

Hotel guests hear screams of murder in the night

"Murder! Murder! O, Save Me, save me! Murder!"

Guests and staff of the Tournier Hotel were suddenly awakened by shouts coming from one of the rooms. It was the early morning of March 17, 1910.

Amid the frantic calls for help, night clerk Stone heard the shattering of a window, and he dashed outside to find glass all over the sidewalk. Stone and his assistant, a man by the name of Lee, ran up the stairs to the third floor.

They were brave, considering that the frantic calls for help could have been prompted by a guest's struggle with an assailant carrying a weapon. On their way to the third floor the two hotel staff members discovered startled and frightened guests.

"Between the first and second floor, the night men passed two men in night togs



LOOKING BACK

By Rose McIlveen

H-T 9/14/98

bound for safety; on the second floor a young lady in pajamas implored their help; and coming down the stairs from the third floor they met a fat man in undress attire carrying a suitcase in one hand and a pillow in the other. On the third floor, with beds pushed against the door and rooms barricaded, the frightened guests were leaning out their individual windows and calling for the police in unison."

Continuing to the room where the cries for help were coming from, the two staff found a closed door. Stone kicked it open and jumped back, in case an assailant might

emerge.

They were surprised by what they found. "The two then entered the room to put a stop to the villain stealing the child, the slaughtering of the hero or any other high villainies that might be in the making. They found E.P. Stader, traveling salesman of Columbus, having a night mare."

The staff woke Stader and then turned their attention to the other guests.

In describing what happened, the *Telephone* publisher couldn't resist a little political jab at the opposition party. "Then they hunted up the startled guests in different parts of the building where they had taken cover and in the street and assured them that there was no fire, no fight, no family quarrel or Democratic caucus on."

Stader didn't see any humor in the incident, since he could have ended up shattered

on the sidewalk with the window glass. How the window came to be broken, he explained, was that he was having a nightmare. "... he became possessed with the idea that he was being murdered and attempted to jump out the window, all the time calling for help."

There was a cost to the incident in addition to the broken window. The *Telephone* explained that "With his (Stader's) bare hands he knocked out the window panes, cutting an artery in his wrist which caused a considerable loss of blood. His injuries were dressed by Dr. Coleman. Mr. Stader left this morning after paying for the damage to the room."

With tongue in cheek, the *Telephone* concluded its description of the incident. "No extra charge was made by Manager Peterson for frights and thrills of the guests nor for the damaged feelings of the girl in the pink pajamas."