

Amarillo  
The City of  
Roses

# THE AMARILLO GLOBE

Price  
5 Cents

The Weather  
Unsettled, local showers  
tonight and Saturday. Ex-  
tremes today 73 and 64.

Seventh Year  
No. 152.

AMARILLO, TEXAS, FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1930.

TWENTY PAGES

## Payne Confession Is Given in Detail

THE STATE OF TEXAS,  
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON.

I, A. D. Payne, being in custody of Will N. Thompson, Sheriff of Potter County, Texas, and having been first warned by Edward W. Thomerson, the person to whom the hereinafter set-out statement is by me made, that I do not have to make any statement at all, and that any statement made by me may be used in evidence against me on my trial for the offense of murder and concerning which this statement is made, do, without persuasion or compulsion, make the following free and voluntary statement to the said Edward W. Thomerson:

### SAYS CRIME FIENDISH

I will tell all of you before starting that I don't know how much experience you have had as peace officers or how many dealings you have had with criminals or how horrible the circumstances you have handled, you are about to hear a story that is the God's truth of the most fiendish individual that ever played a part in the realm of criminal procedure.

My married life was like I told you before. It was as happy and as

perfect as anybody's ever was. I have never known a circumstance in which the relationship between a man and wife was quite so perfect and complete as mine and Mrs. Payne's, and she was the personification of everything pure, devoted, faithful and a help-mate and companion in every respect. There are no words or expressions to describe her and that is what makes this so awful.

### WANTED WIFE TO BE HAPPY

After we were married fifteen years ago, more than fifteen years ago, I proceeded along the ordinary work, taught school, tried to get a start in a small way with one idea or interest which was at home and the establishment of a home to make the surroundings as pleasant and as happy for her as possible. That was my highest ambition, all of my interests were her and home, I stayed there at the exclusion of everything else. I had no diversions, no entertainment or anything else except her and the home and there is nothing in the world that ever bore as heavily on me as the fact that anything or circumstances might develop to detract from her pleasure, happiness and satisfaction, and with that

in view, such ideas as that predominating. I worked incessantly and over-reached myself in some respects trying to provide more than a nice home for her and the children, and make our home likewise as happy as possible and insofar as a nice home well furnished, well equipped and every comfort that I was able to provide for her and the children, insofar as those things were concerned, I lived a little beyond my means all the way along. I didn't spend anything for luxuries, didn't spend anything on myself or in any other respect. Everything has been towards keeping that home situation as high as possible. I started in probably with a little better condition there than we were able to maintain at first and I tried to improve that a little all along as we went, and times were such and business conditions were such that I couldn't keep improving it under ordinary legitimate procedure, but I was determined above all things to keep it up and to keep the relation between her and me such that she would not know I was doing anything other than what

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and people who had considered the  
I had killed her and were looking at  
me with hatred in their hearts, and  
if there were those who were looking  
at me with hatred in their hearts, the  
combined hatred of all  
couldn't approach the sternness and  
hellish disposition that arose in me  
to confront the matter; if my life  
and everything that I ever considered  
worthwhile had depended on it  
right at that time, I couldn't have  
broken under any conditions, I was  
as cold and deliberate as I could  
be.

**BOUGHT MORE INSURANCE**

I could have looked them in the  
face with all the sternness of any  
body because that other part, what  
ever it is, was predominating and  
convinced to do so until some time



(Continued From Preceding Page)

After I had been sitting down in front of me, I looked at her basket, thought of her mother and all the tenderness that she had shown me, and all the love that she had given me, and I felt as if I was losing all my life's work, and I had lost all the remorse back in me for her loss, all the worry, but it didn't come to the surface then and after I had been there a while the better element in my mind began to gain over the control of my person and probably I showed my attitude some at that time although I tried as much as I could to suppress any emotion. Going back to February, the next insurance that was taken out was shortly after I had announced for district judge judge. When I had announced for district judge, I had determined then to go ahead and make a go of affairs and do it in a legitimate way and figured that by hard work and her support and her assurance of her cooperation and her love for me and also that I could win what race and I would make good both as an official and in every other respect, and I tried to figure out how I could manage financial affairs until that was over and I could get that office after which time I felt a certainty of a salary that would enable me to take care of affairs and so on. It was suggested to me by some friends that there were several things that I ought to become affiliated with that would help some in political way, one of which was mentioned this Potter County Mutual Benevolent Association. I thought it might in some way, more for policy reasons than any other. She and I joined that. I think that was along about February and just after that fellow Lanford was killed over there. I think that came up right about the same time, although the Lanford matter did not cause that to come up. Right at that time while I had in mind making a go of things again Mr. Lanford was accidentally killed while wrecking that Baptist church building and I was handling the estate and he had a five thousand dollar insurance policy with the American National Insurance Company payable in monthly installments of fifty dollars each to his children, and I was trying to make a collection of it and called W. P. Manning since he was the agent for that company to see what the status of it was and so I learned that it had passed and could not be collected. He left four little children. He had some other insurance but didn't have enough to provide for those children as he should have, and I mentioned to Manning that it was a pity that that policy was not in effect payable to them at fifty dollars a month and accidental death to be one hundred dollars a month, and I told him that every man who had children unless he had fully provided otherwise should have such policy as that payable to his children in order to take care of their education. Of course, Manning took advantage of that opportunity to try to sell me such policy and told me that the first year's premium didn't matter at all with him, that he would give me a note for it and would probably have some business to be attended to if I would take out insurance with him, or that he would carry my note for that first premium as long as I wanted it, and he would renew it if necessary, and if I could pay a little on it all right and tell him he would also be glad to turn that business he had to me and let me handle some legal work for him and I think we probably have an opportunity to discharge part of the billings. I agreed to take a five thousand dollar policy with him and he mentioned about my wife and asked me what insurance I had on her, and I told him we had five thousand dollars insurance on her, and that she and I belonged to the Potter County Mutual Benevolent Association making a total of six thousand dollars. I didn't figure she needed any more insurance but I mentioned it to her when I went home that I was taking five thousand dollars and she was just elated over it as she could be, and she asked me if she could take one the same way. We were both at that time making them payable to the children. I didn't think it was necessary and discouraged her a little at first, but she said she would take in boarders and pay the premiums and several things and she insisted that she could and with the situation I thought we could carry it out and I figured I would let her do it because I could pay the premium by some means, and after he started to make up the policies a day or two later, Manning informed that it would be best for the children all right but there would have to be a will unless one of us was named beneficiary to receive the funds, the children being minors would not receive the funds in case of her death, and of course I knew that too, and should have thought of it in the first place. You could very naturally see that was the thing to do. I was named beneficiary for the benefit of the children and their monies were set out and in mine she was named beneficiary in the benefit of the children and their names being set out. We took out those two policies and gave him a note for them which he still has unpaid. I don't remember the exact amount, but two hundred and forty dollars I think it is, and we went on then and I worked hard for a while and I made a little practice on getting in collections to pay up a few pressing matters and I overcame an embarrassing period and took courage and went to work on a perfectly legitimate basis.

that would make them so I was afraid I would be unable to meet these payments to my sister and if that thing would come along I would be unable to continue. I think I was unable to handle the office rent and at that time I thought I may have to abandon my practice or seek a less expensive office and providing less expense, over-head operation or sell our home; break loose from it somehow or probably do both, than to continue on. I was perfectly willing and considered several different times doing some other line of work. I would have been glad and tried to find any kind of manual labor. I had done manual labor a large part of my life and I really enjoy it and I can do as much work as any man according to my size and ability, and really get satisfaction out of it. I was making an inquiry as to the possibility of obtaining work of any kind in any particular line of business by which I might just entirely abandon it, sell off the office furniture and get it into cash to take care of some of those matters and dispose of my overhead such as in the way of stenographer's salary and office rent and a few telephone bills and all those things. I investigated several jobs pretending to be the people who I made inquiry of that I was looking for a job for a client of mine, but I was thinking of abandoning the practice entirely and going into something myself, but I didn't find anything. I couldn't hear of any thing that would be profitable enough that I would have to make more than a couple of hundred dollars, and fifty cents a month to my sister and also meet the necessary living expenses at home and hold our place although there wasn't so very much to do on the place and take care of other things that had to be taken care of, so I would go back to consider other propositions, and I couldn't find any way out of it. Besides this other thing was still besides on my mind and I was afraid she might learn at any time about my relation with the girl which was not serious to some but it was serious considering that I had rather see her in her grave having died happy and not knowing of that time to see her leave this world and undergo suffering that she would endure, and I knew that it was an inevitable fact that she would learn of that and suffer the torture of having to give up the home and our possessions, all of which would have been embarrassing. She would have been glad to have gone with me even to a humble place under the hardest of circumstances but, of course, it would have hurt her, it would have hurt her pride because she was associated with lots of neighbors and friends out there whom she thought a great deal of and who thought so much of her and thought we were apparently prosperous and getting along in fine shape, and to have had to admit that she had to step down and out on a low level and live in a place where some little place less expensive to maintain, and I take up some other work different to that showing that I had made a failure in my work, I knew, although I didn't have so much dread of those things myself, I knew it would hurt her, know that she couldn't understand, and I knew she could stand it too but I knew it would hurt her to think I had made a failure of what I was doing in my practice and she didn't know that then. She didn't know that I was making a failure financially. She didn't know that our home was just on the verge of having to be given up because of failure and I knew that even though she would go ahead and do more than that, I would hurt her badly and up until that time our home, married life had just been ideal as far as she knew and she was happy and contented to the very utmost, and contemplating between those things and trying to figure out what could be done, how I might work it out, I couldn't see any alternative except to resort back to the other means and our departure of herself and myself, and reflecting on that I still considered this question of disposition of this obligation to my sister in such a way that no one else would know about it and frightening it out and vaporous other inducements of like business affairs in some other satisfactory way and the necessity of letting her go ahead of me, and I studied for several days on various means of working out some way by which I could do that and in a way that it wouldn't hurt her, a way that she would be happy up to the last second of her life, be engaged in something that was pleasant to her in its execution, and it would just happen like that and she would never know it.

### DROWNING OK GUN

I couldn't figure out a satisfactory means of doing it by any kind of poison or gas or anything of that kind, and I figured on the question of driving the car into some place and letting her drown. I had already figured on that for both of us when I was considering that dual suicide. She and I drove out to Bishop's lake west of town and I looked that way across the water for a sufficient angle. We walked around the bank on the north side and she didn't know of course what I was thinking about. I was trying to find if there was a place up there on which I could park the car and let her sit in it and maybe when it started some way or other it would cause it to roll off into the water and drown her, and it would be a painless proposition but when I got to thinking about that I couldn't devise any scheme of that kind that would work. I just figured that even drowning would be painful to her and she would have consciousness even a while and although the while that

palms, but I have an idea there is some period of consciousness in there when a person knows what is happening and I couldn't get my mind to a state to where I was willing for that to take place, so I abandoned that idea and studied on other means, and I thought of the use of the shot gun that I had obtained for myself, and I thought I could fix it some way that it would be absolutely sure to get results the first time, and I decided to make a test of it, and although it would mangle her body to some extent that she would know nothing of that and not have any suffering. I studied for some time about how to work that and finally found that it could be placed under the machine in such a way that it would bind and set at an angle of about forty-five degrees and that, of course, it would be loaded and the hammer set and means fixed of discharging it. She kept the sewing machine in the bed room closet where this accident took place and kept it in there a large part of the time. I found that that could be successfully fixed in such a way that it would point in that position so that her chest would be the part where the bullet would strike her heart as she opened the closet door. Of course, to you this is a most horrible thought or any other person in the world, but I was desperate, you know, and it was much kinder in my mind to devise something like that for her departure than it would have been related to her even my relation with that girl much less to have her to be—to have told her that we would have to sell our home, and move to some little place, and on top of that for her to learn of the fact that I had obtained this money from my sister and probably in connection with that and some other matters even have to stand trial for the disgrace that for any which would not only wreck her happiness but our relation but destroy the home relation and disgrace and things that come with it. I had just incidentally observed her position when she would open that closet door. I had done that before I had ever thought of this shot gun, and when I got to considering the question of the shot gun I couldn't experiment with that while she was at home and while the children were there but I found out and made note of the days on which she would go in the afternoon to some little club affair or something of that kind. She would always let me know just where she was and always get back by the same time so I got those days and knew just where she was and just when she would return. She would never be anywhere at any time without making special provisions to let me know where she was and how I could get in communication, even give me the telephone number at the place where she was going because she knew that it always worried me like everything to come home and for her not to be there, and she didn't leave regardless of what the obligation was elsewhere, she was there to greet me and I know of her goings and comings and knew the children would be in school and, of course, knew what hour they would return, so I worked out a splendid plan, this was a little bit of inconvenience because I always let her have the car at any time she wanted it.

**MADE EXPERIMENT**

She was going to one of these club affairs and I had let her have the car. That would leave me at the office and I concluded I would go home and work on the proposition while the children were out there, so I went on the bus the time that I made the last experiment on that and found out that it would work, and I remember three women got on the bus that afternoon that I went out. It was in March, some time near the middle of March. They were attending a little bridge party—I think it was over in the Country Club somewhere—I don't remember the lady's name, but I knew where mother was that day and knew that these three women that were coming out on the bus were going in that same thing. They were a little later. I had intended to get by the house shortly after mother left because I wanted time to experiment about this thing fully. I am a poor hand to remember names. Those ladies lived in an apartment. I believe an up-stairs apartment. One of them had an up-stairs apartment out on Tenth Street. One of the lady's husbands operates a drug store. It might be the Smith Drug Store. And there is a Mrs. Thompson, one of the ladies, and the other, I can't think of her name, but they were on the bus that afternoon as I went out and they were talking about this social they were going to. I did not join in the conversation

and I don't know whether they knew me or not. I think probably, as to this they will recall because I set right across the aisle from them. I got off the bus and went to the house and there was nobody there but me. I placed the gun in that position under the machine and I will show you just how it worked. I got a piece of tape the size about that long and inserted it in the trigger guard. If I had a gun I should show you exactly. It would not work exactly with the broom handle but you could pull it a little and cause the trigger to work, so I had to get a little piece or strip of lathing about half an inch wide and about six or eight inches long and nail it on to the side of that broom handle, and make it work back while it was inserted in that trigger guard. So that thing stuck in there with a string tied to it and then tied to the knob of the door. Just as the door opened at a certain position it would trip the trigger every time. I tried it again and again and found that it worked absolutely. I did not see it

hered that she would be some where in the car that afternoon. I had been in the office myself and I don't recall whether I had the car in town with me or whether she came down and got me or whether I came home on the bus, but after I got home the little boy was fixing his kite and wanted me to help him with it. He was trying to fix one, and he wanted to study about some other kites and see how to fix one like them. He wanted me to go with him to look at some others. And there was a neighbor—I don't know about this neighbor—she lived over in San Jacinto some place and she wanted the oldest girl to come over and stay with the children that night while her mother was in the hospital. I was something like the boy. That was something the little girl had been doing for the neighbors occasionally and mother went over to take her and Bobby Jean went over with her just for the ride and San was there with me.

I think that was about the 20th of March. I am pretty sure it was the afternoon of the 20th of March. Mr. Weldon had called me from the San Jacinto school house that afternoon and wanted me to come over and judge some debates that night, and while she was gone to take the little girl to this person's house, Bobby Jean was also gone with her, I told son that if he would get me some certain pieces of stuff that I wanted I would fix his kite for him. I wanted something or another that I thought would take him away for several minutes. I gave him a list of things to get and while he was gone to get those things, I went into the house and placed the gun I had already experimented with and had the string and stick and everything ready so I could fix it in a very short while. I went in the house and fixed the gun in the closet under the machine, attached the string to it and tied it to the door knob at the exact distance—I had the distance marked by a knot on the string and all that, and had the string already attached to the stick which had been in a little closet back in another bed room there for some time, a week or more, and I got it while he was outside getting that equipment, whatever it was I told him to get. It was all ready for operation and I went on then outside to help him fix his kite, at least pretend to help him. He got lost and he hardly conscious of what was taking place, of course, and while he was out working on the kite mother and Bobby Jean came back and she stayed there at the front door and talked to a little while and I remember of kissing her and petting her a little just before she went in the house. It seemed that she was sweeter that afternoon and more affectionate than I had ever seen her.

**SETS THE FIAR**

She said she would go in and get ready, it was nearly time for us to go over to the school house and I remember seeing her when she turned to go back in there. I thought she was sweeter than I had ever seen her in my life and I almost weakened, and I thought about going in there and moving the thing, then I reflected, on what would happen, on these other matters and I realized I had already studied on other things, that is, making a go without doing

things of that kind and I realized I had already studied on that, and I remembered that in every legitimate means, I just couldn't see any way that I could make things go successfully. I stayed out there with son and pretended to work on his kite, didn't even know what I was doing. She went on back, and we I said be- cause I didn't know exactly where she would be standing, I thought of any way to keep that gun from striking her farther to the left than about there and further to the right than about here, and I saw that it was bound to do it at such close range as that, but it would be so instantaneous that she would never know what hit her. I couldn't see any other means by which I could do it and not pain her, and it would have worked that time but when she went in there Bobbie Jean was playing around the door and she decided to run in for some reason and just as mother opened the door Bobbie Jean was coming in the bed room door open and that would have had room open and that would have stood back farther than she would have been further than the ever did before in opening the closet door. I guess she must have opened it with her right hand and started to throw those shoes in with her left hand. She had her every day shoes in the machine there in a box, she kept shoes in, but I heard the report and some how or other I was just as confident as I could be the minute I heard the report of the gun that it hadn't accomplished the desired results. I don't know how but I felt that way. It just terrorized me the thought that she might be injured may be suffering may be almost crazy with that thought to me, the neighborly and others who knew me and observed me for a few days after that experience on the effect that I was just wild almost, and right after that report-it didn't go very loud, not near as loud as I thought it would. It sounded like a chair had fallen and I heard her scream, of course, and I rushed in and Bobbie Jean was already in the front room coming shouting me right at the door. I saw that she was not hurt but that pieces of splinter and wood was in her hair and it had shot a whole through the thick part of the door and she was so close that the wood fell in her hair and she didn't know her, and it just caught her in the hair and there, just made a little flesh wound, went through that door and struck the ceiling, and I went into the room and I rushed back to the

permanently, tearing high and low for the stick and I don't know what her boss at the block. I don't know whether some body else got it out of the room or what happened to it, but I carried the string in my pocket two or three days before I made disposition of it, and I finally disposed of the string down in town on 6th street right at the southeast corner of that little building right south of the Fugate building, that one on the corner where they had that talloring outfit on the alley on the north side of the street as you go towards the courthouse. I threw that string down there. Of course I didn't know it was a gun string and I thought I was throwing away some junk. I threw it back in that alley. It was a piece of a kind of heavy flashing cord. I had been talking to Mr. Hunter who is a principal of the Buchanan Street school and his brother-in-law, Mr. Jones, I believe is the preacher. I had been talking with them there on the corner telling them about the accident and what a tragic thing it was and we didn't know how it happened and all and then I went on down the sidewalk there and disposed of the string just after I was talking to them. It had happened just a few days, a day or two before I was there. I jerked it out of the place and got this string and stick to dispose of it. I dropped the gun right over in the closet where it was supposed to have been. The little boy in his excitement didn't remember exactly what happened. He came to the door there with me but I didn't know just what he saw and he came back in a minute after I had got the gun down there and after he had tried to phone a doctor and couldn't locate one, and after I had already gotten a towel and wrapped mother's hand. Just an instant before we started to the hospital I turned around and I told him to do something with us and we both looked at it and saw the gun like he saw and he did. He was at the door you know before that when he first went in and I told him to go back and call the doctor. I didn't know what he saw the first time so we both rushed in together, the guns were right there and they were not disturbed from that time until we returned from the hospital. I was hurt beyond all expression, the fact that she was injured. It hurt me worse than it did her.

**NURSED WIFE.**  
I was hoping that it would be an absolute painless proposition and the thought of her blood and injury of her just almost drove me to distraction. There never was a time in the world that I would have gladly from my own point of view committed suicide as I would then, just the wrong I had done her, but I couldn't afford to do it the way things were. I could not have done it of course at that time. It would have been the most unthinkable thing I could have done.

most pleasurable thing to me of any thing, but I could not entertain the thought of leaving her injured and necessarily *flung out* about the street. She thought I was doing her wrong. I could not heal and all that, so no I could not do it there. I took her to the hospital and did everything. I could for her. I would dress her hand, dress her injury, I would bathe her myself so that she would be sure not to get her hand in the water and not hurt it in any way. I dressed and helped her dress and undress and every thing and she asked me lots of questions about the insurance. I told her that I would see if she might possibly have suspected anything, and she asked me a question about the insurance, if it provided or if there was any means of collecting anything on the insurance policy to help pay the doctor bills and provide for a few of the little expenses incurred as a result. She was very much grieved because she was not able to do all of her work and such things as that. I lifted some one to do the washing and work in the house, then she could not do because she had been injured and it grieved her because I was having to be out expense, she knowing the financial affairs and that fact hurt her, because she was so nervous and shocked from it and it worried her in that respect for quite a while, her nervousness and shock. It was more than I could stand, but I had to stand it. When I took her to Dr. Glat after he had dressed her wounds a few times—of course I did not know much about those things but I took her to Dr. Glat and he told me to take care of it. It was very tender and he calmed her. Of course it would be tender and he wasn't as gentle as some one would be with their own. Where he, I guess a fellow gets to observe how he is cold-blooded, observed carefully what he was doing and how he attended to the wounds and how he dressed it and all and after he had dressed it only a few times there had learned how to do it. I obtained the medicine and necessary bandages and I learned how to remove the bandages more gently than he could. She wanted me to because I could keep from hurting her. I nursed her through that just as tenderly as anybody ever did anybody. And every time that I would think of that wound on her hand and think of her it happened and I just could not stand it. I just determined then right away after that to overcome the proposition some way. That was on the 20th of March. I went to the hospital and did my duty and I think maybe the next day after I got back to the office and I was in less than two days after that I told the Thompson girl I was going to make some changes in business affairs and for her to look out for another job. I wanted to get her away from there, break off my relations with her and try to make a good thing and tell Mrs. Payne at the same time later date about my former relations with the girl but that I had been long and my behavior had been renewed. I told her that I told her that she probably would forgive me.

there at church two or three times. But at two or three times we went to church when the Thompson girl would be sitting across the aisle or someplace in sight of us and I noticed she looked at her very much. She noticed the Thompson girl quite a bit and I am confident she did not know of our relation. I am just as confident as I can be that the only question in her mind was if I had got interested in the Thompson girl to any extent or wondering if she was interested in me. I just have absolute confidence, in fact, that she did not know, though her intuition as a woman probably taught her that there was something that was not maybe just exactly just like it should be. Although she was not connecting it seriously, but on the fifth day of April, I think it was, the day that the Thompson girl was shot for me, she went to the store for Hickman Price and the Bush girl to take her place. And continued my work there and just determined to make a go of everything some way, and I tried to study every scheme in the world, figuring the Thompson girl was out of the way and that I had that proposition removed and that it probably wouldn't ever become known to her, that is, to Mrs. Payne, although I know a few people had seen us together and possibly some of them might have told Mrs. Payne about it.

CONTINUED FLIRTATION

It was apparent in a short while that there wasn't any way by which I could raise money enough to meet my obligations and keep things from coming to an open break where she would learn all the facts and would know that I was not only a failure in my business and practice, having failed to make a financial success, but that she would have to give up our home and all such matters as that and this other question about money of my sister would come to light and it would very likely be something dangerous coming of that, and a very disastrous situation arise, all of which when I would think of it I would just become wild and after that when or during that time along there a month or so, I would see the Thompson girl a few times, that is, when she would be down at the bridge and drug store where I ate some meals, and she and the lady who works for Lorenfield on his stenographer. There wasn't any effort whatever to have a courtship affair or anything of that kind, we would just incidentally drop in and eat lunch together, I did not come down on account of my interest in her. I just happened to see her there and I was not worrying about her and not concerned about her.

**RE-EMPLOYED GIRL.**  
The things that were worrying me most were those others that I related to you, and as I said before, I was inclined to take a little diversion and play with her a little once in a while, got a little satisfaction in that, but I wasn't doing it at that time. When she lost her job with Price and after she had been working there about a month or more, she was down there calling lunch one day and told me about it and I felt under obligation to help her get a job because she was in a bad way. I had to help her off over there, although I did help her all possible and did help her to get that job with Klankman Price, recommended her very highly. I had a conversation with him and his wife in which I employed everything I knew to secure the position for her. When she was out of a job I tried my best to locate one for her and she did get one or two I felt sure she could get, and did get one and she would have had a good job if she could have got the communication that day, but I couldn't find her, I just passed her on the street and told her to come up to my office that afternoon, but I didn't tell her just what I was doing. I understood her to say that she wouldn't come. I didn't get there and because other applicants were waiting the place was taken, so when she found out I had mistaken, lined up she came around and apologized for not being there. The tact of the business is she came in and showed some disposition and wanted to be rather friendly with me. I believe the thing she did, she came up and put her arm around my neck and patted me on the back or something of that kind and told me how good I had been in trying to help her. Out of course, I patted her back and she told me she was thinking something of going to Pampa and see

about a job that she heard of over there. I told her I was going the next day and I would be glad to take her if she would go and she went to stay with me and, of course on that way out there I got to petting her again and we came back by the Groom, I believe the relative that. That was near the first of May, I think that was about the middle of May. I didn't think along there, and I saw that my affairs were growing worse than ever and having made that trip over there I renewed that problem which I thought I had eliminated, added it back to the other and I had formerly subordinated it from it so I was so desperate I hardly knew what to do. I considered the question of leaving. I went home and got my gun and took it out that road over by Bishop's Lake again and took my little boy with me and was figuring on—No, that is not true, Sirloin and, please. That was some time before that, I think that trip, that wasn't at that time, that little boy went to school and I took the phone gun, but I got to reflecting on the divorce and what would be the outcome and I decided maybe he had better put it off a while particularly with the view of collecting about four or five hundred dollars in fees that I was going to be able to collect within the next few days that would take up some matters that would cause the financial situation to

insurance on him. He tried to  
 sell me a ten thousand dollar re-  
 demption policy and take a note for it  
 later down the line, and I wouldn't  
 agree to take that but I told him that  
 the boy had no many accidents and  
 such close calls so often that I re-  
 luctant because of the fact that he  
 was a boy that I ought to have more  
 insurance on him because of the fact  
 that he was a boy and had had so  
 many accidents and I took out on him  
 a ten thousand dollar policy on him  
 thinking it payable to his mother fig-  
 uring at that time that I was going  
 to commit suicide myself within a  
 short while. That was, I believe, very  
 soon after the first of May that that  
 policy had been taken out.

The reason I made it payable to her was because I didn't want it to be necessary for her to go through any additional steps to have the insurance policy changed and such as what at my death. After resting a while, I will start again, and I believe I had told you about the policy for the little boy with the American Insurance Company. I don't know, and some time before that I had taken an additional five thousand dollars insurance policy on myself with the Southwestern Life Insurance Company but that was taken to replace a similar policy of the same company that I had before because I didn't let the other one lapse and in order to reinstate it it would cost more to have paid up the back policy than it would to just let it lapse. It would be to just pay it off and take out a new policy. That was all the insurance that was taken out.

**MORE DESPONDENT**

From about the first of May, along where somewhere I entered into the most despondent period that I had ever undergone and I tried to figure out a cover by any means in the work that I could follow that I could put whatever in time to save the situation in any kind of illegitimate means of covering my eyes, and all that I could think of was to make a cover by any means in the work that I could follow that I could put whatever in time to keep my wife from learning of these things that I know she would learn about and the one thing that concerned me was to keep her from knowing about these things because I figured the distress to her and myself, the grief that it would cause to her to learn of those things and to learn of my relation with this other woman. I could hold down my business financial problems later would be worse to her and myself also than the death of either of us, and I began to try to study what kind of a way could be worked out and what I should be done about it, and what means I could employ bringing to an end to be sure that it would be absolutely painless to her. At that same time there was a renewed realization to my mind of a thing that I had been thinking of quite a long time, and that was the portion of the statement that I hate to give more than any other portion because of the fact that it will always be a memory to my mind and be a handicap to him, but it is necessary in order to understand why.

**FEAR FOR BOY**

I have always considered that it is most essential to the development of character and ideals and things that are worthwhile in a boy that he be employed and learn how to do various things and keep out of mischief and I have also realized that that cannot be accomplished unless he is brought down as being with children that do not do anything and play around in search to entertain themselves whether legitimate or not. I may have an exaggerated idea—I guess I do—of the detrimental effect on the character of the child who is raised in town under such circumstances but I have been seeing my boy acquiring certain traits, developing certain habits that I in my own mind was positive as I could be would eventually enure to his detriment and his ruin, and I knew that he being as much like I am as he is, he is very much like I am in many respects, knowing my own disposition and the things that my working mother has said things that I am for I could not see it creeping on me where I would not even be able to maintain as well as ever maintain a respectful course of conduct and I saw that—I thought I saw that he would grow into a dangerous character, into a man that would probably bring a family into the world and bring grief and distress as I could already see that I had done.

**GIRLS' PERFECT**

I figured quite a bit about that and I saw also that it was necessary and essential that when mother and I were gone and that in our absence that it would become more likely and more certain with him than if we were here to watch over him and protect him, and I knew that I, after leaving him, I stood in a very evident that I would not, if I should stay on with him, I wouldn't exert the influence over him that would keep him from doing such things, but I figured that the two girls were so perfect as two children could be and would make as near ideal women like mother as any two children I ever knew, and I just entertained forebodings of evil for the little boy in case he was left and having considered these other matters as I had about Mrs. Payne and myself and considering that there were so many things worse than death especially if it is inflicted painlessly and without the agency of anticipating which I think many people do have and I could not maintain, I figured if I should could suddenly be taken away without any pain or suffering that he not yet having grown up, would be attached to any one, not yet having a family and all that that might be the advisable thing to do. Also, the more I reflected on that, the more advisable I thought it would be, and the more I considered the

and I just wonder as a matter of  
curiosity if each of you would guess  
the means that was devised. I just  
wonder what your idea is, of how  
it was done.

**BOUGHT DYNAMITE**

I would like to before we go further, to have each of you express an opinion. (Whereupon each person in the room expressed an opinion of what the plan was devised). On the 25th day of May I drove to Bergee and went to the Thompson Hardware store at Bergee. There were two young fellows there at the counter about the same size; I don't know either of them and they together realized on me. I might be able to recognize them if I were to see them. I told them, the one who asked me what I wanted when I walked in. I told him I wanted three sticks of dynamite, four caps and ten feet of fuse. He said "all right" and turned to the other one who was standing right by me and told him to get—either told him to get the dynamite or told him to get the fuse, either that. One of them got part and the other got the other part, but just which I don't know. The one that got the caps I think he went out to the back. I think possibly they had a magazine out to the back somewhere, he went out and got them, and the other measured off the fuse. He had marked places on the counter and while I was there getting that I tried to appear very unconcerned about it and picked up a paper that was lying there and was reading in the paper. When that paper was an account of a man having been run over, I believe maybe a tractor got away with him and mangled his body terribly, perhaps didn't kill him but mangled him awfully badly.

**WAS CAUTIOUS**  
 My eyes happened to fall on that strange coincidence at the time I was purchasing this stuff for such a terrible thing, and when they had gotten on it ready and he came to deliver it to me and handed it to me, I said that is a terrible proposition, isn't it?" and referred to that piece in the paper in which the man had got hurt the night before. He says, "What's that," and I said "That man getting in a body mangled that way and that tractor or machine— whatever it was. That will help those boys to recall the incident, and he looked at me a little and said "Yes." They didn't seem to pay much attention to me either of them. I noticed they didn't seem to observe me. I was satisfied that neither would ever be able to identify me as I noticed the fact that they were only making a motion of what they were saying, but not having me sign up or anything of that kind, didn't know at the time how close it would take him in proving and working out this thing. I had the car parked right across the street from the Thompson Hardware, it goes east and right across the street and just a little ways north right around the corner at an angle like that. I took the explosives with me and went on over to the car and put them in my seat by me and put the caps in my coat pocket and started out back to Amarillo. I was alone. Down here between Borger and Panhandle where the road curves around a lake, I decided possibly I had better conceal that about the car some way or other so as when I should meet any one before I got home wouldn't any one find me with it, so I opened the back end and I figured it might not be hurt just to say it down anywhere. I got a piece of newspaper that was in the car and wrapped the dynamite and the fuse in it and stuck it down at the side of the seat, to the back of the seat temporarily, where it would not be observed. I left it there for two or three days in the back end. I had the caps in my pocket. When I got home, I took those caps out and put them up on a little nick over the title of the garage up in the corner where any wouldn't be noticed, where they wouldn't be jarred because I understand they are the dangerous portion of anything of that kind.

**STUDIED PLANS**  
Dynamite as I knew it as a young-ster was more or less harmless under ordinary conditions. You can take a stick of it and throw it down on rock and it will smash flat unless some one if it is frozen and hard it might possibly go off. You can take it and put it in the fire and it will burn. A few days after that I drove it into the country and decided on using that while I was figuring out a plan of how I would set this thing off; I thought probably she would be taking the car as she commonly did and she might have occasion to open the back end and probably find it there or some one else may discover it, so I took it home from the back part of the front seat—that is, pulled it loose up at the corner, and slipped the dynamite and the fuse down in behind that front seat so it would be right behind the driver, and that stayed in there probably two weeks while I was figuring on a plan of how I could set the thing off. I drove off south of town to take out there on a piece of land eight southwest of town that belongs to the man that used to be mayor, Lon D. Marrs. The road here is from the southwest corner of the Country Club and goes on down and comes on down by the side of that creek. I believe they tenet it but you can drive out by that lake down there and there is a place where there is no one driving cars and I drove out there two or three times and looked at the situation over with the idea of finding means of setting that where I would be sure to go off and work properly.

I first thought it might be fixed



# "Of No Further Service to Society," Payne Asks for Death

## REMARKABLE CRIME STORY ENDS IN PLEA

"BETTER FOR MY CHILDREN  
AND OTHER RELATIVES,"  
HE DECLARES

(Continued From Preceding Page)

one and I tied a string around it tightly so it could slip out, and not being able to work that well from the back, I loosened these little screws that hold the back part of the front seat that held the post, loosened them and tilted the back of that front seat forward. That enabled me to get access to it which would place it close against the body or near the bodies of the occupants of the car, and between the springs of back seat and the covering, the back of the upholstery inserted these three sticks dynamite with fuses attached leaving it about three feet long at that time. I tied them in there securely and so that, when in position, that they couldn't slip down or fall out of place so the cap would not be likely to come out and when you lean back against the seat it just pressed them against the spring not hard enough—your could just lean clear back against it as hard as you wanted to and it would not do anything but push the springs backward without doing any jarring or disturbing.

### TIMED BURNING OF FUSE

I let the fuse extend down through a hole that I made in that cardboard covering and extended it down through there into the opening in the back end of the car. There was about three feet of fuse at first, and I had timed the burning of the fuse and that is the reason I got ten feet was to experiment with some of it. I had already timed the burning of a fuse how long it would take for a fire to burn a certain distance and I estimated how long a fuse it would take to burn a certain distance before it would explode and that dynamite remained in that position with a fuse sticking through that cardboard and part of the time when anyone was going to use the car in which it might be discovered, I would pull the whole thing back and leave it back there, and it remained in that position until the time the tragedy happened. I placed it in there at least a month before it was discharged. I drove all over the country around there with that dynamite against my back. I have no assurance, I thought possibly it might be exploded anytime if I was a little reckless about it. The fact of the business is, I kind of wished a few times it would, and I did not care if it did, but I was careful about it when there was anyone else in there with me, I didn't want to be too reckless with the car; I didn't want anyone else to get into it. The day I was out with the Thompson girl, she was driving a little reckless, and I was careful, not that I had any affection for her and wanted to protect her in that respect. I didn't want to kill anyone without there was a good reason for it. I thought was a good reason for it to be to her benefit or to the benefit of their happiness or something of that kind, and another thing I didn't want by any means, for a thing like that to happen to me while I was out with her, and Mrs. Payne under those conditions—I would figure that would defeat the very purpose I had in mind. There were several people that rode with me in the car, and probably if they had noticed that it might have felt something in that cushion, they could tell there was a little sort of bump in that cushion, dynamite being within two inches of their back or something of that kind. As I said, I felt lots of times when I was driving—I intended to be careful but I think I got a little reckless toward the last because I could feel it against my back. I felt it against my back a number of times and it never bothered me a least bit driving that car with the anticipation that it might explode any minute.

### CAREFUL ABOUT OTHERS

I didn't drive carefully when I did use it. I remember one or two times when I drove more reckless than I ever did when I was out alone. This man Thompson, Ernest Thompson's uncle, who used to be the Thompson Drug man down there and who is now with the whole lot of people over there, and I believe it is, went with me just a few days before the explosion over to Herford, and out west of Herford, and looked at a piece of land, and I drove a little bit fast a few times on that trip and I was a little cautious and I slowed up two or three times thinking possibly I might cause an explosion, maybe that cap would be jared or pushed with the string and I didn't want to injure that man. I didn't know anything of his affair and didn't know whether he was prepared to go or anything of that kind and I didn't want him to be hurt. Of course, he didn't know he was next to it, and I studied and studied just how I could fix that thing to make it go off right. I finally calculated that by the fuse coming through the back and that if I could fix some way to have a burner, a little lamp or something of that kind, that would be burning for a number of hours and also devise some scheme by which that fuse could be pulled right over the burner at a given time it could be set off possibly, and I was confident from my experience with dynamite, as well as I could remember as a youngster, that although it would be absolutely instantaneous and complete, there would be no pain or suffering whatever. Otherwise, I wouldn't have employed that means, the only mean I would consider with any seriousness at all were means that would be absolutely instantaneous and not cause any suffering.

### TESTS IMPROVISED LAMP

I finally took the little oil can that goes with the car, a little can about that big, and tapers up and has a little spout to it. I took that and cut off that little spout to where it was only about three quarters of an inch

long. That left it with a hole in there, you see, from here down the bigger it gets. That left it with a hole about as big around as my little finger. I took a piece of towel and rolled it in proper shape and the proper size and I rolled it together and made a wick that I could stick into that thing, and let it extend down into the can, and I had to fasten that little wick to get some way out so that it wouldn't be slipping out, so that it would be kind of rounded so it would go in. I took my knife and cut off from the picture in my office a little piece of wire that you hang the picture by, I cut off a little piece of wire about that long and unraveled the little wire with which I tied that wick into a round shape, and I got a quart of alcohol, I think it was from Hamilton's tire shop, right there on Tenth—I am pretty sure it was either Hamilton's tire shop or some garage right along there. I inquired at two or three places for alcohol but they didn't have any at that time of the year, it had already gotten on waters and the didn't have it. I got that in a quart jar and went out into the country several different times and tried putting alcohol into this lamp. I had prepared, making an alcohol burner and tested it to find out how it would burn. It would make a very short hot blaze, and you could pull the wick up and make it a little bigger with a blow sufficient, and with that thing I lighted with the alcohol it would last a half day, and I found that by placing that thing in a certain position that I could devise a means to cause the fuse to be pulled right over that flame at the time the car started or something, soon afterwards, that it would get the desired result. In lighting the fuse in the meantime I was very uneasy for fear of these matters may break anytime, and that they might learn these things, that to my mind would be more tragic to her than what happened, yet I wanted to be sure that I had this fixed well enough, and sure enough, to where it wouldn't cause her any pain or any suffering. I was also considering the advisability of including the boy with her in that, and I considered also the question of her using the car while that dynamite was in there, and the other children, but I cautioned her to be careful about her driving.

### PROTECTED GIRLS

I examined it two or three times as that cap was close to a spring where it might be touched off by friction, and I saw that there was not any danger in that respect. I also cautioned her about driving carefully, not telling her why because there were so many automobile accidents and knowing also that she was a very careful driver, I didn't feel there was any danger of that explosion taking place while she was out with the girls. I couldn't see a reason at all for including the girls and didn't want to do so, didn't want to include any one that I didn't think would be benefited by it. I did consider several times the advisability of having her and the little boy and myself all three in there at the same time, but the same question arose there that I had before that these other things would come out after our death and that business matters could not be handled, particularly the matter with reference to my sister's money so that she wouldn't learn what I had done in that respect if I didn't stay here to fix that up, so I figured I would have to plan it for them and manage it in such way that it would not be detected. I didn't have any idea that I would at any time work out anything of that kind and I didn't care if I were seen afterwards, I was so that I would have time to wind up some business matters and work out some plan or scheme for my own destruction so that it would be thought to be an accident on my part.

### NEVER TOLD ANYONE

I wanted it to appear an accident because I abhorred the idea if it had been successful in looking out for these other things and then winding up myself with the tragedy of suicide which would look bad, and with that in view, that is the principal thing I did have in view. Any further negotiations or association with this girl—and I continued to go with her and make love to her and tried to order that she would not when this first step happened, Mrs. Payne's and the little boy's destruction—she would not say anything until after I had gotten other affairs worked out and my own destruction properly laid and executed, and I never at any time hinted to her or any one else, never had any idea of doing so to any one the things I had in my mind, but she was interested, very much interested in me although the little girl didn't admit it. I don't blame her for not doing so. She thinks maybe she might have taken on that, but she is entirely taken on that, she should have her mind fixed on that. She was given a good outline of what took place but she didn't fill it in fully naturally and I don't blame her. She tried to make it appear that all the advances were on my part and she was very reluctant. She was just reluctant enough, a girl has to be, but she had reached the stage that she was not concerned about my family or children at all. She wouldn't have objected to me for a minute because I had a wife and children living if we were just separated and living in a divorce and go on. She was interested to where she had already reached that stage and had so indicated. It was hard to keep the girls out at the time I wanted the thing to work.

### ARRANGES DYNAMITE

That was one thing that kept bothering me. I had to work it at a time so I would get everything placed properly. I can say more about that a little later. As to how I lighted the fuse, over the lamp and how long it would take it to burn, I, of course, extinguished the burner and used a little rubber. I don't have any little rubber bands, but you know what I mean. The fuse hung down like the lamp was right here, the fuse was around here and came out back up here about that far and could be pulled in either direction and the fuse could hang close to that burner and not be in any danger, but I first figured on fixing a wire with a hook in it so as to let the fuse come so I could tie the rubber to the fuse and fasten it so when I fastened it and it was pulled down the rubber jerked it over and it would catch and hold it over the burner, but that did

not work successfully, it did not at all ways stay in that same position. Then there was one thing that occurred to me, there was nothing back up the explosion, what I mean by that is dynamite, contrary to popular belief, and I think the same is true of any other explosive, I do not know of any, other, nose in all directions principally, that is it goes some in all directions, but probably in the course of least resistance, in other words if you place a piece of dynamite up against an immovable wall and set it off, of course the force could not move that and most of the force would go away from the wall, in other words, it would rebound if it had something to back it up. I figured since there was nothing but this at all that it might not be so, I thought it would be a sort of a back up proposition to offset at least the weight of their bodies on the other side. That was the purpose of placing the malle seed in there and leaving it in there. During that time I was trying to work out and get this fuse exactly over the lamp and I used two rubber bands, fastened on the fuse, pulling one this way and the other that way and moved the lamp so that it was right near the fuse and then tied a string to the fuse and pulled it over to a nail. I had a nail over here on the side and I hooked it over that with a slip knot, the string running down through a hole in the bottom of the car the other end of the string to be tied to something on the ground under the car so the when the car started up it would pull the string and untie this slip knot and let the fuse slip back to its place. I did that and tried it several times and it always pulled and the fuse came back all right. The lamp not being lighted at that time until I got it to the right place. But I did not anticipate the results that would take place when that lamp was lighted. I created quite a little bit of heat in there and in order to find out just how that would work I used a piece of fuse stuck into the cardboard back of that thing, just making a loop so that the end that was lighted, and the end that was going to burn out were both in the back end, also I wanted to find out how much smoke that would make working that way, if it would make too much smoke and create a disturbance, and I tried it a time or two that way and it worked all right, but probably at the time I fixed it the first time to go off I might have had the rubbers on the fuse closer to the burner than I had these others, that I had experimented with, and the day before the tragedy I had prepared it and thought I was sure that the girls would neither be in the car.

### WANTED TO SAVE GIRL

I had to be very careful about finding their whereabouts and finding out what they were going to do, but I was set and planned to have been discharged the day before it did happen and she and the little boy and the baby girl came up to the office in the car, I did not know the little girl was going to come; I thought it was definitely arranged that she was not going to come, but the hand of providence protected her and the fuse did not get over the burner. I burned the rubber in two on one side and the other rubber pulled the fuse away from the burner. That first day it failed and she went on back home. I was wondering what had taken place. I went on back hoping that it wouldn't go off until she got the little girl out. I tried to figure some means of sending the little girl on the bus, and just Mrs. Payne and my boy and I go alone. I was willing to sacrifice the opportunity of going up these other matters and was more or less unconcerned whether I was in there at the time because I thought three sticks of dynamite would be amply sufficient to destroy us all three at the same time or any number of people that might happen to be in there at the same time, but I didn't want to include the little girl. I couldn't devise any means of keeping her from going back with us so I told Mrs. Payne to stay in the office a little while that I wanted to go down and see someone just for a minute and I would be back to the office for them, and I slipped out and went hurriedly out to where the car was and opened it up to extinguish the lamp so that it would not happen while the baby girl was with us. When I opened it up I found that it had burned these rubbers to where there was no likelihood in it getting over the burner, so I got another piece of picture frame wire and tied it around the fuse and let it extend out a little way on each side and as the car started I tied it to something else further on so that there wasn't any rubber clear up to the tube.

### OUTLINES ROUTE

There was wire up to the part that was unheated and the rubber would serve to pull the thing back further so that it worked properly because it did not affect the rubber at all. I pulled it over to the side and tied it to a nail and extended that string and tied it down to something on the ground, and was the means by which it was loosened and moved it to fly back over the blaze. The backing into the garage was not essential. That backing in the garage was like I told you in the first place—to make it easier for Mrs. Payne to drive out. It didn't need to be in there in that condition because the other end would just as well but I figured it was equally advisable if it was backed in to be sure that she would drive all right without anything unusual. I had cut the fuse down to about two feet and two or three inches figuring that it would begin to burn Tenth Street turning south on Goetz and down Tenth. I told her to go out that route so there would be no one else there and I let the gasoline run a little low in the car and I advised her to go that way and come by a garage on Tenth Street and get some gasoline. I had already timed and calculated she would be along over there at the time it happened and there would be no one else injured and I haven't been able to figure out why it happened where it did unless

it was the way she started up and the little boy said she killed the engine several times which caused it to go off quicken.

According to my measurements and calculations of the other fuse they would have had plenty of time to have gone down that far and at the time I left the house that morning it was definitely understood, I thought, that the little girl was not going to come since she had come the morning before, and since mother had told the other girl—told LaBell—that she was going to leave her there to fix dinner and that just happened without my putting in. I didn't leave any orders for her to be left there but I think I did ask to ascertain for certain if she had so planned it. I heard her mother say that and I asked about that so as to be sure she was not in the car and to be sure that Bobbie Jean wouldn't be. Then when I started out, she called me back and said Bobbie Jean wanted to go with me and I figured if she figured on going to town at all I had better let her go with me because she might possibly go with them, so I took her on to the office with me and before I left that morning the first thing after I got up there, before mother had come into the kitchen, I went out into the garage before I opened the door and lighted the burner and tied the string so that it held the fuse to one side and tied the other end of it to a pick that was laying on the floor, which was the same way I had fixed it the morning before, and the pick being heavy enough so that when the car started up the rubber would pull it exactly over the burner and it evidently worked exactly at that time. The detectives who were out immediately after the explosion to examine the garage to see if anything could be found over-looked that pick with the string tied to it. It was right there, right on the floor of the garage. I even made mention of it later of probably being of importance.

### PUTTING ON "FRONT"

I don't know whether any of you recall that or not, but I told them this as I already knew what the significance of that string was that if I had been examining it I would have attached some significance to that but when I went out to the garage some time after the explosion after I had been home some time I saw that string still there on the pick. I removed it myself, put it in my pocket and a day or two later threw it out in the back yard somewhere with some other similar stuff the little boy had played with and while I was at the office that morning of course, I was hardly conscious of what was happening, neither was I the morning before. I don't know how much of a front I put on in disguising my troubles but I was looking forward with some degree of pleasure and satisfaction in the idea that it would be instantaneous, painless and would preclude any opportunity of causing grief to her that she was inevitably going to learn right soon with reference to our financial affairs and my relation with this girl, and when I answered the telephone, someone called me—I heard the ambulance roaring and I knew what they were running for. I knew or thought I did, and the morning before I just knew some way or other that it would not work; I knew it before, not just from not hearing the ambulance but something within me eased me after a little while. I guess about the time she started or maybe some mental telepathy—I don't know.

### TRIED TO CALL WIFE

Something eased me long before we got down to the office that morning because I just knew that it wouldn't work for some reason, but that morning after I got to the office I knew it was going to work, and I took the receiver off the telephone two different times to call her and tell her not to come as I anticipated the result and she didn't, and I chose between stopping her and avoiding that tragedy and letting her go, and I knew that it would be ended up painlessly. All her life up to that time she was happy and cheerful and up to that time she had never for an instant distrusted me or had any lack of confidence in my advice or faithfulness to her, and I chose to let her come on and I held the receiver probably ten minutes before I put it back. If it hadn't been for the boy that was injured like he was and didn't go on also, I still consider right now that I would do the same thing again.

It is miraculous that he was not snuffed out instantaneously. I can see nothing in the world—I know how it was done and all that, it is terrible, but I believe that if he doesn't understand now that if he gets over it being the forgotten one as he is that his life and his way of thinking will be enough like mine that it would justify me. I was doing what I thought was the kindest deed for mother and for him to save him the agonies that I have gone through because I just feel that he was going to be enough like me that he was going to get in the same sort of circumstances if he lives to reach it. I couldn't say that my greatest grief right now is that he didn't go with his mother, but that together with the fact that I didn't and I couldn't change it if it were to do over again, didn't confide everything faithfully to my wife. I placed that first to everything my wife's going without realizing it all to her and getting the forgiveness which I know I could have obtained and then the little boy's forgiveness that he was not relieved once and for all any suffering of what I believe is inevitably in store for him. I did not request my wife to bring the boy along with her that morning but I had found out he wanted to come and there were two reasons why he was coming: one was he wanted to get a hat and another was he wanted to get some circulars for distribution, that is, some of Mr. Landis' campaign literature and he wanted to get some from Judge Landis to distribute. Judge Landis was running for office and the little boy wanted to put out some of Judge Landis' cards. After I prepared the car that morning on starting to leave home I was thoroughly convinced that the explosion would take place. When I told her goodbye I thoroughly realized that it was the last time that I would ever see her. I thought that she was the most lovely then than I had ever seen her in all her life, even more so than when I kissed her just before she

went in where the gun was or on either of the times when I tried to put her to sleep. I knew that she had always been absolutely pure, innocent, devoted and faithful and had been everything that could ever be attributed to any woman, and I thought of the little boy who was then still in bed and I did not have the heart to go and look at him, because I knew that so far he was perfectly innocent although I was convinced that he would later develop into the same kind of man that I am, and I felt that it was best for society and for those who are associated with or dependent upon any such person that there be no more of that kind. I hope that I may be mistaken in him and that as he gets older he may develop more of the characteristics of his mother and become a noble and useful man. It is a mistake that I sent for the Thompson girl to renew any advances towards her. When she came into my office the first time, several days after the tragedy, I told her the first thing

that her and my relation were over at an end and I never touched her or attempted to only that she shook hands with me when she entered the room. I did tell her however that my attitude toward her had not changed and would not, and that was true, except I did not want her to know what I meant by the word attitude at that time. I did not mean that I loved her, because I never had done so in the true sense. It was my purpose to let her remain as friendly as possible for a while so that she would not tell our relationship until I could get matters worked out and provision made for the children and my final departure. Immediately after the tragedy I thought I would be able to work out all such business matters within a month at least, but when I found that suspicion was strong toward me and that sentiment in the community was so strong I did not think it to the best interests of the children to leave them in Amarillo, in order to make the

proper provision for their removal. I knew it would take time to get the home place disposed of and get them located and started off in, perhaps, some distant state where I had hoped to induce Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, their grandparents, to come and keep house and make a home for the children. I also realize that if Bob should live on it would be some time before his injuries could be overcome and if he was to live I wanted to see him entirely recovered before my departure. I also wanted to wait long enough so that the cause of my death would be conclusively pronounced as accidental that way.

### AVERTED SUSPICION

Because of these things and for the further reason that on account of the children and other relatives I did not want the truth to ever be known I went to work to try and divert suspicion from me, but in my distress I made a poor out in doing so. This is shown by the fact that I prepared two letters, one to the sheriff and the other to the chief of police of Amarillo, which I had been carrying

in my pocket for about a month and had just rewritten them the day before my arrest and they were found in my pocket at that time and were obtained by the officers. I do not see that I can be of any further benefit to myself to any of my relatives, or to society. I therefore do not wish in any way to delay the trial of this case and the execution of the penalty of the law, and I am not saying this because of my present despondency, but because I believe the best interests of society and my relatives can be most adequately served in that way.

I have read and corrected the foregoing fifty-five pages of this statement, which has been made to Edw. W. Thompson, in the presence of W. N. Thompson, W. R. McLowell, Chas. Dehout, Henry Meyers, M. M. Scott, M. Marton, U. O. Moore, and Henry Cross, and is true and correct.

Witness my hand this 8th day of August, A. D. 1930.

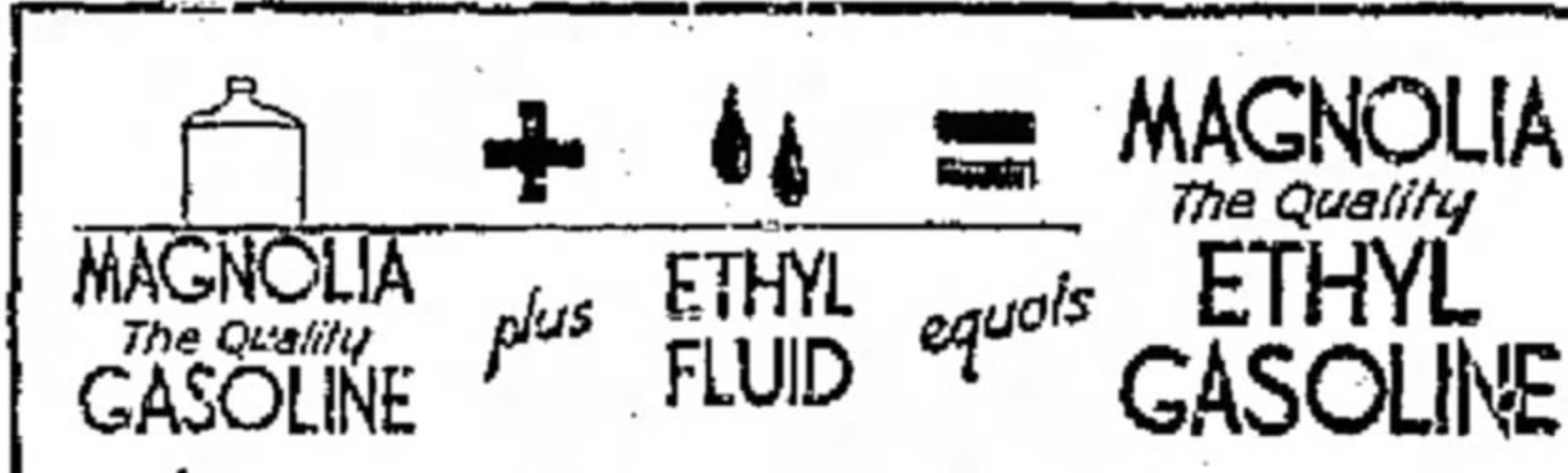
(Signed): A. D. PAYNE.



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