

SLAYERS ESCAPE POLICE NET

Score of Detectives on Avenue as Daylight Robbers Flee.

SILENCER IS USED ON GUN

Salesmen Robbed, Wriggle Free of Bonds and Give Alarm—Lahey Directs Inquiry.

LONG ISLAND BURGLAR SLAIN

Killed by Companion's Bullet in Battle With Officers in Auto—Three Wounded.

Edwin W. Andrews, President of Andrews & Winsten, Inc., jewelers, was shot and killed in his office on the eighth floor of the Marcus Building, 542 Fifth Avenue, by three bandits at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. After binding and gagging three men who entered the office during the holdup, the robbers fled with \$50,000 worth of unset gems and jewelry, mingled with the thousands of shoppers that thronged Fifth Avenue and escaped through a cordon of police spread out along the avenue as a special protection to the holiday trade.

As a result of the murder and robbery, the Sterling Silverware Manufacturers' Association last night adopted resolutions condemning the police for their failure to cope with the crime wave and Cleveland A. Dunn, one of the Directors of the association, suggested that unless something was done to deal with the situation it would be necessary for New York's citizens to form vigilance committees.

Following so closely upon the Hotel Astor holdup of the evening before, it also stirred the police to unusual activity. William J. Lahey, Chief Inspector of the department, took personal charge of the investigation. Aided by Inspector John J. Coughlin of the Detective Bureau, he assigned more than twenty detectives to the case. They found the crime had been daringly planned and methodically executed.

Andrews Alone in Office.

Mr. Andrews had returned from lunch, and following a long-established custom of the partners Mr. Winsten had gone out. When the bandits entered the office Mr. Andrews was alone. There was evidence that he had offered resistance, but neighboring tenants had heard no unusual noise. This gave rise to the theory that the bandits used silencers on their weapons.

Shortly after 2 o'clock Luke Mulligan, an aged messenger for Shear & Co., 7-11 West Forty-fifth Street, entered the offices. As he opened the door he saw Mr. Andrews lying on the floor behind a railing. When he started to speak the three highwaymen seized him. He was thrown to the floor, his hands were bound, and before he could recover from his surprise at the attack, an armed assailant threatened to kill him if he made a sound. Then he was placed beside Mr. Andrews, his feet were bound and a gag made of a piece of wood wrapped with rubber was thrust between his jaws.

The bandits had hardly finished binding the messenger with telephone wire when Vincent Provenzano, a salesman for J. N. Provenzano, manufacturing jeweler, of 110 West Thirtieth Street, entered the office, closely followed by Arthur Mertz, of Mertz Brothers, jewelers, of Newark. Both salesmen carried sample cases. As in the case of Mulligan, both were seized and bound and gagged. Their sample cases were taken and, sweeping up all the gems in sight in the Andrews & Winsten offices, the robbers disappeared into the hall.

Whether they fled from the building by way of an elevator or the stairs could not be learned. The elevator operators could recall no passengers answering their descriptions.

Victims Struggle with Bonds.

The minute the door closed upon the robbers the men in the office began to struggle with their bonds. Wriggling and scrambling across the floor, Mr. Provenzano and Mr. Mertz reached the door. Working himself free from the gag and loosening the wire ropes sufficiently to arise to his feet, Mertz burst into the hall and shouted for help. He was followed by Mr. Provenzano.

A score of persons on the same floor heard the cries and ran to the rescue, among them several men and women from the offices of Rothkrug Brothers, diamond dealers, and the United States Diamond Company, jointly occupying offices next to Andrews & Winsten. The alarm was also heard by employees in Room 83, occupied jointly by M. J. Lorne, importer of silks and woolens, and William D. Bloodgood & Co., real estate.

One of the first men to go to their assistance was Claude D. Edgerton of Edgerton & Son, manufacturers of jewelry, of 53 Fifth Avenue, who was in Rothkrug & Co.'s offices. As he ran into the hall Mertz and Provenzano had just emerged from Andrews & Winsten. Both motioned him into the office where his assistance was more sorely needed.

Mr. Edgerton found Mr. Andrews lying on the floor, a bullet wound in his abdomen and a gash in his head.

"Mr. Andrews was still breathing faintly," he said, "but I could not find his pulse. Within a few minutes he

died. His head was pointing to the window on the north side of the office, his feet toward the door. Opposite him stood the safe with its doors wide open. Empty jewelry trays were scattered near his desk, and in one of these I found a string of pearls worth about \$25,000. The bandits apparently had dropped them in their flight. Other pearls, probably a part of this necklace, were on the floor. It seemed that Mr. Andrews must have been working on the necklace when attacked."

Mulligan was lying bound near Mr. Andrews, and Mr. Edgerton released him. The two salesmen were released by others.

Provenzano, his feet still bound, hopped into the office of Rothkrug Brothers, where he was unbound by John Horning, a jeweler in the neighborhood.

"Provenzano, with his hands still tied, came bounding into the office," said Mr. Horning. "I cut the cords that bound his hands and feet and removed the gag from his mouth. His jaws were so benumbed he could hardly speak."

The cries of the victims were also heard on the tenth floor by George J. Rivers, superintendent of the building, who got to the eighth floor in time to see the salesmen before their bonds were removed. The superintendent described the gags as strips of red rubber extending from the forehead to the chin. He said the hands of the messenger were bound behind him with pieces of cord and wire which were made still more secure by a padlock catching the looped ends of the wire. Mulligan was almost suffocated.

Police Order Building Locked.

When he found the victims were receiving proper attention, the superintendent went to the street and gave the alarm to Patrolman Quigley of the Traffic Squad, who was on duty at Forty-fifth Street and Fifth Avenue.

Traffic Policeman Quigley notified John P. Barron, Acting Detective Sergeant, of the Twenty-ninth Precinct, who was the first detective to reach the scene. Sergeant Barron is in charge of ten of the forty detectives assigned to patrol Fifth Avenue during the holiday season. His district includes the territory between Forty-second and Fifty-ninth Streets. He was in the office of Dreicer & Co. when the traffic policeman told him of the Marcus Building holdup. He went immediately to the building and gave instructions for the doors to be locked to prevent any escape.

Sergeant Barron said the two salesmen who had been tied and gagged helped each other to their feet after they heard the door slammed by the bandits. When they entered the office of Rothkrug Brothers, with the gags still covering their faces almost like masks, the employees mistook them for robbers and thought they were going to be held up. It caused an excitement bordering upon panic.

After hearing the hasty explanation of the two salesmen, one of the stenographers telephoned to Police Headquarters, from which the call presumably was relayed to the East Fifty-first Street Police Station.

Jeweler Slugged and Shot.

In the meantime several calls were sent to physicians in the building, but when they arrived Mr. Andrews was dead. An examination of the body by Dr. Otto H. Schultze, medical adviser to the District Attorney, revealed that Mr. Andrews had been shot in the stomach and had received a blow on the head.

That he may have been felled with a blackjack and then shot was considered probable by the detectives when they discovered near his body a piece of plumber's pipe about eight inches long, wrapped with a thin layer of cotton.

The piece of pipe was only one of several clues. On the floor near the body the police found an empty cartridge. It had no markings and detectives thought it might have been a special size. It was considered rather long for use in a revolver, and likewise the bullet which was removed from the body of Mr. Andrews also suggested that a weapon other than a revolver might have been used. Some of the detectives believed that the bandits had a sawed-off rifle, and both Mulligan and Mertz asserted they had been threatened with such a weapon.

The crude handcuffs improvised with pieces of wire and cheap padlocks also are considered important clues, according to Inspectors Lahey and Coughlin. The fact that the two salesmen had been bound with these prepared manacles led to the belief that they were intended for Mr. Andrews and Mr. Winsten. In addition they found many fingerprints, which were taken to Police Headquarters for comparison.

Police Puzzled by Escape.

Although the police were apparently baffled by the escape of the criminals, they concluded the bandits were well informed of the movements of the members of the firm, and must have known it was the custom of Mr. Andrews to go to his lunch about 12:30 every day, and of Mr. Winsten to go out at 1:30 o'clock.

The detectives tried in vain to ascertain how the bandits escaped from the building. All the elevator operators were firm in their assertions that they had carried no passengers answering the descriptions of the holdup men after they had heard the cries for help. At intervals of less than a block Fifth Avenue is patrolled by policemen and detectives, who also saw no persons whose appearance tallied with that of the bandits.

Mertz told the detectives that he had gone to the office of Andrews & Winsten with a tan leather suitcase, marked with the letters "W. E.," in which he carried samples of gold and platinum settings. He estimated the value of these articles at about \$25,000. The samples of jewelry that were taken from Provenzano, according to what he told the police, were valued at from \$10,000 to \$15,000. No definite estimate of the loss of Andrews & Winsten has been made. One jewelry drawer which alone contained between \$3,000 and \$4,000 worth of jewelry was found to have been emptied. The detectives were informed by Mr. Winsten that his company was covered by a \$50,000 policy procured from Lloyd's.

Mertz Tells of Hold-Up.

Soon after the hold-up Mr. Mertz telephoned his brother, Emil Mertz, at their place of business, 359 Mulberry Street, Newark. From the brother it was learned that Arthur Mertz had started to Manhattan with \$70,000 worth of jewelry for delivery to various jewelers. Over the telephone Emil Mertz described his conversation with his brother:

"I was about to open my case in the sample room of Andrews & Winsten," he said, "when I heard a shot. There were several jewelry salesmen in the room and all started in the direction of the report."

"Just then we saw the robbers coming toward us, and I ran back toward my case to hide it. Throw up your hands," one of the robbers said, as he pointed his pistol at me. I did so, and then the robbers coolly bound and gagged the others in the same room as myself. They picked up my sample case along with other jewelry in the room and piled them in a heap. It was some time before I was released."

Chief Inspector Lahey refused to discuss the robbery with reporters, whom he referred for further information to Inspector Coughlin. Inspector Coughlin briefly outlined such facts as the reporters already had and gave them permission to see the notes of the stenographer who took the testimony of the three victims and other witnesses. Captain Arthur Carey, who had charge of these notes, however, refused to let the reporters have them.

Gags New to Police.

Captain Carey and several detectives remained at the Marcus Building until 7:30 o'clock, and on departing declined at first to discuss the case. After repeated questioning the Captain finally confirmed the facts and described the red rubber gags which had been used to

silence the messenger and the two salesmen. From what he said it was inferred that this is a new type of gag with which the police are unfamiliar.

Captain Carey expressed the belief that Mr. Andrews was shot while seated at his desk. He thought a revolver was the weapon used. When questioned concerning a report that an automobile was waiting in Forty-fifth Street for the bandits, Captain Carey said he had not heard of this phase of the crime. At first Captain Carey denied Mulligan was one of the victims, but later he corrected this.

The body of Mr. Andrews was taken to the Morgue last night after a series of flashlight pictures of the surroundings had been taken for the police.

Mr. Andrews and his partner, it was learned, were both formerly connected with the jewelry firm of Marcus & Co., who occupy the ground floor of the building in which they had their offices. They established the corporation of Andrews & Winsten about five years ago, are said to have catered to a high-class trade and developed a large business. Mr. Winsten is Secretary of the corporation, which was capitalized at \$20,000. Its Directors are Albert Winsten and Edwin W. and Bertha Miller Andrews.

Hints at Vigilante Committees.

When Cleveland A. Dunn called at the offices of Andrews & Winsten on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Sterling Silverware Manufacturers' Association, he said that Mr. Andrews was one of the most liked members of the trade. He described the victim of the bandits as a man who had won the complete confidence and trust of the jewelry trade.

When Mr. Dunn disclosed that his association would take action at its meeting last night, he was asked what, in his opinion, could be done by the citizens of New York to check the wave of crime.

"If you don't have more police action you may have vigilance committees," replied Mr. Dunn.

The holdup was the second in which the Provenzano concern has been a victim. J. N. Provenzano was robbed on Aug. 15 last when the store was entered, the safe opened with a "can opener," and \$5,000 worth of jewelry taken.

The additional responsibility laid on the police by the murder and robbery of Mr. Andrews and the hold up of the messenger and the two salesmen did not interfere with the meeting last night of the Detectives' Endowment Association, held at the Police Club, 145 Riverside Drive, to elect officers. There are about 650 members of this association, and there was a goodly representation of the detective force at the meeting.

Commissioner Enright, who returned to Police Headquarters after a visit to the office of Mayor Hylan, was informed by newspaper men of the robbery and asked if he had any comment to make. He had none.