

Confession by a Third Suspect Implicates Four Relatives of Widow in Honor Killing Case

'I DID IT!'



AL KERNESS

'I DID IT!'



ABE KERNESS

'I DID IT!'



MRS. EVA LEVINE

Brothers Detained for Police Inquiry

Mrs. Levine Assumes
Role of Instigator
in Shooting

Duluth Fugitive Held, Accused in Warrant

A third confession Tuesday complicated the investigation of the death of Ulysses Nicles, in which a man and woman had previously professed guilt. It implicated four members of the family of the murdered man's wife, Sophie.

Mrs. Eva Levine, who claimed she shot Nicles, loomed as instigator of the shooting in statements made by relatives of the slain man's widow. Abe Kerness, who also confessed the killing, was declared innocent and identified as a protector of his brother, Al Kerness, who is said to have admitted the actual shooting Tuesday afternoon when arrested in Duluth.

Warrants charging Mrs. Levine, 34 years old, and Al Kerness with the killing of their mutual brother-in-law, Nicles, were signed late in the day by Recorder's Court Judge W. McKay Skillman.

Brothers in Custody

George Keller, 18, and his brother, William, 16, were taken into custody early Wednesday for questioning. The youths with their sister, Mrs. Levine, were implicated by Al Kerness' confession, according to Duluth authorities. They were arrested near their home at 2723 Park Ave., where they lived with the Kernesses.

Relatives of the boys, however, implicated but one of them in the slaying under questioning by Assistant Prosecutor Thomas A. Kenney.

According to the widow of the slain man and Mrs. Edna Kerness, 21, wife of Al, George accompanied Mrs. Levine and Al to the scene and witnessed the shooting. They declared that William and Gus Keller, father of the youths, rushed to the Nicles home to prevent the crime, when they learned of the plot of the trio.

Meanwhile Detective Sgt. Charles E. Searle and Detective Thomas Hutchinson left late Tuesday for Duluth, to return Kerness here. Duluth police declared Kerness had waived extradition.

Couple Insisted on Guilt

Until Tuesday both Eva and her sister, Mrs. Levine, brother of Al, shielded the brother, each insisting on the guilt. Nicles was the husband of Sophie, twenty-three-year-old sister of Eva. He was wounded fatally, early Saturday morning near his home at 1240 Owen Ave.

Both Mrs. Levine and Abe Kerness protested that they shielded Al because he had a wife and three-month-old son. Al's wife is Edna, 26, Mrs. Levine's younger sister.

Abe is being held on a writ returnable Wednesday noon. According to Assistant Prosecutor Thomas A. Kenney, at that time authorities will ask that Abe Kerness be placed under heavy bond as a police witness.

After police had questioned them for hours, telling them that they were confident a third person was involved in the case, Mrs. Levine and Abe Kerness implicated Al Kerness.

The widow of the slain man, Mrs. Kerness, and Keller, father of the three women and the two youths figuring in the case, all admitted late Tuesday that they had known from the outset the identity of the killers.

"Al came home early Saturday. Please Turn to Page 3—Column 6"

Bus Is Seized; 28 Marooned

Action Follows Probe
of Tax Evasion

Twenty-eight Detroiters, Chicago-bound on a bus, were marooned late Tuesday night in Jonesville, Mich., as one of the first results of Recorder's Judge W. McKay Skillman's one-man grand jury investigation into charges that Michigan passenger bus lines were evading the public utilities tax and that police and State inspectors had been bribed, Judge Skillman began taking testimony Tuesday.

The bus, operated by the Nevin Bus Line, was ordered impounded by J. E. Warner, head of the motor division of the Public Utilities Commission, on the ground that it was operating on an expired permit. The driver, Joseph O'Brien, 444 Peterboro Ave., Detroit, was fined \$100 on the charge by Justice A. G. Eppie, of Jonesville.

A short while before Judge Skillman started to take testimony, investigators for the Prosecutor raided the offices of the Nevin line at 140 Cadillac Square, where they confiscated all records, subpoenaed three bus company officials and halted a bus bound for Chicago. Orders were given that the company's eight buses are not to operate until new licenses are obtained, the investigators said.

Officials Are Questioned

All three company officials, Joseph Bierla, manager of the line, and Robert Harrison and John Schmitt, ticket agents, were taken before Judge Skillman. Earl L. A. Capriz, assistant prosecutor, was questioned concerning his report that the Nevin company operated eight buses without paying the tax of \$160 for each machine.

Judge Skillman also is to determine the status of two patrolmen and two State inspectors who have worked for the Public Utilities Commission and whose names

Club Is Raising Fund to Defend Indicted Police

ROYAL OAK, Jan. 17.—As Arthur Garland, former Royal Oak policeman, was arrested Tuesday in Traverse City on a Grand Jury indictment charging bribery, friends of the four Royal Oak policemen indicted Saturday on manslaughter charges launched a "Policemen's Defense Fund" to fight the charges for the indicted men. Donations from the public were asked.

Garland was taken to County Jail at Pontiac. His arrest leaves but a single indictment yet to be served, officials said. The remaining indictment, it was said, is against a man who is now outside the jurisdiction of the state.

Garland was indicted by a previous Grand Jury on a similar charge but the case against him was dismissed by former Prosecutor Clarence J. Smith, who reported then that Albert Gorga, principal witness against Garland, could not be found. Gorga was found a short time later.

The defense fund was organized by the Metropolitan Club of Royal Oak, an association of policemen, firemen and postal employees. The fund seeks only to defend those charged with manslaughter, making no provision for the three indicted for bribery.

The appeal for contributions to the fund also asks support for Melvin H. Lee, of Royal Oak, who is attempting to pass a bill in the State Legislature which would abolish the farcical functioning of grand juries in the future which have resulted in the expenditure of many thousands of dollars annually.

The indictment of the officers for the shooting of Patrolman Jesse Crowe from ambush on Oct. 19, 1932, the appeal for funds charges, comes through the Machiavellian intrigue of politics.

Burns Endanger

Senators Fight Gov. Comstock

G. O. P. Bloc Disputes
Right to Office

LANSING, Jan. 17.—Republican Senators Tuesday declared war on Gov. William A. Comstock. Aroused because they have not been consulted about the Administration's plans for tax relief, and with some of the members arguing that the Governor is not legally in office because of his failure to file a campaign expense account, the 15 Republican Senators held a secret meeting in the Capital National Bank here following Tuesday's session.

They said that they had reached no conclusions, but that the caucus will be continued Wednesday. "We want to know definitely whether Gov. Comstock is legally in office," Senator Calvin A. Campbell, who acted as chairman, explained after the session.

"The law says that no elective officer can be sworn in until he has filed an expense account. Mr. Comstock has not qualified and has declared that he does not intend to file an accounting of his campaign expenditures. We want a legal opinion on the Governor's status."

Impeachment Not Sought

Senator Herbert P. Orr, one of the leaders at the caucus, said that it had been agreed that the Governor cannot be impeached, because the Republican bloc, which is in the minority, would not be able to muster the two-thirds vote necessary for the Senate to remove the Chief Executive for violation of the election laws.

"But there may be other methods of attack," Senator Orr said. "We want it clearly understood, however, that the Republican members have not taken any position in this