

# Slayer Blames Killing on Fear

## *Kerness Plea to Be Self-Defense*

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him and that he would talk it over with his wife and straighten the thing out. I and the others had seen him that night at 9:30 with another woman. That kind of thing had been going on for three years.

### **Says Nicles Threatened Him**

"Nicles said, 'Get out of my way or I'll crack you.' He was a man about 6 feet. He came at me and I thought I was in danger, and before I knew it the gun was fired. I started to run and bumped into a brick wall. George and William took me home with them. Pretty soon Abe came over and we decided to leave town.

"At the depot we saw a paper that said Mrs. Levine had confessed. I wanted to go back and surrender, but Abe told me he had an idea, and for me to go to Duluth alone. I didn't know what his idea was. We arranged to correspond, and I was going to get my mail under the name of Harris."

### **Police Hold Witnesses**

The persons referred to in his statement are Mrs. Eva Levine, sister of Mrs. Nicles, who is in custody following her arraignment on a murder charge. Abe Kerness, brother of Al, a suitor of Mrs. Levine, and George and William Keller, brothers of Mrs. Nicles, and Ben Keller, her father, are all held as police witnesses.

Al Kerness attributed the act to Nicles' cruelty to his wife during their married life and the attentions he paid to other women. He said that he and Mrs. Levine had seen Nicles with a woman. When they went to the Kellers, he said, George Keller got out a gun on hearing of Nicles' behavior. He said he then took the gun and that he, with Mrs. Levine and George, William and Ben Keller, drove to Nicles' home to wait for him.