

OCALA EVENING STAR

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OCALA, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1908.

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DOCTOR RUSTIN'S DEATH

The Result of a Suicide Pact—Confession of Miss Abbie Rice, the Doctor's Affinity

Omaha, Sept. 11.—That the death of Dr. Frederick C. Rustin, the young doctor who was found by his wife on the porch of their home last Wednesday, at 3 a. m., suffering from a bullet wound in his abdomen, was the result of a suicide pact into which he had entered with two others there can be no doubt now, but at the same time it has been shown that Dr. Rustin did not kill himself.

The story, told in great detail yesterday at the coroner's inquest by Mrs. Abbie C. Rice, the doctor's "affinity," created a profound sensation although some hints of it had been whispered about ever since Sunday, when Mrs. Rice made a confession to the police in the jail where she was detained as a witness.

Before Mrs. Rice gave her startling testimony Mrs. Rustin, the widow of the doctor was called to the witness stand. She stood erect and swept a swift glance over the crowded room. Then her look rested upon Abbie Rice. Mrs. Rice returned the gaze steadfastly. "Both women seemed calm, but both were pale as the face of Mars, Rustin looking as though it might have been carved from white marble.

Glared at by Mrs. Rice
While Mrs. Rustin was giving her testimony about finding her husband wounded on the porch of her home, Mrs. Rice watched her with alert eyes and occasionally would turn and whisper to others about her. Mrs. Rice is a decided brunette, small, plump and of attractive appearance.

When Mrs. Rustin had stepped down from the stand and her maid, one of two policemen and two physicians had given their testimony as to the facts in the case which have already been published, Mrs. Rice was called to the witness chair.
Mrs. Rice gave her testimony in a clear, straightforward and unhesitating way, although once or twice she broke down and sobbed. Each time she quickly forced herself to composure and went on with the tragic details of one of the most remarkable suicide contracts ever entered into. There were three parties to the compact, according to the young woman's testimony—Dr. Rustin, Charles Edward Davis, connected with the First National Bank of Omaha and a brother of the vice president of that institution, Frederick H. Davis, and the witness herself.

From the first the surgeon who attended Dr. Rustin after the shooting agreed that his wound could not have been self-inflicted, and the only thing that Dr. Rustin said to his wife when she found him sitting on the porch was, "A man shot me."

No Powder Marks
Again, there were no marks of powder on Dr. Rustin's clothing, and the nature of the wound showed that the bullet had been fired from a distance further than would have been possible had he shot himself. And the pistol was never found.

Mrs. Rice testifies that Dr. Rustin was so worried over his financial difficulties and so despondent, that he drank nearly a quart of whisky a day, although it had little apparent effect on him. She said that he had begged her to shoot him in the abdomen, so that he would live for a few days, and have time to arrange his affairs before he died, and that she had agreed to do so, but that when it came to doing it she lost her nerve and could not. Then, she testified, he told her that he had found a man who would kill him. He said the man was Charles Edward Davis, who was a morphine fiend, and who had agreed to shoot the doctor if the doctor would give him a drug that would surely kill him. The woman herself was to commit suicide by drinking laudanum and taking morphine in her rooms.

She said that when she left Dr. Rustin at midnight within a block of his house, three hours before his wife found him sitting wounded upon the porch, he bade her goodby and said he would never see her again, and she left him with the understanding that she was to kill herself that night. But when she reached her room she could not bring herself to carry out her part of the agreement, and she called up Dr. Rustin's house again and again on the telephone, and inquired for him, for she wanted to tell him that the pact was broken so far as she was concerned. But she could not get any communication with him, and she read of his shooting in extra editions of the morning papers.

"I met Dr. Rustin shortly after I came to Omaha last December," said Mrs. Rice, "and I was with him almost daily ever since that time. He was a pretty hard drinker, and bought a pint bottle of whisky every day. Two months ago he became despondent and increased the amount, but although I knew he was drinking nearly a quart of whisky every day, I never saw him greatly intoxicated.
"Finally, four weeks ago, he declared to me his intention of taking his life. He told me his finances were in a bad way, that his business was going down, and that he owed many bills to doctors for fees due them which he had collected without their knowledge. He said that the bank was pressing him hard for money and that his mother had helped him all she could.

Better Off Dead Than Alive
"Then he told me of carrying a heavy insurance on his life, and said that he could provide better for his wife and family if he were dead than if he were alive. Mrs. Rustin went to the country about a month ago and in her absence the doctor took me to his house to dinner, together with a gentleman friend of his. He was anxious for me to see his home. When he learned that his wife would come home sooner than he expected, he told me that that meant his death would be hastened.

I went to the Hotel Loyal to live. The doctor visited me there and one day showed me a revolver. He said that he had bought it from a pawnshop, telling the clerk that he was from out of town. He asked me to get a box of cartridges for the pistol.

SHADOWED BY A SPIRIT

The Revelations of a Ghost Detective Have Broken Up a Once Happy Home in Oklahoma

Guthrie, Ok., Sept. 11.—To the shade of a long dead Indian chief is laid the chief responsibility for the disruption of the Barnes home, and the development of an unusual sensation in society circles of the State capital.
There was a stir in society when Mrs. Susie Barnes, daughter of J. J. McAlester, a member of the State Corporation Commission, filed a suit for divorce, charging her husband, Simpson H. Barnes, manager of the Muskogee Street Construction Co., with cruelty and improper conduct.

But when Barnes filed a cross-bill, claiming that his wife was due solely to the influence of a crafty Indian spirit, society gasped. And then, before society recovered from the amazement produced by such a weird claim, the suit for divorce was withdrawn by the woman's lawyers, and society was left bewildered.

Mr. Barnes, in his cross-petition, charged that his wife was "unduly influenced" by a spiritualistic organization of McAlester, of which she was a member. Society people of McAlester, Muskogee and Guthrie were unaware of Mrs. Barnes' proclivities in this direction.

Her Father Wealthy
Her father is reputed to be the wealthiest man in McAlester, his old home. He owns business blocks, large farms, and several enterprises. He sprang into public notice during the recent campaign, when he was elected to his present position, by paying two sundry \$10,000 in cash for a gilded brick.

The comely daughter of the State Corporation Commissioner is widely known. The marital life of the Barneses was considered one of unusual harmony. Mr. Barnes bought costly jewels for his wife, Petite and refined. Mrs. Barnes' Indian blood gave a tinge to her fair skin that would have attracted attention anywhere. She was a recognized social leader.

No one suspected that there was a skeleton in the family closet of the Barneses until the sudden filing of the suit for divorce, except possibly the members of the spiritualistic society.

Spirit Delusion
Mrs. Barnes was deluded by the spirits of her acquaintances, according to her husband's petition. Mediums said they held communion with her grandfather, who was a Choctaw chief, and her twin sister, who died in infancy, and the spirit of the Choctaw is said to have reported that her husband, while absent on business trips,

Got a Man to Kill Him
"Then he told me that he had got a man to do the job. He said that the man was a 'dope fiend, and that he was to give the man enough 'dope' to kill himself if he would shoot him. He introduced me to Charles Davis and said he was the man who had agreed to shoot him. He put Davis on a West Farm car and we returned to his office, where he told me his plans. He gave me a check for \$500, which he said would be cashed at Davis' bank after he had been shot.

"We then started west on Farmington street and he said it was the last opportunity I would have to walk with him. We walked to within a block of his house. He had taken considerable morphine himself besides drinking whisky. He showed me where his children had played at a house where they formerly lived and talked continually of his family. He left me at 11 o'clock with a brief goodbye. I waited an hour and then went to my room. I called the doctor's house several times on the telephone. Twice I got no response, but to the other calls I got the answer that the doctor was not there. I couldn't sleep and learned of the tragedy in the extra papers.

Mrs. Rice then introduced Charles E. Davis as the man to whom she had been introduced, and who, Dr. Rustin had said, was the man who had agreed to kill him in exchange for a drug that would kill Davis. Davis was put on the stand. He admitted that he had made three attempts to commit suicide, and in each instance had received the drug from Dr. Rustin. He admitted going to the doctor's house, but denied that he had shot the doctor. He also denied that he had agreed to shoot him. His testimony was contradictory on several points and he is under surveillance.

Frederick H. Davis testified that his brother had lost his family and had been sorely afflicted. He then broke down and could not go on, and the inquest was adjourned until tomorrow morning.

IF YOU KNOW
The merits of the Texas Wonder, you would never suffer from kidney, bladder or rheumatic trouble. \$1 bottle two months' treatment. Sold by druggists or by mail. Send for testimonials. Dr. E. W. Hall, 2326 Olive street, St. Louis, Missouri.

WE'LL HAVE TO DRINK WATER
Rheims, France, Sept. 11.—Vineyards throughout the entire champagne region have been devastated by mildew. The crops have been almost totally destroyed and the output will be only about two million bottles instead of forty-five million. This represents a loss to the growers of nearly \$20,000,000.

IT CAN'T BE BEAT
The best of all teachers is experience. C. M. Harden, of Silver City, North Carolina, says: "I find Electric Bitters does all that's claimed for it. For Stomach, Liver and Kidney troubles it can't be beat. I have tried it. Mr. Harden is right; it's the best of all medicines also for weakness, lame back, and all run down conditions. Best too for chills and malaria. Sold under guarantee at all drugstores, 50c."

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G. A. Nash, Mayor.

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HER GLORY HAS FADED

The Famous Battleship Texas is Now a Receiving Vessel at The Charleston Navy Yard

Charleston, S. C., Sept. 11.—The Texas, commissioned as a receiving ship at the Charleston navy yard, is due here this week, sailing from Norfolk yesterday. The arrival here of the Texas will see a rearrangement in the paymaster inspectors' forces, causing many of the clerks now having quarters in the postoffice building to move up to the navy yard.

It will be only a few weeks now to the completion of the great central power house at the navy yard. When the power of this plant is distributed to the many buildings of the yard, now life will awaken at the big government institution. The 600-foot pier at the mouth of the dry dock has been finished, costing \$100,000. Torpedo slips construction will start this month.

The neighbors and citizens generally are much wrought up over the matter and should Bushman fall into their hands will undoubtedly be lynched.

The New Pure Food and Drug Law
We are pleased to announce that Foley's Honey and Tar for coughs, colds and lung troubles is not affected by the National Pure Food and Drug law as it contains no opium or other harmful drugs, and we recommend it as a safe remedy for children and adults. Sold by all dealers.

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