

KOONS, DANIEL ALEXANDER
1903-1929

Editor's Note-This item was taken from the Laramie Republican-Boomerang of Monday, June 10th. Dan Koons was well known in Wheatland, and it is understood that he spent considerable time here working in the early part of the winter before the first part of the year and left here for Laramie:

While the father and sisters of Dan Koons, 26-year-old Owen rancher, directed a nationwide search for him, the grim solution of the mystery of his disappearance last January lay hidden by a thin ceiling of wood and plaster, a few feet above their heads.

Young Koon's body, terribly decomposed, was found Sunday in the attic of the home of his father, John Koons, 1113 South Fourth Street in Laramie. There were two bullet wounds, just above the heart, and a revolver with two discharged cartridges lay nearby. The officers announced that the evidence seems to indicate suicide, made an investigation to determine cause of death, possible motive and time of the tragedy. There seems to be little evidence that there was foul play.

The officers and Johnson were unable to determine from the condition of the body, just how long it had been there, but Johnson said he believed it was possible for the body to have been there for the five months that he has been gone. The body had been frozen, according to indications. As the family was accustomed to build a fire in the evening, it is thought the small chimney going through the attic did not give sufficient heat to thaw the body out, and it remained there without great decay until the warm spring weather came.

The revolver, a .22 calibre double action, had five shells in the magazine. Between the two discharged shells, one was undischarged.

When the officers enter the trap door into the garret, which is above the kitchen, they were unable to remain because of the stench. The body lay crumpled on an old quilt which had been spread over a pile of rags on the (remainder of article unreadable).