

[Gale, Lewis B.]

L. B. Gale, Ex-Hospital Employe[e], Dies

Lewis B. Gale, who was critically wounded during an attempt by a disgruntled ex-employe[e] to kill the director of Binghamton State Hospital, seven years ago, died at the hospital early today.

An employe[e] of the hospital for 30 years, Mr. Gale survived a shotgun slug wound of the chest, but suffered a stroke in 1955, relatives said.

Since then, his health has declined steadily and he has been under medical care at the hospital. Death was attributed to bronchial pneumonia.

The then hospital director, Dr. Hugh S. Gregory, was less severely wounded Jan. 16, 1951 after the discharged employe[e], Albert T. Davidson, walked into a hospital staff meeting and started shooting.

The slug which struck Mr. Gale was believed to have been intended for Hospital Police Chief Frank Bell.

Davidson fled the hospital and took his own life by carbon monoxide after parking his car in a field near Strapmill Road.

The victim's wife, Mrs. Elaine Gale, said her husband never fully recovered the use of his left arm after the shooting.

A foreman in the carpenter shop, he was attending the staff meeting as acting maintenance chief of the hospital. He suffered pneumonia as an aftermath of the wound.

Funeral will be Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Frank L. DeMunn funeral home, 36 Conklin Avenue. The Rev. Richard M. Woodman, pastor of First Universalist Church, will officiate. Burial will be at Oxford.

Mr. Gale's address was 6 New Street. A World War I veteran, he was a member of Johnson City American Legion Post 758.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Ernest Hastings of Reno, Nev., and Miss Lucienne Gale of Binghamton; two step-children, John Hart and Helen Hart of Binghamton; and one grandchild, Barbara Hastings of Reno.

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