

# Yesteryears

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## Playboy's murder stuns Ohioans

### Hanoverton woman's 15-year love affair with prominent banker ends in tragedy

By Dale E. Shaffer

ONE OF THE MOST sensational murder trials to take place in Ohio was held in Canton April 2 through April 28, 1899. The 22-day trial involved a woman named Anna E. Ehrhart George from Hanoverton and George D. Saxton, brother-in-law of President William McKinley. Saxton was murdered in cold blood on the evening of Oct. 7, 1898 and Annie George was charged as the alleged murderess. She was the only suspect.

Our story begins with some background information about George Saxton, a handsome bachelor playboy who liked the company of beautiful woman — single and married. He was the grandson of the founder of The Canton Repository, son of banker and landowner James A. Saxton, and the only brother of Ida Saxton McKinley, wife of the 25th president of the United States, William McKinley.

Ida, it should be mentioned, had some real tragedies in her life. She lost her five-month-old daughter Ida in 1873, her three-year-old daughter Katie in 1875, her brother George in 1898 — and her husband by assassination in 1901.

#### Intelligent, well-trained

As a youngster, George Saxton was an intelligent boy. He attended Canton schools and was well trained for a successful career in business. He had a dignified and commanding presence, a pleasing and charming personality and was always immaculately dressed.

As a young man he was a bright star of Canton's elite set and was very popular. He had the personal magnetism to attract and retain many friends, both male and female. No gathering of young people in his social class was complete without

his presence.

Saxton loved high society and enjoyed it with an enthusiasm that made him much in demand. The high position in society which the family occupied gave him prominence, making him a welcome guest in the wealthiest homes in Canton. He was regarded as good company in the exclusive set in which he moved.

#### Inherited family fortune

George worked in the banking business and eventually inherited his father's holdings. After semi-retiring in the 40s, he maintained two residences — one with his sister Mary Saxton Barber at the Saxton house on South Market Avenue; the other a bachelor apartment in the retail-apartment complex he owned known as the Saxton Block.

His first engagement was to Canton socialite Alice Schaeffer, a childhood friend. Soon after he broke this engagement she died. Members of her family claimed it was from a broken heart.

His next engagement was to a young Massillon socialite named Lou Russell. After he broke that engagement, she eloped with her father's coachman.

#### Three times engaged

His third engagement was to a woman named Mary from Stark County. A date was set for the wedding but they never married. She later became Mrs. Park.

Then came Anna E. George, the belle of Hanoverton. She was a brunette beauty with sparkling black eyes, the figure of a model and as graceful as a queen. Annie was only 20 when she married Sample George, a carpenter, in Hanoverton on April 8, 1878. They had two children; a third one died. In 1883 they moved to Canton where he worked as a carpenter and she as a dress-

maker at home.

Annie was 25 in 1883 when she met Saxton for the first time. He was 35 and happened to see her in the Goldberg Brothers store in the Saxton Block. He remarked to the store manager, "That is a deuced pretty woman...I would like to get acquainted with her." The manager set up the introduction.

#### The talk of Canton

From that time on, through most of their 15-year affair, they were the talk of Canton. The Saxton and McKinley families never actually ostracized George, but they did try to persuade him to marry someone of his equal — a socialite.

As a result of breaking engagements and jilting three prominent socialites, there were at least six different court cases. Friends reminded him that his scandals could hurt his brother-in-law, President McKinley. When George was murdered, McKinley was in the second year of his first term.

In the early stages of his relationship with Annie, Saxton gave her expensive gifts. Annie refused them at first. Her husband could not understand why he gave her presents and offered them rooms to rent in the Saxton Block. In order to get to know Annie, Saxton requested mending chores, such as mending a pair of gloves. He wooed her for nine years. Eventually, she became entirely estranged from her husband, transferring her affections to Saxton.

#### Husband sues lover

In 1892 Sample George sued Saxton for alienation of affection and \$30,000. He ended up taking his case all the way to the Supreme Court.

Not long after Saxton and Annie met, rumors began to spread because of their con-



Annie E. George was 25 and married with two children when she met George Saxton while shopping in a Canton store. A 15-year roller coaster romance followed.



Murdered playboy and banker George D. Saxton was President William McKinley's brother-in-law. Saxton's dalliances with married and unmarried women created scandal in Canton in the 1890s.

duct. Their many quarrels and lawsuits became the talk of the town and shook Canton society. Nearly everyone in town knew about the couple's bickering and turmoil. When people heard that Saxton had been murdered, they immediately pointed the finger of suspicion toward Annie George.

Saxton had promised to marry Annie if she would go to Canton, South Dakota for a divorce from her husband. He sent her \$1,200 and signed his letters "With love and kisses, George." But on the day she returned from South Dakota, Saxton reneged on his promise to marry her. She sued him for breach of promise.

Years of promises and broken promises followed. Annie was heartbroken when she learned of all his other female affiliations. Her room was No. 7 in the Saxton Block; his was No. 9.

#### Breakup, reconciliation

Finally tiring of Annie and wanting to spend more time with his other conquests, Sax-

ton ousted her from his apartment building. But she still pursued him and repeatedly sought reconciliation. On Dec. 5, 1895 he sought an injunction against her. Friends pleaded with him on Annie's behalf, so he reluctantly agreed to a reconciliation.

The relationship, however, remained stormy. Annie learned that Saxton had been seeing Eva Althouse since July of 1890 and that he had also been seeing Mary Park, who was planning to divorce her husband and marry Saxton.

Then came the night of Oct. 7, 1898. George Saxton was murdered around 6:10 p.m. outside the home of Mrs. Eva Althouse. She was not at home at the time. Initially, he was shot twice with a .38 caliber pistol and fell on the front steps. The shooter walked a short distance away, heard Saxton cry out and then returned to shoot him twice more.

See Murder, page 7

# Press Your Luck gave away big bucks, big bucks

By Associated Press

IT WAS BIG BUCKS, WITH no whammies. Paul Larson won \$110,237 on "Press Your Luck," which aired on CBS from 1983 to 1986. It was the most money ever won on a single game show.

CBS executives were showing "concern leading toward panic," said Robert Boden, a production executive on the show. "But the guy did nothing wrong."

"I just memorized the patterns," said Larson, whose feat is the subject of a recent article in TV Guide.

Larson, 45, said he was watching television game shows the winter of 1983-84 and decided to study "Press Your Luck" because it awarded cash.

The show matched three contestants whose correct answers earned a spin on an illuminated game board. The lights flashed around the board as each player hit a plunger to stop on a square.

Most squares held cash or a prize. But a player who stopped on a "whammy" lost the accumulated earnings.

Larson videotaped the programs to see if the lights moved randomly. After six weeks he

determined there were six patterns of 18 numbers.

Larson headed for Los Angeles, passed an audition and appeared on the show. Midway through it, he got control of the board.

"The first half of the show went in a very normal fashion, but the second half of the show was bedlam," said Michael Brockman, then CBS head of daytime programming.

Normally, a player hit a "whammy" by the fifth or sixth turn. Larson took 35 spins without a mistake.

"We fixed the machinery the next week," Brockman said. CBS also set a limit of \$75,000 on winnings.

"I realized something was going on," show Host Peter Tomarken said. "I kept looking at (producer) Bill Carruthers, like 'What's happening here?' There was nothing I could do about it. I started thinking how I might have to renegotiate my CBS contract with him."

Larson said the winnings — minus \$28,000 in taxes — lasted about two years. He said a bad real estate investment ended his good fortune.

"I guess I wasn't experienced enough," he said. "It was all gone in two years."



The Times Square 'zipper' is shown in this 1938 Associated Press file photo taken in Manhattan. The new year could spell the end for the zipper, the ribbon of electronic headlines over Times Square that has delivered the news to passersby on and off since 1928. Newsday and New York Newsday are not renewing their leases on the electronic board at 1 Times Square, the building from which the ball drops on New Year's Eve.

# Red Baron still flying high

By Strat Douthat  
Associated Press

MANFRED VON RICHTHOFEN has been dead since 1918, but the famed Red Baron is still flying high in the imaginations of comic strip creator Charles M. Schulz and New Britain writer Peter Kilduff.

In his Peanuts comic strip Schulz frequently has Snoopy assume the persona of a World War I aviator — complete with scarf, leather cap and goggles. The ubiquitous beagle is always bested by the Red Baron, the German ace.

Snoopy's wartime encounters are not always appreciated in academic circles.

"Some historians call it 'the Snoopification' of the Red Baron," says Kilduff. "But, personally, I think Schulz has done a pretty good job of inserting aviation history into his comic strip."

And Kilduff should know, given that he has written a detailed history of aerial warfare during World War I, and two books about von Richthofen. In addition, he says he has read everything he can find about the man, both in English and German.

"I've been intensely interested in Manfred von Richthofen, and his era, since I was a teen-ager," says the 53-year-old Central Connecticut State University administrator. "I've done extensive research on his life, even to the point of procuring the weekly reports of his wartime activities from the German military archives in Munich and Potsdam. Some of the material hadn't been seen in the West for more than 50 years."

In his 1969 book, "The Red Baron," Kilduff translated von Richthofen's memoirs into English. In "Beyond The Legend of the Red Baron," which came out in this country several weeks ago, Kilduff says he thinks he has written the definitive biography of the World War I "ace of aces," who shot down 80 Allied airplanes before being killed in France at age 25.

Kilduff says archival material obtained several years ago from East Germany gave him the chance to match German aerial victory claims with British and French casualty reports. Not only has he been able to document the Red Baron's military career, but he says his book is the only unbiased account of von Richthofen's life.

"I warned my British publisher — Arms and Armour Press of London — that this book will make nobody happy," he says. "In Germany, von Richthofen is the 'hero of heroes.' In England he is 'the bloody Hun.' What I've tried to do is write a biography that cuts right down the middle, that separates fact from myth."

Kilduff says his research shows that von Richthofen, who was killed shortly after shooting down his 80th plane, was a likable, principled man but was in very shaky health at the end, both mentally and physically.

"He was at the peak of his military career, but he also was emotionally tired and deeply depressed, and was suffering severe headaches from injuries he received in a previous crash," Kilduff says. "In effect, he was burned out."

On the day he was killed,

Kilduff says, the Red Baron's all-red Fokker tri-plane was shot down in the Somme River valley after von Richthofen violated one of his own cardinal rules — never fly too low in enemy territory.

"He was practically at eye-level with a group of Australian ground troops, in pursuit of a Sopwith Camel flown by a Canadian pilot," Kilduff says. "It was Sunday, April 21, 1918. It's not clear whether he was killed by a pursuing aircraft or by a bullet from one of the troops on the ground. It's a continuing controversy."

"He's still larger than life in Germany," says Kilduff, who noted that his book contains more than a dozen battlefield photographs and a full-text translation of the Red Baron's air combat operations manual.

"Basically, he recommended getting behind your enemy and closing in on him before opening fire," he says.

# New Mexico Indian museum to expand

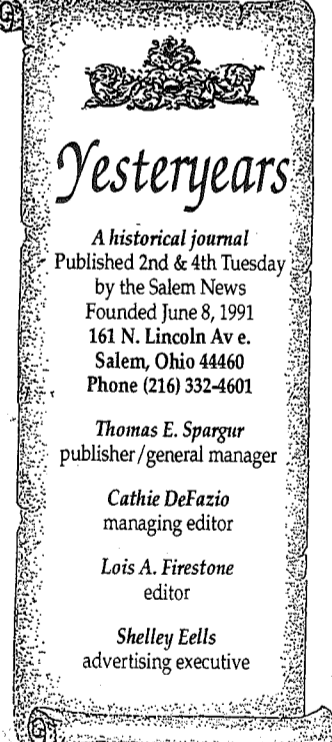
THE WHEELWRIGHT Museum of the American Indian in Santa Fe, New Mex-

ico has begun a fund-raising effort aimed at doubling its size. Curators need more room for research efforts and archives storage.

Officials hope to expand the site from 4,500 square feet to 8,200 square feet. The museum's board of trustees say \$325,000 of the needed \$500,000 has already been raised.

Much of the fund-raising has taken place out of state, said museum director Jonathan Batkin. Directors are confident the remainder can be raised, mostly from New Mexico arts patrons. Batkin said the expansion won't begin until all funds are collected, possibly as early as next year and no later than mid-1996.

The museum, shaped like a Navajo hogan, was designed for founder Mary Cabot Wheelwright in 1937 by Santa Fe artist William Penhallow Henderson. Wheelwright was a Boston aristocrat who developed a lifelong friendship with Navajo medicine man Hastiin Klah and helped him document Navajo rituals.



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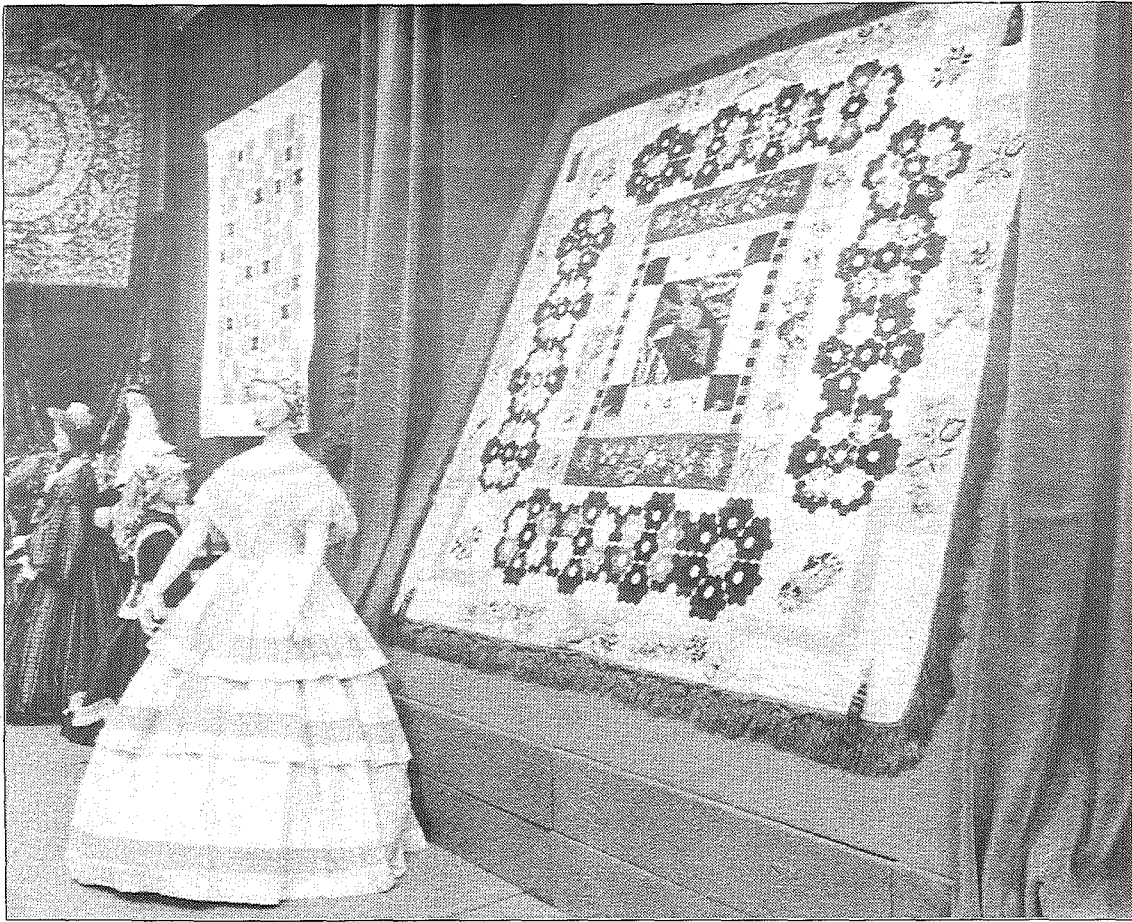
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Lincoln White House worker Elizabeth Keckley's Mary Todd Lincoln quilt, above, is said to contain scraps from Mrs. Lincoln's dress. The ball gown of white silk trimmed with white lace and mauve silk, at left, is believed to have been worn by Mrs. Lincoln at the president's Inaugural Ball.

## Kent State Museum hosts quilts, coverlets exhibition

**W**OMEN HAVE LONG recorded their hopes and dreams in the exacting stitches and exuberant designs of their quilts. "Costumes, Quilts and Coverlets: Continuing Traditions," an exhibition of over 80 pieces on display at the Kent State University Museum, features America's best-loved folk art. The exhibition continues through Aug. 31, 1995.

Elizabeth Keckley's Mary Todd Lincoln quilt is on display. Made by Elizabeth Keckley, a former slave who worked at the White House for the Lincolns, the quilt is thought to contain scraps from Mary Todd Lincoln's dresses.

Also on display is an Album quilt lent by stage and screen actress Tyne Daly. The quilt is made of various materials from the cast and crew of the national tour of "Gypsy" as an opening night gift for Daly who starred as Mama Rose for the Broadway opening of the show in 1989. Each of 49 squares was made and signed by a member of the company.

Fads and fashions can be seen in the near obsession for Crazy Quilts that swept the parlors of America the last quarter of the 19th century.

Some pieces relate family histories. A gift to the museum from Marie E. Albers contains

trousseau items belonging to her relative, Marie Eleanor Bente who married Gerhart Albers in 1865. Included in the trousseau was a red, green and white Double Irish Chain quilt.

According to family history, Bente and her future husband immigrated to Cleveland from Germany around 1844. He fought in the Civil War, serving as an interpreter for German-speaking troops not yet proficient in English. The imprint of Charles Hickox and Co., Howard Mills, Cleveland, can be seen on the quilt backing.

Although personal histories don't exist for many of the pieces, many lend their own historical perspectives. The dated jacquard-woven coverlets from the second quarter of the 19th century are products of a specialized cottage industry that spread across the American frontier.

Weavers would travel between settlements taking orders for woven coverlets in colors and designs chosen by customers. The women might provide yarns spun and dyed at home which the weaver would use for coverlets. The eagles found on many coverlet borders are indicative of the patriotic spirit of the young country pushing westward.

Largely drawn from the museum's collection, the exhibition has been augmented by

significant loans from the Geauga County Historical Society, the Summit County Historical Society, Cora Ginsberg Inc. of New York and private lenders.

Museum hours are Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; and Sunday noon to 4:45 p.m. Suggested general admission is \$3.

### Actress in '47 movie gets mail

**L**IFE HAS BEEN WONDERFUL for Karolyn Grimes-Wilkerson, who still gets fan mail for her role as James Stewart's daughter in the 1947 holiday classic by Frank Capra.

Ms. Grimes-Wilkerson was 6 when she was cast as ZuZu, who told her father in "It's a Wonderful Life" that every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings.

"It's good that I live in Stilwell, because I get mail addressed to ZuZu, Stilwell, Kansas," she said. "I have tons of things that people send me; you wouldn't believe it. Angels, boy do I have angels."

Ms. Grimes-Wilkerson is 54 now, and she still enjoys watching the movie.

"I love it. I'm on the stage again; I'm in the limelight."

# Quilts provide a look at past

**A** COLUMBUS HISTORIAN who specializes in quilts says the folk art provides one of the few examples of how women lived during the nation's early years.

Ellice Ronsheim, textiles curator for the Ohio Historical Society, said women's contributions to United States history often have been overlooked because men have dominated areas such as government, commerce and education.

"They (women) might have made great pies, but of course you can't save those," Ms. Ronsheim said. "Quilts are sort of the embodiment of women of the past."

She said she was disturbed by recent newspaper advertisements from antique dealers interested in buying old handmade quilts from Ohioans.

"It's a very emotional issue. I'm fascinated by the emotional reaction quilts get. You don't see it with many other articles of folk art," she said.

Important chapters in family or community history can be lost when quilts are sold off, said Ms. Ronsheim, who is co-

author of a 175-page book published in 1991 as an outgrowth of a research project documenting about 7,000 quilts in Ohio.

"Maybe that's why women react so strongly" to the prospect of people selling quilts made by their ancestors, said quilter Gail Whitcomb of suburban Marble Cliff. "I think people are selling their heritage. I have (a few of) my great-grandmother's quilts and they are some of my most precious possessions."

Elaine Jebson of the Columbus Metropolitan Quilters said in a letter to The Columbus Dispatch that was signed by 34 other people, "Many families have been robbed of memories and examples of artistic talents of both women and men who recorded their struggles, their joys and their heritage by creating beautiful quilts."

The society has 250 quilts in its collection at the Ohio Historical Center and more at other locations throughout the state, Ms. Ronsheim said. Each is documented with as much information as the donating family can provide.

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# Blue and gold highway crosses idea of one man

By Lois Firestone

OVER THE YEARS I'VE puzzled over the meaning of the blue and gold crosses I've seen occasionally along out-of-the-way roads and busy highways, always grouped in threes. And wondered who put them up in the first place. Thanks to a story in the Damascus Historical Society's publication, the Damascus Herald, I've learned who raised them and why.

The crosses symbolize Jesus Christ on the cross, flanked on either side by the two thieves crucified with Him. The creator was a successful businessman turned evangelist, Rev. Bernard Coffindaffer of Craigsville, West Virginia, a small town about 50 miles east of Charleston.

The first clusters were placed on Interstate 79 near Flatwoods, West Virginia in 1984, and hundreds of others fol-

lowed. Landowners were asked to donate the land and Coffindaffer took care of the rest. At one time, Coffindaffer had seven full-time work crews out planting the 20-foot crosses of California Douglas fir, placed in spots easily viewed by motorists. About 1,900 sets can be seen in 29 eastern and southern states, the Phillipines and Zambia.

His life savings went into the venture — he said the idea wasn't his but a command from God which he received during a trip to Israel. The money came from the sale of his coal-washing mill in Nicholas County, West Virginia.

Coffindaffer was 68 when he died in October 1993. His secretary, Sharon Clendenin was left to manage the affairs of his business, Cast Thy Bread Inc. She says that "he would have liked to have it continue, but he

also knew he was out of money." All told, he spent about \$2 million on the crosses which cost him an average of \$850 a cluster.

His brother, Cecil says that Coffindaffer left few instructions and fewer dollars for his followers: "He never did say what he wanted, although I'm sure if there were money, he'd keep it going. He was very proud of what he did."

Ms. Clendenin says she's turned down the few requests for the crosses because of the lack of money. The only donation she's gotten is one \$100 gift. As for the owners of the crosses, she says she can do little but give advice about maintenance. "We never had a written contract with the landowners," she says. "If they want to maintain them, that's great. If not, they can take them down."

# Dinosaurs likely endured winters of freezing cold

By Donald J. Frederick  
National Geographic

FAR FROM BEING THE softies that are often portrayed slogging through lush tropical vegetation, some dinosaurs probably endured long winters of pitch-black cold.

The Arctic and Antarctic regions are yielding hundreds of dinosaur bones to scientists chipping away at permafrost and mountainsides in temperatures that can dip to 25 degrees below zero.

"These weren't just animals that lived only in hot, wet swamps. They had a wide range of tolerance that included living in areas where there were months of darkness," says paleontologist William A. Clemens, of the University of California at Berkeley.

The climate at the North and South poles during the heyday of the dinosaurs — the Cretaceous period 146 million to 65 million years ago — was generally warmer than today. Still, it could be chilly. There were probably brief periods when temperatures dropped below freezing, especially in the Antarctic.

Some experts think that dinosaurs trekked to warmer and sunnier grazing grounds during the harshest months. Yet there's evidence that some of the creatures toughed it out not far from both poles.

Working near the Colville River on Alaska's North Slope,

within the Arctic Circle, Clemens and his associates have found the bones of many young and hatchling duckbill dinosaurs, animals that weren't capable of seasonal long-distance travel.

"You just have to conclude," says Clemens, "that at least the young ones stayed on the North Slope as they grew up, possibly going into some kind of torpor — not a real hibernation, but slowing their energy output during the dark months."

As for the large adult animals, Clemens thinks "they may well have controlled body temperature relative to the environmental temperature in their own way."

Roland A. Gangloff, a University of Alaska paleontologist, agrees that a large number of dinosaurs adapted in some way to living in the far north. "It's also conceivable," he says, "that some of them may have migrated relatively short lateral distances from inland to the coast and back to take advantage of fresh food sources and the warmer coastal climes."

At the time, the Alaska area was relatively flat, interspersed with rivers, lakes and flood plains.

Gangloff's excavations at sites on the North Slope and in the Talkeetna Mountains northeast of Anchorage have unearthed a wide range of dinosaurs that include everything from swift, birdlike, two-

legged carnivores to lumbering, rhinoceros-size vegetarians.

On the other side of the world, the first carnivorous dinosaur ever found in Antarctica was recently excavated in subzero weather at 12,500 feet on Mount Kirkpatrick, about 400 miles from the South Pole.

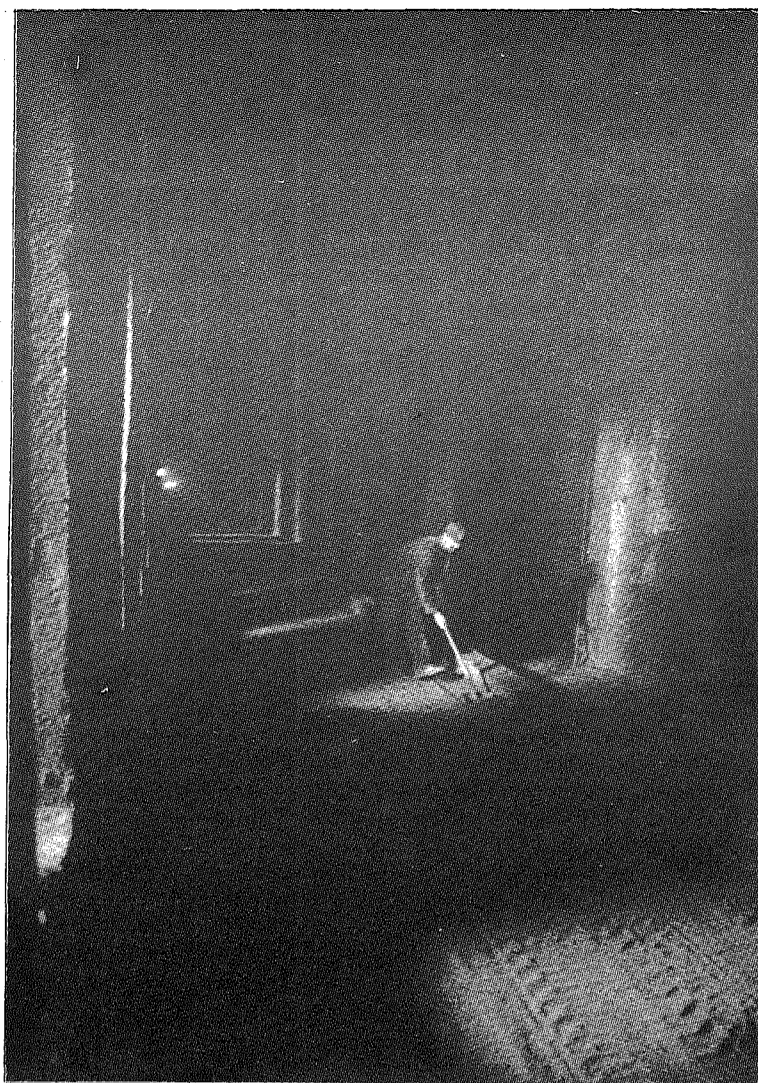
A 25-foot-long killing machine with sharp, serrated teeth, the fearsome meat-eater may have bitten off more than it could chew and choked to death. Among its huge bones were the jumbled remains of a prosauropod, a herbivorous dinosaur about the same size.

Small, serrated teeth found at the site indicate that some little dinosaurs came along and scavenged the large carnivore's carcass, says William R. Hammer, a geologist at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., whose team excavated the fossils.

At the time of this drama 185 million to 200 million years ago, Antarctica was farther north, still part of the supercontinent Gondwana. The dinosaurs roamed forests and lowland flood plains.

Hammer envisions the climate as "similar to that of the Pacific Northwest, but in the winters it probably froze."

In his scenario, the small dinosaurs might have stayed there while the large ones migrated during the cold, dark months. "Perhaps they all stayed in place, but they would have had trouble at real high



Larry Branburg shovels waste concrete off the floor of the old subway tunnel running under downtown Cincinnati as his company, Costal Gunite, repairs the old concrete. The 2.2 mile long tunnel was built in the 1920s as part of a subway system that never became operational because the funds ran out. (Associated Press)

latitudes because of the darkness," he says.

Adaptations may have enabled the creatures to see in the dark. Cavities for very large optic lobes in the skull of a dinosaur found along the storm-lashed coast of southern Australia suggest that the animal might have had enhanced night vision, according to Thomas H. Rich, a paleontologist at the Museum of Victoria in Melbourne.

Optic lobes are the parts of the brain that process visual information. "Our dinosaur might have been running around a lot in the winter," says Rich, whose work has been supported by the National Geographic Society.

The 106-million-year-old herbivore, about the size of a small kangaroo, died in a rift valley formed between Australia and Antarctica as the two continents began to separate.

"New dinosaurs are being discovered now at alarming rates," says paleontologist Hans-Dieter Sues, of Canada's Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. "A new dinosaur seems to be discovered every six weeks."

"I expect a lot more of them will be found in polar regions as people zero in on them. The main problem at this point is the logistics of working in such places."

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## Murder

Continued from page 1

### Murderer flees

Whoever the shooter was, he or she wanted to see Saxton's face when he died, and wanted Saxton to see who shot him. Court records state that the "woman in black" or the "man in a mackintosh" disappeared into the darkness.

Saxton was almost 50 years old when he was shot and bled to death that evening. Dressed in a three-piece suit for another exciting night, he had a flower in his lapel, cigars in his pocket and a bottle of champagne in his satchel. Because there were so many women in his life, it is difficult to tell which one he planned to be with that night. During the trial the judge allowed only the principals to testify.

News of the murder swept over the town quickly. There was great excitement, with groups of people standing on the streets discussing the tragedy. Everyone had an opinion about Saxton and Annie, and wanted to express it.

The next day The Repository quoted the following from a Washington, D. C. newspaper article: "The White House was aglow with light, and the great East Room was crowded with delegates to the Episcopal conference and their friends who had been invited to meet President and Mrs. McKinley, when news of the murder was received. Secretary Porter...tapped the president on the shoulder and informed him of the news from Canton, Ohio. The president, who was shaking hands and chatting with the passing throng, paused and stepped to one side. He could scarcely believe the words which fell from the secretary's lips. For a full instant, he stood with his head bowed, and his face white."

### McKinleys hear the news

The White House had withheld the news of the murder from the president for two hours. Fearing the collapse of his often-invalid wife, the president kept the news from his wife until about midnight.

Anna George was arrested about two hours after the murder, when she returned to her apartment on Tuscarawas Street. She was immediately jailed on suspicion of the Friday night murder. Arraigned on Monday, she was charged with murder in the first degree.

Two days before the tragedy, Annie had learned that Sample George's suit against Saxton had been settled; also that her ex-husband had been secretly

married for a year. It finally became clear to her that Saxton had no intention of marrying her. Friends said she was heartbroken, out of money and felt that her reputation was ruined.

They also quoted her as saying, "I will not stand by to see George Saxton going with this woman (Eva Althouse). If he fails to keep that promise, I will kill him. I'll do it if I hang the next day, but I do not think any jury on earth would convict me after hearing my story."

### Annie near crime scene

The evidence against Annie was circumstantial but strong. She was placed near the crime scene by a streetcar driver who told police he had let her off on Tuscarawas Street, a few blocks from where the murder had taken place. Her dress was soiled and police said they had scraped gunpowder from her hand.

It was difficult to seat a jury in this case. Lawyers grilled 36 prospective jurors before they could seat 12 — all of them men. The prosecutor claimed Anna was guilty, and he seemed to have some pretty good evidence.

A week before the trial a policeman revealed that he had been told by Mayor James Rice (one of Annie's three lawyers) to go to South and High Streets. He did so and found a gun. Not knowing what to do with it, he decided to tell the mayor that he wasn't able to find it. Not wanting to be a party to shielding anything connected with a murder case, and not wanting to go on the stand to be asked questions that might embarrass him, he took the gun home. Months later he decided to tell the particulars to the prosecuting attorney.

### Defendant didn't testify

Anna George's attorneys did not let her testify or answer questions. They based their defense on facts, which were circumstantial. There was no gun presented, no testimony placing Annie at the murder scene, and no testimony at all from Annie. Furthermore, she had an alibi corroborated by three witnesses.

There was no insanity plea, no moment of passion plea and no mercy plea. The defense attorneys made no plea at all. They told the court to either set her free or electrocute her.

Surprisingly, testimony at the trial did not include Eva Althouse's statements concerning threats Annie had made



Two men stop to chat in front of a Salem drugstore at the corner of State Street and Ellsworth Avenue in the 1940s. The homes in the background, many of them historic structures built in the 1800s, were torn down in the 1950s.

against her and Saxton. The witness disappeared during the trial.

No one from either the Saxton or McKinley family attended the trial. Only one brief mention of President McKinley was made during court proceedings.

### Public all for Anna

Public sentiment was overwhelmingly for Anna George. Guilty or innocent, they seemed to want to set her free. Even her ex-husband, Sample George, had nothing bad to say about her.

The media also loved her. Reporters described what she wore every day at the trial, and she was sent flowers nearly every day. In addition to local area news coverage, all the major Ohio and big city national newspapers reported on the 22-day trial.

After 23 hours of deliberation and 22 votes by jurors, the foreman of the 12-man jury delivered the verdict — not guilty. The crowd cheered wildly.

When Annie was set free on April 28, 1899 she was greeted by hundreds of people cheering in the streets. The verdict was, indeed, a very popular one.

Six days after the trial Mrs. Eva Althouse returned home on Pennsylvania Railroad train No. 9. Interestingly, Anna George was on that same train, coming to Canton from Alliance after visiting her mother. When Annie entered the train, she took a seat near the center of the car. Seated three rows behind her was Eva Althouse. Annie looked around and saw Eva, but no unusual movement was made by either. Shortly thereafter, Annie asked the

conductor to be escorted to a forward car, and the move was made.

### What became of Annie?

What became of Annie after the trial? Little is known. She spoke before at least two women's rights groups, earning \$500 each time. She received hundreds of offers to lecture and write about her experiences, and to appear in a drama about her life. The many offers from theater owners were turned down.

She spent the summer of 1899 at the seaside. Records indicate that in 1901 and 1902 she was operating a dressmaking shop on Market Avenue in Canton.

While some public outrage appeared in letters to the editors of newspapers, President and Mrs. McKinley kept any

anger they may have had over the verdict to themselves.

Mrs. McKinley wept at the grave of her only brother. The funeral was private. Saxton's body was escorted by a horse and carriage procession led by the President and Mrs. McKinley. He is buried in Stark County beside his mother, father, brothers, sisters and grandparents. His entire estate went to the children of his sister, Mary Saxton Barber. The location of Anna George's grave is not known.

(Note: Sources used for this story included the 308-page book, "Canton's Great Tragedy: The Murder of George D. Saxton" by Coe and various newspaper articles from The Repository and Free Press.)

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# Majolica pitcher created in 1881

By Anne McCollam  
Copley News Service

**Q.** This is a photo of a triangular-shaped pitcher that has been handed down from my great aunt. It is decorated with birds and flowers against a cobalt blue background. The corners are shaped like fans and are a cream color. The handle is brown and there is the head of a bird at its base. There is a British Registry number on the bottom. Any information you can provide will be appreciated.

**"Tiffany Favrite Glass." What is it worth?**

**A.** A George Washington Tiffany paperweight is currently listed in a price guide at \$275 in good condition.

**Q.** Could you provide some information on Frankoma pottery? I was given several pieces, including a cowboy boot that stands approximately 6 inches high.

**A.** Frankoma Pottery was established in 1933 in Oklahoma by John Frank. The name originally was Frank Pottery. In 1934 it was changed to Frankoma. Over the years they have produced dinner and kitchen wares, limited editions, figurines and vases. Most of their designs have been inspired by Southwestern motifs.

Early pieces that are most sought by collectors are those marked with a pacing leopard on the Frankoma name. The firm was destroyed by fire in 1938 and again in 1983. In 1991 the company was sold, ending over 40 years of family ownership. Frankoma cowboy boots are seen in antique shops in the \$15 to \$35 range.

**Q.** I inherited an amber colored glass creamer, covered sugar bowl and spooner from my grandparents. They purchased the set sometime in the late 1880s. I was told that the pattern is "Two Panel." could you please tell me what the set is worth?

**A.** The pattern is also known as "Daisy in Panel." It can be recognized by the panels of the daisy design alternating with plain panels. This nonflint glass

## Lincoln's remarks are traced back

Abraham Lincoln, at Gettysburg, said "Government of the people, by the people, for the people." But the remark has been traced to two earlier speeches. Daniel Webster spoke about "The people's government, made for the people, by the people and answerable to the people." And Unitarian minister and abolitionist Theodore Parker said "Government becomes more and more of all, by all and for all."

was made by The Richards & Hartley Glass Company, Tarentum, Pa., circa 1880. It was reissued circa 1891 by the United States Glass Company in Pittsburgh. The value of your set would probably be about \$135.

### BOOK REVIEW

In response to the ever increasing popularity and demand for flow blue, Mary Frank Gaston (Collector Books) has just completed her "Second Series Collector's Encyclopedia of Flow Blue China, Identification & Values." In her second

series she features over 475 color photos, extensive marks and valuable historical information. Each piece is thoroughly described and accompanied by its current market value. This volume is an excellent companion to the first series and a welcome addition to collectors and dealers' reference libraries.

Letters with pictures are welcome and may be answered in the column. We cannot reply personally or return pictures. Address letters to Anne McCollam, PO Box 490, Notre Dame IN 46556.



This shaped majolica pitcher was registered March 17, 1881 in England and is worth \$175.

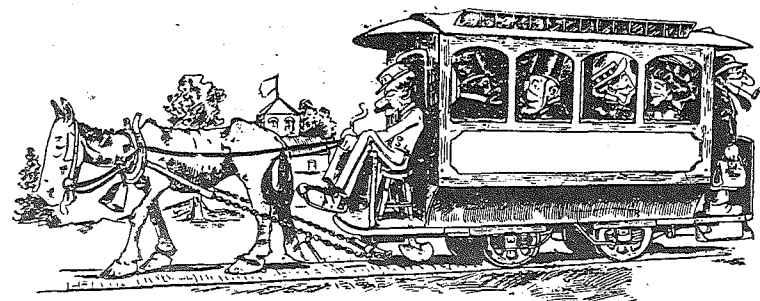


**A.** Your pitcher is majolica and the pattern is "Bird and Fan." The mark you enclosed with your photo is a British Registry mark. It shows that your pitcher was registered on March 17, 1881 in England. A pitcher similar to yours is listed in "Kovels' Antiques and Collectibles Price List" at \$175.

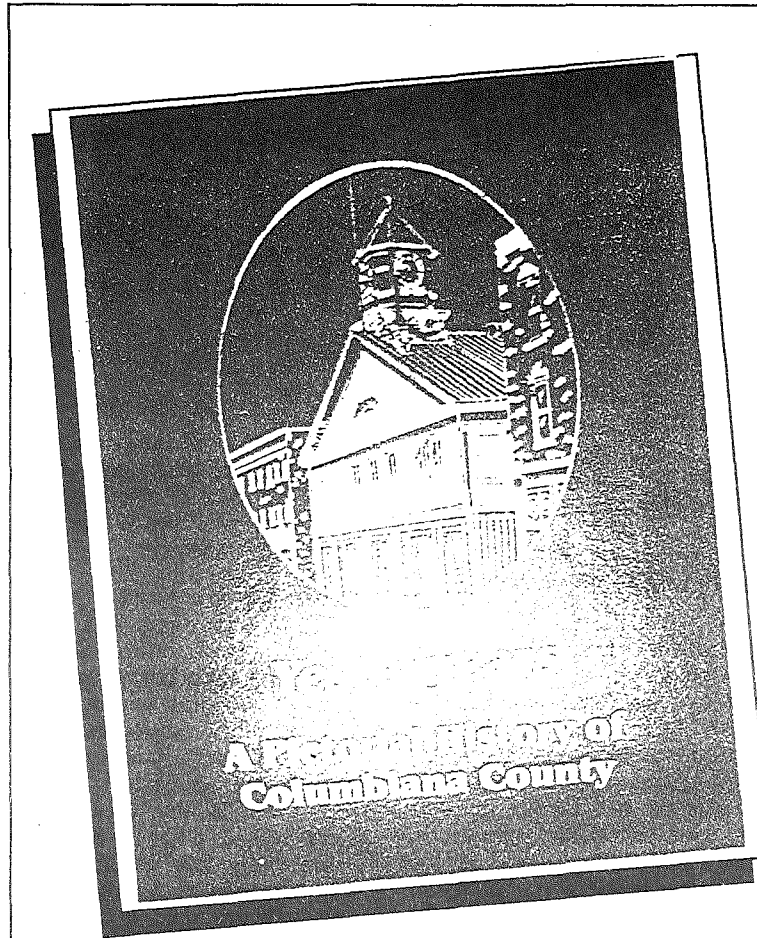
**Q.** This mark is on the bottom of a set of dishes that I have. My grandfather purchased these dishes in the early 1900s at Marshall Fields in Chicago. The set has 101 pieces and is service for 12 including the serving dishes. Could you give me an idea of the value of my dishes?

**A.** Your dinner set is Flow Blue China. This mark was used by Johnson Bros. Ltd. in Hanley, Staffordshire, England, circa 1913. The firm began in 1883 and is now a member of the Wedgwood Group. "Mongolia" is the name of the pattern. The value of your dinner set would probably be about \$4,500 to \$6,000.

**Q.** I have a paperweight that has the image of George Washington in it. It measures 5 by 4 inches and is marked



This comic drawing depicting Salem's rapid transit system was on a postcard mailed from one school girl to another in February 1912. An excerpt from the message on the back: 'This is a scene in our beautiful city. Rather classy, isn't it? They've even abolished this kind now.' (Marie Englert)



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