

ELMER E. COOVERT IS DEAD AFTER ILLNESS OF ONLY SEVEN DAYS

Leading Good Roads Advocate Succumbs to Attack of Appendicitis.

APPENDICITIS MAIN CAUSE

Well Known Portland Attorney's Death Caused by Large Circle of Friends; Funeral Tomorrow.

Elmer E. Coover is dead. The city has lost one of its leading lawyers.

Mr. Coover's death occurred at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon at Good Samaritan hospital. He had been ill just a week. He suffered an attack of appendicitis for which he was operated upon last Sunday night. This attack, coupled with a chronic ailment, proved too much for his powers of recuperation. He had no anticipation of dying. Until 15 minutes before his death he was conversing with his close friend, Roadmaster John B. Yeon, he expressed the most unquestioning confidence of recovery.

Funeral to be held tomorrow. The funeral will take place Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock from Scottish Hills cathedral, under Masonic auspices. Besides being a prominent lawyer, he was also a charter member of the Knights of Pythias in Portland. The body will be cremated. S. Benson, whom Mr. Coover served as counsel during the period of 11 years, is making every effort to return from California, where he went more than a week ago, in time for the service.

Was Native of Indiana.

Elmer Ellsworth Coover was born in White county, Indiana, April 2, 1863. He came to Oregon with his family consisting of his father, Johnson B. Coover, his mother, Elizabeth Coover, two brothers, Jasper W. and M. L. Coover, and his sister, Kate, during September of 1871, settling on a farm in Yamhill county.

He attended McMinnville college, teaching school to pay his way, when a youth of 19. He studied law in Astoria and was admitted to the bar at the age of 22 years. He entered into the practice of his profession at Vancouver, Wash., where he remained eight years in partnership with George W. Stapleton.

Then he came to Portland, opening offices in the Chamber of Commerce building, and 17 years later moved to the Yeon building. The partnership was dissolved in 1911.

His marriage to Margaret Baker, daughter of Dan and Nancy Baker, had occurred October 20, 1887, at Vancouver, Wash., and from this union two sons were born, Lynn B. Coover, who was associated with his father in the practice of law, and Dean J. Coover, a student at Reed college. His home in Portland was at 325 Johnson street.

He was intimately associated with S. Benson, Amos S. Benson and John B. Yeon. Fully in sympathy with their enthusiasm and devotion to the cause of better built highways in Oregon he gave of his time freely and without stint. He was remarkably keen in his analysis of legal problems connected with good roads progress.

"And he was so interested and ready to serve that I could call him out of bed at 4 o'clock in the morning for help and he would give it cordially and efficiently regardless of the time required," said Roadmaster Yeon, yesterday evening.

Did Much to Improve Roads. Sorrow was expressed by Amos S. Benson. "Through the death of E. E. Coover I have lost one of the best friends I ever had and have been separated from one of the finest characters I have ever known," said he.

"A great deal more credit was due him than he ever received because of his work in advancing the good roads movement in Oregon. He was a candidate for state senator solely to assist in enacting some road laws and to promote the good roads movement. His motives were of the best and highest. He had nothing to sell and no ax to grind. One notable achievement was accomplished through his insisting upon a 10-year clause on Multnomah county paving and showing that it would be legal."

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PROMINENT LAWYER DEAD



Elmer Ellsworth Coover. — Photograph by Grove.

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Not Politically Ambitious. "It will be hard to find some one to take his place."

"Mr. Coover had no political ambition. It was only after we brought pressure to bear upon him that he sought election to the legislature as joint senator. He was deeply interested in securing much needed constructive road legislation and felt that he could better assist in securing it by becoming a member of the legislative body. He was also interested in legislation that would help business and the general development of the state."

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DREAD OF BECOMING INSANE IS CAUSE OF SHOOTING TRAGEDY

Details in Connection With Homicide and Suicide Are Related; Relatives Arrive.

TO PLAN FUNERAL TODAY

Mrs. Ellen Graves Shoots Her Mother, Mrs. Minnie Graves—Then Turns the Weapon Upon Herself.

At the public morgue last night, the bodies of Mrs. Minnie E. Graves and her daughter, Mrs. Ellen Graves, victims of yesterday morning's murder-suicide tragedy at 485 Ainsworth avenue, lay still unclaimed by the relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. John Jeffers of Astoria arrived on a late train last night, and R. L. Graves, husband of the elder woman victim, met them at the train. Mrs. Jeffers was a sister of Mrs. Graves and a daughter of Mrs. Graves. Some time today arrangements for the funeral will be made.

The tragedy was committed some time close to 6 o'clock yesterday morning by Mrs. Graves, and was apparently the result of a fear on the part of the woman that she was becoming insane.

The mother, her constant, inseparable friend and adviser, was asleep in her bedroom, connected with the little store at the southeast corner of Ainsworth avenue and Tenth street, in Woodlawn. The daughter occupied a room upstairs.

Deadly Commits Deed. Mrs. Graves, apparently after a night of sleeplessness, slipped downstairs at dawn, clad in her nightgown and a bath robe, and crept into bed beside her mother. Covering herself with the bed clothes, she leaned over, shot her mother in the head, causing instant death, and then shot herself in the right temple. A note written in the right hand explained that she feared insanity.

Mr. Graves occupied a room across the hall, and the shots were fired just as his alarm clock was ringing, causing him to confuse the sounds with the slamming door. He arose, prepared his breakfast and lunch, thinking to play a joke on his wife, before he became alarmed at her failure to appear.

Trying the locked door, he finally secured the aid of a neighbor, and the two men burst into the room, only to be appalled at the gory spectacle on the bed.

Woman Attempts Suicide. Mrs. Graves was 38 years old and was married about six years ago in Astoria to Carl Graves, a steam fitter. The couple separated shortly afterward. Mrs. Graves, alleged to be a young musician. It was said that they were engaged, but that in June, Graves, the missing husband, wrote her a letter in which he asked her to get a divorce, sent this man a postcard bearing threats that caused the friendship with Mrs. Graves to be dissolved. Since that time Mrs. Graves has been in a highly nervous state and of a melancholic turn of mind. Several weeks ago she attempted suicide with bichloride of mercury, but medical assistance frustrated her desire.

Francis Richter, the blind pianist residing on the east side, whose name was more than once mentioned yesterday in discussions of Mrs. Graves' vicissitudes, denied last night that he had ever been engaged to the young woman.

Studies Are Discontinued. "We were friends and I taught her in piano studies for two years, but that was all," Mrs. Richter was asked to assert. "She continued her studies until June, when she said she was going on a vacation. A couple of days ago she called again and said she was planning to begin taking lessons again. She seemed to be in an excellent frame of mind and enthusiastic over her work."

Mr. Richter said that there had been no matrimonial engagement between them and denied any knowledge of the threatening postcard that Graves is said to have mailed to him. They had been out together a number of times, he said, and rumors of a matrimonial alliance were due, he thought, to the fact that he had called one night at the Graves home for an evening of music. Mrs. Graves was said to be a talented musician. She had studied for some time with Mr. Richter's father before taking lessons from him.

Loss Is Hard Blow. Bereft of his last relative on the Pacific coast in the death of his wife, R. L. Graves wandered the streets of the city all day yesterday, his grief unconsolable. Last night he returned to his home, where he asked him to take charge of the store until he was able to attend to affairs again, and then went to a downtown hotel.

The terrible events of the day had made him very ill and he at once went to bed.

He was married to Mrs. Graves three years ago and neighbors said they were very much attached to each other. They were planning big things for the little business in Woodlawn. The combined store building and home was erected last spring. The structure is architecturally a pleasing one and the home is tastefully furnished. Barring the troubles of the younger woman the home life of the three had been very happy, neighbors said, in the past.

He was taken to the Good Samaritan hospital yesterday. The burns are considered serious. The burns are on the chest, left arm and left side. The flames were beaten out by his mother. The lady injuries were at first thought slight, but complications yesterday caused his hurried removal to the hospital. He is a pupil in the Hawthorne school.

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Man Arrested for The Theft of Purse

Walter Spruance Taken Into Custody for 'Act and Makes a Confession, the Police Declare.

With the contents of a purse stolen from Miss Ellen O'Gara, stenographer, Walter Spruance, 47 years old, erstwhile movie actor, alleged ex-convict and a many time jail resident, started out yesterday in business for the first time, the police declared.

With this money Spruance first bought lunch, then a box of snuff. The next purchase was a pint of alcohol, 85 cents. This he diluted with water and placed in two bottles. One of these he sold for 50 cents.

But to this there is a prelude. Early yesterday morning, Spruance met Detective Fred Mallett. Spruance told Mallett of his recent exploits as a moving picture hobo and showed him some pictures the movie man had presented.

"You'd better take this," said Spruance, "it may come in handy some time."

"I know you all right, and I don't need the picture," replied Mallett. Fifteen minutes later Mallett had custody of the picture and didn't know it. He was investigating the O'Gara robbery. A good description was secured and Spruance was corralled about noon. He gleefully confessed.

Five More Arrested in Nelson Murder Case

Four of Prisoners Women—Man Is Guy Bremner, Logger, Who Is Held in Custody—Others Released.

Five more persons were arrested yesterday by Detectives Goltz and Craddock, as a result of the investigation of the Axel Nelson murder case, which took place last night in South Portland.

Four of the prisoners were women and one a man. He is Guy Bremner, logger, arrested at 370 and 380 street, and still in jail last night. The women were released after they had been questioned throughout the day.

Nelson was found in front of the old U. S. saloon in South Portland, shot through the heart. No motive for the murder has ever been found, but the police have been questioning the occupants of every South Portland rooming house, in an effort to get a line on the movements of Nelson the night before his death.

In the course of their investigation the detectives arrested the Seattle woman, employed as a chambermaid at the D'Moy hotel, on the night of the murder, promenade through South Portland resorts dressed in the rough working clothes of a man, and is said to have had a fight at 23 First street, where Bremner was arrested. Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Mary Tracy, Beale Olson and Edna Burns were all taken in custody, but later released. All denied any acquaintance with Nelson.

Boy Runs Two Miles With Bullet in Heel

Max Kiser Accidentally Shot When 22-Calibre Rifle Is Discharged. Lad Is Shot in the Heel when a 22-calibre rifle was accidentally fired while he was in the hands of an eight-year-old playmate, Max Kiser, 13 years old, of No. 841 Ochoco avenue, Sellwood, ran all the way from his home to the hospital, a distance of two miles, yesterday afternoon.

The boys were playing in the woods near Milwaukie and the smaller boy was trying to dislodge a cartridge in the gun when it discharged. The bullet entered the fleshy part of Max's ankle, and by the time he arrived home the leg was swollen to double its natural size.

He was taken to St. Vincent's hospital where the bullet was removed by Dr. Edgar Anderson.

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