

VIVIAN W. HUFFMAN

Jeweler, Optician, and State Commissioner of Securities

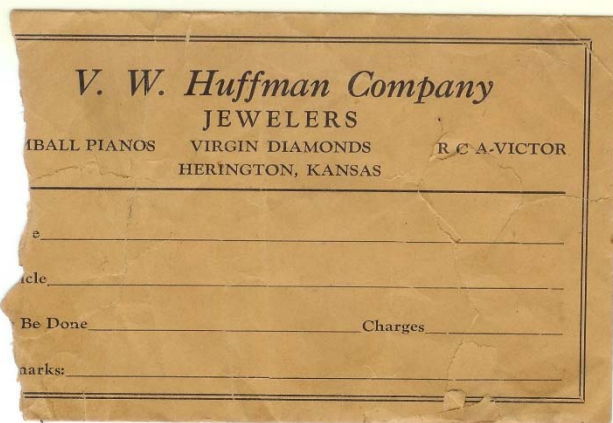
Born: about 1882 in Melvern, KS

Died: August 15, 1946 in Herington, KS

Vivian W. Huffman, son of Aaron Wesley Huffman and Sarah Louisa *Ray* Huffman, was born in Melvern, Osage Co., KS around 1882 (some records indicate November 30?, 1880). Huffman's father, a Civil war veteran from Ohio, died in Melvern in 1902. Sometime before 1910, after A. Wesley Huffman's death, S. Louisa Huffman and her children moved to Herington where V.W. Huffman worked as a Jeweler. In 1916, Huffman contracted with Mr. H. B. Winter of Manhattan to design a 2-story 25' x 90' brick and stone building on the west side of Broadway between Walnut and Main. In this store, Huffman conducted his Jewelry, Optometry, Watch & Clock repair, and piano sales business. V.W. Huffman was married to Martha Beam. Both V.W. and his wife Martha worked in the retail Jewelry Business. In addition to Jewelry and Optometry, Huffman advertised and sold W. W. Kimball pianos which he considered "The Best Piano in the World."



On the morning of August 15th, 1946, one of Huffman's employees was sweeping out the front of the store when he heard a noise in the back room. Upon entering the room, he found Huffman covered in blood around the chest. The employee rushed to the



street to call for help and then heard two additional gunshots. City Police officer Brigham Young arrived at the store to find Huffman still on his feet, having been struck three times in the chest by shots fired from a 12 gauge shotgun. Huffman was rushed to the Herington hospital where he died of his injuries at around 10:45.

Martha Huffman remained in Herington and died there on September 14, 1976. Both are buried in Sunset Hill Cemetery.

The Huffman building on Broadway later housed Minion's Dress shop but was destroyed in the 1969 Bank of Herington fire.

