JURY SAYS IT WAS MURDER

Inquest Over Body of Maggie Hoel Concluded.

PERPETRATOR UNNAMED

Says it Was Done By Someone Unknown.

"We, the jury, find that the deceased came to her death at the hands of party or parties unknown to this jury."

This in effect is the verdict that was rendered yesterday afternoon by the coroner's jury which has been investigating the death of Maggie Hoel. The declaration of their belief by the six men composing the jury does not necessarily conclusively prove anything, but it indicates that all the evidence presented to them showed that the girl had been foully dealt with. A large number of witnesses were examined and every point in the case gone over thoroughly by the jury, but nothing aside from what has already been published was developed except a probable theory as to how the girl came to go to the river where she met death.

F. Gerrardine, who lives near the scene of the crime, testified that during the afternoon, a few minutes after Mrs. Beatty had left Maggie with the baby in the house, he saw the girl come out of the house to chase some cattle away from the neighborhood. Mrs. Beatty was visiting his home at the time, and therefore knew that the girl was Maggie. He was kalsomining his house and his attention was attracted to her by hearing her shout. It seems that he had often seen her chase the cattle away in the same manner, and therefore thought nothing of the circumstance. He watched her until she had gone a short distance from the house when she was lost from his view in the thick growth of underbrush. When he went into the house he made some remark to his wife, as she remembers, about the circumstance; merely a casual reference that "if those cattle bothered him that way he would shoot them" or something to that effect, and did not think of the matter afterward until he heard of the girl's disappearance. It may be that Maggie never returned to the house after she was seen by Gerrardine, and certainly appearances indicated that she did not. At the time Mrs. Beatty left, however, Maggie was washing dishes. When the house was examined after her disappearance it was found that she had washed only one dish and a pan, and had then placed her pan of water on the stove, presumably to heat the water.

The mysterious hack drawn by white horses was again the subject of inquiry today. Charles O'Brien, who had been looking after a garden in that neighborhood, testified that about noon on the day of the disappearance he was driving some to dinner, and he noticed the hack on top of the hill, which is across the river from the Beatty home, and that the carriage had stopped as though it was waiting for some one. It seemed to Mr. O'Brien that there was some one in the carriage, although he could not make out whether it was a man or woman. The driver was on the seat.

Mr. and Mrs. Curd, an old couple who were visiting relatives at a house on the hill which commands a full view of the Beatty home and vicinity, testified that they saw the hack on the county bridge, which is a short distance from the Beatty house. At the south end of the bridge, on the same side of the river as the Beatty home, the hack stopped and the driver stood up in the seat and looked around as though trying to get his bearings. The old couple fixed the time they saw the carriage at from 1 to 1:30 o'clock. Mr. O'Brien saw the hack after 12, so it must have gone from the spot where he saw it after a wait of over half an hour. The fact that the hack was drawn by white horses makes it conclusive that the carriage seen by Mr. O'Brien and the one seen by Mr. and Mrs. Curd were the same.

Presuming that it was 1:20 when Maggie was seen by Gerrardine and that the hack stopped thereabouts when Mr. and Mrs. Curd saw it on the bridge; if Maggie had for any reason continued on down the road where she was seen, she would have reached the main road about the same time as the hack, though this spot would have been some distance from the river. It is rather strange that the driver of the hack, if he lives in Pueblo, has not come forward to explain what he was doing in that part of the country on that day if there was nothing questionable about his action. That it was a hack from out of town is hardly plausible. The murderer of Maggie could hardly have been able to spend much time or money that hiring a hack to go many miles, and hiring a hack driver to silence would necessitate. If she had been an heiress the theory might be worthy of consideration but the death of the girl, so far as known is of no financial benefit to any one.

The mysterious woman in black seen on the morning of the day the girl disappeared is as much of a mystery as ever. Some of the officers are inclined to connect her with the crime while others think that she was merely some one who had gotten out of the road and was inquiring her way. That she answered Maggie in a discourteous manner when she was addressed is certain, and people asking for favors do not as a rule act discourteously. It seems that she appeared offended because the dogs around the place barked at her.

The other witnesses examined shed but little light upon the case. The jury traced down the story published eight days after the girl's disappearance to the effect that she had gone to Missouri and was happily married. It seems that there had been an impression that the statement had been made in the Chieftain that a letter had been received but as a matter of fact no such statement had ever been made in any newspaper until Saturday evening when an afternoon paper so alleged. The story was merely published at the time for what it was worth, and not as an established fact. It was said the rumor was to the effect that Maggie had married a man named J. E. Watson. There is a man of that name who formerly lived in Lockwood, Mo., and who knew Maggie, but he had not heard the slightest inkling of her case until a short time ago, nor was he married to her. He is now living at Grand Junction. Under the circumstances it was unfortunate that publicity was given to the rumor, although it came from what is usually regarded as a perfectly legitimate source. In view of the fact that it followed the theory advanced and accepted by the police at that time, especially by officers who personally worked on the case, it was credited.

The officers are now diligently seaching for James Scoutt, the dead girl's fiance who disappeared three weeks after the murder and is alleged to belong to his employer. They do not as yet connect him with the case but there are some things that they would like to have him explain.

At the inquest yesterday Deputy Sheriff W. H. Shurtz testified that on the night the disappearance of the girl was reported, he and Detective Bell went to the Beatty home to investigate the case. He said that Mrs. Beatty told him when she got home and found the baby crying, ah, asked the child what Maggie was. The baby said that "Maggie and Jimmie were down by the river" or something to that effect. "Jim" was the name by which Scoutt was familiarly known. As the child is only about three years old not a great deal of significance can be attached to its remark, but if Scoutt was at the house after Mrs. Beatty went away he would have been the last one to see the girl alive. It is supposed that he was at work but the officers claim that as yet they have not been able to find out definitely where he was about the hour the girl is supposed to have disappeared. He was at supper at the Baker house as usual that evening. His employer does not think that he was away from the ranch at any time during the afternoon. Scoutt's courting of the girl was very unostentatious. He was out with her but once, that being during the county fair in September, and then both her sister and brother-in-law were with them. He seemed to be very much attached to her, however, and made a business trip to Denver day of their marriage as she. His wife, from whom he is said to have been trying to get a divorce, has not yet been located.

Several persons still hold to the accidental theory and advance some very possible reasons for their theory, but the officers hold to the murder idea. On the afternoon of the day the girl disappeared, and at about 3 o'clock, the night engineer at the south side pumping station, which is a considerable distance from Beatty home, saw a woman going west on the railroad tracks. He did not pay any particular attention to her but it was his impression that she was bareheaded. This information was not reported to the coroner's jury and probably is of no importance in the case but following out theorizing, it is not impossible that the girl may have been induced into going up the river on some pretext by some one, possibly by a statement that harm had befallen her relatives or her sweetheart and she hurried away without a moment of preparation, was decoyed to a lonely spot, killed and thrown into the river. Improbable as this surmise is, it was suggested by some of the officers last evening and will be inquired into in the general investigation.

GOOD BOWLING.

At the Rover alleys last night the champions bowled a match of three games with the No. 2 team, by way of a tonic to brace the No. 2 boys for their match here with the Denver Wheel club Saturday night. The kids bowled brilliantly, making the highest individual scores and the highest team score that the champions were steady and beat them out on averages.

Team.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	Tota.
No. 1 ...	792	801	844	2.437
No. 2 ...	737	846	828	2.411

Captain Eackensto made 245 in the second game, and W. H. Tate 209 in the third. Each team averaged over 800, which is fair work.

Don't be fooled by imitations. See that the label reads, "Walter Bros.' Pueblo Beer."

MORE LAND FOR MINNEQUA TOWN

By a quit claim deed filed with the county clerk yesterday the Colorado Fuel and Iron company transfers to the Minnequa Town company a big tract of ground in Uplands Park, Bessemer. Included in the transfer is a strip of land 25 feet wide and 574 feet long which was vacated in 1887 by the trustees of the town of Bessemer for one half of the street known as San Carlos avenue. The transfer is another step in the plan of the Minnequa Town company, which is understood to be an auxiliary to the C. F. & I. to establish a new suburb in Bessemer.