

# LOVED GRAND CANYON, WOMAN CHOOSES TO DIE THERE; FOUND NEAR DAM SITE 4 DAYS LATER

Ida May Rusk loved the Grand Canyon. She said that when she died she hoped it would be in the natural, untamed wildness along the great river. Last Thursday she vanished from her Maywood, Calif. home, and a Grand Canyon ranger found a note from her on an obscure trail at the canyon which hinted at suicide.

Wednesday the body of Mrs. Rusk was dragged from the Colorado river by Murl Emory, pioneer boatman and Six Companies workmen just above Boulder dam-site. Mrs. Rusk had obtained her wish.

When news of finding the body was broadcast, her frantic husband and his closest friends, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Price of Maywood, heard of the find and rushed by motor to Las Vegas where they identified the woman as Mrs. Rusk. Yesterday an inquest jury under Coroner Frank M. Ryan found that Mrs. Rusk had committed suicide by drowning in the river, presumably having thrown herself into the stream near the Hermit creek trail below El Tovar, Arizona.

At first suggesting foul play, a small round wound was found on the woman's back when her body was removed from the stream, but

after probing and X-ray examination by Dr. J. R. McDaniel, Jr., at Boulder City, it was found that no bullet had caused the wound. While authorities were at a loss to explain such an injury, they scouted the murder theory.

Mrs. Rusk will be buried at 9 o'clock this morning at Woodlawn cemetery. The funeral will be private.

Before leaving her home Mrs. Rusk said no word of her plan to anyone, and when she went for a walk Saturday at the Grand Canyon, none of her acquaintances thought it out of the ordinary. But when she failed to return late that night, rangers immediately organized searching parties. One of them found a note from the woman on a rock in the middle of an abandoned trail. It said:

"If you are looking for me, don't go any farther. I am going to the river, and am never coming back."

It was then that the suicide theory was first advanced. At her room in camp, Mrs. Rusk left another note giving the address of Mr. and Mrs. Peck who were to be "notified in case of accident." It was understood that Mrs. Rusk, who was an annual visitor to the canyon, had been in ill health for several years.