

SLASHES THROAT WITH RAZOR

12/17/15

Traveling Salesman After Sending Message of Contemplated Deed, Ends Life on Marselles Street.

The body of E. E. Vance, a traveling salesman, was found dead upon the streets of Marselles near the Colliard and Allard home about 7:30 Tuesday morning. Vance had ended his life by slashing his throat with a razor. He had been dead two or three hours.

Just one hour after finding the body, the following letter was received from Chicago by the chief of police at Marselles:

"To the Marshal of Marselles, Illinois:

"You will find the body of someone somewhere in Marselles tomorrow morning. See that proper care is taken and that his personal belongings at his side and in his pockets are cared for.

"Yours,

"THE OWNER OF THE BODY."

Vance for the past few weeks had been traveling as a salesman for A. B. Smith, who is to rebuild paper factory No. 1 at Marselles. He sold stock in the new factory which is to be rebuilt.

Two reasons have been advanced for Vance taking his life—one that it was a love affair, and another that he was suffering from a tumor. The correct reason seems not yet known, but a majority favor the former solution.

The verdict of the jury was that Vance came to his death by slashing himself with a razor, while despondent.

The victim was 53 years of age, and came to this county from Brook, Ind., was a widower, and was formerly superintendent of schools at Brooks.

Vance was in Chicago the day prior to his death, and according to a story credited to Mr. Smith, he met him at the train. Together they went to a hotel. Vance told of a love affair, and Smith is alleged to have told him to forget it. Vance replied he could not. Vance was to go to LaSalle on the morning that he ended his life.

When he left Chicago, it is stated, he seemed to be very despondent, but it was not thought that he was contemplating ending his existence.