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CHARLES GILLIS

THE MURDER OF CONSTABLE CHARLES GILLIS

Researched & written by Jack Templeman



Constable Charles Gillis

On January 24th, 1936, shortly after 7:00 p.m., Ian Murray Bryson, 22 years, of 466 Burrows Avenue, walked onto the Prairie City Service Station lot at the southeast corner of Donald and St. Mary's Avenue.

The manager, Thomas Christie was outside checking the gas storage tanks while his 15-year-old helper Willys Doran was shovelling snow on the lot. Bryson approached Doran with a gun in his hand and ordered him over towards Christie. Then he ordered both inside the station and when they moved too slowly, he fired a shot into the ground.

Once inside he demanded the money from the till and was told there was none. He told them that he had been watching the station and saw them sell a gallon of gas and demanded the 30 cents. Again he was told there was no money. He then demanded their own money and was told neither had any which upset him and he pulled the trigger of the gun while it was pointed at Christie but it misfired.

When Bryson was herding the employees into the station, a passer-by, Harry Fuller, saw what was going on and waved to Christie to indicate he had

seen them. Fuller then rushed to Betty's Cafe a block over at Hargrave and St. Marys Avenue and phoned the police at 7:16 p.m.

A cruiser car manned by Constable Charles Gillis #128A and George Blow #163A (later Chief Constable) received the hold-up report only two blocks from the scene and arrived almost immediately and pulled right onto the lot.

At the time the gun misfired, Bryson saw the cruiser come onto the lot and he headed for the office door. He got just outside as the cruiser stopped and the officers got out to pursue him on foot. Constable Gillis was behind him and Bryson turned with the gun in his hand and fired once. The bullet struck Gillis and knocked him down.

Constable Blow kept running at the suspect who was having difficulty with his footing as he turned and tried to continue running. Blow ran right into him knocking the gun from his hand and sending both of them sprawling on the snow-covered ground. Blow was able to regain his footing first and without ceremony or hesitation disabled the suspect with a direct kick in the face. As Blow handcuffed the suspect, Constable Gillis came over to assist and picked up the .38 cal. Iver Johnson revolver. Blow asked Gillis if he had been hit as he was holding his left side and he replied yes.

Charles Gillis

Gillis then went into the office and was helped by Christie and a young lady, Frances Payea, who had been walking by.

CHARLES GILLIS IN CRITICAL CONDITION; BULLET LODGED IN ABDOMEN; SUSPECT HELD

A taxi driver, Robert Webster, stopped to assist Constable Blow and Blow told him to get his partner to a hospital as quickly as possible. Webster loaded Gillis into the taxi and Miss Payea accompanied them as they rushed to Misericordia Hospital. Webster rushed as he damaged his car pulling into the Misericordia lot.

Everything happened so quickly that after the initial call at 7:16 p.m., the next call was at 7:19 p.m. from Christie at the service station reporting a policeman shot and asking for an ambulance and help. Two more cruisers attended along with Patrol Sergeant R. Fisher. When the police ambulance arrived there was only the injured prisoner to convey to General Hospital. He received treatment to his face before he was conveyed to the Rupert Street Station where he was detained after giving a statement.

Bryson's first statement claimed he had been drinking all day and he admitted seeing the man (Fuller) wave and knew he would call the police. He claimed he couldn't remember anything after the car pulled onto the lot. The following day Bryson made another statement telling where he kept the gun stashed by the William Whyte School and also admitted to the armed robberies of four small stores in the previous months.

Constable Gillis lay in Misericordia Hospital in critical condition from the bullet that punctured his bowel in three places and lodged itself near the base of his spine. At 6:45 a.m., on February 7th, 1936,

two weeks after the shooting he died as a result of septic poisoning from the wounds.

Constable Gillis was born in Montrose, Prince Edward Island on August 27th, 1888. He joined the Winnipeg Police Force on November 18th, 1912 and served until May 31st, 1915 when he joined the army and fought in the First World War with the 90th Battalion, Winnipeg Rifles. His bravery in combat earned him the Military Medal and entitled him to the letters MM after his name. He returned to Winnipeg and rejoined the Force on July 7th, 1919.

Constable Gillis was survived by his wife Annette and 15-year-old son George and 13-year-old daughter Eleanor. They lived at 169 Morley Avenue. He was 47 years of age.

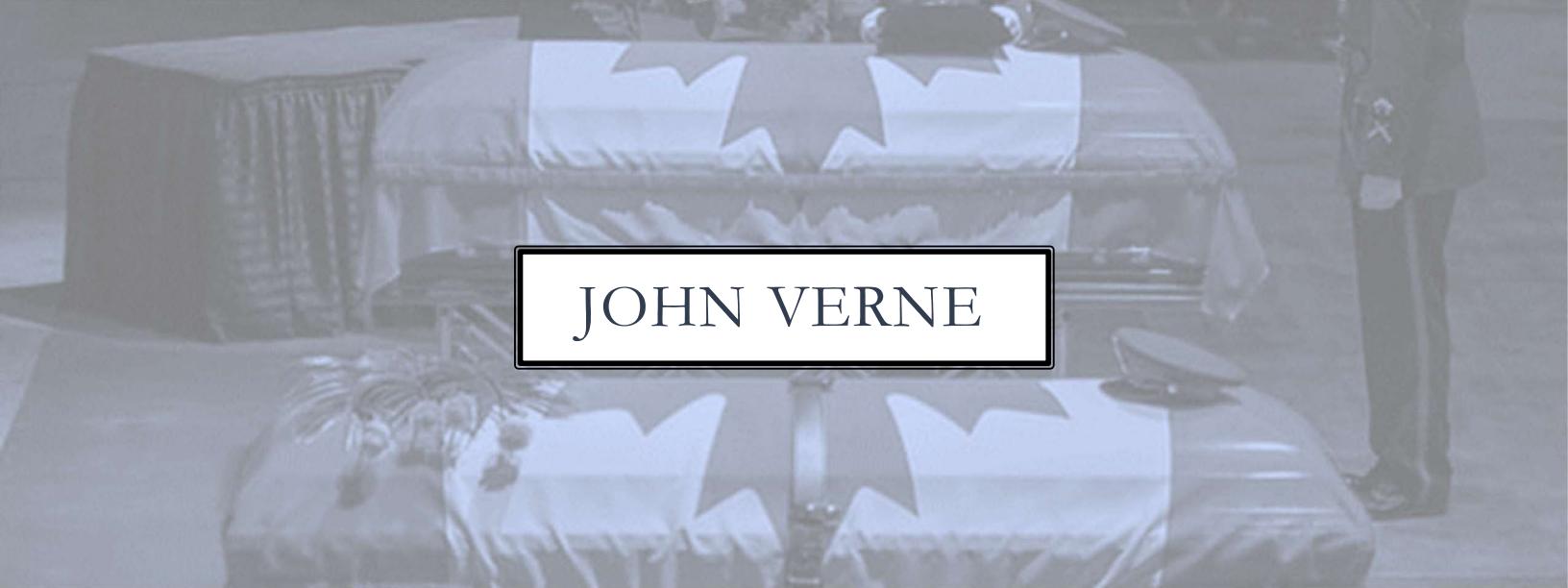
The funeral for Constable Gillis was held on Tuesday, February 11th, at 11:00 a.m. from St. Ignatius Church with burial at St. Mary's cemetery. The church was jammed with friends and fellow officers of this very dedicated and respected officer. Pallbearers were Chief Constable George Smith, Deputy Chief Charles McIver, Sergeant James Burton and Constables Angus MacDonald, Robert Still and George Blow.



IAN M. BRYSON

Bryson was committed for trial and was convicted on June 9th, 1936 and sentenced to hang. His execution was carried out at Headingly Jail on November 20th, 1936.

Gillis's combined service with the city was just over twenty-three years that entitled his widow to a payment from the Police Pension fund of \$2,355.00 plus a refund of his pension contributions with 4% interest. The Workman's Compensation also provided for a pension of \$40.00 a month for her and \$12.00 for the eldest child and \$10.00 for the other child until each was 16 years of age. What four years of war could not do was done by a young man with a gun in a split second.



JOHN VERNE

THE MURDER OF SERGEANT JOHN VERNE

Researched & written by Jack Templeman



Sergeant John Verne

Sergeant John Verne was well known throughout St. Boniface as 'Sergeant John' by school children and adults alike. He joined the small St. Boniface Police Force on August 20th, 1920 and was promoted to Sergeant in 1922.

On Tuesday, July 24th, 1934, Sergeant Verne was on duty in the St. Boniface Police station located in the basement of the City Hall on Provencher Avenue. At this time the force only consisted of 10 men and Verne was acting as Chief Constable while Chief Baudry was on leave. On day shift there was only one man on beat patrol and a detective came in later in the morning. The remainder of the men were spread out on afternoon and night shifts or were on weekly leave. The usual routine was for the sergeant to serve in the station and pass calls on to the beat constable. In an emergency, he would take the cruiser and respond alone, or pick up the beat man on the way. When he left the station, he called the fire hall directly behind and a fireman came to answer the phone.

On this particular day, at about 08:15 a.m., Sergeant Verne received a report of a robbery taking place at the Norbridge Pharmacy, 11 St. Mary's Road. He jotted the address on a pad, then called Fireman Art Humphries to take the desk. Verne then proceeded to the pharmacy alone.

The hold-up at the pharmacy was being committed by George D. Jayhan, Shea or Zaha. He had been born in Ridgeville, Manitoba and was 34 years old. Little is known of him other than he spent considerable time in at least six institutions in the U.S. before being deported back to Canada at Windsor, Ontario in 1932. He was arrested there for possessing stolen goods but only received a

fine. Then he moved west, right out to Vancouver and it was probably there that he became a heroin addict, as the inland cities were not drug oriented in those years.

Jayhan's record indicated he was often caught and a study of the Norbridge Pharmacy robbery leaves one to wonder how he managed to evade capture during earlier robberies in Winnipeg.

Shortly after he arrived in Winnipeg in 1934, the city started to experience a rash of drug store break-ins and then robberies by a nervous suspect. He was armed and always tied up the proprietors. His nervousness caused concern that he might become violent and he finally did on July 24th.

John Verne

The gun he had been using in the hold-ups and finally in the murder had been stolen from a break & enter at McBurney Drugs, 890 Sargent Avenue in May of that year.



Jayhan had prepared for the robbery the day before by stealing a Desoto Sedan from 489 Kingsway Avenue in Fort Rouge. Then early on Tuesday, he set out to rob the drug store and entered it about 08:10 a.m. Only the pharmacist Frank Wade was there when Jayhan

entered with the revolver. Wade was forced to show Jayhan where the narcotics were stored before being taken to a back room and tied up, as was the usual routine. Jayhan gathered the drugs into a carton and then emptied the cash register. Next Jayhan started to steal all the cigarettes and was placing them in a separate carton when his day started to go bad.

The delivery boy, William Rodger, arrived for work and walked in on Jayhan. Jayhan had to stop and take the boy into the back room and tie him up beside Frank Wade. Hardly had he re-entered the store when the first customer of the day, Raymond Jackson, walked in. Again, Jayhan had to herd him into the back room and tie him up.

Before anyone else arrived Jayhan took the box of stolen cigarettes out to the stolen car parked behind the store. When he returned to get the box of drugs, he must have been surprised to find both Wade and Jackson had freed themselves. He did not know that Jackson had time to phone the St. Boniface Police with Sergeant. Verne receiving the call.

Jayhan tied the two men up again and left the store shook up as he forgot the box of drugs, his main concern and reason for the robbery.

When Jayhan had been holding Mr. Wade up, a young boy, Jackie Dick, was passing the store and saw what was happening. He did not enter but ran to the service station then located at Marion and St. Mary's Road. While the service station operator called the police, Dick was joined by four other boys who had been at the station. They all watched the drug store and saw Jayhan drive off in the stolen car. Then all the boys ran over to the drug store and went in.

Meanwhile, Jayhan had hardly left the store when he must have realized that he forgot the drugs so he returned within minutes and now found the five boys in the store. This time he just herded the boys into the back room and told them to stay there without bothering to tie them up. He did not notice that Wade had gotten loose again as he hid in the store until Jayhan went back out with the box of drugs.

Jayhan ran back to the car in the lane and in haste driving out to Horace Street, he had to cross a wooden sidewalk that blew out a tire. He abandoned the stolen car but this time remembered to take the box of drugs as he ran east on Horace Street towards Tache.

Right after Jayhan ran out of the store, two more customers, J.M. Reid and E. McKinnon came in and met Wade who told them what happened. All three men got into Reid's car to give chase and started to go east on Marion Street to parallel Jayhan. They saw Jayhan stop and run back towards St. Mary's Road so they turned also.

Jayhan must have realized as he ran on Horace that Winnipeg was the other direction. When he got to St. Mary's Road, he flagged down a car driven by William Cormode along with his son Campbell and ordered them at gunpoint to head over the Norwood Bridge. He then ordered them to continue over the Main Street Bridge and head north. Before Broadway, he ordered them to turn

John Verne

right between the H.B.C. building and the C.N. station where they went under the subway. They then made a left turn in the C.N. yards to head towards Water Avenue.

The first customer in the store, Jackson, also got free and ran out in time to see Jayhan run back to St. Mary's Road and commandeer the Cormode vehicle. He got the license number, 10-641 and supplied this to Sergeant Verne who arrived before the car got out of sight. Verne gave chase over the bridges, followed by the Reid vehicle and then Jackson in his vehicle.

Before the commandeered vehicle could reach Water Avenue, Verne overtook it and forced it to a stop. Verne got out of the cruiser and Jayhan got out of the other car on the passenger side. Both men had walked to the back of the vehicle and faced each other about 6 - 8 feet apart. Jayhan opened fire on the officer with a Colt .455 striking him twice in the stomach.

Policeman Critically Wounded Attempting to Capture Bandit

Jayhan got back in the Cormode car and ordered him to drive away. Verne was loaded into the Reid vehicle with Wade holding him as they rushed back over the Provencher Bridge to the St. Boniface Hospital. McKinnon followed in the police car. Jackson attempted to follow the Cormode car but lost it. He did manage to find a Winnipeg beat constable and gave him the license number of the wanted car. The constable quickly called the information in from a call box and it was broadcast to the Winnipeg cars.

It must be remembered that at this time, the police radio system was in its infancy and Winnipeg was one of the first in North America to have one. It was established in 1930 and was a one-way system

until 1939. Messages had to be acknowledged by phone or from a call box.

Once again, Jayhan probably set a record in being captured. The officers did not even have time to acknowledge the message. They were stopped at the intersection of Main and Bannatyne when the message was broadcast by the dispatcher and the wanted car crossed Main Street in front of Constable E. Gibson #23A and G.W. Rocky #96A. The officers swung behind it and Constable Gibson fired one warning shot at the car. The driver, Cormode, threw it out of gear and slammed on the brakes. The chase was over at Bannatyne Avenue and Albert Street. Jayhan did not resist. Mr. Cormode and his son also found themselves in handcuffs for a while until things were sorted out. The box of drugs and the gun with four expended cartridges were recovered from the car.

Gunman Captured Following Chase From St. Boniface

Sgt. John Verne Fighting For Life With Two Bullet Wounds in Stomach—Bandit Caught in Winnipeg by Radio Car — Had Commandered Citizen's Auto and Forced Him at Point of Gun to Drive Him From Norwood Pharmacy Where He Had Bound and Gagged Three and Looted Store of Cash and Narcotics.

No time was wasted in those days. St. Boniface Police were notified of the arrest at 8:50 am, less than an hour after it all began and by 9:45 am, Jayhan was booked into the jail after giving a full statement. In the statement, Jayhan claimed that the officer had his gun out and he thought he was going to shoot so Jayhan fired at the officer. This statement was an obvious lie as Verne had not carried his gun and was unarmed when shot down. The gun and his other personal effects were later removed from his locker. This carelessness or lack of fear left him in a disadvantaged position that resulted in his death. Verne was a big man, very

John Verne

strong and fearless. In 1928, he had wrestled with three criminals and one shoved a gun into his side and tried twice to fire it. Verne overpowered him and he never got the chance for a third try at the trigger. All three received penitentiary terms and the lash.

Verne was conscious when conveyed to the hospital and he insisted on walking in although assisted by Wade. His condition was critical from the beginning and he had lost a lot of blood. At 3:35 p.m., he was on the operating table and being given a direct blood transfusion from Constable Bill Russell (later Chief) when he succumbed to the wounds.

As was the custom of the day, a Coroner's Inquest was called immediately and held on the 26th. All the witnesses were called, as well as Detective Sergeant Melville from the Winnipeg Police who read out Jayhan's statement admitting the robbery and shooting the policeman. The report of the Inquest states it was not felt prudent to have Jayhan there in person. Naturally, the jury named Jayhan the slayer. The jury also recommended the department be increased in size and in the future, two armed officers should respond to hold-up alarms.

Another custom of the time was to have the body moved to the family home before the funeral and this was also done on the 26th. Early on Saturday morning, the body was moved from the home on Deschambault Street to the Council Chambers of the City Hall where it lay in state from 07:00 a.m. till 09:30 a.m. The body was then taken to the St. Boniface Basilica for the funeral service.

'Sergeant John' was so respected by the people of St. Boniface that all flags were flown at half-mast and many businesses closed. The Basilica overflowed with citizens as well as police from Winnipeg and all local municipalities, the RCMP, and railway police forces. The Winnipeg Police

Department provided six constables, a sergeant and an inspector as honorary pallbearers while St. Boniface Constables Butner, Bessette, Hand, Patenaude, Desautels, and Russell served as the pallbearers. More than 30 children from St. Boniface schools carried floral tributes into the Basilica as Verne's four sons followed the casket. The burial took place in the St. Boniface Cemetery on Archibald Street.

Jayhan was held in the Rupert Street jail until committed for trial and the city doctor attended each day to administer morphine to him. His trial was in November and on the 14th he was sentenced to hang. On the 13th he again showed his born loser qualities by attempting suicide by slashing his wrists. The effort only got him a one-hour delay as he was treated and returned to court.

**GEORGE JAYHAN
IS EXECUTED AT
HEADINGLY JAIL**
Pays Penalty For Murder of
Sergt. John Verne, of
St. Boniface

On another Tuesday, February 12th, 1935, at 7:44 am Jayhan paid the supreme penalty on the gallows at Headingly Jail. Justice took only a few months & removed any possibility that this killer would hurt

anyone else. Another custom of the times saw a mug shot of Jayhan framed in a picture of his rope given to the St. Boniface Police Department. That reminder is now at the Police Museum. Verne was 39 years old when he died. The St. Boniface Police did not have any pension provisions at that time but the Police Commission authorized a payment of \$400.00 (about 2 months pay) to Mrs. Verne. The City also assumed the funeral costs and provided the services of the City Solicitor to assist her at a hearing of the Workman's Compensation Board in August. The Compensation Board would usually pay a pension of about \$40.00 to the widow and a small amount for each child under 16 years of age.

BERNARD SNOWDON

THE MURDER OF CONSTABLE BERNARD SNOWDON

Researched & written by Jack Templeman



Bernard Snowdon was the first policeman killed while on duty.

Constable Bernard W. Snowdon joined the Winnipeg Police Department on October 25th, 1912 and was assigned number 172A. He was born in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England in 1887. Although single when he joined he was married

and had a 2-year-old daughter when he was killed. The family lived at 472 Kylemore Avenue.

On April 6th, 1918, Constable Snowdon was on beat patrol on the east side of Main Street between Rupert and Higgins. He was required to call in from a single box every half-hour. When he failed to report at 00:30 and again at 01:00 the signal operator notified the duty sergeant who instructed a patrol sergeant to check his beat.

At 01:30 Patrol Sergeant Alexander Donald found the back door to Rosenblatt's Hardware & Clothing Store open. He entered and found Constable Snowdon face down on the floor, dead. It was first thought the officer had been struck on the head and shot in the back but a subsequent investigation determined the head injury was probably caused as he fell. Powder burns on his overcoat indicated he was shot in the back at almost point-blank range with the bullet striking his heart causing instant death.

Chief Constable Donald Macpherson and numerous other officers including the entire detective division were called into work on the murder. The method of entry to the store was unique for that time in that the culprits had cut a hole in the door under the lock to gain entry.

Bernard Snowdon

Information of a similar m.o. (modus operandi) had been received just weeks earlier from Fort William and Port Arthur Police and only a week before a shop at 485 Main Street had been entered by this method. Items of clothing and articles such as knives were usually stolen. A description of suspects had also received from the Lakehead Police.

Detectives were given a very valuable clue right away by the store owner who noticed a flashlight left for repairs was missing. His description of the men who brought it in for repairs was very similar to that of the suspects from the east and they might have used it as an opportunity to 'case the joint'. Even more interesting was the fact that the suspects were staying in the Maple Leaf Hotel next door at 655 Main St. (now the Manwin Hotel) which also happened to be owned by the Rosenblatt family.

Detectives checked the hotel but the suspects were not there so the room was staked out. Warrants were issued for the two men who were registered there.

At 12:35 hrs, on the 6th, detectives spotted the suspects at Higgins and Main and arrested Frank Sullivan, 47 years and Philip Johnson, 32 years. A third man with them at the time, George Ball from 394 Jarvis Ave. was also arrested but released on the 8th as a material witness. Sullivan and Johnson were from the east and had previous records. Both gave their occupation as 'bushman' which was probably a term for working in the lumber camps. The arresting officers were Deputy Chief Chris Newton, Detectives George Smith, Eli Stodgell, James Hoskins and Brent Kilcup.

At 18:35 hrs, John Edward Stoike, 17 years, was arrested by Detectives James Thomson and James Melville when he went to the suspect's room at the Maple Leaf Hotel. He identified himself with the name Craig but it was established that he was

an escapee from Portage la Prairie and had met and joined up with Sullivan and Johnson in Fort William.

Sullivan was held in "A" Div. at Rupert Station while Johnson was held in the North End "E" and Stoike was detained in "B" Div. in Fort Rouge. On April 22nd they were all committed to stand trial and were then transferred to the Provincial Goal.

News of the police slaying shocked the city the next morning and Chief Macpherson had waited until 07:00 to advise Mrs. Snowdon but when he got there with Insp. Blair, they found her in a hysterical condition having been given the news by some other person.

The funeral for Constable Snowdon was held from Thomson Funeral Home on Main Street with burial in Elmwood Cemetery beside the graves of Constables Traynor and Ward of "A" Division and Sergeant Rice of "E" Division. Pallbearers were selected from each division with Consts. G. Headon and H.A. Steeman from "A", Consts. H.C. Mills and J. Shields from "B" and Consts. L.C. Ingram and S.F. Hull from "E". Drill Inst. George Jamieson was in charge. A very large crowd of citizens along with almost all other police officers from Winnipeg and surrounding municipalities attended the funeral.

The three accused were tried separately in July and each found Guilty and sentenced to death on September 27th, 1918.

Johnson was first tried and he blamed Sullivan by claiming that he was only the lookout while the others were inside. When Constable Snowdon entered the shop and was about to grab Stoike, Johnson had followed and said something, which distracted the officer and caused him to turn. Constable Snowdon had then grabbed Johnson but was immediately shot in the back by Sullivan. He struck his head as he fell. Sullivan wanted Johnson to go back from the hotel and beat the officer to death so he could not identify

Bernard Snowdon

them but Johnson refused stating he was already dead. Johnson applied for clemency after his conviction but it was turned down.

Stoike was next and he also blamed Sullivan claiming he had been sent back to the hotel while the other two intended to chop into the office of the American Loan Company next door. Sullivan had admitted shooting the policeman back at the hotel and also ordered Stoike to hide the three revolvers and the stolen goods. He put the guns in an old blacksmith shop behind the Empress Hotel and the stolen goods in the Nugget Hotel. He dropped some bullets and an empty casing in a sewer outlet. The police recovered all the items.

Sullivan came last on July 13th and he would only maintain that he was innocent and the others were lying to save themselves.

The judge emphasized their intent to resist arrest was a planned act when they carried guns into a burglary and also that each had the same common purpose. So it was only necessary to find if each were guilty of the break-in and therefore the murder regardless of who fired the shot. The jury took approximately 30 minutes.

On September 25th the Federal Cabinet commuted the death sentence of Stoike to life imprisonment mainly because of his age at the time of the murder.

Sullivan and Johnson got a slight reprieve also because of a mix-up with the federal hangman Mr. Ellis being otherwise engaged at another hanging in Montreal on Sept. 27th. The reprieve was brief, as Mr. Ellis was available on October 2nd, 1918, and at 07:04 hrs. the two men stood side by side on the gallows. Sullivan died instantly due to a miscalculation of the rope by Mr. Ellis and Johnson was pronounced dead six

minutes later. Some 60 witnesses saw justice carried out only a few days short of six months from the time of the crime. An inquest was held immediately at the jail and the cause of death was listed as 'death by legal execution'.

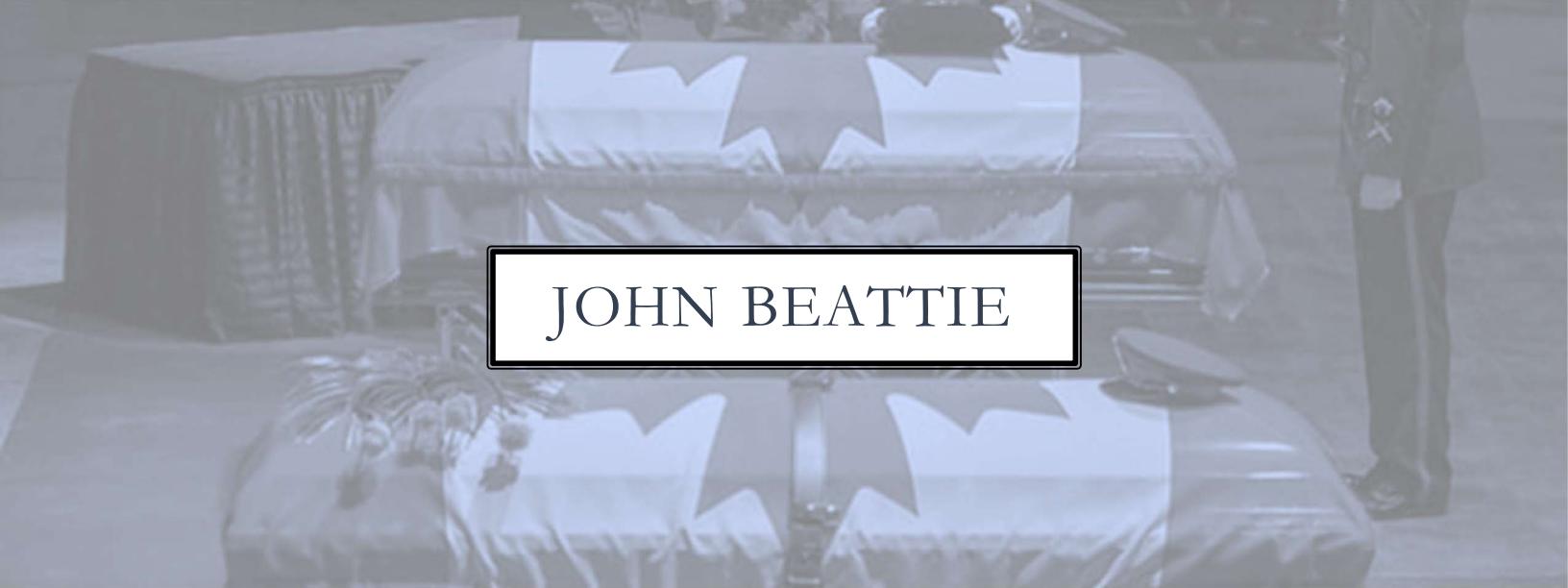
The Police Pension Fund at that time was a by-law, which provided for payment of \$250.00 for the first year of service and \$60.00 for each additional year. A subsection also provided for an additional amount of half the payout in the event the officer was killed on duty.

The Police Commission approved leaving his name on the payroll to the end of April making his service 5 1/2 years. The payout came to \$775.18.

In June, the Commission also approved a pension effective in July for Mrs. Snowdon at \$30.00 a month until re-marriage, death or in any event not beyond 7 years. A \$10.00 allowance was approved for the child for 12 years. Constable Snowdon's name was also to appear on the June payroll with full salary being paid to Mrs. Snowdon which appears to make up for May and June.

In October, the Commission authorized payment of \$250.00 for the funeral which appears to have been a kind gesture as the cost of another funeral for a constable who died of sickness was deducted from the payout to his widow.

In Feb. 1925, Mrs. Snowdon requested an extension of the pension due to illness preventing her from working and the Commission granted five more years to June 1930. The pension was now \$40.00 and \$15.00. Shortly before the expiry, in Sept. 1929, she advised the Commission that she had remarried and was now living in B.C. Her pension was stopped but that of the child continued to the scheduled date in 1930.



JOHN BEATTIE

THE DEATH OF CONSTABLE JOHN BEATTIE

Researched & written by Jack Templeman

John Beattie had the distinction of being the first Winnipeg Police Officer killed on duty.

Most people think Bernard Snowden was the first officer killed on duty and they are correct if you only consider the deaths caused at the hands of criminals. John Beattie died performing his duty as surely as the others.

THE DEATH STUNNED THE CITY AS THE
POLICE COMMISSION ORDERED A PUBLIC
FUNERAL SIMILAR TO A MILITARY FUNERAL.

John Beattie was born on the 20th of August 1882, in Newcastle-On-Tyne, England. He came to Canada about 1908 and after working at several jobs on the 18th of March 1911, he joined the Police Force along with a chum Bill Greengrove. Beattie became Constable #141 and Greengrove was #142.

Only twenty-seven days later John Beattie was electrocuted at the scene of a fire on Main St. at Water Avenue. He was 28 years of age when he died.

At that time officers worked twelve-hour shifts and Beattie began at 7:00 p.m. on the 10th of April. About 2:00 a.m. on the 11th, a fire broke out in the

building at Main and Water in the area used by Wilson & Labelle Painters. The building also housed J.E. Alton, Tea Merchant and a Stationery Shop owned by Mr. M. Keroack who also owned the building. Firemen fought the fire for almost two hours & the building was badly damaged.

About 4:00 a.m. Constables Beattie and John Rogers #144 were guarding the scene along with Firemen Grant, Sinclair and Barber. Firemen Grant and Sinclair entered the ruins with Constable Beattie following. Suddenly Beattie screamed and the firemen saw that he had grabbed a wire which had the insulation burned off but was still 'live'. Constable Beattie's clothing was wet from the rain and he was standing on the wet floor setting up a deadly combination. Fireman Grant knocked the wire from Beattie's hand and Beattie collapsed. Beattie was quickly carried out and across the street to a doctor's office but he was pronounced D.O.A.

The death stunned the City as the Police Commission ordered a public funeral similar to a military funeral. The officer in charge of the Salvation Army Band offered its service at the funeral; that was the first time this service was offered for a Non-Salvationist. On April 15th, the funeral took place from Thomson's Undertakers. The casket had Beattie's helmet and baton laid on top.

Over 500 people crowded into the funeral home and several thousand more lined the streets when the cortege moved off to the Elmwood Cemetery. Thirty-six uniformed officers led the procession and Chief Constable J.C. McRae and Deputy Chief Chris Newton led the official party of mourners. Pallbearers were fellow Constables David Dickie, George Headon, William Morrison, Hector McNeill, William Smith and William Webster. Reverend F.S. Lewis conducted the service.



John Beattie's next of kin, his widowed mother, was advised of the death by cable. Beattie's grave in Elmwood Cemetery is unmarked and forgotten along with many others.

Other facts I found of interest regarding this occurrence were that the building was one of the oldest in Winnipeg at that time having been built in 1868 by Dr. John Christian Schultz. Dr. Schultz served in the senate and was arrested in this building by Riel who imprisoned him. Schultz managed to escape and survived to become the 5th Lieutenant Governor of this province from 1888 - 1895.

Constable John Rogers who was also at the fire scene didn't last too long after as he was 'dismissed' for 'insubordination' on the 19th of June 1911.

Constable Bill Greengrove who joined with Beattie didn't do much better as he was 'permitted to resign on 13th of February 1912 for 'conduct unbecoming an officer.

Staff Sergeant Templeman wrote this article in August 1989. The loss of Constable Beattie had been forgotten for many years and not recorded in previous history books. Since Staff Sergeant Templeman's research and article, the unmarked grave of Constable John Beattie has been identified. In 1994, on Friday, October 7th, the department finally recognized this loss with a memorial service at the cemetery during which a headstone was dedicated by Police Chaplain Const. Day assisted by Salvation Army Chaplains. A guard of honour dressed in the uniform style of that era was present along with a police piper.

RONALD HOUSTON

THE MURDER OF DETECTIVE RON HOUSTON

RESEARCHED & WRITTEN BY JACK TEMPLEMAN



*Detective
Ronald Houston*

that date. Most occurred in the Fort Rouge area as well as a couple on Furby Street close to the Assiniboine River.

The suspect would cut screens and enter suites to attack the women. Age was not a factor as the women ranged from 21 years to 62 years. The common elements in the attacks were violence and window entry. In the first assault, a 21-year-old girl was struck on the head but for some unknown reason, the suspect fled before committing any sexual act. The next was a 31-year-old woman who was struck on the head by a baseball bat before being raped.

The most violent assault occurred about 4:25 a.m. on May 28th at 414 Stradbrook. The suspect cut the screen to enter and found a 27 year old female asleep on a chesterfield. He shattered a whisky

June 26, 1970, was a nice warm evening as Detectives Ron Houston and John DeGroot prepared for a night stakeout on Stradbrook Street for a window peeper who was also a rapist.

Winnipeg had seen several violent attacks on women between September '69 and

bottle over her head as she slept but this did not knock her out although it caused serious injury. He then forced her to undress and covered her face as he committed an indecent act. He then stole \$400.00 rent money from her purse and fled.

Prowler reports continued in the area with the same man seen at 117 Bryce on June 1st, 7th and 8th.

A special patrol was initiated by Acting Deputy Chief Norm Stewart on June 9th with two officers being concealed on the rear porch of 399 Stradbrook, which is a house, situated between the apartment blocks at 395 and 401 Stradbrook. Two other officers were to patrol in the immediate area as backup.

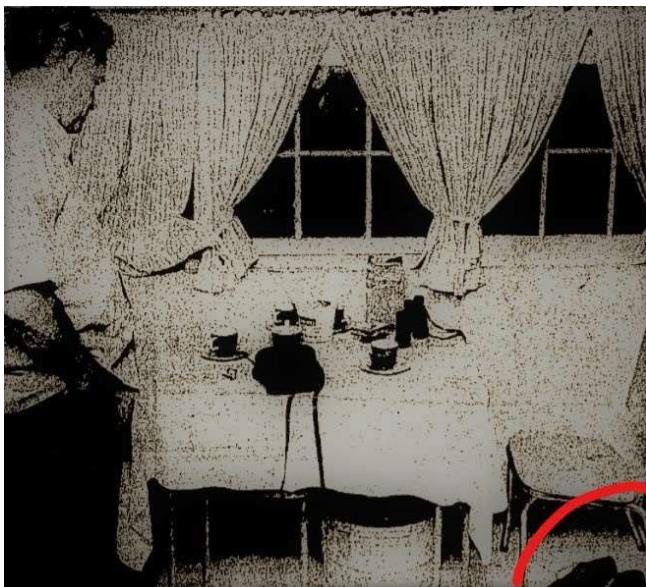
It did not take long for the Special Patrol to arrest window peepers. The first one was at 10:20 p.m. on June 10th at 399 Stradbrook by Detectives Norm Wickdahl and Don Gove. On the 17th, Detectives Don Grove and John DeGroot got the next peeper with another arrest at 401 Stradbrook. Gove and DeGroot repeated with another arrest at 401 Stradbrook the next night. However, none of these peepers matched the description of the rapist.

On the 26th the stakeout was assigned to Detectives Ron Houston and John DeGroot in the house and Patrol Sergeant B.M. Stuart and Detective James Stirling as the backup unit.

Ronald Houston

The officers entered the veranda of 399 Stradbrook at about 11:30 p.m. on the 26th. The veranda was dark inside giving good concealment and at the same time allowed an excellent view of the apartment blocks, which were so often visited by window peepers.

Things were quiet so Houston removed his shoes as he had sore feet at that time. The officers sat on each side of a table looking out. Those empty shoes became a stark reminder of this tragedy when a picture of the veranda was on the front page of the newspaper later that day. The shoes and Houston's issued flashlight were removed during the night by Acting Detectives Cal Varey and Bob Nolan



About 2:00 a.m., a man later identified as Thomas Mason Shand, 30 years, was seen at the rear of 395 Stradbrook where he went to a window that had a light inside. After pausing briefly he crossed the parking lot towards the fence of 399 Stradbrook. The male climbed on the railing and jumped over into the yard of 399 Stradbrook. The man then walked across the lot behind the house and just a few feet from the officers on the veranda. He was

heading towards 401 Stradbrook where there was a light in the basement window of Suite #2.

As soon as he passed by, DeGroot got up and went to the veranda door to follow. Unfortunately, the hinge squeaked slightly and Shand stopped and turned so that he was facing DeGroot. DeGroot yelled 'Hold it buddy - Winnipeg Police'. But Shand turned away and started to jump the fence to 401 Stradbrook.

DeGroot managed to grab Shand just as he was going over the fence and the weight of the two men broke the fence and they fell to the ground.

Unknown to DeGroot, Shand had an open stiletto-type knife in his hand ready to cut screens. At no time was Shand seen to place his hands near his pockets.

As they fell to the ground, Shand struck DeGroot in the left shoulder and he felt a sharp pain but did not realize he had been stabbed. DeGroot held on and slammed Shand against the building. Houston joined the struggle and shouted 'he's got a knife'. DeGroot grabbed Shand's right hand holding the knife and tried to pin him against the wall. Shand bit the top of DeGroot's right ear almost severing a piece of it.

Houston drew his revolver and shouted at Shand 'hold it or I'll shoot'. Shand released his bite on DeGroot and DeGroot stepped back to catch his breath as the knife wound had punctured his lung and breathing was becoming difficult.

Houston may have been distracted momentarily seeing DeGroot injured as the men separated, but whatever the reason, it gave Shand that split-second opportunity to lash out at Houston. Shand stabbed Houston in the chest with the blade penetrating his heart and causing almost instant death.



DET. JOHN DeGROOT
Wounded

Ronald Houston

Houston was able to say 'he's got me good John' as he collapsed and dropped his service revolver. Shand dropped his knife after stabbing Houston.

DeGroot was still struggling to stay conscious as he saw Shand pick up the revolver and fire a shot towards the prone body of Houston. Then Shand turned towards DeGroot and pointed the gun at his face. Survival overtook the pain and weakness as DeGroot grabbed at the gun barrel with both hands and managed to push it aside as it fired. It was later discovered that he had a burn-type wound on the top of his right shoulder. His jacket was examined at the RCMP lab in Regina and found to have lead traces on the right shoulder.

At this point, Shand gave up his attempts to finish off the officers and ran out to Stradbrook. DeGroot managed to follow to the front of 401 Stradbrook only to see Shand running west towards Osborne Street. DeGroot managed to draw his revolver and fired two shots at the disappearing runner before collapsing onto the boulevard.

Tenants of the apartment blocks came outside to see what was happening and James Bain ran over to DeGroot on the boulevard. Bain asked if he was a policeman and DeGroot was only able to move his hand towards his pocket and Bain pulled out his wallet and badge.

At 2:13 a.m., B.M. Stuart and Detective Stirling heard the radio message go out for an ambulance and police to a disturbance at 401 Stradbrook and quickly responded only to find DeGroot on the boulevard and Houston laying beside the block.

The fire rescue truck responded quickly from Osborne & Stradbrook and the officers were rushed to Winnipeg General Hospital. Efforts to resuscitate Houston continued until 3:15 a.m. when he was pronounced dead.

Webster Says Stab Killed Houston

**Second Attack In 25 Days,
Knife-Wielding Man Sought**

DeGroot was found to be suffering from stab wounds to the left upper chest and left shoulder which had collapsed his right lung and partially collapsed the left lung. Although his condition was 'guarded', he was in excellent physical condition that helped him survive and recover fully. His wife Sharon was notified by Detectives Pete Vandergraff and Ted Felbel who conveyed her to the hospital from St. Clements.

Back at the scene, Shand had cut between houses and crossed River Avenue and then Roslyn Road heading for the Osborne Bridge. Constables Thomas Sallows #53A and Erik Gruter #118A had been on beats 1 & 2 in 'B' Division (Fort Rouge) and were walking back to PSB for lunch. Their practice was to check the riverbank under the bridge and on this occasion, Gruter spotted a male in the parking lot of 105 Roslyn Road. Gruter called out to the male who bolted towards the river and jumped in and swam away. The swimmer was slapping his arms about and making a lot of noise as he reached the centre. The officers tried to keep their flashlights on him but he went out of sight and the noise stopped. The beat officers did not carry portable radios at that time and were not aware of the attack on the officers nearby. They used a call box to notify the station of a possible drowning. Later, searchers failed to turn up any signs of where the person may have climbed out of the river and dragging operations failed to locate anybody.

Ronald Houston

Detectives attended to the scene of the attack and shootings and searched after the initial pictures were taken. About 06:00 a.m., Detective Lou Spado found what was to become the main piece of evidence, in this case, a pair of prescription glasses, knocked off the suspect during his struggle with DeGroot. Numerous officers spent the next two days going over prescription files in every city optician's office that used 'SAFILO' type frames. Finally, the prescription was found at Ramsay Matthews Ltd. in the name of T. Shand indicating they were made on February 28th, 1969. T. Shand was Thomas Mason Shand, WPD #28408.

Shand survived the river and managed to get out on the north side. His exact movements were never proven but late on Sunday the 28th he was in suite 15-35 Hargrave occupied by Alexis Nabe and Thomas Scott Mitchell. They admitted Shand confessed to killing the policeman that all the news broadcasts were talking about. He showed them the officer's gun that he still had. Claiming they were afraid of him, they allowed him to stay overnight and then Mitchell convinced Shand to go to his lawyer/friend Hugh Parker to arrange his surrender as he had been identified and a warrant had been issued for his arrest Canada-wide, Capitol Murder.



Thomas Mason Shand

Shand had met Hugh Parker after an earlier release from Stony Mountain Penitentiary and had lived in his home for a while and was treated like a family member. Shand had an extensive record in the city

dating back to 1960 when he broke into businesses and churches in St. Boniface and Winnipeg. One of his first violent attacks occurred in 1960 during the break-in of the St. Andrews Ukrainian Catholic Church at 160 Euclid when he was confronted by the elderly caretaker who received a cut hand in the scuffle. His violent nature showed again in 1967 when he stabbed a man in the chest outside a beverage room after a dispute. At the time of the murder, a warrant for his arrest for this stabbing was in existence.

Parker contacted the RCMP at 2:45 p.m. on the 29th, to arrange a surrender as Shand said 'I didn't want to get shot by a Winnipeg Policeman, I guess there'd be some itchy fingers'. The RCMP advised Parker they would turn Shand over to Winnipeg Police immediately and Shand agreed to this.

RCMP Cpl. Denys Stewart and Constable Frank Palmer who had received the original call attended the law offices at 210 Osborne and arrested Shand at 3:03 p.m. Parker turned over Winnipeg Police revolver #301 (Houston's) and three live rounds.

Shand was conveyed to the P.S.B. accompanied by Parker and turned over to Detective Superintendent Al Biggs and Detective Sergeant Herb Stephen. Detective Sergeant Bob McNeice and Detective Len Daniels interviewed Shand but he would make no statement and be detained.

Shand was committed to trial and was convicted of Capitol Murder on October 10th, 1970. He was sentenced to be hanged on June 10th, 1971, after the jury made no recommendation as to clemency but his appeal caused the date to be moved to March 8th, 1972.

SENTENCED TO
HANG IN JUNE
Shand
Found
Guilty

Ronald Houston

His appeal was dismissed by the Supreme Court on Nov. 30th, 1971. In keeping with government policy at the time to bypass the authorized death penalty for police or prison guard killers, the cabinet commuted Shand's sentence to life on Feb. 24th, 1972.

Shand served the minimum time before being released. At the time of his arrest he told the RCMP he thought of shooting himself but 'couldn't get up the guts to pull the trigger'. On November 7th, 1985, in BC, Thomas Mason Shand found the guts to do what he had been unable to do in 1970 and what the government had failed to do in 1972; he committed suicide by hanging.

After some time in the hospital, John DeGroot recovered and resumed full duties with the department. During his stay in the hospital, the true spirit of police comradeship showed once again when Sharon told him a whole bunch of policemen turned up at the farm one day and just did all the chores. In typical John DeGroot fashion, he is reported to have asked her if they did a good job on the weeds.

The Houston family was not forgotten at that time either by his comrades. Every officer who had worked overtime on this investigation had his overtime pay converted to cash which was made payable to the Houston Trust Fund. \$4,389.44 was paid out, a large sum of money at the time.

Ronald Edward Houston was born on April 2nd, 1935. He joined W.P.D. on June 3rd, 1957 but resigned on Dec. 31st, 1964 to pursue another career. He rejoined the department on Oct. 11th, 1966 and was transferred to the Juvenile Division as an Acting Detective on July 31st, 1968. Ron was survived by his wife Mary and two sons, Kenneth, 2 years and Darren, 5 years.

The funeral for Ronald Houston was held on Tuesday, June 30th, at the Transcona Memorial United Church with burial in St. Mary's Cemetery. Fellow officers served as the pallbearers and once again a very large representation of police forces came to pay their respects.

Winnipeg has been very fortunate since 1970 although other officers have laid down their lives on duty within the province. Increased training, more and better equipment and constant awareness of danger have paid off. But for the Grace of God, I could be writing articles on Rick Donovan, Kelly Harrington, Kim Koswin and others. I am thankful this is the last of this series.

Like they said on Hill Street Blues. "Be careful out there".

LEONARD SHAKESPEARE

THE MURDER OF CONSTABLE LEONARD SHAKESPEARE RESEARCHED & WRITTEN BY JACK TEMPLEMAN



Friday, July 18, 1969, was a nice summer evening and the windows were open in the St. Boniface Police Station as the shift change started for cars 93 and 94. The crews retiring and coming on heard Constable Walter RUDNICK dispatch a burglar alarm to car 95, Constables Len SHAKESPEARE and Lyn GILES. Car 92, with Detective Sergeant Cam BIRD and Detective Bob THOMPSON, were still patrolling and acknowledged the message and offered to back up the regular patrol car.

The call was received at 10:53 pm for White's Loco-Mart Store at 390 Provencher Ave. (at DesMeurons). This store had been broken into the previous night and a large number of cigarettes were stolen but that had occurred during the night. This alarm was not unusual as it was shortly after closing and the manager had set off the alarm on other occasions going back into the store. It was not unusual that the manager left in a taxi as was the case this night so on the arrival of the cruiser the scene was not out of the ordinary except on that night there were several people in and around the taxi. As the cruiser pulled up a bit ahead and parallel to the taxi the officers realized they were right in the middle of an armed robbery.

The culprits in this offence consisted of three local criminals and a man from Vancouver. The general rule of thumb for locals at that time was to run if the police arrived. It was almost like a game and there was a certain amount of respect on both sides. There might be a bit of rough stuff if the bad guy lost the foot race but it was expected.

The locals involved were Daniel CRAIB, 36 years old, Clarence PRINCE aka James Spence, 29 years old, and Lawrence HEWITT aka Yewish, 29 years old. The outsider was Clifford Wicket LURVEY aka Tallman or Price, 52 years. LURVEY was wanted in B.C. on Break Enter and Theft charges and had a lengthy record in both Canada and the U.S.A. He had only been in Winnipeg a short time and was already active in break-ins. One B& E was at 885 Elm Street where one of the guns used in this hold-up had been stolen.

No one ever said the average criminal was too smart and these four were no exception. They planned the robbery of the Loco-Mart because there was generally a lot of money on hand on Friday nights. Even though they were spot-checked near the scene less than an hour before they went ahead with their plan.

At 10:15 pm, car 94 with Constables Don CARRETTE and Denis ROBERT, spot-checked a red and white 57 Buick, license JA988, on Des Meurons at Goulet after following it from Hamal

Leonard Shakespeare

Street. The four occupants identified themselves as Lawrence HEWITT (driver), Roy Clifford Tallman (LURVEY -registered owner), and passengers, James SPENCE (PRINCE) and Daniel CRAIB. HEWITT claimed he was test driving the car with the intention of buying it. He also stated they were on their way to the Marion Hotel for a beer.

Soon after the spot-check the car returned to the area of the Loco-Mart and was parked on an empty lot on DesMeurons at Cathedrale. Neighbours heard a noise outside and saw a man picking up a hubcap. The left front tire went flat and the man had covered the front license with wet mud before he left the scene. The driver (HEWITT) was scared off either by the sound of shots or seeing car 92 rushing by the intersection en route to assist at the Loco-Mart. HEWITT later claimed he left the others and went to the St. Charles Hotel and even claimed to have spoken to the special duty constable there. Constable A. IBBOTT knew HEWITT and recalled speaking to him but placed the time at 11:30 p.m. well after the robbery. The auto was found shortly after midnight by Winnipeg Police Department Motorcycle Constable Rob DONNELLY.

At about 10:40 pm the store manager, Robert ESSON and assistant manager Garry FRIES closed the store and called for a Duffy's taxi. When driver James GIBBONS pulled up they carried out their groceries and set the alarm. The groceries were placed in the left rear of the taxi and ESSON sat in front while FRIES sat in the rear.

GIBBONS just started moving forward intending to circle around when two armed and masked men ran to the cab from the corner of the building and forced him to stop. The man with the black automatic revolver (PRINCE) went to the passenger door and confronted ESSON while the man with the silver revolver (LURVEY) climbed into the left rear on top of the groceries. PRINCE demanded the store money and was told it had

been deposited earlier in the evening. He then asked if there was any money in the store and was told there was some in the safe. ESSON was ordered out of the taxi but moved slowly and was struck on the head by LURVEY.

PRINCE forced ESSON back into the store which set off the alarm. Although ESSON was made to turn off the alarm he knew the police would be called and it would only be a matter of minutes before they arrived. He stalled as long as he could but finally opened the safe when PRINCE got nervous and angry. PRINCE grabbed the Royal Bank money bags containing some \$4,000.00 and they both headed back out to the taxi.

During this time CRAIB had been standing look-out near the garbage container close to the railway tracks and LURVEY was guarding FRIES and GIBBONS. When PRINCE came out of the store FRIES and GIBBONS were ordered out of the taxi and told to walk down the side of the store. LURVEY was just ripping out the cab microphone when car 95 pulled onto the lot and headed towards the store. Someone yelled 'the cops' and PRINCE ran to the west side of the store dropping the money bags as he ran. His gun and mask were also found behind the store later. PRINCE crossed the railway tracks and got to DesMeurons and disappeared but CRAIB ran behind the store into the bush on the Seine River. The money bags were found by Winnipeg Police Department Detectives Norm SIGURDSOHN and Ron McGARRY, the mask by Constable Al SMYTH and the gun by three Winnipeg Tribune photographers the next day. The photographers notified police without hesitation and pointed out the gun (old-style co-operation).



Cst. Len Shakespeare

While the locals were doing the usual thing LURVEY had no intention of running or being arrested. When the cruiser pulled up Constable Len SHAKESPEARE got out of the driver's side and started towards the front of the taxi only to be met by a

Leonard Shakespeare

bullet fired by LURVEY. SHAKESPEARE managed to fire two rounds before he went down. The bullet had struck his left shoulder and passed through with little damage but LURVEY came around the taxi and fired another bullet into the injured Constable again striking him in the left shoulder, but this time the bullet angled down and across tearing the pulmonary artery and entering both lungs causing him to bleed to death very quickly.

Constable Lyn GILES got out of the passenger side of the cruiser and started to go around the back of the car as the gunfire started. He managed to get back and open the door to reach his radio and yell for assistance as LURVEY ran past the injured officer towards the cruiser car. GILES moved to the rear of the cruiser and LURVEY rounded the front and fired a couple of shots at him with one glancing off the fender. Then suddenly LURVEY's gun made a clicking sound and LURVEY turned to run south along the railway track. GILES had fired all his ammunition and disregarding his own safety ran after LURVEY.

GILES tackled LURVEY as he crossed the tracks behind the old CN station and they wrestled on the ground. LURVEY shoved the gun at GILES and the clicking sound was heard again as he tried to shoot the officer. GILES struck LURVEY on the forehead with his service revolver and then pinned his gun-hand down and yelled for assistance.

When GILES yelled for assistance the officers in the station could hear the radio and at the same time hear the popping of the guns through the open windows. The station cleared in seconds with cars going back out carrying four officers each.

Car 92 also heard the call for assistance and was fast approaching north of DesMeurons. Cam BIRD slowed opposite the CN station so Bob THOMPSON could go across the tracks to the scene and he drove around to Provencher. As

THOMPSON got out he heard GILES yelling again and saw the men fighting on the ground. THOMPSON ran and stepped on LURVEY's hand which still held the gun and the fight ended. Constable Louie LABERGE had arrived from the station and ran to assist. LURVEY was handcuffed and the stocking mask was removed as well as a pair of gloves. The gun contained 4 expended shells and 1 live round that misfired.

LURVEY gave the name of Clifford Price and was placed in a cruiser. Constables CARRETTE and ROBERT attended and identified the prisoner as the same 'Tallman' who had been spot-checked in auto JA988 and the search for the car and the other three men began.

LURVEY was conveyed to St. Boniface Station and then to St. Boniface Hospital for treatment of his head injury. He consented to a blood-alcohol test which later showed results of 'non-detectable alcohol content.' When LURVEY was returned to the police station a number of pills were found on him along with part of a hacksaw blade in his shoe.

Policeman Slain; 2 Men In Custody

*Shots From Taxi At Store Fell St. Boniface Constable.
Miss Another; Search For Suspect Goes On All Night*

CRAIB had taken refuge on the riverbank, but the area was soon flooded with policemen from forces all around who came to offer help. A search was conducted in the wet grass, but the underbrush made it difficult and with all the policemen bumping into each other the situation became dangerous. Several times when a suspicious movement was heard a barrage of gunshots sounded and then everything went quiet. CRAIB swam across the river at one point getting out near the Belgium Cemetery only to be met by more gunfire including a few rounds from Constable Dennis TOYNE who was not far away. CRAIB swam back to the west side. It was decided to pull all the policemen up and keep the area sealed until

Leonard Shakespeare

daylight when an organized search could be carried out.

Shortly after 5:00 am and just before dawn CRAIB was spotted crawling across a path and RCMP Constable Mike McMAHON opened up with a 12 gauge shotgun chopping trees and everything along the path. A call went out for all officers to hold fire and RCMP Corporal GEDDES and his dog 'TIBER', RCMP Constable MCMAHON and St. Boniface Patrol Sergeant Jack TEMPLEMAN went down the path. Within minutes TIBER picked up a scent and lead to the right only a short distance where CRAIB was found laying on his back with his hands under him as the dog was just out of reach. MCMAHON held the shotgun on him while TEMPLEMAN rolled him over and handcuffed him. CRAIB was then assisted along the riverbank and other officers came down and he was carried up the bank. His feet did not touch the ground until he was placed in a nearby cruiser to be taken to the St. Boniface Station. He was soaked from his river crossings.

The search for HEWITT and PRINCE carried on over the next two days with Winnipeg Detectives hitting every known criminal haunt. On Saturday, July 19th, HEWITT surrendered at the St. Boniface Station after lawyer Mel MEYERS arranged for his safety with Inspector Elmer NORDAL. HEWITT brought along his girlfriend, Joyce LAVELLE for an alibi, but he was detained.

On Sunday, July 20th, lawyer Mel MEYERS again arranged safe conduct with Inspector NORDAL so he could bring in PRINCE. PRINCE also brought along his girlfriend, Joanne MCKENZIE for his alibi, but soon joined the others in the cells.

The four men went to trial on capital murder charges which at that time allowed for execution in the case of police or prison guard murders. On March 12, 1970, LURVEY was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to hang. The other three

were convicted of non-capital murder and sentenced to life, which meant 10 years before parole. LURVEY's execution was delayed by appeals and in keeping with the government policy of the time, his sentence was commuted to life on Dec. 23, 1970. LURVEY died on December 30, 1978, at Princess Elizabeth Hospital.

The other three served their ten years and were paroled. HEWITT managed to get a government grant of over \$1000.00 to start up an auto wrecking/scrap yard to employ ex-convicts. He established his business on Nicholas Street not far from the murder scene. He was later charged with possessing stolen autos and parts at the scrap yard.

Len SHAKESPEARE was born in Brandon but raised in St. James. He joined the St. Boniface Police Department on October 10, 1966. He was survived by his wife, Marion, two and a half-year-old son, and 3-month-old daughter. Mrs. SHAKESPEARE received insurance benefits of some \$21,000.00 and a combined Workman's Compensation and Canada Pension Plan pension of \$166.00 for herself and \$61.00 for the children until they were sixteen.

800 Attend Funeral For Policeman

The funeral for Constable SHAKESPEARE was held on Tuesday, July 22nd at Desjardins Funeral Chapel, 357 DesMeurons Avenue, with burial in Chapel Lawn Cemetery. Pallbearers were St. Boniface Constables Lyn GILES, Bob THOMPSON, Barry BOYD, Al SMYTH, Walter RUDNICK and Wilf LAST. This was one of the first police funerals which saw representatives from distant cities as well as every local department, RCMP and Railway Police. Sixty officers from the various forces formed the Honour Guard.

Winnipeg Police officers took over the St. Boniface patrol cars during the funeral so that every St. Boniface officer could attend. The funeral was led through St. Boniface, Winnipeg and St. James by St. Boniface Motorcycle Officers with the other departments assisting the huge cartage.

JAMES SIMS

THE MURDER OF DETECTIVE SERGEANT JAMES SIMS SEARCHED & WRITTEN BY JACK TEMPLEMAN



James Edwin "Ted" Sims

On Saturday, July 15th, 1950, ten years after he discovered the body of Constable John McDonald in the Radio Building stakeout, Detective Sergeant James Edwin "Ted" Sims became the next policeman to die in the line of duty.

His death came as a result of the most unpredictable of all calls - a Domestic. Normally detectives do not attend domestics but this one had got out of hand resulting in a stabbing. A uniform patrol car responded first and took charge of the injured man and detectives attended shortly after to investigate the assault.

The domestic had it's beginning many months before and involved two men and a woman; Adolf KAFKA, 44 years old, his wife OLGA, 34 years old and Henry MALANIK, 48-years-old. Adolf and Olga had a 9-year-old daughter and two sons 17 and 18 years. Malanik and Kafka had been friends for many years and had worked together. Malanik had even lived with the Kafka family in early 1950 at 457 Henry Avenue.

Malanik took a liking for Olga and Adolf Kafka worked in Pine Falls during the week and was only home on weekends. Both men also liked to drink and homebrew was not uncommon. On April 9th of that year, Malanik and Kafka got into a drinking session at 457 Henry that ended in a fight. Malanik had some guns that were brought out and fired into the walls and door. Someone notified the police and the next day both men were arrested and 4 rifles and a shotgun were seized. They were charged with discharging firearms and each fined \$50.00. This episode turned their friendship into mutual hatred. Unfortunately, the court was compelled to return the guns.

This incident was the final straw. Olga moved out with the children to her parent's home at 19 Argyle. Living in this 2 story house at the time were William and Julia WISYLEANCHUK as well as boarders Jean WALLACE, her husband and daughter, and a newly immigrated Alexander KARCIANOWICZ.

Henry Malanik also moved out and roomed with William KRYSTIK at 1-671 Main Street. Malanik continued to visit Olga at her parent's home when Adolf was away and Olga visited Malanik during the weekdays on Main Street.

On that Saturday night July 15th, Krystik had invited Malanik to his brother's wedding reception at the Ukrainian Hall at Flora and McKenzie.

James Sims

Malanik enjoyed his share of the beer and homebrew that was being served and was described as being very drunk. He got loud and was swearing and arguing. The local band "Stan and His Range Riders" took a break about 11:00 p.m. and Malanik got into an argument with a young boy who was playing with the accordion on the stage. Malanik was told to get out and left in a bad mood.

A few minutes later Malanik turned up at 19 Argyle apparently to bring the matter of Olga to a head as Adolf was in from Pine Falls for the weekend.

Malanik was drunk and loud. Mr. Wisyleanchuk met him at the door and ushered him back outside offering him a drink. Kafka heard the noise and also went outside in time to hear Malanik say "Is she going to live with that son of a bitch or not?" Kafka jumped right in as Mr. Wisyleanchuk tried to calm Malanik down and said, "Why shouldn't she live with me, she's my wife". Then the fight broke out and when Kafka realized he had been stabbed he headed back into the house as Malanik fled back to his car.

Olga called the police and a uniform car responded and conveyed Adolf to General Hospital. Detectives were notified of the stabbing and Acting Detectives Jack PEACHELL & William ANDERSON were assigned as they were the night crew.

Ted Sims had risen from Acting Detective in 1940 to Detective and then Detective Sergeant. As the Supervisor working at night he would often go out with the team of detectives just to keep his hand in things. It was a common practice that he did not carry his gun on ride alongs and this night was no exception; his gun remained in his drawer.

In 1950, the Disraeli Freeway did not exist and the distance from the old Rupert Street Station along Lily Street to Henry Avenue (now George Street) and on to Argyle was short and Detectives arrived

as the cruiser took the injured husband to the hospital.

Sims, Anderson and Peachell, went into the house to interview the occupants. Jack Peachell sat in a breakfast nook in the kitchen writing while Anderson was standing in the kitchen and Sims was leaning against the doorway leading into the front living room.

After the fight with Kafka, Malanik left the scene and drove away in his 1941 Dodge according to witnesses. The car was later found parked at the rear of 673 Main Street. Malanik's guns were usually kept under his bed according to the room-mate. These were the same guns seized by police in April and returned by the court. A .22 Cal. Browning repeater rifle was found in the car with a loaded magazine as well as 158 rounds of 12 gauge shotgun shells.

Malanik either took the guns from the room and put one in the car or else they were in the car and he just took out a Browning double-barrelled over and under shotgun and set off on foot back to 19 Argyle Street. He carried 16 shotgun shells with him.

While detectives were in the house Malanik was cutting through the yard of Empire Sash and Door at Argyle and Henry when he was confronted by the watchman, Commissionaire Victor McLean. McLean thought the man was carrying a club until he pulled out a shotgun and pointed it at him ordering him "get out of the way or I'll blow you to hell". McLean moved slowly away and ran to the office and got his relief, Commissionaire Charles CATHRO. He told him about the man and Cathro phoned the police.

A radio message went out to cruiser car #35, Constables J.M. WALKER #52A and J. SLOT #147A reporting an attempted robbery with a shotgun at the Empire Sash and Door. The officers just arrived and got out of the cruiser when two loud shots were heard. The Commissionaire identified the man he had confronted as a person frequenting 19 Argyle just 3 houses away.

James Sims

After Malanik was confronted by the watchman he went directly to the front door of 19 Argyle and pulled it open banging it against the wall. At the same time, he entered the hallway yelling and swearing. There was a door to the right leading into the front living room and Sims was in the next doorway leading into the kitchen.

Wounded Plumber Charged With Murder **DETECTIVE SLAIN IN GUNFIGHT**

Sims started to talk to Malanik trying to calm him down and to put down the shotgun which Malanik had pointed towards him. Sims stepped into the living room approaching Malanik but had only gone a step or two when both barrels of the shotgun fired striking him in the abdomen. Sims had his left arm in front of himself and it was shredded by the blast. The 12 gauge pellets entered his body and the post mortem showed all the organs were badly torn. Sims staggered back to the door and fell on the kitchen floor still conscious calling to Jack Peachell for help.

Peachell could not get out of the breakfast nook without exposing himself in the open doorway but he fired one shot into the living room in the direction of Malanik. Anderson also fired into the living room before backing into the rear bedroom occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Wisyleanchuk. Anderson climbed out the window to the back of the house. Peachell waited but heard no sound from Malanik so peered he around the door only to see him aiming the shotgun at the door. He pulled his head back just as a blast struck the door casing. Peachell waited again and this time heard what sounded like the front door closing so thought Malariik had gone out. Peachell took this opportunity to get up on the seat and then jump across the doorway over Sims on the floor.

There was a phone on the opposite wall and a stool below it so Peachell sat on the stool pointing his revolver at the doorway and dialled "105" for the

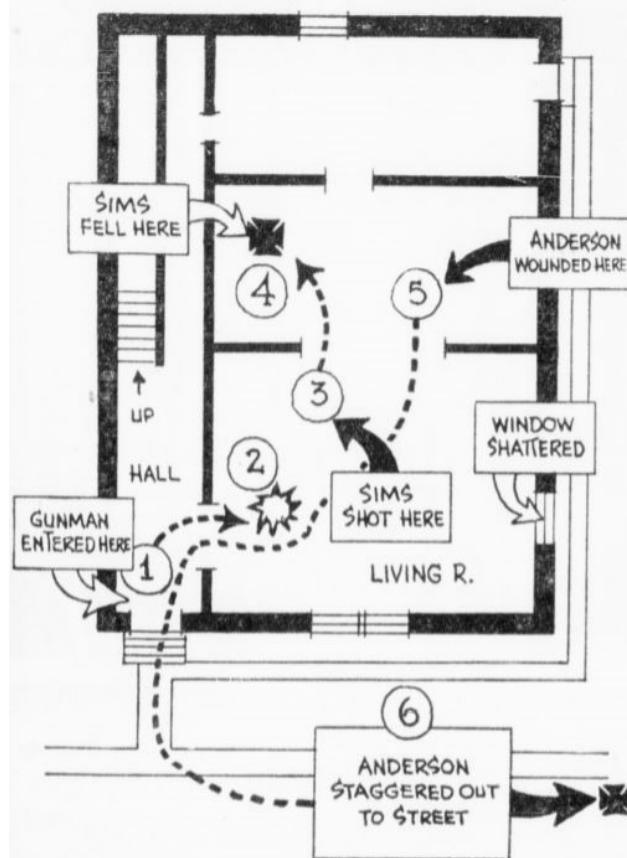


**Detective
Jack Peachell**

police station with his left hand. The call just got connected as Malanik came through the doorway pointing the shotgun and Peachell opened fire emptying his gun.

Malanik was shot 3 times with one bullet passing through his right thigh, another bullet passing through his chest entering his right shoulder and out his armpit, and the third going through four fingers of his left hand. That bullet also struck the shotgun disabling it as it was later found to contain 1 fired shell and a misfire.

Malanik collapsed at Peachell's feet but did not appear seriously injured. Peachell realized his revolver was empty so side-stepped and fled to the living room and then the hallway and exited the front door stumbling down the steps.



James Sims

Malanik managed to get up and staggered into the back bedroom still occupied by Mr & Mrs. Wisyleanchuk. Malanik pointed the shotgun towards Sims on the floor and Mr. Wisyleanchuk grabbed it and dropped it behind the bed. Malanik dropped to his knees and crawled back into the kitchen and laid down beside the injured officer and put his arm on him and repeated words to the effect "don't die Ted" (or officer), "please don't die". (various statements)

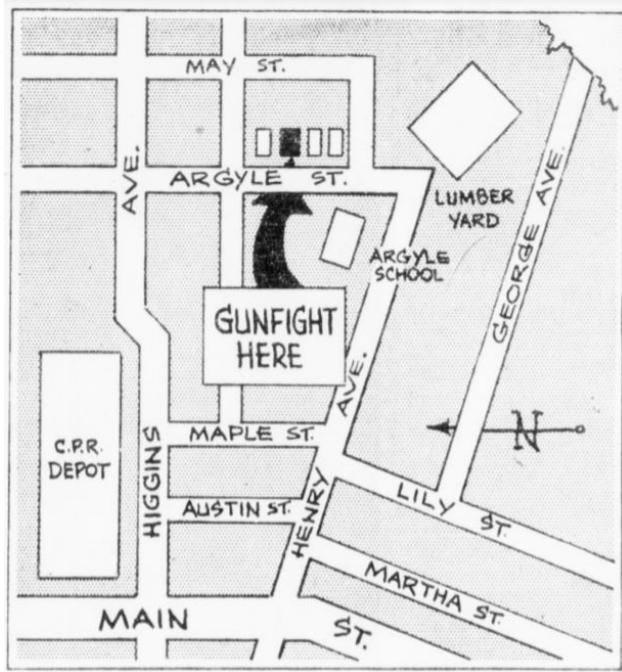
It is important to note that at this point no more shooting was taking place in the house. Malanik was disarmed and Peachell was outside with an empty gun.

As Peachell stumbled outside and crawled to a hedge at the front sidewalk, he saw Detective Anderson at the front corner of the house, gun in hand. Anderson asked Peachell if he got him (meaning Malanik) and Peachell replied that he had emptied his gun at him but didn't think he was badly hurt. Peachell then asked Anderson if he had any shells left to which he replied "Yes, I've got lots".



Det William Anderson
Peachell went along the sidewalk to the opposite corner of the lot and more shots were heard. Then he saw Anderson run out yelling: "I'm shot". He collapsed on the boulevard near the cruiser and Peachell worked his way to him going out and around the car. Anderson was bleeding from the neck and also had a stomach wound. Slot ran over to Anderson and took his revolver and went back towards the house when Peachell got there and applied pressure on his neck until the police ambulance arrived just minutes later. After Anderson was loaded in the ambulance, Peachell went back to the house and joined the other

officers who had also arrived. He saw Malanik laying on the floor beside Sims. Peachell's empty gun was turned over to Detective J.C. WEBSTER who conducted the investigation.



Sims was conveyed to General Hospital but was in critical condition and could not be saved. He succumbed to the massive injuries at 6:48 a.m. on July 16.

Now going back to the arrival of cruiser car #35 for the reported robbery at Empire Sash and Door. Just after the officers arrived the sound of the first shots were heard. (Malanik firing at Sims).

Walker went back to the cruiser to radio for assistance while Slot went ahead. Walker then headed for the front of the houses on Argyle. He saw a man crouched by a house and waving (Anderson) and then the man yelled "I am hit" and ran out onto the boulevard and collapsed. Slot and Peachell went to the wounded man and as Walker got closer someone said "in there officer" and someone else said, "There is another policeman shot inside". Walker entered the house and found Sims and Malanik both laying wounded on the floor. Walker also found the shotgun in the bedroom.

James Sims

Slot had gone directly to the rear of 17 Argyle where he heard more shots (Peachell firing at Malanik) so moved to the front of the house. Slot stated there was more shooting and he then saw Det. Anderson was hit and fell to the ground. He ran over to him and picked up his service revolver and ran back to the rear of 17 Argyle as Peachell had also gone to the injured detective and was taking care of his neck wound.

Slot was a rookie and as such was not issued a service revolver. He even referred to his not being armed as his reason for moving from the rear of 17 Argyle to the front when the second shots were heard. After picking up Anderson's gun and returning to the rear of 17 Argyle he claimed to hear another shot followed by several more shots. He also reported: "someone" shouting: "He's gone out the back door", so he ran back to the lumber yard and over to the railway tracks where he saw a man running south. The man was not found and he returned and learned the man responsible had been captured (in fact never left the house). When Slot turned Anderson's gun over to the Inspector of Detectives, G. BLOW, it contained 4 spent and 2 live rounds.

Anderson had not been wounded by a shotgun and he reportedly commented as he was loaded into the ambulance that he had been shot by a policeman. It was originally thought that Peachell's shots had somehow struck him as Walker had not fired his gun and Slot was supposedly unarmed.

Due to the seriousness of Anderson's wounds, the bullet that lodged in his body could not be removed until July 20th at which time it was compared to test-fired rounds from the known guns at the scene and did not match any.

There was suspicion that Constable Slot may have had a weapon that night before he picked up Anderson's gun but it was not until Anderson was finally in a condition to be interviewed on July 24th

that anything further could be done. Anderson stated that he had been shot by the uniform policeman who also grabbed his gun.

The officer had even commented that he got one of them and had his gun not realizing Anderson was a detective.

A note of interest is found in the statement of Commissionaire Cathro when he described the arrival of cruiser car #35) and the sounds of the first shots. He said, "both these policemen pulled their guns out and walked along the sidewalk towards the house".



Although the shooting of Anderson was accidental due to a mistaken belief he was the armed suspect, Slot had breached regulations by carrying the revolver and falsifying his report. He was suspended on July 26 and dismissed immediately.

Sim's funeral was held at Mordue Bros. Funeral Home on Broadway at Edmonton with burial in the St. James Cemetery. An estimated 2,000 persons lined the route to pay their respects. The hearse was led by the Police Pipe Band and an Honour Guard of fifty-nine officers walked alongside the cortege. Chief MacIVER led five other senior officers, twenty-four Winnipeg officers, as well as six RCMP, six St. James, five St. Boniface, and six Canadian National Railway police. The active pallbearers were all detectives, Clarence ANDERSON, Jim AYERS, Alf MANNING, Nels BUHR, George GREEN, and Jack WEBSTER.

James Sims

Ted Sims was born in Guilford, England on January 3, 1908. He joined the Winnipeg Police Department on November 4, 1930, and was promoted to Detective Sergeant on September 16, 1949. Sims was survived by his wife, a 15-year-old daughter, Joan, and two sons, Grant, age 17, and Keith, age 12. The family lived at 906 Strathcona Street. Ted Sims had served 19 years with the department so his widow received \$1,675.00 in pension refund as well as a death benefit of \$600.00 from the Police Athletic Association. The Police Commission paid the funeral expenses of \$453.00 and also awarded a grant of \$1,800.00 which was used to pay off the house mortgage. Workmans Compensation provided a pension of \$50.00 to the widow and \$12.00 for each child under 16 years of age.

Acting Detective William Herbert Anderson recovered from his wounds and was able to resume duty in September. He was promoted to Detective in January 1951, but resigned from the force in June 1952 and moved to California.

Malanik also recovered from his wounds to stand trial for the murder of Sims.

Malanik Loses Appeal; To Get Stay Of Execution

He must have felt the outcome as his actions because when asking his guard to buy him cigarettes during his hospital stay he commented, "I had around \$25.00 when they brought me here. I know I'm finished. I'll get the rope for this, I might as well spend that money".



Henry Malanik
(The last man to hang in Manitoba)

Malanik was convicted of the murder and paid the penalty in the gallows at Headingley Jail on June 17th, 1952. He was the last man executed in Manitoba although other provinces continued the death penalty until 1962.



JOHN MCDONALD

THE MURDER OF CONSTABLE JOHN MCDONALD

Researched & written by Jack Templeman

Information had been received of a possible break-in to the Radio Building at 120 Fort Street that housed the offices of the Manitoba Motor League as well as the Clean Towel Supply Company on the main floor and the Canada Glassware Company on the second floor. The object of the B & E was to be the Motor League as they sold license plates at that time so it would be reasonable to assume their safe would contain a considerable amount of money over the weekends, especially at the beginning of the year.

It is important to note that at this time the Winnipeg Police Department was much smaller. There were a lot of beat patrols and very few cruisers, five to be exact. Car #8 for the Fort Rouge area, car #9 for the North End, cars # 23, 35, and 46 for the downtown area. Only 3 cars were 2-way radio-equipped, 8, 9 and 46. The others, as well as detectives, had 1-way systems. While the 2-way cars could acknowledge messages or call the station, their messages could not be picked up by the other units, so the messages had to be repeated by the dispatcher. The first two 2-way radios were installed in May 1939 and the last one in the fall of 1939, shortly before this occurrence.

The Detective Department arranged to stake out the building on weekends and used constables for this tedious job. Their instructions were to allow the criminals entry and to notify the dispatcher at

the Rupert Street Station by phone so help could be sent before any attempt was made to arrest the culprits.

The stakeouts began in January 1940 and continued into February. On February 4th, an attempt was made on the building by prying the north side window but the culprits were spooked by a neighbour before they entered. This occurred around 8:30 p.m. and the stakeouts began at 10:00 p.m. up to this time.

The officers going into the building that night were Constables John McDonald #181A and Norman Stewart #27A. These same officers were in the building the next weekend, Saturday, February 10th at 8:00 p.m. McDonald had been involved in the stakeout seven times and this was the third night for Stewart.

The criminals involved in this bungled safe job were Mike "The Horse" Attamanchuk, John Ashton Barnett and John Andrusiak. All three were well known to the police and had records relating to property thefts. They specialized in stealing autos and stripping them for parts, and B & E's in which tools were generally taken. They graduated to safe jobs and were not expected to be armed since this was night work that did not involve holding anyone up. Attamanchuk had other ideas and had no intention of being arrested and sent back to jail. He was carrying a Webley .455 cal.

John McDonald

On the fateful night, Stewart and McDonald saw a suspicious car drive around the building several times. About 8:30 p.m., the window leading into the washroom on the south side was smashed in, one male entered and then left shortly after. The officers waited to see what would happen and about a half-hour later, three men returned and entered through the window bringing with them tools and a drill to attack the safe. The officers let them get started and then entered the office of the Motor League. They had not phoned the station in case the culprits might hear them.

Each officer switched on a light hanging over the front counter. McDonald ordered the men "stay where you are or we will let you have it". Attamanchuk's reply was "like hell we will" and he and Andrusiak ducked behind the office desks. Barnett raised his hands and stood still. Then Attamanchuk stood up with a gun in his hand and fired at McDonald first, then he turned towards

Stewart. McDonald fired one shot but missed. Stewart fired two shots and missed. Before Stewart could fire another, Attamanchuk fired at him striking him in the right hand with the bullet entering between the third and fourth fingers and travelling up into his forearm where it lodged itself. Stewart's gun was knocked from his hand and he was knocked down by the impact.

McDonald ran over to Stewart and shook him saying "Jesus, Jesus". Barnett ran out the side door of the office with McDonald following into the hall towards the back of the building where entry had been made.

As Stewart struggled to get up and recover his gun he heard shooting from the hallway. As he got into the hallway, now holding the gun in his left hand,



**Constable
Norm Stewart**

he saw Attamanchuk by the fire door that divided the hallway. Stewart fired twice more with one bullet striking the door and the other hitting Attamanchuk the left shoulder, passing through and knocking him backwards.

The events of the next few seconds were confusing with conflicting testimony being heard at the Royal Commission. Stewart stated that he then chased another suspect up to the second floor and into the office of the Canada Glassware Company. The suspect smashed the glass out of the office door, entered and for some reason smashed a large window overlooking Fort Street. Stewart was getting weak from shock and loss of blood and he lost sight of the suspect but heard the metal fire door at the top of the stairs slam. He then yelled out the window that he had been shot and for someone to call the police. He then dialled the station at 105 and shouted for help before collapsing. His bloodied gun was found on the desk.



Constable John McDonald

When McDonald chased after Barnett it appears that Attamanchuk also went in that direction, which would place McDonald in the hall beyond the fire door and Attamanchuk near the door. McDonald was shot by Attamanchuk with one bullet piercing his hip and lodging the bowels. The second and fatal shot struck him in the top of the head passing down to the back of the neck indicating that he was probably collapsing from the first wound when the second bullet struck. He was killed instantly.

Andrusiak managed to get out of the building via the window that had been used for entry. Barnett, along with the wounded Attamanchuk, smashed out the plate glass front doors and fled south on Fort Street. They crossed Broadway towards the Fort Garry Hotel. Mary Gorin and Helen Kornak

John McDonald

were walking east in the lane of Broadway while John Thomson was on the west sidewalk of Fort Street, just north of the building. Robert and Martha Ellis were walking south on the east side of Fort Street. All the witnesses described the taller of the two men as appearing injured and running awkwardly. Gorin, Kornak and Thomson all went to the service station on Broadway at Fort to notify the police.

Robert and Martha Ellis stayed on the sidewalk watching the building and saw the lights 'go on' on the main floor and then on the second floor. Almost immediately, a man on the second floor smashed out a window and yelled at them to phone the police as he had been shot.

Bombardier Joseph Wall and an officer from the army barracks across the street also heard the sound of the front doors being shattered and after a quick check of the barracks ran across the street to the Radio Building. They were in front of the building as the window on the second floor shattered and a man they identified as Stewart stuck his head out and shouted for help indicating he had been shot. As they started to enter the broken doors, the cruiser arrived and they all went up together.

The first call received at 9:42 p.m. was from the service station reporting that two boys broke a window in the Radio Building and were now running west on Broadway. This was broadcast over V.Y.W. to car #23 Constables R.M. Burns #38A and T.B. Oxley #152A accompanied by Patrol Sergeant Adams. The cruiser car was northbound on Main Street between York Avenue & St. Mary's Avenue. They turned left at St. Mary's and left again at Fort where they got a second message to rush as there was now a report of a shooting. They arrived at 9:44 p.m. and met two soldiers by the front doors.

The officers were told the man on the second floor had been shot so they entered through the broken doors and rushed upstairs to find the metal fire door locked from the inside. When they identified themselves, Stewart opened the door and collapsed. They carried him downstairs and Oxley ran across the street to phone for the ambulance.

Burns did not wait for the ambulance, but loaded Stewart into the cruiser and rushed him to St. Boniface Hospital.

Oxley returned to the Radio Building and awaited the arrival of detectives. Detective T. Ormonde arrived at about 9:46 p.m. and they began to search the second floor. About 9:55 p.m., Acting Detectives W. Owens and J.E. Sims arrived and joined them. Some nine or ten minutes after the arrival of the first units, Sims returned to the main floor and at that time discovered the deceased body of Constable McDonald in the dark hallway.

Andrusiak escaped and got back to the stolen car they were using. A similar car was identified by Street Railway employees working at Fort and Assiniboine as having sped east on Assiniboine and turned north on Fort that evening.

Attamanchuk and Barnett escaped through the broken front doors and made their way to Broadway and headed west. Barnett left the wounded Attamanchuk and went to the Ritz Taxi office on Colony Street where he got driver, Evard Jensen, to drive him east on St. Marys to pick up his 'drunk' friend. Attamanchuk came out from between houses between Edmonton and Carlton. The driver was ordered to drive them to Ellice Avenue and when they got to Young Street he was told to stop. Barnett gave him a dollar in silver for the thirty-five-cent ride. Jensen later identified Barnett and Attamanchuk as his passengers.

Barnett and Attamanchuk next turned up at 368 Langside Street but stayed only a few minutes. It would appear that they then joined up with Andrusiak somewhere and he had the stolen car, a maroon Ford with a whip aerial. By this time the police suspected Attamanchuk, and officers went

John McDonald

and staked out his mother's house at 273 McGregor. Constables Manning and Morris and Detective Dickie hid in the upstairs kitchen. At 12:20 a.m., on the 11th, a person was heard coming up the stairs. He knocked and received no answer so turned and fled down the stairs, but not before Dickie was able to shine his flashlight into the face of Attamanchuk. Dickie fired one shot at him but missed. Attamanchuk got outside and ran down Alfred and jumped into a maroon Ford. Dickie fired another shot at the car as it sped off south on McGregor. Manning and Morris both fired a few more shots at the fleeing car.

When the car turned west on Selkirk Avenue, it passed beat Constable J. Hansell #117E and he recorded the license 36-232 because he had heard the shooting. He met Manning and gave him the license number that Manning phoned in.

The car next turned up about 2:00 a.m. on the 11th with plates 26-338 attached and Andrusiak driving alone. Constables N. Buhr #161A and R. Young #62A were patrolling on Higgins and observed a suspicious car pull off Gomez St. They were in cruiser #46 which was 2-way radio equipped. They followed when the car turned onto Annabella and then east on Sutherland. The cruiser drew alongside at Stephens Street and the driver sped off. A chase took place with the cars going to Higgins, over the Louise Bridge and through the Kildonans.

The chasing officers radioed their route and this was relayed to the other cruisers. Other officers took up the chase in commandeered taxis. Detectives were aware that the second suspect, Andrusiak lived in North Kildonan and a bush area near the end of Munroe and Gateway was a dumping ground for stolen cars, so a number headed there to intercept the car. Their intuition proved correct very quickly as the car approached and Detective Hull shot the radiator. The billowing steam and the snowy road brought the car to a stop

a short distance down Gateway. The rear of the car also showed eight holes in the trunk and fender and one in the rear window from the pursuing police.

The sole occupant, John Andrusiak, was arrested without a struggle, although a loaded Webley Scott .455 cal and a loaded 12 gauge sawed-off double-barrel shotgun were found in the car. Also found in the car and of special interest was an overcoat, windbreaker, vest and shirt with bullet holes in the back and front and bloodstained and a bloodstained pillowcase. These were later identified as Attamanchuk's. Stolen license plates, including 36- 232, and a stolen Philco car radio that was set to the police wavelength V.Y.W., were also seized.

Attamanchuk and Barnett left Andrusiak after the near arrest on McGregor Avenue and they turned up at 9:50 p.m. on the 11th purchasing a quantity of food at the Windsor Grocery in St. Vital. The shopkeeper was suspicious of them and recorded the license of the car they were now using, 36-269.

Police were notified and the men were identified from photos.

It appears that Attamanchuk and Barnett were planning to head south to the border as a rough map later found on Attamanchuk showed routes and places between Winnipeg and Minnesota. The plan fell apart when their car went into the ditch near St. Adolphe Road on Pembina Highway. The license number was broadcast and shortly after midnight, the Fort Garry Police Chief located the car at the Watson Service Station on Pembina. It was learned that two men had been in the car and had come back with it when it was towed in.

The car was later found to be stolen with the serial number ground off. The plates were registered to 'Mike Attamon' in Transcona. The plates had been purchased on Feb. 10th at the Manitoba Motor League, which also provided Attamanchuk with an opportunity to see the inside of the office the day of the safe attack.

Attamanchuk and Barnett were traced back into the city with the tow truck driver Clifford Mallet who

John McDonald

let them out at Broadway & Osborne. They were seen getting into a Crescent Taxi and driver Gus Candaële reported dropping them at Portage and Burnell at 12:30 a.m. on the 12th.

A short time later, at 01:15 a.m., they were identified buying drinks and chocolate bars in the store at 129 Hallet. At 05:00 a.m., they were found in 36 Hallet when the resident came home. The resident knew Attamanchuk from jail days. About 06:00 a.m., Barnett and Attamanchuk went to 298 Selkirk Ave.

That afternoon, about 4:15 p.m., Barnett and Attamanchuk were in the Wesley Pharmacy, at Ellice & Spence. Barnett made a phone call while Attamanchuk bought some gum. They separated because Barnett was spotted at 4:25 p.m. at Ellice and Furby by patrolling Detectives McPherson, Alexander, and Ormonde as he got into a Moore's Taxi. Barnett spotted the cruiser turning and jumped out and ran towards Sherbrooke. He threw his mitts which contained 13 rounds of .45 cal. ammo behind 447 Sherbrooke.

Detectives fired two shots at Barnett as he started to run, then one more shot in the first blocks as he cut through yards going west and finally three more shots as he neared Beverley. He was nicked on the foot by one bullet but did not slow down. He outran the officers and managed to get into the Thelmo Mansions Block on Burnell at Ellice. He dumped his hat and coat and exited the back door a short time later, but as he walked by, Detectives Owens and Sims, who had arrived to assist, recognized him. Owens dropped him with a hit on the head from his revolver. Barnett appeared in court with a large head bandage.

Searching police officers failed to find the coat and hat in the Thelmo Mansions but a reporter got the caretaker to help and they located them in a laundry basket. The reporter turned them over to the police without any fuss.



WANTED FOR MURDER: Above are police pictures of Mike Attamanchuk, alias Mike the Horse who is wanted for the murder of Constable John McDonald. Attamanchuk escaped with at least two companions after Saturday night's gunfight.

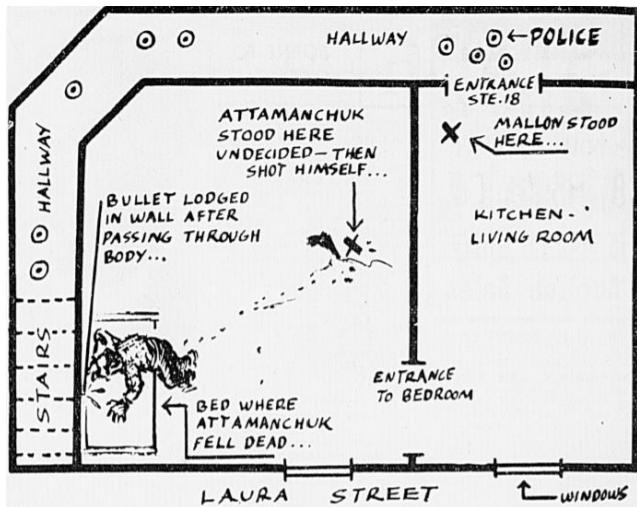
Only Attamanchuk remained at large as the manhunt went on. He next turned up at 11:45 p.m., that date, at Ste 18, Brant Block, 281 Laura St. at Logan where he forced his way in, gun in hand. Edith Sissons was alone there and was told to sit and be quiet. Shortly after midnight, Thomas Malin, boyfriend to Sissons arrived and joined them. Sissons had to dress his shoulder wound and made something to eat. Malin was able to convince Attamanchuk to let Sissons leave the suite, to keep her out of danger. Attamanchuk agreed, under threat of harm to Malin. Sissons went to a hotel and stayed there. She was not too concerned because she went shopping in the morning and returned to the block at 11:00 a.m., long after it was over.

Malin was forced to undress so he would not leave the room. Attamanchuk told him about the police shooting and said he would shoot himself before he ever gave up.

Detective James Mullholland got confidential information about Attamanchuk and at about 4:30 a.m., detectives attended and called Attamanchuk to surrender. Malin answered that he could not come out, as there was a gun in his back. Sergeant of Detectives, Alexander, sent Detective McDonald to call for tear gas and Acting Detectives Jim Ayers

John McDonald

and Harvey were outside to prevent escape via the windows. Detective Mullholland stayed in the hallway with Alexander. Suddenly a shot sounded from the suite and plaster fell in the hall. Malin yelled that Attamanchuk had shot himself so the officers had Malin kick the gun out into the hall before they entered.



When the officers entered, they found Attamanchuk sprawled across a bed with a self-inflicted wound in his chest. The bullet had passed through and into the wall. He was taken to General Hospital but was dead on arrival. The gun seized was later proven to have fired the bullets recovered from the body of McDonald and Stewart's arm.

Barnett and Andrusiak were tried for murder, but Mr. Justice Robson ordered the jury to dismiss the charge as the common purpose was only to rob the safe and Attamanchuk acted on his own when he resisted arrest and shot the officers. The Crown was allowed to lay new charges of Accessories After the Fact of the murder, and on October 15, 1940, each was sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary.

Three years later, on October 26, 1943, Barnett was to show his violent nature when he managed to

obtain a gun and slip out of his cell in Stony Mountain. He was confronted by an armed guard and in an exchange of gunfire was killed before he was able to get out of the dome. The jury at the inquest ruled it justifiable homicide in self-defence.

John McDonald lived at 513 Redwood and was survived by his widow, Josephine 'Jessie' and two-year-old son, Gordon. Mrs. McDonald was provided with her husband's pay for the full month of February and the Police Commission assumed the cost of the funeral. She also received his pension refund of \$140.00. The Workman's Compensation Board provided a pension of \$40.00 for the widow and \$14.66 for the child until 16 years of age. The Commission also asked for a \$1,000.00 grant to Mrs. McDonald from the Police Emergency Fund. The Winnipeg Police Athletic Fund provided a \$600.00 grant.

The funeral was held on February 15th at Emanuel Lutheran Church at College and McKenzie, with burial in Brookside Cemetery. Pallbearers under Sergeant Robert Still were Constables George G. Smith, Bruce McDonald, Fred Peters, George Walkinshaw, Waiter Hansen, Norman McKenzie and John Gutray. The Guard of Honour consisted of 30 officers of the Winnipeg Police Department under Sergeant Harrod.

The next officer to give his life on duty was the same officer who discovered the body of Constable McDonald.

This tragedy led to the establishment of a Royal Commission to enquire into the "*Widespread criticism of the manner in which the City Police Department handled the attempted robbery of the Manitoba Motor League*" and "*The widespread dissatisfaction among members of the City Police Force over conditions of employment and promotion, allegedly without regard to seniority and efficiency.*" This Royal Commission will be the subject of a separate article in the future.