

NEWS ITEMS: April 15, 1978: Information released by Platte County Sheriff Einer Michelson and the State Criminal Investigation Division reported the decapitated female body found Saturday, April 15, approximately two miles north of Wheatland still has not been identified.

The victim was about 5 feet 6 inches tall and weight 120-125 pounds pathology tests revealed. The first indications were that the woman was 22-25 years of age but further study is being done and the age factor may be found to be different according to a CID spokesman.

Other information reported there were no significant identify scars on the body, that the person had never given birth to a child, but did suffer from numerous gall stones. The victim was reported to also have a small foot and wore a 5-C shoe size.

Schrader-Prell Funeral Home provided a graveside service in the Wheatland Cemetery Monday afternoon with the Rev. Dan Barcus in attendance. The town of Wheatland contributed the grave and the personnel for the burial. Staff members from the funeral home were also present for the service.

Investigation in the case is still continuing to establish the woman's identity and clues to her murder.

?-July 31, 1911

The peace and quietude of our little city was greatly agitated Sunday evening about six o'clock when it became generally known that John Jesse, one of the pioneer residents of the town and one of our most highly respected citizens, had committed suicide by drinking a quantity of chloroform. Mr. Jesse was generally in a jovial state of mind, although at intervals he might be termed an abject melancholist, during which periods he drank heavily. Of late years this habit seemed to have grown to a considerable extent, as Mr. Jesse had upon a number of different occasions, when in a despondent state of mind, remarked to his most intimate friends he might take his own life. Little attention was paid to these remarks, however, as Mr. Jesse was a very industrious worker, being one of the best mechanics in the west, and always enjoyed a prosperous business. Sunday afternoon Mr. Jesse told a number of friends that he had concluded to take his life that night, but no one took him seriously as they thought he was only joking. About 5:30 he went to his blacksmith shop and drank a quantity of chloroform, being found there a few minutes later lying on a work bench. He was unconscious when found and although a doctor was summoned immediately, the unfortunate man never regained consciousness.

John W. Jesse was one of the pioneer residents of Wheatland, moving here from Colorado when the town first started about 17 years ago. He was one of our public spirited citizens, taking a special interest in home-building, having built and improved five different residence properties in this city which for years to come will stand as monuments and bear evidence of the keen foresight and noble character of a pioneer and highly respected citizen.

An inquest was held over the remains on Monday by Coroner Beard of Cheyenne, and short funeral services were conducted at the home on Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. R.L. Paxton, pastor of the Congregational church. Music was furnished by a special choir. The services were attended by a large number of friends of the deceased, which action attests to the respect in which he was held by all acquaintances. Some forty or fifty members of the Odd Fellows lodge, of which the deceased was a charter member, attended the services in a body. The lodge also conducted their burial service at the grave of the departed brother, the services being very impressive. The funeral cortege was one of the largest seen at this place, being composed of many automobiles and rigs.

The deceased was 63 years of age, and besides a wife, is survived by three children, a son and two daughters, Chester Jesse and Miss Flora Jesse of this place, and Mrs. C.R. Trenholm of Elmwood, Nebraska.