

WOMAN SUSPECTED OF POISONING NINE

**Mrs. Louise Vermilyea Arrested in
Chicago Following a Police-
man's Death.**

SEVEN IN HER FAMILY DEAD

**Two Husbands, Two Step-Sons, Two
Daughters, and a Grand-Daughter,
as Well as Two Boarders.**

Special to The New York Times.

CHICAGO, Oct. 31.—After being placed under police surveillance for several days as the result of a series of revelations of suspicious deaths of persons with whom she has been closely associated, Mrs. Louise Vermilyea, 415 East Twenty-ninth Street, was placed under arrest to-day.

Mrs. Vermilyea was taken to a hospital under guard to await the final report of chemists upon the viscera of Policeman Bissonette, the latest on the list of suspicious deaths. If poison should be found, several bodies will be exhumed.

On the list of those whose deaths have been under peculiar circumstances are Cora and Florence, Mrs. Vermilyea's children by her first husband. Died at the age of 8 years and 4½ years, respectively.

Harry J. Vermilyea, 31 years old, telegraph operator. Died at 895 West Diversey Parkway of heart failure, superinduced by malarial fever. Death occurred on Sept. 30, a few days after he is said to have quarreled with his stepmother over the sale of a house at Crystal Lake, Ill.

Lilian Brinkamp, 26 years old, granddaughter of Fred Brinkamp, first husband of Mrs. Vermilyea, died Jan. 21, 1906, at 2,916 Groveland Avenue, of acute nephritis.

The other persons whose deaths are being investigated are: Fred Brinkamp, 60 years old, first husband of Mrs. Vermilyea, who died on a farm near Barrington, eighteen years ago. The widow inherited \$5,000 worth of property.

Charles Vermilyea, second husband, 59 years old, who died at Maplewood two years ago, leaving \$1,000 in life insurance.

Frank Brinkamp, a son by the first marriage, 23 years old, who died a year ago, leaving the widow \$1,200.

Richard T. Smith, a conductor, who roomed at the Vermilyea home.

Arthur Bissonette, policeman, 26 years old, died at the Mercy-Hospital from convulsions, said to have been superinduced by poison. The latter had been for some time prior to his death a boarder at Mrs. Vermilyea's house.

The police also are searching for a wealthy man who is reported to have been engaged to Mrs. Vermilyea at one time, but who, for some unexplained reason, failed to appear on the wedding day. He is believed to be in Chicago.

Mrs. Vermilyea, though greatly overcome by the reports following the death of Bissonette, declared she was not afraid of the result of the investigation.

"They may go as far as they like," she said, "for I have nothing to fear. I simply have been unfortunate in having people dying about me. My first husband was a farmer and he drank himself to death, though I should be ashamed to admit it. After I was a widow for two and a half years I married Vermilyea and we moved to Chicago. He was on a train run to Jaynesville, Wis., when he became ill and after he was brought home I nursed him until his death.

"My son had married a widow and divorced her before his death, so that explains how I came into possession of the \$1,200 life insurance."

Mrs. Vermilyea said Bissonette was to be admitted into the Home Guards, through her efforts, and that the insurance he was to carry was to be made out to her, while after they were married he was to be made beneficiary of the insurance she carried.

"We are going into every phase of the case," said Capt. Harding. "Mrs. Vermilyea was married twice, and both husbands died under mysterious circumstances. She has realized about \$15,000 from the death of the nine persons, and it seems almost beyond belief that they should all have died in such a peculiar manner."

According to information obtained at the Coroner's office, the Coroner now has in his possession nine bottles which he found in the home of Mrs. Vermilyea and which are expected to have considerable bearing on the investigation.

"In my opinion we are on the verge of discovering one of the greatest poisoning mysteries in the history of Chicago."

This was the declaration made to-night by Dr. Joseph W. Springer, Coroner's Physician, who with Dr. L. E. Lecount, toxicologist of Rush Medical College, is engaged in making an analysis of the liver of Policeman Bissonette.

"Do you believe that Bissonette died a natural death?" Dr. Springer was asked.

"No, I do not," he replied.

Coroner Hoffman made preparations to go to-morrow to Barrington, Ill., Mrs. Vermilyea's former home. It was rumored that he proposed demanding the exhumation of the bodies of her relatives buried there.

"While my case is not complete, I believe Mrs. Vermilyea has many things to explain concerning these deaths," Coroner Hoffman said. "We have uncovered much evidence, and may form a definite conclusion within a day or so."