

Redkey Board Member Ends Life Tuesday

Citizens of Redkey were deeply shocked Tuesday evening shortly before 7 o'clock when announcement was made of the death of John Virgil Kessler, 42, member of the Redkey town board.

The lifeless body was found about 6:10 by his wife, Audra, when she returned home from work at the Appenzeller store. Presumably he had taken his life an hour or more before when he had shot himself in the head with a recently purchased 12-gauge shotgun. The body was found in the kitchen. About 4 o'clock, Kessler had talked to the day marshall, Charles Hale - and this was the last report of his being alive. He left a note addressed to the family but the contents were not revealed.

It was learned that Kesler (sic) had been morose due to ill health and his inability to work as a welder at the Armstrong Cork company in Dunkirk where he had been employed for 14 years. He had threatened to end his life and had purchased the gun only this week. He had spent most of Tuesday visiting his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clem Shaneyfelt near ---ville [blurry].

Kessler was one of the most popular citizens of Redkey. He served on the park board in addition to the town board. He was a member and Past Master of the Halfway Lodge, F. & A.M. at Redkey, the Scottish Rite at Fort Wayne, the Redkey Eastern Star chapter, the Redkey Chamber of Commerce and the Ridertown E. U. B. Church.

The body was removed to the Jones mortuary and will be returned to the residence Thursday morning, where friends may call. The casket will not be opened.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Redkey E. U. B. Church in charge of Rev. L. L. Rapp and assisted by Rev. L. R. West. Masonic services will be conducted and burial will be in Hillcrest cemetery.

The deceased was married to Audra Shaneyfelt June 11, 1932 and she survives with two brothers, Adam and Earl, both of near Dunkirk.