

Ritchie Death Termed Suicide

The death about noon November 19 of Warren Ritchie, 49-year-old Cooper County farmer, was termed a suicide by Coroner M. L. Diekroeger, who investigated the incident along with Sheriff Leo J. Ross and State Highway Patrol Trooper J. E. Sesley.

Dr. Diekroeger said that Mr. Ritchie shot himself through the neck with a 12-gauge shotgun just off the back porch of his home about three miles northwest of Prairie Home.

He stated that the Prairie Home man had been in ill health for several years.

Mrs. Minnie Ritchie, mother of the man, had just stepped out of the back door to call him to dinner when he fired the charge into his neck.

His wife, Mrs. Nancy Jane Ritchie, was in Kansas City visiting a daughter.

PRAIRIE HOME--Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the Prairie Home Methodist church for Warren Ritchie, and were in charge of the pastor, the Rev. A. J. Gearberd, with burial in the Walnut Grove church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Oral Clark, Connie Leith, Barton, and William Wolfe, six brothers-in-law of the deceased.

Warren Ritchie, only child of the late John Ritchie and his wife, Minnie Ritchie, was born in the New Salem community near Prairie Home 49 years ago and lived in and around the community of his birth most of his life with the exception of the past few years which were spent at Kansas City. At the time of his death Nov. 19, 1947, he was on leave of absence from a railway company which had employed him, having returned to the farm here from Kansas City a few months ago.

On Jan. 18, 1922, he was married to Miss Nancy J. Wolfe, daughter of the late William E. Wolfe and Annie Dishion Wolfe. To them were born three children who with the widow survive him. They are Allen Ritchie, located for the present at Bangor, Maine, with the United States Army having re-enlisted about two months ago after having served during the war; two daughters, Mrs. Marjorie Wanager, of near Kansas City, Kas.; and Mrs. Iela Seale, of Boonville. He is also survived by his mother, Mrs. Minnie Ritchie of Prairie Home and there are two grandchildren. He had been a member of the Prairie Home Methodist church for a number of years.