

Mildred Flora Oldham (Brewer), Class of 1931.



WIFE DIES AFTER SHOOTING; MAN TURNS GUN ON HIMSELF.

“Don’t come in he has a gun” screamed Mrs. Mildred Brewer yesterday when off-duty police Lt. Poindexter knocked on her rear door at 3571 Carrington. Seconds later, about 10:45 a.m., Mrs. Brewer was mortally wounded by two blast of shotgun pellets in her back. She slumped to the kitchen floor. “There

was another shot, “Lieutenant Poindexter of 3369 Carrington said, as the first of more than 40 policemen wrapped a human fence around the quiet middle-class neighborhood in East Memphis.

Inside the house, Herbert Brewer, 66, barricaded himself in a hallway. There was another shot, officers said “probably the shot with which Mr. Brewer killed himself.”

The couple’s son, Walter H. Brewer, 25, of 3740 Vernon, told police he went to his parents’ home at 10:30 a.m. to help them move furniture.

“Mother wouldn’t let me in. She said he had a gun on her. I went next door to the Hight’s (J.A. Hight of 3577 Carrington) and told them what was happening. Then I ran to Lieutenant Poindexter. It happened so suddenly.”

The younger Mr. Brewer could give police no reason for the shooting. He said his father had been extremely ill in the past few months.

Shortly after 11:00 a.m. the short block of Carrington was jammed with Police cars. "We couldn't see inside the house at first, and we had to get the woman to the hospital," said Lt. Jack Moore. "I ordered tear gas."

"A hundred or more people had gathered in an empty lot just North of the house. They stood there suffering the tear gas to satisfy their curiosity." Officer said.

An ambulance came. Patrolman Ken Thrill helped lift Mrs. Brewer through the kitchen door and down five steps to a stretcher. Mrs. Brewer was taken to Methodist Hospital where she died two hours later.

Five officers, wearing gas masks entered the Brewer home by the back door about 11:30 a.m. A lace tablecloth on the dining table was askew. A plate of flowers on the table was overturned. Broken furniture littered the floor and a collection of guns hung in a rack in the living room.

A door led into a narrow hallway and there the officers found Mr. Brewer's body and pulled him through the tear gas toward the front door.

Captain R. A. Cochran of the homicide bureau, stopped them there. "The man was obviously dead," the captain said. The younger Mr. Brewer walked aimlessly across the yard and past the front door, glanced inside and then hurried on.