IS IT A MURDER?

Inquiry Into the Death of Mrs. Nellie D. Palmer.

SUICIDE VERDICT WAS FOUND

Later Developments Arouse Suspicion—Relative Makes a Charge Against Husband, Which Authorities Investigate.

The death of Mrs. Nellie D. Palmer, of Fairview, is being investigated by the authorities. She is supposed to have committed suicide on April 5. A relative, Fred Wagner, has cast suspicion on her husband in letters written to the Coroner.

New developments have arisen in the case in which it was supposed Mrs. Nellie Dollie Palmer, the wife of a laborer at Fairview, committed suicide, by shooting herself in the mouth with a rifle on the morning of April 5. The question is now being asked by the authorities, Did Mrs. Palmer commit suicide, or was she murdered, and by whom? Deputy District Attorney Spencer and Deputy Sheriffs Harry Meyer and George McMillan left the city yesterday for Fairview, to make an investigation into the mysterious affair. Up to an early hour this morning, the officers had not returned to town.

The clew, which caused the case to be reopened was supplied by the dead woman's little daughter, Gertie Palmer, 2½ years old, who several times recently is said to have made this statement to her uncle and aunt: "My papa shot my mamma in the mouth, laid her on the floor, locked the door, and then jumped out of the window." The dead woman's brother-in-law, Fred Wagner, of Cottrell, first stirred up the matter by writing a letter to the Coroner of this county, asking for information concerning the supposed suicide.

Charges Made by Fred Wagner.

Mr. Wagner's first letter is as follows:

Cottrell, Or., April 7, 1902.—The Coroner of Multnomah County—My Dear Sir: Pardon me for taking the privilege of writing to you in regard to the supposed suicide of Mrs. E. A. Palmer, of Fairview, Or. I would like to hear full details of testimony, surroundings, etc. I do not believe that she did commit suicide, but think that she was murdered by her husband. I am well aware of the fact that she was shamefully abused and neglected. I can bring evidence that he told her to take laudanum to make her sleep, and that he wished to h—— that she'd taken enough never to awake. He told her that she was crazy, and he would take her off to the asylum. He tantalized the very life out of her. As I understand, he said at the inquest that they never had any trouble. This is a lie, and I can produce 50 persons, and more, if necessary, to substantiate my statement. Is it possible for the jaw to be broken, if she killed herself. My theory is that he knocked her down, and while she was unconscious poked the gun down her throat and finished the job. If there is any doubt, in your opinion, let me know, for the sake of relatives and friends. My wife is a sister of the late deceased Nellie Palmer. Yours, respectfully, FRED WAGNER.

The Coroner answered the above as follows:

"None of the conditions named in your letter came out in evidence at the inquest. Many of the neighbors were present, and two of them gave evidence, as well as the husband and the little boy, Alfred. The jury was mostly composed of men in the neighborhood. If, however, you have any suspicions in the matter, or new evidence to present, I shall be glad to see justice done, and to help you in any way I can. Please let me hear from you again."

He Makes Additional Charges.

In reply, Mr. Wagner wrote to the Coroner, as follows:

Cottrell, Or., April 22, 1902.—County Coroner, Portland, Or.—My Dear Sir: Your answer to my letter of recent date in regard to inquest of Nellie Palmer, of Cleone, was duly received. Many thanks for your kindness. Since writing to you I have learned some light on the case. Mr. Palmer's little girl, 2½ years old, has told her uncle and aunt at two different times or more that her papa shot her mamma in the mouth, and laid her on the floor, locked the doors, and jumped out of the window. She says that her papa told her to go out of the way. This little girl would undoubtedly repeat the same statement. She is an exceedingly smart child. She is staying with her aunt, Mrs. E. L. Camp, Rockwood, Or. Palmer has said that I suspected him of the crime. I could not help but use him coolly. The party he spoke to about me said it did look bad to have the gun lay across her lap. At this time Palmer said: "How in h—— did Alfred (the little boy) know that Gertie was up first?" This case must be sifted to the bottom. What course is there to be pursued? Could there be another inquest held? Could her jaw be broken without a blow? Please let me hear from you again. Very respectfully,

FRED WAGNER.

District Attorney Consulted.

It so happened that Mr. Wagner called on the Coroner Tuesday, when the Coroner was about to send a letter in reply to the letter of April 22, and what was written in the letter was repeated to Mr. Wagner in the course of conversation. "The proper manner to proceed in this case," said the Coroner, "is to present the matter in detail to the District Attorney, and I will lend any assistance in my power, as the District Attorney is the proper officer, who would now have jurisdiction in the matter." The Coroner gave Mr. Wagner a letter to present to the District Attorney.

Palmer's Testimony at Inquest.

In the light of the charges made in these letters, it will be interesting to quote from the evidence given by the accused husband, E. A. Palmer, at the Coroner's inquest, held at Fairview, April 5. Palmer testified in part: "The deceased, Nellie Dollie Palmer, was my wife. We have four children, two boys and two girls. Early this morning I arose and lighted the fire, and my wife and I ate breakfast together. I held the baby, and the other children were asleep. About 7 o'clock A. M. I left for my work, and she said good-bye to me, which was customary. About one-half hour afterward Mr. Byers came to where I was at work, with word that I should go home at once. I found Mr. Turner and Mrs. Byers at my home, having been informed on the way by Mrs. Axtell that my wife had shot herself, and was dead. My wife was lying on the floor of the kitchen. I did not see the gun. Everything has always been pleasant between us. When the last baby was three weeks old my wife became hysterical and I had to call Dr. Botkin. A day or two afterward she ran out of the house in her night clothes, saying that she had taken laudanum, and begged me to allow her to die. She imagined at times that she was crazy, and begged to be taken away, for fear that it was not safe to have her around."

The testimony of Alfred Palmer, 6 years old, was: "The deceased was my mother. I went into the kitchen after papa went away, and I found mamma lying on the floor in a corner, with the gun lying across her knees. I picked up the gun and brought it into the sitting-room, and placed it near the stove. I did not hear the shot, as I was asleep."

Jury Found Suicide Verdict.

The Coroner was not informed at the time that any of the children were present when the shooting took place, so none of them were called, except little Alfred Palmer. The evidence given by the neighbors was unimportant, and everything at that time pointed to suicide, and the jury accordingly rendered a verdict to that effect.

W. N. DANIELS MUST PAY $30

He Is Fined for Selling Short-Weight Butter.

Municipal Judge Cameron fined W. N. Daniels $30 yesterday on a charge of selling short-weight butter. Daniels gave notice that he would appeal from the decision.

"The charge in this case is that Mr. Daniels did expose or offer for sale 60 squares of butter, each of which is and was represented by him to contain two pounds of butter, when in fact these squares and each of them weighed less than two pounds—30 ounces or less at the time of offering and exposing the same," said the Judge. "Section 7 of the act under which the prosecution is brought looks to the protection of the purchaser. On weighing all the boxes there is an average shortage of 3½ pounds to the box. One box short in weight went one pound more. Mr. Daniels ought to have seen to it that the butter he received from the Elspass Creamery Company, of Eugene, weighed what it was represented to be. Maybe the creamery people are to blame in this matter. The solid butter in one box weighed 55½ pounds, and in another 56¼ pounds, when they should have weighed 60 pounds. Some rolls weighed short 1¾ ounces, and some 2¾ ounces. Intent does not enter into this case. If defendant is paying for full weight butter and is receiving nearly four pounds less to the box of 60 pounds than he is really purchasing, he is a careless business man. The wrapper on the square of butter represents that there are two full pounds of butter, and the public should not be deceived. The lowest penalty under this act is a fine of $25, and the highest $100. The defendant is found guilty and is fined $30."

CITY VIEW PARK SOLD.

Mysterious Personage Has Bought a Controlling Interest.

A controlling interest in City View Park has been bought by a mysterious somebody. Benjamin I. Cohen has been acting as the agent. He refused yesterday to reveal the identity of the mysterious somebody. The land is on the east bank of the Willamette, a short distance above the south end of Ross Island, adjoining Sellwood. A number of purchases of land have been bought along that bank of the river in the past few weeks, as far down as Inman, Poulsen & Co.'s mill. Some people believe the purchaser of all the land is the Portland City & Oregon Railway Company. Others are of the opinion that the buyer is speculating on the probable location of 1905 fair at City View. The City View tract is a sightly location. It contains 179 acres, and has been valued at $71,000 by its joint owners, the City View Park Association. Richard Everding was president, and his interest was four-tenths. Benjamin I. Cohen's interest was two-tenths. It is said that the other four owners, each holding one-tenth, have not sold.

PERSONAL MENTION.

J. H. Raley, Democratic candidate for Attorney-General, is registered at the Imperial from Pendleton.

J. W. Hobbs, United States Internal Revenue Inspector, is registered at the Perkins, from McMinnville.

E. D. Briggs, who has been spending several days in Portland, returned to his home in Ashland on last evening's train.

W. H. Grindstaff, who went to Green River Hot Springs some two weeks ago for the benefit of his health, returned yesterday in a much improved condition.

M. A. Miller, Democratic candidate for Senator from Linn County, was in the city yesterday, and called upon Chairman White, of the Democratic State Central Committee.

Hon. J. N. Williamson, Republican candidate for Congress, came down from The Dalles yesterday afternoon to confer with local Republican leaders concerning the details of his campaign. He will return to Eastern Oregon this morning.

R. J. Hendricks, editor of the Salem Statesman, was in Portland yesterday, and called at Republican headquarters. He confirms the report which has been heretofore received, that the Republicans will carry Marion County, as usual.

L. T. Harris, of Eugene, who is in the city, says that the people of his town express general regret over the resignation of President Frank Strong, of the University of Oregon. Mr. Harris is president of the Alumni Association of the University.

Judge E. D. Potter, of Eugene, chairman of the Republican County Central Committee in Lane County, was a visitor at state headquarters yesterday. He says that the Republican ticket is being loyally supported in Lane County, and that it will receive the usual majority at the election.

State Senator John D. Daly, of Benton County, was in the city yesterday on personal business. He is a candidate for re-election. He is best known throughout the state as the author of the Daly textbook law, by means of which the textbook monopoly was broken.

Dr. T. W. Harris, of Eugene, who was in the city yesterday, is chairman of the Republican Congressional committee of the First District, and is now serving his second term in that capacity. He is the father of L. T. Harris, who is again running for the State Legislature from Lane County.

THE DALLES, Or., April 30.—Mrs. Mays, widow of the late Robert Mays, is critically ill at her home, in this city. All the members of the family have been summoned to her bedside. There is little hope of her recovery.

NEW YORK, April 30.—Northwestern people registered at New York hotels today as follows:

From Portland—R. Jacobs and wife, at the Herald Square; Mrs. J. B. Montgomery, Miss Montgomery, at the Manhattan.

From Spokane—J. A. Davis and wife, at the Fifth Avenue.

From Tacoma—Mrs. H. M. Lockwood, at the Earlington.

From Seattle—J. W. Cover, at the Broadway Central; A. Berns, at the Astor.

NEW YORK, April 30.—Andrew Carnegie left today on the steamer St. Louis for his estate in Scotland. With him were Mrs. Carnegie, Miss Carnegie and James Bertram, his private secretary.

Charged With Stealing a Paper.

George Rawley, 7 years old, was arrested early yesterday morning by Policeman Isaacs, charged with stealing a copy of The Oregonian from beneath a doorway at Second and Market streets. The people who live in the house reported to the police that they had missed their Oregonian for several mornings, about the same hour, and Policeman Isaacs was ordered to watch in the hallway, with the door closed. The carrier came along, placed the newspaper under the door, and shortly afterward some one stealthily abstracted The Oregonian. Isaacs opened the door suddenly, and after a chase he arrested the boy, Rawley, who was running away. The boy was taken to the police station, and was afterward taken home by his father.

Death of Miss Nellie C. Kindred.

At St. Vincent's Hospital yesterday Miss Nellie C. Kindred, daughter of Thomas A. Kindred, died of peritonitis, the result of an operation recently performed. She was 19 years old, had been educated at the Sisters' Academy on the East Side, and was esteemed by a wide circle of friends.

For trunks, go to the Harris Trunk Co.

Skirting Moreens in plain colors and fancy stripes—All the leading colors—Regular 50c value ..... 33c yard

New Bed Department on the Third floor—Enamel and Brass Beds of all kinds.

Meier & Frank Co. | Meier & Frank Co.

Hammocks in all styles and qualities—Immense variety to choose from—(Third floor).

Willamette Sewing Machines are strictly high-grade, and guaranteed for 10 years.

Friday Surprise Sale

A most extraordinary silk offering for the 664th Friday Surprise Sale—The silk store is generous once again—We won't keep the good news from you—Here's the meat of the story—Selling begins promptly at 8 o'clock Friday morning.

1800 yards of 21-in. fine quality peau de soie Silk in pink, black, light blue, navy, reseda, royal blue, white, castor, cardinal, wine, maize, old rose and gray—A special buy from one of America's best silk houses—Your choice for Friday only at ..... 63c yd

(See Fifth-street window display).

Men's Shoes we're selling the best $3.50 shoes ever made for $2.95—Every pair this season's best styles in velour or box calf, enamel or vici kid—Light or heavy soles—All sizes—Included in the lot are many $4 styles—Your choice for $2.95

The Cloak Store

The news of last Sunday morning has created a lively disturbance in the garment store during the past three days—Kept us very busy with a host of happy buyers—And the news is so good we expect a continuation of the busy times for many days to come—Included are Raglans, best styles at greatly reduced prices—Best styles in Walking Skirts at special prices—Great bargains in Percale and Lawn Wrappers—Bargains in Ladies' Suits and Silk Etons.

Men's Clothing

Men's fine all-wool black clays at ..... $10.00 suit
The newest in black and white effects at ..... $13.65 suit
Men's all-wool Bicycle Suits at ..... $5.00 to $10.00 suit
Men's Topcoats—"The Bradford," at ..... $12.00 to $18.00
(Second floor).

In the Basement

Lawn Mowers, all sizes.
"Gurney" Refrigerators.
Largest line of Dinner Sets in the city.
Mammoth new line of Glassware just received.
New Glass Candelabra.
Swell pieces of Cut Glass.
New Fancy China

Grocery Department

'Phone Private Exchange 4.

3 cans P. C. Oysters ... 25c
1-lb. jar Chipped Beef 25c
1 pkge. Corn Starch ... 5c
Hires' Root Beer 15c
Press Matches, 6 packages 25c
1-lb. can Ground Chocolate 25c
Qt. Hill's Olive Oil 90c
1-lb. Royal Baking Powder 45c
Smith's Kippered Herring 22c
Can R. & H. Asparagus 20c
2 packages Currants .. 25c
Jell-o, all flavors, 3 packages 25c
Large size C. & B. Chow-Chow 65c
Gal. Log Cabin Syrup $1.25
16-oz. bottle Queen Olives 30c

22-lbs. Western Dry Granulated Sugar for $1.00.

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TOUGHS STILL AT LARGE

ASSAILANTS OF MISS FAITH STEWART NOT CAUGHT BY POLICE.

Tony Arnaud, Saloon Boss, Arrested for Attacking Her Co-Workers, Is Put on Trial.

The five Whitechapel toughs who brutally assaulted Miss Faith Stewart, the missionary for fallen women, last Sunday night, have not been caught yet. Detective Weiner is still working on the case, without having secured a clew to the perpetrators of the outrage. Miss Stewart passed a fairly comfortable day, and was able to partake of slight nourishment, but she still suffers pain from the nature of the terrible beating she received.

Curiously enough, some of the most sincere sympathizers who regret the treatment to which the plucky young missionary has been subjected, are the fallen women of Whitechapel, among whom Miss Stewart has labored with marked success for many months. Some of these women undoubtedly saw the assault, or they know who the ruffians are. But it is questionable if they will reveal any clew which would lead to the detection of the guilty parties. These women live in terror of their male consorts, and they themselves receive regular beatings at the hands of these worthless loafers. Indeed, it is strongly suspected that the men who struck Miss Stewart belong to the very class of moral outlaws who have suffered the loss of their human chattels by Miss Stewart's missionary work among them. Miss Stewart has persuaded many girls to lead honest lives and forsake Whitechapel saloons, dance halls and dives. Through the influence of herself and her associates, she has procured work for these frail unfortunates, and more than one saloon boss, angry at the loss of his dance hall slaves, has threatened to do her harm.

The fact developed yesterday that about 9 o'clock Sunday night, when Miss Stewart was talking to unfortunate women on Second street, near Everett, she was reviled and insulted by drunken young loafers who passed by. One young tough took hold of her dress and struck her on the back. No policemen were in sight, although the neighborhood is the toughest in town.

Tony Arnaud Up in Court.

Charges of assault and battery were made against Tony Arnaud, of the Elegant saloon, Fourth and Everett streets, in the Municipal Court yesterday, on the complaint of Miss Mamie Hodson, a co-worker of Miss Faith Stewart, the missionary, who was brutally assaulted.

Tony Arnaud is a short, thickset man of about 40 years old, and he has an obstinate air. It developed later that Arnaud expected Lawyer Alexander Bernstein, of the firm of Bernstein & Cohen, to defend him, but Mr. Bernstein was not present.

Deputy District Attorney Gatens read the charge named in the complaint to the defendant, and the latter said: "Not guilty."

"When will you be ready for trial?" asked Mr. Gatens.

"Right now," said Arnaud, promptly.

"Have you an attorney?" asked Municipal Judge Cameron.

"I don't need any," growled the saloon boss, after casting a despairing glance around the courtroom.

Miss Hodson Testifies.

Miss Mamie Hodson, a slight-looking young woman, was the first witness called. "I live at 330 East Sixth street, a rescue home for women, and I have lived there three weeks," she began.

"Whom do you work for?" queried Mr. Gatens.

"For the Lord," replied the witness. "I met the defendant in his saloon Saturday night. I went there to talk to a girl named Ethel Phillips, who works at Arnaud's dance hall, and—"

"I don't keep no dance hall," interrupted the defendant.

"You had better keep quiet," warned the Judge. "You will have your chance on the witness-stand, all in good time. I asked you if you wished to have a lawyer, and you said you did not."

Arnaud growled and again looked despairingly around the courtroom.

Details of the Attack.

"Arnaud told me that Ethel was not in his place, but I told him she was, and I went and spoke to her," proceeded Miss Hodson. "Sunday night, Miss Fields and myself went to Arnaud's place, looking for Miss Stewart, as we were alarmed about her. I asked about Ethel, and Arnaud struck Miss Fields, and then he struck me. His blow sent me out on the sidewalk. He kept telling us to go away from there. It was about midnight."

"I told the girl that I did not want her bothering about my business, "interjected Arnaud. He was again warned to either ask questions, or keep quiet.

Case Is Postponed.

Miss Fields, a co-worker with Misses Stewart and Hodson, began to testify that she lived in the Haven of Rest, 330 East Sixth street, when Arnaud interrupted, and Abe Tichner came to his rescue, saying: "On behalf of this man, I would ask that his case be postponed. His lawyer, Mr. Bernstein, is not present."

"I asked him at the outset if he wished the services of an attorney, and he said he did not," remarked the Judge.

"Well, I didn't think I was goin' to get mixed up with a jack pot like this," growled Arnaud.

The case was postponed until this afternoon.

Miss Stewart Improves.

Yesterday afternoon, Detective Weiner, City Physician Zan and Deputy District Attorney Manning called on Miss Stewart at her home on East Sixth street, and after a good deal of persuasion she consented to see them. She spoke in a whisper, and was apparently unable to explain exactly where the assault took place, the exact time, or describe the appearance of the five men who assaulted her. "I found her temperature normal and her pulse good," stated Dr. Zan, afterward. "There were no marks of violence on her throat, but I cannot say whether she is seriously injured or not, as she would not permit me to examine her. I should say from the slight examination I was permitted to make that probably she will recover. She suffers from a weak condition of health, however, as she had previously been ill with tuberculosis. She is such a delicate woman that a shock might be fatal to her."

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Currycombs ..... 5c and .08
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Door bolts ..... .08
Gas tapers, per box ..... .05
Ceiling hooks ..... .04
Door hinges, pair ..... .08
Shelf brackets, 5 inch ..... .08
Turner chisels, set 2.25
Dish mop ..... .03
Corkscrews ..... .08
Doll heads ..... .05

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WASH LACE EVENT OF THE SEASON

By offering 4800 yards of 1 to 2½-inch CLUNY pattern Lace Edges and Insertions at ..... 4c yd.
The prettiest, best wearing and most wanted of all laces for wash goods and useful in every house.

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All kinds of needful articles and many money-saving prices. As examples:

Hudnut's 25c Tooth Powder at 19c
25c French Perfume, triple extract, all odors, oz. 10c
25c Silk Garter Elastic, all colors, yard 19c
Waxed Paper, for confectionery and lunches, now 3 quires for 10c
Large 8c box Moth Balls, box 5c

Great Flower Sale Tomorrow

Your choice of the entire sample line of a prominent New York importer of French flowers at 79c BUNCH

Not a bunch worth less than $1.50, many worth $3.50. Be sure and get your share of them. See window.

THE PINGREE GLORIA —$3.50— SHOE FOR WOMEN

That Dinner Set

You've been wanting so long, should be bought here now. We have more dinner sets than ever before and

ALL ARE REDUCED THIS WEEK

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OLD BLUE ENGLISH PORCELAIN

Are very tempting.

Cups and Saucers, per pair, 9c
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Other pieces proportionately priced.

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Dorothy Vernon is an Elizabethan Maid, but there is in her a suggestion of willful womanhood as it reveals itself through the ages, a touch of the eternal feminine in its defiance of authority for the sake of the man it loves. She will appeal more potently, we think, to the popular imagination than did even the heroine of the earlier book, because she is depicted in more vigorous lines and stronger colors, because Mr. Major has mastered his trade.

Illustrated by Howard Chandler Christy.

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China Marbles, 100 for 5c
Imitation Agates, 50 for 5c
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Real Agates .... 5c and 8c

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May in Our Millinery Department

Come and see the transformation, see how the dark, somber colors give way to light, airy Summer hats. Wide Brim, Flower Trimmed Tuscans, White Trimmed Hats, hundreds of New Trimmed Panamas, Sumatras and Cubans. The whole City of Portland don't make half the showing we do.

TODAY WE ARE ALSO DISPLAYING

Ten new styles of Untrimmed Panamas, Sumatras, and Fancy Straw San Toy Sailors—the most desirable hat of the season, and will offer them

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It is the only way you will win in the long run. We have just received another shipment of those justly celebrated

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If you know anything, you know you have a lot to learn. You are invited to call and be taught.

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