

Boonville Advertiser
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ARROW ROCK BANKER KILLS SELF MONDAY

Biggs

PAUL BIGGS, 47, COMMITS SUICIDE WITH COLT'S PISTOL

Lived Three Hours after Inflicting Wound.—Financial Worry Cause of Suicide

J. Paul Biggs, cashier of the Arrow Rock Stock Bank and manager of the Old Tavern at Arrow Rock, shot himself in the head Monday morning at 8:30 o'clock and died three hours later, without regaining consciousness. Worry over the condition of the bank was without doubt the cause of the suicide.

Mr. Biggs left his home about 7 o'clock Monday morning and although he had not been well for sometime, he seemed to be in good spirits. He went to the bank, where he was found by his daughter, Miss Katharyn Biggs, 22 years old, and Miss Lois Case, a bookkeeper in the bank, who entered the building after having heard a revolver shot. They found Mr. Biggs slumped in a chair in the director's room. He had shot himself behind the right ear with a 38-calibre Colt's Special revolver, the bullet passed through his head and came out above the left eye. The wounded man was laid on a table in the bank and the family physician, Dr. M. S. McGuire, who was in Boonville at the time of the tragedy, was summoned but the patient died at 11:50 without having regained consciousness.

On the bank's vault door was a note written in lead pencil and unsigned, which read: "Vault will open Tuesday morning at 9:30. Notify state finance commissioner. Look in safety box 17."

G. U. Freund, of Warsaw, state bank examiner who was placed in charge of the bank Tuesday, opened the safe Tuesday morning and found the following note, as indicated by the message on the vault door:

"The bank has been gradually failing for the last five years. No charge or credit anywhere has been made with the intention to defraud; but to keep the bank going.

"God only knows that I have tried my best to keep it from failing. But with the depression and loss of money by the makers of some of the notes it was beyond me to do anything.

"Every note is bona fide and no one ever signed a note here except as he got credit and value received for it.

"Lois Case is as blameless in connection with this bank as if she had never seen the bank."

Miss Lois Case was assistant cashier of the bank. The statement was addressed to the bank examiner in charge.

Case

Mr. Freund, the examiner, entered the bank vault at 9:30 o'clock, the time when Biggs had stated in his note on the vault door the time lock would open the door. He had declared the statement would be found in safe deposit box No. 17, the cashier's personal box. However, the statement was found in box No. 37 after a search through several other safe deposit boxes.

The statement that the bank was in failing condition and that Biggs had been attempting to save it from collapse verified the assertions of Frank P. Morris, president of the bank, that Biggs had been harassed by slow loans.

Two other notes were found by the examiner. One was addressed to Mrs. Biggs. The other was to the directors. It was handed to Dr. M. S. McGuire, vice-president. Dr. McGuire declined to discuss the contents of the note to the directors, except to say Biggs had outlined transactions in the bank's affairs. Dr. McGuire said the note indicated it had been written in August.

The note to the directors had stated the chief difficulty was with frozen loans. The bank had borrowed about \$35,000 from other banks. That was secured by the "live" notes. Officials estimated some \$55,000 would be required as collateral for the loans from other banks.

F. C. Barnhill, cashier of the Wood and Huston Bank at Marshall, Mo., said Tuesday that Mr. J. Paul Biggs had sought to borrow \$5,000 from that bank. Mr. Barnhill explained the directors of the Wood and Huston Bank had decided not to lend more money to the Arrow Rock bank, and Biggs had asked Mr. Barnhill to call a special meeting of his directors early Monday for a reconsideration of the proposal to give aid to the bank. Mr. Barnhill telephoned Biggs that the directors still held to their original intention not to lend more money to Biggs' bank. It was then Biggs killed himself.

Dr. B. M. Spotts, coroner of Saline county, held an inquest Monday afternoon, the verdict of the jury being that Mr. Biggs came to his death as a result of the self-inflicted revolver wound.

Mr. Biggs was 47 years old. He was a native of Boone county, having been born near Ashland. He had been cashier of the bank at Arrow Rock for 25 years and was one of the best known citizens in Saline county. He was much interested in the Old Tavern at Arrow Rock and served as a member of the D. A. R. Restoration Committee. He and Mrs. Biggs had been conducting the Tavern for the D. A. R. since its restoration. Mr. Biggs owned a beautiful home in Arrow Rock but it had been closed since the family took charge of the Tavern.

In addition to his interest in the Tavern Mr. Biggs was instrumental in having the state

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Mercereau Schupp

Miss Mercereau Weds Fritz Schupp Thurs.

Blackwater Young Couple Were Married in Sedalia.—Will Live At Blackwater

Miss Minerva Mercereau and Fritz Schupp, both of the Blackwater neighborhood, were married in Sedalia Thursday afternoon, Sept. 15. The ceremony was performed by Rev. R. L. Davidson, in the parsonage of the First Baptist Church.

The young couple remained in Sedalia until Friday afternoon, when they motored to the home of Mr. Schupp's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Curry Schupp, for supper. Mr. Schupp owns a home at Blackwater, and they will start housekeeping soon.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Mercereau, of Blackwater township. She is a graduate of the Blackwater high school and attended school in Warrensburg and at Geneseo, N. Y. She also took voice at the Eastman School, in Rochester, N. Y., and has taught three years in Missouri and two years at Hilton, N. Y. She is an accomplished young lady.

Mr. Schupp is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Curry Schupp, of Pleasant Green. He has been in Blackwater for about fourteen years, and has a barber chop there. He is a fine young man with many friends.

of Missouri acquire a state park of about forty acres just across the road from the Tavern.

Mr. Biggs is survived by widow and the daughter, Miss Katharyn. He also leaves his aged father, J. P. Biggs, of near Ashland.

Mr. Biggs was a member of the Methodist church and of Arrow Rock Lodge, No. 55, A. F. & A. M., and the chapter and commandery at Marshall.

Funeral services were conducted at the Old Tavern Wednesday afternoon, followed by burial in the Old Lamine Church cemetery near Lamine, Cooper county.

Frank Morris is president of the bank at Arrow Rock. The bank is capitalized for \$15,000 and has a surplus of \$10,000. The last published statement showed that the bank had loans of \$129,321,000, deposits of \$114,514.88, bills payable amounting to \$35,000.