

# DEATH SHATTERED BELL'S ROMANCE

Chain Grocer Said to Have  
Been Engaged to  
Widow

## WEDDING WAS POSTPONED

James Bell, late millionaire proprietor of the chain of grocery stores that bears his name, is said to have been engaged to a widow, when death cut short the romance. Details of the contemplated marriage, which was to have taken place on Thanksgiving Day, and of the shattered romance were revealed today by Michael A. Ryan, of 5719 Kingsessing avenue, a brother-in-law of the fiancée, Mrs. Edwin T. Maguire, who lives at the Ocean Deck Apartments, 312 Boardwalk, Atlantic City. Where Mr. Bell died on November 25.

How a difference in religion was the only bar to the marriage being performed before the death of Mr. Bell was brought out in the story told by Mr. Ryan. The difference in religion made necessary for Mrs. Maguire to seek dispensation which caused the wedding plans to be retarded sixty days.

According to Mr. Ryan, the marriage was finally set for November 30, Thanksgiving Day, but just five days before that time Mr. Bell died.

"Mrs. Maguire had known Mr. Bell for several years," said Mr. Ryan today. "They met in Atlantic City through friends while attending a social function, I believe. It was not until recently, however, that they became intimately acquainted. Mr. Bell became interested in Mrs. Maguire, who was then living in an apartment at the Ocean Deck, therefore they were neighbors at one time."

About six weeks ago Mr. Bell followed the advice of his physician to seek quiet and rest. He went to Atlantic City completely broken down in health. It was impossible for him to get proper care and attention at a hotel, so he went to the apartments, where he would receive proper care from Mrs. Maguire, his fiancée.

"The marriage was all planned. Mrs. Maguire went to a priest whom I know and they were married in the difference in their respective religions. She postponed the marriage sixty days on this account. The new date set was for November 30, Thanksgiving Day. The ceremony was to have taken place in a small New Jersey town, between Philadelphia and Atlantic City. I can't remember the name of the town."

"Unfortunately, Mr. Bell grew very ill. He was like a child. It was necessary to do everything for him. He could never have received much care and attention at a hotel. They would not have accepted him."

"His physician from here went down to Atlantic City every two or three days, and his business manager, I believe, went down nearly every week."

"On November 25, the date of his death, Mr. Bell was present at dinner. He appeared to be in a happy mood, despite his seriously weakened condition. A few hours later he died."

"It was a terrible shock to Mrs. Maguire. She is heart-broken over the affair. A Mr. Bell's death is recorded as having been caused by uremia and Bright's disease. He was attended at the time of his death by Dr. Joseph White, of Atlantic City."

### FIANCEE A BRUNETTE

His fiancée, Mrs. Maguire, is a striking brunette, with blue eyes, and is about thirty-five years of age. She is the widow of a former Philadelphia liquor dealer who also died in Atlantic City. Considerable attention was directed to Mrs. Maguire during the spring of 1914, when she fled a caveat to prevent the probate of the will of her husband. She was totally excluded from sharing in the estate.

Mr. Ryan today denied a rumor that his sister-in-law was going to contest the will of Mr. Bell, which was admitted to probate last Thursday in the Montgomery County Courts.

"There is no truth in these rumors," said Mr. Ryan. "Mrs. Maguire, I know, has enemies, who would no doubt try to do her harm. I am looking after her business affairs and I can tell you that we are not seeking any legal mix-up. We are not looking for anything but proper compensation for the care and service given Mr. Bell during his illness, which is no more than fair."

Mr. Bell's estate is said to be valued at several million dollars. He began his grocery career some twenty years ago and was so successful that at the time of his death the Bell chain of stores numbered 113 in Philadelphia and surrounding counties. He was a prominent horseman, owning a large string of horses and the Cedar Park Stock Farm. His home was in Bryn Mawr, but he is said to have resided with a sister in Cynwyd for a number of years. Mr. Bell was fifty-three years of age.

### Polish Council to Meet Soon

BERLIN, Dec. 18.—The first meeting of the Polish National Council will be held before Christmas, says the Overseas News Agency. The Polish National Assembly will meet in February.



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# ENGLAND PUT UNDER FOOD CONTROL TODAY

Regulations Curtailing Meals  
Received Good Humoredly.  
Now in Effect

LONDON, Dec. 18.

Food control has gone into effect throughout England.

Regulations curtailing meals, which became effective this morning, were met by the British people with a sort of schoolboy good humor, entirely tolerant and uncomplaining.

"I eat too much anyway. The food control will help me reduce."

This expression indicated general sentiment as the new regulations became operative. A few lovers of food have devised "trick menus," which circumvent the purposes of the food curtailment, but compliance with the new rulings is general.

Questions gained have been raised by the regulations and their operation. One of the problems which faced the Londoner at dinner was whether two helpings from one course constituted two courses, for the number of courses is limited by the new law.

## TEIPER'S TRIAL ENDED; DENIES KILLING MOTHER

Young Man Insists Murder on Lonely  
Road Was Committed by  
"Bully Negro"

BUFALEO, N. Y., Dec. 18.—The trial of John Edward Teiper, accused of murdering his aged mother, came to a close at noon today so far as actual testimony is concerned. Teiper was his own last witness and when he stepped down from the stand Justice Wheeler adjourned court to give the lawyers a chance to prepare their final arguments. They will be presented tomorrow, and by Thursday Teiper's fate will be put in the jury's hands.

Teiper was on the stand only an hour today. He was visibly refreshed and answered the questions clearly and sharply. He reiterated under cross-examination that the assault committed on Orchard road, which cost him the lives of his mother and brother, was committed by a "bully negro."

Attacks on his story failed to shake it.

## Fireman, Suicide Upon Wife's Tomb

Continued from Page One

the grave. This was about 4 o'clock yesterday.

The body was found about 200 feet from Cobb's Creek which forms the county line between Philadelphia and Delaware County. George Connell, superintendent of the cemetery, immediately notified the police of the body.

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EOBERT W. STEINAUER

Lieutenant of Engine Company 32,  
who shot himself through the head  
at his wife's grave in Mt. Moriah  
Cemetery.

his home at 1927 Callowhill street, made  
arrangements to have the body brought to  
his home at once.

### OFFICERS' TRIBUTE

Battalion Chief George W. Moodie, Supervisor of the Firemen's School, declared that Steinauer was one of the best instructors he had ever had. He visited the firehouse at Sixth and Locust streets on Friday. At that time he appeared to be in fine spirits. He laughed and joked with the men and wished them all a Merry Christmas.

Steinauer was in his forty-fifth year. He was appointed a member of the bureau on December 15, 1902, and assigned to Engine Co. 24, at Tenth and Rittenwood streets. He was elevated to the lieutenant in 1910. Recently he took the examination for captaincy and is said to have been in line for the appointment. He is survived by a stepson.

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