

SEDALIA CAPITAL  
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## YOUNG WOMAN ENDED LIFE BY HANGING SELF

INQUEST REVEALS MISS RUTH WHITLOW WAS PROMPTED TO DEED THROUGH DESPONDENCY — TESTIMONY AT INQUIRY HELD GIVEN THAT SHE HAD PREVIOUSLY THREATENED SUCH ACTION — BODY FOUND DANGLING FROM ROPE IN WOODSHED BY MOTHER.

Miss Ruth Whitlow, 20 years old, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Whitlow of 521 East Fourth street committed suicide Monday evening by hanging herself. Miss Whitlow who had been despondent for the last six months, has been under the care of Dr. A. E. Monroe. She threatened several times before to end her life, it is said.

She was an employe of the Lamy Overall factory, and went to her work Monday morning as usual but quit early in the afternoon, returning to her home. Upon arriving ~~there~~ her parents and other members of the family being away at the time, she went to the woodshed doubled a small piece of rope, tying it to one of the rafters, and about her neck. She then mounted a box and jumped off.

Mrs. Whitlow on returning home missed her daughter immediately. She began to look for her and going to the wood shed she found her lifeless form with her feet dangling about a foot from the ground.

A neighbor upon hearing screams from Mrs. Whitlow rushed to the shed and cut the rope. The young woman's body was carried immediately into the house where an effort was made to revive her, which proved futile.

Coroner E. F. Staats was summoned and viewed the body. The remains were taken to McLaughlin's chapel where an inquest was called by Coroner Staats for 10 o'clock this morning.

### Inquest at Home.

The inquest was held at the home this morning, conducted by Dr. E. F. Staats, coroner, with the following men as jurors, W. W. Cecil, John Cordeas, E. N. Kauffman, A. H. Watling, Clyde Harrison and Wright Blanchard.

P. W. Hill of 521 East Fourth street, the first witness called, stated that he answered the call of the mother and daughter who stated that Ruth had been found in the shed, and going with them he found the girl hanging. He called for a butcher knife he stated, cut the rope and carried her to the house, where he attempted to revive her while waiting for a physician to arrive. Her body was still warm, he stated; and he thought that she might possibly be alive.

Dr. A. E. Monroe, the physician called, stated that he had been treating the girl since about last January, that she appeared melancholy and blue, and that so far as he had been able to learn was fearful that she would be like her two sisters, both of whom became mentally deranged and are in a state sanitarium. On her last visit to his office, however, he stated, she seemed to be in a more cheerful mood. He stated that he knew of no reason for her despondency except that she was worried about her sisters and feared that she too would meet their fate. Dr. Monroe stated further that in his opinion she was not in a serious condition, and would probably have gotten over her despondency.

Mrs. Whitlow, who was to have been called as a witness, was ill and was not called as she did not even remember finding the daughter. She has been ill for the past three weeks and this morning was calling for her daughter and asking as to her whereabouts.

Miss Grace Whitlow, a younger sister testified that her sister left home early Monday morning, taking her lunch, and must have returned home about 5 o'clock as they learned that she left the factory about 4:30. They found her body, she stated, about 5:30 or 5:45. She too testified as to the mental condition of the girl, and stated that she had frequently threatened to take her life.

Joe Semon, a brother-in-law, stated that he had been at the Whitlow home Sunday afternoon and at that time Ruth seemed more cheerful than usual. He had frequently been called to the home, he stated, when the girl was threatening to take her own life, and her mother was afraid to be alone with her. He stated too that on Sunday afternoon Ruth had inquired of her younger brother how to make a slip knot. He, knowing her mental condition, told her that he had forgotten how.

After hearing the evidence the jury returned a verdict that the girl met her death by her own hand, by placing a rope around her neck and suspending from a joist in the woodshed.

Miss Ruth is survived by her par-

ents, two brothers, Marian of Kansas City and Joseph, employed at the local Western Union office, and four sisters, Mrs. Joe Semon, Misses Grace, Mollie and Lucy Whitlow.

No funeral arrangements have been made, as the father, who left home the day before to go to Tipton has not been found to be notified of the death.