

TELLS OF AMAZING PLAN TO SWAP WIVES

Mrs Gardner Murdock Throws New Light on Bellport Tragedy.

Reconciliation of Edeys Blocked Marital Shift And Alienation Suit Was Decided Upon.

NEW YORK, Jan 4—During a grilling examination by Asst Dist Atty Roy W. Young and Coroner E. H. Moore of Suffolk County, Mrs Gardner Murdock this afternoon lifted the veil of mystery which appears to have clouded the motives which led Henry C. Edey, the former New York broker, to kill his wife in their handsome home at Bellport, L. I., last Thursday and then take his own life.

Mrs Murdock testified most unwillingly at the inquest into the death of the couple. She said that at the suggestion of Edey he and her own husband had arranged to exchange wives; that the children were to be cared for under the new marital arrangements and that when Edey became reconciled to his wife and went back on his bargain,

Murdock and she (the witness) decided to sue him for \$100,000 on the charge of alienating the affections of Mrs Murdock. She reluctantly acknowledged that she was living with her husband at the time the plan was worked out.

The inquest was held in the village office at Bellport. In the center of the room were two tables and around these were placed chairs for the county officers, witnesses and newspapermen. The townsfolk, who packed the place, were forced to stand.

Mrs Murdock, an attractive young woman with deep blue eyes and dark hair, arrived in company with her father, Henry E. Corwin, postmaster of Bellport. She wore a plain black gown.

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heavy raglan coat of gray and a hat of light brown fur. Her only jewels were large pearl earrings, which accentuated the unnatural pallor of her face. She was palpably ill at ease, but under the fire of questions became angry and at times rebellious.

"Isn't it true," asked Mr Young, "that you have visited your husband on two or three occasions since you separated from him?"

"I visited him in New Haven, Conn, where he was staying with his brother and remained two weeks," replied the witness. "I can't say I was on very friendly terms with him."

"But you lived as man and wife?"

"We tried to; but it wasn't quite the same."

"And didn't you visit him at the Terra Marine Inn on Staten Island and at the home of your parents here?"

Talking as to Bringing Suit.

Mrs Murdock acknowledged these meetings and explained them by saying that she and her husband were talking over the suit to be brought against Edey. She thought the sum to be asked was \$100,000, but it might not have been more than \$50,000. After they had come to a decision she and Murdock had gone to the office of Canfield, Stone & Frederick, 49 Wall st, Manhattan, and there she had made a supporting affidavit at the request of Mr Frederick.

"And this was for alienating your affections?" demanded the prosecutor.

"It was," the witness answered.

"If you were not on intimate terms with your husband why did you aid him in this suit?" asked Mr Young.

"Because I thought he was justified in bringing it," snapped the witness, "and, besides, I was helping myself. I was to get one-third of what money my husband got. He was to get a third and the lawyers a third."

Mr Young wanted to know in what way Murdock was justified in suing Edey; whether Edey had alienated the affections of the witness.

"He made plans which he failed to fulfill," the young woman explained.

"What were those plans?" asked Dr Moore.

"Well," replied the witness, after she vainly tried to conceal this part of the story, "Mr Edey got his wife to leave her home and go to Texas with my husband. At first he wanted Mrs Edey and me to go there and get divorces on the ground of abandonment, but I wouldn't go, so they went and I stayed at home with my parents, where I was to remain until the divorces were granted. Then I was to become Mrs Edey and Mrs Edey was to marry my husband."

"Were you perfectly willing to become Mrs Edey?"

"I would have been perfectly willing had the plan gone through. He had won my affection and I cared no longer for Gardner."

"Why did the plan fail?"

"Mr Edey took back his own wife and that ended it. He didn't do as he said he would."

"And this was the reason you helped your husband out in the matter of the suit?"

"That and the fact that I was going to get my share of the money, if he got any."

Arrangements as to the Children.

Dr Moore asked whether Mrs Murdock and her husband expected the case would be settled.

"We didn't think it would get into court," she answered. "We were pretty sure Mr Edey would settle."

"If the plan had worked out as intended what would have become of little Mary Edey, the daughter?" asked Mr Young.

"Oh, we arranged that she was to live with her father and me half the time and with her mother and Mr Murdock the other half. The same arrangement would have applied to my son, Milton."

Somebody pointed out Milton, a rosy-faced chap of 14, to the coroner.

"Horrors," exclaimed Dr Moore. "This is no place for him. Tell him to go out."

Milton was conducted to the door and thereafter hung about in the cold waiting for his mother.

Mr Young inquired whether the witness had been much in the company of Edey prior to the scheme to swap wives was formed. Mrs Murdock said she had, but that their relations were purely platonic.

At first she declared she had never suspected her husband of misbehaving, but later on she admitted she had become suspicious.

The witness was led back to her visits to Murdock, and it was established to the satisfaction of the coroner that the pair had been together for a fortnight in New Haven and again at the Terra Marine Inn.

Edey Goes Back on His Bargain.

The subject of where the quartet intended to settle down after the exchange of partners was brought up, and the witness said this point had not been settled. She intimated, however, that all were to return to Bellport, where she would become mistress of the Edey home and Mrs Edey would take charge of the Murdock home.

"Did Mr Edey think up this most wonderful plan all himself?" inquired the prosecutor.

"So far as I know, he did," answered the witness testily. "I didn't think it up for him!"

"Wasn't he somewhat eccentric?"

"Not that I ever noticed."

"And how long have you lived here, pray?"

"All my life."

"What was the first intimation you had that Mr Edey had gone back on his bargain?" demanded Dr Moore.

"When he took his wife back," replied Mrs Murdock. "That was my notice."

"Then you and your husband decided to sue?"

"Not at the moment. We talked it over for a few weeks. The papers were made a month ago and served about two weeks ago, I think."

"Why didn't you serve him before?"

"He was on a sea trip with his wife and we had to wait for him to return."

Because of the testimony of Mrs Murdock, the County officials believe that Edey, who after the reconciliation had lived happily with his wife, decided to kill the woman and himself rather than have the case come into the courts.

Before Mr Young left for his home in Babylon he was asked by a reporter whether the testimony of Mrs Murdock would lead to any action by the district attorney's office.

"You will have to ask Disty Atty Green as to that," he replied. "I have nothing to say in regard to that matter further than that the testimony of Mrs Murdock was the most amazing I have ever listened to."