

SLAYER OF WOMAN SENTENCED TO DIE

Charles Ford to Meet Death in
Electric Chair Week Beginning
November 24

Charles Ford, who shot and killed Mrs. Mary Effie Wagner at Laurel Springs on March 14 last, must expiate his crime in the electric chair at Trenton during the week of November 24, that sentence being passed upon him yesterday by Supreme Court Justice Garrison in Camden after a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree was submitted. The jury deliberated exactly one hour. When the verdict was pronounced and the sentence imposed Ford did not give any indication that he cared. He appeared to be dazed.

For eighteen years Ford had lived with the woman and during that time she had left him fourteen times because of his abuse. On the last occasion she sought to escape him by going to Laurel Springs, Ford claiming she had gone with Robert Wilson. In vengeful mood and, the State alleged, after planning and deliberating, he visited her home, shot Wilson, dangerously wounding him, killed the woman and then sent two bullets into his own head.

Lawyers Frank B. Jess and Adam R. Sloan, who were assigned to defend him, sought to have him escape on a second degree verdict, they declaring that because of his excessive drinking his mind was not such as could plan a crime of that character. Prosecutor Boyle was able to produce witnesses which showed beyond any doubt that the man was rational and had planned for the tragedy weeks before.