

[Button, Edward M.]

WRITES NOTE OF GOOD-BY, DROWNS SELF

Body of Edward M. Button, Former Syracuse Rug Salesman, Found by Girls
Message to Brother Tells of \$15,000 Estate;
Life Ended In Brook at Barton's Corners

After writing a brief note bidding good-by to his brother and stating that he was leaving \$15,000, Edward M. Button, 64, of Button road, town of Cicero, a former deputy sheriff, ended his life by drowning in a small brook near Barton's Corners.

The body was discovered by a group of four girl picnickers early yesterday afternoon. At first some mystery surrounded the man's death, but the finding of a carefully written note addressed to his brother, William O. Button, in his clothing at the county morgue revealed it was a case of suicide.

Employed for more than 15 years at the E. W. Edward & Sons department store, as a rug salesman, Mr. Button retired last December.

MENTIONS ESTATE

Written on two sheets of paper taken from a small notebook, the note read:

Dear Will:

When you read this you will feel bad, of course. Don't wish me back. I just can't work and help you. I am leaving \$15,000 for you and Bertha.

Have been through so much I feel I can't face the future with arthritis, for which there is no cure.

God bless you and keep you. Kiss Bertha and Ella for me.

E. M. B.

On a third sheet he had written the single sentence:

I can't work. I don't want to live.

Morgue attendants found the notes, \$25 in cash and his watch in his pockets.

Button was last seen alive Friday afternoon in Syracuse. He left the home of his brother, William Button of Button rd., Thursday afternoon. When he failed to return that night, relatives became alarmed and the following afternoon received word that he had been seen in Syracuse.

Yesterday afternoon four girls, Mary Conroy, 13, of 102 Michaels av.; Marie Louise Cain, 12, of 216 Roxford rd.; Dorothy Bergdorf, 14, of 1107 Spring st.; and Virginia Cummings, 12, of 146 Burdick av.; went on a picnic hike.

They walked as far as Barton's Corners and then decided to have lunch in a field alongside Erlenback Creek, a tributary of Ley Creek. While they were partaking of their lunch, Miss Conroy decided to take a look under a small bridge spanning the creek.

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SEE BODY FLOATING

Suddenly the other girls heard her scream and running to her side, saw the body of a man floating under the span. Thoroughly frightened, the girls left their lunch and ran to the gasoline station of Henry Erlenback, where they told about their find.

Erlenback went to investigate and then called the county morgue and state police. Trooper C. D. Christensen of the Pitcher Hill substation was sent to investigate.

How long Mr. Button had been dead is a matter of conjecture, but when the body was discovered his watch was still running, indicating he had not been dead more than 24 hours at the most.

Mr. Button served as a deputy sheriff under sheriffs Scriber, O'Brien and Sleeth.

Besides his brother he is survived by a niece, Bertha E. Mulford, and a nephew, William W. Mulford, both of Onondaga Hill. Funeral services will take place at the Cornell, Clement & Greenleaf, Inc., funeral parlors at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon with Rev. Ellsworth Reamon of Betts Memorial [Universalist] Church officiating. Burial will be at North Syracuse.

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Transcribed on 6 Jul 2018 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY