

DETECTIVES FIND FRESH CLUE TO M'CARRICK BOY

Three Men With Lad Answering Description Seen in New Jersey

Philadelphia, Atlantic City and Camden Sleuths Conduct- ing Search on Railroad

Ten days of relentless searching for 7-year-old Warren McCarrick, who disappeared from near his home at 619 South Nineteenth street, a week ago last Thursday, received its first reward yesterday when detectives picked up in South Jersey the trail of three men, who, they believe, keep the boy in hiding during the daylight and travel with him by night.

Of the hundred or more clues and theories which have been thoroughly threshed out with the same discouraging result, the trail that was picked up at Clementon, N. J., and followed ten miles in a southern direction, supplied their first thread to a tangible solution of the mystery of the boy's disappearance.

From a colored man who was not aware that the McCarrick mystery was baffling the police, the first clue to the trio and the boy was obtained. "The negro, Albert Hicks, was standing near the railroad station at Clementon, at 9.30 o'clock Saturday night, when he noticed three men, apparently Italians, and a 7-year-old boy resting on a darkened platform.

Unnoticed by anyone but Hicks, one of the three men removed a package containing cinnamon buns from his pocket and offered one to the lad, who was weeping. The boy took the bun in his free hand—one of the men held his other arm—and ate it ravenously.

Dragged Boy Down Tracks

Several minutes later, Hicks declared, the men, dragging the boy between them, continued down the railroad tracks. The treatment of the boy by the men impressed the colored man and prompted him to speak of the incident later. He considered a plan to offer to protect the lad, but feared to carry it out, believing that the supposed Italians carried knives.

Late Saturday night Hicks spoke of the three men and the boy to William Smith, a Clementon resident. Smith questioned the colored man and obtained from him a description of the lad. The description exactly tallied with the description of Warren McCarrick, even to the long tassel on his red knitted cap and the rubber boots which the boy wore when he disappeared.

Employers of Hicks learned of the incident and communicated with Captain Cameron. The information was regarded in the same light as every other "clue" offered. The slightest suggestion or hint thus far given has been thoroughly investigated in the hope of at least obtaining a clue to work upon.

Detectives Impressed

Early yesterday morning Detectives Gleason, Doyle and Belshaw went to Camden and conferred with Prosecutor Kraft. The Philadelphia detectives, with Prosecutor Kraft and Detectives Fitzsimmons and Brothers, of Camden, went to Clementon, where they interviewed Hicks.

The man's narrative impressed the detectives, who immediately instituted a search in the vicinity. One of the detectives found the paper in which the cinnamon buns were wrapped and later discovered other evidences of the progress of the quartet along the railroad.

Hourly reports of their progress were made to Detective Lieutenant Tate who directed the search from City Hall yesterday. The reports of the investigators enthused others engaged, adding new vigor to the quest for the lad.

Convinced that the first semblance of a genuine clue had at last been uncovered Lieutenant Tate communicated with Chief of Police Woodruff of Atlantic City. The Atlantic City official was

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apprised of the developments and asked to co-operate in the search, which he willingly offered to do.

Railroad Lends Aid

Atlantic City detectives were sent northward along the tracks of the Atlantic City railroad while Philadelphia and Camden detectives and the constables of many New Jersey towns were proceeding southward. In this manner it was believed that if the supposed abductors were in the vicinity of the railroad they would be overtaken.

Officials of railroads operating in New Jersey also were notified of the clue and asked to give what aid they could. As a result station agents, brakemen and conductors were instructed to keep a sharp lookout for men answering the description of the suspects and the boy with them.

The New Jersey clue was further strengthened when a woman reported to the police that she had seen three men and a boy walking along the railroad tracks last night. At that time, she said, they were several miles north of Clementon. The woman did not know that Hicks had noticed them below Clementon.

Hicks accompanied the Philadelphia detectives on their search. He was questioned several times regarding the descriptions of the men who had the boy and each time the story he gave was the same. He declared that when the boy cried and refused to proceed with the trio one of them said: "Don't do that or I will tell your mother."

One of the suspects is described as being about 30 years old, 5 feet 6 inches in height and wearing a dark overcoat. The other two are said to be about 28 years old, and each wearing dark clothes. The three, Hicks declared, are dark complexioned.

In their search yesterday the detectives visited many farm houses and shacks. While they were in the vicinity of Clementon, Detectives Levins, Doran and Gibbin, of the Camden force, conducted a search in that stretch of country between Berlin and Clementon, but without result.

To Renew Search Today

The development in New Jersey was regarded as a most important one by detectives. Early today the investigators will begin at the point they left off last night and will endeavor to find more traces of the three men and the boy. It is probable that an extra squad will take up the search tonight and remain at work until daylight.

James McCarrick, father of the lad, spent yesterday afternoon in the Detective Bureau awaiting some definite word from the searchers. The clue from across the Delaware was by no means the only one which occupied the attention of investigators, as Captain Cameron is determined to investigate every clue no matter how idiotic it may seem.

Two of a score or more investigations made yesterday occupied many hours of the detectives' time. One led to Jersey City and was followed out by Detective Frank O'Connor, who left the city late Saturday night and returned yesterday afternoon to report that his trip brought no result. The other led from Jenkinson to the extreme southern section of the city and was likewise unfounded.

A chance remark made by a colored woman living in a house in the rear of the McCarrick home was responsible for the arrest of her and her husband yesterday morning. They are Henry Jones and his wife, who live at 1821 Kater street. Neighbors reported to the police yesterday afternoon that while the couple were quarreling the woman said, "If you do that again I'll tell what I know about you."

Two policemen from the Twentieth and Fitzwater streets station went to the Kater street house and learned that

the woman's wrist had been cut. The colored man and his wife were taken to the police station and questioned. The remark, they learned, was a chance one and had nothing whatever to do with the McCarrick case.

With the New Jersey clue to spur them on the search for the boy will be continued with renewed vigor this morning. A reproduction of the lad's photograph with the announcement that the city has offered \$5000 reward for his recovery and the arrest of his supposed abductors is now in the police headquarters in almost every large city in the country.

Beginning tomorrow lantern slides bearing photographs of the lad will be flashed on the screen between performances in the motion picture theatres of Philadelphia and vicinity.