

These radio reports on the Hall Mills murder case were broadcast on WINS in approximately 1969. WINS, a New York City radio station, has been broadcasting in an all-news format since 1965.

A tape of the broadcasts was acquired by the New Brunswick Free Public Library from the Home News Tribune office in East Brunswick, New Jersey. It is not known if the audio recording was made at WINS or recorded off the air. The library had the audio tape converted into a digital format and made the following transcriptions.

Julius Bolyog, a Hungarian immigrant who had been friendly with Willie Stevens, spoke after 47 years about his involvement in the murder case.

Part 1

New Brunswick was a small suburban community during the 1920s. It was a quiet town, that is, until the Hall-Mills murders of September 1922. The case quickly attracted national attention and made front-page headlines for years to come. The amorous relationship between the Reverend Edward Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills was a poorly kept secret. And this fact, combined with the testimony of an eccentric old lady farmer who came to be known as “the Pig Woman,” made for quite a sensational case.

The town was flooded with reporters. One old New Brunswicker says dozens of reporters gathered nightly on the porch of the Mill’s house. He says, plenty of liquor would be brought along, and the reporters, waiting for some new bit of rumor or information, would soon be drunk and would sing into the wee hours of the morning.

Sixty-seven year-old Julius Bolyog recently told police he carried \$6,000 from the minister’s wife, the former Francis Stevens, to two local hoodlums, near the time of the murder. Bolyog, who was 20 at the time, says he did it as a favor to Mrs. Hall’s brother, Willie Stevens, who shared the Hall’s household. Willie was a prime suspect when the case first came under investigation in 1922. Mrs. Hall, her two brothers and a cousin were indicted for murder when the case was revived in 1926, but the widow and her brothers were acquitted and charges against the cousin were subsequently dropped.

Some police officials feel the trial might have had a different outcome if Bolyog’s story had been told then. Local gossip had it that Willie hated the minister because Reverend Hall refused to increase his allowance under a trust fund set up by Mrs. Hall and her other brother, Henry Stevens.

Willie was a strange sort of character and many townspeople believed he was at least slightly crazy. Local residents say Willie spent much of his time at a New Brunswick Fire House, fascinated by the equipment and firemen. Although he was fifty years old, Willie also spent a

good deal of time playing with children. One New Brunswick citizen, now in his 60s, told reporter Ken Dreifach (sp?) he remembers when he and others would see Willie, and would taunt him with cries of, "There's Nazi Willie."

What of the two hoodlums who allegedly received the \$6,000 in cash from Mrs. Hall, less than 48 hours after the murders? Bolyog identifies one as Isidore or Ike Gutman, a man who in later incidents would be charged with such crimes as armed robbery and kidnapping. In 1934, Gutman was shot to death gangland style, supposedly executed by Newark Mafioso, Richie "the Boot" Boiardo. Bolyog identifies the other only as Freddy. Who is that second man? Is he still alive? The answers to those questions could lead to a solution to the Hall-Mills murder case. In our next report, we'll talk about "the Pig Woman." This is Virgil Scudder.

Part 2

The Hall-Mills murder case was tailor-made for the screaming New York City newspapers of the 20s, and they spared little money or effort to unearth every juicy morsel of sin, scandal, and violence they could find. And, there was a lot to find.

The well-respected rector of St. John's Episcopal Church found murdered under a crabapple tree near New Brunswick, his choir singer lover by his side. Both the Reverend Edward Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills had been shot and her throat had been slit from ear to ear. Their love letters were scattered over their bodies. Even the staid New York Times couldn't resist going all out for this story, although the publisher denied any accusations of sensationalism. "When the Times prints it," he said, "it's sociology." Rarely had the Times devoted such space to sociology.

The minister's widow and her two brothers were tried for murder after the newspapers forced a reopening of the case in 1926, but they were acquitted. The key to the prosecution's case was the "Pig Woman." Her name was Mrs. Jane Gibson, or was it Mrs. Jane Easton? She herself was inconsistent on the subject. She raised hogs on a farm near where the bodies were found and the newspapers quickly labeled her the "Pig Woman."

Her testimony brought the 1926 indictments, and she was the star witness for the prosecution. She said that on the night of the murders she mounted her mule, Jennie, to pursue a would-be corn thief. She found no thief, but she claimed to have passed Mrs. Hall and her brother Willie Stevens near that now famous crabapple tree.

Later she said she came across a small group of men and women quarreling and scuffling in the dark. She fled, she claimed, when she heard gunshots, but she later came back, looking for a moccasin lost on the first ride, and this time, she saw Mrs. Hall kneeling and weeping over the minister's body.

Strong testimony indeed, but, unfortunately for the prosecution, the story got better every time the "Pig Woman" told it. And Mrs. Gibson's mother, sitting in the front row of the trial, screamed out, "She is a liar, a liar, a liar." But among those who believe the pig woman's story was basically true is John Dolan. In 1926, the Middlesex County prosecutor, now, at 75, still a practicing attorney in Perth Amboy.

[Voice of Dolan:] "The first time I ever read the pig woman's statement, I said to the Chief of County Detectives, look, even if this is true, this testimony is so fantastic that people will not want to believe it. And I have to change my thinking in that area. However, I want you to know that the pig woman's testimony in a number of areas was checked out very, very carefully. And there were certain items that tend to indicate that the woman was telling the truth."

[Unidentified Voice:] "Do you think that you know who killed Reverend Hall and Mrs. Mills yourself?"

[Voice of Dolan:] "I certainly do not. I never did, and I don't now."

[Unidentified Voice:] "Do you think it will ever be found out?"

[Voice of Dolan:] "I really doubt about it."

In our next report, Julius Bolyog tells us about his involvement in the Hall-Mills case. The story has opened up a new investigation. This is Virgil Scudder.

Part 3

Julius Bolyog, a Hungarian immigrant who arrived in this country around 1915, says it was his close friendship with Willie Stevens that resulted in his involvement of the Hall-Mills affair seven years later. Stevens, his brother Henry, and his sister Francis Hall were put on trial in 1926 for the murder of Mrs. Hall's husband, Episcopal minister Edward Hall, and Mrs. Eleanor Mills, the choir singer who was having a love affair with the minister. All three were acquitted.

Bolyog's involvement apparently took place a day or two after the couple had been murdered, but before the bodies were found. Like most New Brunswick residents, Bolyog did not know the couple was missing. In an exclusive WINS interview, he recalls the events of that day.

[Voice of Bolyog:] "Willie Stevens come up from the store where I was sitting on a bench, and I just ask him where he come from. And he said that he was to see Ike and he want me to do him a favor and go with him. And I says, he was very nervous, so, and I says what had happened Willie, tell me. He says I need you bad, bad."

Willie led Bolyog to a spot about two blocks away. He pointed out a parked car in which Mrs. Hall and a man were sitting, and told Bolyog to go see Mrs. Hall.

[Voice of Bolyog:] "I went up and I told her that Willie said I should come see you. At first, she looked at me. I know she didn't like the matter that Willie got to me up there, but then she got out and then she turned back and told the man who was in the car 'I guess it's alright, give it to him' and she gave me two envelopes. And I took these two envelopes right up to Willie, and I say, she gave me these two envelopes, and Willie and I walked down a couple of steps and said 'go over and see Ike, see that man over there'.

[Voice of Bolyog:] I went over and I says to Ike, 'I got, Willie gave me, sent me over to give you these two envelopes.' And Ike took both, and he looked in it, and he gave one to Freddy. And Ike says, 'Is this alright?' And Freddy looked in the envelope like this and he said, 'Well, we'll see.' And he said to me that if you know what is good for you, you keep your mouth shut."

Julius Bolyog kept his mouth shut for 47 years. Ike has been identified as Isidore Gutman, a small time gangster who was murdered in 1934. But police have not been able to identify Freddy, and that is one of the major goals of the new investigation. He could be alive. In our next report, we'll learn what happened when Bolyog and his remarkable story were subjected to a psychiatric examination and lie detector test. This is Virgil Scudder.

Part 4

It was natural that Julius Bolyog's story would meet some skepticism. He told police he was breaking a silence of 47 years and revealing that he carried a \$6,000 payment from Mrs. Francis Hall to a pair of New Brunswick hoodlums at the time of the murders of Mrs. Hall's husband and Mrs. Eleanor Mills. Mrs. Hall and two of her brothers were put on trial for the murders of Reverend Hall and Mrs. Mills, but acquitted. Skeptical or not, New Brunswick police detective George Saloom decided Bolyog should take a lie detector test.

[Voice of Saloom:] "Polygraph test, the first one was made on April 8th and the second was made on April 21st. Both these examinations were made by the State Police, and the operator was Sergeant Calitre of the State Police. Both of these examinations revealed that Bolyog was telling the truth and on the second examination, where we asked him thirty-two questions on the finer details of the area and the time, he didn't fail any."

But lie detector tests are not infallible, as Detective Saloom explained to newsman Ken Dreifach (sp?).

[Voice of Saloom:] "We have an examination done by a psychiatrist in Trenton. There are a few people that could fool a polygraph if they have some kind of a mental blockage. And it will not register on the polygraph. Bolyog was then taken to this psychiatrist in Trenton, and examined for this type of blockage mentally. His name was Dr. John [James?] Spradley. And Bolyog came out of this examination very good."

The psychiatric examination combined with the two polygraph tests can lead to only one conclusion: Julius Bolyog, to the best of his recollection, is telling the truth. This is Virgil Scudder.

Part 5

Last September, 67-year-old Julius Bolyog was lying in St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick, seriously ill with a heart condition and osteomyelitis. He and his doctor were concerned about his condition, and when he heard a hospital employee commenting, 'It looks like Mr. Bolyog might not make it,' his mind was apparently made up.

He asked to speak to police officers and he told his remarkable story to police from New Brunswick, Franklin Township, and the Somerset County Prosecutor's office. Bolyog told them that he had carried \$6,000 from Mrs. Francis Hall to a pair of local hoodlums at about the time her husband, Episcopal Church minister Edward Hall, was murdered. Hall's body was found beside that of his choir singer mistress, Mrs. Eleanor Mills.

Mrs. Hall and her brothers Willie and Henry Stevens were put on trial for the murders, but all three were acquitted. The police didn't get too excited about Bolyog's story. After all, stories about the Hall-Mills case have been flying around New Brunswick since 1922. New Brunswick police did start to check into it last September 30, but an outbreak of racial trouble at New Brunswick High School caused the Bolyog report to be shoved aside, into the files, unchecked, and apparently buried.

Exactly six months later, on March 30 of this year, detective Captain George Seaman spotted the report while sifting through the files and he assigned detective George Saloom to check it out. One piece of detail after another began falling into place. Apparently, Bolyog really had passed the money to the two men: One now identified as Ike Gutman, the other still known only as Freddy. Was the payoff a fee for services rendered? Or was it blackmail, for Ike and Freddy to keep quiet about something they knew? Reporter Ken Dreifach (sp?) asked Detective Saloom for his opinion.

[Voice of Saloom:] "I think the \$6,000 was a fee, something that was actually committed, not seen, or blackmail, it wasn't blackmail, I think it was a fee. But that's just the b... that's just speculation as of now. I can't see a blackmail payoff being done so soon after a murder."

There is a possibility, although slight, that the investigation could lead to a murder charge. If the payoff was blackmail, the Statute of Limitations has expired, and no one could be charged. It is possible that the money could represent a fee for abducting the couple, and bringing them to De Russeys Lane for a confrontation that unintentionally turned into murder. After all, Gutman was a rough character who was charged with kidnapping in a later case. But the Statute of Limitations for kidnapping has also expired.

If, however, it appears that the person identified as Freddy committed a murder and, if Freddy is alive, he could be brought to trial. There is no Statute of Limitations for murder. With the difficulty of finding witnesses and evidence in a case forty-eight years old, it is very unlikely that a murder charge will result. Unlikely, but possible. In our next report, we'll cover some of the corroborating evidence that makes police officials believe Julius Bolyog's story. This is Virgil Scudder.

Part 6

After 47 years of silence, Julius Bolyog has told his story. He says that a day or two following the murders of Reverend Edward Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills, he carried two envelopes, each containing \$3,000 in cash, from the minister's wife to two New Brunswick hoodlums. One he identifies as Ike Gutman, the second he knew only as Freddy. The widow and her two brothers were found innocent of murder charges in a 1926 trial, but some police officials feel the trial might have had a different outcome if Bolyog had spoken out then. Reporter Reginald Kavanagh of the New Brunswick Home News has followed detective George Saloom's investigation closely and also checked Bolyog's story on his own. Kavanagh has become a believer.

[Voice of Kavanagh:] "We actually found small pieces of corroboration in the original statements given by witnesses and some of the defendants between 1922 and 1926. We went back to check the original statements given by some of these people and we found little pieces of information that tend to corroborate what Mr. Bolyog says."

[Unidentified Voice:] "Is it possible that he read all of these? After all, quite a bit was written about that trial?"

[Voice of Kavanagh:] "No, most of the stuff that we found that in anyway corroborated his story was never publicized because at the time it had no apparent meaning, it wasn't very interesting, and is the type of thing that the press at the time, if they in fact knew about it at all, would have just ignored it, it was almost meaningless."

Saloom delved into unpublished files to check Bolyog's story, including a statement which police took from Mrs. Hall's brother Willie Stevens in 1926.

[Voice of Saloom:] “Certain family on Somerset Street was visited by Willie Stevens. Now this was never public, other than being in a statement, and we got it out of the statement to verify Bolyog’s story that he was telling the truth about a family on Somerset Street. And he wouldn’t know it other than actually being there.”

Not only has Bolyog provided new information which can be verified, but Kavanagh notes that his story has led to other local residents who know something previously untold about the still unsolved case.

[Voice of Kavanagh:] “Yes, from what Detective Saloom has found out in talking to people right here in New Brunswick, a number of them appear to know more than they’re willing to talk about, quite a few of them as the matter of fact. They just don’t want to get involved. So this not getting involved is not something that’s come with us in the 1960s, it went back to the 20s, too.”

In our next report, we’ll look at the process of the new Hall-Mills investigation. This is Virgil Scudder.

Part 7

The first investigation of the Hall-Mills case was conducted jointly by the Middlesex and Somerset County Prosecutors in September of 1922. In less than a month’s time, the State Attorney General took over the case. In November of that year, a Somerset County Grand Jury returned no indictments after hearing testimony from more than 60 witnesses.

The State reopened the case in 1926, and murder charges were brought against Mrs. Hall and her two brothers, Henry and Willie Stevens. After their acquittal, the Hall-Mills case lay dormant for nearly 50 years, until Julius Bolyog felt it was time to tell his story. Bolyog says he transferred \$6,000 in cash from Mrs. Hall to two New Brunswick hoodlums less than 48 hours after the murders. Detective George Saloom of the New Brunswick Police Department was assigned to check out Bolyog’s story. He explains the status of the 48-year-old case for Ken Dreifach (sp?).

[Voice of Saloom:] “It’s an open case on the record as you know about murder. Murder’s always open until it’s solved. And we got an opportunity where we got a witness like Mr. Bolyog to come forward, and we have to, as policemen, treat it as a regular police case.”

Bolyog says he gave the money to two men, one, Ike Gutman, the other identified only as Freddy. Gutman was killed gangland style in 1934. Detective Saloom was asked about the identity of the second man.

[Voice of Saloom:] “That’s what we are hoping to find out, maybe from these other people that will come forward after they have read the story, to find out who Freddy was in that area at that time. We have a, we think we have a physical description of him, and we know where he worked, but nobody seems to know who he is.”

Freddy’s identity is only one of several crucial questions still to be answered. What was the reason for the \$6,000 payoff? Julius Bolyog says he doesn’t know. Who accompanied Mrs. Hall when the payoff was made? Were the murders actually committed in the apple orchard where the bodies were found, or were they committed elsewhere? In our final report, Julius Bolyog tells why he remained silent for 47 years. This is Virgil Scudder.

Part 8

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Julius Bolyog’s story is that he kept it to himself for nearly half a century. For 47 years, Julius Bolyog told no one that he had, at the time of the Hall-Mills murders, carried \$6,000 from the minister’s widow to a pair of New Brunswick hoodlums. One is identified as Ike Gutman, who was murdered 12 years later. The other is still unidentified. They warned him not to tell about the exchange. Bolyog’s wife Irene and his two grown children had no inkling that Bolyog might be involved in the famous case, nor did police, the writers of hundreds of newspaper stories, or the authors of two books on the Hall-Mills murders.

Had his story been told during the investigations of 1922 and 1926, the trial of Mrs. Hall and her two brothers might have had an entirely different outcome. But he did not reveal what he knew until more than four decades later, when he believed he might be dying. In an exclusive WINS interview, we learned the reason for Julius Bolyog’s secrecy.

[Unidentified voice:] “Why have you not told the story in the 48 years that have gone on since?”

[Voice of Bolyog:] “I didn’t want to because I know that I would be rubbed out.”

[Unidentified voice:] “And why did you finally tell your story?”

[Voice of Bolyog:] “Well I, uh, got sick, and I guess I just, uh... some woman told me that, uh, I told her I, I say, I remember that road up there, was that big murder was there, and she says ‘yeah, Mrs., Mr. Mill just died here two years ago in the hospital.’ And I says, told her, I says that story was different. I just felt that, uh, I was in a bad shape, so I just felt that I get rid of that grudge what I had against Ike. That’s about all.”

[Unidentified voice:] “Are you glad you told that story?”

[Voice of Bolyog:] “Well, I just felt that, uh, everything is off and hung, forget the whole thing.”

For Julius Bolyog, everything is off now, regarding the Hall-Mills case. He is recovering from his illnesses, living with his wife in one of those look-alike garden apartment complexes near New Brunswick. A retired chemist and former businessman who is financially comfortable, he seeks neither fame nor money for his story. His phone is unlisted, and reporters and photographers generally meet a rebuff when they attempt to reach him. He will discuss the case with few people. He has carried the burden for 47 years and now, it is over. It may never be known who killed Reverend Edward Hall and his choir singer lover Mrs. Eleanor Mills, but Julius Bolyog has added a strange new dimension to a case which has intrigued historians and criminologists for nearly 50 years. This is Virgil Scudder.