

# A. W. SUSEN DIES IN LOUISIANA TOWN

Was Former El Paso Jeweler and  
Mysteriously Disappeared From  
This City Over One Year Ago  
—No Word Since.

## HE WAS USING AN ALIAS

At Time of Death Was Working as  
Jeweler in Napoleonville, La.,  
Under the Name of Stegner  
—Died Saturday.

## PECULIAR CASE SOLVED AT LAST

Special to the Times.

Napoleon, La., June 14.—A. W. Stegner, who was employed as jeweler for F. C. Rivoire of this town for the past four months, died at the home of his employer yesterday evening. Owing to the sudden death, Parish Coroner Aucoin was called and an autopsy was held. The coroner found that Stegner came to his death from acute indigestion. On examination the belongings of the dead man, a valuable watch, bearing the coat-of-arms of Germany, was found, also a diamond ring and an Elk pin. It was also discovered from his passport paper that he was a native of Germany and his name was A. W. Susen. Telegrams were sent to Jacksonville, Fla., and El Paso, Tex., as it was thought from clippings found that he had relatives in those places.

He had been working in this town for four months and was greatly esteemed by his employer. He seldom left the home of his employer during his stay here. All the affairs of the late Susen have been placed in the hands of P. H. Gilbert, a local attorney. He leaves something like four or five hundred dollars. His remains were buried this evening at Christ Episcopal church. Any information concerning A. W. Susen can be secured by addressing P. H. Gilbert, attorney, of this town.

### History of Case.

The mystery that for over a year has surrounded the disappearance of A. W. Susen, well known El Paso jeweler, from this city, is cleared up by the above dispatch to the Times, which tells of his death in the little Louisiana town under another name.

Early in May, 1907, A. W. Susen, then proprietor of the jewelry store that bore his name, on South El Paso street, left El Paso for Chicago and New York ostensibly to buy goods for his establishment. A number of postal cards were received from him in Chicago, and it was said that he had left for New York. This was the last tidings of the jeweler.

Some weeks later, becoming alarmed, friends took up the search to locate Susen. They found that all trace of his movements from the time he left Chicago had been wiped out.

The local Elks, of which lodge Susen was a member, took up the search, and detectives all over the United States were retained to take up the search. Susen had lived in El Paso for years, and was well known.

### No Reason Advanced.

The search led to New York, where no trace was found. Every tenable theory advanced was founded on pure supposition, and nowhere was a clue to a reason for disappearance voluntarily.

When the affairs of the estate were placed in the hands of Joseph U. Sweeney as temporary administrator, the stock of the jewelry store was appraised, and it was discovered that about \$5,000 worth of diamonds recently purchased were not to be found.

Creditors of the establishment filed petitions in involuntary bankruptcy; soon after County Judge Eylar named Joseph U. Sweeney as temporary administrator of the estate, and New York firms figured as plaintiffs in the suits filed in the United States court, alleging that Susen had carried away a part of the stock of his store.

Meantime the mystery surrounding the disappearance was as far from solution as ever. The search gradually lagged, and there were no new developments until in November, 1907.

### A Newspaper Clipping.

In the New York Staats-Zeitung, of November 7, among the list of passengers on the Hamburg-American line steamer President Grant, appeared that of A. W. Susen, having sailed from Hamburg and arrived in New York city.

There was much speculation then as to whether the Susen there named was the El Paso Susen, and it was generally thought that instead of having met with foul play, Susen had voluntarily made a trip to Germany, and that he might return to El Paso.

Weeks lengthened into months and no further tidings came of Susen. Once, recently, it was reported that he had gone from New York to Louisiana, and had settled under another name in a small Louisiana town.

### Report Not Verified.

This report was never verified, and little interest was attached to it. In the time elapsed since the disappearance the stock of the jewelry store had been sold at auction, and J. P. Dieter, one of the best friends of Susen in El Paso, had died. A former partner, C. Brenne, was the only man interested in the jewelry store who survived.

Then on Saturday the following telegram came from Napoleonville, La.: "Elks Lodge, El Paso, Brother Stegner died suddenly today. Any relatives? Wire instructions. C. Heno."

To this message Secretary H. W. Fall, of the local lodge answered: "Your wire. We have no member named Stegner. Kindly advise if correct name given."

Later with the name verified as "A. W. Stegner," an investigation was begun. A member of the Times staff noted the similarity in initials with those of Susen's, and reminded the secretary of the report that Susen had gone to Louisiana.

The following message was sent by the Elks from this city: "C. Heno, Napoleonville, La.: Understand A. W. Susen, alias A. W. Stegner, died suddenly yesterday. Wire fully all particulars immediately. Susen member of this lodge."

The Times also began an investigation, and its result is shown in the dispatch at the head of this column. The theory that A. W. Stegner was really Susen was strengthened by several points. The fact that the initials were the same, and that Susen, with his linen and personal belongings marked "A. W. S.," would naturally have a name using the same initials; the report that he had gone to Louisiana, and the fact from Napoleonville reported that he was a member of the El Paso lodge, combined to lead to the belief that Susen, the missing jeweler, had been found, even though in the thirteen months that passed away since his disappearance, interest in the mystery had waned, and it was generally believed that the disappearance would always remain a mystery.

It may develop now that the local lodge may learn of the life of Susen between the time he disappeared and the time his identity was established in death.