BODIES OF MOTHER AND SON FOUND IN BESSEMER DITCH

Before Going Into Water to Drown Herself and Child Mrs. E. B. Haver Took Chloroform and Bound Boy to Her Bosom.

The supposition that Mrs. Edwin B. Haver of 1052 Veta avenue committed suicide late Wednesday afternoon by drowning in the Bessemer ditch near her home, taking with her to death a five-year-old son, Robert Haver, proved to be correct.

Shortly before 4 o'clock yesterday morning the party of searchers headed by Earl Finch, a brother of Mrs. Haver; Superintendent Bentley, of the Bessemer Ditch company, and Capt. C. A. Farlow, of the police department, noticed Mrs. Haver's arm sticking up above the fast receding water in the ditch, about one-quarter of a mile from the Haver home. The woman, with her young son clasped tightly to her breast, and also bound by some heavy cord, was in the middle of the stream, lying face upward. The searching party took the bodies out, cut the cord that bound little Robert to his mother and laid them side by side on a rock underneath the abutment of a nearby bridge until the arrival of Coroner McDonnell, when they were placed in West Bros. & Whitton's undertaking wagon and removed to their establishment. No inquest has been deemed necessary by the coroner, and the double funeral will be held from the residence at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon.

Although the searchers waded the Bessemer ditch for hundreds of yards from the spot where the footprints of Mrs. Haver were found leading to the ditch, it was absolutely impossible to conduct their work with any success, as the night was extremely dark, and what lanterns and lamps they had were of no particular benefit. In view of these conditions they decided to remain on the bank until the greatest portion of the water had gone out, when they expected to find the two bodies; and this surmise proved correct.

Mr. Finch, a brother of Mrs. Haver, was the first to get up and start along the bank when the first rays of dawn made it light enough to discern objects. Proceeding slowly along the bank, followed by the others, Mr. Finch finally came to a spot about one-fourth of a mile east of the Haver home.

"There's her arm!" he exclaimed to the others of the party, pointing toward the center of the stream; and all waded out and carried the two forms to the shore and placed them under the abutment.

Owing to the condition of the bodies Coroner McDonnel stated that it would be practically impossible to ascertain which one had taken the chloroform, or whether both had swallowed it before going into the ditch.





Mrs. Edwin B. Haver and son, Robert, who committed suicide by drowning in the Bessemer ditch Wednesday night.

The most logical theory yet advanced, however, as to the suicide, and which seems to be the general opinion, is that Mrs. Haver, having planned beforehand to take her own life, did not care to leave her young son behind, he being the only child that has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Haver, and accordingly chloroformed him in her room at the Haver home, thus completely quieting the little one, so that he could not scream or make an outcry of any kind; then she secured the heavy cord and bound the child to her breast, stole quietly down to the ditch and after swallowing a quantity of chloroform herself jumped into the swift current, and both were drowned.

In corroboration of this theory not only a one ounce phial, half full of chloroform, was found on the bank of the ditch, but on Mrs. Haver's dresser in her room was also found another one ounce bottle of the same drug, half empty, which would apparently carry out the above theory. In addition to the chloroform, upon the dresser there was a quantity of white powder, doubtless morphine, although not yet analyzed, and a number of empty capsules, together with a few that had been filled with the powder. This medicine, according to the family, she had never been known to use before, and on this account it is believed that she also endeavored to alleviate the suffering she anticipated by taking some morphine in capsule form prepared by herself.

The chloroform according to the labels on the bottles, was purchased from the drug department of the Crews-Beggs company. James W. Kennerly, manager of that department when asked about the matter last night stated that he noticed Mrs. Haver in their store at about 11:30 Wednesday morning, but as he left for lunch at that time he did not know whether or not she purchased any

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