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FORECAST: Mostly cloudy and colder tonight with a low of 38. Partly cloudy tomorrow and warmer in the afternoon. High 55.

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## Terror-Stricken Mother Shoots Husband in Duel

Doctors Call His Survival 'Miraculous'

Wife Still Fearful, Cries: 'He'll Kill Us All'

By HEZE CLARK

A 32-year-old mother collapsed in sobs of relief in jail today when she learned the husband she thought she had killed in a gun duel had staged a "miracle" recovery in General Hospital.

The two 45-bullets which Mrs. Margaret Crawford, 1134 Martin St., fired into his face and abdomen only "superficially wounded" her 60-year-old husband, Harry Crawford, doctors said.

They expressed amazement that the heavy caliber bullets had caused no serious injury. Both deputies and ambulance doctors first labeled Crawford as "critically injured."

**Fancy Marksmanship'** One bullet entered the left side of his chin, emerged from the right side of the neck, entered the right shoulder and emerged at the back. The second shot creased just under the skin of the abdomen.

Sitting up in a chair by his bed a few hours after the shooting, Crawford remarked:

"She sure did some fancy marksmanship."

He made no comment on his wife's story to deputies that he fired a shotgun blast at her in an attempt to kill her and the children.

After she learned of her husband's condition, Mrs. Crawford asked that her children be brought to her.

"He'll kill them I know," she told deputies. "He'll kill us all anyway."

She told of a night spent in terror as her husband stalked outside their home with a shotgun, threatening to kill her and their children, Lois, 11, and Charles, 12, and then himself.

At about 6 a.m., she said, she heard him at the kitchen door. As she walked into the kitchen he smashed the glass from the storm door and fired a shotgun blast which ripped a panel from the door and sprayed the kitchen.

"I saw him raise the gun and I jumped to one side, by the icebox," Mrs. Crawford said. The blast missed her by inches and grazed the refrigerator which shielded her.

**Gun in Icebox**

"I opened the icebox and reached in and got his gun," she continued. "He tried to kill me with it last Saturday and I'd hid it in the icebox so he couldn't find it."

She fired one shot which nicked the door frame and struck Crawford in the chin just as he was stepping into the room.

The shot ranged from left to right through Crawford's neck and chin downward into his right shoulder. It did not stop him.

"He kept coming toward me and as he raised the shotgun I shot again," the wife said. This bullet struck Crawford in the abdomen. Crawford halted, lowered the shotgun and cried, "You've killed me."

Then he turned and ran through the rear door, back to Martin St. and disappeared.

The two children cowered in bed in the adjoining room of the two-room cottage during their parents' gun battle.

Mrs. Crawford told deputies she waited a second, then walked out into the yard and stopped a passing man.

"I've shot my husband," she told him. "Will you go to a phone and call the police?"

**Phones Sheriff**

She said she returned to the house and waited with her two children about 10 minutes. When no officers came she went to the home of neighbors nearby and phoned the sheriff's office to report the shooting.

A few seconds later State Policemen Howard Hyslope and John Klein saw Mr. Crawford leaning against a fence at State and Martin St.

Mrs. Crawford said her husband was a "good man when he was sober but he'd been hitting the whisky, heavy for two weeks."

During this time, she said, he had repeatedly threatened her and the children. Last night, she said, he came home at about 6 p.m. and said he planned to wipe out the family.

He left shortly after this but returned several times during the night, either prowling near the home or coming to the door to repeat his threat.

Mrs. Crawford said she and her husband had been married 15 years and moved here from Mt. Vernon 12 years ago. He was a polish maker at International Metal Polish Co.

She said she had bought and paid cash for their two-room home in December, with the money she had saved from her household allowance through the years. Previous to that they lived with her brother.

