

06 Aug 1935

FORMER OFFICIAL MADISON COUNTY IS KILLED AT BRYAN

M. Riedel, 36, a Houston attorney charged with slaying Luther Broadway, 40, here yesterday when he allegedly found the former county judge in a hotel room with Mrs. Riedel, was released today on \$100 bond. The bond was set by Justice of the Peace A. J. Buchanan. Both the state and Riedel, represented by Edmond J. DeCoux of Houston, waived a preliminary hearing. Bond previously had been set tentatively at \$5,000.

Officials said this meant the case was closed so far as they were concerned. They said they doubted the matter would be investigated by the grand jury, which meets next in October. Riedel admitted the slaying. He said he went to the hotel room yesterday and found Broadway, who has lately been practicing law at Madisonville, clad only in his underwear and Mrs. Riedel only partially clothed. Mrs. Riedel, who spent last night with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Gustine, at North Zulch in Madison County, was in justice court today with her husband. She frequently patted his arm and shoulder, and after the hearing, they left the courthouse together, apparently on good terms. They would not discuss their future plans.

Married Less Than Year.

Riedel, who told reporters yesterday he and his wife were married in December, 1929, today said the ceremony was performed on December 19, 1934. Broadway was felled with five pistol slugs in the head.

Justice of the Peace A. J. Buchanan said Riedel told him he had intercepted a letter last week from Broadway to his wife. He said the letter suggested that Mrs. Riedel, who was employed at Texas A&M College, met him yesterday at the Hotel Bryan.

Buchanan quoted Riedel as saying he came here Wednesday and slept in his automobile on the streets that night. He said went to the hotel at noon yesterday and saw what appeared to be a fictitious name registered. The justice quoting him as saying he went to the room and knocked and that Broadway called out and asked who was there. Riedel said he asked Broadway what he was doing after the door had been opened and that he then saw his partially undressed wife and couldn't restrain himself.

Broadway was married and is survived by his widow. Mrs. Riedel, who declined to comment on details of the shooting, said that she and her husband had never had any difficulties. She added that she had known Broadway all her life.

LUTHER J. BROADWAY KILLED IN HOTEL,

Bryan Daily Eagle, August 1, 1935

WAS IN ROOM WITH WIFE OF HOUSTON MAN. FIVE BULLETS STRIKE WELL KNOWN LAYWER IN FOREHEAD. M. M. RIEDEL KILLER. TRACKED WIFE, COTTON WORK EMPLOYEE, TO HOTEL TODAY.

Luther J. Broadway, 43, a well-known Madisonville attorney, was shot five times and killed in a bedroom of a local hotel shortly after 1 o'clock Thursday by M. M. Riedel, employed at Texas A. and M. College on the cotton adjustment program since July 17, was in the room with Broadway.

After the shooting, Riedel surrendered to the Chief of Police, K. T. Tillis, called to the hotel. Riedel was standing at the door of the room with his revolver in his hand. When the chief said he was an officer, Ridel said, "I'm the man you are looking for. I just shot and killed a man I found in this room with my wife."

W. W. Allen, assistant county attorney, filed charges of murder against Riedel in connection with Broadway's death, and his bond was fixed at \$5000. Riedel was not placed in jail at once but was kept in the office of the sheriff in the courthouse while he was attempting to arrange for bail. A. J. Buchanan, coroner, rendered a verdict in Broadway's death that it was due to gunshot wounds inflicted by Riedel.

HUSBAND FINDS LETTER. Riedel stated that he came to Bryan on Friday of last week, remaining until Tuesday. That day, he said, he found a letter addressed to his wife, written by Broadway, telling her to meet him at the hotel where Broadway met his death at 1 o'clock today. Riedel said he left for Houston Tuesday night "to get his gun," returning to Bryan early Wednesday morning. He did not make any contact with his wife after his return Wednesday, he said and slept in his car, but kept watch on the hotel and checked her actions as closely as possible without letting her know he was in town.

SAW WIFE ENTER HOTEL. He saw his wife go to the hotel, he said, and from the register, located the room occupied by Mrs. Riedel and Broadway. He said he went to the door and knocked. Broadway came to the room door and asked who was there, Riedel said he answered, "A man from the hotel." With that, Riedel said, Broadway opened the door, and then Riedel stuck his foot against the jam to prevent the door from being closed. Then, Riedel said he asked, "I want to know what is going on here."

Riedel said he had his hand on his revolver, about the handle of which he had wrapped a handkerchief as the gun laid in his pocket, and pulled it out and began shooting, firing five shots. Broadway crumpled under the fire, and his body, clad in underwear, was found lying between the side of the bed and a small table, past which apparently had fallen, as there were blood stains on his straw hat on the tale and considerable blood on the edge of the table nearest which his body lay, as though he had struck it as he sagged.

LOVED WIFE TOO MUCH. Riedel said he had been suspicious of his wife for several months. Tuesday of last week, he said, she received a mysterious letter which she refused to permit him to see and tore to bits. He said that if he hadn't loved her so much, he would have "quit" her long ago, but he could not make up his mind to do this.

Riedel was cool and calm as he talked of his marital difficulties and as he described his actions after he saw his wife enter the hotel. He also stated that the hotel register was evidence that Broadway and his wife had taken a room in the hotel twice before, in the past few weeks or since she found employment at College.

Mrs. Riedel, who had seated herself in the floor corridor after she left the room on a chair not far from the door of the room she and Broadway had occupied, had nothing to say. Finally, she admitted that when Riedel came into the room, Broadway said, "Is that your husband," and she told him, "Yes." She stated she might have more to say later.

AIDS WIFE DOWN STAIRS. When Ridel and his wife were taken from the hotel by Chief Tillis and Constable D. D. Jolly, the woman reeled and put out her hand as tough to seek support from a man in the group. With that, Riedel took his wife's arm and aided her down the stairs and out to the police car, in which they were taken to the county jail.

Riedel and his wife were married December 1929. They had lived in Houston during that period, Mr. Riedel said, where he had begun the practice of law after study at the University of Texas and at a private school in Galveston, where he lived for 10 or 12 years before moving to Houston. He had offices there in the Citizens State bank building, he said.

NORTH ZULCH GIRL. Mrs. Riedel was Ruby Gustine of North Zulch before her marriage and her family is well known in that vicinity. For several years before her marriage, she taught in the North Zulch schools. When Mrs. Riedel came to Bryan, to work at College on the cotton adjustment program, she secured a room at 2716 North Texas Avenue, and it was from the letter box there that her husband took the letter in which Broadway made the appointment for today that proved fatal to him.

BROADWAY WELL KNOWN. Broadway was one of the best-known attorneys in the Madison, Grimes and Leon county areas. He was about 45 years of age, and was admitted to the practice of law about 1923. He had served as county attorney and as county judge for Madison County. His wife was for years the clerk of the district court of Madison county. They had no children.

McCulloch-Dansby, who is in charge of Mr. Broadway's body had not received any instructions concerning shipment of the remains at mid-afternoon. An examination of the body showed that all five bullets fired by Riedel struck Broadway in the forehead, one of them apparently having been fired at very close range.

Mrs. Riedel sent word to North Zulch for some of her family and was expecting some of them to come to Bryan sometime this afternoon. She said nothing of her immediate plans but after she and her husband had been taken to the courthouse, Riedel sent word to her, in the county attorney's office, that he would like to talk with her and she was taken to the sheriff's office where he was detained.

Mrs. Riedel said this afternoon she and her husband never had any difficulty. She also stated she had known Broadway all her life. Mrs. Ridel is 31 years of age and her husband is 39 years of age.