

POLICE HOLD B.LUST IN FALL OF WOMAN IN ELEVATOR SHAFT

Said to Admit He Was With Mrs. Anna Wilson in Building.

With Mrs. Anna Wilson, 34 years old, lying at the point of death in Emergency hospital, headquarters detectives last night held Ben Lust, of 904 Emerson street northwest, on a charge of investigation. Lust, who conducts a film exchange in the Mather building, 916 G street northwest, admits, according to detectives, that he was with the woman in the building early yesterday when she plunged nine floors in the freight elevator shaft.

Detectives also are seeking to question another man said to have been with Lust and Mrs. Wilson. His name was withheld.

Lust denies knowledge of the cause of the woman's fall, asserting it happened while he and the other man were momentarily in another part of the building.

Identification of the woman, who was found lying unconscious atop the freight elevator in the rear of the building, was made yesterday by her two roommates, Mrs. Laura George and Mrs. Margaret Bryant, of 1014 K street northwest.

Although blood transfusion was resorted to yesterday afternoon in an effort to save Mrs. Wilson's life, little hope was held out at the hospital for her recovery. In the meantime, the cause of her fall through the elevator shaft remained undetermined.

Came From Cumberland.

The three women recently came to Washington from Cumberland, Md., and were employed at Hawley's restaurant, Sixth street and Pennsylvania avenue. Shortly after coming here, Mrs. Wilson, according to her two companions, met Lust and had been frequently in his company ever since. She and Mrs. George met him Saturday night about 9 o'clock by prearrangement. Although there was another man in the car, Mrs. George insisted that she be taken home, which was done after the four had ridden for about half an hour. She was told that Lust and Mrs. Wilson were then to take the second man home.

When she read accounts of the tragedy in Sunday morning's newspapers and learned that Mrs. Wilson had not been home, she and Mrs. Bryant went to the hospital. There, Mrs. George fainted when she looked at the unconscious figure of her chum.

Mrs. George's version of the earlier events of Saturday night

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WOMAN HURT IN FALL; FILM MAN ARRESTED

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and Lust's reported statement to the detectives agree. The second man did not go home, however, according to Lust, but accompanied Mrs. Wilson and Lust to the Mather building. Lust is said to admit that en route he purchased a quart of whisky.

Lust Operated Elevator.

They entered the building through the back entrance, and with Lust operating the elevator, the trio went to the ninth floor. Then, Lust is reported to have said, the second man went to another part of the building, leaving Lust and Mrs. Wilson, who are said to have taken several drinks themselves. After a time, Lust says he, too, went to another part of the building and when he and the second man returned, the woman had fallen through the elevator shaft.

Asked why he and the other man then left the building without notifying the authorities, Lust said they were frightened. The unconscious woman was not found until almost 30 minutes later.

Lust also is reported to have been unable to explain how the elevator, after he had operated it to the ninth floor, got back to the first floor.

He is married and has a small child. After questioning by Detective Charles Mansfield, who took him into custody at his home after he had returned from the ball game, he was locked up in the Sixth precinct station house.

The woman's friends assert that she had \$35 in her possession early in the evening. Her coat and handbag, containing only 51 cents, were found in the lavatory of the ninth floor of the Mather building. Sixteen dollars was found in her stocking.

J. A. E. Jones, conductor of the passenger elevator, clung to his statement that no one answering the description of the woman had entered the building in his elevator.

Her Parents Notified.

The parents of Mrs. Wilson, at their home in Laconing, Md., were notified yesterday of their daughter's condition. Before coming to Washington about nine weeks ago, she had lived with her sister, Mrs. Jeannette Fresh, in Cumberland, Md., where she worked as a waitress. She was followed to this city by her two friends, Mrs. George and Mrs. Bryant, about two weeks later.

The woman was also visited at the hospital yesterday by her aunt, Mrs. Mattie Mosson, of 1412 Twenty-eighth street northwest. A cousin, Tom Mosson, volunteered for the blood transfusion, but later a friend of the three women, Neil Mortensen, 902 Ninth street northwest, insisted that the blood be taken from him. Mortensen expects to be examined for the District fire department this week.

Mrs. Wilson is said to have been separated from her husband for several years and to be in ignorance of his whereabouts. She is also said to have a boy 18 years old, "somewhere in school." Both of her legs were broken, her skull probably fractured and she suffered internal injuries in the fall.