

Arthur J. Sackett (- 17 Jun 1913)

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Murders His Wife; Then Shoots Self

Jealousy Said to Have Led A.J. Sackett to Use Gun. Two Children Orphaned.

Arthur J. Sackett, twenty-five years old, former resident of Fond du Lac, Wis., last night murdered his pretty young wife, Mrs. Flora Sackett, twenty years old, and then committed suicide using a revolver. The double tragedy was enacted in front of 109 E street northwest, about 11:50 o'clock. Sackett died instantly and Mrs. Sackett died at Emergency Hospital before surgeons had time to perform an operation.

By the double tragedy two children, Ruth, aged three and a half years, and John, one and a half years old, are orphaned. The children are with their grandmother, Mrs. J.M. Harrington, at the Royalton, 918 M street northwest, and will remain there, Mrs. Harrington having declared her intention of adopting the motherless and fatherless babies. The children were taken to their grandmother today by Mrs. Harry Sanger, an aunt of Mrs. Sackett.

"I have decided to end everything," Sackett wrote in a letter on the stationary on an F street hotel, in which he intimated that the "green-eyed monster" had played a part in the tragedy. Friends of the murdered woman, however, declare the husband had no cause for jealousy. He named a resident of the northwest section in his letter. Her friends say that husband and wife separated because he utterly failed to provide for her and their two children.

Max Tass Witnesses Tragedy

Max Tass, a tailor, nineteen years old, in front of whose house the tragedy occurred, witnessed the shooting, and Policeman Harbaugh of the sixth Precinct was not more than 100 feet distant when the shots were fired. So quickly did one shot follow another, however, that the tailor and policeman were unable to interfere.

A passing taxicab was stopped and the wounded man and woman were placed in it and rushed to the Emergency Hospital.

Sackett had shot himself in the head; the bullet penetrated the brain and life was extinct, it was found. Two bullets had struck Mrs. Sackett; one entered the face passing through the left jaw and shattering the shoulder. The wound had stunned the woman and caused her to fall to the pavement. While she was lying there helpless a bullet was sent into her chest.

The letter found on the dead man explained to the police why the double tragedy had been enacted and was the means of identifying the victims. Sackett had evidently written the letter last night, having dated it yesterday, and it was addressed to Mrs. Harry Sanger, Mrs. Sackett's aunt, 1223 New Jersey avenue northwest. It reads:

Decided to End Everything

"Dear Mrs. Sanger:

"I have decided to end everything, as I think it will be the best for Flora. She is not doing the right thing and I can't let the children suffer for her faults.

"I am sure that Ruth is well taken care of and I hope you will adopt her, and I am sure that in later years she will be a comfort to you and Mr. Sanger. As to little John, I don't know what will become of him, but I wish you could try and have a good family adopt him. Please notify my mother, at 157

Sheboygan street, Fond du Lac, Wis. She is the beneficiary of an insurance policy for \$2,000 and I think you can see her about money for Ruth's and John's education.

"I regret this very much, but I have endured this as long as I can, and I cannot stand the separation from the children.

"I hope the young man Flora thought so much of will in the future not go between any more married couples, as he has certainly broken up ours.

"I must close now, as I am to see Flora soon. With love to Ruth and hoping you and Mr. Sanger will always remain devoted to each other, as it is the only way, sincerely yours.

"Arthur J. Sackett."

Had Been Twice Arrested

Arthur J. Sackett was not a stranger to the police. He had been arrested on charges of alleged dishonesty, but the cases against him were withdrawn. He also was arrested on his wife's complaint for alleged failure to support her and the children. The police say he was sent to Occoquan.

At the time of their marriage, it is stated, the young woman, who was only sixteen years old, believed Sackett was a physician at Providence Hospital, although it is stated, he was only an orderly.

Sackett, it is stated, ran away from home when he was a boy and enlisted in the navy. After coming to this city he got the indorsement of a western senator and obtained a position in the Navy Department. He later was employed as clerk in the stables of the street cleaning department and still later was employed at a local theater.

Mrs. T.T. Sackett, mother of the slayer and suicide, who resides at 157 Sheboygan street, Fond du Lac, Wis., was last night notified of his death. The young man's body was sent to the morgue this morning while that of his wife was turned over to a local undertaker.

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Saved From Potter's Field

Employes of District Pay Slayer's Funeral Expenses

The body of Arthur J. Sackett, who killed his wife and later shot himself, was saved from potter's field by former fellow-employes in the District street sweeping department. As soon as the police learned that Mrs. Sackett, mother of the murderer, residing in Fond du Lac, Wis., was unable to pay burial expenses, Sackett's former friends made up a purse to defray them. They would have shipped the body to Fond du Lac had not the mother suggested that it be interred here.

This morning the body was turned over to a local undertaker and prepared for burial. The interment was in Congressional cemetery. Funeral services for Mrs. Flora E. Sackett, the murdered woman, were held in the chapel at Lee's this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment was in Glenwood.