

# Wife and Husband In Double Tragedy

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. ('Bud')  
Stephenson Die by  
Rifle Bullets

## COMMUNITY HORRIFIED

Mystery, beyond the understanding of the closest friends of the family, surrounds the horrifying tragedy of the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. ('Bud') Stephenson in their home above the Bradford Bakery, in which business the former was a partner, sometime about midnight on Saturday. Both were killed by shots from a .22 calibre single shot rifle, but owing to noises on the street at that hour, the sounds of the shots were not heard by even the nearest neighbours.

The first news of the shooting was given at about 12.30 Sunday morning, when little 5-year-old Joan arrived at the door of their nearest neighbour, Russell Worfolk, and aroused the Worfolk family. Though trembling and terrified, Joan had dressed herself fully after the tragedy, made her way downstairs and out through the store, unbolting the store door, and then out to the street and to the Worfolk door, where she attracted the attention of Mr. Worfolk who was preparing to retire for the night. "They're both dead. They're shot," she told him.

Little Joan was immediately taken in and put to bed under the care of Mrs. Worfolk, and, though the child's story seemed unbelievable, it was realized something terrible must have happened to bring her out at such an hour of the night, so Mr. Worfolk hurriedly dressed and rushed up Holland street, where he found Constable Walter Reeves and notified Provincial Traffic Officer Cecil Dean, both of whom were on the scene within a few minutes.

The officers found Mrs. Stephenson in bed, the bed clothes drawn up in a normal position, and two bullet wounds in her temple, within an inch of one another. It appeared that she was asleep when shot. Beside the bed, on the floor, was the body of her husband, an old .22 calibre rifle partly under him and a bullet wound in his temple. He was dressed as he was last seen on the street, less than an hour before, except that he had replaced his street shoes with slippers. Little Marilyn, 9-month-old baby, lay in her crib a few feet away.

Coroner Dr. R. H. Judge was called and after consultation with Dr. W. A. Lewis, of Barrie, the bodies were released for burial on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson were both highly respected residents of the town and the tragedy is shrouded in mystery. They had both been skating at the local rink that evening, Mrs. Stephenson apparently going directly home and to bed while he was about town, as was his custom on Saturday nights, going home, it is said, shortly before midnight. Those who talked with him that day and in the evening noticed nothing unusual in his behaviour.

Mr. Stephenson, known to everyone as "Bud", was a well-known figure in the community. He drove the Bradford Bakery truck on many of its trips through the town and country and this, as well as being prominent in sport circles, made him widely

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## WIFE AND HUSBAND DIE IN DOUBLE TRAGEDY

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known. He was an outstanding bowler, attending bowling tournaments near and far. Only last summer he was one of the local pair to win the "Globe and Mail" Scotch doubles. Until the last few years he was also a hockey player of ability.

Mrs. Stephenson was regarded very highly by all who knew her. She was a gentle, quiet, dignified little lady and a most accomplished musician. Her services were often in demand as an accompanist as well as for piano instrumental work. She was a devoted mother to her two little girls and in every respect a homemaker and a wife of whom any husband should have been proud. The horror of the tragedy is completely out of character with either Mr. or Mrs. Stephenson who have always been highly regarded in Bradford.

Born and educated in the same district, Mr. Stephenson at Unionville and Mrs. Stephenson, formerly Helena Gowland, at Markham, they married when quite young in Markham in April, 1926. Mr. Fred Gowland, father of Mrs. Stephenson, having acquired the local bakery, was joined here by the Stephensons in the early autumn of 1926 and they have since resided in town. About eight years ago Mr. Gowland sold his Bakery to his son-in-law and his baker, Mr. Albert Hunt, and since that time the business has been carried on under the name of Hunt & Stephenson, the Stephensons making their home at the residence adjoining the store on Holland St.

Mr. Stephenson was in his 33rd year and Mrs. Stephenson in her 32nd year.

Besides their two little daughters, the young couple are survived by members of their families: Mr. Stephenson by his mother and a brother, Lloyd, at Unionville; an older brother, Tom, at Buttonville; and a sister in Chicago. Mrs. Stephenson is survived by her father, Mr. F. Gowland, Penetanguishene; two sisters, Mrs. Steet, of Rouge Hills, and Miss Margaret, at home; a brother, Lloyd, and a half-brother, Wardie, of Penetanguishene. The sympathy of the community is extended to these sorrowing relatives.

The double funeral takes place this Wednesday afternoon from the Funeral Home of T. Kilkenny & Son, at 2 o'clock. Interment will be in St. Andrew's Cemetery, Markham.