

DENMEAD GANGER FOR TRIAL AT ASSIZES

Murder Charge Hearing: Allegation of Quarrels

ALLEGATIONS that a series of quarrels took place over another man were made at Droxford Magistrates' Court yesterday, when George Thomas Painter (48), builder's ganger, of 16, Barn Green Close, Denmead, was charged with the murder of Evelyn Amy Rixon (36), of the same address.

Painter, who is charged with the murder of Mrs. Rixon on the morning of November 29, was committed for trial to Hampshire Assizes.

In answer to the charge he replied: "I don't want to say anything at all."

He was represented by Mr. Robert M. Brooks.

Mr. Oliver Nugent, who appeared for the Director of Public Prosecutions, told the Magistrates the accused was alleged to have strangled Mrs. Rixon with a stocking. He had been living with her for some years.

"CONTINUAL QUARRELS"

The couple he said were continually quarrelling, and on the Sunday before the alleged murder, this had reached the extent that Painter hit Mrs. Rixon on more than one occasion. The subject of the quarrels seemed to be a man named Card.

Mr. Nugent read an alleged statement by the accused in which he said he had been living with Mrs. Rixon for six years, four of which were spent at Barn Green Close. She was separated from her husband, and he was separated from his wife.

They had been on exceptionally good terms until five or six weeks before November 29, when they met a man called Les Card.

Since meeting Card they started "doing a pub crawl on Saturdays and Sundays," and he found the expense was becoming too much. He asked Mrs. Rixon if she would go back to normal, so they could save money to buy things for the children. She said "I am not going to give up my drink for

that; you save your money and I will go with Les." She then asked him if she could go out with Les for a week, and when he did not agree, said: "You might as well get out then."

"INTENDED TO LEAVE"

On the Sunday Mrs. Rixon, her two children, Mr. and Mrs. Collins and Les Card went out, and did not return until about 10 p.m. While they were away accused packed, as it was his intention to leave the next day. He was unable to find some of his things and asked Mrs. Rixon about them. Both she and Mrs. Collins said they did not know which was which. It was after 11 p.m. by that time, and both women said if he did not stop they would call the police.

That night Mrs. Rixon stayed in the same room as Mr. and Mrs. Collins.

Next morning when Mrs. Rixon and Mrs. Collins came downstairs he asked Mrs. Rixon for his clothes as he wanted to leave the house for good. She said: "You go and find them." He asked her to go upstairs, and take her things out of the wardrobe and dressing table. Mrs. Rixon said she would go when she was ready.

In the bedroom she said she was glad he was going, and then smacked him across the face, and attacked him with an electric table lamp.

"TIED IT ROUND NECK"

Mr. Nugent stated that accused was alleged to have said: "In the exchange that took place, I pushed her over the bed, saw a stocking, and tied it round her neck. I tied the stocking tight around her neck." He then left the bedroom, went downstairs, put on his jacket, and cycled to the constable's house at Denmead.

When Mrs. Rixon had said she was glad he was going, she added: "Now I can have Les."

This made him furious as he had been very good to her, and paid her £8 a week.

Doctor Robert Duncan Clay, consultant pathologist, of Milton Road, Portsmouth, said

he found the body of Mrs. Rixon lying obliquely across the bed. The stocking was tied round her neck, and was knotted tightly over her larynx and again below her right ear.

One of the links of a double necklace of pearls round her neck had been broken. He considered that the cause of death was asphyxia due to strangulation by the stocking.

Miriam Eileen Collins, of 16, Barn Green Close, said Painter and Mrs. Rixon had been happy together until three or four months before her (Mrs. Rixon's) death.

On the Sunday night Mrs. Rixon slept in her (witness's) room, and did not get undressed. Next morning when they went downstairs, Painter asked Mrs. Rixon when she was going to get her clothes from his room as he had a tractor and trailer to take away the furniture. She said she would remove the clothes when she had a cup of tea.

"HEARD BANGS"

Witness said that she then went into the kitchen and when she returned the accused and Mrs. Rixon were upstairs. She heard some bangs, and thought Painter was hitting the spring of the bed. Everything then went quiet for a while, and then it sounded as if the accused was calling "Eve, Eve," and then something which she could not hear.

Painter then came downstairs, spoke to her little girl, put on his shoes, and went out.

About ten minutes later she called upstairs to Mrs. Rixon, and receiving no reply, went up to the bedroom door and called again. Still receiving no reply she went into the room and saw Mrs. Rixon lying on the bed. Thinking Mrs. Rixon had fainted, she tried to find her pulse, but was unsuccessful. Mrs. Collins said she then saw the stocking round Mrs. Rixon's neck. She phoned her husband about the police.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brooks she said Painter was normally a quiet type of man, and a question in which he asked her if Mrs. Rixon was difficult to please, witness said she had once asked her what was wrong with her, and if any one could help her.

"EVERYTHING FINISHED"

Robert Edgar Collins, able seaman, said he went downstairs on the morning of November 29, and accused told him everything was finished, and that a tractor and trailer was coming to pick up his things.

"He said 'Tell the girls not to be afraid, it was quite all right, quite safe, and they could come downstairs.'"

Police Constable C. G. Wood said Painter visited the cottage at Denmead at 8.20 a.m. on November 29, and told him he had killed Mrs. Rixon. After visiting Barn Green Close he returned to the police cottage and told accused he was being arrested. Painter replied: "It is my loss, I have lost everything."

Police Sgt. A. J. Donaldson said that while journeying to Droxford Police Station, accused said: "I want to tell you about it." He cautioned him, and said it was a serious matter which it would be better for him to say nothing about at that stage.

Painter, said the sergeant, replied: "I am ready to take the 8 o'clock walk; it is all over now. It was a nylon stocking I tied round her neck."

HILLHEAD W.I. PARTY

Contrasting with the wintry conditions outside, all was warmth and gaiety at the Subbington and Hill Head Women's Institute children's party held in the village hall, Subbington. The children, numbering 60 in all, received from Father Christmas (Mrs. E. Cross) a gift of the Christmas tree.

Social activities, including whist drives, which the committee had presented, raised the money for the party.

Mrs. C. Cane organized the games and Mrs. A. Dale accompanied the singing at the piano.

TEMPERANCE MEETING

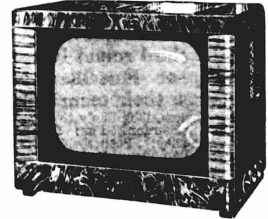
The Rev. K. Aldrich was the speaker and soloist at a meeting of the Eastney branch of the B.W.T.A. The President, Miss Elliott gave the prayers.

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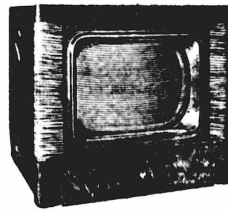
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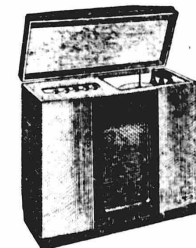
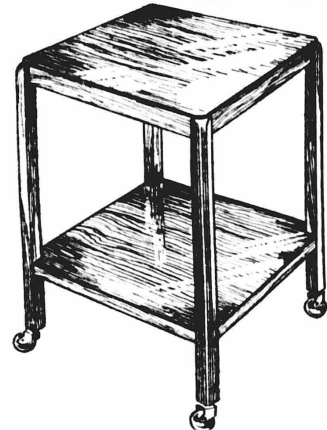
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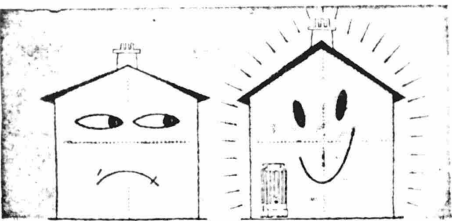
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Housewarming News about paraffin

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Pendragon Re-opens

FOR the first time in 15 years, the Pendragon Hotel, Southsea, yesterday opened its doors to guests. With its 42 bedrooms should make a valuable addition to the winter and summer accommodation offered by the resort.

At the outbreak of World War II, the Pendragon was requisitioned and became a branch of the Eye and Ear Hospital and then a hostel for members of the W.R.N.S. In 1951 it was returned to the Regional Hospital Board, which planned a nurses' hostel, but two years later it was offered for sale and was bought by Trust Houses Ltd.

The building was then in a very dilapidated state. When the Company's surveyor visited the Pendragon for a first inspection, in fact, he was attacked by pigeons nesting in exposed rafters and torn plaster. Since then the work of rehabilitation and refurbishing—the latter costing £20,000—has been carried out.

The luxurious and tasteful result was seen on Tuesday by about 100 guests who heard Mr. W. J. Breen (Houses Divisional Manager) express the Company's pleasure on renewing its associations with Portsmouth (the Pendragon has acquired the licence of the famous old George in High Street, demolished in a 1941 air raid).

DRUNKENNESS FINES

For being drunk in the Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, Russell Angus McKinnon (31), of HMS Stadacona of the Royal Canadian Navy, was fined 10s. by Portsmouth Magistrates to-day.

Thomas Ryan (35), labourer, of 57, Gardener's Road, Portsmouth, Sussex, was fined £1 for being drunk and disorderly in Queen Street, Portsmouth.



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NEW LIGHTSHIP

A new lightship will be towed to the South Goodwin on Saturday week.