

SLAYING OF HENRY S. COHEN FOLLOWS FEW HOURS AFTER DISCOVERY OF LIQUOR STILL

Police Are Searching for Three Men Who Rented Quarters for It; Money in Till Not Touched.

Henry S. Cohen, age 25, proprietor of a grocery store at 219 East Superior street, was mysteriously shot to death early last night, as he was alone in his store. Police this morning were still seeking the unknown assailant.

Cohen was found wounded slumped over a front counter of his store when C. H. Oppel, who operates an automobile repair shop at 217 East Superior street, entered the place. Oppel, who is suffering from an injured hip, wanted Cohen to tie his shoelace. He noticed the telephone receiver down and thought Cohen was about to use it.

Jokingly Oppel asked Cohen why he did not telephone as he saw Cohen leaning over the counter.

"Tie my shoelace," he repeated. Then he saw Cohen's plight and urged him to come in the back room. As Oppel attempted to aid Cohen, the wounded man fell to the floor. He died a few minutes later when Arthur Johnson, patrolman, arrived.

Examination by Dr. C. F. McComb, county coroner, showed that Cohen was shot through the heart with a revolver, the bullet passing through his body.

The bullet was found in his clothing at Crawford's undertaking rooms. An inquest probably will be conducted today.

Police are working on the theory that Cohen was the victim of one of a trio of "moonshine" liquor traffickers.

Sam Cwaygel, age 39, alleged to have been operating a 30-gallon still at 311 East Third street for the trio, had been arrested in the afternoon and booked without charge.

"About 3 p. m. Cohen called at my office with Mrs. Cwaygel and assured me that Mr. Cwaygel was innocent of keeping a blind pig," H. E. Weinberg, city prosecutor, said.

No Weapon Found.

Cwaygel explained that he had rented the premises about six weeks ago to a well dressed man who was joined later by two others.

"Cohen said that he believed he could obtain the license number of an auto the men used to transport the liquor from the Third street home," Mr. Weinberg said.

W. E. Pugh, chief of police; Dr. McComb; Robert Donaldson, Bertillon expert, and Sergt. W. E. McKenna were the first on the scene. They made a thorough search for a revolver and finger marks.

The news of the murder spread rapidly, and relatives, friends and the curious crowded the front of the store guarded by a patrolman.

Unable to find a clue the police examined the premises, found the cash register untouched containing \$19.67 and some canceled checks.

The voice of a woman who refused to give her name called on the phone and asked for "Henry." She joked with the officer who answered the call and all efforts to trace the mysterious person on the other end of the line were futile.

Bought Liquor of Cohen.

This morning two federal officers informed Frank A. Schulte, captain of detectives, they bought moonshine whisky from Cohen at about 7:45 p. m. One of the officials was a tall man and both drove off in a touring car as described by Oppel.

It is probable Cohen may have been shot after their departure in the rear room of his store where he usually sat. A door from the rear leads to the alley.

When Oppel entered the bunch of bananas was swaying in the aisle leading from the rear of the store behind the counter. This probably indicated that Cohen ran from the rear to the telephone after he was shot.

At noon another federal officer who knows Cohen saw him near Fourth avenue West and First street engaged in earnest conversation with a short man of evil caste. The agent said he could identify the man if he saw him again.

Sister Tells of Stranger.

Viola Cohen, age 19, a sister of Cohen, worked in the store for her brother. She arrived at the scene of the murder a short time after her mother, who was almost hysterical when she learned of her son's fate.

Miss Cohen, sobbing, was unable to collect her thoughts to give much information to the police. Later she told them about a suit case that was left by a man earlier in the day. It contained woman's wearing apparel. She said a man named Gordon Solberg, of Wales, Minn., left it there and said he would be back for it; he planned to leave on a night train. She described him as being short.

The description of the three men alleged to have been engaged in the bootlegging business as given to the police is: One a short man, the other medium built man and the third a tall man.

Miss Cohen said she did not know of two other men who may have been friends of Solberg.

Surviving the young grocer are his mother and sister at 419 East Fourth street; a brother Maurice Cohen at East Fifth street and four sisters. Mrs. Sadie Shenowsky, 1205 East Third street; another sister at Columbus, Ohio; Mrs. Mary Cohen, London England; Mrs. Rosa Bernstein, 311 East Fourth street, Duluth.