

CR 7. 19. 1935

Believed to have been despondent because of ill health, Hazleton Mirkil, 44, of West Chester and Philadelphia, well known attorney, committed suicide by shooting himself late Wednesday afternoon.

His lifeless body with a bullet wound in the head was found in a woods opposite the West Chester Golf and Country Club about one quarter mile north of West Chester.

A .32 calibre revolver, said to have been the property of his father, I. Hazleton Mirkil, was found beside the body. It had one discharged shell and another showed an indentation in the cap but had apparently missed fire.

Mirkil had been missing from his home since about four o'clock Wednesday afternoon. West Chester police were asked yesterday at noon to search for him.

A squad of Boy Scouts, under leadership of R. B. Weller, Scoutmaster, found the body. It lay in a thicket about 50 yards off North New street, a little traveled road leading out of town.

Mirkil lived with his father and brother-in-law, Edmund Rogers, at 428 N. Church street in the summer. In the winter the family resided at 2127 Delancey street, Philadelphia.

Wednesday afternoon Mirkil and his young nephew had been to a moving-picture show at West Chester. Mirkil is said to have expressed dislike for the picture, one scene of which depicted a suicide. After the show it is believed he walked home, obtained the revolver and then went to the woods where his body was found.

Deputy Coroner George E. Brinton, West Chester, who was called to the scene, said the case was one of suicide. He released the body immediately.

Mirkil's brother-in-law and a brother, William, were called to the scene shortly after the body was found. They made arrangements for the funeral which will be held this afternoon. Services will be strictly private.

Mirkil suffered a nervous breakdown about a year ago and had not been active in the practice of law since that time. He formerly was associated with his father, also an attorney. The latter is manager of the Girard Estate in Philadelphia. At one time Mirkil was associated in law with John M. Hemphill, former Democratic candidate for Governor.

During the World War Mirkil was navigation officer at the Naval Air Station at Pensacola, Fla., and is ranking officer and commodore of the Veterans Corps, U. S. N. Naval Reserve Flying Corps.

In June, 1933, he was divorced by the former Charlotte Morris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Morris, of Germantown.

Last February he married Miss Jetta Geffen, daughter of Mrs. Vera S. Geffen, of Hollis, N. Y.

Mirkil was considered an authority upon aeronautical law. Some time ago he tried a case in Chester county court and obtained a permanent injunction restraining the operation of an airport near West Chester.