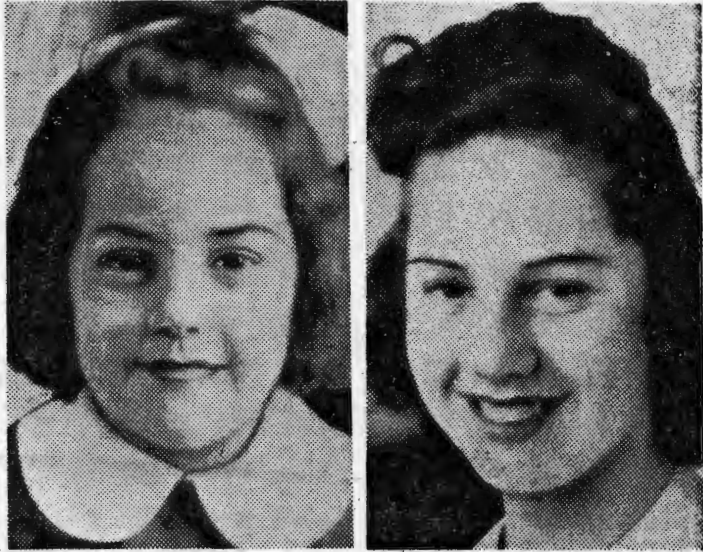


Soldier Quizzed in 'Blind Date' Slaying Of Salem Girl, 14

A suspect was taken into custody late last night and grilled for two hours in the murder of Marie Rose LaCombe, 14-year-old Salem High School student, criminally assaulted and battered to death Sunday while keeping a blind date at the behest of a girl friend in the rear of Salem High School football field.

The suspect, a soldier from Beverly, admitted to Salem and State Police that he was in the girl's company up to 8:30 p. m. on Sunday, the night of the murder. He said he attended the movies with her and parted company with her



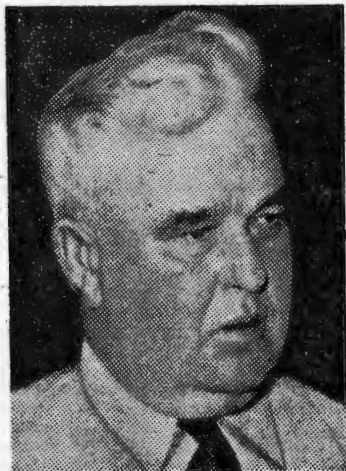
TWO CAMERA STUDIES OF MARIE ROSE LA COMBE At Age of 9 (left) and Latest One

at a bus terminal at 8:30 p. m. He left, he said, to meet two friends. Detectives are checking on his story.

When the girl's body was found one shoe was torn off and her white scarf was wound tightly about her neck in an unsuccessful attempt at strangulation. The ground about her showed a struggle had taken place. Her head had been battered with a rock.

"I believe she was attacked and killed at the spot where her body was found," Dist. Atty. Hugh A. Cregg declared.

"She was beaten unmercifully with a rock or some blunt instru-



POLICE LT. J. F. BATES Probing New Slaying

ment and her head was split open from ear to ear.

"The murderer tried to strangle her with her scarf but it was not strong enough for that. Her death was due to a fractured skull."

The "blind" date may have been the first one the girl ever went on, the authorities believe, for she was described by her schoolmates as a shy girl who never had any boy friends and was so strictly reared that she never

Continued on Page 12

Salem Girl Lured to Death

Continued From Page 3

went out nights, except to go to the movies with girl friends.

This morning Asst. Dist. Atty. J. L. Callahan will seek to enlist the aid of the entire student body of Salem High School in the search for the girl's murderer. He will talk to an assemblage of students at 10 o'clock.

Callahan will ask that any student who has information about the last hours of the victim or of any person with whom she was seen on Sunday night—the night

of the crime—come forward and aid the authorities.

He will talk singly with girl or boy friends of the victim. About 60 students who knew the girl best will be questioned.

LAST SEEN AT TERMINAL

The time of the girl's death is set between 8:15 p. m. and midnight on Sunday. She was last seen at a bus terminal at 8:15 p. m., by a girl friend who was curious to know who Marie would meet there and waited outside the terminal for a long time. She told police she did not see Marie emerge.

It is believed she went out rear entrance and that she may have kept her date there with her unknown companion. The police were told that she had been corresponding with a sailor who was being granted a leave of absence about this time.

Search by Lt. Raymond J. Foley and other members of the state police failed to locate Marie

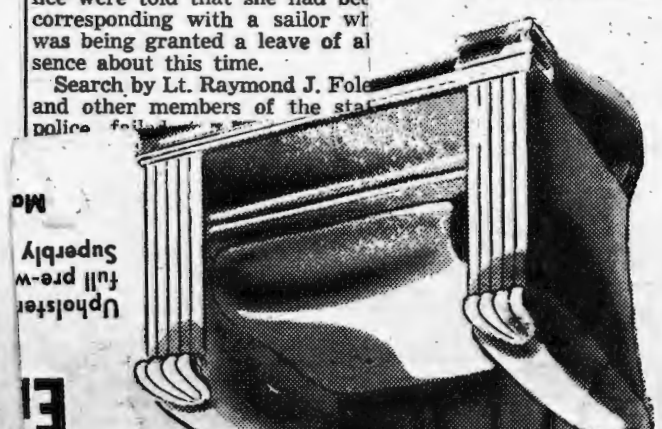
panions. He forbade her to go to dances.

Marie had got her mother on her side in her efforts to have the same enjoyment as her girl friends and lately had been given an evening dress by one of her chums, Alice Betts, 15, of Milk st., Salem. The latter had also promised her a pair of dancing slippers. She hoped later to go to dances.

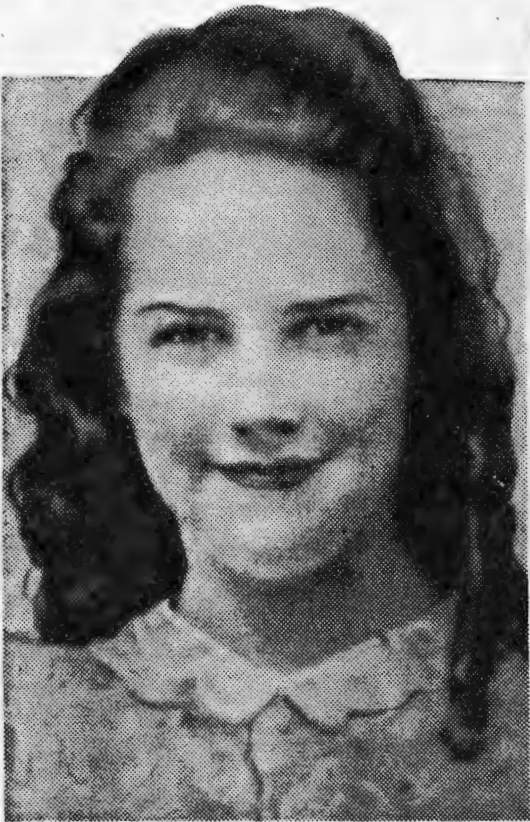
The Betts girl was questioned at some length by police as to her knowledge of the victim's whereabouts on Sunday but said she had not seen her at all since

she was notified police his daughter was missing.

Marie, in addition to her other friends, was an accomplished pianist.



NAB SOLDIER IN TRYST KILLING



MARIE ROSE LA COMBE, 14, SLAIN

—STORY ON PAGE 3

Salem Sex Murder Scene

Her skull crushed, apparently from a beating inflicted while resisting advances of an assailant, the body of Marie Rose La-Combe, 14, Salem High School student, was found yesterday on grounds surrounding Bertram Field in the rear of the high school. The girl's attacker had tried to strangle her with a white scarf she wore. The victim's clothing was in disorder and one shoe torn off. Missing since Sunday evening, the girl had been keeping a blind date, so authorities think.

(Story, Other
Photos on Page 3
and Back Page)





SCENE OF BRUTAL SEX SLAYING

Shown Here Is the Covered Body of Marie Lacombe Found Near Bertram Field Yesterday. Marshal Harkins and State Officials Are Shown Investigating the Scene. In Background Can Be Seen Stadium Stands

Slain Girl, Youth Left Bus Near Attack Scene



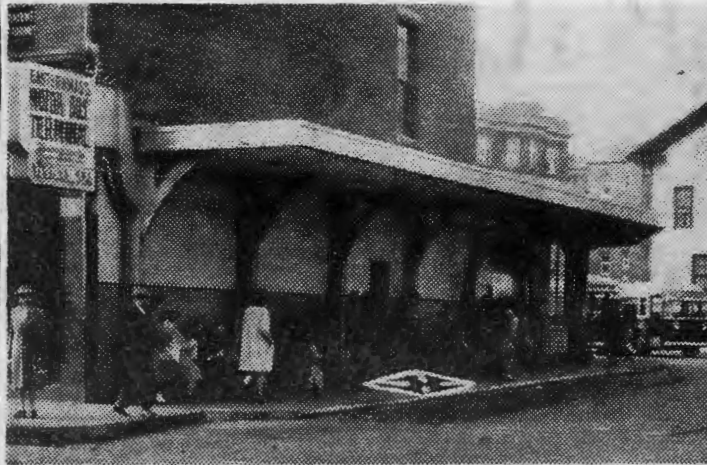
Marie R. LaCombe, 14, Salem slaying victim, was seen at 8:30 Sunday night with a good-looking, dark-haired youth.

Marie Rose LaCombe, 14-year-old Salem High School sophomore, got off a Boston-bound bus with a dark-haired good looking young man wearing a "finger-tip" coat on Sunday night in front of Salem High School, a few hours before she was ravished and slain in the rear of the football field, authorities were informed last night.

During the day investigators rounded up four witnesses, three of them girl schoolmates, who said they had seen her in the company of this youth. All agreed on his description. But most important of all the witnesses was a bus driver who placed them both at the scene of the crime.

He is John Vetro, 40, a driver for the Eastern Massachusetts Street Railway Co., who came forward to tell his story to Asst. Dist. Atty. J. Elmer Callahan.

He said the girl and the youth boarded his bus at 8:30 p. m. on the night of the murder. He particularly recalled



TOWN HOUSE SQ., SALEM, BUS TERMINAL
Cross Shows Where Marie R. LaCombe Was Last Seen

them, he said, because as the bus was picking up speed on Highland ave. they came down the aisle without signalling that they wanted to get off.

RECALLS REBUKING COUPLE

Vetro said he jammed on the brakes and brought the bus to a stop after rebuking them for failing to pull the signal cord. The girl put 10 cents in the fare box for both and he noticed that she wore a brown Teddy Bear coat and a white scarf about her neck.

These garments were on the girl's body when found, the scarf wound tightly about her neck in an attempt at strangulation.

Vetro remembered that the youth wore brown shoes with leather heels because they clicked loudly as he came down the aisle. He described him as being about 16 or 17 years old, clean shaven, two inches taller than the girl and wearing a light, finger-tip coat of the kind popular with high school students.

He said he thought the girl had a tooth missing on one side of her mouth. The youth he described as dark-complexioned. Shown a picture of Marie he said there was no doubt as to her resemblance to the girl on his bus.

A schoolmate of the victim said she saw Marie near Webber's department store in Town House sq. It is in this square the bus terminal is located. Two other schoolmates who had been attending a movie told investigators they met Marie with this youth. None of the four recognized him,

gold link bracelet. The watch, a seven-jeweled Waltham, with a rolled gold case, bears the factory number 28146391. It is six six and one-half.

Throughout the day inspectors from the office of Dist. Atty. Hugh A. Cregg questioned scores of the victim's fellow students at Salem High. When the description of her companion of the fateful night was received this was flashed about to high schools in the adjoining cities of Beverly, Peabody, Marblehead, Lynn and Danvers, with a request to check on any youth whom it fits. School heads mere also asked to inform the authorities of any youth missing from his classes this week.

GIRL FRIEND MISSING

Police departments were also asked to see if the missing watch had been disposed of in any of the neighboring cities.

It was disclosed that a friend and occasional companion of Marie has been missing since Aug. 26 last. Constance Sparkos Apostolos, 16, of Schmidt ave., Peabody. Her mother, Mrs. Helen Sparkos Apostolos is fearful that her daughter may have met the fate of Marie.

"Connie," as she was popularly known, was last seen at her place of employment, the Sylvania Electric Products Co., Inc., Boston st., Salem. She was described as 5 feet 5 inches tall, 135 pounds in weight, with light complexion, light brown hair and brown eyes. Mrs. Apostolos, whose first husband, John Sparkos, a veteran of World War 1, died in 1932, has a son Michael, recently reported missing in action by the Navy Department.

2000 PAY RESPECTS

Mrs. LaCombe, who with her husband and sons, Louis, 15, and Paul, 12, went to the Levesque funeral home on Harbor st., collapsed when the body of her only daughter was laid in state in a sealed white casket over which a spray of red roses had been placed. Becoming hysterical, she was taken home and a physician called, but her condition continued to be

Continued on Page 13

Bus Ride Is Slaying Clue

Continued From Page 3

serious and it was possible she might be placed in a hospital.

While the body of the slain girl lay in state her classmates from her room in high school appeared at the funeral home in a body, and were followed by hundreds of other children and adults. Philip Levesque, proprietor of the funeral home, estimated some 2000 paid their respects from noon to four o'clock.

Because of Mrs. LaCombe's collapse, funeral arrangements were changed, with the result that a requiem mass will be solemnized at 9 a. m. today in St. Joseph's Church, Lafayette st. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.



CONSTANCE APOSTOLOS
Marie's Chum Also Missing

but the girls did not think he was a Salem high school student.

WATCH MISSING

While the authorities think the crime the act of a sex fiend who first beat the girl unconscious before attacking her, they also revealed that robbery may have been a secondary motive.

The girl's wrist watch, given as a birthday gift, is missing with her purse, containing \$3.10 and a

SALEM GIRL SLAYER IS SUICIDE

Girl's Slayer Found Gas Suicide

Continued From Page 3

time she had seen him was Monday morning about 9 o'clock.

"He came into my house and took from his pocket a piece of paper on which was written a name and address. He asked me to spell the name out that was written on the paper, as he was going to put it in his note book."

"It was the name of the dead girl."

"He told his sister he met this girl at the bus terminal Sunday night, and had taken her down to the Common and assaulted her. He said he was more or less ashamed of himself for doing it but if he didn't do it somebody else would have."

"On Wednesday morning police said he showed his sister a clipping of a girl missing, and the sister said, 'Why that is the same name as that of the girl you wrote in your notebook.' He said, 'Oh, no, I have a date with her for next Saturday night.'"

"He left the sister's home at nine o'clock Thursday. The sister said, 'On Nov. 6, which was Monday, Wilfred gave me a watch and bracelet.' They were described as the same type taken from the dead girl's body. That was about 3 p. m."

"He told his sister to put them away and not to show them to anyone, no matter who. He said he bought them in a second hand store and paid \$5."

"On Thursday morning my

brother called me and said he wanted the watch and bracelet. I told him it looked suspicious, where the watch and bracelet were so much like those taken from the dead girl. He said it was not the same girl."

Dist. Atty. Cregg stated that after the watch and his address book were returned to Wilfred by his sister detectives from the Salem police department and State Police covered every known place that the young man could be. Yesterday morning a call was received from the occupant of the rooming house stating gas was coming from a locked room. Police went down there and found the suspect dead.

He is an ex-service man, being inducted into the Army Feb. 25, 1943, and honorably discharged for medical disability on May 7, 1943.

The sister lived on Florence st., in Middleton, Cregg said.

State Troopers Knightly and Chaison from Topsfield barracks, gave the information of Wilfred's identity to the district attorney's office late Thursday night. Cregg said he didn't care to reveal where they got their information.

The district attorney's statement followed by several hours repudiation of a confession made

by Frank Szymanowicz, 26, one-time Lynn dishwasher, who sought a night's lodging at the Putnam, Ct. police station.

Szymanowicz was confronted with the slain girl's picture and confessed ravishing and slaying her.

A few hours later Szymanowicz completely repudiated the confession and declared he had been in Brooklyn, N. Y., on the Sunday when the Salem girl was killed.

Police Com. John Dempsey of Putnam said the suspect had apparently confused the Salem victim with another girl named Marie, whom he claimed to have met three weeks earlier.

Who or where this other Marie was, no one knows.

MOTHE RESTRAINED

Earlier in the day the funeral of the slain girl took place in Salem, with solemn high mass of requiem at St. Joseph's Church. Among those who attended the services were some 30 high school sophomores, students in the dead girl's classroom, accompanied by principal Chester A. Arnold and Vice Principal P. T. Kenneally.

Bearers were eight high school seniors—three of them stars on the football team—Armand Longval, Donald Goolsby, Donald Poitras, William Dash, Francis Wrigley, Henry Upton, Ralph Gray,

Jr. and Richard Douglas. Rev. Paul S. Martin celebrated the mass.

When the casket was being carried into the church Mrs. Joseph LaCombe broke from her husband's grasp and tried to fling herself upon it. She was restrained and led into the church weeping. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Murder Confession Is Repudiated by Suspect

Lynn Dish Washer Was Held at Putnam, Conn.

While Salem police were en route to Putnam, Conn., today to question a 26-year-old Lynn dishwasher who had confessed to the murder of 14-year-old Marie Rose Lacombe of Salem on Sunday night, the Associated Press reported Police Commr. John Dempsey of Putnam as announcing that the suspect had repudiated the confession.

Reports from the Connecticut city, just across the state line near Webster, Mass., indicated that the suspect, Frank Szymanowicz, had confessed to the brutal murder of the Salem High school sophomore during the night, sometime after he had applied to police in Putnam for a night's lodging.

Both Marshal John C. Harkins and Asst. Dist. Atty. J. Elmer Callahan, who is directing the investigation for the Essex county prosecutor's office, were reluctant to say that the crime appeared solved when they were apprised of the arrest of Szymanowicz, whose home is in Utica, N. Y.

But inasmuch as Putnam police had obtained a signed confession, in which the suspect sets forth that he met "a girl named Marie" in a Salem theatre and kept an appointment with her that same night, Marshal Harkins dispatched Lt. John J. Brennan and Sgt. Thomas F. Hyde to Connecticut to question Szymanowicz.

At the body of 14-year-old Marie Rose Lacombe was being laid at rest in St. Mary's cemetery this morning, Salem police were speeding toward Putnam, Conn., unaware that the al-

(MURDER—)
Continued On Page Twenty-two

Dismissing the Connecticut incident to evaluate local overnight developments, it would appear that the slayer of the attractive high school girl is a youth of no more than 16, a good-looking, dark-haired lad, who from all accounts was well-dressed.

From the information obtained throughout yesterday and last night by Callahan, Marie's escort was a typical young 'teen-ager, who wore a smart, tan arm-length topcoat when he tripped along Washington street with her at about 8.30 on Sunday night, the night she was criminally assaulted and murdered in the shadows of the Bertram field football stadium.

Police were somewhat puzzled to find that the girl's clothing was not torn, although she had been criminally assaulted. On this point they concluded that she evidently knew and trusted the person she had met on the night of her death.

Reconstructing events leading up to discovery of the lifeless body in the Bertram field gully, a stone's throw from the field where the Salem High school football squad runs through afternoon drills, these conclusions were reached:

That the 14-year-old girl, who could easily have passed for 17, was seen at the afternoon performance in the Paramount theatre on Sunday.

It was about 5 o'clock when she returned home, it was learned, and at that time she asked her mother's permission to go out after supper. Both her mother and father refused, insisting that she had spent enough time away from home during the day.

When the family sat down to supper Marie said:

Systematic Checkup

among her known friends. One of the first places he visited was the home of Alice Bees on Milk street, 15-year-old schoolmate of Marie, and probably the latter's closest girl friend. But Alice, a pretty auburn-haired sophomore, had not seen Marie since last Friday. That day the girls went to the Bess home after school, Marie staying until supper time, as was her wont.

Alice told police she didn't know anything of her friend's plans to go to the Paramount Sunday afternoon or of any date with a boy. As a matter of fact, Alice said, Marie was not interested in boys and regularly rejected requests for dates.

Marie was ill and remained away from school Monday and didn't learn of her chum's disappearance until

home room teacher, pupils of St. Joseph's school and Sisters of the Assumption of St. Joseph's church, and Sisters of Ste. Chretienne academy.

The Senior Class

at Salem High school, were Dash, Francis Wrigley, Donald Poitras, Herby, Donald Poitras, Herby, Armand Longval, Ralph W. and Richard Doyle.

The flag at Salem High at half mast.

There were floral pieces at Jeffrey Bros. Co., neighbor of Building 29, second General Electric Co., home room, first floor High, teachers and High and many other.

Yesterday's investigation of about for Mr. students, who answered from the principal, Chester R. Arnold, to "come forward with any information that might be of aid to the authorities."

After carefully piecing together information obtained from this and other sources, both the district attorney and his assistant, Callahan, clung to the belief that Marie, when last seen alive, was with a youth of clean-cut appearance, a lad who looked to be about 16.

Theorizing as to the girl's movements, Callahan seems to think that after leaving the Jeffery home just off Canal street, the high school sophomore went directly to Lane's drug store on Essex street, where she spent some time chatting with a group of boys and girls of her own age.

She is next placed at the corner of North and Essex streets, shortly before 8.30. Then, Callahan revealed, she was seen in the vicinity of the bus terminal, on Washington street.

Later she was seen walking with the elusive youth in the direction of Town House square.

Still later, Marie and her escort are said to haveighted from a Lynn-bound bus on Highland avenue, at Jackson street. This disclosure came from an Eastern Massachusetts bus driver, Jack Vetro, who was questioned at the district attorney's office last night.

Vetro said Marie and her companion were the first to board his Boston-bound bus at the Salem terminal a few minutes before 8.30 o'clock Sunday night. He recalled that the girl paid the fares, dropping a dime in the box for two rides within the five-cent zone.

As he was starting up after leav-

(Murder—)

Continued From First Page

leged slayer had repudiated his original story.

Sgt. Norbert Desrosiers, who is said to have obtained the "confession," said the suspect

Had One 10 Cents

when he came to the police station and asked for lodging because "he



MARIE ROSE LACOMBE

didn't want to stay in the dark."

A selective service card, the sergeant added, indicated that the Utica man had registered for the draft with Essex county, Local Board 91, in Lynn and had been rejected for military service on a 4-F classification.

At the Lynn address given by the suspect it was learned from Mrs. Anna Castle, a second cousin by marriage, that she had not seen him since a year ago last October, when he came on from Utica for selective service examination and was turned down.

Mrs. Castle a widow, described the man in custody of Putnam police as being about 26, having light hair and a thin face. She revealed in passing that he had a penchant for seeing the same movie two or three times. These observations by a woman

was strict, but then agree it was the right way," Mrs. Jeffery recalled.

She Wasn't Hungry

and went off by herself. But, later, she said she felt like having something sweet and went to a neighborhood store, where she bought some pastry, and probably ate about half an hour.

In this interval, her far-ang Marie must have completely have

been proposed in the afternoon. At about 7 o'clock in the parents she was going to see Jeffery children and "being nothing unusual in her dress she picked up her brown leather pocketbook and made them "So long." She had attended

of the children of the neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Jeffery.

She evidently went directly to the Jeffery home, diagonally across the street, and asked Mrs. Jeffery if she needed her help. This

Surprised Mrs. Jeffery inasmuch as there had been no earlier mention of having the girl care for the children.

Mrs. Jeffery noted, however, that the girl's cheeks appeared flushed and her dark eyes sparkled with excitement as she struggled to suppress some inner emotion.

This struck her as being so strange that she afterward asked her husband if he had noticed anything unusual in the girl's behavior. Jeff agreed she had something on her mind. Marie Rose remained only 10 minutes and was on her way.

Although Mrs. Jeffery made no inquiry as to where the girl was going Marie Rose volunteered that she was going with her family to visit her aunt who lives in Salem. But, of course, such was not the case for she was last seen alive shortly afterward in the vicinity of the downtown terminal.

Early Monday morning the combs sent one of their two sons to the Jefferys to see if the girl had stayed there overnight though she had never done so before, Mrs. Jeffery said.

Later, the father, who was so often he remained away from home a Peabody contract case search for his daughter.

Despite the startling developments, the funeral conducted as scheduled. The cortege left the Lev

To St. Joseph's C

where Rev. Paul S. Massung the high mass of re

As the pall bearers paraded the side entrance of the girl's mother Mrs. Rose Lacombe

Slayer of Salem School Girl Ends Life With Gas

While detectives from State and Salem police were rapidly closing in on him, the sex-fiend slayer of 14-year-old Marie Rose LaCombe, Salem High School sophomore, dramatically ended his own life in a Bridge st., Salem,

lodging house, Dist. Atty. Hugh A. Cregg of Essex County revealed late yesterday. The slayer, identified by Dist. Atty. Cregg as Wilfred J. Marquis, 21, of Charter st., Salem, an ex-soldier believed to have a jail record, was found in a gas-filled room with a tube in his mouth leading to an open gas jet.

Credit for establishing the identity of the slayer of the high school girl, who crushed her head with a rock and ravished her, was given by the prosecutor to two State troopers, Arthur Chaisson and William Knightly.

Marie's wrist watch and bracelet, which were missing when her battered body was found in the rear of the Salem

**REPUDIATES-
CONFESSION.**
Frank Szymonowicz, 26, held without charge in Putnam, Ct., jail, repudiated his alleged confession to the slaying of Marie R. LaCombe, 14, of Salem. Police said he apparently confused the victim with another girl named Marie.

Supported by her husband and her brother-in-law Paul LaCombe, Mrs. Rose LaCombe, grief-stricken mother of the slain Marie R. LaCombe, 14, is assisted into St. Joseph's Church, Salem, for funeral rites. Distraught mother was restrained from throwing herself on daughter's casket at cemetery.



high school football field, played a prominent part in solving the mystery of the killing, it was stated.

Immediately after cleaning up the case Dist.-Atty. Cregg said he was starting another investigation to determine whether young Marquis, who, it was known, was in Salem at the time, had any connection with the brutal slaying of Frances Cochran of Lynn.

The district attorney's statement on the LaCombe case follows:

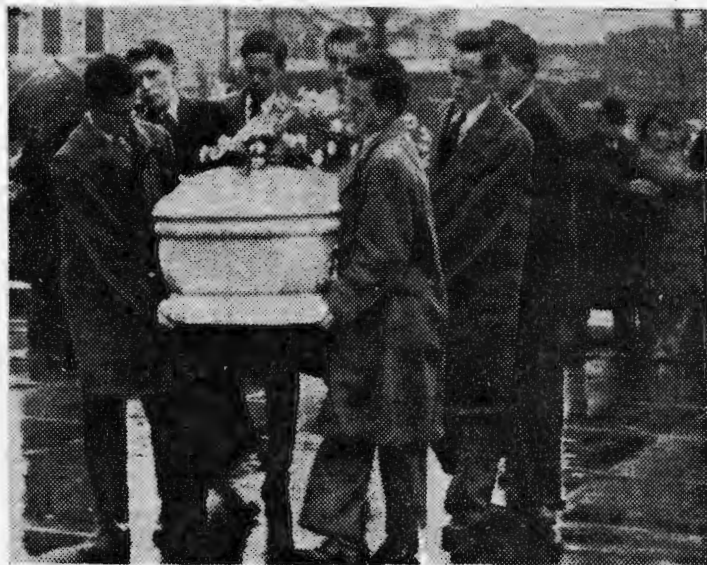
"The police knew at 10 o'clock last night (Thursday night) who killed the girl. The information came to us through the work of two State policemen, Arthur Chaisson and William Knightly. They brought the information to the Salem police.

"We have followed leads around to various places which he had visited but failed to find him. Today (Friday) we did find him dead. His name was Wilfred J. Marquis. He was 21 years old, and formerly lived at 24 Charter st., Salem.

"The body was found at 134 Bridge st., Salem, in a rooming house. The landlady discovered the body at 11 o'clock this morning (Friday). He took the room Thursday. There was a tube in his mouth.

"His father's name is Ernest. An autopsy is now being performed on the dead man's body by Dr. Cusick and Dr. Moritz, with Lt. Walker of the State Police present. We believe that he had been in Illinois and had finished a prison sentence there recently."

"The father of the dead boy told



MARIE LA COMBE'S CASKET BORNE INTO SALEM CHURCH
Slain Girl's Classmates Bearers at St. Joseph's

Right at Home

Frank Szymonowicz, former Lynn dish washer who first confessed to the Marie LaCombe attack and later repudiated his confession, told Putnam, Ct., authorities he had often been in

drinking. He said, "No. I should have got a jug Saturday night."

The father told Cregg he didn't follow the conversation any further. They went to sleep, he said, and at six in the morning the father went to work. The son went to visit his sister.

Wilfred returned home on Tuesday, his father told officials. He

SALEM GIRL'S SLAYER SUICIDE

Sought for 17 Hours After Family Gives Clue to Him as Killer----
Dead by Illuminating Gas Fumes When Found----Bragged
of Attack on Girl to His Father and Sister After Crime



WHERE MURDERER COMMITTED SUICIDE

In a room on the top floor of this old colonial mansion at 134 Bridge street, Salem, Wilfred Marquis, murderer of Salem girl, killed himself.

Had Victim's Name in Notebook
and Her Watch----Bloodstains
Also Noticed on Clothing

Solution of Frances Cochran's
Murder May Have Been Lost
With Young Slayer's Death

Slain Girl Seen With Lad Of 16 at 8.30 Sunday Evg.

"Handsome" Dark Youth Sought in Lacombe Murder

She Wasn't Hungry and went off by herself. But, later, she said she felt like having something sweet and went to a neighborhood store, where she bought some pastry, and probably ate it on the way home. She was absent for about half an hour.

In this interval, both her parents and the Jeffery family agreed, Marie must have completed arrangements for a date, which could have been proposed in the afternoon.

At about 7 o'clock she told her parents she was going to mind the Jeffery children and they detected nothing unusual in her behavior as she picked up her brown draw-string pocketbook and made them a casual "So long."

She evidently went directly to the Jeffery home, diagonally across the street, and asked Mrs. Jeffery if she needed her help. This surprised Mrs. Jeffery inasmuch as there had been no earlier mention of having the girl care for the children.

Mrs. Jeffery noted, however, that the girl's cheeks appeared flushed and her dark eyes sparkled with excitement as she struggled to suppress her emotion.

She struck her as being so strange afterward asked her husband if he had noticed anything unusual in the girl's behavior. Jeffery said she had something on her mind. Marie Rose remained only 10 minutes and was on her way.

Although Mrs. Jeffery made no inquiry as to where the girl was going, Marie Rose volunteered that she was going with her family to visit an aunt who lives in Salem. But, if a nurse, such was not the case, for she had last seen alive shortly afterward in the vicinity of the downtown bus terminal.

Early Monday morning the Lacombe family sent one of their two young boys to the Jefferys to see if the girl had stayed there overnight, although she had never done this before, Mrs. Jeffery said.

Later, the father, who was so upset, remained away from his work with Peabody contract carpenter to search for his daughter, began a systematic checkup among her known friends. One of the first places he visited was the home of Alice Bess on Milk street, 15-year-old schoolmate of Marie, and probably the latter's closest girl friend. But Alice, a pretty auburn-haired sophomore, had not seen Marie since last Friday. That day the girls went to the Bess home after school, Marie staying until supper time, as was her wont.

Alice told police she didn't know anything of her friend's plans to go to the Paramount Sunday afternoon or of any date with a boy. As a matter of fact, Alice said, Marie was not interested in boys and regularly rejected requests for dates.

Meanwhile, Salem police worked with Callahan's office and state police at feverish pitch to run down information and possible clues that were uncovered during the overnight investigation.

The body of the girl was found shortly before noon yesterday in the shadows of the High school football field stand where it had lain since Sunday night.

Although little is known about the murdered girl's movements after she donned her best clothes before leaving her home at 8½ Cypress street, ostensibly to mind a neighbor's children, the autopsy concluded last



MARIE ROSE LACOMBE
Murder Victim

A development that may lead to speedy solution of the slaying of 14-year-old Marie Rose Lacombe near Bertram field Sunday night was seen this afternoon in the announcement by Asst. Dist. Atty. J. Elmer Callahan that the attractive High school sophomore was last seen alive at about 8.30 on that night in the company of a handsome, dark-haired youth, about 16 years of age.

From information obtained by Callahan it appears that the slain girl met her escort at the bus terminal, after which they walked along Washington street in the direction of Town House square.

The youth wore a short tan topcoat, but no hat. He had black, curly hair, the prosecutor learned, and he is described as being "handsome."

Medical examination showed that the girl died of a skull fracture resulting from three violent blows. A weapon other than a stone was used, it was carried away by the man with whom Marie Rose had kept the nocturnal tryst, unknown to her parents. Because police found nothing at the deserted scene that appeared bloodstained.

Joseph Lacombe, father of the slain girl, said that he was

night, by Dr. Ralph E. Foss, medical examiner, left no doubt that the attractive High school girl had been criminally assaulted by her slayer.

Continued on Page Fifteen

(Slain Girl—)

Continued From First Page

young victim, was in a state of collapse after identifying the body as it lay in a barren gully, just off a path near the football stadium along which High school students sometimes take a "short cut" to Jefferson avenue and other points on Castle Hill.

Marshal John C. Harkins, Police Lt. John F. Bates and Officers Dansereau and Moreau were among the first to reach the scene after the gruesome discovery had been reported by police shortly before noon.

By Three Salem Boys

The trio, Joseph Tache, 19, 12 Palmer street; Roland Simard, 12, 4 Harrison avenue, and 11-year-old Richard Boulay, 15 Palmer street, were returning home when something attracted their attention to the desolate spot.

The girl was sprawled on her back, with one arm outstretched and the other lying limp across her chest, her face partly obscured by the kerchief that had slipped down to encircle her throat. Gashes appeared under dried blood covering the right side of her face and the eyes were bruised and swollen.

Her clothing was disarranged, and rain-soaked from Monday's sleet storm. Her pocketbook lay nearby. And the trim suede pumps she had slipped into before leaving home still were on her feet, suggesting to police that the body was not moved after the murderous assault.

Asst. Dist. Atty. J. Elmer Callahan took over today after the district attorney had concluded the preliminary phases of the investigation.

This forenoon Callahan visited the High school and asked the principal, Chester R. Arnold, if he would agree to calling a student assembly so as to appeal to those who knew the slain girl to come forward with any information that might prove of value to the authorities.

Arnold readily consented to aid the district attorney's office in carrying out its purpose, but he proposed, instead, that the appeal be made by teachers to pupils in the various classrooms, feeling this procedure would be more discreet and expedient.

The following High school students will serve as pallbearers at the funeral tomorrow: Ralph Gray, Jr., president of the senior class; Henry Upton, senior class treasurer; Richard Doyle, Donald Poltras, Donald Goolsby, Francis Wrigley, William Dash and Armand Longval.

In addition, the principal and vice-principal, Patrick T. Kenneally, will attend the funeral, together with a delegation of 25 students from the slain girl's home room, headed by Miss Dorothy Doyle, and also Miss Mantina Lefthes and Miss Ida Blossom, both members of the faculty.

So far as can be determined, Mrs. Marion Jeffery was the last person to speak to the slain girl before she hurried away, after explaining she was going to visit an aunt.

Police learned, however, that the girl was seen soon afterward in the vicinity of the bus terminal, alone.

In the afternoon, it was disclosed, the girl attended a local theatre with another girl. She returned home after the performance, said she was not hungry enough to eat supper, and ate only a few confections before leaving for the Jeffery home.

Marie Rose had worked for the Jeffery family and often remained in their home at night, minding the children. But she always

Went Directly Home

afterward, police said, and there is nothing to support the belief she went out with boy friends.

Questioning of some 20 boys and girls was to continue today in the hope some clue may be obtained as to the identity of the person who met the girl downtown and then took her to the spot near Bertram field.

Police were somewhat puzzled to find that the girl's clothing was not torn, although she had been criminally assaulted. On this point they concluded that she evidently knew and trusted the person she had met on the night of her death.

Reconstructing events leading up to discovery of the lifeless body in the Bertram field gully, a stone's throw from the field where the Salem High school football squad runs through afternoon drills, these conclusions were reached:

That the 14-year-old girl, who could easily have passed for 17, was seen at the afternoon performance in the Paramount theatre on Sunday.

It was about 5 o'clock when she returned home, it was learned, and at that time she asked her mother's permission to go out after supper. Both her mother and father refused, insisting that she had spent enough time away from home during the day.

When the family sat down to supper Marie said

Alice was ill and remained away from school Monday and didn't learn of her chum's disappearance until Mr. Lacombe went to the house shortly after 8 o'clock Monday morning. Later in the day the distraught father returned with Mrs. Lacombe and again questioned Alice exhaustively for some clue to their daughter's whereabouts.

"I wasn't able to give them any help because Marie hadn't mentioned any plans she may have had for Sunday and I can't think of any boy she cared enough for

to keep a date with," Alice related. Mrs. Jeffery corroborated the Bess' girl's statements about Marie's complete lack of interest in boys. "That's why it didn't occur to me that she might have been going to have a date Sunday night," the young matron asserted.

"One of the finest girls I have ever known, quiet, ambitious, intelligent and absolutely trustworthy," Mrs. Jeffery's unqualified praise of Marie's character. "My husband and I never had a worry when we left her with our two children."

She said that the girl never invited boys to the Jeffery house and did not have any habits that would cause her parents concern. Marie occasionally mentioned that her parents did not want her going out nights and thought she was too young to be keeping company with boys. "She would say that her father was strict, but then agree it was in the right way," Mrs. Jeffery recalled.

Mrs. Jeffery also remembered that Marie told her recently that girl friends had been after her to go on dates with boys, but that she had refused because of her parents' attitude.

Meanwhile, in the home of her sorrowing parents, preparations were being completed for her funeral. The funeral will

Be Held Tomorrow

morning from the Levesque & Son funeral chapel, with a solemn high mass at St. Joseph's church at 9 o'clock. Interment will be in St. Mary's cemetery.

Besides her father, a carpenter, and her mother, for whom Marie Rose was named, there are two brothers, Louis and Paul.

The girl was born in this city and was graduated from St. Joseph's parochial school before enrolling in Salem High school.

GIRL PAID KILLER'S BUS FARE



Chums Of Slain Girl Pay Last Respects

School chums of the slain Marie R. LaCombe, 14, Cypress st., Salem, in front of the Levesque Funeral Home in that city, yesterday, before paying their respects to their classmate, as police pressed their search for the killer of the girl. A girl chum told police she saw Marie with a good-looking, dark-haired youth in Town House Sq., walking towards the high school, a few hours before the murder.

SLAIN GIRL'S MOTHER SOBS FOR VENGEANCE

"God help her murderer if I get my hands on him."

This came from the lips of Mrs. Rose LaCombe as she

sat sobbing in her Cypress st., Salem, home yesterday in grief over the brutal murder of her 14-year-old daughter.

As a mother will, she gathered what comfort she could in recalling the child's many good qualities.

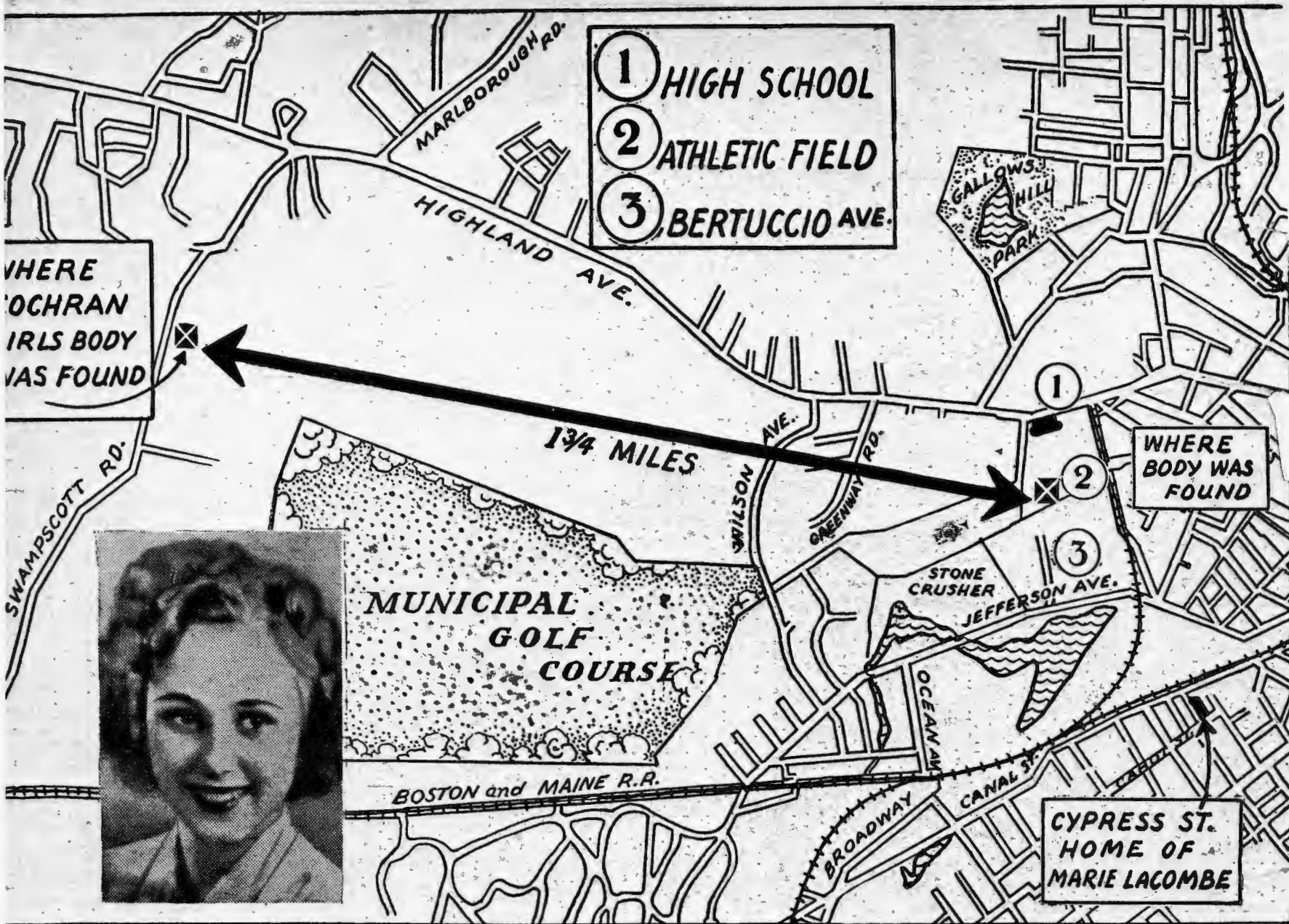
"She was a girl who could be trusted, and everyone who knew her loved her as we did," she cried. "Marie loved pretty clothes, just like any girl her age. But she wanted to earn them herself and not depend upon the family.

"She seldom went out evenings, even to the movies, except with a few girl friends. She always did the family shopping and marketing for us and helped with the homework. She was ambitious for a business career and wanted to make her way in the world as a secretary."

The girl was employed as secretary-bookkeeper at Jeffries Brothers, an upholstery shop. Nights she often went to the home of Mrs. Jeffries, two blocks away to take care of the children. It was when she failed to return from a visit to the latter's home that the crime was discovered.

A wrist watch, a family birthday gift, was missing when the

body was found and a pair of rosary beads. A devout Catholic the girl always carried two pairs of beads in her purse.



Proximity of Unsolved Sex Slayings

Missing since early Monday, the body of the brutally beaten Marie Rose LaCombe, 14, was found yesterday on rocky barren ground surrounding Bertram Field (2) in the rear of Salem High School (1) and opposite Bertuccio ave.

(3) a dead end road. It was in July of 1941 just about two miles away that the body of Frances Cochran, 19, (insert) a similar victim, was found. No one as yet has been apprehended for her murder. (Story, Other Photos on Pages 1, 3)

Missing Girl

State police were asked to aid in the search for 14-year-old Mary Rose Lacombe, 6 1/2 Cypress street, whose parents reported her missing since 7 o'clock last night.

The girl is described as being 5 feet, 4 inches tall, weighs 130 pounds and has brown hair. She wore a polo coat over a yellow blouse and blue woolen skirt. Her shoes are brown suede and a feather adorns her brown hat.

The local authorities reported the incident to state police early this morning when it was learned that the girl was not with relatives or friends.

Find Miss Lacombe's Body; Head Crushed; Murder

Remains of Missing Girl, 14, Near Bertram Field

The body of Mary Rose Lacombe, 14, of 6 1/2 Cypress street, was found about 11 o'clock this morning beside a grassy crag at the end of Bertuccio avenue, near the northeast corner of Bertram field, by three grammar school children.

The girl, whose head was bashed in, was reported missing from home since 7 o'clock on Monday night. She was wearing a polo coat over a yellow blouse and blue woolen skirt, also brown suede shoes.

Local police stated that there was no question but that it was murder and was "probably a sex crime." The body was found about a mile from the spot where Frances Cochran was murdered about three years ago.

State police fingerprint and photography experts were on the scene of the crime and investigating early this afternoon, as was Dr. Allen Moritz of Harvard, state pathologist, and Medical Examiner Ralph E. Foss.

The girl is the daughter of Joseph C. and Rose M. Lacombe.