

# CASE HONORED AT PARTY OF 13 ON SUICIDE EVE

## Pie Manufacturer Insisted 'It's 14,' Friend Says.

*(Picture on back page.)*

The evening before he shot and killed himself in the basement of the Case-Moody Pie corporation, of which he was president, Elmer Grant Case was one of thirteen persons at a party in his honor at the Old Heidelberg inn, 14 West Randolph street, it was learned last night. Mr. Case joked about the unlucky number present and insisted three times on counting them as fourteen, according to William Ehrlich, 3440 North Laramie avenue, a director of the pie company, who was present.

The executive, who was 69 years old, was found dead Thursday afternoon in the basement of his concern's offices, after he failed to attend a meeting of the board of directors. The board, it is understood, intended to replace him with a younger man.

### Wife and Daughter at Dinner.

Yesterday a coroner's jury returned at the inquest a verdict of suicide while despondent over financial reverses.

Those who attended the dinner party Wednesday evening included officials of the Case-Moody corporation and their wives, with Mrs. Case and her daughter by a previous marriage, Marguerite.

Present were James Henderson, superintendent; Earl Dempster, sales manager; Arthur Mack, night superintendent, and L. R. Tomlinson, secretary.

"I am sure that even at the party Mr. Case was contemplating suicide," Mr. Ehrlich declared. "He kept joking about the number of persons present, and three times he insisted on counting them as fourteen."

### Recounts Agreement to Fight On.

Mrs. Case, a comely woman of 34, appeared at the inquest with her daughter yesterday. She testified that her husband's financial difficulties began on the morning of their marriage in December of 1930, when Mr. Case signed a contract to buy the stock of the Pellar Baking company.

Instead of going out of business as agreed, the officials of the latter firm organized a new concern which entered into competition with the Case-Moody company, she said.

"We had lunch together at the Palmer house yesterday," wept Mrs. Case on the stand, "and we had agreed to fight things through no matter what happened. Two hours later he was dead."

Mr. Tomlinson at the inquest testified that no definite plan to compel Case's retirement had been contemplated although it had been suggested.

Funeral services will take place at 3 o'clock this afternoon from the chapel at 1820 South Michigan avenue. Burial will be at Forest Home cemetery.



[TRIBUNE Photo.]

### WIDOW OF PIE COMPANY HEAD AT INQUEST.

Mrs. Doris Case (right) testifies at hearing on suicide of Elmer G. Case. At left is Mrs. Case's daughter, Marguerite.

(Story on page 18.)



### DECLARED A SUICIDE.

Elmer G. Case, whose death was laid to despondency by coroner's jury. [Moffett Photo.]

(Story on page 18.)