

MURDER SUSPECT CLOSE TO EXPRESS OFFICE, IS CLAIM

Superintendent Taylor Asserts Prisoner Made Admission

TRACE MOVEMENTS DAY ALE PACKAGE WAS SENT

Police Also Say Gies Was in West Philadelphia When De- coy Letter Was Mailed

Two important points were established last night, according to Superintendent of Police John B. Taylor, as to the movements of Frederick Gies, Jr., of 422 McClellan street, immediately before Dr. William H. Wilson was poisoned, which, in the opinion of the police official, materially strengthened the web of circumstantial evidence that detectives are weaving about him in an effort to connect him with the crime.

Gies, who is still under arrest as a suspect in the case, was, according to an admission wrung from him by Superintendent Taylor, the latter says, in the vicinity of the office of the Philadelphia Local Express Company, 116 North Thirteenth street, on June 23 last, when the package containing the bottle of poisoned ale was left there for delivery at the physician's house, at 819 North Seventh street.

Gies claimed that he had gone to Juniper and Chestnut streets on that day to purchase a suit of clothes, and he denied that he had visited the express office.

Superintendent Taylor also claims to have established the fact that Gies was in West Philadelphia on June 22, the day on which the decoy circular letter, to which was forged the name of a well-known Philadelphia brewing firm, was mailed in that section of the city.

The police chief also proved that Mrs. Gies' death was the result of a criminal operation performed upon her, and that when Gies secretly married her at Wilmington, Del., on June 26 last, he assumed the name of W. Henry Stenton, Jr., while she gave her name as Elizabeth Wilson.

Dr. Heck Explains

Another point brought out by Superintendent Taylor was that after Mrs. Gies' death her brother, Leslie Alexander, of the southeast corner of Eighteenth and Christian streets, went to the East Girard avenue police station and demanded the arrest of Dr. William H. Heck, of 1410 East Columbia avenue, claiming that his sister's death was due to malpractice.

Dr. Heck yesterday admitted that he

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had attended Mrs. Gies during the forty-eight hours preceding her death, but that he had not suspected that she had been operated upon until after she died. He said that he received the impression that she was the victim of a malpractitioner from her husband, although when first called in to treat her at the residence of Edward Haasz, 4150 North Reese street, he had been told that she was suffering from convulsions and kidney trouble. He said if he had known the truth he would not have taken the case.

Now Seek Doctor

Detectives are now trying to establish who the man was who performed the operation which cost Mrs. Gies her life. Gies denied when questioned regarding this aspect of the case by Superintendent Taylor that he had known that his wife had been operated upon.

For several hours last night Gies and young Alexander were closely questioned by Superintendent Taylor, Assistant District Attorneys Gray and Taulane, Coroner's Detective Frank A. Paul and City Detectives Tate, Jr., Wood and Duey.

While the "third degree" proceedings were under way Fred Buckman, who received the death-dealing package at the Thirteenth street express office, arrived at the City Hall from Atlantic City and was brought face to face with Gies.

Buckman said he did not know whether Gies was the man who had handed him the package or not, but that Gies looked like the man. He said the man had, like Gies, dark complexion, wore the same sort of suit and possessed the same characteristics.

Unable to Identify Gies

Harry Umstead, an employee at the Keystone Type Foundry, Ninth and Spruce streets, from whom a man purchased the type for the letter "S" which appears in each upper corner of the bogus circular letter which induced Dr. Wilson to drink the poisoned ale, was unable to identify Gies.

Superintendent Taylor said, however, that he did not attach much importance to this, as there was another employee at the foundry who also waited upon the man and who had a better opportunity for observing him than Umstead had.

James Herron, the ticket agent at the Pennsylvania Railroad station at Bristol, Pa., who saw a man jump from a train there on the day after the murder and mail a letter, was also unable to identify him. It was from Bristol that Coroner Jermon received a letter in which the motive for the crime was set forth as a husband's desire to avenge the death of his wife who had died as a result of a criminal operation which had been performed upon her by Dr. Wilson.

Gies will be arraigned before Magistrate Scott in the Central Police Court at 10 o'clock this morning. His counsel, Thomas J. McNichol, appeared confident yesterday that he would be able to at least secure his release on bail, but Superintendent Taylor said last night that, even though a complete case could not be made out against the suspect in connection with the murder of Dr. Wilson, that he would be held anyhow to await the action of the Coroner as an accessory to the operation performed upon his wife. This will give the detectives a further opportunity to trace Gies' movements immediately before and after the death of the physician.

While detectives tried hard to connect him with the murder of Dr. William H. Wilson, Gies met the sharp questioning of Superintendent of Police John B. Taylor with silence, beyond asserting that he had nothing to do with the physician's strange death.

Gies married his wife at Wilmington, Del., on May 26 last, to protect her good name, it is said, and it was evident to his interrogators that he did not wish to reveal any of the circumstances which, the police say, hastened the ceremony. Mrs. Gies died on May 29 last after the premature birth of her child.

Superintendent Taylor says that Gies denied that he knew that his wife was to become a mother when he married her, but Detectives James Tate, Jr., and Theodore F. Wood claim to have discovered evidence that he did.

Gies' reticence with regard to the child's birth may have been explained by what he was overheard by a turnkey to say to his wife's father, John W. Alexander, of the southeast corner of Eighteenth and Christian streets, when the latter visited him in the cell room on the fifth floor of the City Hall yesterday:

Turnkey Quotes Gies

"I married Bess to save her good name and because I loved her," Gies is reported by the turnkey to have said in a broken tone, "and I do not propose to discuss her trouble or mine with a police official or any one else. It is too sacred a subject to me."

Beyond uncovering the alleged unfortunate episode of Gies' marriage, the detectives were apparently unable to connect him with the Wilson murder. They established the fact that Mrs. Gies was

married at Wilmington under an assumed name because she did not wish to lose her position as a teacher at Special School No. 6, Front and Lombard streets. The rules of the Board of Education forbid a teacher to retain her position after she is married, and Mrs. Gies purposely concealed her union with Gies for that reason.

A graduate of the Girls' High School in 1901 and later of the Girls' Normal School, Mrs. Gies was considered a teacher of exceptional ability and promise, and her death was a great shock to her old class-mates and to her many friends in the southern part of the city. There she was born and reared, a light-hearted girl, who was extremely fond of books. She lived most of her early life at 1720 Catharine street, and when her family, which is well known downtown, moved to the southeast corner of Eighteenth and Christian streets, she went with them. There her brother, Leslie Alexander, conducts a cigar store.

Gies Friend of Wife's Brother

Young Alexander was on very friendly terms with Gies, and since the latter's arrest he has warmly championed him. He and Gies rode in the same carriage to Mt. Moriah Cemetery on June 23 last, when Mrs. Gies was buried.

Detectives obtained evidence yesterday that Mrs. Gies' first born was buried in an obscure corner of the Franklin Cemetery by Mrs. Robert Elliot, an undertaker, of 2527 North Mascher street, before the mother was laid to rest. The records of the Bureau of Vital Statistics at the City Hall show that the child was buried under the name of Elizabeth A. Wilson, the father's name being given as Fred Wilson and the mother's as Elizabeth Alexander, of 4150 North Reese street. The mother's parents are given as John W. Alexander and Sarah McCullen.

The records also show that Mrs. Gies, whose full name is given as Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson Alexander Gies, was born on December 7, 1881, and died on June 19, 1908. The cause of death is given by Dr. William H. Heck, of 1410 East Columbia avenue, as uremic poisoning, aggravated by Bright's disease. Dr. Heck said, however, that he had suspected that Mrs. Gies had been the victim of a criminal operation.

The police attached much importance yesterday to the evident attempt to conceal the fact that Mrs. Gies had become a mother before she died, and the burial of the child under a fictitious name in a cemetery different from that in which Mrs. Gies is buried.

Superintendent Taylor said yesterday that the supposition was that Mrs. Gies had died as a result of a criminal operation and that he had been informed that she told Mrs. Edward Haasz, of 4150 North Reese street, before she died that she had been "treated by a Dr. Wilson." Another point which the police regard as peculiar is that Mrs. Gies' body was taken from the Reese street house at midnight, about six or seven hours after she died, to Mrs. Elliott's undertaking establishment, a fact which excited much comment among the neighbors of the Haasz family.

Doctor Explains Death

Dr. Heck, who attended Mrs. Gies before she died, in an interview yesterday explained the circumstances of her death.

"I was called into the case by telephone early on the morning of June 18 last," he said. "I was informed over the phone that a woman at the Reese street house was in convulsions and that I should go there at once. I did what I could for her, but when I called four hours and a half later she was dead. I was told that a child had been born before she passed away. I supposed, as frequently is the case when there is a premature birth, that she had died from convulsions."

"I inquired about her husband and was told that he had left the house after her death. I was also informed that the couple had been married but a short time, that the woman had been a sufferer from kidney trouble and that she had lived long enough after the birth of the child to name it."

"I then wrote the death certificate, one giving the premature birth of the child and the other ascribing the mother's death to uremic poison convulsions. I could have given the cause of her death as Bright's convulsions, but I knew little of the history of the case, having to rely largely upon what I was told by the persons in the house."

Husband Seemed Excited

"When the woman's husband returned he was unable to state positively whether his wife had been the victim of a criminal operation or not and I have not heard since whether such an operation was performed upon her. Her husband seemed to be very excited, due, in my opinion, to his belief that a criminal operation had indeed caused his wife's death. Had I known that when I was first called in on the case I certainly would not have had anything to do with it. There were intimations that the woman did not wish to become a mother because her marriage had been clandestine. I was paid by the Haasz family for my services and I dismissed the case from my mind until I read about it in this morning's newspapers."

Dr. Heck is a reputable physician of 28 years' practice. He is a native of Fairview, Cumberland county, Pa. The police regard Dr. Heck's statement as significant. They are still working on the theory that Dr. Wilson was murdered by a vengeful husband who lost his wife as a result of a criminal operation performed upon her by the poisoned physician. They believe that the letter Coroner Jermon received from Bristol on the day following the physician's murder, in which such a motive for the crime was set forth, was really from the slayer.

Gies spent yesterday in a cell at the City Hall when not being put through the "third degree" by Superintendent Taylor and the detectives in the former's private office. He paced his cell

nervously and seemed to be suffering from intense mental anguish. During the day his father-in-law, John W. Alexander, and his brother-in-law, Leslie Alexander, visited him and were permitted to talk freely with him. They both grasped his hand warmly and seemed to bear the most cordial feelings towards him. They talked in an undertone while a group of reporters watched them from a distance.

The Alexanders were closeted with Superintendent Taylor for nearly two hours, being questioned as to their knowledge of Mrs. Gies' marriage and of the movements of her husband immediately before and after Dr. Wilson's death.

The father told Superintendent Taylor that his daughter, so far as he knew, became acquainted with Gies at a local publishing house where she was employed as a proofreader at the time and where Gies still has charge of the overlay department.

Alexander said he had known that his daughter and Gies were very friendly and that finally, when he had heard that they were married, he had insisted upon seeing the marriage certificate. He said his daughter had brought a certificate to him and that he thought this had been in the early part of this year.

Both of the woman's parents claim that they knew nothing about the birth of her child. Her body was prepared for burial by George Graham, an undertaker, of 318 South Twelfth street, to whom it was sent from Mrs. Elliott's undertaking establishment after the burial of the child by the latter.

When the elder Alexander and his son finally emerged from the City Hall a phalanx of photographers was lined up to meet them. There was a click-click of camera shutters, but father and son shielded their faces with their hats. One enterprising camera man pursued them, however, and tried to snap them a block away from the City Hall. He fled precipitately, however, when young Alexander put the camera out of commission with a well directed blow of his foot.

Friends and relatives of Gies came forward yesterday with expressions of belief in his innocence. His brother, Charles Gies, warmly defended him.

Told Brother of Marriage

"Until my brother's wife died on June 29 last I did not know he was married," he said. "The night she died he told me about it all. I was surprised, and when I asked him why he had not told me before he said that his wife had wished their marriage to be kept a secret. He said his wife was a very sensitive woman."

"Fred is not a printer, he does not own a printing press, nor has he any knowledge of type. Neither does he use a typewriter, and he could not have composed the letters which figure in the Wilson case."