

Information for Episode #1 of Police Reporter

A crime for the Spring: A Cautionary Tale - The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring

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In the spring of 1923, in Aurora Illinois, a retired criminal lawyer named Warren Lincoln found his domestic situation intolerable. It included a tyrannical, teetotaling wife and her fitness-obsessed, live-in brother, Byron.

Lincoln tried to solve the problem by shooting the two. He neatly removed the heads and burned the rest of the remains in the greenhouse furnace (he was an ardent gardener). The blackened residue was ground and mixed with fertilizer.

He placed the heads in a large window box and covered them with lime, which he had heard quickened decay. He topped the lime with earth, then with the fresh fertilizer. He finished the arrangement with a new and interesting group of hybrid sweet peas which he had developed. He kept the window box on his front porch.

Nine months later, a suspicious Chief of Police inspected the window box and found very well preserved evidence. Warren Lincoln was mistaken about lime, as a number of criminals were before him. A conviction and life sentence followed.

Contemporary reports say the sweet peas were quite spectacular.