

Charles Goodyear

The Brunswick News; Monday 6 April 1931; pg. 8 cols. 1-2

CHARLES P. GOODYEAR ENDS HIS LIFE AT OFFICE EARLY TODAY-Uses Small Rope to Hang Himself and is Discovered by Wife When She Visited His Office

Driven to a point of desperation by ill health and financial reverses, Charles P. Goodyear, 58 years of age, this morning ended his life by hanging himself in the office of his plant foot of Prince street.

That Mr. Goodyear had planned to end his troubles when he left his home this morning was indicated in notes he left and his actions after arising shortly after 6 o'clock. He evidently went to his office to carry out plans which he had made during the night, and before he ended it all he uncovered his typewriter, wrote four notes, one to his wife, two to two business friends and the fourth, not addressed, as an explanation of the act he had planned.

"My left eye is completely blind. Regardless of internal and external medicines the right eye is following identically the same way. Rather than to be blind I prefer to pass out," read the note which he left unaddressed. It ended with this sentence:

"Old time customers, having got my confidence, have gone into bankrupt court, and so many of them it breaks me in these depressed times. I do not prefer the bankrupt court as a way out."

Contents of the other three notes were not made public. They were enclosed in envelopes and addressed, while the fourth was left open. All four were tied together.

Mr. Goodyear left his home, corner Howe and Reynolds streets, shortly before 7 o'clock this morning and went directly to his office. Mrs. Goodyear, who assisted her husband in the operations of his business, left her home about an hour later and went to the plant. She noticed the front door was locked. Looking into a window, near which stands Mr. Goodyear's desk, she was startled when the gruesome sight of her husband dangling from the end of a sash cord stared her in the face. She was alone, but quietly called to workmen on the wharf, who immediately summoned Coroner J.D. Baldwin and he took charge of the body.

Mr. Goodyear, securing the cord probably after he reached the plant, as it is known as "drum line" and carried by boats, climbed to the top of the building, tying one end of the rope to a rafter, permitting the end to extend to a distance of a few feet above the desk. Then he climbed to the top of his desk, placed his head in the noose he had prepared and swung away, knowing that he would strangle to death.

That he struggled as the end came was evidenced by the fact that one of his feet rested on the top of the desk when his body was found. Coroner Baldwin estimated that he had been dead for probably half an hour before Mrs. Goodyear discovered the body.

Mr. Goodyear, who was president and active head of the Goodyear Parking Company, had been engaged in the shrimp business in Brunswick for many years, in fact, he was one of the pioneers in the prawn industry along the South Atlantic coast, and until that business received a serious set-back a few years ago his company enjoyed a profitable business. That Mr. Goodyear has been worrying over financial matters in recent months was known to members of his family and to friends, and ill health had also caused him considerable worry.

The deceased was a son of the late Charles P. Goodyear, prominent Brunswick attorney, who many years ago retired from a profitable practice of law to devote his time to the deepening of Brunswick[s] outer bar, and who won fame in his big

undertaking.

He is survived by his widow, his mother, four children, Miss Marie Goodyear, who is attending the Georgia State Women's College at Milledgeville; Charles, Genevieve and Cyrus. Two brothers, S.W., of this city, and Benjamin, of Jacksonville, and one sister, Mrs. E.W. Mitchell, of Miami, also survive.

Funeral arrangements, in charge of Mortician Edo Miller, have not as yet been arranged, pending the arrival of relatives in the city. It was announced, however, that the funeral will be held on Wednesday, the hour and other details to be announced later.

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CHAS. P. GOODYEAR IS BURIED TODAY

Funeral services for the late Chas. P. Goodyear were held from the residence on Reynolds street at 3 o'clock this afternoon, Rev. C.C. Davison, of the First Baptist church, officiating.

A large number of friends of this former well and popular known Brunswick business man were present to pay a last tribute of respect. After services at the residence the funeral cortege moved to Oak Grove cemetery, where interment took place.

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