

# BUTLER TRAGEDY MYSTERY

Army Officer and Mrs. Spannell  
Slain Without Warning.

ALPINE, Texas, July 21.—Mystery surrounds the motive of Harry J. Spannell, manager of a local hotel, for shooting and killing his wife and Lieut. Col. M. C. Butler of the Sixth United States Cavalry while the three were motoring yesterday evening, according to an announcement from the County Attorney tonight. Spannell, who surrendered after the shooting, refused tonight to discuss his case, and a thorough investigation disclosed no apparent reason for the killing.

Spannell was driving with his wife and Colonel Butler in his car along the main residential street of town when suddenly Spannell stopped the car, turned in his seat, drew an automatic pistol and a revolver and with the one began shooting Colonel Butler and with the other his wife. After emptying both weapons he got out of the car, walked to the Court House and gave himself up.

As the shots rang out those who were near heard Mrs. Spannell cry, "Harry, don't kill me."

Before the shooting, Spannell had been chatting gayly with friends at the Holland Hotel, of which he was manager.

Spannell was taken to another town tonight, but before leaving the local jail he sobbed bitterly, bemoaning what he termed his "madness." He persisted, however, in his refusal to discuss his reasons for the shooting.

Spannell, who is 30 years old, is a native of Hazelton, Penn., where his parents still live. A graduate of musical conservatories in this country and abroad, he was at one time an instructor in music at Baylor University at Waco, Texas, where he met the daughter of John R. Holland, a cattleman and banker of Alpine, whom he later married. Mrs. Spannell was then a student in the university. She was 29 years old, and was known as one of the most beautiful women in Texas.

Colonel Butler's body was sent to Washington today to be buried in Arlington Cemetery.

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