

# August , 1920, Toledo, Ohio



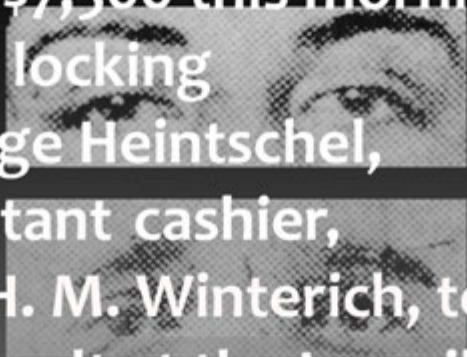
2220 Franklin Avenue, Toledo, Ohio



It was reported that residents in the area of Franklin Avenue - Bancroft Street saw Cowboy Hill and his cohorts in the early part of August in 1920.

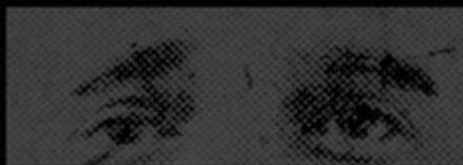
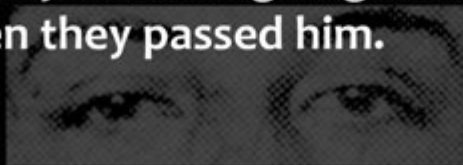
**August 20, 1920, Toledo, Ohio**

**“Two masked men escaped with \$7,500 this morning after locking George Heintschel, assistant cashier, and H. M. Winterich, teller, in a vault at the Ironville branch of the People’s State Savings Bank.”**



## **August 20, 1920, Toledo, Ohio**

**“...shortly afterward a machine with two men and two girls in it passed a Maumee motor policeman near the Maumee bridge. They were laughing and chatting gaily when they passed him.**



**The machine drove to a gasoline station at Wayne and Conant streets in Maumee. The tank was filled and when it came time to pay, the driver reached down into a bag of money at his feet and paid for it. The bag was just like the ones used in banks.”**

**September 3, 1920, Toledo, Ohio**

**Officer Walter Kruse confronts four members of The Cowboy Hill Gang.**



## September 3, 1920, Toledo, Ohio

At approximately 3 a.m. on this date, a Toledo motorcycle patrolman by the name of Walter Kruse observed a parked touring car near 335 Vance Street, in an area of Toledo considered part of the red-light district. According to police records of the incident, this was soon after the robbery of a silk shop in the 500 block of Madison Avenue. Kruse watched as four occupants of the car entered the house and then decided to investigate. Officer Kruse knocked on the door and entered the house and subsequently came out with the four men in front of him. Eyewitness accounts seem to indicate he either had arrested them or was about to arrest them.

## September 3, 1920, Toledo, Ohio

A gunfight then broke out among the group of men. Officer Kruse was obviously at a serious disadvantage and was severely wounded and nearly died as a result of injuries inflicted by one or more of the gangsters. Kruse was able to return fire and a blood trail at the scene of the shooting indicated that he had wounded at least one member of the gang. An investigation revealed that Archie Dennison was a possible suspect in the attempt to kill Patrolmen Kruse. The other three men were not identified but were probably Red McGahan, Cowboy Hill, and Joe Forrest.

**“a mob of  
big-league gunners”**



**September 14, 1920**

**Following the attack on Officer Kruse the police received reports from the residents in the Franklin Avenue area regarding suspicious activity.**

**The activity seemed to be focused on this particular apartment building.**



**2220 Franklin Avenue, Toledo, Ohio**



**There are contradictory stories about how this residence was identified as the headquarters for the Cowboy Hill gang. One story indicates that the police received a tip on September 14**



**that spoke of “ a mob of big-league gunners ” using one of the apartments in this house as a hideout.**

**A second story was the official version as told by Inspector of Detectives William Delehanty. Delehanty stated that no tip of any kind was received the day of the raid.**

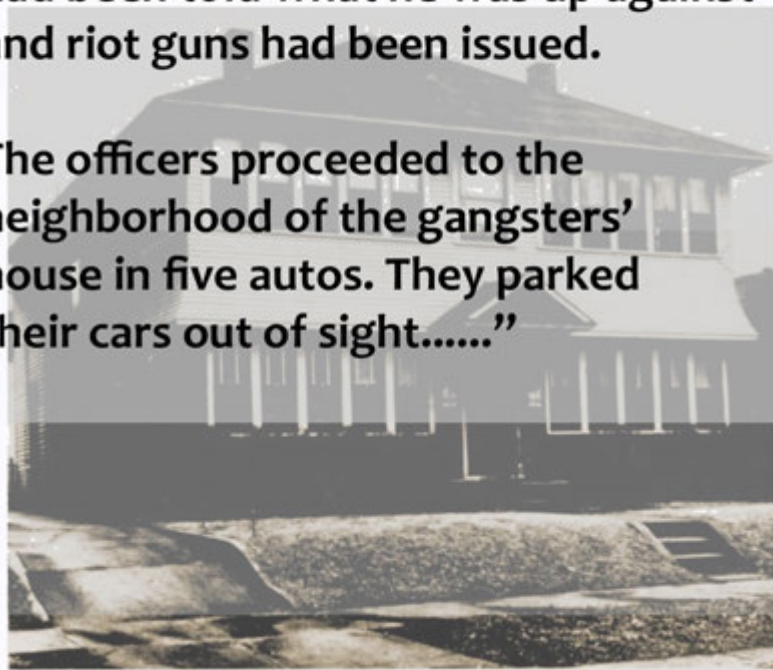


**He talked about the details of an investigation that started in the spring and culminated in a search of 15 places before the actual hideout was identified.**

**“..... the entire day shift of the detective force and a number of picked patrolmen were mustered for the big raid.**

**‘We are in for some shooting,’ was the conclusion of each man after he had been told what he was up against and riot guns had been issued.**

**The officers proceeded to the neighborhood of the gangsters’ house in five autos. They parked their cars out of sight.....”**



**9:30 a. m.**

**September 14, 1920**

# 15-20

There are conflicting reports as to how many policemen were involved in this raid.



Delehanty spoke of 20 men, but lists of the participating officers indicate only 15.

# This group photo of Toledo police detectives, taken in 1922, includes several of the participants of the raid of September 14, 1920.



WHAT A difference in styles, as well as personnel, a quarter of a century makes. Members of the Toledo detective bureau posed for this picture June 16, 1922. The cap for formal wear by well-dressed sleuth was on its way out, while the old bowler of the teen decade had disappeared. Left in right, in the top row, are Joseph Frushey, now head of the bureau; Roy Havens, retired; Michael Rowan, Ernest Ralls, Joseph Swiatecki, Cap., William Carroll (deceased), William Juret (deceased), Fred Langhoff, Bernard Cummings, retired; James Ford, retired; John Mallen, Michael Daly (deceased). Center row, Capt. Fred Buck, retired; John Hodges (deceased), Edward Harris (deceased), William Culver (deceased), Dan Gavin (deceased), John Connor, retired; Stanley Kims, retired; Frank DeLora, Garnet Stevenson, Edward Eaton (deceased); Dick Martin (deceased); Capt. Ralph Van Vorst, retired. Seated,

John Henahan (deceased), William Herman (deceased), Capt. James O'Reilly, retired; Irving Brown (deceased), Albert Hassenzahl (deceased), John Hovey (deceased), Louis Kruse, retired; Stephen Quinn (deceased), Frank Peters (deceased), Charles Mavis, retired; Inspector William Dechantz, later chief of police (deceased); Bert Dobawieski (deceased), and Fred Palicki (deceased). Such brown stalwarts as Capts. Mose McCloskey, Emmet Cairl, Edward Rock (deceased); Capts. Willard Rydman, retired, and George Timiney, now Lucas County sheriff; Inspector Louis Haas, former chief of police, and Arthur Laugendart were not available on that day long ago when this picture was snapped in front of the old police headquarters on Superior St. Only 9 of the 44 men then comprising the bureau are still active in Toledo police work.