

Schuylerville Man Shoots Wife, Sister, And Then Turns Shotgun on Himself

Tragedy Strikes in Nearby Community—Two Daughters Flee to Neighbors for Help.

Tragedy struck in Schuylerville on Saturday morning when a World War II veteran shot and killed his wife and sister and then turned the gun on himself. Of the family only two young children, who fled from the house when the shooting began, remain alive today.

Charles Keelisen, 45, who is said to have been mentally ill, shot his wife, the former Aletha White, 33, and his sister, Mrs. Emma Volkmer, 50, and then placed the double-barrelled gun in his mouth and committed suicide.

The shooting occurred about 9 o'clock Saturday morning at the Keelisen home on Chestnut street in Schuylerville. The only report of what preceded the shooting has been obtained from the older child, Beatrice Rose, 6, who with her sister, Cathy Ann, 3, ran to the home of their mother's uncle, Patrick Turcotte, next door.

Beatrice Rose and her sister fled in kimonos and told their uncle and aunt, "Daddy just shot Mommy and Aunt Emma." Their incoherent story has been pieced together by authorities and it is believed that Mr. Keelisen had started an argument with his wife, accusing her of infidelity, and that she slapped him. He then seized the shotgun and it is presumed that Mrs. Keelisen tried to escape, as her body was found in the closet. The sister's body was in a doorway of the kitchen.

The children ran to the Turcotte home when their father shot the two women, and he followed after them with the gun. On the way across the yard he saw Arnold Johanson, a milkman, and he told him, "I've just killed my wife and I'm going to kill myself. You'd better call Barney, the cop."

Keelisen then went up on the porch of the Turcotte home and called to his daughters, but Mr. Turcotte told him to go away. "Good bye, Uncle Pat," he said, and crossed the road to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Derby. He knocked on the door, calling, "Harold, I'm in trouble."

The Derby's did not answer him but called the state police and the village officer, Mr. Villa, saying that Keelisen was on a rampage with a gun. The man then went home, locked the door, and shot himself through the head with the shotgun. His body was found near that of his wife by the cop.

Police Officer Villa was one of the first to arrive at the Keelisen home and he found the bodies of the two women and the man. State police arrived soon after and the investigation was completed that day. Dr. M. D. Doby of Schuylerville acted as coroner's physician for Dr. Frederick G. Eaton of Saratoga Springs. A verdict of double homicide and suicide were given.

Had Appeared Unbalanced

Neighbors report that Mr. Keelisen had been unbalanced recently and had threatened the life of his wife before. The man had the idea that his wife was unfaithful to him and would not let her out of his sight, but neighbors and friends say that his accusations were baseless.

Just a week before the tragedy Keelisen and his wife had gone to Dr. Doby and at that time Keelisen told the doctor he believed his wife should see a psychiatrist. Last Friday he returned to the doctor to see if an appointment had been made. For about six months Keelisen had been acting strangely and the past month had been worse, so that neighbors had advised Mrs. Keelisen to leave him or make some effort to protect herself and the children.

In an effort to resolve the unhappy situation Mrs. Keelisen had sent for her husband's sister, Mrs. Volkmer, L. J., and she had arrived at the Keelisen home Thursday of last week. Mr. Keelisen, a veteran of World War II, was caretaker at the Schuylerville monument and had lived in Schuylerville for about ten years. Mrs. Keelisen was a native of Schuylerville, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo White of that village. She is also survived by three sisters, Mrs. Francis Cunningham of Saratoga Springs, Mrs. Levert Dupell of Hudson Falls and Mrs. Spencer Boyce Jr. of Schuylerville.

Mr. Keelisen is survived by his father, a brother and sister and a stepson by a previous marriage. His sister, Mrs. Volkmer is survived by a daughter, her father, brother and sister, all of New York city.

Children Go to Aunts

The two little girls, orphaned by the shooting, were taken temporarily to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Boyce in Schuylerville, and they are to make their permanent homes with their other two aunts. Beatrice Rose will live with Mrs. Cunningham in Saratoga Springs, and Cathy Ann with Mrs. Dupell in Hudson Falls.

Funeral services for Mrs. Keelisen were held Tuesday morning at the church of Notre Dame de Lourdes in Schuylerville where a requiem high mass was celebrated. Interment was in Notre Dame cemetery.

Private services were held Monday afternoon at the Hughes funeral home for Mr. Keelisen by Rev. Martin Hoekema, pastor of the Saratoga Reformed church, and the body was placed in the receiving vault at Prospect Hill cemetery.

The body of Mrs. Volkmer was taken to Franklin Square, New York, where services were held.

Herbert A. Bartholomew Named Sergeant-at-Arms

Chairman of Republican Committee and Former Assemblyman Given Post in State Assembly.

Herbert A. Bartholomew of Whitehall, chairman of the Washington county Republican committee, has been appointed sergeant-at-arms of the state assembly. Mr. Bartholomew is a former assemblyman from this county, having served from 1921 to 1941 in the legislature.

Previous to going to the assembly Mr. Bartholomew was supervisor of the town of Whitehall, and he held various other town offices. He has been county chairman of the Republican committee for many years.

Mr. Bartholomew has been appointed sergeant-at-arms to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Joseph C. Williams of Granville, who held that post for some time. He was designated by the Republican majority in the assembly for the post.

GENERAL ELECTRIC BUYS HUDSON FALLS PLANT

To Take Over Idle Union Bag Plant for Manufacture of Capacitors.

The General Electric company, which now has a plant in Fort Edward, will be operating another factory in that vicinity within the year, having purchased the major part of the Union Bag and Paper corporation's property in Hudson Falls. This plant has been idle recently and offered for sale, as the Union bag discontinued its operations there and moved its operations to a plant across the river at Fenimore.

The announcement that General Electric had signed an agreement to purchase the Hudson Falls property was made by John T. Holleran, manager of the G. E. plant at Fort Edward. He said his company would use the property for expansion of facilities for manufacturing capacitors, small transformers for electrical devices.

He explained that it would require six to nine months to renovate the buildings for capacitor manufacturing and though he did not estimate how many would be employed at the new plant, said there would be a "substantial increase" in G. E. employment in the area.

The property acquired by General Electric includes two large brick buildings, a two-story brick building, three one-story warehouses, a one story office building, two small buildings and six tenant houses.

The announcement of the agreement was also made by P. Fay Marrs, resident manager of the Union Bag and Paper corporation, who said that this company had completed the consolidation and relocation of its manufacturing operations to the sites formerly occupied by the Fenimore paper mill and Scutan converting plant, where custom made bags are manufactured and about 500 people are employed. The mass production of Kraft items was transferred to the company's Savannah, Georgia, factory.

The Union Bag is retaining a small part of the property on the Hudson Falls side of the Hudson River for the design and construction of most of its converting equipment, mainly bag machines and printing presses, for both the Hudson Falls and Savannah bag factories. About 60 people are employed there.

Milk for Health Plans To Sign 35,000 Farmers

Goal for First Half of Year Set—Support Given by Other Farm Organizations.

The milk for health minimum goals for the first half of 1951 will be 35,000 signed dairymen. This information was released by Ralph A. Eastwood, executive secretary of Milk for Health, Inc., speaking to a state gathering of county agents. Mr. Eastwood said, "We already have 31,000 dairymen signed and farm payments will be made when the additional 4,000 signatures are obtained and the milk dealers are ready to match seven-twelfths of the fraction of the dairymen's penny which is to be used by the dairy council for education and advertising in New York."

The New York state grange have called upon their membership to assist with this fund roundup by signing County Farm Income and Dairy Commodity committees and county agents have also pledged their support.

Mr. Eastwood further announced that Dr. L. A. Maynard, director of the school of nutrition, and Dr. Catherine J. Persons, dean of the college of home economics, Cornell university, Ithaca, have been appointed to the advisory board of Milk for Health, Inc.

Dance Saturday

The Junior class of Salem Washington academy is sponsoring a dance to be held at the school auditorium, Saturday, January 13, 8-12 p.m. Music will be furnished by Beas Wurn's orchestra.

SALEM LOSES GAME TO SCHUYLERVILLE

Drop Close Contest by Two Points—Will Play Valley Falls Friday.

The Salem Generals dropped a close 48-46 decision to the strong Schuylerville Black Horses in a non-league game played here Saturday night before a fairly large crowd. The Generals, who have improved vastly in the last two games, held the lead for the greater share of the game and seemed on the way to upsetting the favored Schuylervers, only to see the Saratoga county boys outscore them 6-3 in the last two minutes of play.

The game was very fast and well played before the enthusiastic crowd. The contest, much like the Hudson Falls encounter, saw the teams playing much faster ball than is played in the Washington county league.

The local boys enjoyed a lead at the end of each quarter; 13-9; 21-20; and 41-34; but saw the Schuylervers surge forward with fourteen points in the final quarter, while Salem scored only five, all on foul shots. Two factors spelled the downfall of the locals; poor work at the foul line as they tossed in only fourteen out of twenty-seven tries; and loss of Francis Green for part of the game due to fouls.

Francis Green, Jack Barbur and Ed Denkin led the Salem scoring, while Bean and Lindahl were high for the Schuylervers. Ed Philips continued his great floor game as he constantly set up plays and was all over the floor on defense. Ed Denkin, who has been slow getting started this year, played his best game of the season as he scored heavily and did good work on rebounds.

The Salem Juniors played good ball as they easily defeated the Schuylerville juniors by a score of 45-24. James Labshere and Laverne Foster led the Salem scoring.

The Salem Generals, after a three weeks lapse from league play will journey to Valley Falls this Friday to meet Bill Furlong's Hoosic Valley five. Hoosic Valley, a league power for the last three years, boasts another strong team as they have won seven out of their nine ball games. At the present time, Hoosic Valley is tied for the league leadership with Argyle.

Bob Kana is well pleased with the performances of his boys the past two games and feels that the locals are ready to give all teams a battle for league honors. It is expected that Salem will start a lineup made up of Barber, Green, Philips, Denkin, and Parrish, with Murrane, Carrolan and Matteson in reserve. The Salem Juniors will meet the Hoosic J. V.s in the preliminary.

PAROLEE IS JAILED FOR TAKING AUTO

Great Meadow Parolee Held Here—Took Car from Fort Edward Couple.

Emmett Everetts, 41, a prison parolee, started the new year by repaying the kindness of his hosts by making off with their car and some of their Christmas presents. For that, Everetts is now in the Washington county jail in Salem.

His victims were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McLelland of Fort Edward, who had invited the man to spend the New Year week end with them. Mrs. McLelland had become acquainted with Everetts while he was a prisoner at Great Meadow prison at Comstock through church work, and when he was paroled last month, the McLellands befriended him.

After being discharged from prison Everetts found employment at a garage in Whitehall, and Mr. and Mrs. McLelland invited him to their home for the holiday. The family retired Monday night, and next morning discovered that their guest was missing, along with a new Dodge car, a wallet containing \$10, a pen and pencil set, and other small items which had been Christmas gifts.

Thursday New York city police captured Everetts in that city, and he was returned to Fort Edward the next day where he was arraigned on a first degree grand larceny charge and committed to the county jail at Salem to await the action of the grand jury, which will convene again in April.

Everetts has a criminal record which goes back to his youth, and has been arrested 35 times. As a fourth offender he was sentenced to 15 years to life in 1942, but three years ago was given a reduction, being resentenced to 10 to 12 years. Last month he was paroled. Most of his convictions have been for burglary and grand larceny, and he first appeared in court as a juvenile delinquent when he was 14 years old.

Toy Firm Buys Troy Site.

A Freeport, Long Island, toy manufacturing firm, the Nassau Products corporation, has agreed to purchase the four-story building of the defunct Troy Yarn company on Pawling avenue and will begin operations within a short time. The new company will employ about 75 men, it is said, and will make toys and novelties, using a possible shortage of metals because of war emergency needs. In the event of such a shortage, the corporation will attempt to turn its facilities over to defense work. The purchase price of the building was more than \$30,000.

Defense Headquarters at Albany.

An alternate upstate defense headquarters for New York state will be established in the Albany district. The unit would function in case of enemy attack on New York city and collapse of the office there.

Mrs. Hubbard Installed Head of Ondawa Chapter

Russell Smith Acts as Installing Officer—Others Who Take Office.

Ondawa chapter, No. 487, O. E. S., met Monday evening, January 8, in masonic hall. The newly elected and appointed officers for the year were installed by the patron, Russell C. Smith. Acting as substitute officers during the installation were: marshal, W. Lillian Smith; assistant marshal, R. W. Mary Hunt; chaplain, W. Grace Ensign; musician, S. Marjorie Fisher; warder, W. Grace Thomas; sentinel, Charles Rowe.

The newly elected and appointed officers are:

Matron, Mrs. Dorothy Hubbard; patron, R. W. William J. Rich; associate matron, Mrs. Helen Rowe; conductress, Mrs. Marjorie Hunter; associate conductress, Mrs. Viona Sather; secretary, Mrs. Ruth Richards; treasurer, Mrs. Nancy Rich; trustee for three years, Mrs. Lillian Smith. Chaplain, Mrs. Jane Claxton; marshal, R. W. Mary Hunt; assistant marshal, W. Dorothy Allen; historian, Miss Evelyn Smith; musician, Mrs. Grace Sheldon; warder, Mrs. Esther Smith; sentinel, Brother John Thomas; color bearer, Mrs. Jennie Hubbard; Adah, Mrs. Marie Cary; Ruth, Helen Cruikshank; Esther, Mrs. Helma Nelson; Martha, Mrs. Ella Abrams; Electa, Mrs. Helen Marshalsea. Following the meeting refreshments were served to about thirty-six members.

ARGYLE RURAL CARRIER RETIRES AFTER 42 YEARS

Howard F. Todd Has Delivered Mail and Served Under Five Postmasters in Past Four Decades.

After 42 years of carrying the mail Howard F. Todd of Argyle has retired, and Harry McDougall, who has been a substitute carrier for several years, is delivering the letters, newspapers, magazines and packages to the people on R. F. D. 2 out of Argyle postoffice.

During the more than four decades that Mr. Todd has been rural mail carrier in his town, he has seen many changes come to the community, the customs, the people and the postoffice.

When he first started out delivering mail to the rural area served by the Argyle postoffice, the trip was made by horse and buggy, or sleigh, depending on the season. That was in 1908. Within the first decade, the automobile came into use, but not for year-round travel. In winter, the horseless carriage had to be put up and the horse returned to the job. With the coming of better road maintenance and better cars, the horse was retired permanently.

There used to be three R. F. D. routes out of Argyle, but for some time now there have been just two, and Mr. Todd has been carrier on R. D. 2. His route has been changed and lengthened during the years, and of course his customers have changed, so that there are very few folks left who got mail from Mr. Todd back when he started in 1908.

He has seen a number of changes in the postoffice itself. During the 42 years Mr. Todd has served under five postmasters: Joseph Smith, Robert Guthrie, Baxter Betts, Miss Anne West, and the present postmaster, Alfred Hall.

The postoffice has moved location six times. When he started in as rural carrier, the office was in the building where Laurence Hay now has his store. Then it was in the Odd Fellows hall; next in the brick masonic building which burned while the office was there. It was then located in the old grade school, now the home of F. J. Fahrenholz; was moved to what is now the town clerk's office; and is now located in the Page home on Salem street.

Mr. Todd has received a letter from J. M. Donaldson, postmaster general, commending him for his long service. Mr. Donaldson says:

"Your creditable record in the postal service has come to my attention upon the closing of your career as rural carrier in the Argyle, N. Y., postoffice. It is a pleasure for me to compliment you on your splendid record of service to your government. "I am sure it is a source of satisfaction for you to know that you have performed your duties in a commendable manner and I sincerely hope you will be happy in the years to come."

The people of Argyle, whom Mr. Todd has served for 42 years, feel just the way Mr. Donaldson does, but perhaps instead of saying "your splendid record of service to your government," they would change it to "your splendid record of service to us."

Mrs. Melina Hartwell Named Defense Chairman

At the January Salem Legion auxiliary meeting a letter was read from the department of New York concerning civil defense in case of an atomic attack and the part the auxiliary is asked to do.

Each person is urged to read all the articles in daily papers and magazines and listen to radio about atomic bomb attacks. An official U. S. government booklet "Survival Under Atomic Attack" will be available soon to be distributed by the auxiliary.

Mrs. Melina Hartwell was appointed civil defense chairman.

White Creek Man Indicted on Charge Of Assault for Shooting His Son

Grand Jury Acts on Recent Shooting—Other Indictments Returned—County Court Convenes Next Week.

Frank C. Mooney, 78, of White Creek was indicted last week by the Washington county grand jury on a charge of assault in the first degree and two counts of assault, second degree, after having allegedly shot his son, Amos Mooney, 47, of Eagle Bridge.

The shooting took place December 31 at the home of the father. State police said the son had been visiting his father for the holidays and had been drinking and arguing with him Saturday night. Early Sunday morning, the police said, the father got a 12-gauge shot gun and fired two shots into the sleeping man.

The son was taken to the Mary McClellan hospital in Cambridge where he is said to be recovering from the wounds. The elder Mooney was arrested and his case was heard by the grand jury last week, which was in session in Hudson Falls.

Arraigned Wednesday before Justice Daniel F. Imrie of Glens Falls, who is presiding at the January term of supreme court in Hudson Falls, Mooney pleaded not guilty and asked that Attorney Howard L. Montgomery of Fort Edward be assigned to defend him. His case will come before the county court which will convene next Tuesday in Hudson Falls.

Also indicted by the grand jury was Mrs. Cleo Hart, 45, of Grangerville, who was arrested in November on a charge of unlawful possession and concealment of a fire arm. She pleaded not guilty and the case went over to the county court.

Edward H. LaRoe, 22, of Quarry Crossing, indicted on a charge of grand larceny, first degree, pleaded not guilty and his case will go before the county court. LaRoe is charged with having stolen an automobile from Frank Gennamora of Quarry Crossing in September.

LEGION WILL DIRECT DEFENSE PROGRAM HERE

Make Plans for Annual Field Day and Carnival July 4—Need Assistant Scout Leader.

The regular meeting of the American Legion post No. 812 was held on Wednesday evening, January 9, at the post rooms, Commander Harley Parrish presiding.

Plans were begun for the annual field day and carnival which is held July 4. The membership has expressed the desire for a much larger display of fire works as an added attraction. Competition for prizes is also being contemplated for several bands in the area.

Commander Parrish and Defense Director Harold Rowe, gave a report on civil defense. The American Legion is handling the civil defense, evacuees, and air raid programs at the request of the mayor. All citizens are urged to contribute their services if asked to aid in this program. It is felt that in the event of a bombing, Washington county will be the least affected, and will therefore be the center of an evacuee haven. For this reason Salem must be prepared to do its part in the state-wide program.

Institutional representative of the boy scout troop, Robert Young, spoke briefly in regards to the scouting program as did Scoutmaster Roger Gartland. It was brought to the attention of the post that Scoutmaster Gartland has been left without an assistant due to the enlistment of Assistant Scoutmaster Robert Hunter in the army air force. Any adult interested in boys is urged to contact Mr. Gartland or any official if they would care to assist in this program which would require only one or two nights a month.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23, and all members are reminded that the county meeting will be held January 25 at Hudson Falls.

Members are urged to attend these county meetings from time to time in order that they may observe the programs carried out by the organization.

Supreme Court in Session At Hudson Falls Court House

Father Receives \$350 Settlement in Action Against Son—New Citizens Admitted.

Supreme court for Washington county convened last Tuesday at Hudson Falls with Justice Daniel F. Imrie presiding, and was in session most of last week, but no cases went to trial. Many cases were reported settled, several put over the term, and others were marked held. Court is continuing in session this week.

Monday a jury returned a verdict of \$350 in an action brought by a father against his son. The action was of Philip Wood against Leo Wood, both of Hudson Falls, in which the plaintiff sought to recover the amount which he maintained had been set aside for his burial.

He claimed that he gave the money to his daughter, Mrs. Viola McMullen, and that she in turn left it in the possession of the son for safe keeping. The son said that he had given his father a sum of money which had not been returned to him, the money having been earned while in military service.

The verdict was returned in favor of the father.

Four persons were admitted to citizenship. They are Mary Giovanna Ruby of Whitehall, native of Italy; Karl Henrich Schuyze, Buskirk, native of Germany; Mrs. Mathilda Pehoda, Granville, native of Belgium; and Mrs. Marie Jeanne Dubuc Pafard, Whitehall, born in Canada.

Killed in Korea.

Pfc. John Kelly Jr., 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly of Cohoes, was killed in action in Korea on November 2 according to a telegram from the war department received by his parents. The soldier has been in Korea since the beginning of hostilities. He was a navy veteran of World War II. A native of Hudson Falls, he had lived in Cohoes for about ten years.

Salem Businessmen Invite Others to Meeting Tonight

Dinner Session Will Be Held—New Members to Association Will Be Welcomed.

The Salem Businessmen's association will hold its monthly supper and meeting tonight, Thursday, at 6:30 at the Lewsey-Marazzo restaurant, Mark Abrams, president, presiding.

All members are asked to attend and in addition all other businessmen who are not members are invited to this meeting so that they may have an opportunity to join the organization.

A very wide and worthwhile program has been planned and Mr. Abrams has expressed the belief that the association, with proper membership backing can carry out this program that will be of benefit to the entire village.

Tickets for the supper and meeting may be obtained from Mark Abrams, Katharine Coulter, Louise Bentley, Edward McClellan, James Walsh, George Herdman.

SHERIFF ROBERTSON APPOINTS DEPUTIES

Robertson Renames Butler Under-sheriff—Other Appointments Announced by New Official.

Washington county's new sheriff, William J. Robertson of White Creek, who was appointed last Tuesday by Governor Thomas E. Dewey to fill the unexpired term of A. M. Alexander of Salem, resigned, has announced the appointment of deputy sheriffs and employes in the county.

Sheriff Robertson reappointed Benjamin D. Butler of Salem as under-sheriff; Edward H. Usher of Hudson Falls as deputy sheriff and jailer; and the following deputies:

Everett Bristol, Argyle; Mrs. Ruth Davis, Cambridge; Charles Cantwell, Cambridge; George A. Pierce Easton; Joseph Green, Fort Ann; Randall Wilkins, Fort Edward; Richard Stanton, Granville; James E. Ryan, Greenwich; Gerald Rivers, Hudson Falls; Roy Harris, Putnam; W. Alba Gillis, Salem; John O'Brien, Whitehall.

The staff at the sheriff's office in Salem is as follows: Lois Barnes, stenographer; Alice M. Butler, matron and cook; Benjamin Perkins, Richard Shea, Francis Rogers and Mr. Gillis, guards, all of Salem; Henry J. Suprenant, Hudson Falls, janitor.

Hudson Falls Youth Collapses at Hospital

Edmund Barry, 17, of Hudson Falls, who didn't believe he had been hurt in an automobile accident Saturday night, collapsed while visiting a friend in Glens Falls hospital Sunday evening. Examination showed he was suffering from several fractured ribs and internal injuries received in the accident.

Young Barry was a passenger in a car driven by Henry W. Allen, 18, of Hudson Falls. The car left the Fort Edward-Durkeetown highway Saturday night, struck a tree and knocked down a telephone pole.

Unaware of any injury, Barry assisted police in getting the car back on the road. Allen told police the accident occurred when his steering apparatus failed.

Hoosick Falls Woman Killed in Accident

Mrs. Helen Cone, 48, of Hoosick Falls was killed and her husband, Charles, was critically injured when their car left the road about four miles south of Cambridge and turned over.

Police say the Cone car failed to negotiate a turn, skidded and overturned. Mrs. Cone died instantly of a fractured skull, according to the report of coroner Roy Borrowman of Fort Edward, and Dr. Denver M. Vickery of the Mary McClellan hospital. Mr. Cone is in the hospital being treated for serious injuries.