

SUSIE VERNON

Closely Questioned Says She Has Traveled With Pearl Mitchell

IN MONTANA AND WASHINGTON

And That They Had Been More Intimate Than Sisters

DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS.

The Witness Is Not a Prisoner, Being in Jail By Her Own Consent—She May Break Down.

From Monday and Tuesday's Daily.

The position of Miss Susie Vernon, witness in the Slorah murder case, is a peculiar one, and perhaps stands alone in the history of Dawson. Her position is unique inasmuch as that she is in jail, though not a prisoner. She waived her sureties for appearance at the trial of Slorah which is set for the 6th of November, and took up her quarters in the jail, at the request of the authorities. So it happens that she is voluntarily an inmate of the jail.

This is, of course a very peculiar state of affairs, but the reasons which led the authorities to make the request of her are, if somewhat unusual, valid, and in line with the interests of justice, though for the present not to be minutely gone into.

Through the courtesy of Capt. Starnes and other officers in charge, a Nugget reporter was admitted to her presence late Saturday afternoon, and while very reluctant to speak of the affair in the Holborn, Miss Vernon consented to tell what she knew concerning Pearl Mitchell during the time she had known her prior to her appearance in Skagway and her affiliation with the man charged with her killing.

"You stated before," said her questioner, "that you knew nothing of Pearl Mitchell before meeting her in Skagway?"

"Yes, I believe I have said all I have to say," was the answer given in a nervous, hesitating way.

"Perhaps you are unaware that there are parties in town who knew you both in Skagway—were there at the time of your arrival—and who say that you came together from Minneapolis. Have you anything to say as to that?"

"That is not true," she answered, "we did not come to Skagway together. Pearl went there first. We separated just before she went there, in Seattle."

"Then you did know her before?"

"Yes, I met her first about two years ago in Butte, Montana. We left there together, and went to Helena, and from there we went to Spokane, and continued together till we arrived in Seattle, where we separated, she going to Skagway and I to Portland. I met her again in Skagway upon my arrival there. She was at that time living with Slorah."

"This affair is a terrible thing to me; terrible because of its nature, but aside from that it is a terrible blow, because Pearl Mitchell was dearer to me than my sister. We had known each other and had many things in common which never existed between my sister and me."

"I don't know why they want me to stay in this place, but I suppose it is because they did not want me talking to people about the affair. That was unnecessary though, for I had given orders that I would not see anyone."

"I am not a prisoner though, and am not treated as one. I came here because they asked me to, and I must say that while I don't like being here, I am treated with all kindness and courtesy by everyone here."

Throughout the short interview in the narrow cell, where Miss Vernon is now quartered, that terribly nervous manner noticeable at the inquest in the Holborn, and at Slorah's preliminary hearing was just as marked, the witness seeming to be on the verge of an hysterical attack.

If this nervousness is the result of the scene in room No. 2, it will probably wear off somewhat before the trial, but if not it is doubtful if the witness does not collapse before her testimony is heard.

In reply to a question as to how she accounted for the discrepancy in the number of shots she believed she heard fired, and the number she must know to a certainty could have been fired, she said: "I do not know. I am not accustomed to hearing revolver shots fired, and I may be mistaken but I

think there must have been as many as I have said."

She was very positive that there was no other revolver in the room besides the one used by Slorah.

Danger on Water Front.

Great activity on the water front has been displayed the past few days in hauling away and above high water mark freight which arrived on late scows and which, in case of an ice jam and backing water, would have been in danger from overflow if allowed to remain on the beach. At present the beach is almost clear of all freight, but a few thousand cords of wood are yet there and should the water back up as much as it did last year when the ice stopped running, much of this would be overflowed. Last year when the ice jammed the water raised above town from 10 to 14 feet and many scows which had been considered safely tied up at various points along the river were submerged and cargoes ruined. Much freight piled along the edge of the river was caught in the same way.

An Overdone Industry.

A person whose business takes him to the Forks several times each week is authority for the statement that there are 35 roadhouses between Dawson and the Forks, counting four at the ferry. The result of this multiplicity of stopping places is that there is much complaint of dull business, but it is the only result that could be expected. There are on a few claims as many as three roadhouses, and at all of these places of the whole 35 liquor is sold, with but only two or three exceptions, and complaints of dull bar business are as numerous as are those of dull dining room and lodging business.

A story is told of a teamster who left Dawson recently with the avowed intention of taking a drink at every roadhouse between here and the Forks. He made good his promise and upset his load of freight just as he reached the Forks.

Sunday Night Entertainments.

The Sunday night entertainments presented by the three Dawson theaters are becoming prominent features in the list of the week's recreation and amusement, as there is not one of them to which the most fastidious can go without fear of seeing or hearing anything that is not as it should be.

Last night all three of the theaters were crowded and most enjoyable entertainments were presented. These events are coming to be looked forward to with anticipation and pleasure by many of the ladies and children of Dawson and the attendance is always most encouraging to the various managers of the play houses.

Not Quite Drowned.

Fred A. Hartgen and Robert Burns, who were reported as being drowned during the recent heavy storms on Lake Lebarge, wish to inform their friends through the columns of the Nugget that, while undergoing some thrilling experiences and narrow escapes, they have arrived in Dawson hale and hearty and can be found for the next few days at Kilgore's store on First avenue.

Hering-Boyd.

Mr. John Hering and Miss Bessie Boyd were quietly married in the presence of a few friends at the M. E. church Saturday evening, Rev. A. E. Heatherington officiating. The groom is one of the best known as well as one of the most popular young men in the Klondike. For a long time he has been connected with the Nugget in the capacity of circulation agent on the creeks, where he is known and liked by all. His bride is the handsome daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Boyd and arrived from Seattle a few weeks ago with her mother, Mr. Boyd, who is proprietor of the Denver Market, having come in two years before.

Mr. and Mrs. Hering left Sunday morning for a week's visit to Mr. Hering's brother's family at Caribou, after which they will go to housekeeping in their own house on Hunker creek. The wedding journey from Dawson to Dominion was made behind a team of record-breaking malamutes and it is safe to say that the endearing remarks such as all respectable young married men make to their brides on similar voyages were frequently alternated with that very current provincialism, "Mush on."

That the young couple may ever remain young in each other's eyes, and that their married life may be one long coasting trip on a path entirely free from obstacles, is the wish of the Nugget and the wish is echoed in the breasts of the groom's thousands of Klondike friends.

Good for Larsen.

Another large store has been opened at the south end of town, a new two-story building having recently been erected by C. J. Larsen, who has established the South End Mercantile Co., on the corner of Second avenue and Second street. Mr. Larsen will be remembered by many as the proprietor of the Travelers' Rest.

The upper stories of the new building will be rented for furnished rooms, while the lower floor is to be occupied by the mercantile company and Stein's meat market.

A large stock of goods has been imported for the new company and special efforts will be made to supply outfits to the miners, as the concern will guarantee every pound of stuff sent from their place to be this year's importation. The South End Mercantile Co. are out for business and will without doubt get their share as the location of the new firm is on the road from the creeks and their stock is all that can be desired.

YUKON WATER

Is What Tom Chisholm and Harry Edwards Paid Freight Charges On

FROM SELWYN DOWN TO DAWSON

And Now They Find Themselves Up Against It

HAVING RECEIPTED IN FULL.

Barrels Were Bored, Plugged and Seared With Hot Irons—Hootchless Hootch.

Some time during the open season of last year, or about 14 or 15 months ago, Tom Chisholm and Harry Edwards, liquor dealers of this city, purchased 12 tons of whisky on the outside, in Vancouver, B. C., and shipped the same for this place, complying with all requirements of the law, as to permits and tax, as it then existed. But between the date on which the goods were purchased and the date on which they should have arrived in Dawson a new law was passed by the Yukon council prohibiting the importation of liquors into the Yukon district and, notwithstanding the fact that the regular importation tax of \$2 per gallon was paid at Bennett and the consignment was well on its way down the river when, by order of Capt. Starnes of the N. W. M. P., the shipment was seized under the then recently enacted law and caused to be unloaded at Selwyn, where it was held until the matter of its being legally in the country was duly settled.

When Chisholm and Edwards found out that their consignment had been stopped in transit they at once took steps to have it released, the first one being to procure from a Sulphur miner named McLeod who was present in Vancouver when the liquor was purchased, an affidavit to the effect that it was purchased on a certain date, which date was prior to the enactment of the prohibitory law by the Yukon council, which affidavit with other documents and evidence of good intent on the part of the shippers of the consignment were forwarded to Ottawa for the purpose of obtaining the release of the goods. But the release was slow in coming; so slow, indeed, that, according to Chisholm and Edwards, another permit was issued for the bringing of whisky to Dawson, the order was purchased, shipped to Dawson, received here and sold out while the matter of releasing the goods in charge of the police at Selwyn was still being considered in Ottawa.

When a year had flown by, and some time last August, and when, according to Chisholm and Edwards, a certain other large shipment of whisky had all been sold, the long looked for release came from Ottawa and Harry Edwards immediately left for Selwyn where he found the 110 barrels of booze apparently in good condition and which he receipted for to the police and brought with him to Dawson, arriving here on the 3d of last month, September, when the partners congratulated themselves that, after much waiting and a great deal of inconvenience they had at last received what they had paid for 15 months before.

The above would be a complete story if stopped here, but it don't. A few days ago Chisholm and Edwards tapped one of the lately received barrels for the purpose of replenishing a bar demijohn. To their experienced eyes the contents had a peculiar color. They tasted it and knew exactly what was the matter—watered whisky, that was all.

A close examination of the barrel was made and what had been previously overlooked was revealed: The barrel had been bored and later plugged, the edge of the hole being seared with a hot iron so as to defy detection by ordinary inspection, and as the heads of all whisky barrels are marked and branded by hot irons, a few burns more or less would not serve to excite suspicion or remark.

This condition of affairs at once excited the suspicions of Chisholm and Edwards with the result that they made a most thorough examination of their stock. Barrel after barrel was tapped only to pour forth Yukon river water, and in every case where the taste of the river was apparent, the seared plugs were found.

The shippers acknowledge that they are up against it, having receipted for the 12 tons of whisky as being received from the police in good condition, only to find that they receipted for a large amount of Yukon river water which at any time can be secured here with-

out the necessity of paying freight on it from Selwyn.

The question which Chisholm and Edwards would like to have answered is: What became of our whisky, as there are not enough people between Dawson and Skagway to drink in a year all we have lost? As they have investigated sufficiently to warrant the conclusion that the entire consignment has been tampered with to such an extent as to ruin and render it entirely worthless, they estimate their loss at between \$30,000 and \$35,000.

They Are Skating.

Saturday afternoon some members of the police force and others who are just plain individuals, put on their skates. They did not do this because they were in a hurry to get somewhere, but because they wanted to have some fun (?) on the ice. Some of them had fun at the time, and some of them are paying for it on the installment plan.

Jack Eilbeck smiles a sickly smile when asked if he had a good time, and says that for the present he is going to confine his daily exercise to running the typewriter, and hopes that a daily alcohol bath for about a week will restore him to a normal condition. The displaced cuticle will grow again. He is not so unhappy as he would be were he not able to glance across the office from time to time at the port side of the courthouse and murmur softly, "there are others."

Ladies Are Interested.

Not only has the Nugget's presidential voting contest awakened great interest among the male Americans of the district, but among the American ladies as well, and several of them are doing much work in furthering the interests of their favorites. One lady sent 40 votes for McKinley to the Nugget office on Saturday and today a sister "saw" the 40 votes and "raised" her 10 more, all of them being for the apostle of free silver, and lots of it. Both of the ladies are merchants and the votes were solicited by them from their gentlemen customers.

How is Your Money.

The fact that a Chicago white woman has sued her Chinese husband for divorce on the grounds of desertion and infidelity has nothing to do with the closing of the ice in the Yukon on which large sums of money have been placed. Two weeks ago it looked to the average man as though to bet the ice would close up solidly by November 1 was a good business proposition; but old know-alls said November 1 would pass and ice would still flow, and they had money to substantiate their belief. It now looks as though the know-alls will win on the proposition, as mercury must make a phenomenal decline if the ice stops within the next 48 hours. Some over-sanguine sour doughs say it will still be flowing November 5, but they are not offering odds on it.

POLICE COURT NEWS.

The need of a larger police courtroom was never more apparent than this morning when the little room was packed like a sardine box, those present being mostly clients and witnesses in wage cases.

J. R. Kibeck had been in jail since Saturday evening for being drunk and disorderly. He was assessed \$10 and costs or 10 days on the crown woodpile. He will saw.

James Potter had finished the week by becoming uproariously drunk and had been permitted to return to sobriety in the guardhouse. He was likewise given the option of paying \$10 and costs or working for the queen to days. He will also saw.

Peter Ross had taken his horses to the river to water them yesterday, hauling a small load of stable garbage at the same time. He was arrested for working on Sunday. The court thought the charge too thin and dismissed it.

Chas. Jennings worked on Sunday at his trade, that of carpentering. He had no good excuse for so doing and paid \$25 and costs.

Chas. Dunbar had not worked on Sunday himself but he had hired a number of men to work for him. Charles had a rush job in the construction of a warehouse and wanted to finish it "immediately or sooner." As there were no necessity nor mercy features apparent, \$25 of his money went to the regal exchequer.

Henry Smith, a vulcanite, had also labored on the Lord's day, in that he had ironed a team of horses and his anvil had given forth the welkin ring on the Sabbath air the same as its custom on week days. Henry said that for the past five years he has followed his trade in British Columbia and in this country, during which time he had worked on Sundays and had never before been called down. He paid \$25 and costs and in all likelihood his forge will cool off next Sunday.

Ernest Johnson was dismissed from the charge of leaving part of a dead horse on a public road, as he was forced to remove the defunct animal in sections and did so as rapidly as possible.

The case of Celia De Lacy vs. O'Brien & Jackson for \$206 alleged to be due for services rendered occupied the remainder of the forenoon. The plaintiff told her story in a straightforward way as did many of the other witnesses, but the trend of the whole chain of evidence was not such as to lead the unsophisticated to be carried away with the delusive idea that the life of the average soubrette under the average theatrical manager has a strawberry and cream flavoring, or is even remotely connected with flowery beds of ease. The defence admitted owing the songstress \$83.60, but denied the remainder of the account. After hearing the evidence Magistrate McDonnell took the case under advisement, reserving his decision until Wednesday.

THOSE STOVES

And Buildings Maintained By The Water Co. to be Considered

BY THE COUNCIL THIS EVENING

When More Legislation On The Flatter Is Expected.

COMPANY EXCEEDED RIGHTS

Of Franchise When It Erected Houses and Built Fires In Them On the Streets.

The Yukon council will hold a meeting this evening at which the present position of the water company will be considered.

The injunction granted at the suit of Mrs. McConnell, prohibiting the maintenance of the tank and thawing stove in the building complained of a shutting off to some extent the egress and entrance to her hotel, the Melbourne, and also as being a menace to the safety of her property, by reason of sparks emitted from the stovepipe, and a nuisance because of the smoke. All these allegations have, as has been said, resulted in the granting of an injunction against the offending water company, and have further developed the fact that by establishing all those little houses along the line of the main on Second avenue, where stoves are kept burning night and day to keep the faucets from freezing, the company has overstepped the bounds of its rights under its franchise.

The council tonight will do some more legislating but whether permission will be granted the company to maintain the houses as at present is another question. It is safe to say that counsel in the injunction suit now pending will be on hand to argue before the council on legislation which may seem detrimental to the rights of his client.

The water company says that its expenses in maintaining service at this time of year, and under the existing circumstances is very much higher than during the warmer season, and in case at least the rate charged for the service has been more than doubled in consequence of this extra expense.

The rate charged for supplying the police barracks has been \$40 per month, but it has now been raised to \$100.

It would be interesting to know just how far this elevation of rates is likely to extend, and what the result will be, and by what forceful argument the company will be able to hold its customers in view of the fact that competition by individuals who are anxious to supply water by hauling it from the river, is already dangerously close.

A Birthday Party.

St. Mary's school, whose destiny is efficiently guided by Sister Mary Edith, was the scene of a happy event this afternoon, the occasion being the 50th anniversary of the birth of the sister superior in whose honor the teacher and her pupils appropriately celebrated, and made merry with the elder sister. The usual school exercises were dispensed with for the afternoon and songs and recitations by the children, and an appropriate and fitting address by Miss Rachael Dunham were substituted. The children were treated to suitable refreshments, cakes, candy and nuts being abundant. The sister superior was the recipient of many little presents, which are appreciated more for the motive that prompted their giving than for their intrinsic value, her stock of handkerchiefs being greatly augmented.

St. Mary's school is progressing in a manner most satisfactory to the teacher and pupils as well as to the patrons. The school was opened by Sister Mary Stephen and conducted by her for two weeks pending the arrival of Sister Mary Edith, since which time the latter, a lady most especially adapted to the care and development of the youthful mind, has had the sole charge of it. The average daily attendance is now 32 and the prospects for a good session's work are most encouraging.

That New Bridge.

The new bridge which has been so long talked of as a coming means of crossing the Klondike, is pretty nearly all here, having arrived some time since on scows with the exception of some five or six pieces which are supposed to be near enough to admit of their being hauled in over the ice by horse teams. The only thing which stands in the way of commencing construction now is that the water in the Klondike, although falling, is still too high. Work will be commenced as soon as the low water mark is reached.

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