

TOLEDO AREA POLICE MEMORIAL SERVICE

A solemn obligation



Detective John McCarthy
E.O.W. January 7, 1947

“Veteran Detective Lieutenant John McCarthy and two gunmen were killed in a gun battle at 9 o’clock last night at Erie and Jackson Streets, less than 150 feet from the Safety Building.”

The pair of gunman, along with a female companion, had been on a weekend drinking binge. Detectives McCarthy, John Connors and Floyd Cartlidge were sent to the Civic Center Grill where it had been reported they had tried to cash a bad \$99 check.

The detectives found the trio, Mr. Edward Monnett, Mr. John Quirk and Miss LaRue, and were driving them back to the Safety Building for questioning. The three detectives were in the front seat, the three suspects in the back seat. Monnett pointed a gun at the detectives from the back seat and warned, “Stop the car or I will kill you all.”

McCarthy whirled in his seat and grabbed the muzzle of Monnett’s gun, and the two exchanged gunfire. Connors, who was driving, quickly stopped the car, slid out and shot Quirk in the head, killing him. Connors was then shot in the leg and fell to the ground. Cartlidge, who pursued Miss LaRue as she fled the car, turned and fired on Monnett, striking him twice.

McCarthy, who died from his wounds, had been assigned a hotel beat, and when he was pulled off, the protests were so prompt and overwhelming, he was reassigned the next day. “His friends, acquaintances and admirers included everybody from the guests and managers of the best hotels to the forlorn gamblers, prostitutes, drunks and hangers-on of the city’s bars and dives. . . . A phenomenal memory for faces, coupled with an observant eye, gave “Mac” a reputation for finding the proverbial needle in the haystack.”

John McCarthy

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2012