

Gireth Pleads Guilty In Auto Court Slaying

OAKLAND, Calif., Aug. 5 (C.T. P.S.).—Acting as his own attorney, Leslie Gireth, Glendale jeweler, yesterday pleaded guilty in Alameda county superior court to a charge of murder in the slaying of his sweetheart, Dorena Hammer, 21 years old, as she lay sleeping in an auto court. Judge Lincoln S. Church gave the defendant permission to act as his own counsel after his attorney, Monroe Friedman, withdrew from the case. The judge set next Monday for sentencing.

"People wouldn't understand, was all he would say of his motive. "It was the anniversary of our love. I was afraid our love would lead to a scandal that would ruin her life. As she slept I decided to kill her."

Gireth refused all legal counsel. He resented fretfully any move in his behalf for clemency. In letters to the court he insisted he be executed.

The man was playing "Ave Maria" on his portable phonograph as the warden went to conduct him to the gas chamber. It was one of 20 classical recordings which he had played throughout the night. Among them was "Claire de Lune," whose sad strains Miss Hammer listened to that evening before she died.

Slayer of Girl Goes Eagerly To His Death

By the Associated Press

San Quentin, Calif., Jan. 22—

Impatient for death, Leslie Bela Gireth helped a guard strap him to the execution chair in San Quentin's gas chamber today and then eagerly breathed deeply as the fumes filled the room.

He died for the murder of Miss Dorena Hammer, 21. Those who talked to him in his last hours said he was positive he would be reunited with her at the moment of his death.

Thus ended "the carnation murder case." But the motive is still a mystery.

The United Press reported that Gireth, before entering the chamber, said he wanted to keep his motive a secret until his two sons are of age. He has written letters, he said, explaining he was not a "cold-blooded murderer," which will be given to them when they are 21.—Editor's note.]

Gireth, 39, was a wealthy jeweler in Glendale, Calif. A native of Hungary, he was married and had two sons.

He developed an infatuation for Miss Hammer. Some believe he learned she was planning to marry another. Last July, in the motor court they occupied together in San Leandro, he fired three bullets into her body as she slept. He placed his photograph beside the bed, and arranged, a tall vase of red carnations at the girl's side. Then he surrendered.

