

# "I'm Innocent", Rafe King Says

(Continued from page one.)

King told Sheriff Fred E. Quinn he wanted a conference with Solicitor J. Lyles Glenn. He said his people were not giving him a fair showing and that they did not want him to say anything. He and Glenn walked into a room for privacy, as they passed by the jury room King told the foreman not to bring the jury out until he had heard a statement he had to make. While King was talking to Solicitor Glenn, one of King's brothers came up and called King away.

King's desire to appear before the jury was passed on to Coroner Paul G. McCordle, and King was allowed this privilege. He then advanced the idea that his wife might have come to her death at the hands of an unknown thief he alleged had entered their home recently. He said negroes came around his house sometimes, some of them hunting work.

This was the first officers had heard of any theft from the King home. He named provisions as the only things stolen.

He was with the jury 10 or 15 minutes making his second statement, in the presence of officers and which was a reticent in a large measure of testimony he had already given.

Upon reaching the jail he showed officers a written statement about circumstances surrounding the death of his wife. After reading it they told him it was practically word for word what he had told the jury in his second statement. King agreed that the spoken and written statements were virtually the same. He had evidently committed the written statement to memory, officers thought.

When seen by newspaper men at the York jail today, King said he had no formal statement to make, but he was not averse to talking about the circumstances in which he found himself. He appeared thoughtful and dejected through the bars of his cell.

"All in the world I want is justice," he declared. "I'm innocent; I didn't kill her. There is more to come out. The witnesses at the inquest could have told more, but they didn't; they wouldn't tell all."

King would not disclose what testimony he charged the witnesses withheld, but kept reiterating that they held back from telling things they knew. He seemed to blame his predicament on this alleged reticence.

"I never was in trouble before," he said. "This is the first time I have been in jail. I have tried to do right and no one knows anything against me. I am in trouble now but the Lord will take care of me."

Asked about his theory of his wife's death, King did not give a direct answer. "She kept talking about killing herself," he said, "but then, you heard that testimony at the inquest."

King professed to be much concerned at the effect his trouble would have on his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. King of Shelby. "Father and mother are just recovering from influenza," he said, "and I am afraid this will kill them." He said his father is 70 years old and his mother in the sixties.

King left the jail for a short time today, in company with Deputy Sheriff D. T. Quinn, and conferred with his counsel, Thomas F. McDow. Two of his brothers from Shelby visited him today.

## No Lysol Odor In Bottle Near Body

(Continued from page one.)

door to Mrs. Ferguson's. I don't notice whether the outhouse door was open or shut. I talked to Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson and their daughter. My wife had told me she wasn't going to have the club meeting and had made no preparation for it. My wife corrected some school papers Thursday night.

I don't remember whether there was a fire in the fireplace on Friday evening when I started looking for my wife. I did not notice the kitchen at all that night. I don't know what hour she was found dead or who found her. I didn't see her body. I wanted to see it, but they would not let me.

She told me that morning she was pregnant and she had told me time and again she would die before she would become a mother. I don't know anything in the world about blood spots on the kitchen floor. We did have some little biddies in the kitchen and the rats had been after them. I heard them talking about the wound in her head, but no one would tell me anything about it.

I don't think I told Mrs. Flora Sims that Dr. Burruss said he saw my wife in town. My wife and I never had any trouble. She never went to school until 12 o'clock. Mr. Shealey always sent after her on bad days. I only went into the kitchen for the purpose of getting my overcoat. I can't say whether she had those shoes on (King shown shoes) that morning. So far as I know we had no lysol in the house. She said she was going to drink lysol. I watched about that. I told Mr. Will Plexico and my brother, some time ago that she had threatened suicide. She had said before she moved to the country or had a child she would kill herself. She had made candy Thursday night. I spilled some on the stove. She raised cane about me letting the candy boil over and said next time I did it I would have to scrub it up. My wife was as tall and heavy as I. She weighed more than I. I am about 38 years old. I think I gave my age to Mr. Claud Inman as 37—would be 38. Letters found were written by her the morning of the day she was found dead. My wife was 24 or 25. She weighed 140 or 150 pounds. She said she had been gaining lately.

My wife had been worried since Christmas. We were going to pay \$1,000 on the John T. Wilson place with the estate. We were going to borrow \$3,000 from the land bank. She was worried.

She took out \$5,000 on herself after I had failed to pass the examination for a \$3,000 policy. She already had one for \$1,000, and another for \$250. I had paid the first premium on the \$5,000.

She had stated at her sister's, "Old Rafe can have a big time with his second wife over my insurance." I have never mistreated her. For the last month or two I have been watching her. She threatened to take lysol. I told Mr. Sam Pratt and the Rhodes folks that she didn't want to move down to the farm and had said she would kill herself.

Mr. King was on the stand 45 minutes.

**Tells Of Discovery.**  
The testimony of the witness telling about there being no odor of poison to the empty bottle was as follows according to the Enquirer: R. Luther Plexico, postmaster at Sharon, being duly sworn, said: Mr. McCully came to my house about 7:15 p. m., Jan. 25. He said he was afraid Mrs. King had committed suicide; that Mr. King had told him that she had threatened to do it. Frances McCully came to us as we were en route to the King home and said "We have found her." I went into the outhouse. The only exposure was that of about four inches on a leg.

Blood was on her right stocking. There was no blood on her face. Froth mixed with blood was running from her mouth. There was no odor to the open "Nomoplin" bottle found by her side. We carried her into the house on a quilt. The blood on her head had clotted. I didn't see the quilt examined after we had used it to take her in. I saw no blood in the outhouse at all. She was lying on some walnuts on a ground floor. I would think that one who had taken poison would show some evidence of struggle. In her right sweater pocket was a half ear of popcorn. There seemed to be a little smoke in the kitchen fireplace. I never heard anybody say anything about her committing suicide other than what Mr. McCully said to me the night the body was found.

I thought at first she had shot herself and looked for a pistol, but could find none. I noticed many nails (20 penny) driven in the walls at about the right height on which she might possibly have hit herself.

**Doctor's Testimony.**  
The testimony of the physician who thought Mrs. King would have writhed about the floor where she died from poison, if she died that way, follows in the Enquirer's account:

Dr. Joseph H. Saye, sworn, said:

I found the body of Mrs. King lying on a cot in her home. My first impression was she had taken carbolic acid, judging from her mouth and throat. The burns were of a pink and reddish color. Looking at the gash in her head I thought first she had fallen on a nail in her agony. But close examination disclosed that the wound was about an inch and a half long and to the bone. The skull was not fractured. I noticed where there had been something on her throat. I noticed her hair was clotted with blood. There was none on her face. On her stockings was blood.

I asked Mr. King if he knew anything about it. He said his wife had wanted to take lysol, but was afraid it would make her face dark. Mr. King said she had proposed that both take lysol and end it all. He said there was no lysol around the premises. Lysol is five times stronger than carbolic acid as a disinfectant and one-eighth as strong as carbolic acid as a poison.

Any one who takes such a poison would, in my opinion, writhe somewhat where the person fell. There was no odor in the bottle found on the outhouse floor. The bottle found there had no odor and it would have if it had contained lysol. A person with a lick on the head like she had would have bled freely in the face.

I would not say Mrs. King could not have taken poison in the kitchen and walked out to the outhouse and died. I would think she would have screamed and writhed after taking poison.

The witness identified gun-metal colored stockings Mrs. King wore when her body was found. One of the stockings, he said, showed that blood was dropped there and not rubbed on. The witness examined the shoes and identified coloring on the shoes as being blood. He

did not think coloring on school French lessons was blood. He did not think the wound in the head of the deceased would have produced unconsciousness.

The witness said he did not examine the body of deceased for pregnancy when making an autopsy Jan. 26. He identified chips from the floor in the kitchen and on a paper as blood.

On Wednesday after the death of Mrs. King, Dr. Saye testified he found blood on a tablecloth in the kitchen, and on a door and under a table.

It would be impossible for one to have as much blood on her head as Mrs. King had without there being blood on the ground or where she was lying. It looked to me like the blood on her face had been wiped off when the body was found.

I would say that nails around the walls in the outhouse where the body was found were about five feet from the floor. I didn't notice blood on her face the night the body was found. It was later that I started hunting for evidence.

**How Warrant Read.**  
The warrant served upon King by Sheriff Quinn, of York, immediately after the inquest, read as follows:  
"One Rafe King did kill and murder his wife, Mrs. Faye Wilson King, by striking her on the head and by administering poison to her with intent to kill and that she died on the 25th day of January, 1920, from the wound and from the poison administered."

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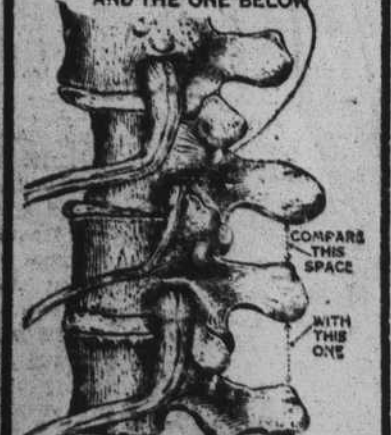
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