

THE TOLEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

A solemn obligation



**Detective William Martin
E.O.W. September 6, 1922**

“One detective was slain, another is wounded and police speed crews are on the trail of a bullet-ridden touring car occupied by gunmen who opened fire upon the detectives in the Fulton garage, Fulton and Prescott Streets . . .”

In a story worthy of the big screen, Detective William “Dick” Martin was killed and Detective George Bach, “one of the best known members of the police department because of his activities in enforcing the prohibition laws,” was shot in the thigh.

“The two had gone to the garage in response to a report that three suspects had left a suspicious looking touring car, bearing an Indiana license, there Tuesday night. After concealing themselves in the rear of the building, shortly after 9 a.m., the detectives were warned that the suspects had returned.”

When the two detectives confronted them, one of the suspects pulled a gun from his waistband and opened fire. Martin was shot below the heart. Bach, though wounded, returned fire, striking one of the suspects before they were able to flee in the vehicle.

For the next few days, newspaper headlines told of the thrilling capture of the “bandits” in Wauseon, Ohio, by armed citizens who used their wits and guns to hold the suspects hostage until law enforcement could take them into custody.

Detective Martin resided at 632 Highland Avenue and left behind a wife and 19-year-old daughter. He had been a policeman for nearly 25 years. His wife had begged her husband to retire but he kept saying “. . . a few more days.”

William Martin

TO PROTECT AND SERVE