WHO KILLED MAGGIE HOEL?

Letter Writer Tells Sheriff Beaman That He Knows.

IDENTITY IS A MYSTERY

Officers Will Not Say Who Wrote The Letter.

Sheriff Beaman has received a letter from some person whose identity he refuses to divulge, to the effect that the writer can furnish the sheriff with information that will lead to the capture of the murderer of Maggie Hoel.

The letter did not mention any names or give any impression as to whom the writer referred as the murderer. It made the bare statement that the writer had in his possession information that would give the officers a clue to the person guilty of the atrocious crime.

Sheriff Beaman was not inclined to discuss the letter last night but he said that the letter would be investigated. He was positive in his refusal to give the name of the writer for publication. He said he had no impression from reading the letter as to whom the murderer was. That the communication did not come from any one in Pueblo he also admitted. The fact of the letter being signed would certainly indicate that it is genuine, or at least would indicate the writer's belief in his statements.

It is said by some that the letter is from a detective in an eastern city and that it was received before the coroner's inquest was held. Incidentally it might be mentioned that the coroner's office feels that information to which the law entitled it was withheld, for the letter was not presented to the jury that investigated the death of the girl at the time the inquest was in progress.

The mysterious woman in black is becoming more closely connected with the case than ever and there is a belief among the officers that she was the wife of James Scoutt, the man who was engaged to marry the dead girl when he had secured a divorce from the other woman.

Scoutt's wife was French, according to witnesses who claim to know. A witness has testified that the woman in black who appeared near the Beatty home on the morning of the day the girl disappeared, and who was spoken to by Maggie, talked very broken. A witness has also testified than in many ways the woman in black resembled Scoutt's wife.

The missing man told a number of persons that the last he heard of his wife she was in Salt Lake City. No woman bearing the name of Scoutt has lived in that city since 1888, according to the files of the city directory. This was ascertained by communication with W. P. Cooper, manager of the R. L. Polk Directory Publishing company of Salt Lake.

It has also been developed that Scoutt had never instituted divorce proceedings against his wife, although he had told not only Maggie but her relatives as well, that he intended to do so, when he commenced to go with the girl months ago. It is said that he intended to marry the girl some time ago but postponed the wedding. It is said however that he was getting his affairs, financial and otherwise, straightened out.

Another development is that Scoutt's whereabouts on the afternoon of the girl's disappearance have not been satisfactorily accounted for. He was seen about noon and about 5:30 in the evening but where he was in the meantime no one seems to know. The first he is supposed to know of the disappearance of the girl is when Charles Baty her brother-in-law called him up at Baker's gardens by telephone and told him of it.

While these circumstances may seem somewhat against Scoutt he is not connected with the girl's death by the officers or any one else as yet. It is rather unfortunate, however, that he disappeared at the time he did, as he might give satisfactory explanation of the various things that are being talked of regarding him.

Mrs. Scoutt is also wanted to show where she was on the fatal afternoon, and if the mysterious woman was not she, it would stop what may become an extended inquiry after her. The hackman might also come forward and relieve a disagreeable suspicion as to his mission in that neighborhood on the Sunday in question.

Scoutt's home is in Jackson, Mich. He was about 43 years old and had been in this section of the country for a number of years, always bearing a good reputation. He left his wife at Telluride, Colo., some years ago, and as stated above, has always said that he last saw her in Salt Lake. It was claimed by one witness, however, that Scoutt told him at one time that his wife had worked in the Chieftain office, in this city. None of the heads of the departments of the office recall any woman employe whose whereabouts they do not now know. James Longinotti, foreman of the bindery, had a woman in his employ some years ago who was supposed to have been divorced, and as he remembers her, she was a foreigner. This may have been Mrs. Scoutt, if she ever worked in the office at all.

A warrant will be issued charging "John Doe" and "Richard Roe" with the murder on December 21, 1900, of Maggie Hoel, but this is said to be merely a precautionary measure so that if the officers receive any information at any time that might cause them to want to make an arrest, they can do so without looking up the district attorney. Why they presume that the persons they want are two men, especially in view of the talk about the mysterious woman in black is not clear unless, as the letter received by Sheriff Beaman would indicate, they have information that will prompt them in making an arrest in the near future.

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