

# ERNEST KUESPERT COMMITS SUICIDE BY TURNING ON GAS

### Eccentric Character With Romantic Past, Ends Life This Morning at Boarding House.

### WAS FOUND DEAD IN BED

### Has No Relatives Here—Said to Have Been Despondent Over Death of His Relatives.

Because of failure to obtain employment and grief over the death of several of his relatives in fighting with the German army in the European war, Ernest Kuespert turned on the gas in his room at 702 High street, some time this morning and ended his mortal existence.

Mr. Kuespert was widely known here as an eccentric character and was for many years a valuable cutter at the Huskamp shoe factory. Although he has no blood relatives in Keokuk, he is related by marriage to the family to the Finkelsteins of 705 High street.

Kuespert had been out of employment for some time, it is stated, and was also despondent over his physical condition, which is said to have been caused by an excessive use of stimulants.

For the past two months he had been boarding at 702 High street with Anna and Lizzie Bernhart, sisters. They state that he was called at 6 o'clock this morning, as usual, but made no reply. Although he was not dead at that time for his steady breathing could be heard, both sisters worked out and during the morning he was left to himself.

### Break Down Door.

Lizzie Bernhart was the first to return. After she got dinner ready she called Kuespert but received no answer. The smell of gas through the house was also apparent. Becoming alarmed she broke down the door to his room, which is on the first floor, and found him lying in bed, dead. She turned the gas off and called her sister, Mrs. Brown and Dorsey were sent summoned, but it was found on examination that the last spark of life had flown and that efforts toward revival would be futile.

This afternoon the body was taken to an undertaking shop where it will remain until it is decided what disposition to make of it.

### Resident Since 1892.

Kuespert had been a resident of Keokuk since the year 1892. He came here to join his brother, a well-known local musician who died a few years back. He obtained employment at the shoe factory and continued there until about a year and a half ago. Since that time he had been working at odd jobs and recently had been employed as a laborer at the park.

Kuespert during his residence here told a romantic story of his early life. Although it is not known whether his tale is true, or the result of a creative imagination, there seems to be no real reason to believe that it is not so, as he told it many times without varying in details.

According to his story, he was born of royalty, was associated with royalty for many years of his life, and was a page to the ill-fated Ludwig II of Bavaria, the king who drowned himself in 1886. He was one of the sixteen pages who accompanied the heart of Ludwig to its final resting place with the hearts of all the kings of Bavaria at Ald Oeding, and who was decorated for bravery for leading a victorious charge in the German-Chinese war in 1899-1890.

### Here is His Story.

His name while he lived in his parental castle in Bavaria, was Ernest Gottlieb Waldimir Erick von Kuespert, baron of Loosburg, but in Keokuk he was known as plain Ernest Kuespert.

Mr. Kuespert had a romantic career in the fifty-one years of his life with his share of adventures. He was born at Wunsiedel, Bavaria, in the year 1864 in a grand old castle. This castle is one of the most historic in Bavaria and contains over 200 rooms. Although born a baron he did not inherit this castle which went to an older member of the family. At the present time it is in the hands of the dead man's grand-nephew.

### Goes to Court.

When he was fifteen years of age, the boy was chosen one of sixteen from among all the royalty of Bavaria to be a page to Ludwig II, king of the principality at that time. Ludwig was holding his court in Munich at this time and here went young Kuespert to take up his duties. The sixteen pages of the king had nothing to complain of at the court as they were splendidly dressed and treated. Young Kuespert was dressed in a suit of fine silk with a blue silk hat with long ostrich plumes curving over the forehead. His duties at this time was to wait upon the king, to hand the king his food when it was brought in by the servants, in other ways make himself handy around the royal household as well as ornamental.

### Death of the King.

Kuespert had been in King Ludwig's service about one and one-half years when the world was shocked by the terrible news of the suicide of the Bavarian king at the summer

# OUR PUBLIC FORUM



### R. P. Schwerin On the Seamen's Bill

The American plowmen are interested in sea commerce. It is expensive and likewise humiliating to have to salute a foreign flag every time a farmer wants to ship a bushel of wheat, a bale of cotton or a pound of farm products across the ocean. The American farmer is entitled to the protection of his flag in sending his products across the sea, and Congress should give such encouragement to shipping interests as is necessary to meet foreign competition in ocean commerce. A recent bill known as the Seaman's Bill became a law under the President's signature and Mr. R. P. Schwerin, vice-president of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, when asked to define this law and outline its effect upon American steamship lines, said in part:

"The bill provides that no ship of any nationality shall be permitted to depart from any port of the United States unless she has on board a crew not less than seventy-five per centum of which, in each department thereof, unless forty per centum in the first year, forty-five per centum in the second year, fifty per centum in the third year, fifty-five per centum in the fourth year after the passage of this Act, and thereafter sixty-five per centum of her deck crew, exclusive of licensed officers and apprentices, are of a rating not less than able seamen."

"The overseas trade of the world is competitive, therefore the original cost of the ship and the operation of the ship have to be reckoned with in the keen competition of these rival nations with one another. The Oriental sailor is obedient and competent and is the cheapest sailor in the world. It is therefore manifestly clear that if this law applied to all nationalities in the trans-Pacific traffic, all would be on the same economic basis, but it works a single hardship to all the ships of the world, except the Japanese and American ships, and with the latter it works two hardships. With the European, the cost of constructing a ship is no higher than the cost of constructing a Japanese ship, but if they had to provide European crews, while the Japanese operated with Japanese crews, the condition of competition would be such that they could not overcome the handicap and they would be tremendous increase of cost of wage in the substitution of the European crew for the Chinese crew, but also the greater initial cost of the ship. As the Japanese have now done away with their European officers and Japanese crews, all of whom speak a common language, there is no difficulty for them to comply with all the conditions of the bill and continue their Japanese crews, with Oriental wages."

"The law, therefore, instead of assisting the American ship, adds another heavy burden, while it places none whatever upon the Japanese ship, but, on the contrary, turns over to the Japanese the traffic of the Pacific Ocean, which the American ship is forced to forego by act of Congress of the United States."

# Hamilton Gate City

### Hamilton, Ill., Aug. 16.

Everybody get ready for Wednesday night's band concert. Professor Thompson will give us a fine concert. Ed Johnson is home from one of his trips. He is buying hay and grain in the northern states and reports the prospects for a big crop of corn are good.

O. B. Stephenson of Chicago spent Sunday in Hamilton. Over Johnson and family came down from Galva in their car Saturday and took in the chautauque. We were glad to see Oscar. When he was in Hamilton he was always a great worker in the chautauque.

Miss Elizabeth Hamilton, after a visit with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, left for her home in Mt. Pleasant.

William Rath left this morning for Galva to visit with his brother and sister in Galva and Kewanee this week.

John Guller and family of Warsaw, were guests at the Hotel Granite yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Kimball and Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Schneider were registered at the Hotel Granite yesterday.

L. Miller and family of West Point were guests at the Hotel Granite yesterday.

Harry Bird and Miss Hilda Meyenhenke, Earl Scannell and Miss Ethel Carr were guests at the Hotel Granite yesterday.

Hiram Newton, Grace Spence and Earl Barber of Pontonosc were Hamilton visitors yesterday.

Mrs. Bert Harper of Shenandoah, Iowa, is home visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Barnum, this week.

G. E. Pence of New York City was a Hamilton visitor yesterday.

The wrecked freight could arrive. It was reported at the local despatcher's office.

Thursday Club Meeting. Mrs. Leonard Pelgen will entertain the Thursday club this week at their regular meeting.

Must Kill Dogs or Pay His Fine. Charles Bates and Wife Charged with Maintaining Nuisance—Dunn Bound Over to Grand Jury.

Week at Bluff Park. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. A. Fry, Miss Clara Gertrude Fry, Miss Helen Reddie and Miss Mammie Young will leave today to spend a week in the Blom cottage at Bluff Park.

Charles Bates, colored, must pay a fine or turn his six dogs over to the police by tomorrow morning to be killed. Neighbors complained that the dog and the pups disturbed their peace and the police filed an information against Bates, charging him with maintaining a nuisance. He was arraigned in the court of Justice Linder and was fined \$5 and costs and ordered to turn the dogs over. The information was filed against Bates and his wife.

Entertaining for Friends. Miss Elsie Buck entertained the young women of the Afternoon Bridge club today in honor of Mrs. Glen Cox and Mrs. Earl Collins.

Charles Dunn was bound over to the grand jury on a charge of malicious mischief. He was put under bonds of \$150. Dunn was charged with having thrown a whiskey bottle through the window of the express company office at 13 South Fourth street.

Dinner for Mrs. Clark. Several Keokuk people were present at the dinner at Lakeview club yesterday evening at Hamilton, in honor of Mrs. Champ Clark. The dinner was at 7:00 o'clock and followed a delightful ride on Lake Cooper in the launches of Major M. Meigs and Charles S. Pond. The dinner was a very informal affair and there were 100 guests. Those who attended from Keokuk were Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Pond, Dr. Farland, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Pond, Dr. Farland, Mr. and Mrs. M. Meigs, and Mrs. Fess. H. W. Huskamp. The ride on the lake was taken as far as Nauvoo.

Save Money Now. There are two good reasons why everybody should exert himself to save a little more money now than commonly. A purely selfish reason is that saving now counts more than saving during ordinary times. A dollar saved now will yield larger returns than a dollar saved two or three years ago, and more probably than a dollar saved two or three years in the future. Money saved now can be invested with as much safety as is humanly achievable so as to bring in 5 percent or more. A few years ago savings invested in securities of similar strength would yield only 3 percent. When this war is over the world is going to be relatively rich. Those who save now will possess the world later on. Another reason for saving now that it is the best thing a noncombatant can do to help the world from the fate that is being brought upon it by the war. Accumulated savings are found, railroads are built, and new discoveries in science are made possible. The accumulated savings of the world, so far as they exist in Europe, are being destroyed as fast as possible. By this destruction the world will be set back inevitably. Any American, living outside the zone of general destruction, who saves money now will help by so much to counteract this setback of civilization.

Moorheads Visiting Here. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Graham Moorhead and son, Bobby, are visiting in Keokuk for a couple of days. They motored here yesterday and will spend a couple of days with relatives.

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Speaking of Outside Pressure. Burlington Hawk-Eye: The Hawk-Eye nominates the present editor of the Sloux City Journal for congress in the eleventh district. It doesn't even know his name, but his editorial page is a splendid indication that he would make a rattling good congressman.

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Quincy was visited with a heavy rain shortly after noon today, according to passengers on the north bound K line train. The rain came down in torrents for a time and when the train reached LaGrange, it ran into sunshine and dry weather. Keokuk had a miniature shower about noon, but nothing like what came to Quincy. During the afternoon, rain threatened here.

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# C. C. ENGINEERS MAKE VALUATIONS

### Party of Twelve Working Here Today Valuing Rock Island and Des Moines Holdings.

# ARE GETTING VALUES HAS RELATIVES HERE

### All of the Roads in the United States Will be Valued by Commerce Commission—Rock Island Among the First.

A valuation of the property belonging to the Rock Island and the Keokuk and Des Moines railroads at Keokuk is being made by a party of twelve, working under direction of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The men who comprise the party making this valuation arrived in Keokuk last night from St. Paul, and were busy today checking up the local property. They are traveling in a private car and will go from Keokuk to Des Moines over the Keokuk and Des Moines railroad. They worked out of Des Moines to St. Paul and then came to Keokuk.

Physical valuations of the property here in which the Rock Island railroad has any interest will be made according to Louis Hood, who is in charge of the party. The valuation will include the union station property, rolling stock, and all of the property in which the Rock Island railroad has any interest. This will include, not only the property of the Keokuk and Des Moines, as well.

On All Railroads. This valuation according to Mr. Hood will be made upon the property of all of the railroads in the United States. The government, through the Interstate Commerce Commission is endeavoring to check up the actual values of the railroads, and to do this, the country has been divided into five districts. There are twelve parties working in each district. Eight parties are now working on the Rock Island valuation. The Kansas City Southern was the first road to be valued, and the Rock Island is the second one to be visited by the Interstate Commerce men for the purpose of valuation.

Any and all property in which the Rock Island is interested will be valued by these parties as they go over the system. The men were working here today checking up the profiles of the union station grounds and tracks, and making measurements for the union station property.

### Twelve Men in Party.

The men who compose the party making this valuation are the following: Louis Hood, who is in charge of the party, G. N. Kelly, J. W. Kelly, J. W. Waters, R. C. Jones, R. D. Rhodes, A. B. Beckman, C. H. Gates, R. S. Thomas, E. R. Rohrer, John Parette and R. Plumber.

### Believed That James Hogan Will be Released From Serving Twenty Year Additional Sentence.

# TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL

### Believed That James Hogan Will be Released From Serving Twenty Year Additional Sentence.

[Special to The Gate City.] FORT MADISON, Iowa, Aug. 16.—Louise Carter of this city attempted suicide this morning at her home, 180 Fifth street, by swallowing a half dollar's worth of bichloride of mercury. Although she did not die immediately, this afternoon she lay at the point of death at the Sacred Heart hospital, where she was taken. Because of the action of mercury, it is thought that it will be only the matter of time before her death occurs.

She was twenty-eight years old and was recently granted a divorce in the district court here from Alfred Meyer. The cause of her taking the poison is not known. Her sister reported that she had just recently returned from Montrose and since that time had been in a despondent condition through some unknown cause. The Carter woman told her sister at the hospital this afternoon that she just took a notion to end it all.

At one time she was employed in a restaurant here but lately had not been working.

### Hogan May Get Off.

It is believed that James Hogan, who had just completed a term in the penitentiary here, will be released today, following court action which will undoubtedly prove that he cannot be held to the additional twenty-five years which the Iowa law tacks on to Iowa convicts after two penitentiary sentences. This law provides that both years or more, and according to a petition of the prisoner contained in a habeas corpus, one of his sentences was only for two years.

A letter has just been received from Attorney General Cossom stating that if the statement of the prisoner is correct, that he will have to be released. Hogan's case was the first to test the new twenty-five years additional sentence.

# PERSONALS.

### Mrs. C. A. Bowen of Quincy, Ill., is in the city for a short visit at the home of Mrs. W. Bancroft, 609 High street.

### Ross Wilson returned Saturday night from a visit in the east.

### Miss Margaret Meek and Miss Englehardt are visiting in New York.

### Misses Martha and Pauline Jones, of Columbia, Mo., are guests of Mrs. Grace C. Brownell and Miss Carver, at their home on North Fifth street.

### Disappointing.

Omaha World-Herald: It must be awful to return home after a vacation in a sweltering resort and learn how cool it has been here.

### Timely.

Vinton Eagle: The Christians will meet in Des Moines next year. It is about time that something of that kind should meet in Des Moines.

### —Read The Daily Gate City. 10 cents per week.

# JESSE DYAGRAFF DIES IN WEST

### Former Keokuk Man Passed Away in Denver, After a Long Illness.

# Storage Room For Household Goods

### Clean, dry and free from vermin, at very reasonable terms. We especially solicit large lots that will remain some time.

### Collier Stationery Co.

623 Main Street.

# Want Column

### WANTED.—Team of work horses, 6 or 7 years old. Price must be reasonable. Address Horses, care Gate City.

### WANTED.—A practical well drilled for deep work. At once. Haggerty & Skog, Phone red 1898.

### WANTED.—Five or six room modern house, preferably North side. Phone black 450 or 1674.

### WANTED.—Place for young lady to earn board and room while attending Tri-State Commercial college. Country girl who knows how to work. Reply care of Gate City.

### WANTED.—Place for young man to earn board and room while attending Tri-State Commercial college. Not afraid of hard work. Any kind of work acceptable. Address Gate City.

### WANTED.—Names of families to board my students. Reasonable rates necessary. Nothing fancy required. Write me giving prices, etc. A. F. White, President Tri-State Commercial college.

### WANTED.—25 experienced button cutters at once, men who want employment all winter; can use a few non-experienced men. Hawkeye Pearl Button Co., Keokuk.

### FOR RENT.