

Trend of Today's Markets  
Stocks steady, Bonds soft, Curb  
higher, Foreign exchange quiet,  
Cotton steady, Wheat easy. Corn  
easy.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

FINAL

The Only Evening Newspaper in St. Louis With the Associated Press News Service

(Closing New York Stock Prices)

VOL. 90, NO. 283

ST. LOUIS, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1938—36 PAGES

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## OFFICE NURSE SHOT TO DEATH IN ARCADE BLDG.

Husband of Cousin Arrested,  
Admits Killing  
Mrs. Theresa Cope, 35,  
Because of Family Row

WALKED INTO ROOM,  
FIRED TWICE, RAN

Taxi Driver Tells of Taking Him  
to East St. Louis Where Pistol  
Was Bought—Victim a Widow

Mrs. Theresa Cope, nurse and attendant in a physician's office at 990 Arcade building, was shot twice and fatally wounded at 11:30 o'clock this morning, in the office, by Raymond Underwood, whose wife, Mrs. Cope's cousin, is suing him for divorce.

Mrs. Cope was dead from wounds in the neck and left side of the chest, on arrival at City Hospital. She was 35 years old, a widow, and lived at 3928 Maffit Avenue with her two daughters.

### Killed Because of Family Row



Mrs. Theresa Cope

Underwood escaping at the time from the office building at 812 Olive street, was arrested an hour and a half later and admitted at police headquarters that he shot Mrs. Cope. "She double-crossed me," police quoted him as saying. "She persuaded my wife to sue me for divorce." To his wife, Mrs. Agnes Underwood; he said, "Here's what you've done--do you hear?" The dead woman's

daughters, Mary Cope, 15 and Jean, 14 the latter a graduate today of St. Matthew's Catholic parish school, confronted Underwood and tearfully reproached him.

#### How he was caught

Underwood, 38 years old, is a painter, and lived recently at the McKinley hotel, 12th and Delmar Boulevard. Earlier he lived at 1014 Montgomery Street. His arrest in the 6300 block of South Grand Boulevard, resulted from the following of a routine police method, by which squad cars were sent to the end of every street car or bus line on which he might have left the vicinity of the shooting. He had taken a Gra-vois bus on Market Street, and gotten off at the Carondelet Park terminus of the line.

After his arrest, Underwood made no admissions until he was identified by a taxi cab driver. The driver, Edward Felix, said that before the shooting he drove Underwood to East St. Louis, where the latter drank with a Negro and bought a cheap revolver in a pawnshop. Inquiry showed that he signed a fictitious name and address on the pawnkeepers record book. In St. Louis he could not have bought a revolver without a permit.

The revolver, dropped by Underwood in his flight, was found on a fifth-floor stairway of the office building.

After the shooting, Mrs. Cope walked from the office of her employer, Dr. Robert E. Wilson, to that of Dr. George E. Randleman and collapsed there after saying "I'm shot in the chest; call a priest." Several physicians treated her before her removal; but she was



Raymond Underwood

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unable to say anything further. Monsignor Peter J. Dunne, head of the Newsboy's Home, who was in the building, reached the office in time to give absolution to Mrs. Cope.

### **Peace disturbance charge.**

Police learned that Mrs. Cope was a cousin of Mrs. Underwood, whose peace disturbance case against her husband was to heard on appeal tomorrow in the Court of Criminal Correction, and Underwood had held a grudge against Mrs. Cope for taking the wives' part. Underwood, arrested May 28, was fined \$750 by Police Judge Edward M. Ruddy, on testimony that he had gone to his wife's home, 2842 Arlington avenue, and had threatened Mrs. Underwood and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Belsha, with a knife. The appeal followed.

The taxi driver, describing his trip to and from East St. Louis with Underwood, said that on the return, his passenger twirled the revolver on one finger, but stopped when the driver protested. Getting out in front the Arcade Building, the man said he would be out in 10 minutes. He paid his full fare and the bridge tolls, the driver said.

### **Seemed to be drunk.**

Those who saw the killer leaving the office said he was intoxicated. A letter carrier saw him enter Dr. Wilson's office, heard the shots and saw him leave the office and start down a stairway.

Mrs. Cope, a trained technician, had been employed in Dr. Wilson's office 10 years. In the office, she sat in an inner room and interviewed visitors through a window. The location of her wounds indicated that she endeavored to get behind the partial protection of the wall. One of the bullets, after wounding her, shattered the glass of a bookcase.

The sale of the revolver to Underwood was made at the Marcks Loan Co., 108 Collinsville Avenue, in East St. Louis, by Betty Marcks, proprietor. She said he gave his name as Smith, and said he was a watchman. He gave his address as a North St. Louis street number which does not exist.

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