

LIFE TERM GIVEN UNDERWOOD FOR NURSE'S MURDER

Plea of Insanity Fails—Jury De- liberates Two and a Half Hours

Raymond Underwood, 38-year-old painter, who shot and killed Mrs. Theresa Cope last June 15, because he thought she intended to marry another man, was found guilty last night of first-degree murder and sentenced to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary by a jury in the court of circuit Judge David J. Murphy. The jury deliberated two and one-half hours.

Underwood, whose defense had been a plea of insanity, heard the verdict without show of emotion.

As Assistant Circuit Attorney Henry W. Simpson outlined details of the crime to the jury in his closing argument the daughters of the slain woman, Jean 14, and Mary 15, broke into sobs clearly audible in the courtroom. Both girls had testified that Underwood threatened their mother and that she was afraid him.

The state contended during course of the trial, which began Monday, that Underwood was sane when he went to the office of a physician in the Arcade Building were Mrs. Cope was employed as a nurse and shot her after he had learned of her supposed intention to marry another man.

The death penalty was requested by Simpson, on the ground that Underwood had planned both the murder and an escape. He contended this showed conclusively the defendant was sane.

The defense admitted the facts of the slaying, but insisted Underwood was "so insane at the time he did not know the purport of his acts." The defendant's father Sherman Underwood,



CONVICTED OF MURDER RAYMOND UNDERWOOD

of McCredie, Mo. and Mrs. Helen Sampson, a sister, testified they believed him insane.

The state then placed six witnesses on the stand to testify they believed Underwood sane. Dr. Joseph J. Gitt, a psychiatrist, declared that Underwood appeared rational when interviewed at city jail last Saturday.

Due to a typographical error it was incorrectly stated in yesterday said Star-Times that Charles F. Hamilton, defense counsel, referred to Underwood as Robert Underwood in addressing the jury.

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