

**TORRANCE NEWS**

Len Sullivan, spent the week-end with his parents in Pasadena.

Mr. McGuire and daughter, of Redondo, and daughter, Mrs. Frost, of Kansas City, were dinner guests of Mrs. Ted Wentz Thursday.

Mrs. Katherine Burmaster of Andree avenue celebrated her sixteenth birthday very delightfully last Friday. At six o'clock Mrs. F. L. Parks surprised her with a birthday dinner, the members of the Burmaster and Parks family being the only guests present. The table was beautifully decorated for the occasion. Later in the evening Miss Katherine was the honoree at a birthday party given her by her mother at her residence. The evening was passed in dancing and refreshments of salad, ice cream and cake. To add to the pleasure of both of these occasions her brother, Arthur, was home from Brea. Those present were Misses Virginia Watson, Jassamine Coker, Ruth McKenzie, Helen Neill, Mary Jessome and Katherine Burmaster; Messrs. Karl Von Hagen, Ralph Beall, Linas Adams, Glenn Babeck, William Walks, Arthur, Henry and Carl Burmaster.

**TORRANCE WOMAN'S CLUB**

Torrance Woman's Club met Monday, March 27th, in the ante room of Legion hall. On account of the noise made by the carpenters working on the stage that is being erected, those who were to take part in the program were excused until some other time. After the regular business of the club had been finished, the afternoon was taken up in planning for the attendance of members at the district convention being held in Santa Monica this week.

The Easter program which is to be given April 10th, was also discussed and plans made for this meeting, which is to be in the nature of a children's day. The program which is in charge of Mrs. H. E. Paige, is to be composed entirely of children and it is hoped all members will be present and bring their children.

**NOTICE**

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**True Detective Stories**  
**IROQUOIS MURDER**

THERE are many who have ridiculed the methods by which Craig Kennedy, Sherlock Holmes and other master sleuths of fiction have arrived at their infallibly correct conclusions by deductive reasoning or by mechanical apparatus which registers every fraction of a heartbeat or every minute change in the suspect's respiration.

But every now and then these same methods are used by detectives in real life, frequently with a great degree of success.

For example, there was the Hotel Iroquois murder case in which Police Commissioner Dougherty of New York applied a mixture of the Holmes and Kennedy rules in such a manner as to make the guilty man practically convict himself, although at the time he was ignorant of the fact that he was doing it.

William H. Jackson, a wealthy guest of the hotel, was found dead in his

room one morning, stabbed through the heart. His gold watch and several other pieces of jewelry had not been touched, but the only money in his clothes were three twenty-five cent pieces in one of his vest pockets. As Jackson was known to have carried a good deal of money, the supposition was that he had been murdered by someone who had either lost his nerve or who feared to take the watch and jewelry because they could be too easily traced.

Even Commissioner Dougherty's knowledge of the working of the criminal mind could find little that could be dignified by the term "clue."

Jackson had evidently returned to his room rather late the night before—in fact one of the clerks recalled seeing him enter shortly after midnight—but the elevator boy said that he had come up alone, and that no one had gone up or come down from the same floor for several hours afterwards.

"That means nothing," Dougherty pointed out.

After a careful examination of the room and the body of the murdered man, Dougherty returned to his office and contented himself with seeing that the machinery of the police was kept carefully oiled. But to no effect.

As days passed without further developments, the public began to criticize and find fault.

Finally, when the wave of criticism had reached a height that he could no longer afford to overlook it, Commissioner Dougherty decided to try a method which, as he phrased it, "was a shot in the dark—and a hundred-to-one shot at that."

"All we've been able to find out," he said to one of his lieutenants, "is that Jackson was stabbed by a left-handed man, standing behind him and slightly to one side of him. Jackson dropped without a sound and the murderer was able to lift his roll without disturbing the body in the slightest. The whole thing probably didn't take more than sixty seconds. Now, excluding the guests in the hotel at the time—most of whom it's manifestly impossible to reach—I want you to round up every person who was in the Iroquois that night. Find out which ones are left-handed, and bring 'em down here and let me talk to 'em."

"Third degree, chief?"

"No!" snorted the commissioner. "That wouldn't do in this case. At least the old-fashioned kind wouldn't. I'm going to try something new. It's a gamble, but we've got to take a chance."

One by one the left-handed brigade was marched into Dougherty's office. One by one he put to them a set of questions, one of the first of which regarded their health and the state of their pulse. Once he had his finger on the suspect's wrist, he never lifted it until the final question had been

asked and answered.

It was not until the commissioner commenced to question Paul Geldel, the elevator boy who had taken Jackson up to his floor the night that he had been murdered, that he noted any material change in the pulse beats of the persons he was examining. When he asked Geldel what he had done immediately after Jackson had stepped out of his car, the boy's pulse hesitated and then commenced to race. But his voice was quiet enough as he replied that Jackson had asked him for some ice water, that he had brought it, placed it outside his door, and gone on with his work.

Instantly a thought flashed into Dougherty's mind—"Jackson opened the door, produced a roll of bills, asked for change for a dollar, and tipped Geldel a quarter, slipping the other three into his vest pocket. Geldel, seeing the money, murdered Jackson either then or later. At least he knows something about the

crime. His pulse is proof of that." But aloud, the commissioner only said: "You're left-handed, aren't you?"

"No, str," replied Geldel, promptly. "Right-anded." And again his pulse was racing.

"That'll do," Dougherty concluded. "Thank you for coming here."

The instant the boy left the commissioner ordered him followed. Two days later he was arrested and finally convicted—one of the few cases on record where a man's inability to control his heart-action during the strain of lying, provided the initial indication of his guilt.

Mrs. L. E. Chappee, Miss Hazel Cappee, Jack Snodgrass and Miss Snodgrass of Los Angeles, and Mrs. Bertha Wilson, of Kansas City, Kansas, were visitors of Mrs. Ted Wentz Tuesday evening.

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