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Times

Gas Chamber Death Voted Jealous Slayer^{MU 29 1941}

Maurice Briggs, Former Convict, Attempts to Beat Sentence by Means of Insanity Plea

Death in the State's lethal gas chamber was decreed yesterday for Maurice Briggs, 26-year-old ex-convict, by a jury of three women and nine men which convicted him of the murder last Feb. 24 of Nat Rosenberg (also known as Ross,) former motion-picture producer, who in later years operated a downtown rag factory.

Still fighting to escape paying the capital punishment, Briggs immediately went to trial on his second plea of not guilty by reason of insanity in the hope of convincing the same jury he was insane at the time of the shooting and is therefore not legally responsible for the tragedy.

SLAIN AT FACTORY

Rosenberg, shot and killed in his factory at 17th St. and Broadway, was accused by the husky, sullen ex-convict, a convicted bank robber, of "chasing around" with Briggs' estranged wife Betty, an employee of Rosenberg.

To balk Briggs' insanity plea, Dep. Dist. Atty. William O. Russell summoned three alienists, Dr. R. O. Lieuallen, K. Grosvenor Bailey and Victor Parkin, who all testified they believed Briggs was sane at the time of the crime and is now sane.

ONLY WITNESS

Briggs was the only witness in his own defense at the insanity trial. He told the jury in Superior Judge Charles W. Fricke's court that he was "upset" because he had been brooding over his marital estrangement and discharge from Rosenberg's employ and had been drinking heavily prior to the shooting.

During his murder trial, Briggs

frankly admitted slaying Rosenberg with two shots from a high-powered rifle he had purchased in a pawnshop, but offered no motive for the killing.

Final arguments of attorneys began yesterday in the insanity hearing and the case is scheduled to be given the jury today for disposition of the insanity defense. If adjudged sane by the jury, Briggs will then be sentenced to death unless granted a new trial by Judge Fricke.

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