

# THE CAROLINE TRAGEDY.

## Marshall Price Charged with Miss Dean's Murder.

### A MAN WHO HAD SUSPICIOUS DREAMS.

He Helped the Detectives and Showed Them Where the Knife Was Hidden—He Was on the Jury of Inquest—He Supplied the Tramp Theory and He Got Into the Tolls.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]  
DENTON, Md., April 4.—The mystery surrounding the murder of the young schoolgirl Sallie Dean while on her way to school, near Harmony, in Caroline county, Tuesday morning, March 25, is now believed to be solved. Detectives Seibold and Gault, who have been industriously at work investigating the case since last Saturday, brought to town at 10 o'clock last night Marshall E. Price, and upon a commitment from Justice Hutson was lodged in jail upon the sworn statements of the detectives that they suspected Marshall E. Price of the murder of Sallie Dean.

The murder has been the theme for discussion from one end of Caroline county to the other since it occurred. The brutality and boldness of the murderer were such as are seldom displayed in any scheme to take the life of another, and is the only crime of the kind that has been committed in this county within the past thirty years.

#### A Parallel Case.

In 1853, while Edith Plummer, a young daughter of the late Edgar Plummer, was returning from school through a long woods between the schoolhouse near Oakland and her home, she was raped and murdered by a colored man named "Jim" Wilson, who had always been regarded as one of the best negroes in the county. Wilson acknowledged his guilt, and a hundred people from the section where the murder occurred surrounded the jail a few nights after the arrest was made, took Wilson from his cell and lynched him by hanging him from a sycamore tree which still stands in the courthouse grounds. The lynching was of a most summary character, as his body was riddled with bullets and then taken to a burning pile of wood, where small pieces of the dead man's body were at intervals thrown in the fire until the whole man had been thus cremated. Since that time until now no murder of this character has darkened the history of the county, and when it became generally known one week ago that Sallie Dean, a bright and attractive schoolgirl of fourteen years of age, had been waylaid and brutally killed alongside of a public thoroughfare, and on public day, when people from the lower part of the county were going to the county seat for the transaction of public business, and that, too, with a house on either side of the place of murder not 30 yards away, the people were wholly unprepared for such intelligence, and excitement from one end of the county to the other has been at fever-heat ever since.

#### The Murder of Sallie Dean.

The murder of Sallie Dean occurred somewhere between 8 and 9 o'clock on the morning of March 25. As was her custom, Sallie Dean left her father's house (which is less than a mile from the village of Harmony) on that morning at 8 o'clock, and taking a path which leads down to the county road leading from Denton to Harmony, with her lunch basket and lunch, soon reached the house of Solomon Corkran, located 30 yards from the scene of the murder, and called for a little son of Mr. Corkran's, who was in the habit of accompanying her to school. The boy not being ready Sallie went on, and this was the last seen of her living. In fifteen minutes the Corkran boy went over the same route as she did, but saw nothing unusual. Her absence from school that day aroused no search or inquiry on the part of the school, the teacher supposing she had been detained by her parents, as was sometimes the case.

The mother of the young girl happened in the village at the close of school, and it was then that she discovered Sallie's absence. The mother, hurrying home and finding no clue to her daughter's whereabouts, at once informed her husband, and all the members of the family began a diligent search. In less than an hour the body of the dead girl was found, with head terribly bruised and her throat cut from ear to ear. The body was covered with a dead cedar bush, and the basket and books were concealed under some rubbish not far away. Since that time a most diligent investigation has been carried on.

#### Price Supplied a Theory.

The tramp theory was first advanced by Price, the man arrested for the crime, but few people accepted the theory. Considering the brutality of the crime, many believed that only some brutal negro could do such a daring murder, and negroes began to be watched. Two negroes were arrested, namely, Jeremiah Bishop and Charles Ross. For days no one believed either to be guilty, as they have reliable witnesses to prove their whereabouts at the time of the murder.

Since the day of the coroner's jury's first meeting the opinion has been current among the best element of people around Harmony that a white man well known to the girl was involved, but were quite timid about making any definite statements. Detectives came over last Saturday and took charge of the case, under direction of State's Attorney Jump and Deputy Albert G. Towers, who has been very helpful in the investigation.

#### He Was a Juryman, Too.

Marshall E. Price is a young white man twenty-three years of age and a son of W. Joseph Price, a well-known and prominent wheelwright and blacksmith living at Dover Bridge, of which he had recently been appointed keeper. He is a man of excellent reputation, and both he and his family have been held in high esteem in the community. Marshall is his oldest son and has been married about a year and has made his home in Harmony, assisting his father at his shops. He was regarded as a bright and industrious man, with special aptitude for the work in which he has been engaged. He was a member of the jury of inquest, and it was while performing this duty that his actions aroused suspicion. He also assisted in removing the corpse from the place of the murder to Jacob Dean's home. He was especially obliging to the grief-stricken parents and went on several errands for them.

It is claimed that on the morning of the murder young Price left his shops, which are between the village and the creek near where the murder occurred, perhaps 500 yards away from the place where the body was found, and taking his axe went to the skirt of woods surrounding the creek to cut a small tree from which he could make a pair of hames. Price contends it was the day previous that he did this, but he is unable to prove by any witness just where he was at 8 o'clock on Tuesday of the murder. It is further claimed that the blow dealt on the left side of the face and head would indicate that it was done with the eye of an axe.

#### He Began to Have Dreams.

Thursday last Price began to have dreams, in which the details of the murder were clearly depicted, and these he would relate. Suspicion was so high among the people that on Sunday it was decided to arrest him, and officers from Caroline and Talbot counties assembled at Harmony Monday morning with this object in view. He had gone to Dover Bridge, about eight miles away, with his wife to make a visit for the day to his wife's father. The officers and detectives followed him there and found him with his people. He was interviewed by various officers and other individuals, but was so composed and cool-headed in all his statements that no one would take the responsibility of arresting him. He was left there and returned home that evening.

#### He Helped the Detectives.

It was discovered that his clothes at home were packed as if about to take a journey, and since then he has been kept under close watch. The detectives on Monday took Price into their confidence and asked him to assist them in ferreting out the crime. He showed much willingness and he was led to believe that suspicion rested heavily on another man near the village. On Tuesday of this week they had Price to accompany them to the scene of the murder and said it was quite important to find the knife which the murderer had used. Price remarked: "Three thousand people have searched these grounds, but it remains for me to find the knife." He went near where the head of the murdered girl lay when found, and, scratching under pine leaves and dirt, unearthed a large knife, to which blood still clung. He also found a bow made of ribbon which the girl wore. These were all voluntary acts on the part of the prisoner.

#### In the Tolls.

Last evening the detectives, having satisfied themselves that their suspicions were well founded, asked him to accompany them to Denton, as they wanted the State's attorney to hear his testimony. After assurances that his wife could accompany him and that they would all return to Harmony that night and the next morning renew the search, they started. They reached Denton about 10 o'clock and all were hurried to the justice's office, where Price volunteered statements about what he knew, and afterward the detectives gave a full account of their investigation, which concluded in a charge against Price. The young man for the first time discovered the iron bar which he had taken, and will so overcome that he cannot, Dr. George was summoned to his aid and re-

covered him. He was then taken in custody by Sheriff Berry, who lodged him in jail.

#### His Young Wife's Distress.

His young wife, less than twenty years of age, was waiting at the hotel for the return of her husband. When informed that he had been lodged in jail, suspected of the crime, she was much affected and demanded to see him. She was accompanied to the jail by THE SUN correspondent, where she had a short talk with the prisoner, and then left, with a promise from the sheriff that she should be allowed to see "Marshall" in the morning. She kissed him good-night and broke down under the excitement. Before taking her departure the prisoner said: "Mary, I am charged with the murder of Sallie Dean, and the evidence is very much against me. I know they will hang me, but I am an innocent man." The wife declared that "Marshall is innocent and his imprisonment is an outrage." She was taken to the residence of M. H. Wright, where she spent the night, and today took the steamer for Dover Bridge, where her father lives.

Price is a light-haired man of medium height and weight. His personal appearance is good and he uses good grammatical language in his conversation. He was born and raised in Caroline county. The people of Harmony knew nothing of the arrest until this morning, as every movement was conducted quietly, and it was believed that the detectives had no suspicion of Price in the matter. Today the town is thronged with curious people, and it requires the best of counsel to keep the masses calm and possessed.

The detectives are still at Harmony gathering evidence. Price will not be removed to Baltimore as was first thought probable.