

Wellington B. Herbert

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Tries To Murder Wife Then Wellington Herbert Attempts to Commit Suicide Three Ineffectual Shots Fired at Mrs. Herbert Before Others Could Interfere Husband Taken To Hospital Believed He Was Dying and Asked for Priest -- Wound Inflicted Not Serious

Alleging that his wife had refused to live with him, Wellington B. Herbert, twenty eight years old, of 305 H street northeast, fired three shots from a .32 caliber revolver at her last night and then turned the revolver upon himself in an attempt to end his own life. None of the shots intended for Mrs. Herbert took effect, and the bullet which her husband fired at himself penetrated his breast. He is in the Providence Hospital.

The shooting occurred in a basement sitting room at the home of Mrs. Herbert's sister, Mrs. Annie Nothey, 1121 3d street southeast. Herbert walked into a room filled with people, opened fire on his wife and then in their presence, as stated, turned the gun on himself. He is under guard at the Providence Hospital and the station house book record a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon against him. He will be taken to the Police Court and required to answer to the charge as soon as he is released from the hospital.

There has been trouble between Herbert and his wife for some time, but affairs came to a crisis several weeks ago, when Herbert was arrested on a charge of making threats of personal violence against her. Upon being released following that arrest the trouble in the home continued, according to the police, and Mrs. Herbert had her husband again arrested, this time on a charge of non-support. At that time it is declared, she separated from her husband and sought refuge in the home of her sister, Mrs. Nothey. She has resided there since, with her two children, Violet and Thelma.

Calls to See His Wife

Shortly after 9 o'clock Herbert went to the Nothey home at 1121 3d street southeast and asked to be allowed to see his wife. He was invited inside. He said very little, but asked that his wife step to the door to talk with him. She would not go and Herbert went outside and sat down on the porch. He seemed nervous and excited, the witnesses say, but they feared no harm from him.

Soon the party went down into the basement room, and seated themselves, when Herbert again made his appearance at the door. He asked his wife to come back and live with him, but she replied that she was afraid to. Herbert talked a great deal, addressing his wife most of the time, but responding to other members of the family as they spoke in trying to argue with him upon the proposition he had made to Mrs. Herbert.

When Herbert saw that his wife was firm in her intention to stay away from him, he reached into his back pocket and drew a revolver. Before the members of the party in the house realized what he intended to do he took deliberate aim at his wife, firing three shots in quick succession. All the bullets passed near Mrs. Herbert's head, but, as stated, all were wide of the mark. One of the bullets whizzed past Mrs. Annie Nothey and the powder burned the skin of her arm. The injury is not serious, however.

Turns Revolver on Himself

By the time the third shot was fired Clarence Goldsmith, who was near Herbert, rushed to him, grasped his arm and prevented him from firing again at his wife. By a quick move, however, Herbert wrenched his arm away from Goldsmith's grasp long enough to press the barrel against his chest and

pull the trigger. The ball entered the flesh nearly over the heart, but struck a rib and glanced off. Herbert fell to the floor and Goldsmith grabbed the revolver.

The police of the fifth precinct were soon notified of the trouble and Lieut. Anderson, with the reserves of the fifth precinct, hurried to the house in the patrol wagon. Herbert was found in a pool of blood on the floor, with a wound over his heart. It was feared by the police that the bullet had pierced his heart, and he was conveyed at once to the Providence Hospital. Upon examination the wound was found to be not serious.

All the persons in the house at the time of the shootings were unnerved by the incident, and Mrs. Herbert suffered greatly from shock.

When first taken to the hospital Herbert believed he was fatally hurt.

"I'm going to die. I'm going to die. Get me a priest," he kept repeating. The priest was taken to him, but he was told that the wound was a superficial one.