

Woodlawn Cemetery,
Jerome Ave,
Bronx, N.Y. City,
July 19, 1932

Statement of:- Robert Riehl, of #1892 Guerlain Str., Bronx, N.Y.
Made to:- Sgt. A. Zapolsky, of N.J. State Police, and Det. James Fitzgerald, of Jersey City Police; In reference to what he had seen on the night of March 12th. 1932 at Van Courtland gate of Woodlawn Cemetery, located at 233rd. Str., and Jerome Ave., Bronx, N.Y.C.

Q. What is your occupation?

A. Special Patrolman in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Q. What is your age?

A. 54 Yrs.,

Q. Where were you born?

A. In Silesia Germany.

Q. How long have you been in this Country?

A. 32 yrs.,

Q. How long have you been a citizen of this Country?

A. Since 1906.

Q. Now Mr Riehl, we understand that on the night of March 12, 1932 while you were on patrol at Woodlawn Cemetery, you did observe conditions existing at one of the gates located at the above mentioned Cemetery which was in a relative to the Lindbergh kidnaping case.

A. Im employed here since March 1st. 1927 and on the night of March the 12th I went on duty at 4.00 PM untill midnight, from 7.00 o'clock on I make a ring every hour at different boxes located in the Cemetery. At 9.45 PM March the 12th. 1932 I left the Main entrance gate to arrive at Van Courtland gate where I was to make the ring at 10.00 PM Upon my arrival at Van Courtland gate I observed a man sitting on top of the stone column of the gate, talking to the other fellow who was on the outside of the gate, and the man sitting on the column seen me I was then about 75 feet away from him. He hollered to the other man who was on the outside of the gate (There's the Cop coming) the other man did not answer at all, the fellow on the top of the column then jumped down and I thought he had broke his leg, when he got up, he ran across 233rd Str., into the Park and disappeared. As I went near the gate and questioned the other man who was on the outside, as to what the young fellow was doing on the top of the column, and his reply was (I dont know, I have no idea and if you wait a minute I'll go over and ask him) I made my ring at this gate and waited about 5 or 8 minutes and no one came back, so I continued on my patrol and I had no idea what it was all about.

Q. Can you give us a description of the man that was sitting on the top of the stone column?

A. I could not describe his face or give you the color of his hair as it was too dark to see it, but to the best of my judgement, he was about 5'ft. 6" or 7" inches, in ht., wt., about 130 or 135 lbs., and from his action while running I would judge him to be about 23 or 24 yrs., old, dressed with dark pants, white shirt, no coat on, and wearing a cap. When this man hollered I did not notice Foreign accent in speech.

Q. Can you give us a description of the man that was outside of the gate whom you spoke to in reference to the man that was sitting on the stone column and ran away?

A. He was a man between 50 or 55 Yrs., of age, about 5' 6" or 5' 7" in ht., wt., about 170 lbs., clean shaven, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~, round face, apparently American, wore a Dk., suit, Dk., over coat, collar & tie, Blk., soft hat turned up all the way around, this man spoke like a real American.

Q. Have you ever seen these men before or after this particular night?

A. I never did.

Robert Riehl

Woodlawn Cemetary,
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Statement of Robert Riehl, continued:

- Q. Do you know Dr. J.F. Condon (Jafsie) who acted as intermediate in the Lindberg kidnapping case?
- A. I never seen him and I never met him, except that I have seen his picture in the news papers in relative to the Lindberg case.
- Q. Would you say that the man who was outside of the gate of the Woodlawn Cemetary on the night of March 12th. 1932 and whom you spoke to, was Dr. J.F. Condon (Jafsie)?
- A. No; as I recall from News Paper pictures of Dr. Condon, he is much taller man, and having a different shape face. I also remember that Dr. Condon had a short mustache, and this other man had none.
- Q. Did you observe the older man who was on the outside of the gate, walking in the same direction where the younger man had ran into the Park at 233rd Str.?
- A. He went in the same direction as the other man.
- Q. What is the condition of the lighting system at this particular corner? at Van Courtland Park and 233rd. Str?
- A. Well the lights, I would say the lighting condition is pretty fair.
- Q. Can you tell us the height of the fence and the column where this man was sitting on?
- A. The gate and the column where this man was sitting is about 14 feet high, and the iron fence enclosing the Cemetary is about 8 feet high.
- Q. Could you identify the man whom you spoke to at the gate, if you saw him again?
- A. I could identify this man if I spoke to him and seen him personally, but I could not identify him from a picture.

Witnesses:

Signed:

Robert Riehl