

235 7th Ave NE- the compelling case of Eva Coo

This charming little craftsman bungalow was once the home of murderess Eva Coo. After leaving her home in Calgary for the States, Eva operated a speakeasy in upstate New York. She and one of her employees- Martha Clift- conspired to murder another employee by the name of Harry "Gimpy" Wright. It wasn't pretty. Eva bludgeoned poor Harry with a mallet while Martha sealed the deal by driving a Willys-Knight over him several times. It later turned out that Eva had taken out an insurance policy on Harry, listing herself as beneficiary.

Eva Coo was found guilty and was executed at Sing Sing prison in June 1935. Her last words- to her matrons- were: "Goodbye, darlings!" And her accomplice? For cooperating with police by ratting on Eva, Martha Clift served 13 years before being released on parole. A Wikipedia article about Eva appears below, but a more detailed write-up can be found in Murderpedia, for those interested.

As far as the Calgary house goes, the previous owners reported some time ago that they hadn't come across any buried bodies during their basement renovations!



We should also point out again that the little bungalow's connection with Eva Coo was discovered by the homeowners while researching it for the Century Homes Calgary 2012-2013 campaign.



A.K.A.: "**The Mallet Murderer**"

Classification: **Murderer**

Characteristics: **To collect insurance money**

Number of victims: **1**

Date of murder: **June 14, 1934**

Date of birth: **1894**

Victim profile: **Harry "Gimpy" Wright, 52**

Method of murder: **Hitting with a mallet and running over with a car**

Location: **Oneonta, Otsego County, New York, USA**

Status: **Executed by electric chair at Sing Sing Prison on June 27, 1935**

Eva Coo (17 June 1889 – 27 June 1935) was an American murderer, who was executed by electric chair at Sing Sing Prison on June 27, 1935.

Born **Eva Curry** in Haliburton, Ontario, Canada, she moved to Toronto while a teenager. There, she met and married William Coo, and together they moved to upstate New York in 1921.

Coo was entrusted with the care of one of her employees, a slow-witted handyman named Henry Wright, after the death of Wright's mother. Coo embezzled Wright's inheritance and burned down his house for insurance money. After purchasing several life insurance policies on Wright, Coo then conspired to murder him with another of her employees, a woman named Martha Clift.

On June 14, 1934, the two women drove Wright to an isolated location outside Oneonta, New York. There, Eva allegedly hit him with a mallet and Martha ran over him with a car, specifically a Willys-Knight. They then dumped his body beside a road to simulate a hit-and-run accident. Though little evidence has been provided to corroborate the bludgeoning with the mallet, it remains the symbol of the murder and the trial to this day.

Police suspected homicide, and Clift confessed after an interrogation. She was convicted of second-degree murder and served thirteen years in prison, while Coo received a death sentence.

Wikipedia.org