

Below is the newspaper account of the murder of Alice Giesenhagen Culbertson. There are several places where words are misspelled or certain facts in question. I tried to keep the original spellings and words exactly as they appeared in the newspapers.

Mrs. Carl Culbertson Victim of Brutal Murder

Bride of Five Months Killed as Husband Attends Dance

Clews Meager

Grand Island, Neb. March 28 (AP) -- The mysterious slaying of Mrs. Carl R. Culbertson, 43, farm wife, five miles north of here, continued tonight to be the center of investigation by county authorities, who spent much of the day questioning her husband of five months.

He had returned home from a dance at 3 a.m. today to find his wife slain by a shotgun charge apparently fired from close outside a window.

The only clews revealed by officers were two faint footprints found outside the house near a porch from which the shot was fired.

Husband Doesn't Show Strain

After prolonged quizzing during the day, Culbertson returned to his home during the evening. Despite lack of sleep for 36 hours, he still appeared calm.

Mrs. Culbertson was slain some time shortly before midnight last night while seated in a rocking chair in the parlor of her home. The assailant fired from a distance of about 12 feet, using a 12-gauge shotgun.

The charge passed through a glass door and screen and struck the woman on the right side of the head. She was alone, her husband and his 11-year-old daughter Viola having gone to a dance here.

Arriving home shortly after 2 a.m. with his daughter, Culbertson said he went to the back, and there in the doorway leading from the kitchen into the front room he saw his wife's body.

To Neighbors' To Call

Around her head was a pool of blood. He said he realized she was dead, although he admitted he did not go to the body to investigate. Neither did he use the telephone in the house to summon aid. He went to a neighbor's half a mile away, he said.

Mrs. Culbertson, struck on the right side of the face, is believed to have been instantly killed.

No shell was found near the house.

A double-barreled gun of the same caliber as that used in the killing was found in the house. Both barrels were clean, and it had apparently not been used recently.

Each Married Previously

County Attorney A. L. Joseph, who said the crime was evidently a premeditated slaying, was reluctant to discuss developments of the investigation late today.

Culbertson had been a member of the committee in charge of the dance. The hall is a 15-minute drive from his farm home.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Culbertson had been married previously. The first Mrs. Culbertson died two years ago. Mrs. Culbertson's first husband, a Mr. Timpke, is believed to be in California.

Shot to Death While Sitting In Her Home

Muzzle of Shotgun Placed Against Door and Shot Through Glass

Was Dead for Hours

Husband, Who Had Attended Dance With Daughter, Is Questioned - Daughter of Pioneer Family in Hall County.

Mrs. Carl R. Culbertson, 43, wife of a prominent Hall county farmer, and herself a daughter of pioneers, was murdered, some time shortly before midnight, Sunday, while seated in a rocking chair in the front room of the small farm home, five miles north of the city.

The murderer apparently stood on the front porch and, less than fifteen feet from the woman, rested the muzzle of a twelve gauge shotgun against

the screen door and fired the shot that shattered the door glass and struck Mrs. Culbertson on the right side of the face.

It was evident that for a minute or so, she remained seated in the chair, and then either attempted to arise and fell over onto the floor and to the left, or fell directly from a sitting position. She bled profusely, which would indicate that she lived for at least a few minutes after the charge of shell struck her.

Dead About Four Hours

The body was found by her husband and his daughter, Viola, shortly after two o'clock this morning, when they returned from a dance at the Plattdutsche Heim. Mr. Culbertson had been one of the committeemen in charge of the arrangements for the dance and according to his story, remained at the dance all evening.

He and the daughter left the home about eight-thirty in the evening.

Dr. H. B. Boyden, called to the home about three o'clock, stated that the woman had been dead about four hours, and would have placed the time of the murder at an hour or so before midnight.

Upon finding the body, the husband promptly called relatives and a few minutes later summoned medical aid as well as Sheriff Dan Sanders. The latter in turn called other officers including County Attorney A. L. Joseph.

The officials remained at the home until nine o'clock pursuing an investigation from which few if any clues were uncovered.

Just in front of the porch was found two faint impressions in the ground of footprints, whether made by the murderer, no one knows.

Following questioning at the farm, the husband was brought into the city and taken to the county attorney's office for further questioning at ten o'clock.

Barrels of Gun Clean

In the house, the sheriff stated, was found a double-barreled twelve-gauge gun, but both barrels were clean and there was not indication that the gun had been fired recently. The sheriff said they had not been able to locate the empty shell, the murderer either evidently destroying the shell if it was taken from the gun, or taking it with him when he left the scene.

Sheriff Sanders said the husband had appeared calm and collected during the quizzing at the farm and at no time had he expressed any interest in what course the investigation was taking or whether or not the officers were uncovering any clues.

Upon preparing to return to the city, about ten o'clock, Sheriff Sanders stated he intended to question persons attending the dance to determine whether or not Mr. Culbertson was in evidence in the hall or adjacent rooms throughout the entire evening. A round trip from the hall to the Culbertson home could easily be made in a half-hour, the sheriff said.

The caliber of the gun from which the fatal charge was fired, the sheriff stated, was determined partly from shot imbedded in the wall and door to the left of where Mrs. Culbertson was sitting, and shell wadding found in the room.

Bits of shattered glass were blown several feet into the room from the door. The hole in the screen was hardly larger than the muzzle of a twelve-gauge gun, which would indicate that the gun was held close to the screen.

The sheriff said that he believed the murder was carefully planned and evidently carried out in a cold-blooded and heartless fashion. It was evident the woman had no warning and sat busy with her needlework up until the moment the shot was fired.

Married in November

Mr. and Mrs. Culbertson were married early last November, Mrs. Culbertson having been divorced from her first husband several years, while Mr. Culbertson lost his first wife about two years ago. Mr. Culbertson had a daughter, Viola, while Mrs. Culbertson is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Harold Sutherland, in California, and Nettie, who resides with relatives here. Fred Timpke, Mrs. Culbertson's first husband, is believed to be some place in California at the present.

Murder in First Degree

Declining to discuss any of the clues uncovered in the case, County Attorney A. L. Joseph said at noon today, that some progress had been made and some facts established. The questioning of not only the husband, but many others interested in the case will continue this afternoon, the county attorney said.

At twelve-thirty the morning session was brought to a close and Culbertson was permitted to leave with some relatives for lunch. It was understood that he was to return for further questioning, however.

"There is one thing positive," the attorney stated, "and that is the crime was one of murder in the first degree, cold and calculated, not on the impulse of the moment, but planned and carried out in a heartless manner."

Besides the two daughters, Mrs. Culbertson is survived by her father, Adolph Giesenhagen, of Abbot, one sister, Mrs. John Seim, of Chapman; two brothers, Otto and George Giesenhagen of this city; three half-sisters, Mrs. Arnold Tagge, Grand Island; Mrs. Elmer Killion, Grand Island; Miss Olga Giesenhagen, Abbot; and four half-brothers, Will, Arthur, Benjamin, and Adolph Giesenhagen, all of this vicinity.

Hall County has had few murders since it became a county and records kept of such incidents. Michael Curtin, Jr., entered a plea of guilty to second-degree murder, December 8, 1920, and was sentenced to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary. He was charged with killing his father and is still an inmate of the penitentiary.

Before that a negro was accused of killing another negro in a fight in this city in 1916, but was found not guilty of the charge by a district court jury.

Continuing Investigation of Brutal Murder

Killed, Joseph Believes, Early In the Evening

Husband Will Be Called from Farm Home Late in Day for Questioning

Check on Movements

Those Who Came in Contact With Culbertson, at Dance, Interviewed by Prosecuting Attorney – Funeral Arrangements Pending.

As many persons as can be found who attended the Plattdeutsche Heim dance, last Sunday night, the night that Mrs. Culbertson was brutally murdered, and who talked to or took any special notice of Carl Culbertson, the woman's husband, will be questioned some time this afternoon and early this evening, County Attorney A. L. Joseph announced at noon today.

The county attorney said that one person, whose name he withheld, told him this morning that Culbertson appeared most downhearted, when he saw Culbertson at the dance. It also was learned that Culbertson and his daughter left the home at 8:20 p.m., but did not appear at the dance until 10 p.m. The county attorney said Culbertson explained this by stating that they went to a friend's house and there spent some time. These friends appeared at the dance at the same time as the Culbertsons, the county attorney said. They will be questioned this afternoon.

Faces Further Questioning

Culbertson, however, will be permitted to stay at the farm home until some time this evening, when he again will be questioned.

While only one man has given any evidence as to Culbertson's appearance of downheartedness at the dance, several others have told the county attorney that they noticed nothing unusual in his appearance. All are positive that he did not leave the dance after arriving.

"I now firmly believe that Mrs. Culbertson was shot some time between about 8:30 o'clock and ten o'clock," the county attorney said, but did not disclose any basis for this expression opinion.

In the meantime the relatives will be permitted to go ahead with funeral arrangements and the funeral, the county attorney said, as there was no need to hold the body longer as far as his office was concerned. Arrangements are now incomplete pending word from out-of-town relatives.

A rumor that Mrs. Culbertson had recently changed the beneficiary on an insurance policy she held, remains unconfirmed, the county attorney said, though he planned to investigate this some time this afternoon.

Lack of Harmony

That Carl R. Culbertson, whose wife was murdered last Sunday night while at home alone, will be questioned further today, was admitted by County Attorney A. L. Joseph early this morning.

There were no developments during the night, officials said. However, at least one important matter came to light during the questioning yesterday, and that was the lack of harmony in the home.

It was brought out beyond any question of doubt that Mr. and Mrs. Culbertson quarreled constantly and that their relationship was anything but pleasant. Many of the quarrels, it was understood, centered about Mr. Culbertson's daughter, Viola, who lived with them.

Efforts to locate Fred Timpke, the murdered woman's first husband, have thus far been fruitless. Constant rumors that Timpke had been seen in Grand Island within the past week, were heard about the city Monday.

The county attorney personally investigated the source of these rumors but in no instance was able to get anything tangible.

Two messages have been sent to California points where Timpke might be found at the present, the county attorney said, but as yet no replies have been received.

He expressed doubt, however, that Timpke was interested at all in his former wife or her remarriage. They separated years ago, he pointed out, and for several years, no one knew where Timpke had gone.

The daughter Nettie, who resides at the Otto Giesenhagen home, received a letter from her father, from California, about a week ago, however.

Hole Cut in Screen

While at first, due to the excitement and press of the investigation no particular attention was paid to the hole in the screen through which the shot was fired. This hole was not made by the discharge of the gun, but from all appearances carefully cut. It was square and just large enough to permit insertion of a gun, either single or double-barreled.

It was not believed possible the murderer could have cut that hole just before the shot was fired without attracting the attention of Mrs. Culbertson who was seated in the house about fifteen feet from the door.

Whether the hole was cut previously by the murderer in the preliminary steps of the arrangements, or simply was there by circumstance or accident, cannot be determined. It was pointed out that it was most peculiar that the hole would have accidentally been cut just the size it was and at just the right height and angle.

It was noted by strangers calling at the house yesterday that a large Shepard dog greeted each and every caller with loud and prolonged barking and disturbance. Relatives verified the fact that the dog, that ordinarily stayed close around the house unless following one of its occupants, greeted all strange callers in such a manner.

Opinion was expressed by relatives that any stranger calling Sunday night, provided of course the dog was in the vicinity of the house, would have been greeted likewise and Mrs. Culbertson warned that someone was about the premises.

It was evident that the murderer, if he drove a car, left the car at the road and did not drive up to the house. The house is about a quarter of a mile from the road.

Neighbor Hears Shot That Killed Mrs. Culbertson

Neighbor Testifies He Heard Shot About That Time. Mild Wind Favors That Possibility

Deputies At Culbertson Home

Theory That Timpke Implicated Is Dissipated. Couple Quarreled Violently Over Daughter. County Attorney Expects to Make Arrest.

It has been definitely established that the murder of Mrs. Carl R. Culbertson took place between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m., testimony brought out late Tuesday afternoon.

A farmer neighbor came into the office of County Attorney Joseph and said that he had heard a distinct shot between the interval of those two periods.

Checking the wind velocity, which was six miles an hour, and the fact that it was blowing in the direction of the neighbor, this information furnishes a

valuable link in the investigation now taking place.

While this may not have any bearing on the case, it has been learned that Mr. Culbertson took what is known as the west road when he went to town on the evening of the murder. This is the more strange since there was a deep mud hole in one spot whereas the other road was good. The west road, however, is not traveled so extensively and there was little danger of meeting neighbors, it was revealed.

With new developments in the case, Mr. Joseph feels that he has ample evidence to make an arrest some time Wednesday. Two deputies remained at the Culbertson home Tuesday evening.

By checking up the theory that the former husband might be implicated, it has been definitely established that Timpke has been in California for the past four weeks and is there now. This is proven from the investigation of Sheriff Sanders and also the Giesenhagens, who have been in contact with authorities and also Timpke himself.

It has been learned that the Culbertsons quarreled violently and that Culbertson had, on one occasion, made a statement that might be construed as a motive.

While Culbertson did not leave the dance at which they were in attendance Sunday evening, it is learned that he was depressed.

Culbertson Slaying Believed Earlier

Quarrel Over Daughter Reported During Official Probe

Grand Island, Neb., March 29 — County Attorney A. L. Joseph tonight said the slaying of Mrs. Carl R. Culbertson, 43, may have been earlier than was first thought.

Joseph said a farmer who lives near the Culbertson place north of Grand Island told him of hearing a shot between 7:30 and 8:10 p.m. Previously the time of the slaying was set at about 11 p.m.

Mr. Culbertson, 45, had said he and his 11-year-old daughter, Viola left home about 8:30 p.m. Sunday and went to a dance in Grand Island. When they returned home about 2 a.m., he said, he found his wife of a

few months dead. He is to be questioned further. He is not in custody.

County attorney Joseph said it had been established that Mr. and Mrs. Culbertson frequently quarreled over his daughter, Viola, 11, who lived with them.

Efforts to locate Mrs. Culbertson's first husband, Fred Timpke, have thus far been futile but the county attorney said from his investigation, it was doubtful if Timpke was interested at all in his former wife or her remarriage. Mrs. Culbertson's daughter, Nettie, who makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Otto Giesenhausen here, received a letter from her father in California about a week ago.

A significant fact brought out today was that the hole in the screen door, through which Mrs. Culbertson was shot, was not made by the discharge of the shotgun but had apparently been cut out. It was square and just large enough to permit insertion of a double barrel shotgun. It is not believed possible that the slayer could have cut the hole just before the shot was fired without attracting Mrs. Culbertson's attention. She was seated about 15 feet from the door.

Time Established

At the conclusion of the Tuesday afternoon session of the investigation County Attorney A. L. Joseph announced that the time of the firing of the fatal shot had been set as between 7:30 and 8:10 p.m.

Culbertson had steadfastly maintained he left the house with his daughter at about 8:20 p.m., and that his wife was at that time alive and in good spirits.

Though expressing himself as "dead tired," Culbertson maintained his calm air and poise. Following the questioning by Dutschus, Culbertson remained at the sheriff's office for another three hours, before being taken home about midnight by Sheriff Sanders.

During the three-hour interval, Culbertson was secluded in a room and chatted on trivial matters of a varied nature. Once or twice he touched for a moment upon the trag- (this newspaper clipping ends here.)

Slain Woman's Mate "Detained" at Grand Island

Grand Island, Neb., March 30, (AP) – Carl Culbertson, who has been questioned at length by authorities since he discovered the murder of his wife in their home early Monday morning, was held "in detention" in jail here this afternoon, pending further investigation of the crime.

Culbertson's 11-year-old daughter, Viola, also is in custody but has not been confined to jail. Authorities did not reveal her exact whereabouts today, but intimated she and Culbertson were to be questioned again with reference to circumstances of the crime.

Culbertson was delivered at the jail at 2 o'clock this afternoon by Sheriff Dan Sanders and Deputy State Sheriff Otto Dutschus. Neither County Attorney A. L. Joseph nor other officers would discuss the turn in their investigations or probable developments.

Expect Arrest Soon in Death of Farm Woman

Grand Island, Neb., March 31 (AP) – Officers working on the Mrs. Carl R. Culbertson murder case tonight announced in a statement issued through County Attorney A. L. Joseph that an arrest is to be expected soon. Joseph said he believed the slaying has been solved, but would not amplify the statement.

He disclosed the 43-year-old woman, shot last Sunday, was to have become a mother.

The woman's husband, 45-year-old farmer, has been detained in jail here since late Wednesday. Prior to that he had been quest – story of returning home to find his wife of a few months dead.

Joseph declined to say whether or not Culbertson's daughter, Viola, also held in custody, had been questioned today. Culbertson said she left their home with him Sunday night and that they came here to a dance.

The statement tonight disclosed a post mortem and autopsy had been performed today to determine the age of the unborn child and supposedly to establish the time of the killing through observation of the digestive channels.

No Confession

Officials emphatically denied that they had received a confession sometime Thursday, or any time prior to current both Wednesday and again

Thursday relative to an alleged confession.

It was admitted shortly before two o'clock there was a further development in the case and one possibly of some importance. Officials, however, declined to give an inkling of what it was for the time being.

Thus far, it was learned, Culbertson, now held in the city jail or "detained for questioning" as officials have maintained, has made no request for permission to attend his wife's funeral Friday afternoon.

Until such a request was made, officials said, they would make no decision on that point. If such a request was made, and granted, it was indicated, an officer would accompany him. However, it was added that such a request might or might not be granted, depending of course, on possible developments between now and the time of the funeral.

A Walter Randall, now in Brooklyn, N. Y., and at that place at the time Mrs. Carl R. Culbertson was murdered last Sunday night, was eliminated as being at all connected with investigation, officials announced shortly before two o'clock.

This Randall, according to information received by them, allegedly had been at the Culbertson place some time ago and to have had some trouble with Mr. Culbertson.

While officials did not believe Randall was connected with the case, when they first heard of the incident, they nevertheless took trouble to check his whereabouts on the night of the murder.

The funeral of Mrs. Culbertson will be held Friday afternoon at 1:30 from the home of Otto Giesenhausen, 232 West Eleventh street, and at two o'clock from the English Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Harold Sutherland, daughter of Mrs. Culbertson, arrived early this morning from Los Angeles, and is at the home of Otto Giesenhausen.

Culbertson Is Being Detained In Jail For Inquiry

Culbertson Has Nothing To Say On Detention

Isolated From All Outside Contacts and Said To Be Model Prisoner

Asks No Questions

Admitted That Officials Are Checking on Man Now Residing in New York – Funeral of Mrs. Culbertson Friday Afternoon

Isolated from all outside contacts, Carl R. Culbertson still was being held in the city jail this morning, while officials continued investigating odds and ends of scraps of information relative to the murder of his wife at their farm home, five miles north of Grand Island Sunday evening.

Culbertson, it was learned, accepted his incarceration without comment or trouble and has been a model prisoner. He had made no request to see anyone and asked no questions relative to how long he would be detained in jail, or what officials intended doing.

He is confined in what is known as the "woman's quarters" of the city jail, a room separate from the jail proper.

Officials indicated that they had not again questioned Culbertson's 11-year-old daughter, Viola, up to noon, today, and would not question Culbertson until late this evening, if then. The girl also is in custody at a private home.

Culbertson, early this morning, requested some reading material, newspapers and magazines. He was given the latter, but denied access to any newspapers, on orders of officials responsible for his detention.

It was understood that only five persons are authorized to see him or to talk to him, and all of them are officials directly connected with the case or men on duty at the station. It was understood that even the janitor at the city hall, who ordinarily takes the prisoners their food, was barred.

Daughter Also In Custody for The Time Being

Investigation Into Murder of Mrs. Culbertson Is Continuing

Not Discussing Case

Order for Detention Issued by County Attorney Al L. Joseph – No Comment on Investigation or Developments

Carl Culbertson, questioned at length by authorities since he discovered the murder of his wife in their farm home, early Monday morning, was held "in detention" in the Hall county jail Wednesday afternoon, pending further investigation of the crime.

Culbertson's eleven-year-old daughter, Viola, also is in custody but has not been confined to the jail. Authorities did not reveal her exact whereabouts Wednesday afternoon, but intimated that she and Culbertson were to be questioned again with reference to circumstances of the crime.

Doesn't Know of Enemy

He had lived in this community virtually all of his life, he said once, and so far as he knew, did not have an enemy and enjoyed the respect of his acquaintances.

During the stay in the office, a woman's voice was heard in the outer room for a few minutes. Culbertson gave no indication that he had noted the voice, though he later wondered if his daughter, Viola, had gone to bed as yet.

Culbertson listened to the sheriff's explanation of the presence of the two officers at the farm, without comment. He stated that during the night before, and at intervals during the day, cars had driven into his place and either turned and departed before reaching the house or came into the barnyard proper to make the turn.

These were probably persons attracted to the premises out of curiosity.

Sheriff Sanders expressed himself as "tired out" last night, following a day spent interviewing farmers in virtually every part of the county.

Officials have indicated that their list of persons, who observed Culbert-

son at the dance, was growing steadily.

Funeral services for Mrs. Culbertson will be held Friday afternoon, with Rev. C. E. Harman, of St. Paul's English Lutheran Church officiating. The service for members of the family will be at 1:30 o'clock, at the home of Otto Giesenhausen, 232 West Eleventh street, and the service at the church at 2:00 o'clock. Inadvertently, the stepmother was omitted from the previously published surviving relatives.

Believe Murder Mystery Solved!

Developments That Must Now Be Checked Is All That Is Lacking, Joseph Believes, to Establish Identity of Killer

May Make Arrest Today

Autopsy Has Been Held But Deems Best That Details of Evidence Be Withheld.

Tired and worn from a strenuous week, County Attorney Joseph and his assisting officers felt that the end of the trail is near tonight. Sensational developments that need only to be checked to verify them, are the things that will definitely establish the identity of the killer of Alice Culbertson, which took place at the farm home north of the city Sunday night.

When The Bulletin went to press Thursday evening Carl Culbertson had not been questioned but it was planned that this would take place. In the event it was not done Thursday night, then it is planned for Friday.

Assisting County Attorney Joseph and Sheriff Sanders were State Deputy Dutschus and Dr. H. B. Boyden. It is definitely learned that there were no questionable tactics used in gathering the information leading to their conclusions. The conclusion reached by the officials is believed unassailable.

Pressed for details which the readers of The Bulletin awaited with feverish interest, Mr. Joseph remained firm, fearing to jeopardize some of the evidence he has at hand. However, he did make the following statement:

"It is the opinion of the County Attorney and his assisting officers that the mystery of the death of Alice Culbertson is solved and that an arrest

will be made in the next twenty-four hours. There has been some delay in the evidence developed today and it will have to be checked and details gone into which can only be done tomorrow. Investigation is not complete and will continue tomorrow. Evidence developed today is in my opinion conclusive. I ordered an autopsy last night and the same was performed this afternoon. The desired evidence as to the age of the fetus in the body and the stage of digestion of the food-stuffs taken into the stomach between five and six o'clock last Sunday evening and the time of death was thereby established. I deem it important that the details of the evidence be withheld at least for the present."

Mr. Joseph further stated that he expected to examine Culbertson Thursday night or sometime Friday forenoon. He said that Culbertson has not asked to attend the funeral of his former wife which will be held Friday afternoon from the home of her brother, Otto Giesenhagen, but will be permitted to do so in company with his daughter and officers if he cares to do so.

Cooperating With Authorities

Toward the speedy solution of the Culbertson murder case The Bulletin pledged itself to complete cooperation with the county officials. Its desire to serve its readers with the very latest development being secondary only to its desire that the officials be not hampered in their thorough investigation.

This is a complete solution of one of the sensational and cold-blooded murders ever perpetrated in the entire United States is at hand.

That disclosures soon to be released will shock the sensibilities of the community beyond words.

That the premeditation of the guilty and the attention to detail will astound the public.

The Bulletin has bent every effort toward informing its readers of every development and their expressed appreciation has been most gratifying. That a murder without parallel in the history of Hall County has been committed is unquestioned. That a murder comparable to the most repulsive in the annals of crime has been committed here may, at this time be questioned by some, but The Bulletin believes few books report a more sensational and brutal slaying. Our readers may expect a story in which is merged

human emotions of most violent form and in inconceivable detail.

Culbertson Confesses To The Murder of His Wife

A Double Murder Possibility

When Mellowed By Effect of Four Walls and Damaging Evidence Culbertson Makes Confession In Detail

He Protects His Daughter

Clue Leads to Finding Gun Which He Admits He Used in the Murder of His Wife

As previously stated in The Bulletin, developments of Thursday evening resulted in a condition which eventually led to the confession of Carl Culbertson for the murder of his wife, Alice Culbertson, Sunday evening. Grueling investigation brought evidence to light, which when placed before Culbertson led to admission that he had murdered his wife in cold blood and later left in company with his daughter, Viola, to attend a dance.

Unavailing questioning of the past few days, which failed to break down the composure of the man brought final results when he was placed in a cell surrounded by four walls, where he was allowed to think.

Brought face to face with the accusation that perhaps he was allowing his daughter to shoulder the blame which the world believe belonged at his door, he broke down and confessed in detail the plans and their execution. Once started, it is learned from reliable sources, that he talked freely and astounded his listeners with a recital of what is termed one of the coldest, most carefully planned deeds which the authorities have ever heard.

Gruesome Details

He acknowledged that though he has no compunctions in the matter all during the evening while at the dance he began to consider the enormity of his deed when he started home that evening. Later, however, he apparently took himself in hand and faced the inquiring world with a carefree attitude which was hard to break.

One of the incidents that led the authorities to believe that they were on the right track was a question as to the whereabouts of the gun that had performed the act. His admission that he assumed that the officers knew all about it led to a hunt Thursday night which led to its discovery.

A searching party went to the home, not satisfied that the gun found in the house was the one used, pitched several haystacks back and forth, were within six inches of the gun on several occasions, finally locating it under a corn crib.

Findings of Gunsmith

It develops that this gun was purchased for the particular occasion. The gun found in the house following the murder had been carefully examined by Frank Guenther and he gave it as his opinion that it was not the gun used by the murderer. While the incident proves that Frank Guenther is a gunsmith of rare ability, at the time it had puzzled the officers to have had this conclusion to face. In the light of later findings, however, the degree of cunning of the murderer was the more clearly examined.

May Be Double Murder

With plans for a first degree murder charge, Joseph admits that evidence now in his possession indicate a possibility of filing a double murder charge contingent upon the findings of Drs. Boyden and Farnsworth. This, however, is partly unconfirmed.

With the findings of this case at hand, and confession of Carl Culbertson, Mr. Joseph feels that he has faced an experience in criminal prosecution that may come only once in a lifetime. Certainly Grand Island has experienced nothing so gruesome and cold-blooded in its history. He also believes that there are few parallels in the United States.

First Degree Charges Will Be Preferred

**Shot and Killed Just Before
He Left Home To Go to the
Dance**

Had Planned Crime

**Gun and Shell Used To Slay Mrs.
Culbertson in Hands of Officials –
Details of confession Are Withheld
by Authorities**

Carl R. Culbertson, 45 year old farmer has confessed that he murdered his wife by shooting, last Sunday evening, about eight o'clock, just before leaving for a dancing party with his eleven year old daughter, Viola. Announcement of the confession, which was received about midnight Thursday, following a grilling of several hours, was made shortly after two o'clock this afternoon, to County Attorney A. L. Joseph. Incompatibility was given as the motive.

Though officials declined to make public the details of the confession, it was learned from a reputable source that it contained a most astounding revelation of carefully planned and executed murder, conceived and carried out by the husband with the knowledge of his eleven year old daughter.

Many days before the crime was committed, it is understood, the father had told the daughter, Viola, that he was going to murder Mrs. Culbertson. The motive was that of a deep-seated hatred for the woman with the coming of the unborn child and all fanned to a crisis by the constant quarreling.

Cold Blooded Killing

With the gun purchased and the plans laid, attendance at the dance last Sunday night apparently seemed to offer a perfect alibi. They left the woman seated in the chair and at the exact spot where she was a few minutes later, to be killed. This was about eight o'clock.

After the daughter was in the car to go to the dance, Culbertson got the gun and went back to the other side of the house, poked the muzzle through the screen and fired the fatal shot.

He then concealed the gun, taking with him the exploded shell, went back to the car and drove away. The

girl had heard the shot and knew what it meant. The exploded shell was thrown into a stubble field as the two drove along.

They stopped at a friend's house, in the city, before going to the dance.

Several persons said they noticed Culbertson's appearance and the fact that he was not his normal self. Something, they said, was bothering him, and one friend saw him seated alone, his head in his hands.

The confession explains why, when the two returned to the farm house after the dance, that Culbertson as he stepped inside the door and saw his wife lying in a pool of blood, that he did not rush over to her and determine whether or not she was dead. Also why he did not use the telephone in the house to summon aid, but drove to a nearby farm house, taking for granted that his wife was dead.

Never Voiced Sympathy

It was these two points, with others, naturally, which convinced officials from the start that Culbertson was the man. These two acts, they reasoned, were not the acts of a normal man who would return from a dance and look upon a scene such as did Culbertson.

There also was the element of footprints and of the shoes. It had rained on Sunday afternoon, dampening bare spots about the yard in front of the porch.

Footprints were found, and in the haymow of the barn were found a pair of work shoes. These shoes fitted the footprints in the ground and Culbertson frankly admitted from the start they were his shoes.

He said that he had been working in the barn and becoming warm, had kicked off the shoes. They were lost in the hay, he is alleged to have claimed, and he didn't take the time to look for them, going to the house barefooted instead.

Never has the man's calm attitude left him. In this it is felt he again over-played his hand. At no time, it is understood, did he seem to show any interest in the investigation. Not once did he express any pity for the dead woman nor inquire if the officers were unearthing any clues.

This, it was felt, was hardly the action or the attitude of a normal man under circumstances which Culbertson would have liked officers to believe.

Culbertson Sentenced To Imprisonment For Life

**One of Jurors Held Out for
Electrocution**

**Is Out Thirty Minutes During
Which Time Four Ballots Had
Been Taken**

Has Nothing To Say

**Several Jurors Had Sought To At-
tach Rider To Verdict Which
Would Prevent Executive Clemency
– No Display of Emotion**

Carl R. Culbertson, 51, shortly before noon today, was sentenced to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary at Lincoln, by District Court Judge E. P. Clements, for the murder of his wife, Alice Culbertson, last March 27.

Culbertson will not be taken to the state penitentiary for a few days, possibly not before the early part of next week, pending settlement of private affairs here concerning the farm and the care of his daughter.

Jury Took Four Ballots

The jury, out only half an hour, arrived at a unanimous verdict on the fourth ballot, according to a reliable report. On three previous ballots the count had stood eleven for life imprisonment and one for a death sentence.

Two jurymen had expressed their willingness to vote for a life sentence provided they could forestall, by so stating in the verdict, any possibility of a parole or pardon in future years. They were informed that this was impossible.

It is believed that it was one of these two men who held out through three ballots for the greater penalty.

Unemotional and his face as expressionless as a mask, Culbertson spoke only four words the entire day and a half of the hearing. As he was arraigned before the judge Thursday morning, and the first degree murder charge read, Culbertson, when asked his plea, said only "guilty."

This morning, just twenty-four hours later, he stood before the judge for sentence, and when asked if he had anything to say, replied only "I believe not."

Throughout the hearing he remained mute, conversing now and then with his attorney, but otherwise hardly changing his position in his chair.

As the jury was charged with the court's final instructions, and left the court room to deliberate as to whether or not Culbertson would be given a life imprisonment or a sentence of death, he flickered not an eyelid.

Remarks of the Court

Before sentencing Culbertson, Judge Clements spoke briefly, frankly telling him that were it not for certain circumstances, Culbertson would be standing before him to receive a sentence of death. In his opening remarks, the judge had styled the case as one of the most peculiar and unusual in the history of jurisprudence in Nebraska.

"Let no one say that a life of forty or fifty years of faultless and blameless conduct is not assistance to a man and productive of reward in a time such as this," the judge counseled.

That justice is tempered with mercy, the judge continued, was evidence in this case by the fact that those who were injured the most, the murdered woman's brothers, had recommended and requested the life sentence rather than death.

It was understandable to a degree, the judge continued in his comment on this attitude of the relatives, in Culbertson's past life, in which he was a man of character and repute in the community, a kind and considerate husband and a loving father.

May Be Good Influence

The judge further stated that he believed that the relatives, the friends and the prosecuting officers must have felt that something had occurred in the brain of Culbertson to cause a disintegration of brain structure to enable to commit such an act.

In closing, the judge compared Culbertson's past with the one which he will now lead. He would find himself living with a group of men, many of whom were debased and degraded and other men who, like himself, had in an unguarded moment committed an act that resulted in their arrest and sentence to the state penitentiary.

He would find men, the judge continued, who felt that the hand of mankind was constantly lifted against them. In closing he told Culbertson he

could be of great assistance to these men and could exert a good influence in the penitentiary, showing, by virtue of his own case, that the hand of mankind was not always raised against the lawbreaker

Recommended "Life"

Recommendations and requests for a sentence of life imprisonment for Culbertson were first uttered by persons connected with the prosecution. Thursday afternoon, first Dan Sanders, Hall County Sheriff; then George Giesenhagen, brother of murdered woman, and finally Otto Giesenhagen, another brother, the latter stating he had no objections to a life sentence.

Following the reading of the confession, the state placed Dr. E. E. Farnsworth on the witness stand for a brief time, the doctor testifying to assisting with the autopsy, in which it was definitely established Mrs. Culbertson was to have become a mother. The doctor said he also examined the head and neck bearing the shot.

Identification of the weapon, a twelve-gauge single barreled shotgun, with which the murder was committed the box of shells, the screen through which the shot was fired and pictures of the scene of the tragedy, were identified by Sheriff Sanders.

On cross examination, the sheriff stated he had known Culbertson for fifteen years and knew he had enjoyed a most favorable reputation. While under arrest, the sheriff said, Culbertson had been a model prisoner. Upon a direct question the sheriff stated he would recommend life imprisonment.

Knew of Unhappiness

Dutschus too identified the gun shells and screen. He added some testimony as to Culbertson's lack of interest in the investigation, at the time of the murder. On cross examination he testified that in his opinion the square hole in the screen was shot and not cut, and ended up with a recommendation for life imprisonment for Culbertson.

George Giesenhagen stated he had known Culbertson for the past twenty-five years. While at first Culbertson and his wife appeared happy, Giesenhagen said, she had later told him that she could not stand the manner in which Culbertson treated her.

Relations between Viola and her step-mother had not been strained, the

brother said, and, according to his sister at one time, they were of the best. His recommendation of life sentence was made during the cross examination.

That just two or three hours before the murder, the two appeared to be feeling normally toward each other was revealed by the other brother, Otto, at whose home the Culbertson's ate supper on the Sunday night of the murder.

He said that as long as Culbertson was not around, the relationship between the step-mother and Culbertson's daughter seemed of the best. Admitting he had heard of the Christmas eve quarrel, he said he had not observed any particular signs of ill-feeling between the two, probably because he had little contact with them.

Testify to Good Record

He testified on cross examination that life imprisonment for Culbertson was the general sentiment and desire of the immediate relatives of the murdered woman.

Emil Heiberg, neighbor of the Culbertsons, and to whom he first reported the tragic event, told of Culbertson's appearance on that night both at the dance, and at the farm home, afterwards. At the dance he did not appear other than normal, Heiberg said, while at the home he showed little or no emotion.

Heiberg, who was the state's last witness, spoke highly of Culbertson's character, under cross-examination.

The defense literally staged a parade of witnesses in and out of the box, in the short time remaining of the afternoon session. Included in the number were Henry Stolley, Carl Knickrehm, Max Rauert, August Stoldt, Herman Suehlsen, Reed Alter, H. B. Francisco, Rev. C. B. Harman, Charles Rauert, and Mrs. Clara Langman.

All offered testimony as to Culbertson's good record, the high esteem in which he had been held, his relationship with his first wife, and his second until the time of the Christmas quarrel.

Culbertson Taken To Penitentiary

Carl R. Culbertson, wife slayer who was sentenced to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary, by the verdict of a district court jury, on April 29, was taken to Lincoln today by Sheriff Dan Sanders to serve the sentence. Culbertson pleaded guilty before Judge Edwin R. Clements on April 28 to the charge of killing his wife on the night of March 27.

Sheriff Sanders left with his prisoner about 10:20 o'clock this morning. Accompanying the officer on the trip was Deputy U. B. Marshall, Fred Mandeville, Charles Rauert, administrator of Culbertson's financial affairs. Mrs. Sanders and her sister, Mrs. A. Rux.

Commitment papers under date of May 10 were delivered to Sheriff Sanders this morning shortly before 10:00 o'clock.

The sentence read as follows: "Considered and adjudged that defendant Carl R. Culbertson be taken to the Nebraska penitentiary at Lancaster, Nebraska, and there be confined at hard labor, Sundays and holidays excepted, for the period of his natural life, and that he pay the costs of the prosecution. Solitary confinement forms no part of this sentence."

Culbertson bade farewell to his daughter, Viola, age 11, Monday afternoon. The parting was marked by lack of emotional expression on either part of either. "Boys" in the jail, who told Culbertson goodbye this morning, generally added a wish for "good luck" to their farewells and expressions of regret over his leaving.

For the past several weeks Culbertson has been "sheriff" of his section of the jail. As such, it has been his duty to see that the rules of the jail are enforced as they concern keeping the cells and sections clean, and as they apply to silence after locking up time at night. Culbertson, it is said, has accepted this responsibility and has enforced the "law" of the jail to such good effect that when the prisoners on the east side were moved to west side to permit painting of the east section, Culbertson was made "sheriff" of the entire group, numbering 16.

A declaration that he intended to conduct himself like a man at the penitentiary was made by Culbertson prior to his departure.

"Whatever they tell me to do, I'm going to do it without question," he told Jailer Joe Cupp. "If I ever break one rule of the state prison, it will be unintentional."

Speaking of the local prison, Culbertson declared that the prisoners in the Hall county jail receive "mighty good treatment, every one of them."

Prison doors clanged shut for Carl R. Culbertson, confessed wife slayer, at the state penitentiary yesterday, shortly before 2:00 o'clock, at the conclusion of a hundred mile auto ride in ideal May weather. The former Hall county farmer is now prisoner No. 11,130, serving a life sentence. Throughout the greater part of the ride to Lincoln, Culbertson was silent. The party stopped at Seward, and while there the man expressed regret over the slaying of his wife on the night of last March 27th. "I don't know why I did it; but I wish I hadn't done it," he said to Sheriff Sanders. While being registered, he again expressed regret over the tragedy, to which he added, "I was might lucky to escape the electric chair." Culbertson was assigned a cellmate a few years younger than himself, each apparently taking a liking to each other. Prison officials told Sheriff Sanders that the cellmate was considered one of the best prisoners.

Hatred and Its Havoc

Could any one, reading the sad story of the sentencing of Carl Culbertson, six weeks ago one of the most highly esteemed citizens of Hall county, to the penitentiary for life, for the murder of his wife, do aught but reflect how such a terrible, such a complete tragedy and contradiction, could be brought about?

Within five brief weeks two human lives, which might easily have run their normal course, were either completely blotted out, or all but irreparably wrecked, by an unseen power.

It was a strange case. An observer of the trial from a distance, who, therefore, was wholly unbiased, pass the comment as the case was being taken up in the court on the previous day, that in all of his experience he had never seen a case in which so apparently deliberate and cold blooded a wife-murderer was committed, with seemingly so minor a demand, in public opinion, for the ultimate, the heaviest sentence. The presiding judge

himself, according to the reporter's narrative, "had styled the case as one of the most peculiar and unusual in the history of jurisprudence in Nebraska."

The case was so unusual because the unseen power responsible for it rarely wrecks as suddenly and completely. Elementary human emotions and affections seldom are observed to have been running at cross-purposes, and in reverse, as they did in the psychology of the two principals directly concerned. Emotions and affections are benevolent or malevolent. Six months ago, between Mr. and Mrs. Carl Culbertson, they were benevolent. But "love is sunshine"! Shadows appeared. Hatred and jealousy had a small beginning. Both grew swiftly – like a rapid cancer. Hatred displaced love for the wife. The human heart can become jealous of anything it can love and there appear to have been evidences of a deep, jealous concern for his daughter. Despite the fact – the primary fact making the case so unusual – that Carl Culbertson had, until less than a year ago, been a strong man; a man who loved peace; whose ambition was to earn what he got, to win what he wore; who was an enemy to no one, nor had a foe; who was industrious, content with all the world, and glad over others' good – despite this fact the ugly, menacing monster of our human emotions, Hatred, seized him. The will held back the evil thought for months; but the malevolent affection kept working on. The will became dulled. The sense of right, so strong within him all his life, became numbed. At last it yielded like the mainstay of a bridge that finally succumbs to the ravages of devastating floodwaters. So completely was the Carl Culbertson of a life-time transformed that, as evidenced by his own complete confession, realization, his former self, the real Carl Culbertson, did not return until the next morning. Then, first came remorse – the inward conviction of having outraged right and the bitterest pain that can attack man's soul! It was too late to retrace all the way. He went back as far as he could – the complete confession and a contrite plea of guilty!

And the unseen power which so suddenly wrought this havoc – to think that it lies latent in every human being! Elementarily in emotions and affections we are all quite alike. Faculties, as a matter of course, are developed in varying degrees; the will is

stronger, perhaps, in one than it is in another, or the power to reason is more keen; but, though latent as that unseen power may be, hatred may be touched by but a spark; and if man controls it not, its fagots may burn and burn.

For which very reason – and the reason that Carl Culbertson retraced his steps as far as he could – will not all be in accord with the just temporal judge, who said:

“Let no one say that a life of 40 or 50 years of faultless and blameless conduct is not assistance to a man and productive of reward to a time such as this.”