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## Dr. Snook and the Coed: The Theora Hix Affair and Murder

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Dr. Snook and the Coed -  
Columbus, OH 1926-1930 -



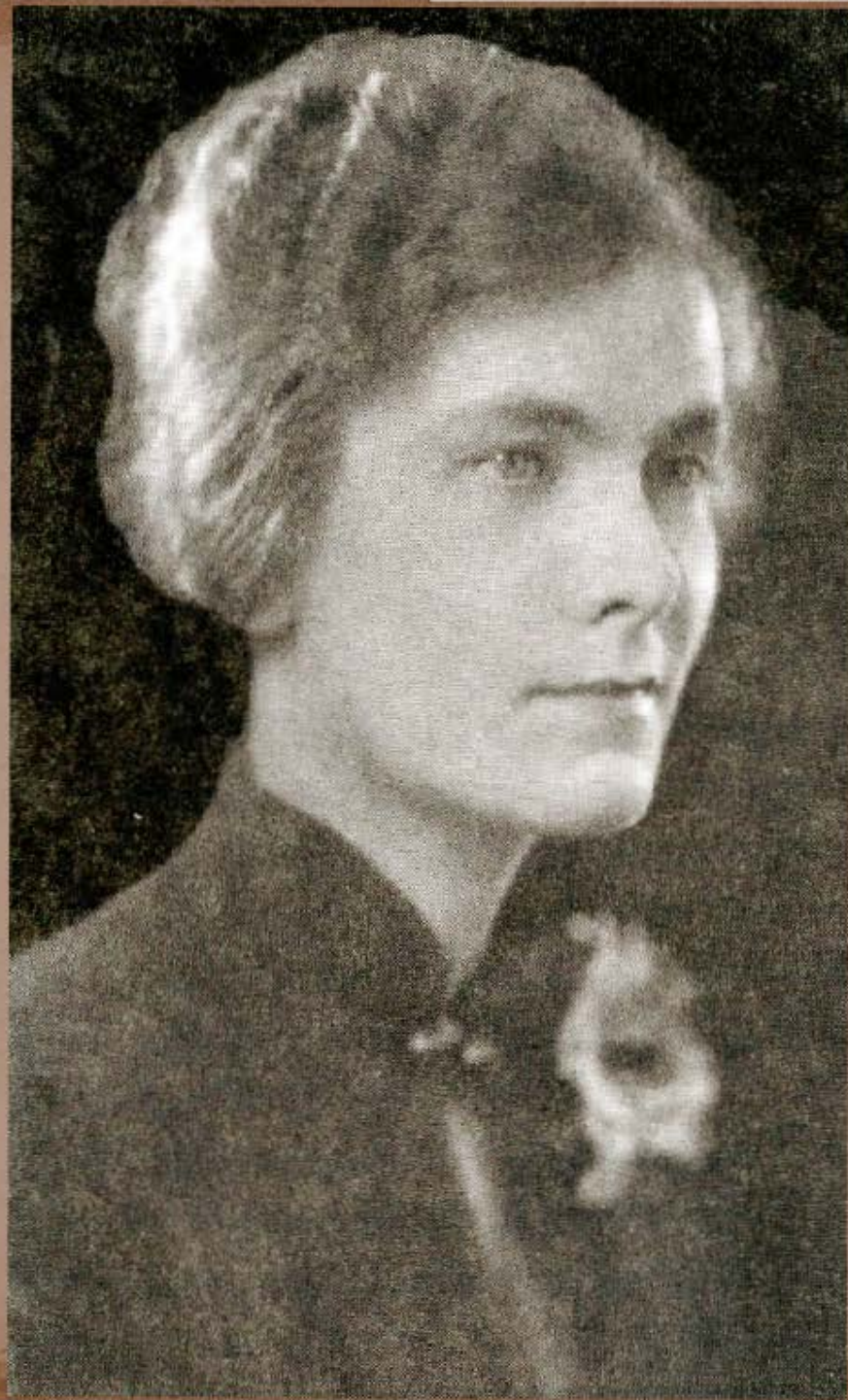
MARK GRIBBEN

the  
PROFESSOR  
& THE  
COED

*Scandal  
& Murder*  
at  
THE OHIO  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY

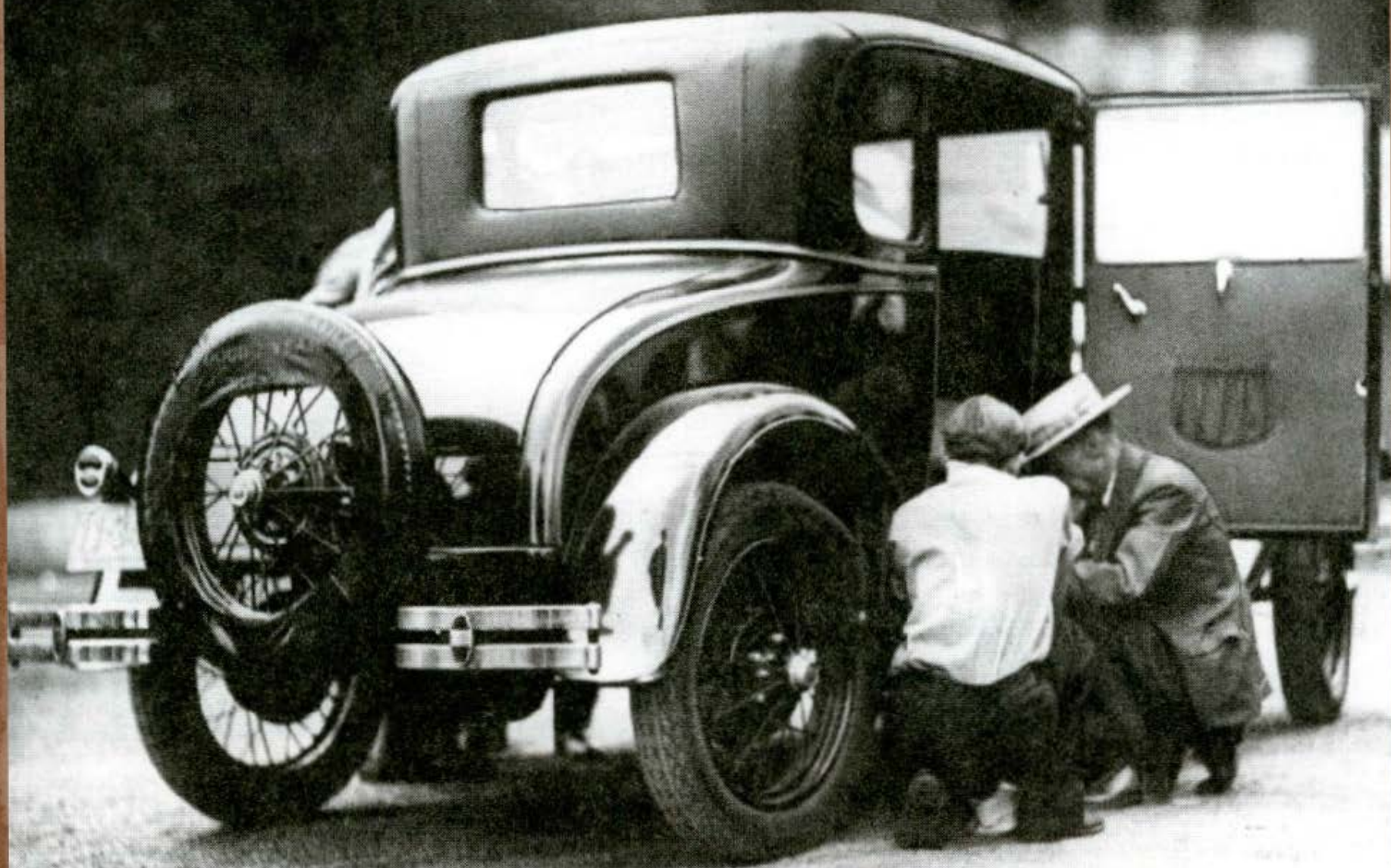




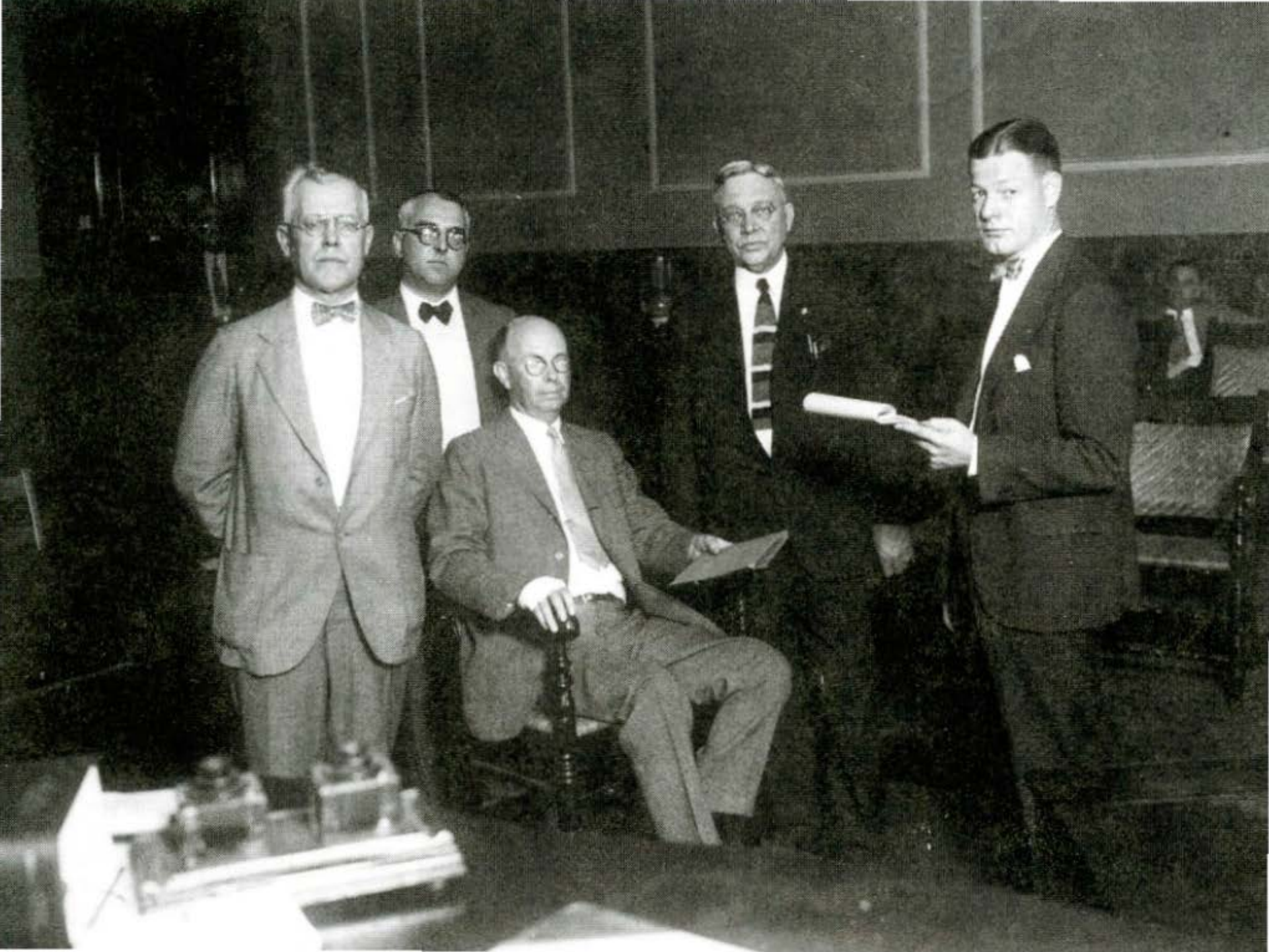










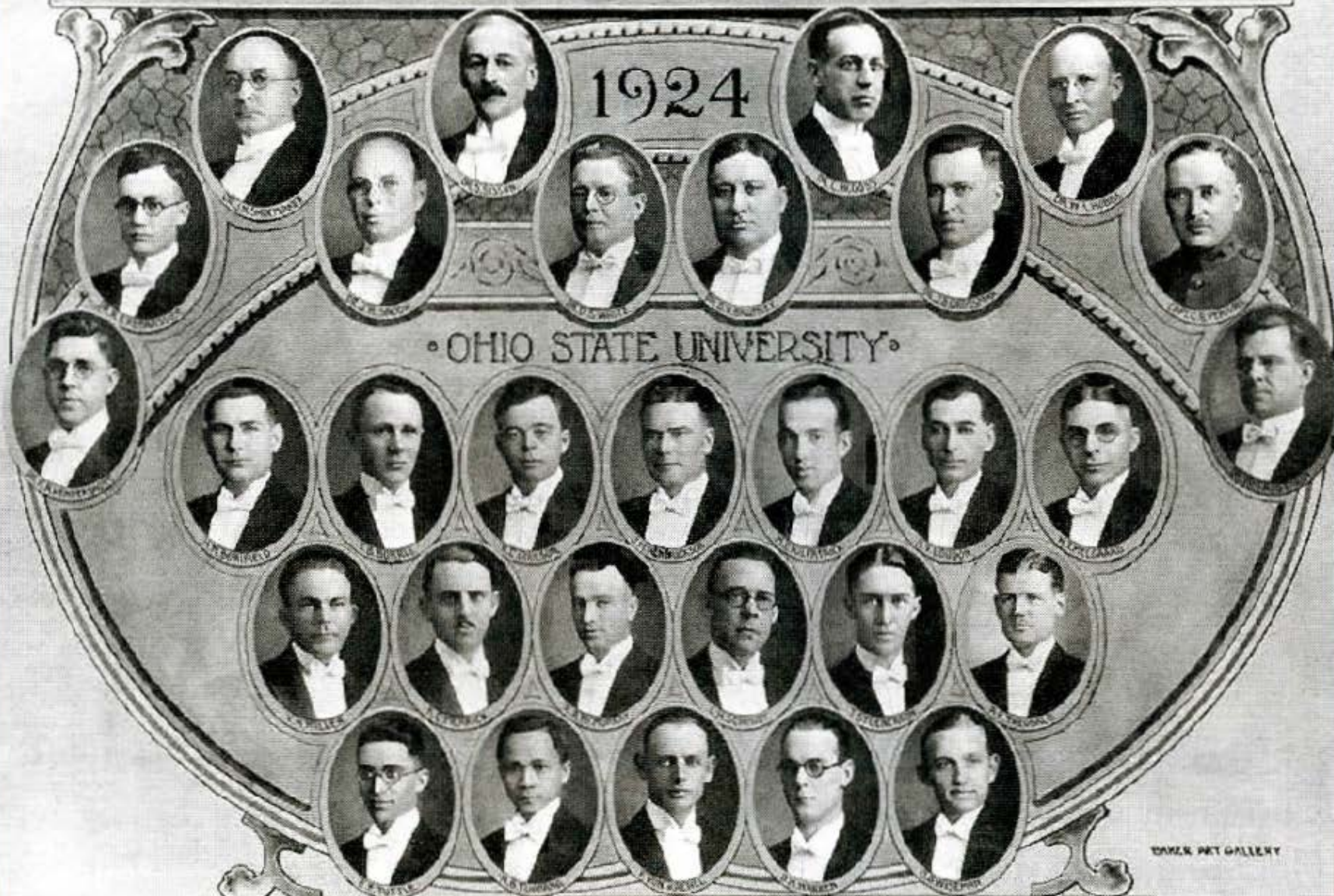




# VETERINARY CLASS

1924

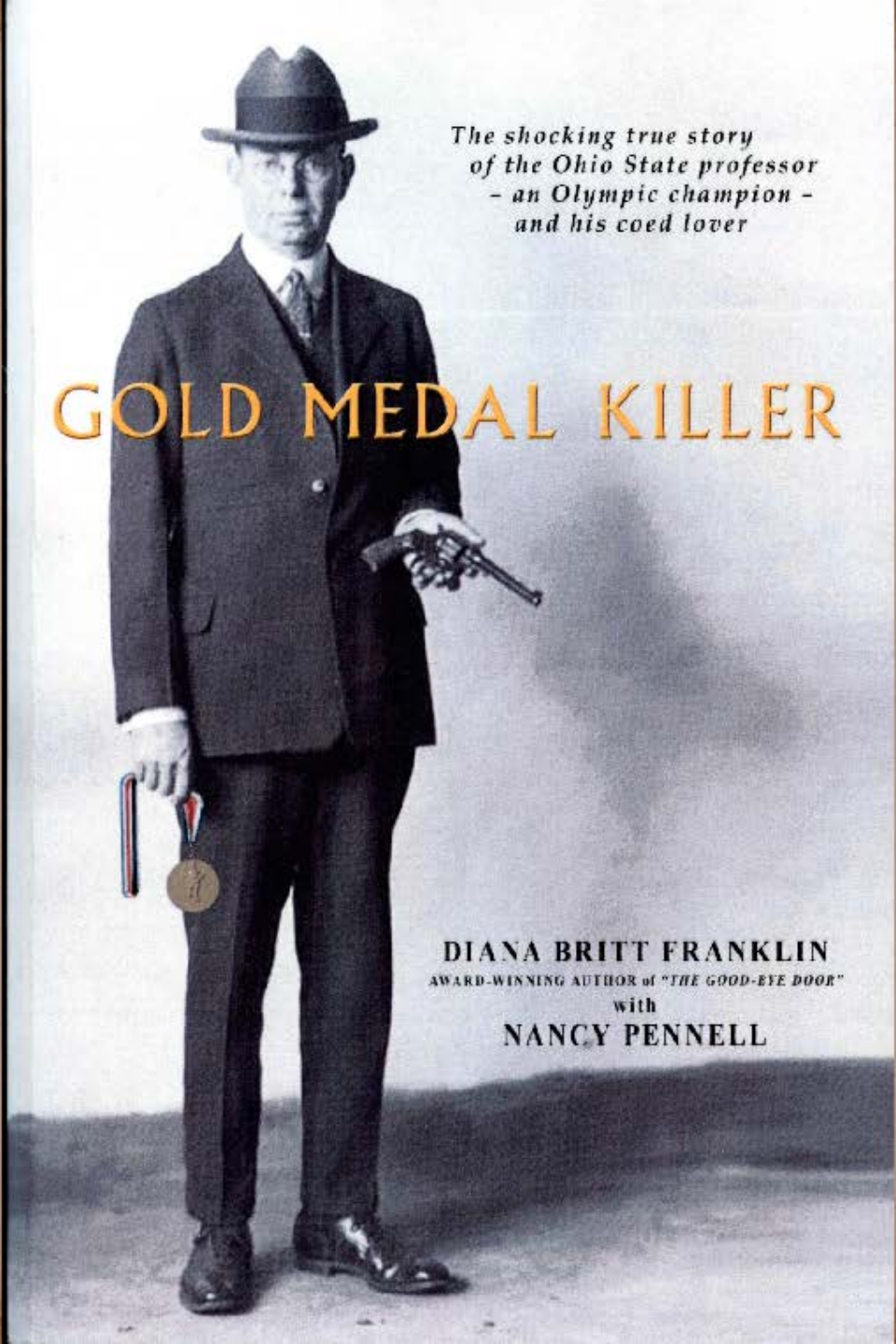
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY











*The shocking true story  
of the Ohio State professor  
- an Olympic champion -  
and his coed lover*

# GOLD MEDAL KILLER

**DIANA BRITT FRANKLIN**  
AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR of *"THE GOOD-EYE DOOR"*  
with  
**NANCY PENNELL**



# DR. SNOOK MAKES CONFESSION OF BRUTAL SLAYING

University Professor Breaks  
Down and Admits  
His Guilt.

KILLING FOLLOWS  
AN ARGUMENT

Girl Objected to His Leav-  
ing City for Week-end  
With His Family

(International News Service)  
Columbus, June 21. — A univer-  
sity professor, Dr. James H.  
Snook, regarded by his friends  
as a man above reproach, beat  
Miss Theora Hix, co-ed of the  
Ohio State University, with a  
hammer and then stuck a knife  
in her throat, according to the  
confession which the man told  
to police in short terse sen-  
tences, which followed a crying  
spell of the usually taciturn  
man.

Dr. Snook, before he finally  
broke down and confessed to the  
brutal slaying cried for a period  
of 45 minutes, according to  
Prosecutor John J. Chester, who  
obtained the confession.

The young county prosecutor  
said he did not believe Snook's  
confession was the "entire  
story," but at the same time ex-  
pressed the belief that it "was  
sufficient."

The confession of Dr. Snook,  
as given to International News  
Service by Chester, follows:

"Q. Now, doctor, I want to ask  
just one or two questions first  
and then you can go ahead and  
state it in your own language  
just like you did the last time.  
What is your full name? A.  
James Howard Snook.

Q. And your age, please, doc-  
tor? A. Forty-nine.

Q. And, doctor, where do you  
live at the present time? A. 349  
West Tenth Avenue.

Q. Now, doctor, you may go  
ahead and just tell to the ste-  
nographer in your own language  
the occurrence which happened  
on the night of June 13th of this  
year.

A. I met Theora Hix about  
three years ago. The friendship  
continued in a very intimate way

ever since, inasmuch as she was  
a very good companion. I have  
been living with my wife all  
during this three-year period  
and regard my wife very highly  
and respect her very much as a  
wife, but she lacked some of the  
companionship afforded by Miss  
Hix. During the three years  
that I knew Miss Hix I did assist  
her in many ways toward an ed-  
ucation, but I found out it wasn't  
appreciated as much as I  
thought it should be. Our as-  
sociation was not a love affair  
in any sense of the word, but  
in time Miss Hix developed a  
more determined attitude in re-  
gard to dictating my movements  
and the final culmination of this  
occurred on the 13th of June of  
this year when I met Miss Hix  
at the corner of Twelfth and  
High streets in the city of Co-  
lumbus, Ohio, when we both got  
into my Ford coupe and pro-  
ceeded to drive to Lane avenue  
and then west out to the Fisher  
road and to the Columbus rifle  
range of the New York Central  
Railroad Company, during which  
she remonstrated with me  
against leaving the city with my  
family for the week-end as I  
had previously planned to do.  
She threatened that if I did go  
that she would take the life of  
my wife and baby. During this  
quarrel she grabbed for the  
purse in which she sometimes  
carried a 41-calibre Derringer



# SNOOK'S CRIME AFFECTS MANY

Father of Girl Declares He  
Must Suffer for Sake of  
Other Daughters.

(International News Service.)

Columbus, June 21.—The cruel and almost inhuman deed of Dr. James H. Snook, deposed Ohio State University professor, in crushing the skull of Miss Theora Hix, co-ed at the same college, with blows from a hammer and then severing the attractive girl's jugular vein with a common pocket knife, will affect the lives of at least a half dozen persons.

persons.

First there are the aged parents of the girl, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Hix, of Bradenton, Fla.

Mrs. Hix will never forget the one sight of her daughter lying dead on a cold marble slab in a morgue here. She saw the mangled body of her daughter only once.

Theora's father demands the punishment of Dr. Snook. In a statement last night, he declared, "This man must be punished for the sake of other daughters." Mr. Hix is gray-haired, of slight stature and his shoulders are stopped with the weight of his sorrow.

Next, there is the life of the doctor's wife, Mrs. Snook. Though her friends are sympathetic and comfort her in her hour of affliction the woman will always be pointed out on



# SNOOK WANTS TO PLEAD GUILTY

And Have It Over as Soon  
as Possible, Now He  
Has Confessed.

(International News Service)  
Columbus, June 21.—Having unemotionally confessed to the fiendish murder of his sweetheart-paramour, Miss Theora Hix, 25-year-old Ohio State University co-ed, Dr. James H. Snook wants to plead guilty and "have it over with as soon as possible."

It was expected he would be indicted by the grand jury today on a charge of first degree murder.

The former university professor, married and the father of a -year-old baby, who spent part of his time during the last three years in a "love nest" apartment with Miss Hix as his wife, calmly told today how he first battered the head of his sweetheart with a hammer and then cut her jugular vein, on the night of June 13.

The hammer blows were de-

(Continued on Page 3)

## WHISKY IN COD

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Bangor, Me., June 21.—The "best fish story of the season" was on record here today.

Inside the stomach of a 7-pound cod, three Inglesboro fishermen—L. E. Smith, Burton Padton and Grover Parkinson—said they discovered a sealed pint of whisky.



Age differences ? -

Rank differences ? -

Public fascination ? -

Evidence, interviewing and court  
protocol ? -