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Ex-Producer of Films Slain by Employee

**Wife of Dismissed
Worker Sees Fatal
Shooting of Nat Ross**

Nat Ross, former motion picture producer and director, was slain last night before the gaze of 25 women workers in a rag factory at 17th St. and Broadway.

Police identified the killer as Maurice Briggs, 25, an employee recently fired by Ross.

THALBERG AIDE

Ross, 36, was a part owner and foreman in the plant.

His career had paralleled the history of motion pictures. At the age of 13 he was a reception clerk for Lewis J. Selznick. He successively became a New York City theater director, a film salesman for Universal Pictures, private secretary to Carl Laemmle, Universal president; assistant to the late Irving Thalberg, director, and then a director and producer himself.

Briggs last night tricked Ross into coming to meet him by a side door where he had concealed a .25-35-caliber rifle.

FIRES SECOND SHOT

As Ross approached him, Briggs grabbed the rifle and fired a bullet through Ross' chest near his heart. As Ross fell Briggs fired a second shot into his body. Ross died instantly, witnesses told police.

Women watching the grim tragedy screamed, several fainted.

Briggs was arrested a few minutes later at 17th and Olive Sts. when he was seen throwing the rifle on a lawn. A pedestrian stopped him and asked why he was throwing the gun away and Briggs replied:

"Oh, I just killed a guy. Better call the cops."

WIFE SEES SLAYING

Two radio officers took Briggs into custody and returned him to the scene of the shooting.

Briggs' 21-year-old wife, Betty Suran Briggs, from whom he separated three months ago after they had been married two months, witnessed the slaying.

Briggs denied to police that he had shot Ross because of bad feelings over his estranged wife. She told police they separated following a quarrel over another girl.

WIFE TELLS THREAT

As Briggs was led handcuffed out of the building, he stopped beside his weeping wife and said: "You won't need to get a divorce now."

Mrs. Briggs told officers that

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