

Helen "Nellie" Rand Fraser

(- 17 Jun 1922)

Fraser. Suddenly, Saturday, June 17, 1922, Nellie R, beloved daughter of Orville and Edith Fraser. Funeral services at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, from Fifth Baptist Church. Friends and relatives invited.

The Washington Post, June 18, 1922, p. 2

Girl, 16, Poisoned Dies At Hospital

Helen Fraser, Business High Graduate, Quoted as Admitting Taking Mercury Tablets

Her Motive Is A Mystery

Left Young Man in Dining Room to Swallow Fatal Dose in Kitchen.

Of Despondent Disposition

Helen Fraser, 16 years old, drank a glass of water in which six bichloride of mercury tablets had been dissolved at her home, 316 N street southwest, last night. She was taken to Emergency hospital where she died shortly after arriving.

According to Daniel Locayo, 736 Twelfth street northwest, a friend of Miss Fraser, the couple were eating cake in the dining room of the girl's home when Miss Fraser, he says, went to the kitchen where she swallowed the fatal dose.

Says She Told of Deed

Returning to the dining room, Locayo says the girl told him that she had taken poison. He called the girl's mother, Mrs. Orville Fraser, who was in another part of the house. With Mrs. Clara Robinson, a sister of the dead girl, who lives at 312 N street, a few doors from the home of Miss Fraser to aid her, the mother gave the suffering girl first aid treatment.

Miss Fraser is the daughter of Orville Fraser, a member of No. 10 truck company of the District Fire department. At the Fraser home last night no cause could be given as to why the girl should have taken the poison except that she was of a despondent disposition.

Allege Former Threat to Die

According to Locayo Miss Fraser had threatened to commit suicide by drinking iodine about six months ago.

The girl was a member of the Fifth Baptist church and was graduated from Business High school a short time ago. The body was removed to the morgue where an inquest will be held.

The Evening Star, June 18, 1922, p. 1

16-Year-Old Girl Commits Suicide

Poison Draught Laid to "Foolish" Romance by Her Parents

Police Investigate Act

Young Man Friend in Next Room When Miss Nellie Fraser Takes Her Life

Miss Nellie Rand Fraser, sixteen-year-old daughter of Orville Fraser, member of No. 10 fire truck company, died at Emergency Hospital late last night from the effects of poison which she took in the kitchen of her home, 216 N street southwest, after excusing herself to her friend, Daniel Lacayo and her mother, who sat in the dining room.

Miss Fraser, who was regarded as pretty by her acquaintances, was melancholy over a love affair, according to statements of her father and mother, following the tragedy. She had given no intimation, however, that she contemplated suicide and her parents could not explain her act, except to attribute it to the "foolish" prank of a romantic girl.

Goes Into Kitchen

The girl was eating cake with Mr. Lacayo, a Spaniard residing at 736 12th street southwest, in company with her mother, when she asked her friend if he cared for a drink of water. Receiving a negative reply, the girl went into the kitchen, adjoining, and was heard to be busying herself with a tumbler at the sink. Returning a moment later, she cried out "I have taken poison," and collapsed.

Mrs. Fraser at first was inclined to laugh off her actions and announcement as "stage play," remarking to Mr. Lacayo that the girl probably had taken medicine in dramatic pretense. Nevertheless, the two made the girl drink a glass of milk, which acted as an emetic. Solomon Gorman, a grocer living at 310 N street, across the street, was called and he and Lacao rushed the dying girl to the hospital in the former's automobile. At the hospital Dr. R.J. Cottone pronounced the girl dying from the poison. Efforts to revive her were futile.

Father Not Surprised

Mr. Fraser was called to his home after his daughter had been taken to the hospital, and when informed of his girl's death by another daughter, Mrs. Clara Robertson of 312 N street southwest, exclaimed dazedly, "I've been expecting that to happen for some time!" He explained, on recovering his composure, that he meant by this that he knew his daughter was young, romantic and willful and that she had taken poison in a fit of despondency, little realizing the consequences of her act.

Miss Fraser was not employed and had lived with her parents since leaving Business High School two years ago. Neighbors remarked that they understood Mr. Lacayo had planned to leave Washington for Boston tomorrow night.

Thomas O'Donnell of the Fourth precinct conducted the preliminary police investigation.