

William Lyons

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Dies Accusing Wife

Suicide of William Lyons, Alleged Handbook Man Given Up By Bondsman

Protested Innocence When Placed Under Arrest

Brooded Over His Trouble

Not Charged With Connection With Any of Those Apprehended Saturday on Same Charge

"It was a Judas kiss you gave," wrote William Lyons, alleged handbook man in a letter to his wife only a short while before he ended his life in the witness room at the sixth precinct police station yesterday morning by hanging himself with his leather belt.

The letter he wrote to his wife while in the cell, and which was found near his body reads:

"I know this trouble has been instigated by you. This is what you meant by telling me that you were going to see the clerk of the court, not to get the cases settled, but to get me in trouble. It was a Judas kiss you gave me.

"I know you have done this to get rid of me. Well, I have lost everything, even my wife. May God forgive you as I have tried to do tonight. Good-bye."

Mrs. Lyons could not be seen by the police, but her friends declared her husband had done her a gross injustice in his last missive.

Gross Injustice Claimed

Persons who are familiar with the circumstances attending the arrest of Lyons declare Mrs. Lyons had nothing to do with causing his arrest. It is stated that Lyons, who had returned to the city only a short time ago, was seen in the vicinity of the Police Court building Saturday. Several persons who saw him, it is stated, reported his appearance to the bondsman and the latter caused the arrest.

Undertaker J. William Lee last night took charge of the body, removing it from the morgue to his place of business to be prepared for burial. Mrs. Julia A. Lyons, who rooms at 206 Indiana Avenue northwest was made ill by the shock of her husband's act.

Charged With Making a Handbook

Mrs. Lyons was arrested in August of last year with her husband, both having been charged with making a handbook on the races, and later they were accused of having tampered with a gas supply pipe

Husband and wife were put under \$1,000 bond in the handbook case, while the charge of tampering with the gas pipe was nolle prossed so far as Mrs. Lyons was concerned. John J. Minahan, bondsman for the couple, procured a bailpiece from the Police Court Saturday morning for Lyons, having concluded to surrender him and release himself from the responsibility for his appearance in court.

Edward Johnson was named as the person to serve the paper. He found Lyons on Pennsylvania avenue and placed him under arrest, escorting him to the sixth precinct police station. Lyons who had been working as travelling agent for a coffee firm, was surprised when told that his bondsman had surrendered him, although he made no bitter complaint. He declared he had made no effort to run away, bond for his appearance having been given nearly a year ago, and it was not his fault that the Police Court had not tried the case.

"I was innocent of the charge," he is said to have asserted, "and that was probably why my case was not called"

Brooded Over His Trouble

Lyons did not sleep much Saturday night. He was held in the police station merely as an accommodation for the marshal's office, and would have been turned over to the deputy marshal at the Police Court this morning had he not committed suicide.

He was observed a number of times during the night, having been seen alive less than thirty minutes before his dead body was found suspended from the grating.

Lyons left this city some months ago and went to Canada. His idea was to work and get money enough to defend the charges tht had been brought against him. When he returned he found employment with a coffee firm, and, he told the police Saturday, he was doing well.

His message to his wife, however, shows he thought she had told his bondsman he was here and that it was her fault he was arrested. After being locked up he brooded over his trouble, and about 6 o'clock in the morning his lifeless but warm body was found suspended from the grating. Lyons was not alleged to have had any connection with the several others who were arrested Saturday.

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Suicide's Body Interred

Just Before Burial Coroner Receives Old Letter Written by Lyons

The remains of William Lyons, alleged handbook man, who committed suicide Sunday morning in the witness room at the sixth precinct police station by hanging himself with his belt, were interred this afternoon at Congressional Cemetery. The body had been at the undertaking establishment of J William Lee, 332 Pennsylvania avenue, since Sunday night.

Coroner Nevitt yesterday received a letter, dated June 7, in which Lyons explained his reasons for no longer having a desire to live. The handwriting was similar to that of the note the despondent man wrote only a few minutes before he took his life. Its transmission to the coroner was delayed by its having been turned over to a reporter before it was sent to the official.

The fact that Lyons wrote the letter so long ago indicated that his suicide was not prompted solely by his arrest. Mrs. Lyons is still confined to her home suffering from the nervous shock following the act of her husband.