

THE CHRONOLOGICAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF WOODWARD'S ACCIDENT

Points of interest and interesting facts highlighted in yellow

Los Angeles Express Evening Edition September 3, 1906

BULLET INJURY MAY CAUSE DEATH

Robert Woodward, 19 Years Old, Is Shot in Left Breast, After Returning From an Outing at Mount Wilson -Robert Woodward, 19 years old. son of O.L. Woodward, vice-president of the Briggs Real Estate company, 224 South Broadway, was probably fatally wounded when a revolver which he was cleaning in his apartments at the Castle Craig Hotel, Second and Olive streets, was discharged about 8:30 o'clock this morning. The bullet entered his left breast, about an inch below the nipple and to the right, and, just missing the heart, plowed its way through to the back, tipping the spinal cord.

Woodward was partly paralyzed and was removed in a semi-conscious condition in the police ambulance to the Good Samaritan hospital. Dr. George Walrath is attending the boy. He says that Woodward's chances of living through the day are slight.

Woodward returned this morning from Mount Wilson, where he had been on an outing. No one witnessed the accident, but his parents believe that he was cleaning the revolver, which he had used on the trip, and that it was accidentally discharged.

Los Angeles Herald, September 4, 1906

ACCIDENTAL SHOT MAY PROVE FATAL

ROBERT WOODWARD MAY DIE FROM WOUND

After an Investigation Chief Scouts Theory of Suicide and Says Revolver Was Discharged Without Intent

Robert Woodward, 19-year-old son of O. L. Woodward, vice president of the Briggs Real Estate company, shot himself in the left side with a revolver yesterday morning in the family suite at Castle Craig, Second and Olive streets. He is not expected to recover. After a personal investigation Chief Auble declared the shooting was accidental.

Young Woodward went to Mount Wilson last week with several companions and left the summit early yesterday morning. He arrived home about 8 o'clock, apparently in the, best of spirits, and entertained his father and mother with stories of his adventures on his mountain trip.

Find Son Prostrate

After breakfast the young man went to his room and soon after a pistol shot was heard. The parents ran into the room and found their son stretched on the floor, blood streaming from a wound in his side. His revolver lay on the floor beside him.

While the agonized father telephoned for a physician a lodger ran down to the police

station. Chief Auble ordered the police ambulance to the house and went himself to investigate the case.

The unconscious boy was removed to the Good Samaritan hospital, and Dr. George B. Walrath, who had been summoned to attend the case, probed for the bullet, which entered near the heart and apparently lodged close to the spinal column, producing partial paralysis.

According to the investigation made by Chief Auble, young Woodward was seated on a box in his closet and cleaning his revolver, which he had been using on his mountain trip.

He evidently held the gun with the muzzle pointed toward him, and in some manner pulled back the hammer, discharging the weapon. The investigation showed the boy had failed to eject the cartridges before beginning to clean the weapon. The Woodwards have occupied their quarters at Castle Craig for more than a year. Robert is their only son.

There was no motive for suicide, the police say, and from indications, it was a purely accidental shooting.

Los Angeles Times September 4, 1906

BULLET THROUGH BREAST.

Robert Woodward Accidentally Shoots Himself, Physicians Fear Spinal Cord Is Severed.

Robert Woodward, the 20-year-old son of O.L. Woodward, Vice President of the Briggs Real Estate Company, accidentally shot himself yesterday morning at 8:30 in his father's apartments in the Castle Craig Hotel, Second and Olive streets. Woodward had just returned with two of his friends from a camping trip up Mt. Wilson. and while his friends were eating breakfast he went into the adjoining room to clean and put away the firearms that had been carried. While he was engaged in doing this he accidentally discharged a 32-caliber revolver. The bullet passing through the left breast, just missing the heart, and lodging in the neighborhood of the spinal cord.

Dr. George Walrath was summoned and took charge of the patient until he could be taken to the Good Samaritan Hospital, where the boy is making a brave battle for life. Up to last evening, the doctors were unable to locate the bullet and are placing their hope in his robust constitution.

Reports from the hospital late last night stated that after an X-ray examination it was found that the bullet had taken a downward course after entering the body, and had lodged near the eleventh dorsal vertebra.

Dr. Walrath, who has charge of the patient, stated that he fears the bullet severed the spinal cord, in which case young Woodward would be crippled for life in case he did recover from the injury.

Los Angeles Daily Progress, September 4, 1906

PROMINENT YOUNG MAN SUICIDES

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 4. — Less than an hour after returning from a pleasant outing at Mount Wilson Robert Woodward, son of Vice-President O.L. Woodward of the Briggs Realty company, shot himself with a revolver in his room in the family suits at Castle Craig, Second and Olive streets, yesterday morning. Chief of Police Auble, who made a personal investigation of the affair, says that the shooting was accidental. The boy probably will not live through the day.

Young Woodward and several companions visited Mount Wilson last week. They were to have returned Sunday but Woodward and two friends determined to stay over night. Early this morning they started down the trail and reached the city shortly after 8 o'clock by the electric line. Woodward went at once to his father's suite in Castle Craig, where the family was sitting down to breakfast. He ate with them, relating stories of the trip and appeared to be in the best of spirits. Woodward finished his meal before his father and mother had done so, and went to his room. A minute later a shot rang out, there was a hoarse cry of "My God, I'm shot!" and the horrified parents ran into Robert's room to find him stretched out on the floor semi-conscious and paralyzed from the shoulders down. Blood streamed from a wound over his heart, covering his rough mountain clothes. His revolver lay on the floor. Mrs. Woodward was prostrated by the calamity but the father called a surgeon and sent a fellow lodger for the police.

Los Angeles Herald, September 5, 1906

HIS INJURIES ARE NOT FATAL

Physicians Say Robert Woodward May Live, but Fear Complete Paralysis

It was stated yesterday that Robert Woodward, who accidentally shot himself at the apartments of his parents at the Castle Craig, Second and Olive streets, might recover, although complete paralysis is feared.

The young man is at the Good Samaritan hospital in the care of Dr. Walrath.

The young man shot himself with his revolver Monday morning shortly after returning from a mountain trip.

The bullet entered near the heart and lodged in the spinal vertebrae. Two operations were performed yesterday on the patient, but the hospital attendants did not give much hope of recovery, saying that if the young man survived he would probably be a paralytic.

Los Angeles Times, September 5, 1906

Woodward's Condition Critical.

Robert Woodward, the twenty-one-year-old boy who accidentally shot himself the day before yesterday after returning from a camping trip up Mt Wilson, still lingers between life and death at the Good Samaritan Hospital. With an X-ray photograph of the wound to guide the surgeon's knife an operation was performed at 11 o'clock yesterday morning. The boy's strong constitution, which has supported him wonderfully through the pain that he has suffered in the last two days, gave way at the critical moment, and the surgeons were obliged to stop the operation before they had time to discover the exact location of the bullet. During the afternoon the patient's condition did not change, and the only hope that is now held out for his recovery is that he shall retain sufficient strength to undergo another operation.

Los Angeles Times, September 6, 1906

Woodward's Condition Improves.

The condition of Robert Woodward, who was accidentally shot last Monday morning, showed a slight improvement yesterday, and the patient recovered partially the strength that he lost during the unsuccessful operation held on Tuesday. It is hoped that Woodward will regain sufficient strength to permit the surgeons to make another attempt at locating the bullet, as his only chance of recovery depends upon this.

Los Angeles Times, September 7, 1906

Woodward's Condition Encouraging.

The condition of Robert Woodward, who had been at the Good Samaritan Hospital three days suffering from a bullet wound accidentally inflicted Monday morning, continued to improve yesterday, and the physicians feel encouraged by the boy's remarkable display of endurance. The bullet still remains lodged somewhere in the vicinity of the spinal column, and as soon as young man gets back sufficient strength to warrant, another effort will be made to remove it, as his only hope of ultimate recovery must depend upon that.

Los Angeles Times, November 3, 1906

REMARKABLE RECOVERY.

Robert Woodward, With His Spinal, Cord Nicked by Bullet, Now Strong and Alert.

With a nick made by a bullet in his spinal cord, Robert Woodward is rapidly recovering. The wound, inflicted accidentally in the Castle Craig Hotel, two months ago at first, looked to be fatal. While his father mourned the young man was taken on the morning of September 3, to the Good Samaritan Hospital. The surgeons found that the bullet had touched the spinal cord itself.

Under treatment the cord gradually began to act as a nerve center below the wound. Slowly it grew stronger, and now Woodward, while paralyzed in his limbs, is comparatively strong and alert. There is hope that he will regain the use of his legs. His recovery is considered remarkable.

Yesterday Woodward was taken to the home of his father. O.L. Woodward, No. 1331 West Thirty-first street.

Los Angeles Herald, November 3, 1906

RECOVERY IS REMARKABLE

Son of Real Estate Man Upsets All Traditions of Surgery by Getting Well

Robert Woodward, son of O. L. Woodward, a prominent real estate dealer living at 1331 West Thirty-first street, returned to his home yesterday after being confined at the Good Samaritan hospital since September 3 from a bullet wound accidentally self-inflicted in his right breast, scraping the spinal cord.

Young Woodward's almost complete recovery is considered remarkable by surgeons, for rarely in the annals of surgery has an entire recovery from such a wound been known. Except for a slight paralysis affecting his legs, Woodward is apparently as well as before the accident occurred. This paralysis of the legs is said by the surgeons to be due more from bodily weakness than from actual paralysis, and it is believed that he will soon have the use of his limbs.