

Mrs. Van Braden

Suicides Friday

Near To Wilbur

ACTION ATTRIBUTED TO ILL HEALTH BY MOTHER OF TRAGEDY VICTIM

Mrs. Van Braden, 20, formerly Miss Freda Goode, died Friday afternoon, 45 minutes after she shot herself with a .32 caliber revolver in an upstairs room at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Noah Duckworth near Wilbur.

Investigations were made by State Trooper F. D. Patrick and Deputy Sheriff E. O. Knowlton. A verdict of suicide was returned by Dr. V. H. Dye, Tyler county coroner, when the facts of the case were presented to him late Saturday evening.

Mrs. Braden was the wife of Van Braden, who operates a restaurant in Parkersburg and has been employed on the Grafton dam for several weeks. Mr. and Mrs. Braden came to the home of Mrs. Braden's grandparents about one week before the tragedy took place, where Mrs. Braden had been occupied canning fruits and making jellies. Mr. Braden went to Parkersburg on Wednesday expecting to be able to return on Saturday. Finding that he could not return before Monday, he had written a letter to his wife telling her that he would return the first of the week and discussing business matters in which they were both interested. After receiving the letter the late Mrs. Braden wrote a message to her husband, went over and kissed her grandmother and said, "I can hardly stand Sundays without Van," and went upstairs. In a few minutes three shots rang out, and the fourth not audible entered the body of the young woman just above the heart. The girl was found conscious lying on the floor but died before a doctor arrived. She lived for 45 minutes after the shooting and was conscious until just before she died, being able to talk to the family all but about the last 10 minutes.

The action has been attributed to ill health and worry. Her mother stated that she worried considerably about the condition of her health. A sealed envelope addressed "For Van Only" was found in the bosom of the dead woman's dress, but the message it contained, which according to Mr. Braden is personal, was not revealed.

The deceased was married to Braden nine weeks ago. Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the U. B. Church, Wilbur, with the Rev. Lois Luzader in charge. Surviving are her husband, two stepdaughters, Ruth and Ethel Braden, mother, Mrs. Addie Goode and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Noah Duckworth.