

Bride's Death Fantastic, California Lawyer Finds

By PATRICK McNULTY
 VENTURA, Calif. (AP) — The young lawyer nervously fingered his snapbrimmed hat and said: "I find it fantastic to believe that mother killed my wife."
 Then the taut, worried face of Frank Duncan, 30, clouded more. "But I'm finding lots of things about this case hard to believe."
 The strangled, nightgown-clad body of Duncan's pregnant wife, a Canadian who came to California from Vancouver, was found last Sunday in a hand-scooped roadside grave near this coastal city 65 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

Hired Killers
 The district attorney said Duncan's much-married mother, intensely jealous of her daughter-in-law, hired two laborers to kill Olga Duncan, 30.
 A grand jury Friday returned murder indictments against Mrs. Elizabeth Duncan, 54, Augustine Baldonado, 25, and Luis Moya, 22.
 "It's a lie," said Mrs. Duncan. "Those men were trying to blackmail me."
 Baldonado and Moya said they were hired to kill the attractive surgical nurse for \$6,000, which they had not yet received.
 Baldonado led investigators to BEATEN, CHOKED
 the body of the brunette bride

who had disappeared from her apartment Nov. 17.
 Baldonado said he and Moya beat and strangled her. But he said Mrs. Duncan's advice that he use acid on her daughter-in-law's face "so they won't be able to identify her by dental work."
 District attorney Roy Gustafson of Ventura County said Baldonado and Moya gave this confession to the grand jury.
 On Nov. 17, they drove to the victim's apartment. The young nurse answered Moya's knock. He told her that her husband was drunk in the car. She followed him to the parked auto where Baldonado was crouching in the back seat.
 Moya slugged her with a .22-calibre pistol and bundled her into the car.
 They drove to a lonely mountain road and took turns strangling her. They did not shoot because the pistol, broken in the beating, could not be fired.
HAND-DUG GRAVE
 They had forgotten to bring a shovel. So Baldonado dug a grave with his hands while Moya continued throttling the nurse.
 "I think she was dead when we dumped her in the grave," Baldonado told detectives.
 The mother-in-law appeared in court with an ex-convict Ralph Winterstein, last Aug. 7 and pos-

ing as the young couple, obtained a fraudulent annulment of her son's marriage.
 Charles Thompson, a Santa Barbara police lieutenant, interviewed a neighbor of Mrs. Duncan during an investigation of the bogus annulment. The neighbor, Mrs. Emma Shortt, 34, told Thompson she had overheard the murder plot.
 Gustafson blamed Mrs. Duncan's intense jealousy of her daughter-in-law for the slaying.
MAMA'S BOY
 He described the dark-haired lawyer as a mama's boy dominated by a doting and meddlesome mother who refused to surrender him to another woman.
 Duncan left his Manitoba-born bride two weeks after their June 21 wedding.
 "Mother had been calling and bothering me," Duncan said. "So I decided to move back with mother and try to straighten things out."
 "But we intended to go back together after the baby. I loved my wife. I loved her a great deal."
 The nurse had written her parents in Canada that her mother-in-law seemed to have an "un-canny hold" on Duncan. She also wrote that Mrs. Duncan had threatened her.
 The lawyer spent a nervous day Friday waiting to testify before the grand jury.
 "Mother and Olga didn't get along well, it's true," he told a reporter. "But kill my wife?"
 "I can never recall mother doing anything cruel. She couldn't even kill an animal."

Ancient Festival Held At Kirk Of St. James

The celebration of Christmas came to a conclusion last night in the Kirk of St. James with the observance of the ancient festival of nine lessons and carols. The church offers this service of scriptures and songs, framed on ancient precedent, as a gift to the Lord of Bethlehem.
 The nine lessons tell the story of redemption as portrayed in the Bible and are read in order by representative men and women, and boys and girls, of the congregation. Between the lessons are sung carols and hymns, and prayers are offered to praise God's goodness and voice joy and adoration at the coming of His Blessed Son.
 The lessons in turn were read by Bill Prowse of the Kirk Scout troop; by Margaret MacDonald of the minister's youth class; by J. B. Larkin, teacher in the church school; by Chas. P. MacKenzie, president, of the chancel choir; by Mrs. J. Harold Shaw, president, of the Kirk Auxiliary; by Mrs. J. A. Lawson, vice-president, of the W.M.S. Auxiliary; by G. S. Storey, president, of the men of the Kirk; by Mrs. Benjamin Rogers of the board of trustees; and by R.R. Hurst of the Kirk Session.
 The Minister, Rev. T. H. B. Somers, presided at the service and offered the prayers.
 The church organist, Miss E. Lillian MacKenzie, directed the

chancel choir in the special music which included the carols, "Today Is Born Immanuel" by Praetorius; "I Wonder as I Wander" sung by Miss Muriel Hurst; "To Bethlehem" by Williams; "Cherubim Song" by Bortniansky; "The Little Road to Bethlehem" sung by Mrs. David Cox; and "In the Bleak Midwinter" by Gustav Holst.
 The beautiful service concluded with the recessional hymn "Holy Night! Peaceful Night!" and the solemn benediction.

Guernsey Ass'n. Directors Named

B. B. Hodgins, secretary of the Canadian Guernsey Breeders' Association, Guelph, Ontario has just reported the result of the election for national directors. Four of the ten directors will be attending the association's annual meeting in Toronto on January 28th for the first time.
 New directors are — Peter A. Kristoff, Cloverdale, B. C.; David K. Mills, Royal Park, Alberta; Norbert Dunlayev, West Shefford, Quebec, and Floyd K. Smith, Bridgetown, N.S.
 Walter G. Coulter, Norton, N. B., who represents New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, was re-elected for a second term and J. L. Chisholm, Milton, Ont., who is one of five directors representing Ontario, was elected for his third two-year term. He is currently first vice-president of the Association.

Guinea Pigs Of Condemned, Is Suggestion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Condemned prisoners, before being put to death, should be allowed to volunteer for painless medical experiments under anaesthesia, a doctor said Saturday.
 Dr. Jack Kevorkian of Pontiac, Mich., proposed that in the end death could be induced by an overdose of the anaesthetic agents.
 And if the man changed his mind after volunteering, he should be permitted to back out a week before the date of his scheduled execution, Kevorkian said. He did not indicate how long the experiments would be carried on.

COMING EVENTS

New Year's Eve dance, Bonshaw, W. I. Hall.
 Hockey North River Rink, tonight Hampshire Bulldogs vs. Winsloe Tigers game time 8:30 p. m. Skate after.
 Dance in Corran Ban Hall, Monday, December 29. Sponsored by C. W. L. Weatherbie's Orchestra.
 Organizations using this column to promote their meetings and entertainments are requested to place their announcements in the name of the Organization or Group who are sponsoring the event.
 Regular Dance, Bonshaw Inn Hall, every Tuesday night, Burn's Orchestra. Admission 30 cents us 10 ce is tax.

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