opposes it, but I am willing to take a chance for the people are so wrought up over the murder that they expect us to offer a reward. Personally, I believe it would be better to hire some good outside detective."

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Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
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Blanche Wayne
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Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Expert Making Examination Finger Prints; May Give Clew

Officer Seymour of the Thiel Detective agency of Denver, took prints of "Tony" Donatel's fingers by the Bertillon system at the county jail today and at noon went to the scene of the two murders to take copies of the finger prints on a washtub at the Burnham home and others which the officers think may be of some importance. The process of taking these will not be until late this afternoon that Seymour will be ready to compare the prints secured with those taken of the fingers of the only two men who have been arrested. So far as Burnham is concerned, he is absolutely eliminated from the problem, and contributing circumstances lead to the belief that the officers have little if any suspicion of Donatel, but the prints of the finger marks at the houses will be valuable nevertheless, as the expert will be able to determine something as to the characteristics of the man who left the prints. Thus, for example, the prints left by the fingers of a man engaged at rough outdoor labor are totally different from those left by the fingers of a professional gambler or by a man engaged at clerical work. Even occupations may be determined in many such cases, to such a fine extent has this art been carried. In one famous criminal case in New York, as was recalled by an officer today, a murder mystery was solved by the ability of a Bertillon expert to determine from a finger mark left by the criminal that the man was a house painter. The clew led to the arrest and confession of the criminal.

The following articles, all bearing finger prints, were taken from the homes of the Burnhams and the Waynes by Seymour to the chief's office at police headquarters, where they are being examined this afternoon: A bottle partly filled with liquid shoe polish which the murderer had knocked off a window sill in the Burnham house and which, it appears, he picked up and replaced after part of the contents had been spilled; a towel, two kerosene lamps, a board from the corner of the Burnham house on which appears the imprint of a human hand, and several smaller articles.

A New Feature.

When shown the position of the bodies and the condition of the beds, Seymour expressed the opinion that the murderer might have been left-handed. This is a new feature, not suggested before.

Over the finger prints the detective will spread a preparation of chalk and mercury and transfer these impressions to paper. These will be compared to the finger and hand prints of Burnham and Donatel which were taken at the county jail today before the release of Burnham.

By the arrival of Seymour on the scene fresh interest in the case has been manifested by local officers. Other outside detectives are expected today.

Bloody Clothing Found.

The discovery yesterday afternoon of a bundle of clothing, including a bloody handkerchief, thrown over a bridge crossing a ravine on the road to the Modern Woodmen sanatorium, about three miles from the city, caused an hour of excitement among the officers but revealed nothing. The clothing, which was found by a passerby who reported to the police, was brought to the station last evening by Railsback and Burno, who went out in an automobile. The blood on the handkerchief was undoubtedly caused from nose bleed such as commonly attacks a consumptive. The condition of the overalls indicated that they had been considerably worn by a working man at rough labor, and a white cotton shirt was torn on the back about the shoulders as though it had been caught in a barb wire fence. In addition, there was a pair of boys' shoes and a square cotton cloth which many people make out of a small flour sack.

Carries Little Weight.

There is nothing to show that all the clothes were discarded by the same party and although there is blood on the handkerchief and ink stains on the cotton cloth, the officers attach little importance to the discovery. They are positive that the blood stains on the handkerchief came from nose bleed and believe that it was discarded by some consumptive sanatorium patient, many of whom pass over the road weekly and many of whom are subject to sudden nose bleed. The boy's shoes are worn to an extent as to render them worthless and any one of a hundred persons on their way to or from the sanatorium may have discarded the overalls. The clothes were not found in a connected bundle, but were lying close together at the bottom of a ravine. A laundry mark on the shirt showed that name "Hall." A pair of white cotton socks corresponding in size to the shoes, and badly worn, were also in the collection picked up.

The clothes are being held at the police station as a possible clew in case of future developments, but at present they mean practically nothing in the theoretical chains that the officers are considering.

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MORRISON DID NOT SEE SUSPECT'S FEATURES

Homicide

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Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

W.C. Morrison, who yesterday gave the detectives the description of a man whom he saw within half a block of the Burnham home shortly after midnight Monday morning, says the published report of his description is incorrect in that it states that he described the man's features.

"I did not see the man's face and therefore could not describe his features," said Morrison. "His hat was pulled down over his face and he was not close enough to me for me to get a view of his features if his hat had not hidden them. I do not want to be put in the light of giving details that I know nothing at all about."

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Many Letters Found but Give No Aid

A letter to J.A. Hill, father of Mrs. Burnham, dated Ellis, Kansas, January 7, 1905, and signed "Mrs. Hattie Mossholder," was found at the Burnham home yesterday. The tenor of the letter indicates that the writer was in love with Hill, who was at that time in Colorado Springs.

Another letter without a date line or address except "1411 Walnut street" and signed Edna B.," was also found addressed "J.A. Hill." It indicates that Hill was at that time in Salt Lake City and that the writer had just left Colorado Springs after a visit here. Its tenor is along the same endearing terms used by Mrs. Moss holder, but the name "Edna B." does not indicate that it was written by the same person.

These and a number of other letters found indicate that Hill was on friendly terms with women other than his wife but nothing in the correspondence found reveals anything that might have any bearing on the tragedy. The only strange thing about the discovery is that such letters should be in the hands of Mrs. Burnham, but it is possible that, being her father's favorite daughter, he committed them to her care along with other matters of a personal nature and the daughter may have concealed them from her mother or may have been holding them from her to be used in the divorce suit which she is threatening to bring.

J.A. Hill, the father, has not been in this city for three years, and is supposed to be in old Mexico.

"I sent a telegram to Mrs. Hill as soon as I learned about the murders," said June Ruth, husband of one of Hill's daughters. "I have received no answer as yet."

Ruth said that he was unable to explain the letters written to Hill. Mrs. Ruth and her mother, Mrs. Emma B. Hill, had left their home and could not be located.

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Modern Woodmen to Offer a Reward

Modern Woodmen of America, members of Camp No. 7226, will hold a special meeting in M.W.A. hall tonight at 8 o'clock to consider the advisability of offering a reward for the solution of the murder of the Wayne and Burnham families. Wayne was a member of the local camp, his card having been accepted three weeks ago last Wednesday night. Burnham had been a member of the camp for some time.

Tonight's meeting is called by C.A. Howland, consul, and all members are urged to attend. The size of the reward has not yet been considered but it is practically certain that some reward will be offered.

Saturday, September 23, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 3, Column 6

NO DEVELOPMENTS LATE THIS AFTERNOON

Officers No Nearer Solution -- Case Against Donatel Is Growing Weaker

At 3 o'clock this afternoon the officers were as far as ever from having any tangible clew to the perpetrator of the Burnham-Wayne murders and Sheriff George Birdsall admitted that "the case is a blank sheet, so far as a solution is concerned."

"Burnham is out of the equation," said Birdsall, "we have nothing tangible against Donatel and the new story told by the Young and Whitesel girls of Wayne having had a quarrel with a strange man who threatened his life, is utterly unsubstantiated

Homicide

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SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

and I believe is worthless. We have been unable to find anything tending to show that Wayne had been participating in gambling games which it was supposed might have explained the alleged quarrel and, in fact, we are as far as ever from getting anything that will satisfactorily explain the tragedy or point to the perpetrator."

"I cannot believe that Donatel is the guilty man from what I know of him," said Arthur Burnham today, "but I cannot imagine anything to explain the murders in any way."

Burnham is staying with his mother-in-law, Mrs. Hill, and today is trying to get his home affairs straightened out. He put in a request to the sheriff's office through his attorney for the property which the officers have had in their charge but this is a matter of legal formality and the officers will be permitted to retain without question such things as they may wish as long as they deem necessary.

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GET SOME DETECTIVES

Whatever will best accomplish the purpose of bringing to justice the criminals who committed the wholesale murder in this city should be done and done at once.

It may be by means of a large reward to inspire various individuals and detectives from abroad to come into the field. But the city and county should not hesitate to secure the very best possible detective talent and put it at work to solve this mystery.

This community cannot afford to rest under the stigma of carelessness or indifference when six of its residents have been murdered in their beds. It should not be a matter of money; it is a matter of running down the perpetrators of this unparalleled crime, of bringing them to justice, no matter what the cost.

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TO WORK ALONG NEW LINES IN MAN HUNT

Authorities Decide on Different Procedure, and Practically Abandon

Former Theories in Baffling Mystery

WHO QUARRELED WITH WAYNE?

Broker, a Former Butcher, Said to Have Threatened Trouble if Dead Man Did

Not Pay Money Alleged Due on Stock Transaction -- City and County Officers Join Forces

Under Leadership of Sheriff Birdsall

Yesterday the authorities discarded practically every theory along which they have been working in the Dale Street murder mystery, and in the afternoon started out in a series of investigations along an entirely new line.

That the crimes were committed by a pervert and that the motive was revenge in the case of Wayne's murder and self-protection in the case of Mrs. Burnham, to prevent her from informing against him after the Wayne murder, is the line of reasoning that will be run out.

The name of the man who quarreled with Wayne last Sunday afternoon is known to the authorities, and search is being made for him in every part of the city. This man, it is said, was formerly a butcher. He also is known as one who gambles, it is said, and one who recently has been a sort of promoter and seller of stocks. His arrest is expected at any time.

It is claimed that the butcher-broker and the man with whom Wayne had a quarrel last Sunday afternoon are one and the same, and that the argument arose over a stock deal in which Wayne believed he received the worst of it.

Wayne, the authorities are in a position to state, had paid the man about \$400 for stock he was selling and there was still a balance due of some \$300. It is understood that Wayne believing he was not getting value received for his money, refused to pay the remainder due on the stock and that the quarrel was over that transaction.

Woman Overheard Quarrel.

Sarah Marshall, colored, overheard a part of the quarrel, and, it is said, heard the man, whose name is withheld, tell Wayne that he would get his money or there would be trouble. She believes she will be able to identify the man who is credited with making the above threat to Wayne shortly before the former was killed. The suspect is about 42- years-old.

There was a sudden change decided upon yesterday regarding the methods to be pursued in running down the Dale Street murderer. At a conference at police headquarters it was decided to turn the case over to the sheriff's office, and from today on the man hunt will be directed by Sheriff Birdsall.

Homicide

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SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Acting Chief of Police Himebaugh has detailed Detectives Railsback, Gavin and Pinnock to work with the sheriff and deputies Burno and Compton. In addition, it was announced that the county commissioners have secured the services of a Denver detective, who will be here this morning. It is said also that another plainclothes man may arrive later in the day.

Detective Tim O'Leary of the Santa Fe detective force was in the city yesterday, but only for consultation purposes. It is believed that with the city and county authorities working together and under one head, there will be less confusion and better results will be accomplished.

Suggested by Purcell.

District Attorney Purcell, who has been devoting a great deal of his time to the case, suggested the combination of city and county forces to Commissioner Himebaugh, and all who have been working on the murder, feel that the move will be productive of results.

It was felt at the conference of officials that the local forces have been doing everything in their power to strike a warm trail, but that they will be able to make more progress not only with a combination of forces, but also with outside detectives here to offer new suggestions and to work out new theories.

What the Wayne family was slain first and that Mrs. Burnham and her children had not retired at the time of the crime, is another theory advanced yesterday.

It also is the general opinion of the authorities that the crimes were committed early Sunday night probably between 10 and 11 o'clock.

"Rumors current yesterday that the ax was found at the Burnham house and not at the Wayne's door, were confirmed last night. The weapon was picked up just outside Burnham's window. It was established yesterday that the murderer stopped long enough in the Burnham house to wash his hands after the last of his victims had been killed.

Blood on Mirror.

Spotches of blood were found on a small mirror over the washstand in the Burnham bedroom, which was unoccupied the night of the murder. A place where the murderer laid down his ax near the window, while he washed the stains from his hands and face, was also discovered through bloody marks on the floor.

While the Bertillon measurements of Tony Donatel's finger prints yesterday did not furnish any clue pointing to him as the murderer, District Attorney Purcell has decided, it is said, to hold him for some time yet. The authorities are not satisfied that Donatel knows nothing of the crime.

It is pointed out that the man's mind has twice become a blank -- once when his wife ran away from him, and on another occasion about a year ago when he was investigated as to his sanity. It is suggested that he may have suffered another mental lapse and that he knows nothing about last Sunday night's tragedy and still may be guilty.

Six years ago Donatel was fined \$10 and costs, amounting to \$50.35, in Justice Ruby's court, for assaulting Herbert Seay, a 7-year-old boy. The boy, it was said, fastened a ticktack on the door of the Hill home while Donatel was there and the latter rushed out and assaulted him.

There will be no inquest tomorrow, and the coroner's jury will not report until there are some developments in the case. District Attorney Purcell is of the opinion that an inquest at this time would practically be of no value, in view of the lack of evidence, and that there is no necessity of putting the county to the expense of having the jury serve from day to day pending developments of a definite character.

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Burnham Released; Bertillon Test Favors Both Suspects

"You must look elsewhere for the murderer. I am innocent of the crime."

The declaration, made by Arthur J. Burnham an hour after his arrest last Wednesday afternoon on suspicion of being implicated in the sextuple slaughter on Dale Street Sunday night, was yesterday accepted by the police as the truth, and Burnham was discharged from custody shortly before noon.

Prior to being given his freedom Bertillon measurements were made of Burnham's finger tips and compared with impressions secured at the Burnham and Wayne homes from articles which it is supposed were handled by the murderer. These included a bottle of shoe polish that had been overturned by the criminal near the window from which he left the Burnham home, two kerosene lamps, a towel and numerous small articles in both houses.

None of these finger prints were made by Burnham or Donatel, the authorities say, and while it was practically assured that Burnham would be released yesterday, the failure of the Bertillon test to connect him with the crime convinced the authorities that there was no reason to keep him in jail any longer.

Homicide

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SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Neither has anything been brought out that would go to show that Donatel was a recent visitor at the home either of Burnham or Wayne. None of the finger marks corresponded to those taken at the county jail of the Italian's finger tips, but the authorities are not yet ready to discharge him from custody.

At Home of Mother-in-Law.

Burnham was found at the home of his mother-in-law, Mrs. John A. Hill, 931 South Sierra Madre Street, early in the afternoon by a Gazette reporter. He will remain there today, he said, and probably will return to his work at the Woodmen Sanatorium tomorrow.

"The strain of the last few days has almost been too much for me," Burnham said, as he sat in the yard with Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Ruth close beside him trying to persuade him to take some nourishment.

"I hope to improve in health quickly and I will do everything in my power to help solve this awful tragedy. But I do not know where to begin. I do not know of a single enemy I have in the world; I cannot think of any reason for the crime. It must have been committed by a maniac."

"My wife did not have an enemy that I knew of, and I cannot understand why anyone should kill two families. I knew scarcely anything about Mr. and Mrs. Wayne, although it has been said that Wayne and I were close friends. As a matter of fact, I don't think I ever talked with him more than a few minutes in my life."

"At the sanatorium where he was a patient and where I was working, I would occasionally pass the time of day with him, as I did with others. But I did not know his name even, until a short time ago."

"In August when I had my vacation, the chef at the home brought Wayne into the kitchen, saying that he would take my place peeling potatoes while I was away. Wayne worked there a few days and then went east for his wife and baby.

"I went back to work when my time was up, and a couple of days after that, about August 23, I think, Wayne called up and asked the operator for me. I did not know him by name then and asked who he was. He explained that he had been living at the sanatorium and that he had heard me remark that I lived in a nice little house that did not cost much rent.

How Wayne Moved Next Door.

"He said he wanted to rent a house cheap and I told him that I paid \$6 a month for mine and that there was a house vacant next door. The next time I came in from the sanatorium the Waynes were living in the house. I never knew Mrs. Wayne and only saw her plainly once. That was the day when her baby was over playing with my children and she came after it."

"I never heard it said that Wayne gambled -- in fact I never heard anything about him. My wife told me that she had met Mrs. Wayne and that she seemed to be a nice little woman."

"So far as Tony Donatel is concerned, I do not believe he had a hand in the crimes. I do not hold any grudge against him. My wife told me once that Tony used to be fond of her, but that was long before we were married. There was nothing to suspect about his actions the day I came to the house here and found him attending Mrs. Burnham for a wound she had received on her chest in crawling through a wire fence in the back yard. Tony is a sort of a doctor and frequently attends people, or suggests remedies for sprains and pains."

"I did not know that they had arrested him until I was released this morning, and I was greatly surprised to learn that he is suspected."

"Yes," said Burnham in reply to a question, "I was given the newspapers while I was in jail, but it was so dark in my cell that I could not see to read them. I was treated all right by the authorities and I do not wish to criticize them for detaining me. I know they are doing all they can to solve the mystery, and I will gladly tell them all I know or help them in every way I can."

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NO FEARS FOR REPETITION OF CRIME

**Pinkerton Expert Says Murder Did What He Set to Do -- Gives Views
MOTIVE PROBABLY REVENGE**

Superintendent Detectives Thinks Criminal Sane and of Small Stature -- Begins Work

Elmer E. Prettyman, superintendent of detectives for the Pinkertons at Denver, came to Colorado Springs yesterday on the Dale Street murder mystery, at the instigation of the county commissioners.

His general deductions, after a visit to the Wayne and Burnham homes, were that the crime was not committed by a maniac or by anyone who is likely to repeat his acts. He expressed the opinion that the murderer did what he set out to do, and that fears of a repetition of the slaughter are groundless.

In a preliminary examination and deduction, Mr. Prettyman inclines to the theory, as do also Assistant District Attorney Purcell and other officials working on the case, that the crime was committed by a moral pervert. Mrs. Burnham, it is also believed, was the one particular person whom he wished out of the way.

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SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

"I think the murderer was a man of small build," said the detective, "judging from the size of the openings cut in the window screens. Probably, too, he was a young man."

"No, he wasn't an insane man, not in the accepted meaning of the word. He was far too clever for that. An insane man would have left some clew. He was determined not to get caught, and he left no witnesses.

Sought Mrs. Burnham.

"In my opinion the murderer sought Mrs. Burnham and he entertained no grudge against the Wayne family. He got into the Wayne house by mistake, discovered his error after killing the family, and then went to the Burnham house next door."

"The crime was committed between 10 and 11 o'clock, I should say, judging from the impressions in the pillows. Mrs. Burnham was a large woman and I do not think she had been asleep long before the murderer entered the room. Probably he stunned his victims first, then placed the covers over their heads and beat them to death. This was done to keep the blood from flying over him, but his hands and cuffs were stained. He washed his hands at the sink in the Burnham house."

"The motive was probably one of revenge."

Mr. Prettyman declared that the sextuple murderer was a shrewd man and by no means an ordinary criminal. He expects that a clew will be picked up in a few days and when it is, that the mystery of the whole case will be unraveled like a ball of twine.

He took occasion yesterday to compliment the local authorities who have been at work on the case, and remarked that it is an unusually difficult one to solve.

Another detective from Chicago, who also has been engaged by the county commissioners, is expected to arrive today.

Sunday, September 24, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 6

\$1,000 REWARD OFFERED BY THE CITY Council Authorizes Payment That Sum for Arrest and Conviction Murderer COUNTY OFFICIALS GET BUSY Send for Experienced Detective from Denver -- M.W. Purcell will give \$100

Following the suggestion of The Gazette, Mayor Avery, acting with the consent of the other members of the city council, offers a reward of \$1,000 for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who murdered the Wayne family and three members of the Burnham families, presumably last Sunday night.

The reward, it is thought, together with the action taken by the county commissioners in giving Sheriff Birdsall authority to spare no expense, obviates the necessity of a private subscription being raised among the citizens.

The action of Mayor Avery came at the close of a special informal meeting of the commission yesterday afternoon in the mayor's room. The council will meet tomorrow morning to give formal ratification to the action.

All doubt as to the attitude of the commissioners was swept away by statements made both before and after they had given their official sanction. Since the details of the crime became known, they said, that matter of offering a reward has been thought of and discussed. But there was one point raised in their minds, which acted as a stumbling block. This was: Could the council legally take such action?

As in the case of the county commissioners, City Attorney McKesson, who was called in consultation, said that there is no legal authority for such action. But, regardless of his opinion, the mayor and commissioner's took the action, which in their mind, will fulfill the desire of the citizens in bringing to this city some of the most noted man hunters of the country, and hasten the day when the criminal or criminals will be landed behind the bars.

The reward offered by the mayor and commissioners will be filed immediately with J.A. Himebaugh, commissioner of public safety and acting chief of police.

Copies of the notice will be sent to almost every city in the United States, and placed in the hands of the detectives and officers the notice follows:

Notice of Reward REWARD

To Whom It May Concern:

By authority of the city council of Colorado Springs, Colorado, I hereby offer a reward in the sum of \$1,000 (one thousand dollars), for the arrest and conviction of the party or parties who murdered the Burnham and Wayne families, residing in this city, on or about the seventeenth day of September, 1911. Said reward is to be due and payable upon the final conviction of said party or parties by a court of competent jurisdiction.

"Signed by me at my office this twenty-third day of September, 1911.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

H.F. AVERY, Mayor"

After the meeting, statements were made by the commissioners, in which they were unanimous in the opinion that, "if successful, the \$1,000 reward would be but a drop in the bucket to the obligation that the city would owe to the person or persons who brought about the arrest and conviction of the one who committed the atrocious murders."

"And it is but a small way that we have of showing to the people who have entrusted us with these offices, that we are anxious to give them the peace and feeling of security that they are entitled to," one member said, following the meeting."

The county commissioners signified their willingness to make voluntary subscriptions to a reward, but acting in an official capacity, they said that there is no legal authority for them to offer a reward in the name of El Paso County.

"But we have the authority to see that no expense is spared in bringing the murderer or murderers to justice," said Commissioner Hutchinson, yesterday afternoon, "and we have so notified the sheriff. We have sent for two detectives and have been assured that one will be here today."

Spare No Expense.

"Forget the expense," Hutchinson said to Sheriff Birdsall. "If you think you need more men, wire the Pinkertons or any other detective agency in the country. Whatever you do will be all right with us. Only do not let a little question of expense stand in the way of solving this mystery."

"If the business men of the town or the banks or business firms or private citizens will guarantee the reward we will offer at least \$2,000 at once for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for that horrible crime. Our hands are tied unless someone will guarantee the reward. Any citizen of the county could come in and prevent the payment of a reward offered by us. But if the reward is guaranteed by subscription, and no opposition develops, the man guaranteeing it will have no expense to bear."

County Attorney W.L. Strachan made the following statement:

"The county commissioners cannot pay the reward if any taxpayer objects. Therefore, it is up to private citizens to guarantee the reward which the commissioners are anxious to make. At the time of the Bessie Bouton mystery a reward of \$2,000 was offered and was guaranteed by 20 of the leading citizens and firms of the county. The commissioners are anxious to offer this reward as quickly as possible, but it is up to someone to guarantee this reward. The want to give at least \$2,000, and possibly more."

Purcell Offers \$100.

M.W. Purcell, assistant district attorney, offered a reward of \$100 yesterday. As in the case with Sheriff George Birdsall, Mr. Purcell makes his offer independent of his official capacity. He is taking an active part in running down clues and advancing theories. He declares that the crime is one of the most brutal that has ever come to his attention, and he hopes that the guilty persons may be brought to justice speedily.

This makes a total reward of \$1,200 offered. Sheriff Birdsall offered the first award of \$100, then came the action of the city council.

If necessary to accept public contributions towards a reward fund, it would be hard to fix the total the figures would reach. An intimation of what the citizens of Colorado Springs and vicinity are willing to do in this respect, can best be shown in the number of laboring men who came to The Gazette office last night, and insisted that The Gazette take up the work of raising a fund for reward purposes. Many of these men said that they would be willing to sacrifice half of their month's wages to such a purpose.

I.T.U. Also in Line.

In line with this idea, a letter was received by The Gazette from James M. Lynch, president of the International Typographical Union, acting in his capacity as president of the board of trustees of the Union Printers home, in which he said that the board of trustees had instructed him to subscribe \$100 to the reward fund for the apprehension of the murders.

"This subscription is to be based on the necessity," the letter reads, "for raising such a reward fund as decided by The Gazette and the citizens of Colorado Springs."

At a special meeting of the Modern Woodmen last night it was decided to call another meeting to discuss the question of offering a reward. It was the unanimous opinion of all present that a substantial reward should be offered, but because of a by-law of the order it was impossible to announce the amount which will be given until after the regular meeting of the Woodmen Wednesday night. A.J. Burnham, husband of one of the murdered women, is a member of the fraternity.

Sunday, September 24, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 7

POSSE STARTS SEARCH THIS MORNING

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Eight Armed, Mounted Men to Leave Colorado City by Order County Commissioners SCOUR COUNTRY FOR MANIAC Go on Theory That Crazy Person, at Large, Is Responsible for Murder

Under orders from the county commissioners, a posse of eight men, armed and mounted, will set out from Colorado City early this morning to scour the foothills for a maniac who is believed to be in hiding, and on the theory that it was a crazy man who committed the sextuple murder on West Dale Street a week ago today.

The posse will be made up of men who are not only good horsemen, but good trackers as well.

That the man hunt may result in the capture of one or more maniacs, who have been seen in outlying sections of the city recently, is the belief of those responsible for the organization of the posse. Within the last few weeks more than one story has been brought to the county authorities that demented or queerly acting persons have been seen in different localities closest to Colorado Springs.

George Hunt, a ranchman living near Crystal Park, has reported the presence of a man in his neighborhood who is apparently insane. Hunt said yesterday that he last saw him a week ago. According to the ranchman, the man possessed a mania for axes. The suspect was examined as to his sanity some time ago by the county physician, and subsequently discharged. In his conversations it is said that the man makes frequent use of expressions, "I want an ax," "I did it with an ax," "I'll get an ax" and similar remarks.

Prowler at Roswell.

Along the line of reasoning that the murders were committed by a maniac, a resident of Roswell has informed the authorities that a few days before the crime was committed, he saw someone watching him through the window. The prowler appeared at this man's home on three separate occasions, and the last time he was driven away with a gun by the occupant of the house. He wore practically no clothing, the man from Roswell declares, and ran away in the direction of the foothills north of town. This case also is being investigated closely.

While the theory that the Dale Street murders were committed by a maniac or a pervert is being worked out in certain quarters, another clew whose merits are still of an unknown quantity, was brought into police headquarters yesterday afternoon.

It was along the line of the theory advanced the day before, following half a day's questioning of two young girls said to have overheard a man remark, "We've killed them," that additional investigation was made yesterday on a similar tack.

This followed the receipt of information that Pearl Young, who is the third woman to appear in the murder case heard a man whom she knows as "John" make practically the same boast as that told of by Helen Young and her friend, May Whiteside.

Pearl Young, it is said, admitted to the police yesterday that she was in Stratton Park with John on Monday or Tuesday following the murder. He is said to have told her of an alleged gambling debt due him from Wayne and that he had been unable to collect it. The girl believes that John lives in Ivywild, and by way of giving a description says he is tall and has a mustache.

Police Make Deductions.

The police are now putting two and two together on the theory that the man John and the butcher-broker who is declared to have quarreled with Wayne late Sunday afternoon are one and the same. It is apparent, if the stories told by the three girls are true, that John was in Colorado Springs, after the crime was committed, else he would not have made the remark, "We've killed them." It is also known that the former butcher has been in town since the crime was committed.

Within the last day the authorities have received many suggestions as to how they should proceed in their attempts to solve the Dale Street murder mystery. Letters have been sent in from hypnotists, seers and clairvoyants declaring that if they were placed in jail along with suspects they would soon be able to secure a confession. All they want the senders of the messages declare, is an opportunity to show their posers in ferreting out the crime. As one official expressed it yesterday. "The case has apparently reached the fanatical stage."

The authorities are not the only ones who have received letters of advice. Burnham received two letters of advice. Burnham received two letters from the postman yesterday afternoon while a Gazette reporter was talking with him, and as the light was poor, Burnham asked the latter to read them.

One was from Mrs. C.W. Churchill, Denver, who is editor of a publication known as The Queen Bee. In it Mrs. Churchill expressed her belief in Burnham's innocence and gave it as her opinion that the murderer is a youth. She also advanced the theory that drugs were made use of in the sextuple crime, however, has been given practically no consideration by the authorities from the first.

Burnham's other letter was from his aunt, Mrs. Frank Suerland of Kansas City, in which she expressed great sorrow over Sunday's tragedy and declared her belief in her nephew's innocence.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Denver Police Chief Says Woman May Have Had Hand in Murders

That a woman committed the murders at the Burnham and Wayne residences here a week ago or was an accomplice of the murderer, was a theory advanced by Chief of Police Hamilton Armstrong of Denver this morning after making an examination of the houses.

He said that the motive might be jealousy.

Chief Armstrong arrived here at 10:30 o'clock and was immediately taken to the scene of the crime in an automobile. He was accompanied by J.W. Erb of Denver, assistant superintendent of the Pinkerton's, Detective Charles Railsback and Deputy Sheriff L.D. Compton.

"It is too early to express a final opinion as to what prompted these murders," said Chief Armstrong. "It does not look to me like the work of a degenerate, or an insane man, except that any person or persons who would commit a crime of that nature could not be normal.

"There are several things to bear out the theory that a woman was at the bottom of the whole thing. Yet, I would not commit myself irrevocably to that or any other theory at the present time.

"There are indications that more than one person was in the house, either during or directly after the murder. I don't know anything about the family history or either the Burnhams or the Waynes. If I did I might have some idea of what the motive was.

But looking at the whole thing in the abstract, it looks to me as though the murders were committed for revenge; that they were carefully planned, and that jealousy was the motive.

"There is no motive which will account for horrible crimes of this sort as near as the motive of jealousy. Men and women never become as unreasoning and insanely angry as when they have been crossed in a love affair.

"I recognize that this theory does not in any way explain all of the details in this case. Neither does any other theory that has been advanced.

"It is difficult to account for the fact that two families were practically wiped out instead of only one. If that were the case, the mystery would narrow down to the history of the man or woman in the Wayne household, and the woman in the Burnham family.

"A mistake might have been made, or it may turn out that the two families were on far more intimate terms than is generally admitted by Mr. Burnham and Mrs. Ruth, the sister of Mrs. Burnham."

Sunday, September 24, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 2

Arrest at Ouray Today May Help Solve Murder Mystery

An arrest that may serve to solve the Burnham-Wayne murder mystery was made today in Ouray, Colorado, according to a telegram received by Sheriff Birdsall from Sheriff R.A. McKnight of that county. McKnight says that a suspicious looking character, evidently a tramp and apparently half-demented, went to the door of a woman's house in Ouray today, asked for food and made threats to kill the woman with an ax if refused. The man was taken into custody soon afterwards, but refused to give his name or any definite account of himself. He admitted, however, that he had been in Colorado Springs, but the officers are uncertain as to the date of his sojourn here.

An officer will be sent this afternoon to Ouray to bring the suspect to the city. It will be Wednesday before the return to this city can be made, according to the train schedules.

Sunday, September 24, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Section 1, Page 1, Column 1 - By W.F. Conway

AX THAT SPLIT HEADS OF 6 WIELDED BY BUTCHER, NEW CLEW; NEGRESS HEARD ROW

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

"I Mean It Now and I'll Show You That I Do," Black Woman Says Man Told Wayne, Night of Slaughter; New Suspect Gone from Home 3 Days; Wife Also Missing at Springs.

Meat-Chopper, Sought, Had Fight With Slain Man Over Patent Sale on Which \$250 Was Still Due and Had Been Repudiated on Ground Device Was Swindle; Burnham Is Released and Donatel Held; Gambler Theory Fails.

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 23 - A butcher, who has disappeared since the sextuple murder was committed Sunday night, is now suspected of the crime.

The district attorney's office is directing an investigation, and by clever ruses worked tonight, Sheriff George Birdsall and his corps of detectives succeeded in secretly making several automobile circuits of the city that developed additional evidence.

It is supposed that the man suspected had financial dealings with Henry F. Wayne; that they involved the promotion of a new patent, that Wayne had purchased stock, paying in cash some \$400 or \$500 and leaving a balance of \$250 owing.

The suspect was trying to collect the money, Wayne believed the scheme to be a fake. He refused to "come through" further. The two men quarreled. The suspect threatened, then carried out his threats by butchering first the Wayne family, then the Burnhams, Mrs. Burnham, it is theorized, having knowledge of the quarrel and possibly the crime at the Wayne house.

Evidence of Assault.

Also, it is said, there is some indication that a criminal assault may have taken place at the Burnham house. This, however, is not being seriously considered by the authorities inasmuch as the evidence so far is largely heresay. In any event, this feature of the case does not figure in the new clue that is now being run down.

The theory on which the authorities are working tonight is based on much evidence that has been accumulated, including the statement of a Negro woman, who claims to have overheard a quarrel between two men in the Wayne yard late Sunday afternoon. The name of the woman, it was learned tonight, is Mrs. Sarah Marshall, and one of the trips made by the officers was out to her little home on Mesa road.

Negress Hears Conversation.

"I mean it now and I'll show you that I do," is the declaration delivered in angry tones that Mrs. Marshall claims she overheard.

She explains the circumstances by relating that she had left the busy corner at the intersection of Tejon Street and Pikes Peak Avenue in Colorado Springs on the 5:15 o'clock Spruce Street car Sunday afternoon and got off to go to Mammy Brown's house, on the opposite side of the street from the Wayne house. This, it is figured, would have brought her in front of the Wayne house at 5:25 o'clock.

The man who used the threatening language, according to Mrs. Marshall, was leaving the Wayne yard, and supposedly the other man was Wayne himself.

Ferretting out this theory, the authorities have learned, it is said, that a man who worked several years ago as a butcher, and who recently has been promoting a stock company to put a new patent on the market, had sold some stock to Wayne. Also, it is said, the man is gambler, although not the one suspected in the theory that developed yesterday and which has been run to ground, without anything tangible resulting.

It is possible that the man's disappearance since the crime was committed is a coincidence. The officers failed to find him at his house tonight. He's married, but has not children, and his wife is away from home much of the time. The fact that he could not be located after practically the whole afternoon and until after midnight tonight had been spent trying to find him is regarded as a suspicious circumstance.

That the man is a butcher is especially interesting. Quite naturally, it is argued, a butcher with criminal instincts might use an ax in committing a crime. Also, he might operate in a manner to keep the blood from spattering from his own person. The man who killed the Wayne and Burnham families, it is believed, did not get any blood on his own clothes.

Further investigation at the Burnham house today showed a blood stain on a little mirror hanging over a wash basin in the kitchen. It is regarded as almost a certainty that the murderer after finishing his work washed his hands. The impression of finger marks made by Seymore today would indicate, it is said, that the murderer went to the wash basin and used it. This theory tends to indicate that the Waynes were murdered before the Burnhams, which would dovetail with the idea that the Burnhams were put out of the way because of what they knew.

Admittedly the theory that two families would be killed in wreaking vengeance on one man is weak, but in the absence of other clues the authorities are leaning upon this as a hypothesis.

It is now believed that Wayne was the first person killed, that Mrs. Wayne aroused from her sleep had partially raised her head from the pillow. The blow she received would indicate that position.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

The condition of the body also indicated that Wayne was the most brutally beaten of any of the victims, the blows on Mrs. Burnham's head, also the cuts were similar to those on Wayne's head.

The authorities have decided to hold Donatel, District Attorney Purcell is not convinced that he may not be an important witness, possibly because of his friendship for Mrs. Burnham and the knowledge he is supposed to have of the family. It was supposed tonight that Donatel might be released following the failure of the Bertillon man to connect Donatel's fingers with imprints found at the Burnham house and on the axe.

District Attorney Purcell tonight took charge of the murder case. Since the discovery of the bodies and up until tonight he has been busy in court trying a murder case, and although he worked nights probing clues on the sextuple murder, he did not get time to go into it fully until today. Tonight, he offered a personal reward of \$100, which with Sheriff Birdsall's \$100 and the \$1,000 offered today by the city, makes a total of \$1,200 offered.

Detective Force Organized.

The detective force was organized tonight by Purcell, combining the sheriff and police department. The sheriff is to have charge and Detectives Tom Gavin and Charles Railsback from the police department are to work with Stanley Burno of the sheriff's office.

A special detective will arrive from Denver tomorrow morning. He has been engaged by the county commissioners as a consulting officer. Tim O'Leary, special agent of the Rio Grande, was called in consultation today and concurred in the opinion of local public officers that local men would have an advantage over outsiders in running down clues, but that experts should be consulted with as to the modus operandi.

It has not been settled when the coroner's inquest will be held. Purcell is not inclined to pile up expense by holding it in advance of any tangible theory development and it may be postponed for several days.

Monday, September 25, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 1

HYPNOTISM IS SUGGESTED IN CASE

May Be Used in Attempt to Get Confession From Donatel, Murder Suspect POSSE NOW OUT IN SEARCH No Developments Yesterday. Officers Go to Monument on Hurry Call

Tony Donatel, the Italian suspected of committing the Dale Street murders, will be placed under the influence of a hypnotist on the theory that he may make a confession, if the authorities carry out a suggestion made to them yesterday.

It was pointed out in a discussion of this new feature of the case, and as a plausible reason for employing hypnotism as a means of striking a leading clue to the mystery, that hypnotized subjects invariably, if not always, as claimed by exponents of the science, tell the truth when in a hypnotic state.

It was recalled in general discussions of the case at police headquarters last night that hypnotism has been employed in criminal cases which at the outset were without a clue, and that if confessions were not obtained, there was sufficient information gathered from the subject under the spell to put detectives on the right track.

While the authorities working on the Wayne-Burnham case were not ready to state definitely last night that Donatel will be hypnotized, the suggestion was regarded as one that merits further investigation today.

It is believed that if the Italian suspect is hypnotized by a recognized expert, he will tell what is uppermost in his mind. It is not claimed that a confession will be made by Donatel that he is guilty of the six-fold murder, but it is thought that while he is in the state of artificial sleep he will talk more than at present.

Would Yield Readily.

Donatel, it is believed, in view of his mental faculties which the authorities declare have been clouded at times, in two instances his mind, becoming a blank, would yield readily to hypnotic influence and his remarks at that time start the police on an entirely new clue. The Italian is beginning to show signs of nervousness, and while there seems to be no definite information against him, he will not be liberated for the present.

Yesterday was the least productive day for new clues in the Dale Street mystery, yet the new combination of deputies and police did not cease running down leads until after midnight.

It was late last night when two officers started out in an automobile on a hurry call from near Monument, where it was reported a young man was acting in a manner to arouse suspicion. According to the report that reached headquarters the man had wandered about the outskirts of the town for two or three hours and caused considerable apprehension. He appeared to be about 25 years old and had a week's growth of beard. His clothing was in a dilapidated state.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Sheriff Birdsall said yesterday that many clues had been run down during the day, but that none of them was productive of important results. Search is being made, it was given out, for a man who appeared at two or three homes in the northeastern part of the city on the morning following the Dale Street crime, hold his coat collar turned up about his throat. At each house the man asked for a shirt, saying that he did not have any.

Another Theory Exploded.

A man who was formerly a meat cutter, and who was suspected of having had a quarrel with Henry Wayne a few hours before the latter was murdered, surrendered himself to the police yesterday. He had no difficulty in proving that he did not know Wayne and that he had not been in the Dale Street neighborhood the day or night the crime was committed. This man has been eliminated entirely from the case.

Other bits of information bearing on the mystery were investigated during the day. Among them was the report that a red automobile had been seen leaving the neighborhood of the Wayne and Burnham homes late on the night of the murder. A boy reported to police that he witnessed peculiar actions of a man in the Dale Street neighborhood a day or two following the crime, but his story was primarily, as having no bearing on the case.

A telephone call in the afternoon stating that a man was wandering about the hills on the west side was answered by deputies, but the man was found to be nothing more than intoxicated.

"There is nothing new in the way of a promising clue," said Sheriff Birdsall in summing up the day's events. "As a matter of fact, today has been the least productive of developments thus far. We have run down any number of reports, but none of them produced results."

The mounted posse sent into the hills yesterday, which was made up of J.F. Neff, Harvey Elliott, Bert Webb, B.W. Dodson and others, encountered no one of a suspicious character. Their search, however, it is pointed out, will do much to dispel the theory that maniacs are wandering about and ready to descend upon the community.

Monday, September 25, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 1

WAS WAYNE THE VICTIM OR MURDERER HIMSELF? SENSATIONAL RUMOR OUT

**Report of Misidentification Is Denied by Officers Here -- If
Founded on Fact, Would Go Far Toward Solving
Mystery of Awful Crime of a Week Ago**

NOW WORKING ON DONATEL AND KEEPING EYE ON BURNHAM

**Chief of Police and Two Detectives From Denver Are Here to Assist the
Local Officials -- More Systematic Effort Will Be Made
Henceforth to Get at Bottom of the Case**

A rumor to the effect that a message had been received from Medaryville, Indiana, the former home of the Wayne family, claiming that the body of the man shipped was not that of Wayne, was current in the city today, but both D.F. Law, the undertaker, and Sheriff George Birdsall positively denied that such a message had been received. According to Mr. Law, the body of the man found in the Wayne home was identified by Dr. J.A. Rutledge of the Modern Woodman sanatorium, Clerk J.H. Charlton of Colorado Springs camp No. 7226, M.W.A., where Wayne paid his dues, Arthur J. Burnham and others who knew the man personally.

The possibility of misidentification in the case of Wayne is very plausible as the battered condition of the man's head would render identification very difficult, and as the body was found in nothing but night clothes, there was naturally nothing on the clothes that would lead to identification. The officers, however, claim to be positive that no mistake was made in the identification of the body and the rumor that the sensational message was received from Wayne's home town is possibly unfounded.

If, by any chance, the body of the man found in the Wayne home is not that of Wayne himself, a solution of the mystery is near at hand. The question then naturally arises, who is the man who was killed in Wayne's home, and where is Wayne now.

If the man was someone else than Mrs. Wayne's husband the finger of suspicion would point directly to Wayne himself.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Another rumor freely circulated today, to the effect that Donatel, the Italian under arrest in the county jail, had committed suicide in his cell, was found to be without any foundation whatsoever. The man has not even made such an attempt.

Working Hard on Donatel.

The officers today have been working hard to either establish the guilt of Donatel or satisfy themselves that he had nothing to do with the crime. All the scraps of evidence in connection with the case against the man have been carefully systematized and today he was confronted by two men who, it was thought, might be able to identify him as the man seen prowling in the vicinity of the Burnham and Wayne homes on the night of the tragedy. He was also confronted with the bundle of bloody clothes found in the ravine by the road to the Woodmen sanatorium, but the result of the entire investigation as regards his case, is believed to be in his favor, although the officers refused to divulge the conclusions arrived at and are still keeping the man under lock and key.

Getting Down to System.

The efforts of the officers working on the murder mystery today have been devoted to systematizing the investigation, eliminating from it all unnecessary details, wild rumors and impossible theories, and collecting the established facts in tangible form.

As a result a great mass of irrelevant material, baseless reports and side issues have been disposed of. In short, the field is being cleared for future action along lines laid down by Detective Elmer E. Prettyman, the veteran head of the Pinkertons in Colorado: Chief of Police Hamilton Armstrong of Denver, Detective J.W. Erb of the Pinkertons, Denver, and Sheriff George Birdsall, who technically is head of the investigating forces.

These experts are working along the lines of elimination. That is, they are clearing away the mass of material obtained from a hundred different sources by the local officers, are discarding all that is considered worthless and are eliminating from the equation all theories which prove to be impossible and all possible suspects who could not have had any connection with the wholesale slaughter.

May Be Released.

In this work the case of Tony Donatel, the Italian, has presented the greatest difficulties and at the hour of going to press the officers are still undecided whether or not to finally eliminate him from the investigation. His case will probably be cleared up one way or the other within the next 24 hours and if the officers are satisfied that he is not connected with the tragedy he will probably be released at once.

The experts have exploded the theory that the murders were the work of an irresponsible insane man having no connection with the families, and Prettyman is of the opinion that it was a deliberately-planned and coolly-executed murder with some motive on the part of the perpetrator. Whether the Burnham or the Wayne family was the primary object of the murderer's work is one of the puzzling features of the case. That one of the families at least was secondary in the murderer's mind seems to be the idea of the officers. It has been pretty clearly established to the satisfaction of the detectives that the murder in the Wayne home was done first.

Keeping Eye on Burnham.

While Arthur J. Burnham, the head of one of the murdered families, is at large, he has not passed by any means from the range of suspicion or of official investigation.

The officers have established to their satisfaction the fact that he is not the physical weakling that he claimed or was reported to be, but that he is physically able to carry out such a deed, even if he had to make the trip from the Modern Woodman sanatorium either on foot or by horse or by bicycle.

While in the county jail, Burnham's actions were observed carefully and the officers agree that he coughed very little, if any. This was noticeable whether he was in his cell or in the open air.

Given Physical Test.

On Saturday morning before he was released, he was given a physical test which he probably did not realize at the time. Deputy L.D. Compton, who brought Burnham from the jail to the sheriff's office to have his finger prints taken by the special officer, was instructed to "give him a good, fast walk," and when they left the cell together Compton told Burnham they would have to hurry as the expert had little time to spare. Compton walked the prisoner rapidly to the court house and up the several flights of steps to the sheriff's private office without pausing. The men in the room took careful note of the prisoner's condition and all state that he was not "winded" any worse than the deputy, who is remarkable for his activity.

Although Burnham is nothing but bone and sinew, he was inadvertently proven to the satisfaction of the officers, they say, that he is possessed of physical endurance, lung capacity and walking ability far beyond what was credited to him by Dr. J.A. Rutledge and his friends and beyond what he claimed to have himself. Even in the light of developments, however, it is believed by the officers that Burnham is innocent and they are watching him "just on general principles."

A posse, including J.F. Neff, Harvey Elliott, Bert Webb, B.W. Dodson and others who scoured the hills and ravines to the north of the city yesterday, is out again today in the foothills to the west and south. So far nothing.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Monday, September 25, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 2, Column 2

City Offers Reward of Thousand Dollars; Woodmen to Follow

Mayor Henry F. Avery, in behalf of the city, has offered a reward of \$1,000 for the solution of the West Dale street mystery. The reward has been ratified by all of the commissioners and will be formally passed upon by the council at its next meeting.

At their meeting Wednesday night the Modern Woodmen of America, camp No. 7226, are expected to offer a reward of \$500 or \$1,000. A special meeting was held Saturday night and it is certain that a reward will be offered.

Monday, September 25, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 2, Column 2

Detective Prettyman Says Crime Carefully Planned and Executed

The first impressions of Detective Elmer E. Prettyman, head of the Pinkerton agency in Colorado, of the tragedy and its possible solution, were obtained in an interview today.

After his preliminary examination, Mr. Prettyman said that his theory was that the crime was committed by a moral pervert and that he is probably a young man of about 20 years of age.

"I think he was a man rather undersized, and that he was alone when the killings were done," said he. The Burnham home was entered through a side window. Part of the screen was cut out, but not very much of it. There were tacks on the lower part on the sill, on which he would have caught his clothing if he had been a large man.

"Perhaps he was insane, but if he was, he was not insane in the usual sense of the meaning. He might have been a pervert and his insanity was then merely the abnormal reasonings of a man of that description.

"The murders were planned carefully, and executed with the skill of a deliberate, cool-headed man, who did not get excited. A maniac who had no motive for slaying, other than the wild desire of a crazy man to see bloodshed, would have been utterly careless in his manner of satisfying his desires.

"He would have entered the houses by breaking in the doors, and would have wielded his ax regardless of the possibility of waking his victims from his sleep-. Neither would he have carefully washed his hands afterward. He would not have covered the heads and bodies of his victims with bed clothing and it would not have mattered to him how soon his work was discovered.

"Maniacs who kill in that fashion do not escape. The wander around with the blood on their clothing and make no particular attempt to escape arrest.

"If it was a maniac, he would probably be hiding somewhere in the ravines or woods in this vicinity, sometimes showing himself to the ranchers, and frightening them. No man of that description has been seen around here since the discovery of the murderers.

Crime Committed Early.

"The crime was committed between 10 and 11 o'clock a week ago last night, judging from the impressions on the pillows of the victims. Mrs. Burnham was an unusually large woman and if she had been asleep for any length of time she would have had the pillow all flattened out.

"I think it is likely that the murderer stunned his victims first, then placed some of the clothing over their heads and pounded them.

"The motive was probably that of revenge. The murderer was no ordinary criminal. He was a man of unusual skill and daring. He looked over the ground before, found that there was an ax in the yard near the Burnham house, and decided to use the ax in the commission of his well-planned crime.

"On the night of the murder the moon did not rise until along toward morning. He would not have found the ax even in the dark, but unless he knew it was there and went to the Burnham or Wayne house with the intention of killing, he would take some weapon with him. Of course he might have been armed with a gun, and then stumbling on the ax, decided to use that instead, as it would make less noise, but this is not probable."

Monday, September 25, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 2, Column 5

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

MARY WAITZMAN SAYS "JOHN" TOLD HE HAD KILLED HENRY WAYNE

Girl Held in Custody Tells of Ingenious Story Which the Officers Discredit

The story told to the officers by Mary Waitzman, the 16-year-old adopted daughter of Chris Waitzman, 814 West View street, in the southwest part of the city, is at least ingenious if not true. She is being held at the county jail under orders from the juvenile court and this morning rehearsed her story to a Herald-Telegraph representative.

"I met the man in North Park," she said, "and he called himself John. He was about 23 years of age, smooth shaven, dark complexioned, and wore a brown suit, tan shoes and light colored, soft felt hat with a flat crown. He told me he lived in Ivywild. The following night, when the last band concert was held in North Park, he came to the park again and introduced me to Henry Wayne. Afterwards he told me he had a quarrel with Wayne and that he told Wayne he would kill him if the latter did not pay a gambling debt. John said that Mrs. Burnham overheard the quarrel and threat and said she would report him to the police. On the Saturday night before the murder Wayne and John were together at the dance in Robbins hall and the next time I saw John was on the Busy Corner Monday evening when he followed me down Huerfano street and said, 'I did what I told you I would do.' He wanted to go home with me but I refused and the next time I saw him was on Friday morning when he had a satchel in his hand and looked as though he was going to take a train. He had a scar on the back of his right hand which looked like a burn."

Little importance is attached to the girl's story by the officers as they have checked up Wayne's companions at the dance in Robbins hall and have about come to the conclusion that the girl's imagination has been working overtime.

Monday, September 25, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 5, Column 1

YOUTH MURDERED SIX, PINKERTON EXPERT IN CASE SAYS

Believes Slayer Had Designs Only on Burnham Home, but He Blundered.

UNREQUITED LOVE MOTIVE

Declares Condition of Bodies in Homes Indicate Fiend Went at His Work Deliberately.

Special to The News.

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 24 - Pinkerton speculation on the sextuple murder horror indicates that:

It was the deed of a young man, the conception possibly of a perverted brain, and prompted by the single desire to snuff out the life of one person, presumably Mrs. Burnham.

Elmer E. Prettyman, superintendent of the Denver Pinkerton agency, while not yet wedded to a single theory tending to solve the mystery, has strong convictions on several points. He is pretty well satisfied, for example, that it was the Burnhams and not the Waynes whom the murderer sought, and that the Waynes were killed by mistake, the murderer completing his work at the Burnham home.

A likely suspect would be an undersized man, thinks the expert. He bases his theory that the man was small on the fact that the torn screen on the window through which he crawled indicates that a man of large proportions could not have left so little behind to conceal his size.

The man's age, 20 years or thereabouts, is a correlated theory: also a pervert might be young in years.

Prettyman doesn't say that perversion is at the bottom of this crime. He simply speculates on its possibility, advancing psychological arguments. The modus operandi of the murderer, the brutality of his methods, the lack of any apparent motive, are features that indicate a disordered, though not by any means insane brain.

Unrequited Love Motive.

It is possible, the detective agrees, that the murderer may have been prompted in committing his brutal crime by unreciprocated love.

Stories of Mrs. Burnham's girlhood the alleged devotion of Tony Dontatel to her. Burnham's long absence from home, Mrs. Burnham's fondness for the theater, have all tended to give rise to public speculation that some man, presumably young, may

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SUSPECT(S):

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have been an ardent admirer of the woman, and being repulsed, may have developed a morbid mind that sought revenge in committing the atrocious crime.

Prettyman scouts the theory that a maniac is stalking about Colorado Springs or in the hills of this vicinity ready to swoop down upon another household or several and murder the occupants in a single night.

"All rubbish," he says. "The man who committed this crime, in my opinion had designs on the Burnham home alone. He blundered in carrying them out, but he was determined to make a job of it. He went about it deliberately, though the blows struck were delivered by an enraged person. He possibly did his work in the dark, though this is not an established fact. He took time, after 'getting' all his victims, to wash his hands, knowing well that he had killed the children and there was no possibility of an outcry."

Prettyman agrees that the children did not figure in the motive, and that in killing them the murderer was simply figuring on the lapse of several days before the bodies would be discovered, giving him time to get away.

Rather new is the theory advanced by Prettyman to The News today that the final blows were not delivered on the flesh.

Kept Blood From Clothing.

"The murderer first stunned his adult victims with possibly a single blow, delivered with mathematical precision and then sought to keep the blood from getting on his own person by covering their heads with the bed clothes and garments he found scattered about the room.

"But, mark you," added the detective, "the murderer didn't get away without a blood splotch. He got blood on his cuffs, on his sleeves; he washed it from his hands."

The possibility that the butcher may have disrobed, after stunning his victims, and then struck the blood-spurting blows while he was naked, was not advanced.

"I think it quite likely," continued Prettyman, "that Mrs. Wayne was partially aroused by the intruder after he had assaulted her husband in his sleep. The position of her body would indicate that she was rudely awakened but almost before opening her eyes was stunned by a blow from the same ax and then butchered. The little ones at both houses were killed last and less brutally, perhaps.

I am inclined to think that the crimes were committed before midnight Sunday night, possibly between 10 and 11 o'clock. The impressions on the pillows would indicate that the victims had not been asleep long.

"Mrs. Burnham was killed while she slept, but she had not been sleeping long. I understand her sister left the house at 9:30 o'clock and it is logical to assume that Mrs. Burnham retired shortly afterward. The impression on the pillow where her head lay indicates that she had not moved much in her sleep. She was a large woman and it is likely was in the habit of changing her position frequently while she slept. Therefore, I argue she had not been asleep long when the murderer claimed her. Being a large woman, she, it is probable, would have resisted his attack if she had been awake and there is no evidence of any struggle having taken place.

No Evidence of Criminal Assault.

"No, there is not the slightest evidence, in my opinion, to substantiate the theory that a criminal assault was attempted. It is not likely that anything of the kind occurred. However, that does not eliminate the theory that the murder was the work of a pervert."

Tuesday, September 26, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 4

BURNHAM'S \$3,000 LIFE POLICY GONE Original Suspect in Mysterious Murder Case Cannot Find Paper

What has become of the \$3,000 life insurance policy in the Modern Woodmen of America lodge, held by A.J. Burnham, whose wife and two children were victims of the sextuple murder mystery in West Dale Street last week? Burnham would like to know.

The policy was originally made out so that Mrs. Alice Burnham, the murdered wife could profit in case of death. It was discovered yesterday, when Burnham started to transfer the names of the beneficiaries that the slip held by him was lost.

It was Burnham's idea to make the two children of his cousin, E.E. Hartwick, of Detroit, Michigan, his beneficiaries. He was told that the policy could not be found at the home, so he went to Coroner Jackson, hoping that it could be found among some of the family's personal effects held by the authorities, but the little piece of paper was not there.

Burnham next paid a visit to the office of J.A. Himebaugh, commissioner of public safety and acting chief of police, and told of the object of his search. But the police could tell him nothing.

"I guess someone wanted to keep it as a souvenir of the occasion," he said.

Homicide

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SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Tuesday, September 26, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 7

SYSTEMATIZE WORK ON CASE

Three Outside Detectives Acting in Conjunction With Local Authorities

HAVE THEORY WORKING

Idea That Malady Two Families Is Discarded. No New Clews

With E.E. Prettyman and J.W. Erb, respectively superintendent and assistant superintendent of the Pinkerton detective agency of Denver, and Hamilton Armstrong, chief of police of Denver, in conference with the local authorities, steps were taken yesterday to systematize the work of unraveling the mystery of the Dale street murders.

Armstrong and Erb arrived here from Denver shortly before noon yesterday and went immediately to the scene of the crime where they made a thorough examination. Afterward the outside detectives held several conferences with members of the sheriff's and, city detective forces, which are now working in cooperation on the case under the direction of Sheriff Birdsall.

No new clews of any apparent significance came to the attention of the authorities yesterday, and the day's developments were confined principally to the progress made in putting the problem on a scientific basis.

The local authorities went over the facts with the outside detectives, and the case was studied and discussed from every angle with the result that the unimportant features were eliminated and the officers finally reached a tangible basis on which to pursue further work.

Although there was not entire harmony of opinion, the detectives arrived at a plausible theory to account for the crime, and will work along this line energetically. Just what their line of reasoning is, would not be given out, further than that the idea that the crime was committed by a maniac has been completely discarded.

Although the men at work on the case admit that it is one of the most baffling mysteries that they have ever been called upon to solve, they are confident that they will soon get on the right track and bring the perpetrator to justice.

Prettyman Confident.

No person can commit a crime of this kind without leaving some sort of a clew," said Prettyman. "And once we find such a clew, the whole story will unravel like a ball of twine and with a rapidity that will surprise the men working on the case. It may be a day, it may be several weeks, but sooner or later we will be in a position to announce that we have a footing. From then on it will be easy sailing."

Participating in the conferences at various times during the day were Sheriff Birdsall., Assistant Police Chief Springer, Assistant District Attorney Purcell, Acting Police Chief Himebaugh, Deputy Sheriffs Burno and Compton and Detectives Railsback and Gavin. None of them would give out any information last night as to what was accomplished in the consultations, but all appeared confident that the fresh start they have taken on the case will hasten results.

In general, the officers are proceeding on the theory that only one person, a man, was implicated in the killing, and the idea prevails that the Wayne family was the first to be murdered. After his preliminary investigation at the scene of the crime, Chief Armstrong of Denver, said in response to a question, that he was not so sure that a man did it, that it might have been a woman. The chief did not entertain seriously the idea that a feminine hand wielded the ax that killed six persons, but was merely conveying the idea that as yet he had formulated no theory, and no significance attaches to the statement. All the officers agreed that the murderer had a definite fixed purpose in slaying the members of at least one, if not both of the families.

"Just as true as the saying that a bolt of lightning never strikes in the same place; are we certain that the man has done his work that he set out to do, and will be heard of no more until we turn him up." Commissioner Himebaugh said. "There is absolutely no cause for the men, women and children of this city to worry and fear that there is likely to be a repetition of the affair. Every action indicates that the deed was committed by a man with the one cloud on his brain and heart - to murder.

Posse Finds Nothing.

Most of the members of the posse which went out yesterday morning to scour the foothills in this vicinity in a search for a wild man or other suspicious characters, returned last evening and reported no evidence of any such having been seen or heard from. This phase of the work will be continued today, but the authorities have little expectations that it will be productive of any results.

The officers in fact have very little confidence in the likelihood that they will discover anything of importance through the arrest of a suspicious looking or peculiarly acting character, such as a man reported arrested at Ouray yesterday. It is not at

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SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

all certain that the man will be brought here, and if he is, it will be only because the authorities intend to exercise every precaution.

The idea that the body of the man found in the Wayne home and sent to Medaryville, Indiana, for the burial, is not H.F. Wayne, as suggested in a rumor current on the streets yesterday, is ridiculed by the officers. From the police and sheriff's offices statements were given out that the identification of Wayne had been complete before the body left Colorado Springs, and no word had been received that would indicate that it was not completely identified as his former home.

While the authorities insist that they have found nothing against Donatel as far as actual murder is concerned, they say that they are going to hold him.

"It is one of the ideas given out by Chief Armstrong of Denver," Commissioner Himebaugh said. "He says that it is policy not to release a suspect until the case is cleared or given up. I think that Mr. Purcell intends to keep Donatel a prisoner for some time."

While attention has been diverted from Burnham for the present, it does not mean that he is free from suspicion, the officers say. It was learned yesterday that Burnham was given a physical test, unknown to him, before being released, and that officers found that he was by no means the physical wreck he has been pictured.

Burnham on Car?

The police are investigating a story, told by Ira Harris, a prominent attorney and former mayor, which may have some bearing on the case. Mr. Harris is said to have seen a man who bore a striking resemblance to Burnham riding on a northbound Tejon street car about 1:30 o'clock of the afternoon preceding the evening when the murders are supposed to have been committed.

When interviewed last night, he would make no statement further than to say that he had made one to the police. In this connection the police say:

"According to our information, Judge Harris boarded the Tejon car in the business district, on his way home. The car was crowded, but he managed to find a seat by the side of a man then unknown to him. According to our information, he had noticed the man riding in the same direction on different occasions. Now, according to the story, Judge Harris thinks the man bears a close resemblance to Burnham. We have talked to Judge Harris concerning the information that was given us, and he has informed us of all he knows. His statement bears out to an extent the story as it was told to us."

But the police hold that it was a case of mistaken identity, and have discarded every theory that would tend to indicate that Burnham was connected with the deed.

"The only bearing that the incident, providing that it is not a case of mistaken identity, would have on the case, is to show that Burnham was not telling us the truth when he says that he was not in Colorado Springs on that day. Of course, that would be welcome news to us, but from what we have discovered, there is no doubt about Burnham being at the sanatorium all day Sunday and until late in the evening," the police say.

"I do not wish to be brought into the case and have nothing to say," Judge Harris said. "I have told the police all I know."

Tuesday, September 26, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 6

SEVERAL HEARD WOMAN SCREAM

**Officers Say Sextuple Murder
Was Undoubtedly Result of
Neighborhood Trouble**

MAY EXHUME ONE BODY

**Mrs. Burnham Now Believed to Have
Spilled the Bottle of Shoe
Polish on Window Sill**

The terrible scream of a woman, believed to be the death wail of Mrs. Henry F. Wayne at 11:40 o'clock Sunday night in the neighborhood of the Burnham-Wayne cottages, brought inmates of six adjacent homes from their beds. This is one of the important developments in the investigation today.

Homicide

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SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

That none of the neighbors mentioned the fact through the three subsequent days when death held silent reign in the slaughter houses where the bodies were found, is taken to indicate that many of the neighbors in the vicinity were, and are, in fear of their lives.

That the hideous single scream that broke the stillness of the night was uttered by Mrs. Wayne is evident from the fact that the condition of her body showed that she was awake when killed and made at least a brief struggle for her life, because her hands were covered with blood and blood was smeared on both her limbs below her knees. This fact has never before been given out by the officers for publication.

The officers are continuing the investigation today but claim to have nothing further in the way of unraveling the tangled skeins of mystery than they had yesterday. Detective Prettyman has gone back to Denver but Detective Erb is still in the city to assist the local officers.

Bad Neighborhood Conditions.

That the entire mystery is the direct result of neighborhood conditions is the opinion arrived at by the authorities, who point out the complicated domestic relations that have existed among certain families in the immediate vicinity. Today neighbors and friends of the murdered families are talking much more freely than heretofore, according to the statement of one of the detectives at work on the case, and develops of importance are looked for in the near future.

The people whose names have been dragged into the investigation include: Miss Anna Merritt, 730 North Pine street; her brother, John M. Merritt, a worker in the linen room at the Antlers hotel; Harry Fox, a friend of Anna Merritt; George Bowman, a chauffeur who is said to live with a Mrs. Clark, who, in turn, is said to be a close friend of another man in that neighborhood. The Burnham and Wayne families are found to be more or less mixed up with all these people in the neighborhood and the authorities have learned that the neighborhood conditions from a domestic standpoint were extremely bad.

Are Beginning to Talk.

As in the existence of the Apaches of New York, however, a community of interest and the desire for self-protection, has so far inspired each and every member of the community in question to keep a still tongue, and it was not until today that some of the parties who know of these relations between the families began to talk freely. Much is being developed along this line and the authorities are confident now that the solution of the death mystery lies exclusively among the little knot of neighbors.

The facts that are known about some of the families are unprintable. For instance, the fact that one woman prominently mentioned in the case was a habitual blackmailer and has made considerable money in one or two instances, at least, has been pretty clearly established.

One officer said today. "The entire bunch is a desperate gang and I do not wonder that many of the neighbors are afraid to open their heads."

Miss Anna Merritt, who has claimed to be ill since the discovery of the tragedy and has been under the care of Dr. E.L. Mumma with an order from him that nobody was to see her, left her home last night and went to live with a couple of woman friends at 311 South Cascade avenue, in the rear of the lot.

Miss Merritt Talks.

"I came down here to be away from the neighborhood where the crime was committed and get relief from the curious gang of people who have been calling to see me," she said. "My limbs are paralyzed from the knees down and they had to carry me from place to place. Mrs. Burnham and I were like sisters and her terrible death has been a great shock to me. I frequently slept at her house and she at mine, and we have been as close as sisters for a long time. She was a most virtuous wife, to my certain knowledge, and if she ever had done wrong I am sure I would have known it as two sisters could not be closer than we were, and for many months she occupied the downstairs part of my house. She did not have an enemy in the world and I cannot guess who could have done the deed unless it was a wandering crazy man. A crazy-looking tramp came to my house on Saturday before the murder and asked for food which my sister from Denver denied him. He went away looking very crazy and vicious.

Saw Her on Saturday.

"The last time I saw Mrs. Burnham alive was on the Saturday afternoon before the murder when she came to my home. After staying a while she accompanied me up the street as I was going out with my violin to the house of a friend. She seemed in the best of spirits and as happy as could be. We just talked of common, everyday things such as we might talk about on any occasion. The reason I did not visit her home on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday was that my sister was sick and I was busy waiting on her. When Mrs. Ruth came to my place on Wednesday and asked about Ms. Burnham we had the idea she had gone to the sanatorium, and when she said she could not open the front door, I took my pass key and we went over and found things just as Mrs. Ruth has told before. I was so shocked I have not been well since.

"I never knew Burnham to be jealous of his wife, and I am sure he had no reason to be, as she was a very good, virtuous woman."

Burnham Talks.

"Last night is the first bad night I have had since the murder," said Arthur J. Burnham today as he stood on the street, with the appearance of a man on whom the terrible strain he has been under for some time is beginning to tell. "Before this time, Mr. Hill, my wife's uncle, from near Denver, was with us and helped to pass the time, but last night we were alone and I did not

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SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

sleep much for some reason. I think these Pinkerton detectives will be able to find out something about the case. Have you heard whether they have or not?"

On being answered in the negative, Burnham said that he was at as much of a loss as ever to arrive at any theory of the murder unless it was done by a crazy man. He gave John Merritt a very high "sendoff" as a young man and said he was just "as fine a young fellow as ever lived."

"We lived with Miss Merritt merely because she and my wife had been such good friends for so long, and she was always very kind to Mrs. Burnham and the children. If the neighborhood was tough I never knew anything about it and as far as I know Miss Merritt is a very good woman. If my wife ever had anything to do with another man I never suspected it."

Burnham says his wife carried insurance in two or three companies and societies, but in recent years he had to drop it all except two little policies, one for \$13 and another for \$15, which are now paid up. The authorities are keeping an eye on Burnham, more for the reason that they have no other person to suspect than for anything else.

A rumor is current today to the effect that the body of Mrs. Burnham will be disinterred to get finger prints so as to determine the identity of finger prints on the bottle of shoe polish found upset on the window of the kitchen in the Burnham home. The authorities scoff at such an idea and it is believed to be nothing but a wild rumor. Some people think that she might have spilled the shoe polish.

A New Clue.

A new clew which may possibly clear up the mystery was unearthed today, when H.E. Cole, who runs a grocery store at 701 North Pine street, told the police of a stranger who asked him where Dale street was on the Saturday preceding the murder. According to Cole, the man asked him first where Dale street was. He said he took him to the door and pointed out the direction of the street asked for.

"He then asked me if I knew the Waynes," said Cole. "He said that he wanted to find them. I did not think anything of it at the time, but I remember telling him that the Wayne family lived on Harrison place near the corner of Dale. He thanked me and went on his way."

The description of the man given the police is as follows:

Age, 35 years.

Height, about 5 feet 7 inches.

Weight, 160 pounds.

Complexion medium.

Smooth shaven.

Wore derby hat, black or dark blue coat and light trousers.

George Tracey, believed to be a maniac, was arrested yesterday in Ouray, Colorado, by Sheriff McKnight, after he had threatened to chop the heads off of people with an ax, who had refused to give him food, as stated in last night's Herald-Telegraph.

It was thought possible by Sheriff McKnight that Tracey is the man who killed six persons here over a week ago. Blood was found on his hat, but he explained this by saying that he had been hit on the head by man at Ridgeway. The man was examined by physicians and declared to be insane.

He is of medium height, black hair, stubby beard, large eyes, with the whites pronounced, and weighs about 165 pounds. He says that his father owns a saloon in Chicago and that he walked from Grand Junction to Ouray. He is about 45 years old.

A deputy sheriff has been sent to Ouray to see the man and he may be brought to Colorado Springs for investigation. There is little chance, however, that he will be held.

Tuesday, September 26, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 5, Column 5

MAN CALLED AT HOME OF BURNHAM BEFORE MURDER, THEORY

Police Take Up Jealousy Motive and Arrest of Suspect Is Expected in Few Hours.

SUPPOSED MANIAC JAILED

Threatens to Chop Heads Off, and Is Held in Connection With Sextuple Tragedy.

Special to The News.

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 25 - Evidence that Mrs. Lulu May Burnham was in the company of a man as late as the Sunday night thought to have been the time she was killed, is now being accepted as a circumstantial fact in the sextuple

Homicide

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SUSPECT(S):

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murder mystery that is baffling the keenest detective wits of the state. Nor is the theory that possibly she was the victim of assault being permitted to stand in the way of investigation that is extending to all quarters and spreading a network over the friendships and associations of years.

Should certain person attempt to leave the city, they probably would find themselves restrained by the strong arm of the law, as the result of today's developments. In the words of a man close to the inside, he himself a specialist in cases of this kind, "the thing may be expected to take a sensational turn at any moment." An arrest is imminent.

Jealousy May Be Motive.

The detectives, it is believed, are no longer holding to the theory that Wayne and Mrs. Burnham were the victims of an ordinary altercation involving a money transaction. That jealousy was the motive is the theory generally accepted now. Admittedly, Burnham has not been eliminated from the suspicions of those at work on the case.

Who was the man, is now being asked, whose figure in the darkness frightened little Nettie Burnham and caused the child to dodge back from the window as in a fright and rush towards her mother?

And why didn't the mother share the feelings of the child when someone glanced in the window while Mrs. Burnham and her sister sat in conversation.

Burnham Scouts Theory.

Burnham scouts the idea that his wife cared for another man. Also, he stated tonight that he knew she was not in a delicate condition, as had been represented to him. The authorities have abandoned the idea that Mrs. Burnham was soon to have become a mother.

Burnham said:

"I'm not of a jealous disposition. I always told my wife to enjoy herself and she always told me when he had been out. I don't think she was ever out with another man alone."

A new story was told today by Miss Anna Merritt, who with Mrs. Burnham's sister, Mrs. Nettie Ruth, discovered the bodies. Miss Merritt has been incommunicado since Wednesday. Today she was interviewed by the detectives. Her brother, John Merritt, is a houseman at the Antlers Hotel, and has been caring for his sister until today, and tonight Miss Merritt was removed to the home of a friend, in the hope, it was explained, that her shattered nerves would be restored.

"She keeps seeing May all the time," said young Merritt tonight.

According to Merritt his sister has a theory that the crime may have been committed by a tramp, who called at the Merritt house on Saturday.

"Mrs. Nettie Irving of 1049 West Tenth street was at our home," said Merritt, "when the man came to the back door and asked for something to eat. Mrs. Irving told him we had nothing for him. Anna was in the pantry at the time, but went outside to get some water just as the tramp was leaving. She remembers that he looked back at her and grinned. Then he started in the direction of the Burnham house."

Chief Armstrong of Denver was in consultation with the local men today and returned to Denver tonight. Armstrong expressed the opinion that a woman may be involved in the crime, but made it emphatic that his deduction was a general one and not made from any knowledge of the details of the crime.

A sensational report that the body of the man taken from the Wayne house was not that of Henry F. Wayne, is denied by the authorities, who declare it to be unfounded. The upper part of Wayne's head was beaten so as to be hardly recognizable, but it was officially stated tonight that identification was complete.

Another wild report that proved to be unfounded was that Tony Donatel tried to commit suicide by hanging himself at the county jail.

Tuesday, September 26, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 5, Column 6

'I'LL CHOP YOUR HEAD,' JAILED AS MURDER SUSPECT

SUPPOSED CRAZY MAN ARRESTED AT RIDGWAY AND TURNED OVER TO COLORADO SPRINGS SHERIFF.

OURAY, Colorado, September 25 - Threatening to chop off people's heads who would not give him food, a man giving his name as George Tracey and claiming to belong in Chicago, was apprehended Saturday at Ridgway and turned over to Sheriff McKnight, who held him in jail until Tuesday, when he accompanied the man as far as Cimarron, where he turned him over to Sheriff Birdsall of Colorado Springs.

Taking the published stories of the man described as guilty of the awful wholesale murders at Colorado Springs, Sheriff McKnight's office came to the conclusion that this man Tracey might be the man wanted, and consequently communicated

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

with the sheriff's office at Colorado Springs, where the suspect was lodged in jail Wednesday. Sheriff McKnight noticed blood on the man's hat, but he stated that he had been hit on the head by men at Ridgway, and the blood could be accounted for in that way. Several Ouray physicians examined Tracey and they all pronounced him insane.

Tracey, the suspect, is of medium height, black hair slightly gray, with black stubby beard, large eyes with the whites quite pronounced. He claims his father owns a saloon in Chicago. He says he walked from Grand Junction to Ouray. The man seems about 45 and looks more like a French-Canadian than an American.

Wednesday, September 27, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 1

NEW FIGURES IN MURDER MYSTERY

Police Pick Up Two Persons. Hinted That Solution Is Near at Hand OTHER ARRESTS EXPECTED Woman Said to Be Among Suspects Under Surveillance by Authorities

Two persons were picked up late last night for investigation in the Dale Street murder case, but it is said they are not technically under arrest. It was admitted also that others are under surveillance. Yesterday's developments in the sixfold murder seemed to indicate that the closing details of the crime will involve the night life of the city.

Other arrests are expected momentarily, and it is not denied that one of them may be a woman. Further than this, however, the authorities decline to give out anything for publication as to who the suspect is or in what manner they expect to connect her with the case.

All yesterday afternoon and last evening was spent in running down a new clew, and from deductions made last night it was generally expected that the new lead would produce results.

The theory of jealousy is advanced as the motive for the sixfold murder, not the jealousy that might exist between husband and wife, but that born of an alleged illicit relation.

The expected arrests will give the authorities information which will go a long way, it is believed toward clearing up some of the mysterious features of the case.

At police headquarters last night, it was admitted by those in charge that they did not know what had been the day's developments toward a solution of the case, indicating that there is not complete harmony between the combination of police and sheriff's office forces.

Wonder at No Arrests.

It was admitted, too, at police headquarters, that it was considered rather queer that none of those against whom suspicion has turned within the last few days had been apprehended.

This feature of the case is causing comment in view of what is supposed to be known by the authorities.

That a solution of the murder mystery will be found in the neighborhood of the Wayne and Burnham homes is the opinion of those working on the case, and the earlier theory that the crime was committed by a wandering lunatic has been eliminated in the process of deduction.

It is declared, however, that there are those living near the scene of the murders who could tell some strange tales if they so desired or if they did not fear that by so doing they would place their own lives in danger.

It has been learned that Mrs. Evans was not the only one who heard a woman's scream about 11:30 o'clock on the night of the murder, for several others yesterday admitted that they too had heard what was probably Mrs. Wayne's death shriek.

Another person, it is said, heard a man's cry about the time it is supposed that the murderer was wielding his ax in the Wayne home. The sound, it is declared, came from the Wayne home.

There are others, according to reports, who saw an automobile in the vicinity of the two houses late on the night of the murder, but up to the present its appearance there has not been connected with the crime.

Not to Exhume Body.

It was denied last night that the body of Mrs. Burnham was to be exhumed with a view of taking finger prints. It was pointed out that this was not only impracticable, but also there was nothing to connect Mrs. Burnham with the case in that manner. A number of persons expressed the opinion that she might have slipped the shoe polish near the window and it was to make a comparison of finger prints that the idea was suggested.

Miss Anna Merritt, supposed to have been Mrs. Burnham's most intimate woman friend, moved from 730 North Pine Street yesterday to 511 South Cascade Avenue. It has been said that Miss Merritt was too ill to see anyone following the discovery of the murder, and efforts to interview her have thus far been unavailing. Yesterday, however, she talked for publication for the first time since the tragedy.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

"Mrs. Burnham's death has been a terrible shock to me," said Miss Merritt. "We were like sisters and frequently I slept at her house and she at mine. For several months she occupied the downstairs part of my house. To my certain knowledge she was a virtuous wife and if she had ever done wrong I am sure that I would have known it."

"The reason I did not visit her house on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday was because my sister was sick and I was waiting upon her. No, I never knew Burnham to be jealous of his wife and I am sure he had no reason to be."

Telegram a Puzzle.

Early today it is expected that an officer will arrive from Ouray with George Tracey, who was arrested in the town Monday by Sheriff McKnight. Tracey, it is claimed, made threats that he would kill a number of persons with an ax when they refused to give him something to eat. He is thought to be demented, and while the authorities her do not connect him with the murder, he will be held for investigation.

A telegram received at police headquarters yesterday is causing some speculation as to its meaning. It was sent from Pueblo and reads:

"Chief of police, Colorado Springs.

"Nothing doing yet.

(signed) "L.F."

Nothing is known as to who the sender of the message is or to what he refers.

The fact that a man supposed to have been R. Lebevitz, committed suicide at La Junta Monday afternoon has been conveyed to the police here in a letter from C.L. Seeley, a real estate man of that town. Seeley said that the suicide was a German of middle age, with sandy hair and a mustache. He wore a light felt hat. In a note book found in the dead man's pocket was a short message written in German in which the writer declared his intention of committing suicide and asking for forgiveness. He drank carbolic acid.

The feeling prevailed last night among the authorities working on the Dale Street murder that they were not far from the clew that will run down the sextuple murderer. It is believed that the case has reached a point where an important arrest will be made at any moment.

Wednesday, September 27, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 3, Column 3

Wants to be Chief of Police Here If He Can Find Sextuple Slayer

The following letter, received by The Gazette yesterday, is self-explanatory.

Mr. Weedman, if he is the author, is well known as a police official in Denver and according to those here who know him has made a good record with the Denver Police Department, and has been detailed to a number of important cases in that city. The letter follows:

Denver, Colorado, September 25, 1911. Colorado Springs Gazette, City Editor.

Dear Sir -- I take the liberty of addressing this letter to your paper, as I wish to put a proposition before the citizens of your city in regard to that terrible murder committed there a week ago. My proposition is this. I will take full charge of the case with the understanding that if I get the guilty party I am to be made chief of the Colorado Springs police, and if I fail I will pay my own expense while working on the case. I am now on the Denver detective force and expect to be the next chief of police. Put of 17 murder cases that I have worked on, I have succeeded in landing 13 of the murderers including the murderer of Mrs. Wilson by the Jap boy and the recent Italian murderers. Mayor Speer has promised to make me the next chief of police on account of my great work. I work 18 hours out of the 24 and I am not afraid of man, beast or the devil.

Yours respectfully,

IRA WEEDMAN

City Hall, Denver.

Wednesday, September 27, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 1

PINKERTONS IN CHARGE OF CASE

**Expert Detectives Will Try to
Solve Mystery Surrounding
Sextuple Murder**

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

PRETTYMAN IN CHARGE

**Several People Questioned at His
Headquarters in Joyce Hotel
Few Developments Today**

The Pinkertons, under direction of Elmer E. Prettyman, head of the Pinkerton agency in Colorado, have taken entire charge of the Burnham-Wayne murder investigation and the local sheriff and police forces have had practically nothing to do with the work since yesterday noon, although Sheriff Birdsall is still technically the head of the information bureau. The Pinkertons are working along their own lines, and there is said to be little question that the mystery will be solved within the next few days.

Yesterday afternoon Prettyman, at his headquarters in the Joyce Hotel, conducted the first official "sweat box" that has been used in the investigation, and among the persons called in and closely questioned were Arthur J. Burnham, Mr. and Mrs. June Ruth, John M. Merritt, brother of Miss Anna Merritt, and several others whose names have not been divulged.

The transference of the entire case to the Pinkertons accounts for the inactivity which has marked the local official circles since yesterday noon, at which time the local men evidently rested on their oars for the first time since the discovery of the murder.

The absolute secrecy which marks the movements of the Pinkertons has been a significant feature of the developments since yesterday noon. Prettyman was reported to have gone to Denver yesterday noon and, as a matter of fact, nobody but his own men know where he is or what he is doing. One thing is certain, however -- the work of unraveling the entire case is in his hands and he is working along his own lines.

There have been no further arrests in connection with the Burnham-Wayne murder and no persons were picked up during the last 24 hours to be held for investigation, as was reported. There have been new developments in the mystery, however, developments that no doubt would be considered trustworthy evidence in a court.

It has been found beyond question that Mrs. Burnham was in the company of a man either at her home or at some other place on the night of the murder. The supposition is that this man was Wayne and that he visited her in her own house. There is ample evidence to prove that Mrs. Burnham made frequent visits to the home of Miss Anna Merritt and vice-versa, and there is good evidence to show that a woman went to the Burnham home at 11:40 o'clock the night of the murder ostensibly for the purpose of taking Mrs. Burnham away in an automobile for a visit somewhere. This woman, it is believed, walked into the Burnham bedroom to arouse Mrs. Burnham, found the body and gave vent to the scream which was heard, beyond question, by Mrs. J.R. Evans, Mrs. Campbell, her daughter, and two or three others.

Heard Automobile.

On finding the body the midnight visitors, or visitor, at the Burnham home immediately left in an automobile, for Mrs. Evans and the others who heard the scream are ready to testify positively that they heard the chugging of an automobile as it started away from the Burnham home immediately after the scream was heard. The machine went swiftly west on Dale street and turned south on Spruce. Mrs. Evans show saw the machine pass her home, says it contained two passengers besides the driver, but whether they were two men or two women, or a man and a woman, she could not tell.

Miss Merritt spent last night at the home of her friends, Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Gordon, 511 South Cascade avenue, and when seen this forenoon said she intended going back today to her own home. Harry Fox, who has been a roomer at the Merritt home for months, was present.

Miss Merritt Talks.

"I have heard the stories told by Mrs. Evans and her daughter, Mrs. Campbell, about hearing a scream and hearing an automobile starting away from the Burnham home," said Miss Merritt, "but I do not believe them. I do not believe anybody heard a scream or an automobile, and the woman over there have told all kinds of stories. I believe it was the work of a crazy man and they had better look for some such person. They are not even sure that it was with the Evans ax that the killing was done, and I have my doubts about it. Just after the bodies were found I was standing crying and wringing my hands among a group of people, and I said in the presence of Mr. Evans:

"And the babies are murdered and it was done with an ax."

"Now, if he killed a rabbit with the ax, that would account for any blood stains remaining on the handle. Of course, I do not know a thing about it; I only wish I did. I'm sure I would only be too glad to tell. They seem to think that I am keeping back something, but I am not.

"I am not afraid of my life, either, and that is not the reason I left home. I just wanted to get a rest and to get away for a while from the neighborhood of the murder. I am going back today. I slept well last night and am feeling much better."

Asked if she knew a man in California by the name of Cunningham, she said:

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

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Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

"I know a man in California by the name of Cummings, but what has that to do with it? He has not been here for some years."

"It is supposed you are engaged to him," she was told, and this she denied.

The officers believe that cross love purposes somewhere will account for the sixfold murder.

A New Theory.

Miss Merritt says she does not believe that the murderer entered through the window of the Burnham home because "May always left her doors open to get the benefit of the air and only latched the hook on the wire screen. Besides, I am now almost sure that the back door was unlocked when Mrs. Ruth and I went to it on the day of the discovery. I had a key with me which is now in the possession of the district attorney, but I feel almost certain that it fell down when I tried to insert it in the lock and then I gave the knob a turn and opened the door. I do not believe the key was necessary. The district attorney might try if it fits that lock."

As a matter-of-fact the key of the Burnham back door was found inserted in the lock on the inside, so that Miss Merritt's statement that she does not think her key was necessary, is probably correct as she could not have inserted it, and, as she says, "it fell down," when she tried to do so.

Her Fears Aroused.

"When we went into the room we noticed that the parrot in the middle room had not been cared for or fed and I was afraid something had happened. We found the thumb latch on the outside of the door to the front bedroom fastened, and this surprised me more because May never did such a thing. Then we went into the front room and looked and saw the blood on the wall. I called May and then we saw something that looked like part of a person, and knew something dreadful had happened and we ran into the street screaming, and alarmed two express men on the street.

"I always felt that Mrs. Burnham was a virtuous woman and if she was not I never knew anything about it."

It was suggested that someone may have followed the Waynes from Indiana with the intention of killing one or both, and Miss Merritt thought this seemed very reasonable and that the officers ought to have this looked up in Indiana.

A Close Call.

A young girl from Mississippi by the name of Burgess slept at the Burnham home on the bed in which the murders took place, four nights of the week prior to the killing, including the night before the murder. On Sunday, however, she rented a room at the Merritt home and slept there that night.

Wednesday, September 27, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 6, Column 1

"MURDER WILL OUT"

The officers who are trying to solve the Wayne-Burnham murder mystery should not be discouraged. They seem to have made little progress thus far, but this is no fault of theirs. The murderer had approximately three days and nights to cover up his tracks and perfect plans for avoiding detection; therefore, those who are at work on the case started in under a big handicap.

There is an old saying that "murder will out," and it reasonable to assume that sooner or later the fiend who snuffed out the lives of six people, there of whom were innocent children, will pay the penalty. It may be days, or weeks, or months, or it may be years, but in all probability there will be a slip in his plans sooner or later that will lead to his arrest and conviction.

In the case of Milton Franklin Andrews, murderer of Bessie Bouton, it was more than two years before he was found. Finally, after traveling literally from one end of the earth to the other, he was located in San Francisco and paid the penalty for his atrocious crime. True, he killed himself and cheated the laws, but the important thing is that he was "run to earth" and forced to take his own life to prevent others from doing it.

And Andrews had brains. He was a clever criminal -- perhaps more clever than the man, or men, who killed the Wayne or Burnham families -- but not clever enough to escape detection altogether. Just as in his case, the murderer now being looked for will be found, if not today, then tomorrow, or next day -- or next year.

This is an important thing for the officers to remember. It is a case where they must keep this one thing in mind above all others through weeks and years to come, if necessary, until the law of retribution is fulfilled.

Wednesday, September 27, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 7, Column 5 - By W.F. Conway

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

DETECTIVES ARREST 2 MORE SUSPECTS IN MURDER MYSTERY

Underworld Events in Neighborhood Given as Motive for Springs Tragedy.

OFFICERS WATCH BURNHAM

New Testimony Which May Solve Puzzle Dragged From Reluctant Lips of Acquaintances.

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 25 - Two persons were picked up by detectives late tonight and are held for investigation in connection with the Burnham-Wayne sextuple murder. Several more persons are under surveillance and may be arrested in a few hours.

Jealousy was the motive for the sextuple killing, the officers new assert. Mrs. Lulu May Burnham, it is no longer denied, moved in a clique that probably proved her undoing. Henry F. Wayne, newcomer that he was, got caught in its meshes, it is alleged. A half dozen person who live to bear witness to the strange doings of the neighborhood are trembling in their boots.

The authorities have dug deep into the gutters of the city's night life to get the evidence. If A.J. Burnham escapes it will not be because he is in the clear as yet. He is still under surveillance.

Public Demands Action.

The public is clamoring for results. Facts adduced last night and made public by The News this morning, developments of today, and their reports which were current on the streets tonight, have aroused sentiment.

Evidence that a scream was heard on the night of the murder is no longer lacking. One woman has come forward with the information. The scream is believed to have been that of Mrs. Wayne. The blow that killed Wayne, it is said, was also heard by a neighbor. These are the witnesses who have hesitated to talk, but bit by bit their stories have been put together, until now the whole neighborhood is talking of the terror of that night.

Detectives today worked on friends of the Burnhams. Mrs. Mary Clark is said to have been among those interviewed, and may have given information that strengthened the clues which had already been unearthed.

"Always Seeing May."

Days elapsed before Miss Merritt, supposed to know more about the Burnham family relations than anyone else except her brother, John M. Merritt, would talk. During this period she was frequently in hysterics, according to the neighbors, and her brother stated to The News last night that "She is always seeing May."

Not until yesterday was it apparent that the Merritts were being interviewed by the detectives. Up until that time Miss Merritt had succeeded in holding herself incommunicado, her physician, Dr. W.L. Mumma, having issued an order that no one should see her. Newspaper men were met at the door by male members of the family, who, for the first few days, patrolled the yard of the Merritts and intercepted callers.

Harry Fox, a steamfitter, who lives with the Merritts, was spokesman. John Merritt had noting to say, though while Fox talked for The News on Friday last young Merritt sat on the front doorstep, his head in his hands and plainly showing the emotion which he does not deny he felt.

Couldn't Look at Bodies.

"I just couldn't look at the bodies," he said when asked if he had assisted in the identification of Wayne. "I never saw him," said young Merritt.

"No, my sister didn't know Wayne. I don't think she ever heard the Burnhams speak of the Wayne family."

Burnham Friend of Merritts.

Asked about his relations with the people of the neighborhood, Burnham said the reason he lived in the neighborhood was because the Merritts were there.

"Why, we lived in their house all last winter," he said. "Then Anna wanted the house to herself this spring, and so that May would be near there I got a house in the next block.

"May grew up with the Merritts. I never thought anything of her going about with them. John would come to our house and play cards. No, I don't think he was ever out with my wife alone. Fi he was she didn't tell me. Anyway, I would not have cared. They were like children together. Besides, I'm not a jealous man. I always told my wife to enjoy herself.

"Now, my theory of this thing is that somebody had it in for the Waynes. We are laying it on some enemy of theirs. I don't think my wife had an enemy in the world."

The Merritts are likewise positive that Mrs. Burnham didn't have an enemy and Miss Merritt and her brother are equally positive that Mrs. Burnham had no men friends.

Doesn't Live With Mother.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Neighbors are telling strange stories of the domestic life at the Merritt house. Miss Merritt does not live with her mother. The elder woman lives in Colorado City. Miss Merritt has the house at 730 North Spruce street.

"It's a kind of rooming house," explained an expressman who claimed that trunks "belonging to girls" were hauled there during the summer season. "They came down from Denver," was the information he offered.

Fox, according to the neighbors, makes his home with Miss Merritt. The brother goes there, but has a room at the Antlers hotel. Lately another sister, Belle, who is an invalid, took up her abode with Anna Merritt. They brought Belle, who is married, from a ranch, say the neighbors.

Since the tragedy she has been confined to bed and her appearance today denoted that she was suffering from a physical strain. The neighbors declare the woman has been ill a long time and got so serious that the Merritts brought her into town a short time ago.

Thursday, September 28, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 7

TONY DONATEL IS RELEASED FROM JAIL Second Murder Suspect Given His Freedom -- Three Pinkertons Busy on the Case HEADQUARTERS AT JOYCE Running Down Various Clews, Detective Leaves Town on Late Train

Tony Donatel, suspect No. 2 in the Dale Street murder, was discharged from the county jail yesterday afternoon.

The fact that the friend and one-time sweetheart of Mrs. Alice May Burnham, one of the murder victims, also has been given his freedom, would indicate that the authorities have practically eliminated the Italian as well as Burnham himself from direct connection with the crime. While both have been released from jail, it is not admitted that their innocence has been established to the complete satisfaction of the detectives and deputies detailed to solve the murder mystery.

Prettyman and Erb, the Denver Pinkertons sent here to clear up the case, express themselves as believing that Burnham had nothing to do with the sextuple crime, yet it is understood that both he and Donatel will be kept under surveillance. Donatel's arrest two days after the bodies of the six victims were found, was largely for a blind, it was hinted last night by an official in close touch with the daily developments in the case, until a more promising clew was discovered.

Three Pinkertons Here.

Three Pinkertons, Prettyman, Erb and A.C. Cole, are now in Colorado Springs, and they are working along their own lines to solve the murder mystery. The inactivity of the local authorities yesterday is taken to mean that the Pinkertons are doing the bulk of detective work at present, although Assistant District Attorney Purcell and Sheriff Birdsall are still directing the work of the combined police and sheriff's office forces.

While some of the police officials detailed on the murder case disclaimed last night that there is any friction between the police and sheriff's forces, the statement in The Gazette yesterday morning that a discord exists is admitted as correct by police authorities. It is declared at the city hall that the department is not kept fully advised as to what is being done on the case, and it is evident that the combination of forces is not working out as harmoniously as was expected when the arrangement was made.

Pinkerton headquarters have been opened at the Joyce Hotel, and it is here that the greater part of the investigation of suspects and others believed to be in a position to throw light on the murder is being conducted. Further than to say that a number of persons are under close surveillance and that the mystery probably will be cleared up in a few days, the Pinkertons are maintaining strict secrecy regarding the lines along which they are working. One thing is noticed since they were called into the case four days ago, however, and that is that Arthur J. Burnham is a changed man.

Marked Change in Burnham.

The mental awakening of Burnham seems to have been achieved largely through a four-hour session in the Pinkerton's inquisition room. Burnham's transformation was a surprise to the experts in criminology, so marked was the change in his demeanor from that of a few days ago. During the rapid-fire examination by Prettyman and Erb, Burnham broke down frequently in recounting details of his married life, which he has maintained from first to last was happy and free from discord.

But the question is raised: "If Burnham and Donatel have been eliminated from the list of suspects, who is the guilty man or woman?"

Developments last night indicated that the scene of activity, or certain phases of it, at least, may shift to other points.

A local detective left town on a late train last night in connection, it is presumed, with, the sixfold murder. His destination is not given out. He boarded that train just as it was pulling out of the station, an automobile landing him on the platform with little time to spare.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

History of the Waynes?

Who were the Waynes and what was their history before coming to Colorado Springs, is a question being given attention by the authorities. Published photographs of the man who was identified here as Henry Wayne will be sent back to his home in Indiana today, with a view of establishing his identity beyond question.

The face of the man found in the Wayne home was beaten so that it was difficult to judge of his features, and there is still a lurking suspicion that it may not have been Wayne. While the published photographs were undoubtedly those of Wayne, it is pointed out that they may not have been pictures of the man found murdered in bed.

The authorities, while not going to the point of expressing the opinion that it was a woman who committed some, if not all of the murders, hint that there may be some startling developments along that theory.

"Possibly a woman did it," is the way they express it, "for it is not a man's crime. From the viewpoint of criminology it is more a woman's act than that of a man, even a madman."

That none of the six victims was a suicide has been given out officially from the coroner's office, special examinations with regard to this possibility having been made at the time the bodies were removed to the morgue.

Miss Merritt at Own Home.

Miss Anna Merritt, close friend of Mrs. Burnham, has decided to move back to her own home, 730 North Pine Street, following a few days' stay with friends at 511 South Cascade Avenue. The discovery of the bodies a week ago yesterday was a great shock to her, and she has been ill for several days.

Miss Merritt declared yesterday that she does not believe the story told by Mrs. Evans and her daughter, Mrs. Campbell, that they heard a woman scream and an automobile start away from near the Burnham home the night of the murder. She says she believes the crime was committed by a crazy person, and thinks the authorities should look along that line. Miss Merritt says that she knew a man named Cummings who formerly lived here, but who has gone to California. She denies, however, that she is engaged to him. This was brought out by the officers in an examination of Miss Merritt.

It developed yesterday that a Miss Burgess, from Mississippi, spent four nights in the Burnham home during the week prior to the murder, and including the night before the crime was committed. Sunday she rented a room at the Merritt house and slept there that night. While she was at the Burnham home Miss Burgess slept in the front room, where Mrs. Burnham and her two children were killed.

George Tracey, arrested at Ouray, early in the week, and brought here as a suspicious character because of his strange actions, probably will be released in a day or two. He is not charged with any connection with the crime, as he was in jail at the time the murders were committed.

At a meeting of the Modern Woodmen of America, last night, no decision was reached with regard to the proposed offer of a reward for the arrest and conviction of the murderer. It is said that announcement of the camp's action will be made in a few days.

Yesterday the city council formally approved the action of Mayor Avery in offering a reward of \$1,000 for the apprehension of the murderer.

Thursday, September 28, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 2

Real Ax Used by Murderer Is Found in Vacant House Today

**Throws New Light on Mystery and Developments As Expected
Soon -- Detective Seymour Here Again to Take Impression
of Finger Prints -- Officers Show Renewed Vigor**

The real ax with which the Burnham-Wayne murders were committed was found this forenoon by William F. Binger, an expressman, living at 1018 Colorado avenue, who went to the vacant house at 741 North Spruce street, directly in the rear of the Wayne home, to clean up the premises. Under the rear stairway leading to a little cellar, he found the ax carefully concealed. It was covered with blood stains and human hair. There is no question in the minds of the officers that this is the weapon with which the murders were committed and that the murderer deliberately concealed the ax after he had finished his fiendish work.

Binger immediately telephoned the police and asked for an officer. Sergeant Fred Springer and Detective Thomas Gavin visited the place and took possession of the weapon, which they now have under lock and key at the station. Binger had his hands on the handle, but the officers were careful to keep their hands from the weapon so as not to obliterate any finger prints

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

that the murderer left on the handle. Detective Seymour, the Bertillon expert, who last week took impressions of finger prints on the Evans ax and other articles at the Burnham home, will be brought back to this city at once to take prints of the finger marks on the weapon found this morning, which is undoubtedly the weapon that figured in the sextuple murder.

Thursday, September 28, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 7, Column 5

WOMAN NOW TO SOLVE SPRINGS SEXTUPLE MURDER MYSTERY

One Person Under Arrest, Another Will Be Seized if He Attempts to Leave City.

DONATEL FREED FROM JAIL

Trap Set by Police Expected to Result in Speeding Unraveling of Burnham-Wayne Crime.

Special to The News.

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 27 - Today's developments in the Burnham-Wayne murder mystery took a detective out of town. He left tonight, and on the result of his trip hinges an arrest that has all but been made.

One locked up, another under arrest in the sense that should he attempt to leave the city he would find himself behind the bars, and several more men and women under surveillance is the net work of the Pinkertons today.

A woman is expected to solve the mystery.

The man suspected is still in the city. Every avenue of escape has been closed. Some loopholes have been purposely left as a trap. It's click on the murderer is expected any hour. The cords of endurance, it is believed, have been stretched to their greatest tension.

Expect Quick Solution.

That they will snap and break before another day or two, at the most, is the opinion of those in close touch with the case.

Meanwhile the greatest secrecy is surrounding the work of the detectives. The Pinkertons have been reinforced by new arrivals. A.C. Cone, of the Denver office, is working with J.W. ERB, under the direction of Superintendent Elmer Prettyman. Sheriff George Birsdall had his corps of detectives, both county and city, are still on the job. There were more pickups today.

Tony Donatel has been released. The Italian friend of Mrs. Lulu May Burnham is not longer regarded as a suspect. He may figure as a factor in solving the mystery.

Auto Figures in Mystery.

The automobile feature of the case mentioned by The News, is now accepted as a link in the chain of evidence that daily is being made stronger. Also, the hour of the crime, it has been pretty well established was before midnight Sunday. An automobile was seen to leave the neighborhood before 12 o'clock. Supposed witnesses to this tell of seeing two passengers and possibly a third.

Each day's development but strengthens the theory that Mrs. Burnham supplied the motive and that Henry F. Wayne lost his life not as a result of a mistake, but because he was a factor in the illicit love wires that crossed that night.

When the facts are known it is believed that the case will have resolved itself into a sordid crime of the underworld type with no glamour of gilded vice to lift it from the most commonplace sphere in the social scale and with no element of the unwritten law to relieve it of its stigma.

Friday, September 29, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 1

WILL SOLVE MURDER MYSTERY TODAY; ERB

**Dragnet to be Drawn Within Next Few Hours According to Pinkerton Detective
in Charge of Hunt for Sextuple Homicide**

TWO MEN MAY BE INVOLVED

**Second Ax, With Which Crime Apparently Was Committed, Found by Expressman in Neighboring
Basement, but Little Importance Is Attached to Discovery.**

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Two Women Under Surveillance for Supposed Indirect Connection

"Our work in the Dale Street murder case will be finished tomorrow -- at least within the next 24 hours."

This statement was made last night by J.W. Erb of the Pinkerton forces, who was called into the case six days ago.

Further than to state that the sextuple murder mystery will be solved today, that the Pinkertons now in Colorado Springs will have charge of the closing chapter of the crime, and that there will be startling details to the denouement, Mr. Erb would give out no information.

The Pinkertons, at their headquarters last night at the Joyce Hotel, 10 South Weber Street, did not attach special importance to the finding of a blood-stained ax yesterday morning in a vacant house at 741 North Spruce Street. The house is in the rear of the Burnham home, and the ax was found under a cellar stairway by W.F. Binger, an expressman, who went there to clean up the premises.

When the well-known reticence of Pinkerton men working on a case of the magnitude of the Wayne-Burnham crime is taken into consideration, the statement by Mr. Erb last night that they are prepared within the next few hours to draw in their dragnet, is taken to mean, that the murderer or murderers will be apprehended at an early hour today.

Two Men Implicated?

While Erb gave the impression that two men may be caught and shown to have been connected with the sixfold murder, it was also intimated that a woman will be involved in the final analysis, not as having direct connection with the crime, but as being a figure around which the crime revolved.

That the motive was one of jealousy as well as revenge, was also brought out in the interview, as was the statement that Wayne was an innocent victim of the murder.

Rumors current on the streets last evening that two women had been taken from their homes in charge of officials, presumably for their alleged connection with the case, were denied at all official quarters last night. It is patent, however, that they are being kept under close surveillance, and it is said that they will have a part in the solution of the crime, expected today.

From the activity of the authorities yesterday and last night at points several miles distant from Colorado Springs, it is believed that the Dale Street case has outside connections. There were several long automobile rides during the afternoon and early evening.

Officers Active

Late last night there was a dash out of town, and it is supposed, although not admitted by the officials engaged in the case, that the man hunters will return today with the closing link in the chain of evidence that has been woven about those guilty of the murder.

Mr. Erb, suave and courteous, would not be trapped into answering a hundred questions asked him as to how many are to figure in the final roundup, his theories, those whom he expects to arrest and those whom he has eliminated in his deductions. Erb is assistant superintendent of detectives at the Pinkerton agency in Denver.

He smiled when the matter of finding an ax in a house near the Burnham home was mentioned: evidently the exact weapon does not figure in the solution, and apparently the case is closed so far as the Pinkertons are concerned, and it is admitted that they will handle the closing details.

When the ax was discovered yesterday, Detective Seymour, the Bertillon expert, was sent for in Denver, reaching the city late yesterday afternoon. He declared after a microscopic examination that it was impossible to discover any finger prints on the ax or the handle. There was hair on the ax head, and this, it was declared, came from the heads of the murdered children. It was established by means of micrometer measurements that the blood on the ax was human blood, although in order to make this point absolutely certain the serum test will be applied today.

It was requested at police headquarters that everyone who has lost an ax to call at the department at once in order to assist the authorities in learning the owner of the one found yesterday. In this connection it was pointed out that the owner of the ax is not necessarily a person to be regarded with suspicion, but it is hoped to find the owner and thus possibly trace the weapon in that manner.

The statements of the Pinkertons later last night, however, would indicate that the murderer is already known and that if he has not already been apprehended, he will be caught within the next few hours.

Friday, September 29, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 4

Wayne Family to Offer a Reward

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

In a letter to J.H. Charlton, clerk of Colorado Springs camp No. 7226, Modern Woodmen of America, John L. Wayne, clerk in the First National Bank of Medaryville, Indiana, brother of Henry F. Wayne, the murdered man, says that the family is willing to raise a fund of \$300 or \$400 if necessary as a reward for the capture of the murderer of their brother, his wife and child. The Wayne family consists of nine brothers and sisters and the mother.

Mr. Wayne asked Mr. Charlton for full particulars of the crime and Mr. Charlton sent him copies of The Herald-Telegraph containing stories since the discovery of the murder.

Friday, September 29, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 4

JOHN M. MERRITT AND JOSEPH R. EVANS ARE HELD IN CONNECTION WITH MURDER

**Have Been in Custody at City Jail Since
Last Night, but Only as Suspects -- Miss
Merritt Being Watched Closely**

FINGER PRINTS TALLY CLOSELY WITH THOSE OF BROTHER

**Authorities Seem to Be Getting Nearer Solution of Mystery
have Spent Today Questioning Everyone Who Might
Throw Some Light on Crime of September 17**

The arrest of John M. Merritt, brother of Miss Anna Merritt, and of Joseph R. Evans, expressman living at 735 North Spruce street, at 9 o'clock last night is the most important development of the last 24 hours in the investigation of the Burnham-Wayne murder mystery. The two men are being held at the city police station, and while the officers believe Merritt is directly concerned in the tragedy, they are of the opinion that Evans had no part in it but knows more about the mystery than he has ever divulged.

The promise that the murder mystery would be unraveled today, credited to Detective J.W. Erb, was absolutely denied by Erb today, who said he never made such a statement to anyone. Nevertheless, it is believed that the detectives are on the right track and the mystery surrounding the entire case will be unraveled in the near future. Little by little the story of the awful tragedy is being ferreted out and the chain of evidence surrounding the suspected parties is being woven link by link.

A rumor current in the city all day to the effect that Miss Anna Merritt was placed under arrest last night or at 3 o'clock this morning was unfounded. Miss Merritt is still at her home 730 North Pine street, but for some time she has been under strict surveillance giving the officers information of the greatest value in solving the mystery. It is true, however, that Miss Merritt was brought to the city police station last night to be questioned by the Pinkertons and Acting Chief Fred Springer on many important clues that the officers have in their possession.

In the last 24 hours the efforts of the officers have been bent to the task of identifying the ax found at the vacant house on Spruce street yesterday and today they are fairly certain that it is the property of J.R. Evans, one of the men under arrest, as is also the first ax found.

Miss Merritt Talking.

This fact was established largely through the testimony of Miss Merritt, who was frequently at the Burnham home and who prepared supper for Arthur J. Burnham at his home on the Wednesday night before the murders when he made his last known visit there. Miss Merritt has always felt a deep sympathy for Arthur Burnham and on the last day of his visit home she happened to be there when Mrs. Burnham refused to give him his supper and said she was going to a show, which she did. Angry words had been handed out to her husband by Mrs. Burnham and she left the house under circumstances that wounded the feeling of Burnham. Miss Merritt remained and provided him supper. It is believed that she used the ax that he been borrowed from the Evans and had been lying around the house, in cutting kindling. From this circumstance it is believed she readily know that the ax in the possession of the police and which Evans handed out was not the one that had been at the Burnham home. This fact is established to a fairly certain degree by the testimony of Arthur Burnham, who was called in today to help identify the weapon.

Burnham Not Sure.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

"To the best of my belief," said Burnham, "the ax found yesterday is the one that had been at my house. I only used the ax once at my home, and therefore my recollection of it is uncertain, but I never was fully certain about the first ax because it has a chip out of the handle. Recalling the ax to the best of my ability, I would say that the ax found yesterday is the one that was at my place, rather than the one found previously."

From the fact that the Evanses allowed their ax to remain at the Burnham home for a month or more it is believed that they had two axes and that for some reason or other they produced the wrong ax when the discovery of the murder was made.

The fingerprints on the ax with which the murder was committed, indicate that it had been handled by a woman or a man with remarkably small fingers. Detective L. Seymour, who had charge of this branch of the work, however, is keeping his own statement as to what evidence he has secured. One thing is certain -- the new prints obtained do not correspond with those taken of Arthur Burnham's hands. The prints do indicate, however, that the killing was done by a man and woman, and the question that the officers are trying to fathom is the identity of the woman in the case.

May Be Merritt's Prints.

Prints of John Merritt's fingers have been taken by Seymour and while they correspond with those found on the ax brought in yesterday, he admitted last night that they are very similar. His second examination today leaves him still in doubt and he will not state positively that he is prepared to go into court on this feature of the case. He is, however, firmly convinced that this delicate identification feature points strongly to John Merritt and is taking further steps to absolutely satisfy himself in this report.

In such cases the expert knows that the question of fingerprints is one on which he must be absolutely certain of his facts, for on his evidence may hang the whole question of guilt or innocence. If he cannot absolutely swear that the prints on the ax are the prints of Merritt's fingers, his testimony is worthless. If he can positively swear that they are, his evidence is of vital importance. This feature of the case may demand hours of careful study on the part of Seymour, but it is felt that when he finally arrives at a definite conclusion he will be sure of his man.

New Woman in Case.

A new woman in the case was developed today by the statements made by two members of the family most directly concerned, that a woman by the name of Nellie Mason, now living in the south part of the city, lived at the Merritt house for many months last winter and spring and was insanely jealous of John Merritt, especially in regard to Mrs. Burnham. From the statements made by these witnesses, who knew the circumstances thoroughly, the Mason woman's jealousy was the common talk of the people in that clique, say the officers, and Merritt often wantonly provoked her jealousy by visits to Mrs. Burnham's home.

A witness of a reputable character, who was passing the Burnham home at 8 o'clock on the night of the tragedy, is willing to swear that he saw Harry Fox in the Burnham house. This man has given this testimony to the officers and his evidence is believed to be trustworthy.

In the light of this testimony, the statements made by Mrs. June Ruth to the effect that nobody came to the Burnham home while she was there and that no outsider was present during her visit, are questioned. As this new witness is a reputable outside party, not directly concerned in the case the officers are inclined to accept his statement as truth.

When this man passed the Burnham home at 8 o'clock, he saw the Wayne family seated outside in front of their house. They evidently saw the persons who visited the Burnham home, at least during the early hours of the night, and it is believed that Wayne was the man who frightened the little Burnham girl by peering in at the window.

It is the belief of the officers that in addition to Harry Fox, there were other persons in the Burnham home that night and the finger of suspicion and contributing evidence points to John Merritt and some woman. The entire evidence so far secured indicates that the whole mystery has so far been shrouded by wholesale lying on the part of those nearest to the persons directly implicated.

In Fear of Their Lives.

In fear of their lives, Mrs. June Ruth and her mother, Mrs. J.A. Hill, who are living together with Mr. Ruth and Arthur Burnham, have made application to the police for protection at night. Since Mr. Hill, uncle of Mrs. Ruth, left on Monday, the female members of the family have not slept to any extent and on Wednesday Burnham asked that the Woodmen send a member of the camp down to stay with them at night.

"I am not afraid for my part," said he, at that time, "but the women are hysterical and nervous. Last night, they never laid down until 3 o'clock and did not sleep then. With an outsider in the house they might feel safer. They are afraid that the murderer will come and clean out our house."

The Woodmen camp members did not feel like asking any member of the camp to undertake such a task, especially in view of the fact that two men are already in the house and the danger is apparently slight. Today Ruth and Burnham made application to the officers for protection, so that the women in the family might feel relieved, and it is expected that some arrangements will be made to assuage their fears.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Friday, September 29, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 7, Column 2

SECOND BLOODY AX GIVES NEW CLEW IN BUTCHERY

SOLVE MYSTERY TODAY

Springs Sextuple Murder Prompted by Jealousy, Latest Theory of Detectives.

Special to The News.

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 28 - That a double motive prompted the butchering of Mrs. Lula May Burnham and her children and that the slaying of Harry F. Wayne and his family was incidental to the real purposes of the murderers, is the theory on which arrests have been made and the work of detectives tonight will be followed by sensational developments in the morning, it is said.

The jealousy that snuffed out six lives in a single night had underlying it a murderous spirit of revenge that, when the facts are made public, will call into action events that had their staging many months ago, the police declare.

New Turn to Mystery.

A.J. Burnham, the police say, has not escaped from the web which has been woven around him and which today's developments tightened to a point that caught another, thus making the chain of dual motive and involving well-known characters who give a decidedly startling turn to the mystery.

No longer a mystery, it now but remains to prove the charges. Detectives practically completed their work last night. Arrests have followed the running down of their clues today and tonight the last link in the chain was welded by another arrest.

"Before another twenty-four hours has elapsed this ting, in my judgment, promises to be eventful," was the statement tonight of J.W. Erb, who has been in charge of the detectives.

The ax is a bloody looking weapon and some strands of hair, believed to be human, were found clinging to the head. The ax is roughly indented in places and the blood has congealed in these crevices. Also, where the handle fits into the steel, the mass of blood is solid. Evidently an effort had been made to wipe the blood from the ax with a rag. In this connection, it is said that an old vest, possibly used for this purpose, was found in a vacant house in the neighborhood.

Quarreled With Wife.

The theory has not been dispelled that Burnham's domestic life was not serene. It is rumored now that on the Wednesday night preceding the murder, when he came home from the Woodmen sanatorium to remain until Thursday, Mrs. Burnham had made plans to go to the theater. The couple quarreled, it is said, over Burnham having to prepare his own supper.

Burnham's attitude at the morgue also is being speculated upon with reference to the youngest child and his wife. His solicitation was plainly for the little girl, upon whom he seemed to center his emotion.

Find Another Ax.

The finding of another ax today tends to dispel the theory that the crime was committed with the ax borrowed from J.R. Evans. William F. Binger, an expressman, found the ax in a vacant house at 741 North Spruce Street, directly in the rear of the Wayne avenue house. Also, it was discovered, a hole had been bored in the back door of the vacant house.

Binger found the ax under the cellar steps. Although vacant, there was evidence that someone recently had been in the house.

Saturday, September 30, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 7

INQUEST WILL BE HELD TODAY

Coroner Jackson Orders Jury in Wayne-Burnham Case to Report at 10 o'clock MERRITT AND EVANS HELD Officers Deny Story That Burnham Has Applied for Police Protection

Coroner Jackson will hold inquest in the Wayne-Burnham murder case this morning and has ordered his jury to report at the courthouse at 10 o'clock.

It was stated officially last night that it was improbable anyone would be charged directly with the sextuple murder until after the jury has returned a verdict.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

In view of statements several days ago that the jury would not be summoned until the authorities believed they had important and convincing evidence, the decision to hold the inquest today is taken to mean that startling developments in the murder mystery may be looked for this morning.

Almost with the same breath in which it is declared no open charge will be made today, the authorities say that John Merritt may not have told the entire truth regarding what he knew of the case, and Joseph R. Evans has been talking too freely.

Coupled with statements by the officers, that apparently little progress has been made, it is declared that there would be no reason for not letting the public know, provided they were in a position to place the crime at anyone's door. They feel that the public will let the law take its course and see that justice is given.

While the police are satisfied, from questioning of Mrs. J.R. Evans and her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Campbell, that the second ax, found in the vacant house at 741 North Spruce did not belong to Evans, they know that the first one did, and they are going to carry out the original plan of finding out if the blood found on the blade and handle was human blood.

Serum Test Not Successful.

The serum test applied to the blood on the second ax did not prove a success, yesterday, but a new supply will arrive this morning from Denver and the blood on both axes will be tested.

One of the late theories held by the police is that there were two axes used in the sextuple killing.

The police are still looking for the owner of the second ax, and with this knowledge they think that they can substantiate to a certainty the evidence which they now have, pointing towards the murderer.

Mrs. Evans and Mr. and Mrs. Campbell were under investigation yesterday morning and yesterday afternoon. Nothing was learned, the police say, that would further implicate Evans.

Merritt, who was arrested Thursday night, is a brother to Anna Merritt, 730 North Pine Street, at whose home Mrs. Burnham and children stayed last winter. He, the police say, like his sister, was intimately acquainted with the Burnhams.

Evans, whom the police say "talked too much not to know anything of the crimes," was another neighbor of the Wayne and Burnham families. He lived at 735 Spruce Street.

The two men, the police declare, are held only for investigation. The investigation started Thursday night, and the two men were still in jail last evening.

The first investigation of Merritt concluded at the end of four questions, in which unsatisfactory answers, according to the police, were given.

"We asked him four questions," it was said at police headquarters, "and found that he was inclined to be evasive in his replies, and we thought we would put him back in jail until he would be willing to talk."

The police would not make a statement as to what these questions pertained to further than that they were "pointed."

Not Inclined to Talk.

"We gave him a chance, and wanted to help him clear himself," a detective said, "but he did not seem to want to talk, and we decided to leave him alone until he felt he could help us."

Another officer said he talked with Merritt and that he gave straight replies to every question.

"But," the officer supplemented, "the questions were not of a very personal nature."

Evans attracted attention on the afternoon the murders were discovered. Not only was he a neighbor of the Wayne and Burnham families, but it was his ax that was first discovered, and the one that the police first thought was used in killing the members of the two families.

Not only this, but Evans was inclined to be too talkative, the police say, on the afternoon the murders were discovered and since then. It was Evans who was the center of attraction for the crowds that visited the place on West Dale Street and who had stories to tell bearing upon the two families and theories to advance as to how the crime was committed. He was the man who talked to Mayor Avery and other officials on that day, and gave them "tips," according to police.

Then came Evans, the police say with various stories concerning the ax and the condition in which he found it when he went to take it home on the morning after the crime is supposed to have been committed.

Harry Fox Cleared.

It was after the investigation of Mrs. Evans and Mr. and Mrs. Campbell yesterday that the police were ready to announce that Harry Fox had cleared himself of any possible connection with the case. It was rumored yesterday that one witness of a reputable character was ready to swear that he had seen Fox at the home Sunday evening, the night of the murder.

Very little importance is placed by the police on the possible connection of Nellie Mason, a reputed friend of John Merritt.

Detective L. Seymour of Denver, Bertillon expert, visited the vacant house in North Spruce Street yesterday afternoon, where the second ax was found, in an attempt to get the impression of a fingerprint.

"Instead of one," he said, "I found hundreds. They were all over the door, but the trouble was that they had been there too long to have any particular bearing on the case. There were none to be found on the second ax, either. I have the fingerprint impression of John Merritt, but there is no way to make a comparison with impressions left by the murderer."

The police deny the report that they have been requested to furnish police protection at the Hill home, where A.J. Burnham and Mr. and Mrs. June Ruth are stopping.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

"The members of the family have not signified in any way that they are scared or afraid of their lives," said F.H. Springer, assistant chief of police, "and until they do, no man will be detailed at the house to protect them."

Recalls Oregon Murders.

The police have received clippings telling of a recent series of murders in and near Portland, Oregon, that resemble to an extent the Wayne and Burnham crime. In each case a hatchet was used, and the heads and faces were beaten into unrecognizable mass. Nine persons were killed by the "hatchet" murderer, and in each case the police were completely mystified on account of a motive.

John L. Wayne, a brother to H.F. Wayne, who was one of the murdered persons, has sent word to J.H. Charlton, clerk of Colorado Springs camp No. 7226, Modern Woodmen of America, that the family is willing to raise a reward of from \$300 to \$400 for the person who captures the murderer. J.L. Wayne is the cashier of the First National Bank of Medaryville, Indiana.

Saturday, September 30, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 5

CORONER'S JURY RETURNS OPEN VERDICT AND INVESTIGATION WILL BE CONTINUED

**Officers Hopelessly at Sea -- Lack of Harmony
Makes Solution Appear Further Away Than
Ever -- Merritt and Evans Still Held**

"We, the jurors called to inquire into the death of Mrs. Alice May Burnham, Nellie Burnham, John J. Burnham, Henry F. Wayne, Mrs. Blanche Wayne and Lulu Wayne, find that they came to their death in Colorado Springs on or about September 17, 1911, by being struck on the head of each of them by some instrument, the exact character of the same being to this jury unknown, and we further find that the killing of the above named persons and each of them was done by some person or persons to this jury unknown, and we further find that the killing of the above named persons was done with felonious intent."

The coroner's inquest into the death of the six victims in the Burnham-Wayne murder resulted in the examination of only two material witnesses and the rendering of the above verdict by the jury. The examination was conducted by Assistant District Attorney M.W. Purcell and at its unexpected close Coroner Leonard Jackson said: "I am not satisfied; it is a fiasco."

Mr. Purcell said: "do not roast me; Coroner Jackson wanted an inquest and we have held it."

Prior to the inquest Sheriff Birdsall said: "We are not ready for the inquest and all that we can expect is an open verdict. I do not know of any witnesses who will be called except for Anna Merritt and Mrs. Ruth."

The jury which was sworn in last week consisted of C.C. Hoyt, foreman; George F. Dayton; L. Hiner; A.P. Martin; B.G. Robbins and I.G. Howard.

The sudden ending of the examination came as an evident surprise to the six "good men and true," but after they had signed the formal verdict presented to them by Purcell, they walked away, some laughing and some swearing among themselves. One or two were outspoken in declaring the inquest a farce.

Dr. McKinnie Testifies.

The first witness called was County Physician E.L. McKinnie who described the condition of the bodies as he saw them at the morgue, gave a description of the wounds on the head of each, and said that in his opinion the murdered persons had been dead from two to three days when found. The little Burnham girl, he said, was the only one struck in the back of the head and evidently had been trying to crawl out of bed when struck. Mrs. Burnham bore the marks of four distinct blows and her head was the worst battered of any of the victims. Wayne's head was the next worst battered and the frontal bones of the skull and the facial bones were all smashed in. Mrs. Wayne was evidently struck on the side of the head near the temple by some sharp instrument and received other blows, evidently dealt with the back of the ax. The Burnham children were in their underclothes and Mrs. Burnham was dressed in a gown or wrapper.

Mrs. Ruth on Stand.

Mrs. June Ruth, sister of Mrs. Burnham, gave some details about the names and ages of the Burnham children and following questions by Purcell said she saw Arthur J. Burnham at his home on the last day that he was there before the tragedy, which was on Wednesday, September 13. She arrived there at 5:30 o'clock from Miss Merritt's house in company with Mrs. Burnham, and Burnham arrived about 6 o'clock. (In connection with this visit of Burnham's to his home, both Miss Merritt and Arthur Burnham, today contradicted the statement that the former got supper for the husband that evening, after

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

his wife had gone to the theater. Miss Merritt says she was not there that night. Burnham also says that he and his wife did not quarrel, as reported by the officers.)

Mrs. Ruth said the last time she saw Mrs. Burnham at her mother's home, was about two weeks before the murder when she visited there with her children. She stayed with Mrs. Burnham at night probably once in six months, but knew that her sister was in the habit of hooking the wire screens and leaving the doors unlocked or even open. At the Merritt home she said there are five rooms, three down stairs and two up and it was in the downstairs part that Mrs. Burnham lived last winter with her two children only, while Miss Merritt lived upstairs. Once she stayed all night there and the other persons in the house besides her sister and Miss Merritt was a Miss Mason. At that time John Merritt stayed with his mother at 128 North Pine street. The last time she saw John Merritt was about four weeks ago. John talked about the Burnham children because he was kind to them "like an uncle," she said. The Burnham family and Merritt were on friendly terms.

Tells About Last Visit.

She last saw her sister alive at 9:15 o'clock Sunday night when she left the Burnham home -- the night that Mrs. Burnham was murdered. She arrived there at 6:30 o'clock with little Joe Sorrick and went to the back door where she heard the children playing. She found Mrs. Burnham did not introduce her to Mrs. Wayne and she did not see Wayne but she understood that he was in the house. She and Mrs. Burnham went to Grant Collins' grocery store to get some things and then had lunch in the kitchen with the children seated on the floor and the two women at the table. They left the dishes unwashed and went to the front room where they sat talking for the remainder of the evening, her sister taking some time telling her about a book she had been reading. Before going into the front room they went to the back yard for about five minutes and saw nobody about that premises. Mrs. Burnham told her that Mrs. Wayne seemed to be a very nice person and a nice neighbor. While they were in the front room Miss Daisy Burgess came to the front yard and paid her sister \$1 for the rent of her nights. She did not see Miss Burgess very distinctly and might not recognize her again, but recalled that she was a small person. Mrs. Burnham was certain no other person came to the house or was in the house that evening while she was there and her sister did not seem to be expecting anyone. She asked her sister what bed she was going to sleep in and the latter answered: "Either bed, it makes no difference; whatever one I make up my mind to."

Mrs. Burnham did not seem to have any trouble on her mind and when Mrs. Ruth left Mrs. Burnham said. "Then you will be over some day this week," and Mrs. Ruth said, "Yes, to sew."

Mr. Ruth, she said was at home on that evening and she went home on the car, changing at Tejon street and arriving at 9:50 o'clock. When she got on the car there was only one lady, whom she did not know. Later she said Ruth came home 10 minutes after she did.

On the Wednesday the murder was discovered she left home at about 12 o'clock and when she went to her sister's home she saw the blinds all down. She knocked twice on the front door and, receiving no answer, did not try the door nor the back door, but went straight to Anna Merritt's home, where she found Miss Merritt, her niece and sister and a neighbor woman.

"I asked Miss Merritt where my sister was and she said she did not know, but suggested she might have gone to the sanatorium to see Arthur, who perhaps was worse. I thought she might be at Miss Merritt's mother in Colorado City, but Miss Merritt said she did not think so. Miss Merritt said her niece passed Burnham's house on Monday and the blinds were drawn. We then went to Mrs. Coleman's, next door, and telephoned to Mr. Burnham, asking if his wife was out there. We found she was not and went to the kitchen and then we went back and Anna got a key and we went through the alley to the Burnham house. We noticed the windows and blinds down at the Wayne cottage and the blinds were all down at May's home. We went to the rear door, and I am sure the wire screen was not hooked. Anna tried to open the door with her key and it fell and when she stooped to pick it up she had her hand on the knob and the door came open.

"Anna went in first and I noticed that the door into the little kitchen was closed. I pushed it open and saw the dishes still on the table as we had left them. The parrot was on top of its cage, which was standing near the foot of the bed in the middle room and quite a ways from the east wall. Anna went to the door leading to the bedroom in front and said, 'Come here.' She had the door open and I followed and saw the bed and the blood and then we both ran to the street screaming."

The women attracted the attention of two expressmen on the street who went into the house and verified the fact of the murder. Miss Merritt told them to telephone the police, which they did.

Miss Merritt Testifies.

Miss Merritt was the next witness and her story was substantially the same as that of Mrs. Ruth but she said the door into the little kitchen was open and that the parrot came out of its cage when it saw them. She also was sure that the screen door was unhooked and said her key fell down when she tried to insert it.

On the Sunday night of the murder Miss Merritt said she went to the bed about 11 o'clock. In her home that night were: Harry Fox, who was there between 8 and 9 o'clock; Miss Burgess, who slept on the porch; a man she called Al Van Denberg; her sister, her niece, and a woman she called Mrs. Olden.

Says Brother Wasn't There.

She said Miss Burgess came to her place about three weeks ago to get a room and being crowded at the time, she couldn't give it to her and arranged with May Burnham to give her a room. On Sunday, night of the murder, Miss Burgess came and

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

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Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

took her front sleeping porch and went and paid Mrs. Burnham \$1 for the four nights she had slept there. Her brother, John Merritt, was not there on that night and when asked where he was she said, "He was on Cucharas street."

Mrs. Burnham had said she was glad to have Miss Burgess with her for company and it was not at the request of Mrs. Burnham that the girl left.

Miss Merritt and her mother slept at Mrs. Burnham's home one night this summer. Miss Merritt could not recall the date. On the Monday following the murder, Miss Merritt went by the Burnham house to the Collins grocery store and noticed the blinds all down at the Burnham home but did not go in or try the door. Her niece told her the Burnham children were not at school. From the grocery store she went straight back to her washing and did not go that way again on Tuesday.

Witness Breaks Down.

When Miss Merritt came to tell of the finding of the bodies of the murdered family in the bedroom when she went there with Mrs. Ruth she broke down and cried. There was little else in her testimony outside of what she has already told in published stories.

Detective T.J. Gavin was called to the stand for a minute to testify to being called to the Burnham home the day the murder was discovered and this closed the examination.

Merritt and Evans Held.

The police are still holding John Merritt and Joseph R. Evans who were taken into custody Thursday night, and claim that they will continue to hold them until they are through with their investigation.

"We worked all last night, and all day today on the case," said Acting Chief F.H. Springer, "and will continue to work on the lines we have started."

Saturday, September 30, 1911 - Colorado Springs Herald - Telegraph - Page 1, Column 5

Another Ax Makes Its Appearance in the Wayne-Burnham Murder Case

Whose ax killed the six persons found murdered here September 17?

That is the question which the Pinkerton detectives who are working on the sextuple murder are trying to answer. Three axes are now in the possession of Sheriff George Birdsall. Two of them are the property of Joseph R. Evans, who is being held for investigation. The ownership of the third ax has not been determined.

Mrs. Evans, who lives on Spruce street, less than a block from the scene of the tragedy, found a bloody ax near the door of the Burnham home on the Monday morning following the night of the murder. When the bodies of the victims were discovered two days later she turned over to the police an ax which she said was the same one she found that Monday morning.

The latest theory on which the Pinkertons are working is that the ax she turned over to the sheriff's office and the ax she found at the Burnham home are different ones. Mrs. Evans said that the ax which she found was covered with blood which she accounted for in her own mind on the supposition that Mrs. Burnham had killed a chicken with it.

Mrs. Evans, according to her story, took the ax home and left it lying in the back yard, after splitting a little kindling with it.

It is the opinion of the detectives working on the case that the murderer or murderess who killed the Burnham and Wayne families, saw Mrs. Evans take the ax away by looking through the peephole in the house at 741 Spruce street. Fearing that the bloody condition of the ax would lead to an investigation. It was stolen that night from the Evans back yard and another ax substituted for it.

This ax also had blood on it, but this is accounted for on the statement of Evans that he killed a rabbit with the instrument.

The third ax was loaned to a family named Reid, by Mrs. Evans, several days preceding the tragedy, and was secured yesterday by a detective. On Thursday, the day after the discovery of the sextuple tragedy, she was without an ax and went to the Reid home and secured the ax.

Neither Mrs. Evans nor her husband has been able to identify the last ax found.

The tangle of the axes has added materially to the puzzling features of the case, without furnishing any additional clues which may lead up to the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the murders.

The serum blood test was tried on the ax found under the doorstep, and the ax turned over to the authorities by Mrs. Evans, but without positive result. A new supply of the serum will arrive from Denver this afternoon and another attempt will be made to find out whether the blood on either ax is human blood, and on which one.

In order to secure the serum with which this test is made human blood is injected into a living horse, dog or sheep. Sometime afterward the animal is bled and a serum is prepared. It is fresh from blood globules. Drops of human blood are dropped into this liquid and if it immediately forms a precipitate, it is known that the test serum is sufficiently active.

Homicide

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SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

If it is desired to determine whether the blood is that of a human being, they dissolve it in water and pour it into a tube containing the serum. If it forms a precipitate the stain is human blood.

Saturday, September 30, 1911 - Denver Rocky Mountain News - Page 5, Column 5

KEY TO MURDER CASE IN ARREST OF AX OWNER, SAY POLICE

Theorizing of Evans Concerning Butchered Turned Suspicion of Officers to Himself.

MERRITT CLAIMS AN ALIBI

Girl Acquaintance Denies Prisoner's Statement Regarding Time He Went Home Early

Special to The News.

COLORADO SPRINGS, September 29 - When John Merritt asked a girl acquaintance to play "Casey Jones" for him while he joined in the chorus, led by her sister, did he have guilty knowledge that his friend, Mrs. Lulu May Burnham, more than a mile away, was being murdered and the lives of five others wiped out with an ax?

Was he on the scene at any time that night, and if so did he have a hand in the killing?

It was officially admitted tonight that young Merritt had not claimed an alibi. Information furnished by The News, it was admitted by the detectives, was the first intimation they had that an alibi would be claimed.

Merritt, it was stated, has not only failed to explain his movements on that Sunday night but has refused to talk.

To The News three nights ago he protested that he had not been in the neighborhood of the crime; that he had spent the evening with a girl of his acquaintance and had returned to his room in the Antlers hotel at 10:30 o'clock.

Claims an Alibi.

"Why the elevator boy knows I rode up with him," was Merritt's protest.

Now comes Miss Jennie De Masters, 302 East Cucharras street, who says:

"He must be mistaken about the time. He was with me from a quarter to 7 until about midnight that Sunday night."

The family claims he first rose to go at 10:30 o'clock. The elder sister of the De Masters girls retired at that time and lay awake listening to the conversation between her sister and Merritt. She says she counted the strokes of 11 o'clock, then the half-hour stroke at 11:30, and Merritt had not left. He was then standing in the hall with Miss Jennie, preparing to take his departure.

"Our conversation was on ordinary topics. We played and sang for him. I remember he was fond of "Casey Jones." Usually he wanted me to sing "Silver Threads Among the Gold," but he didn't ask for it that night. Before leaving he made a date to take us all, my sister, my mother and myself to the theater the following Tuesday night.

Merritt Only a Friend.

Miss De Masters disclaims any intimate knowledge of young Merritt. She first met him, she stated, about five weeks ago, through a mutual friend, and regarded him merely as an acquaintance.

"The detectives had not called on the De Masters family and stated tonight that it was a feature of the investigation that had not been developed until The News interview.

The murder is supposed to have been committed before midnight; probably, it is stated, shortly after 11 o'clock. A scream was heard as late as 11:30. All is supposed to have been quiet in the neighborhood at 12 o'clock.

That the detectives believe they have the key to the Burnham-Wayne murder mystery in the arrest of Joseph R. Evans, suspected of owning both of the axes that figure in the crime, and that he is being held for far more serious reasons than ownership of the axes might imply, was indicated tonight. Evans, it is pointed out, has talked freely and in theorizing about others, it is hinted, has woven the net of suspicion about himself, until it is believed he is now regarded as an important factor in solving the mystery of the sextuple murder.

Did Henry F. Wayne tell Evans to "stay away from Mrs. Burnham," or was it vice versa?"

This, it is said, is one of the clues that figure in the mystery.

Denies Hearing Threats.

Evans, in talking to The News, several days ago, denied that he had ever heard Wayne threaten anyone. His conversation with Wayne, he said, had been confined to business relations he had with him.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

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Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Evans evidently believed Merritt to be in love with Mrs. Burnham. In his line of theorizing, prior to his arrest. Evans dwelt on Merritt's alleged friendship for Mrs. Burnham. If, as now suspected, both men figure in the solution of the mystery, was Merritt's supposed jealousy for Mrs. Burnham played upon by Evans and made to figure in the work that night?

Monday, October 2, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 6

MERRITT PROVES ALIBI; RELEASED

CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH IN MURDER MYSTERY Authorities Say They Are "Stumped" and Do Not Know Where to Turn

John Merritt, brother of Miss Anna Merritt, and a friend of A.J. Burnham and his murdered wife, was released by the police yesterday afternoon and apparently given a clean bill of health so far as the Wayne and Burnham murders are concerned.

The police announced, following Merritt's release, that they have investigated his case thoroughly and that from statements made by friends, he produced a flawless alibi as to his whereabouts the Sunday night the murder is supposed to have happened.

With Merritt's release, the police announce that they are "stumped," with no knowledge or idea of where to turn next to look for the murderer. The same statement is made from the sheriff's forces

"But it does not mean that we are going to give up," Sheriff Birdsall said last night. "Although we have followed every possible clew, searched for them from every possible theory and investigated every person whom we think would have any knowledge of the crime, yet we have found nothing. There is hope, though, and that is what is keeping us up. Some day we should be able to strike something."

But, from the police end, while they intend to keep at work on the case, they feel it will be a lucky tip that gives them a clew to take them any further in the case.

Statements were given out yesterday, saying that the police, county authorities and Pinkerton detectives were working in perfect harmony.

Tuesday, October 3, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 6, Column 5

NO LATE CLEWS IN SEXTUPLE MURDER

"We are no farther advanced than we were the first day that the murders became known."

This is what the police said yesterday regarding their efforts to solve the Wayne-Burnham murder mystery. Yesterday there were no new developments in the case, and at the day's close the authorities were more than ever convinced that they were touching upon a problem in criminology that seldom, if ever, has had its equal.

"We have had the satisfaction," said Sheriff Birdsall, "of knowing that we have done everything in our power to find the murderer. We have traced every clew, and have given heed to almost every theory, but nowhere have we found a bit of information that will give us an answer. There have been no new developments, and none are likely to be obtained, unless the man who committed the crimes sees fit to help us or through accident lest fail a clew. But for the present, our only hope is to be found in saying, 'Murder will out.' It sounds good, and has proved true in almost every instance."

Assistant Chief Springer laughs at the idea that "Billy the Ax Man," or the Hatchet Murderer" had anything to do with the Colorado Springs case.

"It is a strange thing, you may be sure, that almost exact duplicates of the local murders have been committed at Rainier, Washington or Monmouth, Illinois," Chief Springer said. "But if the mystery is ever solved, it will be found that there was a motive behind our cases, and the murder was not the act of a maniac. The man who did the work here was too shrewd to permit of any such theory."

Wednesday, October 4, 1911 - Steamboat Pilot - Page 1, Column 4

BILLY THE AX MAN

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Believed Assassin Who Has Murdered Families Guilty of Springs Crime

(Special to the Pilot)

Colorado Springs, Colorado, October 4 - "Billy, the Ax Man," is the assassin of the Burnham and Wayne families in this city September 17, according to the theory held by Detective Seymour, of the Thiel Detective agency of Denver, who has been in this city as the Bertillon fighter print expert on the sextuple murder.

"On or about September 1," he says, "a mysterious murder in which eight people were killed, five in one family and three in a neighboring house, occurred in Rainier, Washington. The families lived in a poor quarter of the city in cottages such as those occupied by the Burnham and Wayne families here. The murderer effected an entrance and did his work after the manner of the assassin in this city, disturbed nothing in either home, and left no clew. The families had no connection with each other, and the mystery surrounding their killing baffled all the detectives, just as has been the case here.

"The murder in Colorado Springs was committed about two weeks after the one in Washington, and now in Monmouth, Illinois, there comes to light another murder of a similar nature, just about two weeks after the one in this city. The method used was the same, and there is apparently just as little motive. In every case men, women and children have all met their death, and the murderer seems to have no regard for sex or age.

"In the Rainier murders, a woman and four small children were murdered in their beds, while the husband and father, a poor consumptive baker was working at night and the assassin then went into a neighboring cottage and murdered a man, his wife and child in their beds. There has been absolutely no clew found in this case and the chances are that the murder in Monmouth will prove as baffling. MY prediction is that this man will continue to commit these crimes until he is run to earth. He is apparently a murder maniac and prefers to do his work in the poor sections of the cities where entrance to cottages is easy."

Sunday, October 8, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 5, Column 3

Circumstances Monmouth Murders Similar to Those in This City Recently

The social conditions of the victims, and the manner in which the murders occurred at Monmouth, Illinois, were similar to the Wayne and Burnham murders of this city a few weeks ago, according to a letter received yesterday by J.A. Himebaugh, commissioner of public safety and acting chief of police, from E.C. Hilyer, district attorney of Monmouth.

"They were poor, working people," the letter reads, "and the murders are unexplainable from the fact that no motive can be established. They had no enemies. Instead of going through an open door, the murderer tore off a screen and raised a window in getting entrance to the house. The victims were asleep, evidently, at the time. The faces and heads were mashed into a pulp with an ax."

Commissioner Himebaugh, in reply, has asked if any of the Monmouth victims were subject to tuberculosis.

Monday, October 9, 1911 - Leadville Herald Democrat - Page 4, Column 1

The people of Colorado Springs have a ghastly idea of humoer. Under the head of "Thanks, Billy, the Gazette prints the following communication:

In regard to the murder, the people of this city may know that there is no more danger from me. I have done my work and am through. Nobody need be alarmed any more.

BILLY, THE AX MAN.

Perhaps they don't take life seriously in Colorado Springs.

Tuesday, October 17, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 6

SPRINGS CRIME DUPLICATED IN KANSAS

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Ellsworth Family of Five Members Slain With an Ax as They Sleep FIEND LEAVES NO TRACE Friend Discovers Murders Committed Sunday Night Late the Following Day

ELLSWORTH, Kansas, October 16 -- Slain as they slept Sunday night, the bodies of Will Showman, a chauffeur, his wife, and three small children were discovered today in the Showman home by a neighbor who chanced to call and who entered the house when no one responded to her knocks.

The features of all the victims were battered past recognition by the blows of an ax, which the slayer had used. The youngest member of the family, a baby, had been beaten until its head was severed from the body. All of the children were under 6 years of age.

Although the crime was committed last night, it was not discovered until 6 o'clock this evening.

The authorities have failed to find anything pointing to a cause for the crime, not a clue to the guilty person.

List of Victims.

The names of the victims are:

William Showman, aged 33

Mrs. Showman, his wife.

Lester Showman, aged 6

Fern Showman, aged 4

Senton Showman, aged 1

The two latter are girls.

The Showman home is a small two room cottage in the outskirts of Ellsworth, 300 or 400 yards from the nearest house.

The bodies of the five victims were found in one room. The father, mother and baby in one bed and the other two children in a second bed.

The room looked like a slaughter house. There was blood on the walls, ceiling, floor, beds and every article in the room. In this room also was the bloody ax which the murderer had used and which he had left in his flight.

Friend Discovers Crime.

Last night all the members of the Showman family visited at the home of Mrs. O.W. Snook, a friend living several blocks away. They left the Snook home about 9 o'clock. This was the last time any of them were seen alive.

Mrs. Snook discovered the quintuple killing. She called at the Showman home a few minutes before 6 o'clock. Her knock was unanswered so she opened the door and walked into the house entering the room in which the bodies of the five victims lay.

She quickly gave the alarm. It was then nearly dark and the officers were unable to find anything which would furnish a clue to the slayer.

The Colorado Springs Police were greatly surprised when they learned of the similarity of the crimes. They are not of the opinion, however, that the murderer or murderers of the Ellsworth, Kansas, family, is the same as wielded the ax that ended the lives of members of the Burnham and Wayne families in this city several weeks ago.

It was announced last night that the local authorities will help search for the Ellsworth, Kansas, fiend should such aid be requested.

Wednesday, October 18, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 7

AFTER SPRINGS MURDER IN KANSAS? Authorities There Believe Ellsworth Fiend to Blame for Local Atrocities SUSPECT CHARLES R. MARZYK Reason to Believe He Had a Grievance Against Victims in Each Instance

Police officials of Ellsworth, Kansas believe that with the capture of Charles Marzyk, whom they charge with having brained the five members of the William Showman family of that city, they will solve the mystery of Colorado Springs' sextuple murder, September 17, and will apprehend the assassin of the Burnham and Wayne families. In a dispatch received from Ellsworth last night it is said that there is reason to believe Marzyk committed the crimes in this city and also those in Monmouth, Illinois, October 1.

Marzyk has been out of Kansas State Penitentiary but one year, after having been convicted of attempting to wreck vengeance upon his relatives and friends. It is said that Marzyk has always had trouble with his wife's friends and relatives,

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

whom he claims to be responsible for his trouble. That the Wayne and Burnham families were in some way connected with the Marzyks or the Kratkes (Mrs. Marzyk's family) is the belief of the Kansas police. The similarity of the crimes is another point upon which they base their statement.

When A.J. Burnham was seen last night concerning the dispatch from Ellsworth, he said that he did not know the Marzyks or the Kratkes, and if his wife had known them he had never heard of it. Mrs. A.J. Hill, mother of the late Mrs. Burnham, also denied acquaintance with the families, making the same statement as did Burnham. Burnham does not place much faith in the theory advanced by the Kansas authorities.

It is said that Marzyk's brother, whose first name was not learned, lived in Colorado Springs about eight years ago.

Grievance Against Victims

Special to The Gazette.

ELLSWORTH, Kansas, October 17 -- Charles R. Marzyk was released from the Kansas Penitentiary last year for wreaking his wrath upon the heads of relatives and friends, whom he holds responsible for his punishment. A family was murdered with an ax in Colorado Springs on the night of September 17. There is reason to believe he had a grievance against them.

A triple murder under exactly the same circumstances occurred in Monmouth, Illinois, October 1, where he had once lived and, to cap the climax his brother-in-law, sister-in-law and their three children were brained with an ax here Sunday night.

The only suspect is a man answering Marzyk's description who fled that night, leaving a bundle of blood-soaked clothing in his room.

Marzyk, who is an educated Slav married Minnie Kratke of Denver July 12, 1898. W.L. Williams of 2810 Larimer Street, Denver, Jewell Williams of Englewood, a suburb of Denver, and Rosa and Joseph Marzyk were his friends.

ELLSWORTH, Kansas, October 17 -- William Showman, his wife and three small children whose mutilated bodies were found in their home last night, were slain by someone who knew the Showman home accurately. This fact was brought today.

The murderer completed his task and covered his crime well. To prevent interruption of his work, he muffled the telephone with Mrs. Showman's cloak. After the tragedy the ax with which the crime was committed and the lamp which aided the slayer with its light were placed behind a door where they were found today.

The lamp chimney was placed in the kitchen of the house under a chair and it is believed that crime was committed in the dim light thrown from a lamp wick, the murderer evidently fearing the family might awaken in a stronger light.

Mrs. O.W. Snook, a neighbor who discovered the murders when she called at the Showman home last night, said today she knew of no reason for the crime. The Showman's had no enemies she declared.

From the condition of the bodies it was believed the crime was committed Sunday night.

Bloodhounds Used.

Bloodhounds were used today in an effort to trace the murderer. Three times they were taken to the house and each time took a trail and followed it to the railroad crossing where it was lost. The coroner's jury is investigating the murder today.

Is another family, somewhere slated for massacre by "Billy, the Axman," on October 29?

If there is anything in sequence or in the theory now accepted by the authorities of five states, one family, perhaps two, living in a small, two-room cottage on the outskirts of some town in the United States, will be murdered with an ax sometime between midnight, October 28, and midnight October 29, to satisfy the seemingly insatiable thirst for blood of the most cruel and heartless beast ever known in the history of crimes.

Here is a list of the murders believed by the local authorities to have been perpetrated by one man who has been dubbed "Billy, the Axman:"

August 20 -- Man, wife and children murdered in Portland, Oregon.

September 3 -- Man, wife and baby; woman and four children murdered in Rainier, Washington.

September 17 -- Mr. and Mrs. Wayne, baby; Mrs. Burnham and two children murdered on West Dale Street, Colorado Springs.

October 1 -- Man, wife and daughter murdered in Monmouth, Illinois.

October 15 -- Man, wife and three children murdered in Ellsworth, Kansas.

Total -- 25 persons murdered in five towns in eight weeks.

Two weeks separated each of these five murders -- worst known in America. The fiend's next crime is due for execution October 29. No one knows where, but those who have studied the five murders fear that within the next two weeks the murderer will add another to his long record.

Under Same Circumstances.

In every instance the murders were committed at night while the victims were asleep in bed. In every case there was no apparent motive for the crime, neither did the bloodthirsty man leave a single clew. Sheriff George Birdsall is convinced that the three murders were the work of the same man.

Where will this "Billy, the Axman" as he has been dubbed, strike next? His past crimes, if all are his work, indicate that his next butchery will take place two weeks from last Sunday. No one knows where. His victims will be one or two poor families in a less prosperous part of some small town or city. His weapon will be an ax.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Traveling about the country like a millionaire or a tramp -- no one knows which -- striking where he is least expected -- no one knows when -- this "Billy, the Axman" has terrorized the entire country. Sooner or later, the authorities say, he must leave some clew which will lead to his detection, but until that time no one knows how many people will be butchered with an ax.

Press dispatches from Monmouth state that in a coal house on the premises of the Dawson family, which was murdered, workmen found a bloody piece of gas pipe and a flashlight inscribed "Colorado Springs, September 4." This find strengthens theory, first advanced by Sheriff Birdsall and his deputies, that the Wayne-Burnham tragedy was the work of a moral degenerate and that there was a connection between the three murders. The Springs police department wired Monmouth yesterday for details of the finding of the flashlight. The Monmouth authorities promised to send as soon as they have finished with it. Sheriff Birdsall talked with the Ellsworth authorities over long distance phone this morning and is convinced that all three murders are the work of one man.

The family murdered in Ellsworth consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Will Showman and their three small children. Their bodies were discovered by a neighbor who called the Showman home about 6 o'clock last evening. The family was last seen alive Sunday morning about 9 o'clock by a friend who they visited several blocks away.

Thursday, October 19, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 2

ELLSWORTH SUSPECT HAS A DENVER POLICE RECORD

DENVER, October 18 -- Charles Marziek, as the name is now spelled, sought by the police of Ellsworth, Kansas, as a suspect in the Showman murder case, is not a stranger to the Denver police. Soon after his marriage here to Minnie Kratke in 1898, while employed at a local cigar factory, he is alleged to have carried on a system of forgeries netting him hundreds of dollars from saloon keepers and grocers in various parts of the city. He fled before he could be arrested.

Five years later he was arrested at the request of St. Joseph, Missouri, authorities, on charges of forgery. He fought extradition and secured his release through a technicality.

A brother of Charles Marziek is a musician at the local moving picture theater. Joseph Marziek says he last saw his brother several months ago, when the latter stopped off in Denver for a few days on his way to Alaska. Several letters, Joseph said, have been received from him, and the postmarks on these letters, he declared, indicate that it would have been impossible for him to have returned from Alaska and make his way to Ellsworth in time to commit the Showman murders.

Attempts to connect Marziek with the sextuple murder of the Wayne and Burnham families at Colorado Springs have had no result so far.

Violated Parole.

Special to The Gazette.

TOPEKA, Kansas, October 18 -- Charles Marziek, also known as Charles Marik, suspected of the Ellsworth murders, was arrested in Denver April 2, 1909, on the charge of violating his parole from the Kansas Penitentiary, and returned to the prison. He served out his term and was released last April. The violation of his parole consisted of not reporting to the prison authorities after his release.

Mrs. Vopat, formerly wife of Charles Marziek, says her husband used another name in Colorado. At the state prison at Lansing he was known as Charles Marik. It is believed he use this name when arrested in Colorado Springs several years ago.

Not Known Here.

If Charles Marziek was ever convicted in Colorado Springs for forgery or other violations of the law, the incident is not recalled by the police or sheriff's office, nor is there any record showing that he has been under arrest here.

The man now sought in Ellsworth, Kansas, on suspicion of being implicated in the murder of the Showman family last Sunday night, may have been in the toils here, however, under a different name. The court records do not show the name Marziek or anything similar. Theories that the Ellsworth murderer is the man who killed the Wayne and Burnham families here with an ax on the night of Sunday, September 17, are being run down. Full particulars have been wired for from the Kansas authorities in the hope of solving the murder mystery here.

One of the latest clues to run down the connection with the Wayne-Burnham murder case has proved of no value. Detective Railsback and Miss Anna Merritt have returned from a trip to Norrie, Colorado, where the woman was unable to identify John Lee as the man whom she says was begging in the West Dale Street neighborhood Sunday, September 17, the day of the murder. Lee is a Midland section hand, and according to the authorities, has an alibi. He was working on the Rock Island about eight miles from Colorado Springs the day in question.

Miss Merritt declared Lee is not the man now sought. The tramp, she said, did not have any front teeth missing, while Lee has none. Lee was suspected because he appeared at Norrie shortly after the crime was discovered, talked about it and appeared mentally unbalanced.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Saturday, October 21, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 3, Column 3

SHOWMAN MURDERER APPARENTLY SAFE

ELLSWORTH, Kansas, October 20 -- Private detectives and county officers who have been searching since last Monday for the man who murdered the five members of the Showman family say tonight the outlook for the capture of the slayer is gloomy.

Every report, save, the one that the man detained at Newkirk, Oklahoma, resembled Charles Marzyek, who is under suspicion, has been investigated and no light has been shed on the mystery. Little confidence is placed on the Newkirk report, but a man who knows Marzyek was sent there tonight to attempt identification. The sheriff of Newkirk is positive he has the desired fugitive.

Several times today he telephoned officers and urged them to come and get their man. For a time today, officers thought they had John Smith, the mysterious man who left bloody clothes at the Baker house here on the night of the murders and who was found by a coroner's jury to be responsible for the killings.

At Kanopolis today John Smitherman, a laboring man from Junction City, Kansas, who answered the descriptions of Smith, was taken into custody by local officers. He admitted he was here on the night of the murder and that he registered at a local hotel but he would not say that he was at the Baker house and he was positive that he did not leave any bloody clothes there.

Sheriff John Harbes of Junction City, came here tonight and convinced the authorities that Smitherman had nothing to do with the Showman case. He will be released.

A private detective today found fingerprints on a bucket in which the murderer washed his hands before leaving the Showman house. A message has been sent to Lansing prison requesting copies of the fingerprints of Marzyek.

Wednesday, October 25, 1911 - Sterling Republican-Advocate - Page 6, Column 4

MURDER MOTIVE FOUND AT LAST

Ex-Convict Friends of All Four Families Who have Been Slain With Ax In Three Cities

Denver, October 18 - Is Charles Marzyck a Slav, who formerly lived in Denver and who was released from the Kansas penitentiary last year visiting his wrath upon the heads of relatives and friends whom he holds responsible for his punishment?

On September 17 the wife and two children of A.J. Burnham and Henry F. Wayne, his wife and daughter were murdered in Colorado Springs. Marzyck knew them and was at one time a friend of the two families.

A triple murder, under exactly the same circumstances occurred in Monmouth, Illinois, October 8, where Marzyck had once been and the victims were his friends.

Following this occurred the murder of Mayzyck's brother-in-law, sister-in-law and their three children at Ellsworth, Kansas, Sunday night.

Dispatches from Colorado Springs last night stated that Marzyck was a friend of both the Burnham and Wayne families, and had visited them at their home.

The Ellsworth, Kansas, and Monmouth, Illinois, authorities are searching for him, and say that his trail leads to Denver. The suspect man is an educated Slav and married Minnie Kratke in Denver July 12, 1898. He has two close friends living in the city, as well as relatives. These friends declared last night that they knew nothing of his whereabouts. They admitted that he had been in the penitentiary and held a grudge against society in general, and especially against his close relatives and friends.

Monday, October 30, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 5

PRISONER THOUGHT TO BE "BILLY THE AXMAN" PROVES MERELY YOUNG GIRL IN MAN'S CLOTHES

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

When Police Sergeant Springer went to search Charles Krominis, arrested last evening, he found -- well, things that were unbecoming an officer. Thereby hangs the tale of how Charles Krominis is booked at police station on a vagrancy charge under the name of Jennie Rosenthaw, for Charles is a "perfect lady," she says, regardless of the men's garments she was wearing at the time of her arrest.

The unusual arrest took place near 701 North Pine Street, not so very far away from the scene of the Wayne-Burnham murder. The fact that it was Sunday evening, and that the events of another such evening a few weeks ago were still fresh in the minds of the residents of that section, had much to do in bringing about Charles -- or Jennie's detention.

Maybe he or she did not know of the things that took place a short distance away, and the condition of the minds of the neighborhood residents. Anyway, she started to make a house-to-house canvass, in search of a "handout." A number of the people were talking and referring to "Billy the Axman," by the time she reached Collins' grocery store. It was then that a few of the men thought that it would do no harm to tell the police, and a few minutes later "Charles" was headed for the city hall in the "Black Maria."

Police Take a Peep.

The police were anxious to take a "peep" at the character who had created such a stir in the Pine Street vicinity, and several of them crowded into the jail corridor as soon as the unloading process took place. They laughed when they saw the small figure, white and tear-bespattered face, and the soft delicate hands.

"To think they would get scared at a kid like that," one of the policemen said.

But the real surprise came when Springer started the searching process. "Charles" squirmed a little when he dug into the trousers pockets. Nothing entered the minds of the policemen when Springer brought out a silk scarf and -- something men don't wear -- from a hip pocket.

"What cha got in your shirt, kiddo?" Springer inquired, as he unbuttoned the vest. Then Springer turned pale, and without a word started for the door. And as for the prisoner, there was nothing but a small mass, moaning and crying, on the floor. The men understood. "Charles" then was removed to the woman's ward in the county jail.

In Colorado Three Years.

She declares that her home is New York, although she has been in this state for about three years. Deciding that woman gets the worst of it in this world, when it comes to job hunting, Jennie left Pueblo three weeks ago, attired in men's clothes, and beat her way to Colorado Springs, "riding the rods" just like a seasoned hobo. Since her arrival here she has been living from hand to mouth, sleeping in empty houses and boxcars, and begging for food. She refuses to talk concerning her relatives, except that she comes from a respectable family in New York City.

In the woman's department at the county jail the prisoner threw off her assumed name, assumed clothing and assumed tone of voice. And in addition to the humorous side which they saw at the police station, the police heard another story, which changed the aspect of their countenance.

"Life's too hard for us women," she said, "I tried it for years, and couldn't make a go of it. So I just decided to try and get work as a man. It's been three weeks now since I changed, but luck wasn't any better for me."

"Jennie Rosenthaw," as she is booked, is of Italian descent. Until three years ago she lived in New York. Then she came west, and moved from time to time about this state, picking up odd jobs in laundry work, waiting in restaurants and as servant in homes, in Denver, Pueblo, Cripple Creek and LaJunta.

Tries Men's Clothes.

"My last job," she said, "was in a restaurant in Pueblo. I wasn't getting enough to dress me, and then I lost my job. I tried to get more work but couldn't. Finally, I thought I'd try to land something as a man. I cut off my hair and bought some old clothes and tried again, but there was no difference. Three weeks ago I caught a train and reached Colorado Springs. It's been the same old story. I tried hard for work and couldn't get it. Then I started begging."

The prisoner said at first that she had a brother living in Pueblo, but denied the story after her identity was discovered. She refused to say anything about her folks.

She says that she is 20 years old, and has been making her own living for six years. Her appearance last evening, with her face, clothes and hands covered with dust and grime from several days' contact with boxcar and coal house beds, carried out the effect of her assumed name, "Charles Krominis." She looked like a young Greek bootblack, after a day's business rush.

She was given a bath at the county jail last evening and provided with women's clothing. Further investigation of her story will be made by the police today.

Thursday, November 2, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 2

SPRINGS MURDERER AT WORK IN IOWA?

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

MOUNT PLEASANT, Iowa, November 1 -- Circumstances similar to those in recent ax murders in Colorado Springs, Colorado; Monmouth, Illinois, and Ellsworth, Kansas, have led the police to believe that the same person believed to have committed those crimes was the assailant of Mrs. J.B. Jordan, found unconscious in her home here yesterday. Mrs. Jordan, a mechanic's wife, was attacked and terribly beaten about the head with a heavy instrument. Evidently she had been left for dead. The woman had not recovered consciousness today. It is said she cannot recover. The police today instituted a search for Charles Marzyek, the ex-convict sought in connection with the Showman murders in Ellsworth.

Thursday, November 9, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 4, Column 6

BURNHAM SERIOUSLY ILL

It was reported yesterday that A.J. Burnham, husband of Mrs. Alice May Burnham who, with her two children and the Wayne family, was murdered the night of September 17, is critically ill. It is said that he has reached the last stages of consumption, and cannot live much longer. Burnham declares that he will welcome death as a means through which he will be reunited with his family.

Burnham has been in failing health for some time, as was brought out at the time of the murders, when he was, in the first instance, suspected of complicity in the crime. Physicians then declared that Burnham's physical condition made such a deed impossible for him.

Burnham has just heard from J.A. Hill, father of the murdered woman. Mr. Hill explained that the telegrams sent to him at the time of the tragedy had just reached him because of the fact he was situated far from a railroad. Hill offers his assistance in any way possible.

Friday, November 10, 1911 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 5, Column 6

Portland Sheriff Here Today for Information on Mysterious Murders

Robert Stevens, sheriff at Portland, Oregon, is expected here today to make inquiry of local officers concerning the recent murder of the Burnham and Wayne families.

A woman and three children recently were killed near Portland, the murderer using an ax, and the Portland sheriff believes that same man may have committed the Colorado Springs and Portland crimes. He has been in conference with Chief Armstrong of Denver.

The Portland murders were similar in every detail to the murders committed at Colorado Springs, where six persons were killed with an ax while asleep, and at Monmouth, Illinois, and Ellsworth, Kansas. Three persons were killed at Monmouth and five at Ellsworth.

The Portland murders were committed early last June, and no trace of the slayer has been found. In the Colorado Springs murders, Mrs. Arthur J. Burnham and her two children and Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Wayne and one child were killed while asleep, the night of September 17. The murderer was next heard from at Monmouth, Illinois, where the bodies of the three members of the Dawson family were found. They were killed with an ax the night of October 8. The five members of the Showman family were killed in a similar manner at Ellsworth, Kansas, the night of October 15, and their bodies discovered a day or two later.

Tuesday, February 6, 1912 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 4

ARTHUR J. BURNHAM DIES MAINTAINING INNOCENCE TO LAST

Arthur J. Burnham, whose wife and two children, together with the three members of the Wayne family, were murdered here last September, died at St. Francis Hospital yesterday morning at 7 o'clock. A victim of asthma and tuberculosis, his death was hastened by Bright's disease.

Although the finger of suspicion pointed to Burnham for many days after the sextuple crime was discovered September 20, and he was under arrest for a time, he maintained to the last that he was innocent and unable to offer any suggestion that

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

might lead to a solution of the mystery. If there are any who believed that Burnham would leave a statement touching upon the case they will be disappointed, for no message, it is said, was left.

Burnham was taken to the hospital about 10 days ago, and at that time practically no hope was entertained for his recovery. He realized that his days were numbered, but in the presence of friends who called to see him, he did not complain. The last 10 hours of his life were spent alone in his room. A nurse left him at 9 o'clock Sunday night and no one saw him again until yesterday morning at 7 o'clock when one of the day nurses started on her rounds. Burnham was dying when she opened his door and expired before she could reach him.

Discussed Case Thursday.

The last time he discussed the Dale Street murder case was Thursday afternoon. Then, as he had done from the first, he declared he was innocent.

"There are times when I have little hope," he said, "but I would like to live if for no other reason than to see the mystery surrounding the death of my wife and children and the Waynes cleared up. I realize that many people believe I know something that would throw light on the case, but, so help me God, I do not. That is all I could say if I know I was going to die within an hour. I am sure if I could tell anything about it I would at this time. Whether anyone in that neighborhood could tell anything I am sure I do not know. It would seem impossible for such a thing to happen without someone in the neighborhood hearing something that would alarm them. It is a complete mystery to me, as it is to others."

"God knows I have suffered," Burnham continued, "and not the least of my suffering has been the consciousness that there are people who still believe I am guilty of concealing the crime."

E.H. Hartwick, a lumber dealer of Detroit, and a cousin of Burnham reached here Thursday in response to a telegram. He, too, declared that Burnham could not have had any connection with the murder.

In addition to a life policy in the Modern Woodmen of America for \$3,000, which goes to two cousins in Michigan, Burnham left title to a half interest in a house and lot adjoining the home of his mother-in-law, Mrs. J.A. Hill, 932 South Sierra Madre Street.

Burnham was 42 years old and came here several years ago for his health. His mother died when he was a child and he had no recollection of his father. He worked in various parts of the city at different times, and for a few months before the Wayne-Burnham murders was employed as a potato peeler at the Modern Woodmen Sanatorium north of Colorado Springs. The funeral will be held at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon from the undertaking rooms of Fairleys and Law, under the auspices of the Modern Woodmen. The Reverend Henry I. Kohler, pastor to the United Brethren Church, who officiated at the funeral of Mrs. Burnham and her children, will conduct the service.

Tuesday, February 6, 1912 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 3, Column 2

BRIEF REVIEW OF THE WAYNE-BURNHAM CASE

The sextuple murder of which Burnham was first suspected, was committed between the hours of 9 and 12 o'clock the night of Sunday, September 17, 1911. Mrs. Alice May Burnham and her two children were murdered with an ax as they slept in their cottage at 321 West Dale Street. Henry F. Wayne, his wife and 2-year-old baby who lived in a small house in the rear of the Burnham lot, were also killed in bed.

It was not until noon of the following Wednesday, September 20, that the crime was discovered. Mrs. Jane Ruth, a sister of Mrs. Burnham, and Miss Anna Merritt, went to the Burnham home and found the doors and windows closed and the window shades drawn. They secured a pass key and found the bodies. Sheriff's office men and detectives brought Burnham from the sanatorium after the six bodies had been removed to the morgue. He was taken into the houses and later to the county jail. Tony Donatel, an Italian, who had known Mrs. Burnham before she was married, was also arrested, but both he and Burnham were soon released.

Rewards were offered and Pinkertons and a fingerprint expert were employed to assist the local authorities in the case. The ax with which the crime had been committed was found September 27 under the steps of a house on North Spruce Street, close to the Burnham's home. The coroner's inquest brought out no new features, and the jury returned a verdict that the murder was committed by a person or persons unknown. Detectives worked on the case for weeks, but without results.

Sheriff Birdsall yesterday expressed the opinion that Burnham had no connection with the crime. Chief of Police Burno said that either Burnham or a degenerate committed the murder.

Wednesday, February 7, 1912 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 10, Column 4

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

BURNHAM FUNERAL TODAY

The funeral of Arthur J. Burnham, who died at St. Francis Hospital Monday morning, will be held this afternoon at 3 o'clock from the undertaking rooms of Fairleys and Law. The ritual of the Modern Woodman Lodge will be used and Colorado Springs Camp No. 7226 will have charge of the services. The Reverend Henry I. Kohler, pastor of the United Brethren Church will conduct the sermon. Interment will be at Evergreen Cemetery.

Tuesday, June 11, 1912 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 1

EIGHT PEOPLE VICTIMS OF AXMAN Villisca, Iowa, Family and Two Guests Slaughtered as They Slept BLOODHOUNDS FOLLOW TRAIL Local Police Believe Slayer Is One Who Killed Burnhams and Waynes

VILLISCA, Iowa, June 10 -- Twenty-Four hours after the murder of the entire family of Joseph Moore and two girl guests, eight in all, which occurred Sunday night, the authorities have been unable to secure a trace of the murderer.

The murderer killed every person in the house and escaped without discovery. It is apparent he had a key to a door of the home, because all doors and windows were found locked. A revised list of the victims follows:

JOSEPH MOORE.

HERMAN MOORE, age 11.

CATHERINE MOORE, aged 9.

BOYD MOORE, aged 7.

PAUL MOORE, aged 6.

LENA STILLINGER, aged 15.

INA STILLINGER, aged 9.

The first intimation of the crime came when a clerk in the implement house of Mr. Moore went to the Moore home to ascertain the cause of Mr. Moore's delay in reaching the business, finding the house locked, the window shades all down and no one about, he notified the neighbors and forced entrance.

Victims Did Not Struggle.

The dead people, with one exception, were found in their beds in natural attires of sleeping and until the crushed condition of their heads and the bloody and brain-soaked pillows were discovered, it was impossible for the searchers to believe that anything was wrong.

A bloody axe was found in an upstairs room where it had been left by the assassin.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore were in one bed, the clothing of which was not the least disturbed. In another bed were two of the boys, the sister occupied a third bed and the youngest boy was alone in a smaller bed. In neither instance was the bedding of the children disarranged.

Bloodhounds Follow Scent.

The Misses Stillinger occupied a room in another part of the house. One of the girls has a cut on an arm and was in such a position as to indicate she had awakened before the attack and there was a short struggle.

Bloodstains which will require the work of experts to handle in relation with the crime, including the fingerprints of the murderer are the only clue the officers have to work upon.

Bloodhounds tonight were taken to the Moore home. Within 10 minutes they found a scent which took them over a circuitous route to the edge of the town and thence to the banks of the Nodaway River.

Entering a deep wood along the river the hounds led their followers over several miles of rough timberlands.

Tuesday, June 11, 1912 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 1

SPRINGS MURDERER IS IN IOWA, THINK POLICE

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

The murderer in Villisca in every way resembles the slaughter of the families of Arthur J. Burnham and H.F. Wayne here September 17 last and police and detectives, both in Colorado Springs and in various other cities, are inclined to believe that it is the same man who is committing the crimes.

So far as is known the Villisca murder was committed in exactly the same manner as the one here, and similar tragedies in other places, which followed closely on the wiping out of the two families in this city.

In Villisca, as here, the murderer of choose Sunday night to do his work, and the most of the other crimes have been committed on the same night, although in many cases the murders were not discovered until several days later.

In none of the cities has a clew been discovered, except in Ellsworth, Kansas, and this proved to be very doubtful.

The police here are strongly inclined to believe that it is the same man who is committing all of the murders. They think it is either maniac or a religious fanatic.

The fiend is crazy enough to have what the police call a sixth sense, and in every case he has carefully covered up his trail, never leaving so much as one clew. Only a crazy man, the police say, could do this.

Although it is guess work on the part of the authorities here, they are hoping it is the same man, "for if it is he will surely be caught in time, perhaps soon, and that would end all of this slaughter," they say.

Saturday, May 10, 1913 - Aspen Democrat-Times - Page 1, Column 3

POLICE SEEK LIGHT ON MURDER MYSTERIES

COLORADO SPRINGS, May 10 - Chief of Police Burno is making every effort to ascertain whether or not Henry Lee Moore, now in the Missouri penitentiary, committed the Burnham-Wayne sextuple murder here as announced by W.M. McClaghery, federal agent at Leavenworth, Kansas. He has asked McClaghery for further details and has written to the warden of the penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, for a detailed description of Moore. A man supposed to answer Moore's description was seen in the vicinity of the crime the day following the deed but he left the city before the murder was discovered and could not be found later.

A telegram giving further information relative to the reasons for suspecting Moore of committing the ax murders in various western states, including the six here, was received by Chief Burno from McClaghery yesterday. It follows:

"I did not say that Henry's Moore, now serving life sentence in the Missouri penitentiary for ax murder, committed the Colorado Springs murders, but did say that since his release from the Hutchinson, Kansas, reformatory on April 27, 1911, there were six ax murders committed between date of his release and the date in December 1912, at Columbia, Missouri, when Moore was arrested for the known ax murder of which he was convicted. There has been no mysterious ax murder committed since the one committed at Columbia, Missouri."

Thursday, August 28, 1913 - Walsenburg World - Page 2, Column 2

Ax Murder at Hayranch.

Fairplay, Colorado - Undersheriff E.O. Spurlock and Coroner C.K. Osborne left here to investigate a reported ax murder at Hayranch, fourteen miles northeast, where it is said the body of a Mrs. Decker was found with a great gash in the skull and a bloody ax lying nearby.

Tuesday, July 7, 1914 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 3, Column 2

FOUR ARE KILLED BY AXMAN IN CHICAGO

Murder Is Similar to Springs Tragedy; Police Have Only Meager Clews

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
 Blanche McGinnis Wayne
 Blanche Wayne
 Alice May Burnham
 Alice Burnham
 John Burnham
 Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

CHICAGO, July 6 - That the murder with an ax of four members of a family in Blue Island, a suburb before sunup today was not the work of the maniac who has committed a series of similar crimes in four midwestern states was the opinion tonight of detectives who have sought him for months.

In the slaying of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Mislich, their daughter, Mrs. Williams Mansfield, and her baby, the officers assert there is nothing by which they can connect the "Axman," who is accuse of more than a score of killings.

Chicago detectives have found two men who say they saw a tall, lanky man loitering in front of the Mislich residence at 2 o'clock this morning. They learned from a married son of Mislich that this man had paid attention to Mrs. Mansfield before her marriage and had proposed to her.

The man has disappeared. He has not been seen at his boarding house since early Sunday night. No one knew why he went away. Descriptions have been sent to the police in the principal cities in the middle west.

The police believe the murders were committed by someone familiar with the Mishlich home. Entrance was gained through a window facing the front porch. The murderer crept into a side room where Mrs. Mishlich, her daughter and granddaughter were sleeping in one bed. His aim was so accurate - light from a full moon entered through two windows - that the first blow struck each victim was sufficient to cause death. The man then climbed to the attic where Mr. Mislich, 75-years-old, and the head of the family slept. He repeated what he had done downstairs, only there were fewer blows. The ax, which he lifted from a woodpile in an adjoining yard, he threw aside.

29 Killed in Three Years.

Twenty-nine persons have been murdered in the last three years in Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Iowa and Illinois by means of blows from an ax. The details of all of the murders are the same and in most of the cases the murderer's ax has wiped out entire families. All the crimes were committed at night while the victims lay asleep in their beds and in each instance the murderer left but slight clues.

A list of the so called "ax murders" follows:

H.C. Wayne, wife and child and Mrs. A.J. Burnham and two children, Colorado Springs, Colorado -	September 1911
William F. Dawson, wife and daughter, Monmouth, Illinois -	October 1911
William Showman, wife and three children, Ellsworth, Kansas -	October 1911
Rollin Hudson and wife, Paola, Kansas -	June 1912
J.B. Moore, four children and two girl guests, Villisca, Iowa -	June 1912
Mrs. Mary J. Wilson and Mrs. George Moore, Columbia, Missouri -	December 1912
Jacob Mishlich, his wife, their daughter and the latter's infant child, Chicago, Illinois -	July 6, 1914

Thursday, October 15, 1914 - Walsenburg World - Page 7, Column 4

Aged Woman Killed by Axman.

Hartsburg, Missouri - Another mysterious ax murder was added to the long list of such crimes already recorded in Missouri and Kansas with the finding of the mutilated body of Mrs. B.F. Matthews in bed at her home here. Mrs. Matthews, eighty years of age, and reputed wealthy, was slain by several blows on the head with the sharp side of an ax, while her husband slept peaceably in the same room.

Friday, July 14, 1916 - Westcliffe Wet Mountain Tribune - Page 2, Column 1

Governor Capper of Kansas issues extradition papers for William Mansfield held in Kansas City, Kansas, in connection with the ax murder of a family at Villisca, Iowa.

Wednesday, May 16, 1917 - Leadville Herald Democrat - Page 1, Column 3

IS PREACHER MURDERER?

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Reverend Kelly, Through Attorneys, Will Make Fight to Prove Innocence of Horrible Ax Butchery.

TOO MUCH PUBLICITY

Red Oak, Iowa, May 15 - Attorneys defending Reverend Lynn George J. Kelly, who is charged with the octuple ax murder at Villisca, Iowa, in 1912, declared at a hearing here late today that they would attempt to have the counsel for the prosecution cited for contempt of court because of the publication this morning of what they declared to have been evidence brought before the grand jury in the case. The prosecution is being conducted by Attorney General H.M. Havener and County Attorney Oscar Wenstrand.

Following arguments at the hearing on an order issued when the indictment was returned on April 30 that the defendant be removed to Des Moines for safe keeping. District Judge E.B. Woodruff today modified his order to provide that Kelly be lodged in the Harrison county jail at Logan, Iowa, until the time of the trial. It was thought probable that he would be taken to Logan tonight. No date was set for the trial.

Counsel for the defense protested against having Kelly taken to Des Moines on the grounds that proceedings to adjudge him insane might be rushed through at the capital. They declared the attorney general could assemble the sanity board at Des Moines within a few hours and rush Kelly to an institution for the insane before a trial could be obtained.

In announcing that the defense would attempt to start contempt proceedings against the counsel for the prosecution, A.L. Sutton, former district judge of Omaha, Nebraska, who together with Attorney W.E. Mitchell of Council Bluffs, Iowa, is representing Kelly, said that "grand jury evidence" appearing in morning papers today could have been obtained from only two other sources. He cited these sources as the county attorney or the attorney general and said he did not hold the former responsible. He declared the action would be attempted as soon as the judge would grant a hearing.

Attorney General Havener, though not present at the hearing this morning when Kelly waived the reading of the indictment and entered a plea of not guilty arrived in time to appear at the afternoon session. O.O. Rock, special agent from the attorney general's office, also was present.

Surrounded by scores of Red Oak townspeople and many Villisca citizens who packed the court room, Kelly showed signs of nervousness. He had lost a part of the calmness which he exhibited earlier in the day when, in talking to newspaper men he issued an emphatic denial of connection with the murders.

"Certainly, Certainly, I am not guilty," he declared to the reporters. "I couldn't be guilty of such a terrible crime as that. I couldn't be guilty of killing people I never saw and didn't know. I am a law-abiding citizen. I'll let the law take its course."

Kelly's wife accompanied him to the court room from the jail where she has been staying with him in his cell since his arrest yesterday. Kelly is about 40 years old and has been know in this section since 1912 when he was assigned to various charges while a theological student at an Omaha seminary.

Thursday, September 13, 1917 - Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph - Page 1, Column 1

AX MURDERER GAVE STORY OF OWN VOLITION

Prisoner Told of Killings Before Bodies of Victims Had Been Discovered

RED OAK, Iowa, September 13. - Opening statements of counsel in the trial of the Reverend Lynn George J. Kelly, charged with murder in connection with the ax slayings at Villisca, Iowa, in 1912, occupied only an hour today.

Assertions by the state that if it would be proved that Kelly killed the ax victims and has confessed his guilt were met by counter charges from the defense was by "inquisitional" methods for the purpose of shielding another.

"We will prove by reputable witnesses," H.M. Havner, attorney general of Iowa, opening for the state, said "that on the morning following the murder, Kelly, while on a train between Macedonia and Hastings, Iowa, told of the fact that eight persons had been slain at Villisca. This was before 7 o'clock in the morning and we will show the murder was not discovered in Villisca at that time.

Havner said the state would prove the confession Kelly is said to have made a few days before the trial opened was made of the defendant own volition.

In opening for the defense Attorney W.E. Mitchell asserted that the alleged confession was worthless except as showing that the state was trying to shield someone.

"Kelly was more dead than alive, more insane than sane," after making the purported confession, Mr. Mitchell said.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Friday, September 14, 1917 - Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph - Page 1, Column 4

ALLEGED AX MURDER TOLD OF CRIME BEFORE DISCOVERY

RED OAK, Iowa, September 14 – Two witnesses for the state testified today in the trial of Reverend L.G.J. Kelly that the Villisca ax murders were discussed in a town, 40 miles from Villisca, more than 30 minutes before the crime generally was known to have been discovered. Both witnesses testified that Kelly, who is charged with murder in connection with the crime was a party to the discussion but one witness said, “somebody else” was talking about the murders before Kelly joined the discussion.

L. Fritch, employed in an implement store at Macedonia, Iowa, at the time of the murders, and S. Barnett, a carpenter, told of a discussion in front of the implement store.

Ross Moore, a brother of Joe B. Moore, one of the ax victims, preceded Fritch and Barnett on the stand and testified that he and Marshall Horton were the first so far as is generally known to enter the murder house. They entered about 8:20 the morning of June 10, 1912. Fritch testified “Somebody started telling about the murders” when Kelly joined the discussion about 7:30 in the morning of June 10.

Barnett said he heard Kelly tell of the crime “between 7 and 8 o’clock” in front of the implement store. Mr. and Mrs. H. Simons, formerly of Carson, Iowa, testified that Kelly was aboard the train on which they traveled between Hastings and Macedonia before 7 o’clock the morning of the murders were discovered, and that he had “appeared excited and talked of the crime.” Hastings is between Macedonia and Villisca on the same railroad lines.

Monday, September 17, 1917 - Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph - Page 1, Column 1

AX MURDERER TOLD JAILER OF TRAGEDY

Red Oak Witness Testifies Minister Wanted Her to Pose in the Nude

RED OAK, Iowa, September 17 – That the Reverend Lynn George J. Kelly, while in jail at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1914 and 1915, had said he was guilty of the Villisca ax murders of 1912, was the testimony of three state witnesses today in the trial of Kelly in connection with the ax slayings. W.O. McQueen testified he was the jailer at Sioux Falls, when Kelly was confined there in April 1915, and that Kelly had said:

“I killed those people at Villisca, Iowa – the Moores and Stillinger girls.”

Julius Wald, a deputy sheriff of Sioux Falls, testified Kelly told him in the jail that he had committed the murders, and James Tyler, an inmate of the jail in 1915, repeated an alleged conversation in which Kelly said he was guilty of the crimes.

The court sustained an objection of the defense to testimony sought by the state from Beulah Callaway, a telephone operator at Carroll, who told of her acquaintance with Kelly which began at Christmas time, 1912.

A transcript of Miss Callaway’s testimony before the grand jury quoted her as saying:

“Reverend Kelly wanted me to pose for him in the nude so that he could paint my picture. He asked me for an hour, but I would not. He said the Bible had pictures of nude women in it and that it would be no harm for me to pose for him that way.”

Wednesday, September 19, 1917 - Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph - Page 1, Column 2

KELLY’S STORY OF AX KILLING IS EXPLAINED

Court Reporter Says Defendant Opened by Claiming That He Was Insane.

RED OAK, Iowa, September 19. – Details of the alleged confession of his connection with the Villisca ax murders were brought today by testimony at the trial of the Reverend Lynn George J. Kelly.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

J.J. Ferguson of Council Bluffs, Iowa, a court reporter, testified that Attorney General Havner, J.J. Hess of counsel for the prosecution, Sheriff M.B. Meyers, Deputy Sheriff Adkins, Kelly, a woman stenographer and himself were the only persons present when Kelly made his alleged statement.

Kelly, according to Ferguson's testimony, acknowledged that he had requested to see Havner and had been brought from his cell to the sheriff's office at Logan, Iowa.

"I told them if I did it, I was insane," was one of Kelly's first remarks, according to the testimony. "I just told you, Mr. Havner, I want to be put in an asylum. I have been made in reference to any statement Kelly might make.

In reply to questioning, Kelly said he left the Reverend Ewing home in Villisca after he was shown a room for the night, went into the night and saw a shadow, which he followed, as a voice said:

"Rise, Peter, Sally and eat," to which the witness said Kelly quoted himself as responding, 'I am here, Lord, and whatever you tell me to do I will do.'

"I had to do what God told me. I was his son; I was God's grandson," he was further testified as saying.

Another point, the witness said when asked if he had committed the murders as detailed later in his alleged signed confession, Kelly said he thought he had and added, according to Ferguson: "I think that because Mr. Havner said I did it."

Thursday, September 20, 1917 - Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph - Page 3, Column 3

MANSFIELD AGAIN FIGURES IN MURDER AT RED OAK, IOWA.

RED OAK, Iowa, September 20 – William (Blackie) Mansfield of Kansas City, Missouri, whom a grand jury refused to indict a year ago in connection with the Villisca ax murders was the subject of the testimony of a defense witness today in the trial of the Reverend Lynn George J. Kelly, charged with slaying one of the ax victims.

R.H. Thorp of Jefferson, Iowa, testified that when he was alone in a smoking car at the railroad station in Clarinda, Iowa, shortly before noon, June 10, 1912, the day after the murders, two men approached the train from the fair-grounds, boarded the car one from either end and an alleged photograph of Mansfield was identified by the witness as that of a man who entered at the front.

Mansfield was arrested in Kansas City in the spring of 1916 at the instigation of J.N. Wilkerson, a detective long associated with the case. Mansfield voluntarily returned to Red Oak to face a grand jury investigation.

Friday, September 28, 1917 - Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph - Page 1, Column 5

KELLY JURY DISCHARGED

RED OAK, Iowa, September 28 – The jury in the trial of the Reverend Lynn George J. Kelly, charged with murder in connection with the Villisca ax slayings was discharged by Judge Boles at 1:25 p.m. today for failure to agree on a verdict, after deliberating since late Wednesday.

It was learned that 22 ballots were taken by the jury and that on a number of the later ballots 11 voted for acquittal and one for "not guilty because of insanity."

Kelly, it was stated, will be returned at once to the county jail at Logan, Iowa, where he will be held without bail, pending further action in the case.

H.M. Havner, attorney general of Iowa, who was in personal charge of the prosecution, said the state had no intention of requesting dismissal of the indictment against Kelly.

Friday, November 30, 1917 - Mancos Times-Tribune - Page 2, Column 5

Ax Murder Jury Acquits Pastor

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Red Oak, Iowa - The Reverend Lynn G.J. Kelly was acquitted of the charge of committing the Villisca ax murders of 1912 by the jury in his second trial in District Court here.

Sunday, May 16, 1920 - Leadville Herald Democrat - Page 3, Column 2

Famous Ax Crimes Recalled by Suit

Council Bluffs, Iowa, May 15 - (Special) - Iowa's most famous case, the famous Villisca ax murder, is to be reopened. The Reverend Lynn J.G. Kelly, who was accused of having wielded the ax which wiped out an entire family of six and two visitors, has just served notice that he will file suit for \$100,000 damages against Attorney General Hayner of Iowa. Prosecuting Attorney Wenstrand of Red Oak, Frank F. Jones, wealthy merchant of Villisca and several others.

Kelly, who is now working as a stenographer in Chicago in the office of a law firm, charges, in his preliminary petition, that he was given the "third degree" during his arrest and was forced to sign a confession of the murders which he afterward repudiated.

He claims that while in jail awaiting trial, he was put to all sorts of torture in an effort to force him to confess. He charges that Attorney General Hayner and the other defendants conspired to fasten the crimes upon him and that, in carrying out the conspiracy, they damaged him both physically and in character.

Kelly has twice been tried for being the ax man. The first trial resulted in a hung jury. The attorney general in person had charge of the prosecution. On the second trial Kelly was freed. The charge against Kelly was narrowed to the murder of one of the victims only, but he can be tried for the murder of any of the other seven who were killed by the ax man if the authorities so desire.

The Villisca ax murders were the most vicious ever perpetrated in Iowa and probably have never had an equal in this country. They came as the last crime in a series of ax murders which aroused the West as no other crimes ever did.

The murderer started his work in Colorado Springs where he exterminated two families by splitting their heads with an ax. Next at Paola, Kansas, a similar crime was committed and a family wiped out. Then at Ellsworth, Kansas, another family was exterminated. At Blue Island, Illinois, three in a family were killed with an ax.

Then in 1913, came the Villisca murders in which J.C. Moore, his wife and four children and two visiting girls were killed.

How the murder managed to kill eight persons in a small house in the manner in which the Moores were murdered, was one of the mysteries that has never been cleared up. A heavy ax was used by the murderer.

After the trial Kelly went on the lecture platform to tell of his fight, but the tour failed. For a while, his friends say, he was a soap box evangelist in Boston, Massachusetts. He is an Englishman and his mother lives in a small town near London.

Saturday, April 15, 1922 - Fort Collins Courier - Page 5, Column 4 - United Press

AX MURDERS SIMILAR

COLORADO SPRINGS, April 14 - The recent ax murder at Concordia, Kansas, called up the mysterious Wayne-Burnham ax murder here in 1911. Three members of the Wayne family and three of the Burnhams were slain with an ax. Although the best detectives of the country were called on the case, no trace of the murderer was ever found.

Sunday, March 29, 1931 - Colorado Springs Gazette & Telegraph - Page 1, Column 2

CONFESSES HE SLEW EIGHT IN VILLISCA, IOWA

MAY CLEAR FAMOUS WAYNE-BURNHAM MYSTERY

Fingerprints Correspond to Those Found at Time Family Was Wiped Out

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

RED OAK, Iowa., March 28 (INS) - Authorities tonight were checking the confession of George Meyers in Detroit, Michigan, to the ax murder, 18 years ago, of Joseph Moore, his wife, four children and two girls at Villisca, Iowa, 20 miles southeast of here.

The brutal slaying of the eight victims on the night of June 9, 1912, aroused the country and resulted in the arrest of many suspects. At the time it was believed the same murderer killed an entire family in Colorado Springs only a few months before, another family in Kansas and a third in eastern Iowa.

The Villisca victims were: Moore, 42, the most prominent citizen of the town; his wife; Herman, 11; Catherine, 9; Floyd, 7; and Paul, 6, their children; and Edith Stillings, 12, and her sister, Blanche, 9, who were visiting at the Moore home.

The bodies were found in the four rooms in the Moore home. All had been hacked with an ax while they slept, which was found in the room of Herman and Floyd Moore. That the murders were deliberate was confirmed by the fact that nothing in the house had been stolen.

Trail Led to River.

The following morning, when the brutal crime was discovered, bloodhounds were put on the scent of the killer, but the trail led to the Nodaway river, nearby, where it ended. Investigation convince authorities that the crime was not the work of a maniac, but of a scheming revengeful murderer.

Relatives and any deranged persons found in Iowa were questioned but no tangible clue ever was discovered besides the fingerprints on the ax. A detective agency tried to prove that ex-Senator F.F. Jones, wealthy member of the state board of education, was guilty, but he was freed of all connection with the crime. As late as May, 1917, George J. Kelly, an itinerant minister, was indicted for the murders, but he also was released.

Held for Burglary.

DETROIT, Michigan, March 28 (US) - Confession of a brutal Iowa ax murder of eight persons which shocked the country 18 years ago was reported tonight by the Detroit authorities.

George Meyers, 48, held in the county jail pending sentence on a burglary conviction, is the man who is asserted to have made the amazing admissions.

On an anonymous tip that came to police headquarters, Meyers was grilled for more than five hours. At the end of that time, he is said to have confessed that he is the man who in 1912 entered the home of Joseph Moore at Villisca, Iowa, and there hacked to pieces while they slept, Moore, his wife and four children and two girls who were visiting at the Moore home.

His fingerprints have been checked and are said by Detectives Max Richman and Earl Anderson to correspond with the bloody prints found on the ax with which the murderer committed the deed.

At the time of the crime, the fingerprints were the only clue. Many persons were placed under suspicion, including one state senator, but all were cleared of connection with the crime.

Says he Was Hired.

According to the Detroit detectives, Meyers claimed he was hired to commit the murders by a business man whom he believed to live in Villisca. He also mentioned a minister as being interested in the destruction of the Moore family, although he was vague about this, the detectives said. They quoted Meyers as saying:

I never knew who the minister was nor the business man who promised me \$5,000 to kill the family.

I was in Kansas City and met a buddy of mine and he told me about the \$5,000 offer. He took me to Villisca, Iowa, about 65 miles southeast of Omaha, Nebraska, and there we met the man who wanted the job done.

I never knew his name. He pointed out the house where this family lived that he wanted wiped out. I demanded part of the money from him before I did the job. He gave me \$2,000 and said he would give me the rest afterward.

I got an ax and entered the house about midnight. I killed them all, the father and mother and the children. They were all fast asleep.

A little while after, I again met this man who had hired me. I told him the job was done and asked for the rest of the money. He said I'd have to wait. But I was scared and left the town and never went back.

Monday, March 30, 1931 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 1, Column 6

MAY SOLVE AX MURDERS HERE 20 YEARS AGO

POLICE INVESTIGATE CONFESSION OF DETROIT MAN

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Consider Sending Officer East to Quiz Burglar Who Admits Killing

One of the city's most baffling crimes, the brutal ax murder committed in September 1911, when the Henry F. Wayne family of 742 Harrison Place and Mrs. Arthur Burnham and her two babies, living at 321 East Dale Street, were slain, may be on the verge of solution. If the confession made in Detroit last Saturday by Leroy Robinson, alias George Meyers, convicted burglar, is true, the Wayne-Burnham mystery will be solved, Colorado Springs officers believe. They are inclined, however, to discredit the confession. Investigation was started by Chief H.D. Harper of the police department yesterday and should it tend to confirm the statements made by Robinson, Charles Railsback, special agent for the Santa Fe Railroad, will go to Detroit in an effort to clear up the local mystery.

Robinson is said to have confessed that he committed an ax murder at Villisca, Iowa, on June 9, 1912, slaying Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moore and their four children. He did not mention the other children killed in the same crime.

He is reported to have told the officers that he was hired by a business man to commit the crime, payment to consist of \$5,000, of which only \$2,000 was paid.

Robinson has made no mention of the Colorado Springs murder nor of another ax murder committed in Illinois about the same time.

Officers here believe that if Robinson committed the Villisca murder he also committed the one in Colorado Springs and the Illinois crime, but discredit the entire confession because of Robinson's statement that he performed the bloody crime in Villisca for money.

Mayor George G. Birdsall, who was sheriff of El Paso County at the time of the Wayne-Burnham killing, said last night that investigation of the Iowa and Illinois ax murders disclosed connecting links that have never been revealed to the public.

All three crimes were committed on Sunday nights and in houses in which there were no electric lights, according to the investigation referred to by Mayor Birdsall. Another feature found in connection with all three crimes is that the slain persons all had been away from home in the evening.

The homes occupied by the Burnhams and Waynes, although were directly opposite each other in the rear. Mrs. Burnham was with her two children, her husband being employed at the Modern Woodmen sanatorium and unable to return home nights. Mr. and Mrs. Wayne were with their infant child.

The two families had been out, and it is thought that the murderer watched for their return, keeping up his lethal vigil until the lights in the two houses were extinguished and the families had retired. This was on September 17. On Wednesday, September 20, the six mutilated bodies were found. Physicians who examined them expressed the opinion that the slaying took place about three days previously, which subsequently discovered evidence tended to corroborate.

Deputy Chief Fred H. Springer of the police department, who with Mr. Railsback and Mr. Birdsall investigated the crime, found the ax with which the crime was committed, but the handle had been washed clean of all fingerprints.

Nothing was stolen from the Wayne home or the Burnham home. Nor was anything stolen from the scene of the Iowa or the Illinois.

Had Planned Jail Break.

DETROIT, Michigan, March 29 (AP) - County jail warden announced tonight they found evidence that Leroy Robinson, Alias George Meyers, held for the slaying of the Moore family at Villisca, Iowa, planned a jail break for Monday night.

The jailer said a hacksaw was found in Robinson's clothing and that 12 steel bars, cut from jail beds, and a rope were found in his cell. They said they believed Robinson had planned to liberate 12 other prisoners with him on the fifth floor of the jail.

Officers said they found two bars of a door leading to a window sawed through and soaped to conceal the work.

They said Robinson had threatened to kill any of the other 12 inmates in the cell block who did not join in the plan.

Detectives said that in his confession Robinson stoutly denied he had killed the Stillinger girls. One explanation advanced for this discrepancy was that Robinson might have been in a state of mind not to know with any certainty what he did. He said that "the devil seemed to take possession of my soul and led me to other parts of the house."

Thursday, July 23, 1931 - Colorado Springs Gazette - Page 7, Column 2

**NUMBER OF CITY'S UNSOLVED CRIMES RECALLED AS
POLICE CONTINUE ON PALMER PROBE**

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Unsolved murders committed in Colorado Springs were recalled yesterday as police continued searching for the unidentified slayer of Louis J. "Bud" Palmer, 19-year-old youth fatally wounded in a "stickup" that took place after he and his companion, Glenda King, had parked in an automobile near Prospect lake Monday night.

One of the most brutal killings recorded in Colorado Springs police records was the brutal murder of Elise Suttle, 17-year-old bride of Harry Suttle, as she lay on a bed in her home at 431 South Cascade avenue, on August 25, 1923. Police worked for months on the case, making many arrests, but the crime was never solved.

Screams from the Suttle home brought workmen who were engaged in repairing a house not 10 feet away from the murder room, into the bed chamber where Elsie Suttle's mutilated body lay across her bed. This was at 10 o'clock on the morning of August 23, 1923.

The body had been discovered by Mrs. Richard Suttle, mother of the girl's husband. The head was beaten in, evidently with some heavy, blunt instrument; there were marks on the throat, and many evidences of violence. The girl lived four hours, but never regained consciousness.

Five letters, all apparently written by the same person with the same pencil on the same rough, linen paper, were found beneath a pillow on her bed. They were couched in familiar terms and carried threats against a man, believed to be the girl's husband.

Each letter was signed with the name "Jack" and the letters led to the arrest of Jack Fernandez of Denver, who had known Elsie Suttle. He was given a hearing and absolved of all suspicion in connection with the case.

On April 29, 1930, Andy Lombardi, reputed king of the bootleggers of the Pikes peak region and frequently in trouble with local and federal officers, was murdered on a farm near Kelker by unknown assassins who filled his body with shotgun slugs. He had fought them, as his automatic pistol had been emptied in the fight. Conceded a part of the Sicilian liquor war, no suspect was ever really arrested in this case and because of the methods employed the case may never be solved.

In 1911 the Burnham-Wayne ax murders on West Dale street, when six persons were slain by a fiend, stirred the entire country. Some arrests were made but the slayer has never been apprehended and no real information ever was obtained as to the motive for the killing.

Another mystery that stirred the community was the total and unexplained disappearance in September, 17, of Nellie Ferguson, 10-year-old Lowell school child who went to school one day and never returned. The family left the city a year after the child's disappearance and has never been heard from since. Theories of murder and kidnapping were advanced and detectives worked many weary months. Several years after the girl's disappearance a small human foot was found on the city dumps south of town but investigation by physicians proved it to be that of a small woman and not a child of 10 years.

Sunday, June 28, 1942 - Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph - Section 2, Page 1, Column 4, 5 & 6 - By Harry Galbraith

Old Police Murder Mysteries Still Puzzle After Quarter Century

Wayne-Burnham Ax Murders 31 Years Ago Never Solved and Cavanaugh Killing by Richard P. Harper on Street Car Had Strange Chain of Circumstances; Fehringer Killing Never Solved

(Editor's note -- Former sensational ancient crimes of Colorado Springs never solved and in their day and to this day mysteries as deep as the ocean are revived in an article in the International Police Officer Magazine by Harry Galbraith, well known Colorado Springs free-lance writer. Many of the present generation never heard of the sextuple Wayne Burnham ax murders, the Fehringer murder, the street car murder by Richard Harper. Galbraith links them in a strange way in the magazine articles, reprinted today, with permission.)

Many thousands of people have trekked to the mountains of Colorado on the trail of the precious metals, but a far greater number pitch their tents, literally and figuratively, along the streams of the high hills in search of health, which is vastly more precious than gold, fine rubies or frankincense.

Richard P. Harper of Missouri loved his wife very dearly, but day-by-day he saw the light fading out of her eyes and the store of her vitality slipping away, so he cashed in all his holdings and moved to Colorado Springs early in 1910.

John Cavanaugh of Minnesota was equally fond of his wife and only son, Daniel, and when Mrs. Cavanaugh grew languid and listless, with a tell-tale cough, he too emigrated to the mountain city.

Back in Michigan A.J. Burnham fretted under the handicap of tuberculosis, and the fraternal order to which he belonged sent him to the "City of Sunshine" to receive treatment at a great sanatorium.

Burnham was the only surviving member of a family extending back to the Revolution, and the fact that he dare not marry added bitterness to his physical troubles. He wanted a wife and children to perpetuate an ancient name.

By treatment or climate or both, this man soon became an "arrested case" with years of life before him, and the world looked rosy when a wife established a little home, and two children rounded out a happy family.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Henry F. Wayne of Indiana was the last of this group of four to settle in Colorado Springs. He had a wife with her baby in arms, and he also was a victim of the white plague.

Here we have four families, comprising 12 individuals, totally unrelated, from widely separated sections of the country, united in one small city.

They all sought health and life, and they all found health in a measure, only to die an early death by violence. Root and branch they were wiped out in a welter of blood and the shock of horror.

Harper and Cavanaugh soon obtained employment with the city tramway company as motormen, though both were men of considerable means. Harper was a Mason, a Knights Templar and shortly became affiliated with several civic bodies.

John Cavanaugh went in for politics and obtained prominence as a labor leader, from which he carried a seat in the state legislature as representative from El Paso County.

Burnham moved into a little house at 321 West Dale Street, and picked up good job at the Modern Woodmen of America Sanatorium, where he had been a patient.

Wayne too was a member of this order, and as such was entitled to a stipulated number of months treatment at the Sanatorium, while his wife and child occupied a house at 724 Harrison Place, directly in the rear of the Burnham home. But none of the four became intimate, or even visiting friends with any one of the other families.

Next door to the Wayne's lived Mrs. J.R. Evans, and on Thursday, September 14, 1911, Mrs. Wayne borrowed the Evan's axe to chop some wood.

On Sunday the 17th, Wayne with his wife and children attended church in the morning and after dinner took a walk in the nearby park until mid-afternoon, when they visited at the grocery store of Grant Collins, just across the street from the Burnham residence.

The Woodman Sanatorium is fourteen miles out of town and Burnham's hours of duty were such as to require his living there, with a full day to himself each Thursday, so he was not at home Sunday.

But Mrs. Burnham and the two children went to church, ate dinner and strolled around in the afternoon, to end their walk at the grocery store of Grant Collins.

Of these six persons, gathered together in casual meeting at a neighbor grocery, not one was ever seen alive again by any known human being.

The following Tuesday morning, Mrs. Evans went next door to the Wayne home for her ax. Repeated knocks at the front door aroused no one, so she walked around to the rear of the house and found her ax leaning against the wall by the kitchen door.

Both the blade and the handle of the implement were smeared with dried blood, and Mrs. Evans assumed the Wayne's had been killing chickens with it.

About 1 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Ruth and Miss Anna Merritt called at the Burnham home to talk over some projected sewing. The front door was locked, so the two women entered the house by the rear door which was closed, but not locked.

The women walked into the kitchen and saw the unwashed dishes of a meal still on the table. There was a sickening odor in the room, and Mrs. Ruth thought the Burnham parrot had died and made the smell.

They entered the next room and the stench grew stronger. The door between the second room and the front or bedroom was closed and fastened with a thumb latch.

Miss Merritt opened this door and the two women pushed in to stand in paralyzed horror for several moments as their shocked brain cells tried to grasp the meaning of the sight that greeted them.

When the door opened the parrot began talking, repeating over and over, "End of line -- damn your soul" and finishing each couplet with a chilling Ha! Ha! Ha!

Mrs. Burnham's father had been a bridge foreman on the Mexican Central Railroad and had sent the parrot to his daughter some time previously. It was a young bird and as yet could say nothing except those few words of bridge gang vocabulary.

Blood and brains spattered the ceiling, the walls and the floor of that bedroom. Mrs. Burnham was covered up in bed with the children by her side.

The heads of all three were so brutally hacked and battered by blows from an axe as to be almost beyond recognition. The fiend must have pounded each head many times, then carefully replaced the covers. Not another article in the house had been touched, even some money with a diamond ring and bracelet were in plain sight.

The parrot that could talk a little, but could not tell what it had seen, must have witnessed the butchery. With terrified screams, the visitors broke their spell and dashed into the street to spread the alarm.

Among the neighbors who flocked to the scene of the tragedy was a Negro woman who said she believed that the people in the house at the rear had been murdered too, as the Waynes had not been seen since Sunday evening.

Unbelieving, yet drawn by premonition, several men crossed the back yard to the Wayne home. The rear door was not fastened, and in the front bedroom, the slaughter of the Burnham house was duplicated in every horrible detail.

Covered in the bed, as though in natural sleep, were the bodies of Henry and Blanche Wayne with their baby lying between them.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Each victim had the skull brutally cut and smashed by the blows of an axe just as in the case of the Burnhams. The bedding was flooded with blood that had overflowed the mattress, and dripped to a pool on the floor, where it had coagulated to a black mess of horror.

The bodies were in such a state as to warrant the belief that the murders had been committed Sunday night.

Police officers and the coroner arrived shortly and had started their investigations when Mrs. Evans produced her axe, which the officials accepted at once as being the implement used in the wholesale slaughter.

And this bloodstained axe was the only clue of evidence value ever developed toward a solution of the mystery by 20 capable investigators.

From available details the officers reconstructed that the killer had entered the Burnham home by the back door. After slaughtering his victims in the bedroom, the murderer extinguished a lamp which was on the dresser, retreated through the door into the middle room, locked that door with the thumb latch, and left the house by the rear door, which he carefully closed behind him.

Entrance to the Wayne cottage was also effected by the rear door, the murder having evidently used a piece of wire to unfasten the hook which held the screen. There was a defective lock on the wooden kitchen door and this had offered no resistance to the intruder.

No lamp was found in the Wayne bedroom, but the killer had light, for on the floor was a newspaper twisted into a torch and half burned.

That such a massacre could have been perpetrated in a thickly settled neighborhood of such a small city, and remain undiscovered for three days and nights seems incredible, but such was the fact.

There were absolutely no pertinent clues except the axe. Not a fingerprint had been left on the furniture or floors. Not a single person could be found who had seen the man, woman or child around the premises since Sunday afternoon, at which time all of the victims had visited Grant Collins, the grocer.

One of the many perplexing features of the affair was the fact that there was no connection between the two families. They were friends but not intimately acquainted, and did not visit back and forth.

Why the murderer should invade both homes, and how he could do so, lighting lights and delivering those awful smashing blows without waking anyone at either place, puzzled officers and citizens alike.

Why had the parrot remained silent? The bird was noisy enough with its villainous lingo of the railroad camp, and had not been covered up. Why this, why that. Why to a hundred queries.

A theory was advanced that the murderer killed the Burnhams and was discovered by someone in the Wayne house, so he then entered the latter place to exterminate the family.

This theory is untenable, however, because both families were murdered in bed, and doubtless while asleep as all six persons were garbed in their sleeping garments.

Rumors said that previous husbands and rejected sweethearts of Mrs. Wayne and Mrs. Burnham had been responsible, but neither had been married before, and there were no disgruntled suitors.

Week after week the detectives searched and questioned, but developed nothing at all. A crew of the famous Pinkertons worked assiduously for several months, but all their efforts failed to disclose any thing whatever concerning the killer or possible motive.

A.J. Burnham, the husband and father, presumably knew nothing about the tragedy until several police officers drove out to the sanatorium. He had not been to town since the previous Thursday, which statement was corroborated by his employers and fellow workers.

The man bore an excellent reputation, and had an irrefutable alibi. Furthermore, he was kindly natured, immensely proud of his name and the family that had seemed unattainable for so many years, and doctors asserted that he had not the strength to deal those terrible blows.

Nevertheless, he was brought into town and at half past three he entered the slaughter house that had been such a peaceful happy home.

The parrot greeted him with its hideous rigmarole of "End of line, damn you soul," and the man seemed to shrink in his clothes.

Burnham stared in white faced horror, as police officers and volunteer guards watched his every sign and reaction. At his elbow was Richard P. Harper, who had been drawn to the scene by the news and who remained as a special guard at the house. Across the group was motorman John Cavanaugh, who was merely a spectator.

Burnham was so shocked that he could scarcely speak, but he muttered over and over, "It's the end of line, the end of the line." And so it was, as the man himself died in about two months another victim to the credit of the killer.

The doctors called it a total collapse, due to profound dysfunction, but whatever the medical diagnosis, Burnham's death was induced by the butchery that put an end to that branch of the Burnham line and marked the final entry on the lineage record of Henry Wayne.

Burnham was held in custody for several weeks, but it was merely a gesture for the benefit of the public, as at no time did any suspicious circumstances point to him as the killer.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

The man and his wife were exceptionally congenial, with a very happy family life and there was no motive on his part.

The months passed by with no solution, and other tragedies occupied the front pages and the minds of the citizens.

William Herman Nostrum held his wife incommunicado for several days and when law officers started to batter down the door of their hotel room, he shot the wife to death and then killed himself.

James B. Hunter had written a passionate avowal to his sweetheart, and in reply the girl sent him a small package. The little box contained a lemon.

Hunter had served through the Boer war with courage and distinction. At the battle of Sipon Kop the man's brother had been killed at his side as they charged up the hill.

Hunter's nerve remained unbroken, but a lemon from the girl he loved was too much, so he ended his life with a .45 slug.

Down the road in Florence, Colorado, Dismembered portions of four bodies were discovered in the sand of the Arkansas River. These decomposed bits of flesh and bone supposedly belonged to the cadavers of Joseph and Dominic Minichello, Escola Buffet, and Mrs. Frank Palmetto, mysteriously missing four months.

The trial of W.D. Silverhorn, that made news around the world, ended in Colorado Springs with a 10-year sentence for this international crook, who operated under the following aliases in as many different countries: Dan Elliott, Hart Warren, Dean Prescott, Dean Shellcross, Juan Algeo, John Harding, John Clifford, John Plant, Dean Silverton, Frank Holton, and W.D. Silverhorn.

Silverhorn came to Colorado Springs with Frankie Culp, his alleged wife. Frankie was formerly the sweetheart of S.A. Tracey, a notorious desperado of Arizona, from whom Silverhorn "stole" the lady, and fled.

Tracey pursued the couple, and the Wiley Silverhorn told the famous Captain H.C. Wheeler of the Arizona Rangers that the outlaw Tracey had threatened their lives. Captain Wheeler wanted Tracey on several charges, so he dealt himself a hand in this stacked deck.

In the first fight between the Ranger and the outlaw, Wheeler was wounded twice, but in the second battle he killed Tracey, under the impression that he was defending two innocent persons against a would-be murderer.

Silverhorn's criminal record, as proven by papers secured by Chief of Police Reynolds and corroborated by his own confessions, read more like a tale of romance than one of real life. As a pickpocket, a porch climber, a forger, a confidence man, a card shark, a burglar, a blackmailer and a government spy for the Japanese in St. Petersburg, he served several sentences in penitentiaries all over the world. He was known to the Scotland Yard detectives, the Pinkertons and the police forces of all the large cities as a desperate man. In the Antlers Park, Colorado Springs, he threatened the life of District Attorney A.F. Miller of Illinois, and forced him to return letters which Miller hoped might convict Fred Magill of Clinton, Illinois, of the murder of his wife, "Pet" Magill, a crime which had created a sensation all over the country. That the letters were fakes and written by Silverhorn himself with the hope of getting \$500 from Miller, has since been proven, but the cleverness of the man in being able to bring Miller all the way from Chicago for the special purposes of getting the letters back, marked Silverhorn as an unusually smooth crook.

The man's criminal record may be seen from the following facts furnished by the police authorities from all over the world: Right name, John F. O'Connell; born and reared at Louisville, Kentucky. Served two years in Frankfort penitentiary for burglary. Served jail sentence in Louisville for porch climbing and house breaking. In 1899 served a term in jail at Nashville, Tennessee for burglary. Charged with robbery in Memphis, defended himself and escaped conviction. Robbed bank in Tokyo, Japan, 1901; escaped penitentiary on an appeal by supposed bribery. Served a jail sentence in Hongkong, China, in 1902, for forgery and escaped before his term expired. Was arrested in Peking as John Plant, for the theft of a large sum of money from a bank; was convicted and secured a pardon through the intermediary of the United States Ambassador. Returned to Europe and served a sentence at Strasbourg, Germany, for grand larceny, and a short term at Genoa, Italy, for burglary. Was a spy of the Japanese government in St. Petersburg during part of the Russo-Japanese war. Returned to the United States and served a term in the California State Penitentiary for grand larceny; was No. 5480. In 1906, was convicted of petit larceny at Los Angeles, having robbed a woman of a diamond valued at \$500. The charge of grand larceny was changed to petit larceny for some reason best known to Silverhorn and the authorities in Los Angeles. Helped pull off a bank robbery in Seattle, for which he was never arrested. Came to Colorado Springs, and formulated his scheme to defraud the district attorney of Illinois out of \$500 in payment for forged letters in the name of Fay Graham, wife of Fred Magill, and for whose sake the man was suspected of killing his first wife. Threatened District Attorney Miller's life in the Antler's Park, according to a letter from the latter to Chief Reynolds. Was then operating under the name of Frank Holton. On September 14, robbed Barney Miller of a diamond worth \$270 and \$275 in cash claiming that he was owed the money. For this he received a 10-year sentence.

With all these local highlights in crime, and much more throughout the country, the people of Colorado forgot the Wayne-Burnham slaughter. Richard Harper and John Cavanaugh took up the routine of their work as motormen on the Tejon Street car line, and everything was normal gains; but in some minds memory must have lingered.

Tejon Street in Colorado Springs extends due north and south through the entire length of the city. A southern boundary and in the north the Tejon Street car line formerly had a "Y" of tracks along the edge of a deep cut that marked the city limits and the end of the line.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

**Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown**

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

That place has been the scene of many tragedies. IN 1891 John Hemming, a politician of note, was robbed and the murderer right at the "Y" by two lads yet in their teens. George Lawton, one of the assailants was hanged for his part in the crime.

A few years later Otto Fehringer, a business man of prominence, came down the road in his carriage. A rifle shot flashed out from a clump of weeds across the cut and Fehringer slumped over his dashboard. The mystery of that killing has never been solved.

About 1924, a gang of wanted bank robbers swept in from the north driving a fast car. Near the end of the line, the fast car and its occupants were stopped by a squad of police officers. When the gun fire ceased Messrs. Clinton, Kitterman and Sites in the automobile were slow and peaceful.

Kitterman and Sites were dead and Clinton was wounded five times.

In 1934, a nurse nearly 60 years old was robbed and criminally assaulted in sight of this spot. So the bloody records read.

Tuesday morning of April 27 gave promise of a perfect day, but the afternoon was scheduled on the Big Books for a double killing that shocked the community.

During the noon hour of that day, Richard P. Harper and his wife enjoyed a fine dinner. After dinner, Mr. and Mrs. Harper went to their bank to transact some personal business. He suggested to his wife that she go out in the hills for the afternoon. This she did, but Harper's movements for the next two hours have never been accounted for.

A few minutes after 3 o'clock Harper boarded a North Tejon car at one of the downtown streets, and stood on the rear platform. Under his arm he carried a 12-gauge Remington automatic shotgun with three shells in the piece.

At the controls of the street car was Motorman John J. Cavanaugh while Conductor W.H. Thomas handled the cash and the passengers.

It was the regular car and run or fate was responsible of John Cavanaugh's presence in the motorman's seat that afternoon.

Motorman King Shideler had operated that car during the four hours of the morning shift. To date Shideler merited distinction because he had never missed a day, winter or summer, since he started to work.

His health was excellent. He had gone home to lunch in good spirits and returned so. But walking over to his car at 1 o'clock he stopped suddenly and turning back to a bench where seven or eight tramway men were waiting, he sat down.

One of the men asked him if he felt sick? "No." Shideler replied, "I feel all right, but I think I'll lay off this afternoon."

With those words he rose to his feet and to the great astonishment of the employees and dispatcher, he asked John Cavanaugh to take the car out for the afternoon shift.

There had been no rendezvous during the noon hour between Harper and Shideler, each had been at his own home.

Among Harper, Shideler and Cavanaugh there was no ill feeling not any close friendships, the change in personnel was purely chance.

When Conductor Thomas was not busy about his duties of the run he stood on the rear platform with Harper, at times engaging in idle conversation.

About 10 blocks north, Thomas asked Harper where he was going with the shotgun, and pleasantly enough Harper answered that he was going to shoot some clay pigeons.

This passage of words was the only unusual occurrence of the trip, for there were no gun clubs in the north end.

Continuing his casual small talk, Thomas inquired what kind of a gun Harper carried, and how many cartridges.

He was informed that the gun was a 12-gauge Remington, and -- prophetic words from Harper -- "I have plenty of cartridges."

When the car reached the "Y", all the passengers left except Motorman W.M. Blackmer, deadheading up to his work on the Roswell line.

The Blackmer seems to have been a harbinger of tragedy. Shortly, before this he had witnessed an accident in which Mrs. Daisy Antrim was killed. While on a visit to St. Joseph, Missouri, he stood on a street talking to a man who was shot dead in the middle of a sentence. He had seen a woman run down and killed by a railroad train, and a certain James Stroup knocked to his death from a lofty bridge girder.

And now from a vantage point of only five feet distance he was to witness a double shooting.

At the "Y" Conductor Thomas stepped to the ground to pull the trolley around for the return trip. As he did so Harper walked to the front platform, leveled his shotgun and loosed the charge into the back of relief Motorman Cavanaugh.

The gun muzzle was less than a foot from the body of the victim. Conductor Thomas heard the roar of the gun, and thinking there had been an accidental discharge, he reentered the car and ran toward the front platform.

Harper turned to face Thomas with the gun pointed directly at him and said, "You beat it, don't come in here."

So Thomas climbed down from the car and hurried to the company call box, where he reported the murderous attack. According to the conductor's testimony it was half past three, the exact minute that Harper, Burnham and Cavanaugh had stood in a group to gaze on the slaughter at the Burnham home.

Meantime inside the vehicle of death, passenger Blackmer sat perfectly still, apparently unnoticed himself, though observing everything that happened.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Without visible signs of excitement, Harper stared for a moment at the body of Cavanaugh lying in a pool of blood on the platform, then placed the muzzle of the gun against his own side and pulled the trigger. The position was so awkward for the suicide that the charge of shot merely tore out part of Harper's coat and shirt, without seriously wounding the man.

He stood quietly another long moment, then lifted the muzzle to his breast and fired the third shot. He fell to the platform, beside Motorman Cavanaugh, where the life blood of the murderer and victim mingled to drip through the floor on the ground. Harper had calculated correctly, three cartridges were plenty.

Just previously to this episode, tragedy had struck hard in the Cavanaugh family, Daniel the only child, had been killed in an accident that savored strongly of murder, and the boy's mother, Mrs. Mary Cavanaugh, was yet in a serious condition from the shock of his death.

Now for the third and last time death entered this household for Mrs. Cavanaugh succumbed in a few weeks and that branch of the name was finished.

Police and ambulance reached the scene of the killing at about the same time, and the two men were rushed to the hospital where Cavanaugh died in a few minutes without regaining consciousness.

Under the administration of powerful restoratives, Harper was able to answer several questions before he too lapsed into the coma of death. But he never opened his eyes throughout the brief examination.

Chief of Police Howard Stark began his questioning with the standard query: "Why did you do it?"

Harper: "I wanted to end it all."

Stark: "But why did you shoot Jack Cavanaugh?"

Harper: "I don't know."

Stark: "Did you have anything against him?"

Harper: "Oh no. God no."

Stark: "Would you have shot anybody else who might have been handling the car?"

Harper: "I don't know."

Stark: "Did you have any grudge against any of the men?"

Harper: "No, they were all my friends."

Stark: "Did you have any special reason for killing yourself?"

Harper: "No, no special reason."

At this point the physician in charge stopped any further talk and the suicide-murderer spoke no more.

On hearing the terrible news Mrs. Harper, already in fragile health, collapsed entirely and could not be questioned for several days, when she issued the following statement:

"I cannot think why he did it. He had everything to live for. I noticed nothing wrong with him that day, and he was just as cheerful as I ever saw him. He loved the street car boys as brothers and I never heard him mention the name of Mr. Cavanaugh. He had plenty of money and never worried about money matters. He was generous and devoted to me and we were very happy."

In a few weeks, Mrs. Harper, too, was dead, and as the couple had no children, so in violence that line was ended.

Vainly, the police dug and searched and questioned in an effort to find some faint clue to a motive. They could find nothing, so the case was closed as being the act of a man temporarily insane.

Medical authorities insisted, however, that there was nothing in Harper's past life, and nothing in his talk after the killing, to warrant a diagnosis of insanity.

The Chinese have an age old proverb that runs something like this:

"In the bright light of the obvious, sometimes the truth remains unseen."

So perhaps a pointed clue may be found in the words of the witness, Blackmer, who said, "Harper walked out on the platform and poked the gun into Cavanaugh's back. Just as he pulled the trigger he muttered, 'This is the end of the line.' "

Sunday, March 5, 1989 - Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph - Page B1, Column 1

Ax murders in 1911 leave only questions

The worst crime ever committed in Colorado Springs remains unsolved. Six people, including three children, from two neighbor families were killed September 17, 1911, as they slept. Their heads had been crushed with an ax.

Headlines of the day referred to the "fiendish murderer," and stories recounted the massive investigation work by the police.

"A moral pervert" committed the acts, said a Pinkerton detective.

Several people were questioned, and police examined similar killings elsewhere across the country, but no one was ever arrested in the Colorado Springs case.

Homicide

VICTIM(S):

Henry F. Wayne
Blanche McGinnis Wayne
Blanche Wayne
Alice May Burnham
Alice Burnham
John Burnham
Unknown

Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Sunday, March 5, 1989 - Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph - Page B3, Column 1 - By Erin Emery

Theories are all that remain from ax murders of 1911

The drapes at the A.J. Burnham home at 521 West Dale Street had not been opened since Sunday. Now it was Wednesday, and Nettie Ruth had not heard from her sister, Alice May Burnham, for three days.

Worried, Mrs. Ruth went to the home of a friend, Anna Merritt, and asked her if she had seen Alice May. She hadn't.

Miss Merritt grabbed a spare key, and the two women scurried, hand-in-hand, to the Burnham home. They arrived about 2 o'clock on that Wednesday, September 20, 1911.

They had to jiggle the lock for a minute or two before they could get in. Their rear room, used as a kitchen, dining room and bedroom, had not been disturbed.

However, when the women pushed open the door to the front room, they were shaken by an odor of decayed flesh.

Mrs. Ruth saw blood splotches on the wall and then the body of her little niece, Alice, 6. She was lying on the edge of the bed with her skull crushed.

Little Alice, it appeared, had fallen across the body of her mother when the killer struck her down. The girl's mother was dead on the bed, and so was John, her 3-year-old brother.

Screaming, the women dashed from the house. Two men who were passing by ran inside the house to see what was wrong. They left shortly thereafter, and word of the triple slaying swiftly spread.

The coroner, police and sheriff's office rushed to the scene.

Shortly after their arrival, neighbors remarked that they had not seen any recent movement at the Henry F. Wayne residence, located a few steps from Burnham's back door at 742 Harrison Place.

Police forced their way into that house. On one bed, they found the dead: Wayne, 30; his wife, Blanche McGinnis Wayne, 26; and their daughter, Blanche, 2.

Their skulls too, had been pounded to bits.

A blood-stained ax leaned against a wall outside the back door of the house.

Hundreds of people, dubbed by police as "the morbid curious," flocked to the scene. Men swore and cursed, vowing to lynch the unknown killer. Women and children, with faces white and tear-stained, talked in whispers.

Then, above the murmuring and gossip, the boisterous voice of a policeman cried out, "Find Burnham!"

Deputies and detectives sped toward the Woodmen Sanatorium, 12-miles away north of the city, where A.J. Burnham – the only survivor of the two families – worked as a yardman.

But Burnham was already on his way home. He had been notified by telephone that his wife and children had been slain. Police met him just north of the city, riding in a laundry wagon.

"My God," Burnham exclaimed, "How did it happen? Did they get killed in a railroad accident?"

But after showing his initial concern, Burnham joked and talked with officers during the remainder of the trip.

With police on each side, he was taken into the house. He saw the blood-soaked bed where his wife and children died, but he did not break down. Burnham moved about the room making a clucking sound with his mouth, muttering, "It's terrible. It's terrible."

Police took him to the morgue and led him to the bodies.

At first, Burnham said, "That isn't my child. My girl's got lighter hair than that."

But later, he said he recognized little Alice; his son, John; and his wife, Alice May.

"Don't waste time with me," Burnham said, 'get busy with someone else. Whoever did this must have been an enemy of hers, it couldn't have been of mine."

Burnham did not protest when police told him he would be held in the county jail for investigation. While incarcerated, he declared to newspapermen: 'You will have to look elsewhere for the murderer."

The day after the killings, a 17-year-old girl overheard a man say, "We've killed 'em! We've killed 'em."

The teen thought nothing of the statements until she heard that the bodies had been discovered. She told the police on Thursday, the day after the families were found dead.

Burnham was released from jail and police began to focus on the new information.

Whoever made that statement, police believed, was the same person who had quarreled with Henry Wayne on Sunday afternoon, just before he was killed.

Police learned the identity of the man who made the inflammatory statement, but they could not find him.

"This man, it is said, was formerly a butcher," according to a September 24, 1911, story in the Gazette, "He also is known as one who gambles, it is said, and who recently has been a sort of promoter and seller of stocks. His arrest is expected at any time."

Homicide

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Sunday, September 17, 1911

SUSPECT(S):

Unknown

Wayne had paid the man about \$400 for stock he was selling. A balance of about \$200 was due. But Wayne, it was understood, didn't think he was getting value for his money, so he refused to pay the balance.

The mysterious man had told Wayne to pay or expect trouble.

The stock seller was never found. Police arrested three other men but had to let them go for lack of evidence.

After a week, local authorities called to Denver for help.

Elmer E. Prettyman, superintendent of detectives for the Pinkerton Detective Agency, arrived in Colorado Springs on September 24, 1911.

He went to the "houses of death," as they were called in newspaper stories, and then declared that whoever killed the families was not a maniac and would not strike again.

"A moral pervert" committed the acts, Prettyman said. "It is my opinion that the murderer sought Mrs. Burnham He got into the Wayne house by mistake, discovered his error after killing the family, and then went . . . next door."

And Prettyman claimed that the crimes were committed between 10 and 11 p.m. He based that conclusion on material evidence – impressions in the pillows.

"Mrs. Burnham was a large woman, and I do not think she had been asleep long before the murderer entered the room," Prettyman said. "Probably, he stunned his victims at first, then placed the covers over their heads and beat them to death."

Police and sheriff's officials announced after two weeks that they were "stumped."

And though no new clues turned up, police were keenly interested in an October 2 story in the Gazette. It told of similar killings that had taken place in Monmouth, Illinois, on October 1, 1911 – two weeks after the Colorado Springs killings.

In Illinois, William Dawson, his wife and their baby daughter had been found dead in their beds.

But Illinois officials, it seemed, had a motive for those slayings.

"The murder is the result of an old grudge of more than 20 years' standing," they said. "Dawson's life was at that time threatened when his testimony is said to have sent a companion to the penitentiary for 20 years. The convicted man said he would get Dawson when his sentence expired."

Dawson was a brother-in-law of an ex-convict, Charles Marzyk, who had been released from a Kansas penitentiary a year earlier.

Marzyk became a suspect in the massacre of the five-member William Showman family of Ellsworth, Kansas. They had been "brained with an ax" on October 17, 1911. Bloodhounds found a pile clothes in a barn outside the Showman home. The trail led them to railroad tracks.

Nationwide, people began to refer to Marzyk as "Billy the Axman." He was being blamed for 25 slayings nationwide.

Marzyk, it was learned, was married in Denver in 1898, and his brother, whose name was not known, lived in Colorado Springs about 1903.

When word of the Kansas slaying spread, police in Monmouth told newspapermen about an important piece of evidence they had found.

"Workmen found a bloody piece of gas pipe and a flashlight inscribed 'Colorado Springs, September 4.'"

Then Sheriff George Birdsall said he was convinced that "Billy the Axman" committed the Colorado Springs slayings.

But Marzyk was never caught.

In 1914, three years after the ax killings, police across the nation believed the crimes may have been the work of a "crazy preacher" who toured the country.

A drifter named G.J. Kelly was linked to 39 ax murders that occurred in the Midwest and Rocky Mountain states during that time, but he was never arrested for the Colorado Springs murders.

No one ever was.