

# Ex-Sailor Gives Up After Killing Of His Wife's Former Husband

BY BEN BRADFORD.

Laster B. Bruton, 54, Southwestern division manager of the Hygienic Products Company, was shot to death in his seventh floor office in the Texas Bank Building Friday afternoon.

An hour after the slaying O. A. Burnet, 40, recently discharged from the Navy, surrendered at the Sheriff's office. Burnet and his wife, Mrs. Aeron Burnet, live at 108 East Ninth. Mrs. Burnet and Bruton were formerly married but were divorced Oct. 29, records show.

Shortly after his surrender a murder charge was made out against Burnet by Homicide Detectives D. O. Climer and Luther Delk and docketed in Justice of the Peace W. L. Sterrett's court.

Bruton, who lived at the Mt. Vernon Tourist Courts on the Fort Worth Highway, was slain at his desk by a man who pumped seven bullets into his body with a .32 caliber automatic pistol.

A large crowd attracted by the shots and sirens of police cars and ambulances converging on the scene, gathered in the lobby of the building. Many had to be ordered away by police as Bruton's body was carried out. Police and deputy sheriffs worked behind locked doors in Bruton's office as a crowd gathered in the halls outside.

#### Under Restraining Order.

The slain man was under a temporary restraining order signed by District Judge W. L. Thornton forbidding him from "communicating with either of the plaintiffs (his ex-wife, Mrs. Burnet, and O. A. Burnet), from coming about them or threatening them; from doing any violence either at their home, place of business or elsewhere."

Mrs. Burnet said Friday night that about an hour before the killing Bruton swerved his car in front of hers and forced her into the curb between Triple Underpass and Industrial. Then, she said, he slapped and cursed her. She said she reported the incident to the law firm of Hughes and Monroe. Burnet was held in city jail in lieu of \$5,000 bond.

Helen Pryor, 5514 Ridgedale, Bruton's secretary, said the man walked into the office and asked: "Where's Laster B.?"

When she walked to the door of Bruton's office to announce the visitor, he stepped up behind her and began firing at Bruton over her shoulder. She told City Detectives Jack Dorris and Luther Delk that she fled into an adjoining office and locked the door as he continued to fire.

#### Pistol Behind Back.

Mrs. Roger Miller, 3103 Culver, another employee, said she saw the man walk into the office.

"He was holding a pistol behind

his back," she told Chief Deputy Sheriff Bill Decker. "I screamed, but it was too late. At that moment he stepped to Mr. Bruton's door and began shooting."

At the Sheriff's office Burnet refused to discuss the shooting. He was accompanied by Attorney Henry Smith of the Hughes and Monroe law firm.

Hearing on the temporary injunction, issued Monday, was to have been held Saturday morning.

Deputy Sheriff Tim Williams, assigned to serve citation papers on Bruton, was en route to the executive's office when he heard the police radio broadcast that there had been a shooting there.

#### Three Years in Navy.

Records show Mrs. Burnet to have been married to Burnet be-

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Laster B. Bruton, slain by ex-wife's husband.



O. A. Burnet, right, charged with the murder of Laster B. Bruton, looks on gloomily as Homicide Detective D. O. Climer examines a pistol said to have been used in the slaying.

short time, the petition for injunction set out. Burnet served three years in the Navy, and is a mechanic.

At the Oneal Funeral Home attendants said Bruton was shot in the head, neck and hips. He was dead when police arrived, Patrolmen J. W. Finley and W. M. Ogle said.

Employees said Bruton opened his company's Southwestern division office in Dallas approximately twenty years ago.

#### **Back From Business Trip.**

Mrs. Norman I. Stokes, 318 South Crawford, Bruton's sister, said her brother told her he had been making every effort to avoid his estranged wife and her hus-

band. She was at a loss to explain the restraining order against her brother.

Bruton returned from a business trip to Oklahoma earlier in the day and had been at his office only a few minutes before he was killed.

He was a Mason and a member of the Methodist Church.

Survivors, besides his sister, include a daughter, Mary; his father, T. J. Bruton, Chickasha, Okla.; eight brothers, T. O. Bruton, Shawnee, Okla.; T. F. Bruton, Wichita Falls; D. E. Bruton, Lawton, Okla.; Talmadge Bruton, Oklahoma City; J. M. Bruton, Kellerville, Wheeler County; H. K. Bruton, Wichita Falls; O. M. Bruton, Norman, Okla., and Vandy Bruton, Tulsa.

Funeral services Friday night were delayed pending arrival of out-of-town relatives.

## **Ex-Sailor**

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fore her marriage to Bruton. She remarried Burnet shortly after her October divorce from Bruton. At the time of the marriage Burnet had been out of the service only a