

John David Yarbrough, Class of 1941.



I Just Went Crazy," Say Woman Who Shot Husband.

A slim, 25-year-old woman admitted she shot her jealous husband to death yesterday morning as he lay half-clothed on the bed reading a magazine at 226 South Cleveland. John David Yarbrough, an unemployed carnival worker, died instantly at 7 a.m. with a .38-caliber bullet wound in the right side of his stomach. He was 34.

His wife, Mrs. Fay Treadway Yarbrough, mother of three of his four children will be arraigned at 9 a.m. this morning in City Court on a charge of murder, according to Homicide Capt. W. W. Wilkinson.

The shooting occurred in the living room of the apartment of Mrs. Mae Johnson, a bookkeeper, whom the couple had been visiting for three weeks since the close of the Mid-South Fair where he had worked.

Tells of Quarrels

Mrs. Johnson who called the police, said she was in the bathroom when she heard the shot. Mrs. Yarbrough said her husband was jealous of her and they had quarreled so much. "I just went crazy." Police said she took the automatic pistol from her husband's suitcase and walked to the bed where he was

thumbling through Billboard, an amusements trade magazine, to find a carnival job.

"He saw me point the gun at him," she told the police. She said he told her, "Cock it, baby," apparently not thinking she would shoot. Then she pulled the trigger. Mr. Yarbrough was lying on his back clad in shorts when police found him. A Thompson Bros. ambulance took him to nearby Methodist Hospital where physicians said he was dead.

Had Wonderful Time

Mrs. Yarbrough, wearing a green skirt and sweater at Police Headquarters, answered detective's questions calmly. Police quoted her as saying "I definitely loved him but we quarreled ever since I married him seven years ago because he is jealous of me."

She said she and her husband had been dancing Wednesday night and "we had a wonderful time until we got home and then he accused me of not loving him." She said he woke her up at 5:30 a.m. yesterday and "started arguing again and wouldn't let her sleep." The apartment manager who lives across the hall, said she was planting a flower in the back yard when Mrs. Johnson came to the door and shouted twice, "Mrs. Yarbrough's shot her husband!"

The manager said, "There as silence and then Mrs. Yarbrough began screaming inside the apartment. Then we began to hear the noise of the ambulance."

Police said the manager was letting the couple stay with them because they had mutual friends in Birmingham AL. Mr. and Mrs. Yarbrough planned to leave Memphis as soon as he found a job.

David B. Yarbrough of 1153 South Perkins, the slain man's father, said his son had three children with his present wife, and a fourth child with a previous marriage which ended in divorce.

Wounded in World War II

Mr. Yarbrough was born in Birmingham and came to Memphis when a child. He was a graduate of Tech High. He was in the Merchant Marine service and Navy in World War II. He was on a merchant ship in 1942 when it was torpedoed off the coast of Brazil and was wounded in 1944 while serving on a destroyer off Casino, Italy.

He was an office worker with Tennessee Coal & Iron Co. in Birmingham until a strike closed the plant. He returned to Memphis last month to work in a concession at the Mid South Fair.

He leaves his wife; three sons; two were with their parents in Memphis, and one was staying with Mr. Yarbrough's grandparents in Birmingham, and his daughter, Juanita, was also staying with the grandparent.

The information is from The Commercial Appeal, Friday, October 26, 1956.