

# A personal tragedy in 1913

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Hurst had been seen having dinner at the Bundy Restaurant. In retrospect, a city policeman also remembered a brief conversation with Hurst on the night of the tragedy. According to the newspaper, the policeman told Hurst that if his wife could look after herself, he ought to be able to as well.

The night and a label-less bottle of whiskey enveloped the despairing stoneworker. He went to his wife's house, took his shoes off at the back door and set down next to them the then nearly empty bottle.

As he entered the house, he was not entirely empty-handed. With him were four sticks of dynamite. The time was after midnight and

his errand was to kill his family, as well as himself. Indeed, according to the *Telephone* account, it was not his first attempt in regard to himself.

Said the newspaper, "Hurst . . . had tried suicide several times before. Once at the jail he attempted to hang himself and was cut down by Joseph Ratcliff, then sheriff, and about a year ago Chief Hensley grabbed a bottle of carbolic acid away from him as he was bout to pour the contents down his throat. This time he decided on a way absolutely sure, one from which no human intervention could call him back from death."

By a twist of fate, his plan went awry.

*Next week: The explosive ending*