

Jeremiah Bernardo (- 17 Mar 1896)

The Evening Star, December 18, 1912, p. 8

Bride Found Dead

Husband, Also Victim of Gas, May Recover

Coroner Holds Autopsy

All Possible Causes of Mrs. Bernado's Death Investigated

Policeman At Hospital

Will See That Bricklayer Does Not Leave Institution After Regaining Consciousness

Jerry Bernardo an Italian bricklayer, twenty-eight years old, who was found unconscious from illuminating gas in his room at the house of William Cunningham, 410 K street northwest, last night, where his bride of four days, Mrs. Martha Keys Bernardo, was found dead, probably will recover and be able to tell the police the story of the tragedy. Physicians at Casualty Hospital said today that there had been an improvement in his condition. A policeman is detailed at the hospital to see that Bernardo does not leave the institution should he regain consciousness.

A statement made by a physician at the hospital last night that Bernardo displayed symptoms of poison other than gas suggested to the police the possibility of murder and suicide or a suicide pact.

Cause of Death in Doubt

Not until the coroner's autopsy has been performed this afternoon will the authorities know definitely the cause of the bride's death. When the autopsy is performed, the coroner stated, a careful examination will be made to ascertain if there are any marks on the body, and to determine if death resulted from gas poisoning or other causes.

This afternoon the coroner swore a jury over the body of Mrs. Bernardo and will hold an inquest later, should developments warrant it.

Married Last Friday

Friday the Italian bricklayer and Miss Martha Keys, the latter a daughter of Robert Keys, a resident of the vicinity of Manassas, Prince William county, Va. Were married at Manassas, according to a statement of John May of 11 P street northeast, who married a cousin of Bernardo's bride, and who introduced Bernardo to Miss Keys. No marriage certificate was found in the room, but a wedding ring was found on the young woman's finger when her body was taken to the morgue last night. The husband wore a diamond ring.

The odor of escaping gas was not detected in the Cunningham house last night until after Mr. Cunningham went to the Bernardos' room with his wife and opened the door. Mrs. Cunningham displayed uneasiness about the recently married couple, because she had seen nothing of either of them during the day and had been told that a boarder in the house had heard the bride crying about 2 o'clock in the morning.

Gas Jets Found Open

Mrs. Cunningham explained that the door opening into the hallway was fastened from the inside and the key was in the lock, but her husband was able to open the door leading to the adjoining room. The gas jet on the wall bracket and two jets on the chandelier were found open.

The police were called and an examination of the room made. Coroner Nevitt also examined the premises and viewed the body of the woman.

The body of the bride was resting on the bed. Mr. Cunningham thought Bernardo was dead until he heard a groan coming from near the side of the bed on the floor. He had Bernardo carried from the room.

A small bottle containing aromatic spirits of ammonia was found in the room, but nothing was found to indicate Bernardo had taken any poison.

The police made a careful examination of the room to determine, if possible, if Bernardo and his wife had had a struggle. An overturned table in the room was the only thing that suggested a struggle of any kind, and the police are of the opinion that Bernardo, overcome by gas, got out of bed and tried to assist himself, and in doing so overturned the table.

Pawn Ticket Is Found

A pawn ticket for a gold watch was found among Bernardo's effects. It showed that he borrowed \$20 on the watch about a week ago. He had another gold watch, and a woman's gold watch was also found in the room.

A note found among the effects in the room showed that a young man near Manassas probably had been in love with the young woman while she was living at her father's home.

John May was the only person found by the police who was able to throw much light on the affair. Monday night Bernardo and his wife visited the May home and spent the evening there. May's wife having been at her mother's home in Virginia. Bernardo did not seem very happy Monday night, May stated, and he thought Mrs. Bernardo did not display the happiness a bride should have displayed.

When the couple started to leave May's house Monday night, May stated, he remarked that he would see his friend at work the next day. Bernardo said he would see him if he did not die before morning, and the wife suggested that her husband should not talk that way. The police think the remark attributed to Bernardo indicated that he had given some thought to the question of death.

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Jerry Bernardo Dead

Believed Now That Mystery of Double Tragedy May Never Be Solved

Efforts made by Casualty Hospital surgeons to save the life of Jerry Bernardo, who was found overcome by gas in his room at 410 K street northwest Tuesday night near the corpse of his young bride proved futile. Death claimed the patient last evening about 6:30 o'clock. It is thought the use of the pulmonoter prolonged life, but Bernardo was in so serious a condition that physicians were unable to restore consciousness.

Bernardo's death, it is believed, will make it impossible for the police to solve the mystery of the tragedy. It is barely possible they think, that Bernardo wrote a letter to some friend telling of what he intended to do.

The body of Bernardo was taken last night to the undertaking establishment of the D.J. Bready Company, 1607 8th street northwest, from where the body of his wife was taken yesterday afternoon. Arrangements for the funeral of Bernardo have not been completed. Funeral services for Mrs. Bernardo were held this morning at Bristow, Va.