

Body Found In RR Culvert

A 47-year-old Waukesha woman was found dead this morning in a railroad culvert three miles southwest of Waukesha, the sheriff's department reported.

The body of Mrs. Gertrude Peardon, 523 Grove st., was found by her brother, Russell Rockteacher, following an all-night search after Mrs. Peardon left her home Sunday afternoon.

Authorities said Mrs. Peardon had been in ill health. Coroner James Welch listed the death a suicide.

MRS. PEARDON left her home about 4:45 p.m., saying she was going to visit a neighbor, deputies said. She instead took a cab to Hys. 59 and DE. Residents of the area said they saw her leave the cab, then walk back along Hy. 59 in the direction of Waukesha.

She was found at 5:48 a.m. in a 21-foot culvert under the Northwestern railroad tracks one-quarter mile north of Hy. DE, and west of Hy. 59. Authorities said she apparently crawled several feet into the culvert, then drank part of a bottle of disinfectant. The bottle was found in the water near her body.

MRS. PEARDON was born in Eagle in 1909. She was a member of the First Presbyterian church.

Surviving are her husband, Harold, a real estate operator; one daughter, Mrs. Ramona Meyer, of Shorewood; four brothers, Russell and Leslie Rockteacher, both of Waukesha, and Martin and Matthew Rockteacher, both of Eagle; and four sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Foley, Milwaukee, Mrs. Lois Strak, Sheboygan, Mrs. Nellie Stocks, North Prairie, and Mrs. Marion Johnston, Palmyra.

Funeral services will be Thursday at 2:30 p.m. at the Randle funeral home with burial in Prairie Cemetery. Friends are invited to attend on Wednesday afternoon.