

## Robert Elam

( - 20 May 1912)

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### **Dead In Room At Hotel With The Gas Turned On**

#### **Mystery Surrounds Case of Robert Elam, Clerk in the City Post Office**

Robert Elam, thirty-four years old, a clerk in the city post office, was found dead in bed in a room on the third floor of the Burdine Hotel on D street this morning, his death having resulted from the inhalation of illuminating gas. Whether the gas was turned on with suicidal intent or as the result of an accident is not known. No note indicating suicide was found in the room, nor had Elam ever made any suggestion that he was tired of life.

Two horseshoes hung on the wall of the room in which he died, but the death of the occupant dispelled the idea that they were an omen of good luck in his case.

In the pockets of the clothing of the dead man the police found cards indicating bets on race horses, the tickets bearing the names of Pine Hill, Mercantile, Cecil, Hunter, Houston and Lanesville clubs, and a memorandum indicating business with a money-lender.

Elam resided at 441 O street northwest. Yesterday afternoon he registered at the hotel and asked the clerk to telephone to the post office that he was sick and unable to attend to his duties.

This morning about 6:30 o'clock Theodore Green, colored porter in the hotel, went to the door of the room occupied by Elam and called him. The porter said he got a response from Elam. Two hours later he returned and found the guest dead. Coroner Nevitt made an investigation and gave a certificate of accidental death. His body was turned over to an undertaker and prepared for burial.