

Havana, Cuba, Feb. 24th 1919 12

Dear Sam,

I notified you by telegraph and  
Chat Elrod also wrote you Friday of the sudden  
death of Ben in the Ticket Room on the Race  
Tracks on Friday afternoon Feb. 21st at 3:40. I  
assure you it was an awful shock to us all.  
I was talking to him five minutes before he was  
stricken, and he appeared all right and was  
attending to his business in the Ticket Room, at  
the conclusion of the 3rd Race he started to  
carry the ticket boxes into the room from the  
Sellers windows, but turned around without touching  
a box and walked into the little supply room  
nobody noticed anything wrong with him, but  
two minutes afterwards Walter Burke went into  
the room and found Ben dead on the floor.  
We immediately got a physician, but he was  
past all aid, having died instantly. The doctor  
said it was heart trouble, perhaps superinduced  
by acute indigestion. All of us feel very badly  
over his death, and my wife and I extend to  
you and family our sincerest sympathy, Elrod  
and I have seen that everything was done that  
could be done, and went to the boat with his  
body this morning to see that everything was all  
right. The boat (Mascotte) left here for Key West  
at 10:40 this morning, so his remains should arrive