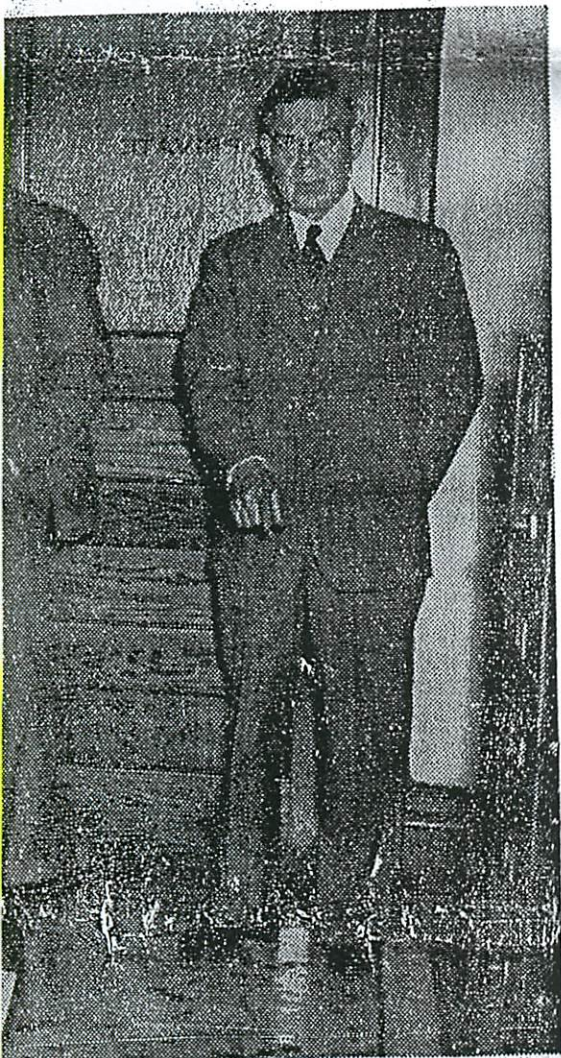


# Ernie Lee Yost Kills R.S. Wife & Tucker Moroose

WERE KILLED



—Photo by Glen Hamilton, West Virginian Staff.  
 today by Ernie Lee Yost. Yost also shot and killed  
 seated when he shot himself. At right is County  
 picture points to gun used in slaying.

## YOST CRITICALLY WOUNDS SELF; NOT EXPECTED TO LIVE

By RICHARD PARRISH

Crazed by domestic troubles, Ernie Lee Yost, 45, Hampton road, shot and killed his estranged wife and her attorney, Tucker Moroose, 40, and critically wounded himself at about 9:15 o'clock this morning in the office of Moroose in the McCrory building, Adams street.

Mrs. Yost, 35, the former Nellie Marie Wright of Monongah, was dead and Moroose was dying when city police entered the closed office and found them lying on the floor in deep pools of their own blood.

Yost was slumped in a chair by the door, the death weapon at his feet, and a burning cigaret in his mouth. He is not expected to recover.

### No Witnesses

There were no witnesses to the shooting, but the key to the solution, in the opinion of the police and coroner, was a court order which was found on Moroose's desk and which was a preliminary to a divorce.

An ironic paragraph in the order follows: "It is likewise adjudged, ordered and decreed that the defendant be, and he is hereby enjoined from striking, threatening or annoying the plaintiff until the further order of the court."

As reconstructed by Police Chief John Austin and Donald R. West, the investigating officers, this is what happened this morning behind the closed doors of Moroose's office:

### Scene Reconstructed

The Yosts, husband and wife, were discussing with Attorney Moroose details of the order, which provided for temporary alimony of \$75 per month, until the further action of the court. Moroose was seated behind his desk facing Yost at his left and Mrs. Yost at his right.

Yost, reported by Attorney Alfred R. Putnam to be suffering from a probable persecution complex, apparently became enraged, rose and pulled out a .38 calibre police special Smith and Wessen revolver.

As Mrs. Yost rose, too, Yost shot her in the neck and she fell to the floor beside the desk. Moroose, meanwhile, had advanced to intervene. He seized the revolver with his right hand. Yost then fired five times.

### Shot Five Times

Moroose was shot in the hand, in the right shoulder, in the chest, in the left side of the neck and in the right side of the head. He, too, slumped to the floor.

Yost then reloaded with three cartridges and shot his wife between the eyes, in the opinion of the police.

He then seated himself and fired a bullet into his right temple. The bullet went through his head and hit the wall across the room. The weapon fell to the floor, one bullet still not fired.

Sgt. West removed a burning cigaret from Yost's mouth as he and Chief Austin entered the office.

### In Outer Office

Mrs. Joseph Corley, secretary to Attorney Moroose, was at work in his outer office when the shooting took place. She ran to the nearby office of Attorneys Ogden and Ogden to report the shooting. Mrs. Okey Hawkins, the Ogden and Ogden secretary, then telephoned the city police.

Chief Austin and Sgt. West ran full speed to the office, on the second floor in Room No. 204 of the McCrory building, and came on. Chief Austin and Sgt. West ran full speed to the office, on the second floor in Room No. 204 of the McCrory building, and came on. Chief Austin and Sgt. West ran full speed to the office, on the second floor in Room No. 204 of the McCrory building, and came on.

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