

Ethel May Bailey

(- 18 May 1910)

Bailey. On Wednesday, May 18, 1910 at her residence, 247 14th street southeast, Ethel May Harrison Bailey. Funeral will take place from residence Saturday, May 21 at 2 p.m. Friends invited. (Michigan papers please copy).

The Evening Star, May 19, 1910, p. 22

Young Girl Ends Life

Miss Ethel Bailey Found Dead in Bathtub

Telephone Operator in Apartment House

Had Inhaled Illuminating Gas -- No Reason Assigned

Miss Ethel May Harrison Bailey, eighteen years old, who was employed as telephone operator at the Congressional apartment house, East Capitol and 1st streets,, and lived with her widowed mother at 247 14th street southeast, ended her life in the bathroom at her home yesterday by inhaling illuminating gas.

Mrs. Bailey is employed in the Treasury Department. She found the body of her daughter in the tub when she returned home about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The mother could not believe her daughter had committed suicide, however, and said she thought her death was the result of an accident.

Coroner Nevitt and the police were told that Miss Bailey was subject to fainting spells, and the mother suggested that she had accidentally fallen into the tub when she fainted.

When Mrs. Bailey reached home she detected the odor of gas. The bathroom door was fastened and the mother was unable to open it. Marcus Dade, a letter carrier, broke open the door at the request of Mrs. Bailey. He lifted the body from the tub and carried it to another room.

A physician from the Casualty Hospital responded to a call and found life was extinct. Mrs. Bailey, who was hysterical, refused to believe her daughter was dead and asked that Dr. L.W. Glazebrook, her family physician, be summoned. Miss Bailey had been dead some time, however.

Was Apparently Happy

No reason for the young lady to have taken her life was suggested. She was apparently happy when she left the apartment house about 1 o'clock to go home, having made an engagement for last night with her fiance. The latter is a musician.

The police say that Mrs. Bailey told them she had scolded her daughter Tuesday night for having remained out later than usual, but that was over and it was not a serious enough affair to cause her to consider the question of self-destruction. It was said by neighbors that Miss Bailey chatted with them when she returned home yesterday afternoon and seemed happy.

Coroner Nevitt's conclusion was that she had left the gas turned on for the purpose of ending her life. The body was fully dressed, only the shoes having been removed, and the head had not been beneath the water. An undertaker prepared the body for burial.

The Washington Post, May 20, 1910

Her Death Accident

Mother of Miss Ethel Bailey Disagrees With Coroner

Fainted While in Bathtub

Uncle and Fiance Corroborate Parent's Declaration That

Young Woman Did Not Commit Suicide -- Story of Quarrel Denied -- Funeral From Family Residence Tomorrow Afternoon

Notwithstanding Coroner Nevitt's verdict of suicide in the case of Miss Ethel May Harrison Bailey, who was found dead in the bathroom at her residence, 247 Fourteenth street southeast, Wednesday afternoon, her mother, Mrs. Helen S. Bailey; her uncle, J.A. Baxter, and the young man she was soon to marry, John Rockett, all declare death was accidental.

The young woman was found sitting in a bathtub partly filled with water. Gas was flowing from the single jet in the room. The doors and windows were closed. She was fully dressed, with the exception of her hat and shoes.

Underwent an Operation

Mrs. Bailey, her mother, said last night: "She did not commit suicide. Six weeks ago she was operated on for tonsilitis. Since that time she had been subject to fainting spells, caused by a weak heart. She came home Wednesday when no one was in the house, and I am positive that in turning on the water in the tub and before undressing she was seized with a fainting spell, and in falling threw up her hand, turning the gas on. It suffocated her before she recovered.

"Reports that I had reproved her for staying out late are untrue. I was never harsh to her, and she had never said an unkind word to me in her life. Only the day before her death she was planning for my birthday."

J.A. Baxter, the dead girl's uncle, is indignant at the stories that the mother quarreled with her the night before for being away from the house late at night. "It's a lie," he declared. "I took her to the moving-pictures shows the night they said she was out late. The young man she was to marry was waiting for us at the house when we returned. Her death was certainly the result of an accident."

Fiance Mourns Girl

John Rockett, her fiance, who with members of the family mourned at the young girl's coffin in the parlor of the little home last night, said there was nothing to cause her to commit suicide.

Funeral services will be held at the residence tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. The Rev. Donald McLeod will conduct the services. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.