

TOTS SEE MOTHER END LIFE

Woman Kisses Children, Then Leaps Into Sea Near Cliff House, San Francisco

[EXCLUSIVE DISPATCH]

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 28.—With a maternal kiss still warm on their baby lips, and a tender "good-bye" ringing in their ears, two children, a boy 2 years of age and a girl of 4, saw their mother leap from the rail of the Cliff House terrace today and go plunging to her death among the rocks of an angry sea.

Thus did Mrs. Margaret Bowers, of 1274 Fulton street, apparently happily married and the mother of three children, dramatically end her life, while hundreds of Sunday sightseers stood aghast as her body, after being buffeted about by the high-running tide was finally carried toward the Golden Gate.

At the last moment the woman evidently changed her mind about having her two children, Franklin and Alberta, join her in her jump of death.

That it was the intention of the woman to kill her two children and then herself, according to the police, admits of no doubt, for in a hastily scribbled note which she left at home occurs the following:

"Bury them with Minnie in Cypress Lawn and send me to Hell where I belong."

Mrs. Bowers was the wife of Robert Bowers, a chauffeur in the employ of Gus Schlesinger, San Francisco realtor. At the time of

his wife's suicide Bowers was with his employer on his ranch at Sunnysvale. When told of the tragedy he hastened back to the city.

CHILDREN SEE SUICIDE

Despite the fact that the lower terrace of the Cliff House was crowded with many sightseers and a few hundred yards away there were many bathers, no one seems to have seen the woman when she made her leap. It was only when the woman was being tossed about the rocks and the two children cried out, "Mama's in the water."

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TOTS WITNESS MOTHER'S LEAP

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that an attempt was made to rescue her.

The woman cried piteously for those on the terrace to save her. Edward Abelo, a Filipino cook, swam to her assistance but she was swept out to sea between Golden Gate and Mile Rock lookout.

Coast guards from the Fort Point and Golden Gate stations cruised about for several hours in an attempt to locate the body, but without results.

Before leaving for the beach with the oldest two of her three children, Mrs. Bowers took her infant son of 6 months, to the home of Mrs. Weyant at 1559 McAllister street, and asked that she care for the baby, promising to return in twenty minutes.

LEFT RAMBLING NOTE

After this, according to the two children, she returned to her home and scribbled a note, much of which was in a rambling style, except that dealing with the burial of the children.

When the children saw their mother standing on the rail at the Cliff House they laughed in childish glee, thinking she was doing something for their amusement. The little girl, Alberta, in explaining the affair to Patrolman Arthur Dolan of the Cliff House beat, said:

"We thought she was playing—then she jumped in the water."

Neighbors and friends of Mrs. Bowers were unable to give any reason for a desire to end her life. They said that she was at all times in a happy frame of mind and wrapped up in the care and love of her children.

On Saturday night she attended a reception at the home of Mrs. Margaret McGowen at 1218 Fulton street and while there, it is said, seemed to be free from care and trouble.