

[Lennox, Charles G.]

YOUTH NABBED AS LENNOX SLAYER ADMITS GUILT, SAY UTICA POLICE

Manchester Youth Collapses Under Quiz; Murder Count Filed

by Norman M. Howden

Twenty-year-old Frank Webster of Manchester last night was captured at gunpoint in Utica, and Deputy Police James Laino said the youth confessed the hitchhike slaying of Charles G. Lennox of Rochester.

A short time later, while he was being questioned about the murder, Webster collapsed in Utica police headquarters, of what Dr. W. B. Falvo termed "shock due to fatigue and exhaustion." After being revived by a respirator, he was taken to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Utica, where he was placed under police guard.

A charge of "murder" was placed against the youth, according to information given to the Democrat and Chronicle by the Utica Press.

Webster surrendered to Policeman Otis Smith in Utica's Union Station. At first the youth tried to flee, but Smith, drawing his gun, chased him, calling: "What are you running for? Who are you?"

After a few steps, Webster turned and said, "My name's Webster. I guess you're looking for me."

Carrying Lennox' Bag

He was carrying Lennox' traveling bag containing some of the Rochester businessman's clothes, his wrist watch, and other personal effects. In his pockets he had the dead man's automobile registration and driver's license, wallet and other papers.

The capture took place at 6:15 p.m., a few moments after Utica police had ringed the city's central district after receiving a tip that the suspect was there.

Check Leads to Arrest

A Christmas Club check, payable to Lennox and drawn on the Christmas fund of the Rochester Electrotype & Engraving Company's employees, led to Webster's apprehension.

Utica Deputy Police Chief Vincent D. Fiore said Webster cashed the \$251.25 check in the Terminal Hotel, using Lennox' personal papers as identification. He told the proprietor, Sol Getzlek, that he had worked for the Rochester firm for 14 years, Getzlek said.

After he had left, however, Getzlek realized Webster was too young to have worked for 14 years and that he recalled seeing the name Lennox in the newspaper he had been reading only a few minutes earlier. Then he called police at 6:04 p.m.

Deputy Chief Fiore and Deputy Chief Laino promptly ordered all police cars to surround the hotel and Union Square area and broadcast Webster's description. That was highlighted by a red-peaked cap, of the type worn by hunters, that Webster was wearing.

Spotted in Crowd

A car manned by Sgt. Richard Kiben and Policeman Otis Smith went to the station where Smith spotted Webster in the crowd. He walked toward the youth who turned and started to run. Smith then drew his gun and ran after Webster, calling to him to

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halt. Webster reached the door to the men's washroom, but suddenly turned back toward Smith and surrendered.

Webster told Utica police that he had abandoned Lennox' car, a gray Oldsmobile sedan, near Saratoga yesterday morning, and hitchhiked to Schenectady, where he took a train to Utica. On arriving there, he asked taxi driver James Williams to help him cash the check, and Williams drove him to three places before Webster was finally successful in that endeavor.

Then, while Williams was telephoning, and before he had paid his fare, Webster went to the cab, took out the traveling bag, and disappeared, according to the police report. Williams filed a complaint with the police about the incident.

Later Webster engaged taxi driver Harry Ambridge to take him, first to the Utica airport, and later to the Oneida County airport, about 12 miles west of Utica, where he unsuccessfully tried to book passage to Rochester.

Dickered for Ride

They returned to Utica, and Webster dickered for a ride to Geneva, paying Ambridge \$30. It was while Ambridge was reporting by telephone to his office that Webster was captured in the station. He had \$221.70 in his pockets—the rest of the money from the Christmas Club check that he had cashed.

It was while Webster was being questioned by Cecere, shortly after their arrival in Utica, that Webster collapsed. He was relating his activities on Tuesday, and had reached the point where he was telling about being picked up by Lennox, when he paled, and slipped from his chair, unconscious, Cecere told the Utica Press

Webster is one of a large family living in a run-down house on the eastern outskirts of Manchester, just outside the village limits. He has five brothers and five sisters—one of the brothers adopted. Two other brothers gave their lives in the war.

Served in Japan

Frank himself is a former soldier, having served in Japan as a guard at a prison camp in the Army of the Occupation. He told Deputy Chief Laino that he had been given a dishonorable discharge. He also related that he had served time in prison on a grand larceny charge.

Not long after Webster's capture state police in the Duanesburg station in Schenectady County found the Lennox car abandoned on a dirt road not far from that village. Sgt. E. F. Conway of that station ordered it impounded for examination by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

A funeral service for Lennox will be conducted in First Universalist Church at 3 p.m.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Selma E. Lennox; two sons, James and Thomas; four brothers, George, Fred, William and Walter; and a sister, Mrs. Lewis D. [Jessie] Saunders, all of Rochester.

Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester NY, Fri. 8 Dec 1950

[Lennox, Charles G.]

Final Rites Saturday Arranged for Lennox

Funeral services were arranged today for Charles G. Lennox, a father who knew an intense pride in his sons.

Rites for the slain Rochester business man will be conducted Saturday at 3 p.m. at the First Universalist Church, Clinton Ave. S. and Court St. The Rev. Donald B. F. Hoyt, D.D., minister of the church, will officiate. Burial will be in White Haven Memorial Park.

Friends may call at the Hedges Memorial Chapel, 271 University Ave., until 1 p.m. Saturday.

Mr. Lennox was a familiar figure at University of Rochester basketball games where, with his wife, Selma S., he watched avidly every move of tall, husky son James, 1949-50 co-captain.

Or at Hobart College, where he frequently visited Thomas, the younger of the two boys and a sophomore at the Geneva college.

Or on the rolling fairways of Oak Hill Country Club, where he and Jim played an above-average game of golf.

And at the Rochester Electrotpe & Engraving Co., where he was a vicepresident, and this year welcomed Jim into the business, the fourth generation to become affiliated with the firm.

Jim and Tom embody much of their father's unblemished character—his friendly, affable and easy to meet manner. With their father they shared a close companionship.

To them fell the grim task of identifying their father's body.

An ambulance driver in World War I, Lennox saw Jim enter War 2 in the Navy V-5 program. Jim, 23, was ordered by the Navy to Tufts College, Medford, Mass., in November, 1945, where, as an officer candidate, he studied in the Naval Aviation College Preparatory program.

Before release to inactive duty, Jim was stationed briefly at Floyd Bennett Field, New York and Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fla.

Upon his return to Rochester, Jim attended the UR, undertaking a business administration study. He is a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity and was active on the UR golf team and basketball team.

Tom, 19, and Jim were graduated from Monroe High School. Jim, more athletically inclined than his tall, blond brother, excels in both basketball and golf and has been active in other sports.

The firm was founded in 1857 by his great-grandfather, James Lennox. His father was vicepresident in charge of photoengraving for the firm, probably the oldest one-family business in the city.

Besides his sons and wife, he leaves four brothers, Fred, George, William and Walter [and a sister Jessie, wife of Lewis Saunders].

Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester NY, Thu. 7 Dec 1950

Transcribed on 25 Oct 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY