GIRL FOUND DEAD IN ROOM AND MYSTERY SURROUNDS CASE

Indications Are That Miss Myrtle Jones Committed Suicide But no Cause Can Be Ascertained

The dead body of Miss Myrtle Jones, the 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jones of Bessemer, was found in room 3 of the Iola rooming house at 7:30 o'clock yesterday morning. Whether the young woman committed suicide or not wil probably never be known, but it is almost certain that she died from asphyxiation from gas, as the gas jets of the room were found partially turned on by the landlady and the room was full of gas. So strong was the gas that it had permeated even the clothes and the handbag of the young woman and the odor lingered long after they had been ventilated. A physician who was called, and who did not know the facts concerning the gas, gave it as his opinion that Miss Jones died from heart disease probably complicated with kidney trouble.

There were many peculiar circumstances about the tragedy, but none which points directly either toward suicide or accidental death. The parents of the young woman believe that she was asphyxiated, but think that it was due to her inexperience with gas. Miss Jones left no note, and so far as known did not talk to anyone about suicide or even in a despondent manner. This points to accidental death.

Miss Jones is also known as Mrs. Myrtle Crane. How she came to be in the rooming house is a mystery, as she intended to stay at the home of a friend.

The girl was formerly employed at the home of Mrs. Ben Donahue at 714 east Third street, to which place letters in her possession had been directed. She left her employment there two weeks ago and since then has been at the home of her parents or her aunt, Mrs. Jennie Conley, who conducts a rooming house on Northern avenue.

At 7 o'clock Thursday night Miss Jones left the residence of her aunt and said that she would stay all night at the home of a friend. As a consequence none of her relatives felt any alarm at her absence. At 9 or 9:30 o'clock the girl applied at the Iola rooming house, 309½ north Santa Fe avenue, for a room. The landlady, Mrs. Clara Ladd, told her that she very seldom took young women as roomers. Miss Jones told Mrs. Ladd that she was a working girl; that she had been employed in east Pueblo but now had a place downtown. She asked the price of the room, but did not pay in advance.

Before she retired, Miss Jones asked for a key to the room. This had not been furnished, as there was a bolt inside. The key was furnished and Miss Jones locked and bolted the door and then bolted a window, which opens into the hall. She was asked what time she wanted to be called and replied, "Seven-thirty or 8 o'clock."

At 7:30 o'clock yesterday morning Mrs. Ladd went to the room to call the girl. As she stepped in the hall she noticed a strong odor of gas, but thought that the meter, which was damaged, was leaking. After repeatedly knocking on the door, Mrs. Ladd became alarmed when she received no response and called for assistance. Sam Geiser volunteered to climb through the transom. As soon as the transom was forced out, there was a rush of gas, which made it impossible for Geiser to enter at once. After a few moments, however, he climbed through and unlocked the door. Miss Jones was found lying dead in bed. She had disrobed and there were no evidences of a struggle for breath, such as is usual in cases of ahphyxiation.

When Mrs. Ladd and Geiser entered the room they found the gas cock of the gas stove turned half way around, so that a large volume of gas was escaping. The gas jet had also been turned partly on. Mrs. Ladd had lighted the gas heater when she showed Miss Jones into the room.

Coroner J. J. McDonnell was notified and the remains were taken to West Bros. & Whiton's morgue. Mr. and Mrs. Jones were notified and they were taken to the morgue to identify the body. Mrs. Jones cannot believe that her daughter killed herself. She said that the girl knew nothing about the use of gas and that her death was undoubtedly due to an accident.

Among the effects of the young woman were several letters from friends. One was signed "Axis M." and the address 1827 Grant avenue, Denver, was given. Other letters were from young men who Miss Jones knew. One of her correspondents was a sailor and signed his name "Jack," in addition to drawing his picture, around which were broken hearts and other fanciful drawings. In none of the letters, however, is there a clew which might indicate a cause for suicide.

Miss Jones was a brunette and fairly good looking. She was fleshy, and apparently only in fairly good health. She looked to be about 25 years of age, but was slightly under 18.