For Tomorrow-Tuesday

WILKINS'S SUICIDE PUZZLES OFFICIALS

Authorities Unable to Account for Convicted Doctor's Possession of Rope

DIES DENYING GUILT

By the Associated Press Mineols, N. Y., June 30. — The manner in which Dr. Walter Keepe

Wilkins came into possession of the rope with which he hanged himself in

the bathroom of the Nassau county jail

here last night was the subject of au

investigation begun here today by Charles R. Weeks, district attorney Walter R. Jones, acting coroner, and

other county officials. Doctor Wilkins. convicted last Friday as the slayer of his wife, Julia, was to have been sen-

tenced tomorrow to death in the elec-tric chair at Sing Sing prison.

Every precaution had been taken to prevent Doctor Wilkins from obtaining anything with which he might attempt

suicide and his jailers were unable to explain how he came into possession of the rope, which was new. It was impossible for anyone from the outside

to throw the rope to the prisoner, for his

cell contained no windows. The bath-room where Doctor Wilkins ended his

search of hardware stores and other places where rope is sold was to be

made today in an effort to trace the

purchaser. It is said Doctor Wilkins had not left his cell during the day and

that he had no visitors. Also that he had been thoroughly seached Saturday.

One of the three letters written by

Doctor Wilkins just before he ended bis life declared that he was innocent.

Another addressed to Sheriff Phincas Seaman and requested that \$60 in his

clothes be used to have his body cre-

her husband was connected, was beaten to death on the night of February 27

last in the driveway of her Long Beach

home, her skull fractured by a hanmer and a piece of lead pipe. She had struggled for her life. Doctor Wilkins

informed the authorities that both he

and his wife had been attacked by three

The aged physician was still alive when he was cut down by attendants, and physicians, worked over him for a half hour before the death he had sought came to him. Doctor Wilkins's neck was broken.

was broken. The doctor had spent the entire after-noon writing his letter of self-vindica-tion and two other letters giving direc-tions for the disposal of his body and the care of several pets to which he was greatly attached. "Rather than be driven across the state of New York by Carmen Plant (Nassau county detective) and delivered up to Sing Sing Prisen." he wrote in the first letter, "I prefer to be my own executioner. Besides, it will save Justice Manning from looking into my face when he tells me I have had a fair trial. "I am absolutely innocent of this crime which the indictment charges me with."

crime which the indictment charges me with." This letter was ten pages long and was addressed to J. P. Healey, of Brooklyn, an acquaintance of Doctor Wilkins. The second letter was ad-dressed to Mrs. Elizabeth Muller. formerly a housekeeper for the Wil-kinses who now lives at Monticello. N. Y. Doctor Wilkins requests her to see that his pets are well taken care of. The third letter was addressed to Sheriff Phineas Seaman, requesting that his body be cremated.

CUBAN TROOPS KILL

Mrs. Julia Wilkins, of whose murder

mated.

burglars.

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life also was without windows.

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Monday, June 30, 1919.

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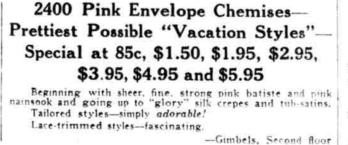
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