

Roswell Daily Record Tuesday, November 24, 1931.

Injury Was Responsible For Shooting.

Funeral services for Polk Turner, Artesia farmer who fatally shot himself Saturday morning were held at the Church of Christ here Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Rev. Thomason of Lake Arthur officiating, A coroner jury impaneled by Justice of the Peace W. H. Ballard, to inquire into the cause of Turner's death rendered a verdict that Turner came to his death by a self inflicted gunshot wound, but that he was not responsible for his act due to a painful injury suffered just prior to taking his own life.

Evidence brought out at the inquest revealed that Turner was hauling out fodder from his field and had evidently slipped and fell from the fodder under a wagon wheel. The loaded wagon passed over his neck injuring his throat and partly stopping his breath. Turner, however managed to follow his wagon and team to a gate near the house and was met by his wife who assisted him into a room, while she at his request hurried to a neighbor's house.

Turner evidently believed that he was fatally injured and decided to take his own life while Mrs. Turner was gone. He used a 12 gage pump gun, pulling the trigger with a comb.