

Man's death raised many questions.

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As Sarah Evans' story began to unfold, the evening of her husband's death had started out in a humdrum way. She said that Charles had gone to town about 7 p.m., ordered some groceries and returned at 10, bringing with him two muskmelons, some towels, handkerchiefs and a blouse waist. She explained that the waist was for her husband to wear at his new job at Fulwider's Mill. Furthermore, she said, he seemed happy enough.

After the melons had been eaten, continued Evans, Charlie announced that he had also bought some quinine and "thought that if he would take some, it would help him. The nature of his supposed ailment was not named in the testimony of Mrs. Evans, but the *Encyclopedia Britannica* indicates that

quinine used to be a treatment for a variety of ailments.

It was at that point in the evening that Mrs. Evans said she, too, took a quinine capsule and left the room. Her husband settled down to read the *Telephone*. She then testified that she was awakened from sleep by her husband's frantic calls for help. Evans, she said, told her something was amiss. He couldn't hold the newspaper and was experiencing difficulty in keeping his eyes open. His symptoms became more serious — difficulty in walking when he tried to get up and a feeling that he was suffocating.

It was at that point that Sarah Evans said she called in a neighbor, Martha Chandler and Frank Ward, a boarder in the Evans home. All of their efforts being ineffectual, a doctor was summoned, but Charles Evans was dead before he arrived.

A search of the room where

Evans died and his clothing turned up nothing that would shed any light on the case. In evaluating the whole matter, the mayor could not help but take into consideration the fact that Sarah Evans' accounts of her husband's behavior did not jibe. Col. John East, the woman's attorney, claimed that for some time prior to his death Evans had been acting like a despondent man, refusing to eat, and that on the Friday before he died, he had bought firewood, commenting that it would be plenty for his wife, "as he would not need it — he was going to die."

Meanwhile, Mrs. Evans had been assuring a *Telephone* reporter that nothing was amiss in the household. She and her husband had been living happily, recently, and "that he had been in excellent spirits."

Next week: The trial of Sarah Evans.