





Murphy Ralph J

Born	Jan	8	1892	
Appointed	Sept	10	1920	3-nights of training by older men 6-Vac-days per- Yr
Base-pay	"	"	"	\$80.00 Per-Month 1-day off per Month
Assigned	Sept	13	1920	Beat by Chief Henry J Herbert
Resigned	March	23	1928	Under Grand Jury Vice Investigation
Reinstated	Aug	16	1929	By Civil service Commission
Promoted	Jan	1	1934	Det-Sergeant Pay-125.00 Per Month
Assigned	Dec	29	1935	Homicide Squad
Promoted	July	1	1937	Det-Lieutenant Pay 137.50 per-month
"	Jan	16	1945	Acting Det-Captain
"	May	16	1945	Det-Captain Pay \$225.00 Per-Month
Demoted	May	14	1948	to the rank of Det-Lieutenant
				Cause for demotion, Under the Civil Service Law all promotions from Sept 1 1937 must be made from and through competitive examination for any rank in the Detective-or Identification or Record Bureaus. The promotions in these bureaus were handed out on bases who you know, and not what you know.
Promoted	June	16	1948	Det-Captain pay 250.00 per-month
Retired	May	16	1956	Under presure, Politics served 36 yrs
Died	Feb	11	1963	In his home of Leukemia

He served 32 yrs of his 36 yrs on the force, either as a Junior member of the vice squad or command Officer of the one man Homicide Squad and during that period, he set an enviable record for himself in solving Murders in Toledo. He was born in Seattle Washington and moved to Toledo with his Parents when he was 14 yrs old and later he became a telegrapher for the

Ralph Murphy  
continue

Western Union Cable Co Jefferson-Huron.

In 1916 he served on the Mexican Border with the United States Army Signal Corps, and when the United States entered the World War I He served in France and in Belgium, When the war ended and Teletype Machines began to replacing his profession Young Murphy on Sept 10 1920 joined the Toledo Police Dept as a patrolman. He was assigned to a beat in the Down-Town Section, Five months later he had an opportunity to win fame for himself but he missed through no fault of his own, he got a robbery tip of the Toledo's one million dollar Post Office robbery that occurred on February 17 1921. The next day while walking his beat down-town he was given a tip by a taxicab driver that the robbery gang was to meet that night in a Church street house to divide the loot, and he passed on the information to his Superiors who laid plans to capture the gang but the police were dissuaded by the F.B.I. Several months later he was chagrined to learn at the trial in Federal Court of some of the robbery gang that his tip had been correct. He was assigned for a time to the Vice squad but he resigned from the Police Division on March 23 1928 during the Grand Jury Investigation of the vice squad activities in Toledo and nothing came out of this investigation and he was reinstated by the Civil Service Commission although he was beyond the limitation of reinstatement. He returned to the police force again in August 16 1929 one year and half after the investigation. And a few years later he was assigned to the Homicide Squad as a under study to the Squad Commander the Late Det-Lieut John Hovey -- retired in 1937 and Det-Murphy became the police

division Chief Homicide Investigator from that time until he retired on pension in 1956 he either worked alone mostly or at intervals with one assigned assistant in the investigation homicides.

In 1943 he solved all of the 18 homicides he investigated and then in 1944 he solved every one of the 16 homicides committed that year. He climb up the promotion ladder very slow however on Dec 29 1935 he was promoted to the one man homicide squad and its Head, for several years he was named acting Captain but he was reduced briefly to his lower rank of Det-Lieutenant because he finished second in the competitive examination, he was promoted to Det-Captain when his turn came around. And he held that rank until his retirement,

In every case of murder and other crimes there is evidence left by the perpetrator that can be found by a sharp eyed invetigator, some of times some where the perpetrator will leave a mark or he may make a mistake and he can be caught, some crimes are unsolved simply because the investi- gator was not smart enough to recognise it, and recognize the the mistake for what it was, it might be added, to look with disdain on Detective fic- tion, saying it was not realistic, The homicide investigator once was de- scribed by the Lucas County Prosecutor as closely fitting the perfect wit- ness, because of the care with which he prepared his evidence and his abi- lity to translate his findings in a simple, and understandable language to the Jury. But his failure to solve 3 slayings plus the use of a truth serum during a homicide investigation in 1956 brought out the criticism from some of the police officials and the Safety Director George J. Gray a former F.B.I. Agent caused Captain Murphy to retire under pressure,

Captain Murphy died Monday Feb 11 1963

Captain Ralph Murphy

Continue

His body lies in state at Boyer-VanWormer mortuary- Services were held at 1pm Wednesday Feb 13 1963. Burial in Calvary Cemetery. Pallbearers were William Wiener- John Connors- Denzel Lydick- Robert Duck- Harold Fauble- and Irwin Smith. The funeral arrangement were approved by Safety Director John P Manton and Chief Anthony A Bosch.

No relation to Chief George Murphy or Robert P Murphy.

Murphy, R. D.

# The Toledo Civil Service Commission

BERNARD GROENEWOLD, PRESIDENT  
PHILIP F. MURPHY  
EDMUND T. COLLINS  
FRANK W. GAUGHLING, SECRETARY AND CHIEF EXAMINER

*F. W. Gaughling*

July  
thirtieth  
1929.

Mr. J. R. Cowell,  
Director of Public Safety,  
Toledo, Ohio.

Dear Sir:-

The Commission, at its meeting of  
this date, reinstated Ralph D. Murphy to  
the position of Patrolman effective August  
16th, 1929.

Yours truly,

*F. W. Gaughling*

Secretary,  
Civil Service Commission

FNG:KR.  
Cy/ Chief of Police.

*File  
Murphy*



# CITY OF TOLEDO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, DIRECTOR

A.D.Black

October 21, 1929.

Mr. Louis J. Haas,  
Chief - Division of Police,  
Toledo, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

I have this day appointed Ralph D. Murphy, 1711  
Milburn Avenue, to the position of Patrolman in  
the Division of Police.

This appointment is effective as soon as he success-  
fully passes the Wasserman test.

Yours very truly,

*A.D. Black*

Director of Public Safety.

A  
D  
B  
:  
R

*10/21/29  
Murphy to take Wasserman*

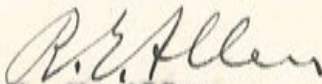
October 31st, 1940.

Detective Ralph Murphy,  
" George Eckerman,  
" Arthur Eggert.

It is with great pleasure that I commend you for the excellent police work performed in connection with the shooting of two spectators at DeVilbiss High School Stadium on Friday Eve., October 25th, 1940.

Your fine work and strict attention to this case resulted in the arrest of the juvenile who fired the shots, and, no doubt, the arrest will have a great effect upon the future actions of this young man and others and prevent future case of this nature.

Respectfully,

  
R. E. Allen  
Chief of Police.

Cy/ Inspector Fruchey

Inspector Roth

A. Eggert File

G. Eckerman File

Ralph Murphy File. ✓



CITY OF TOLEDO  
OHIO

GEORGE N. SCHOONMAKER  
CITY MANAGER

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
210 SAFETY BUILDING  
ZONE 2

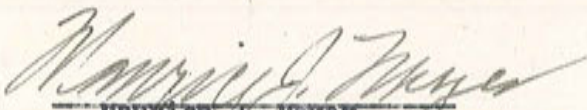
MAURICE J. MEYER  
DIRECTOR


September 12th, 1946

Subject: Citation.  
To: Captain Ralph D. Murphy.

For many years Captain Murphy has been the head of the Homicide Squad of the Toledo Police Department. Most of that time he has, because of shortages of men, been compelled to work alone, which fact has resulted, in many instances, in his being required to apply himself both day and night over long periods of time on matters that required immediate attention.

By his studious and scientific approach to the solution of problems involving homicide, by his unswerving loyalty and devotion to duty and by his complete disregard of his personal comfort and health Captain Murphy has achieved outstanding results in the number of clearances obtained in cases which have been placed with him for disposition. He has been an outstanding example to younger men in the Police Department and has contributed immeasurably to the welfare and safety of the citizens of this community.

  
Maurice J. Meyer  
Director of Public Safety

  
Ray E. Allen  
Chief of Police

June 8th, 1948

Mr. Ralph D. Murphy,  
2237<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Ashland Ave.,  
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Mr. Murphy:

I have been notified this date by the City Manager of the decision made by the Civil Service Commission, which points out that in accordance with Section 486-15A of the General Code of the State of Ohio appointments must now be made from a certified list of eligibles who have successfully passed an examination which will result in the replacement of department members heretofore temporarily appointed to such positions without having qualified therefor by actual test.

It is with deep regret that I inform you that due to the above ruling your rank will be reduced as of June 16th, 1948 from Captain of Detectives to that of Detective-Lieutenant.

Yours very truly,

---

Edward A. DeAngelo  
Director of Public Safety

EAD:km



CITY OF TOLEDO

OHIO

RAY E. ALLEN  
Chief of Police

DIVISION OF POLICE

December 17th, 1954

Mr Ray E. Allen,  
Chief Of Police, Sir,

As per your request that I submit a report, relative to investigation of complaint of Doctor Henry Burnstein, 3033 Hopewell Place, that he was threatened by Gary Parker, 631 White St, I submit the following report: Doctor Burnstein came to my Office, with his Attorney, Irving Blumberg, and after conference, relative to history of Case, Doctor Burnstein signed a Warrant, charging Parker with Threatening him in a Menacing manner. After investigation, I located the whereabouts of Parker, and had Sergeant Donald Larsen, and Scout # 9, go to Goddard Road, where they arrested Parker. I talked with Parker, and he readily admitted he had been to home of Doctor Burnstein the night previous. Attorney Blumberg informed me he would notify Doctor Howard Smith to examine Parker as to his Mentality, when he, Parker was arrested. At noon, December 16th, I was notified that Doctor Smith wished to speak to me on the telephone. I then contacted Doctor Smith, and he wanted to know facts of the Case. I explained them to him in detail. He stated that he understood them, and would act accordingly. At about 3.00 P.M. December 16th, when I made inquiry as to disposition of Doctor Smith's examination, I found that he made note, that Parker was to be transferred to Toledo State Hospital. I then made inquiry as to why this had not been done, and was informed that I would have to fill out necessary papers to confine Parker. I then called Doctor Smith, to ascertain if this was true, and he informed me that I would have to sign papers, or fill out history application, before Parker could be confined. I then informed Doctor Smith that I would not do this, as I had arrested Parker on a Warrant, for Threatening Doctor Burnstein, that no Safekeeping charge was involved, and under these circumstances I would not sign affidavit or fill put form. I at no time requested Doctor Smith to examine Parker, or did I at anytime charge Parker with Safekeeping. Parker was originally charged with Suspicion, and then the Warrant was served on him, on the threatening charge. Under these circumstances I certainly could not understand why I was being ordered by Doctor Smith to fill out any form, and that is why I refused. During my conversation with Doctor Smith, our conversation was very normal, until Doctor Smith assumed an attitude of aggressiveness, and sarcasm, stating he could have made it tough for me on the Robert Weaver Case, which happened only a few days ago, and also the fact that I never filled out any forms committing a person to Toledo State hospital. It was then, that I gave Doctor Smith some of the answers he had solicited. In my conversation with you yesterday afternoon, December 16th, you informed me that Doctor Smith had never had anyone talk to him like I did, well I wish to inform you, that I have never had anyone talk to me like Doctor Smith did, so as i say, I was only returning what he had solicited. I want to emphasize that Doctor Smith was certainly the aggressor in this Case. Since Doctor Smith was so kind to inform you immediately of our conversation, and taking the attitude that he did, let me state that in regards to Officers filling out these forms, in reference to having a person committed to Toledo

(OVER) R. Allen

- 1. Safety Director
- 2. Chief of Police
- 3. Inspector, Training
- 4. Inspector of Police
- 5. Inspector of Detectives
- 6. Inspector of Traffic
- 7. Sup't. Ident. Bur.
- 8. Cap't. No. 1 Station
- 9. Cap't. No. 2 Station
- 10. Captain Detectives
- 11. Inspector, Crime Prevention
- 12. Women's Bureau



CITY OF TOLEDO

OHIO

RAY E. ALLEN  
Chief of Police

DIVISION OF POLICE

(2)

State Hospital, that I have been in contact with the sentiment of the Department relative to this matter, and let me assure you, that they are opposed to this procedure, almost to the man.

In my opinion, it is the same as having a person make a complaint, and then have the Officer sign the affidavit, or fill out the form, even though he is entirely ignorant of the history of the Case, and is only going by hearsay, he is required to fill out a form.

In the Case of Robert Weaver that I made reference to previously, and with which Doctor Smith threatened me, this was a Case where Robert Weaver had threatened his wife, and then threatened to take his own life.

I talked with Mrs Weaver, and she did not wish to prosecute her husband, and therefore I did not sign affidavit.

Robert Weaver's Mother then stated she thought there was something wrong with Robert, and suggested that Doctor Smith examine him.

I then changed the charge from Suspicion to Safekeeping, and Doctor Smith talked with him a few minutes, and then released him.

I certainly could see nothing wrong with that.

I wish to explain that in a great many cases, where there is a charge of Suspicion placed against a person, and Doctor Smith hears about them, and they pertain to some form of Mental disorder, that Doctor Smith will start exploring these Cases, before they are ever referred to him, and then complains because he has not been notified.

As an example, a short time ago a young man threatened to commit Suicide by climbing up on the Ohio Level Bridge.

The young man was charged with Suspicion, I talked with him, and found that he only done this to scare his parents, and his girl friend, and had no intention of committing Suicide.

This Case was gohe over very carefully by Captain Green, and I, and we both agreed on same.

The boy was released without being referred to Doctor Smith, which was proper.

Also a short time ago, Mrs Bennington had her husband arrested, and held for Doctor Smith, as to his Sanity.

Doctor Smith informed her that her husband was alright, and a week later he committed Suicide in the Milner Hotel.

All of the Captains in the Detective Bureau have had trouble with Doctor Smith, and twice this month, Captain Green has had occasion to remark to me of the attitude of Doctor Smith, and his manner of speech, in referring to different Cases.

Let me repeat, that in the Parker Case, that he was not charged with Safekeeping or was his Case referred to Doctor Smith by me, and I was not the complainant, and I feel perfectly justified in refusing to fill out papers on this man, when requested by Doctor Smith, as I was only the arresting Officer on a direct charge of Threatening In A Menacing Manner.

Respectfully

*Ralph D. Murphy*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Captain Ralph D. Murphy

- 1. Safety Director
- 2. Chief of Police
- 3. Inspector, Training
- 4. Inspector of Police
- 5. Inspector of Detectives
- 6. Inspector of Traffic
- 7. Sup't. Ident. Bur.
- 8. Cap't. No. 1 Station
- 9. Cap't. No. 2 Station
- 10. Captain Detectives
- 11. Inspector, Crime Prevention
- 12. Women's Bureau



CITY OF TOLEDO

OHIO

DIVISION OF POLICE

Safety Building

Toledo 2, Ohio



RAY E. ALLEN

Chief of Police

JOHN J. Mc CARTHY

City Manager

GEORGE J. GRAY

Safety Director

March 30th, 1956.

Pension Board,  
Police Div., Toledo, O.

Gentlemen:-

Kindly place me on full service pension  
as of May 16th, 1956.

*Ralph D. Murphy*  
Ralph D. Murphy,  
Captain of Detectives.

Cy. Director G. Gray

Civil Service Commission.

*Gun #14  
Box 177*

March 23d, 1928.

Mr. J. R. Cowell,  
Director of Public Safety.

Dear Sir:-

Attached is resignation of Officer R. D.  
Murphy, effective this date.

Respectfully,

Chief of Police

Cy/ Civil Service Commission.



# CITY OF TOLEDO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

~~ARTHUR D. HILL~~ DIRECTOR

SUB-DEPARTMENT OF POLICE



~~ROY W. SCOFIELD~~

SECRETARY

LOUIS J. HAAS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

~~HARRY JENNINGS~~

CHIEF OF POLICE

J. R. COWELL  
DIRECTOR

March 23rd, 1928.

Chief Haas;

Sir:-

Kindly accept my resignation, effective this date.  
I wish to state that my relations with the Police Department have always been pleasant and courteous, and it is with regret that I leave the service, and I also wish to thank you for your courteous treatment in the past.

Respectfully,

Cy/ Civil Service Commission.

Patrolman, Badge No. 177.

TOLEDO POLICE DIVISION

OFFICE OF THE

CHIEF

February 12, 1963

With much regret, I announce the death of pensioned Captain (Detective) Ralph D. Murphy, who passed away Monday, February 11, 1963.

Ralph D. Murphy was born on January 8, 1892 in Seattle, Washington, was appointed to the Police Division on September 10, 1920; promoted to Sergeant on December 25, 1935; promoted to Lieutenant on July 1, 1937; and advanced to Captain May 16, 1945; and placed on pension on May 16, 1956. During his years of service he was held in high esteem by his fellow workers and citizens.

Body lies in state:

Boyer-VanWormer Mortuary  
5055 Secor Rd.

Services:

1:00 P.M., Wednesday, February  
13, 1963, from Mortuary.

Burial:

Calvary Cemetery

Pallbearers:

W. Wiener

R. Duck

J. Connors

H. Fauble

D. Lydick

I. Smith

Pallbearers cars will leave the Safety Building at 12:30 P.M.

Motorcycle escort will accompany the body to the Cemetery.

Flag, on Station, half mast until after funeral.

Arrangements approved:  
John P. Manton  
Director of Public Safety

  
Anthony A. Bosch  
Chief of Police

# Captain Murphy, Ex-Chief Of Homicide Squad, Dies

Retired Detective Capt. Ralph D. Murphy, lone-wolf head of Toledo's homicide squad from 1937 until 1956, died yesterday in St. Vincent's Hospital of leukemia. He was 72.

Captain Murphy was in St. Vincent's during early December, returned to his home at 2237½ Ashland Ave., and then on Jan. 18 returned to the hospital.

The murder investigator made a name for himself locally and in official police magazines in 1943 and 1944, when he scored what was described as a bullseye in the solution of murder cases. In 1943, he investigated 18 homicides and solved them all. In 1944, there were 16 cases and once again he scored 100 per cent.

## Called Perfect Witness

Down through the years prosecutors with whom he worked closely termed him the perfect witness because of his calm courtroom manner, his ability to explain all the evidence in simple terms understandable to jurors, and his seemingly unemotional demeanor. Defense attorneys frankly admitted he was almost impossible to baffle on cross-examination. As one of them said, "He told what he knew, nothing else and you can't catch up a guy like that."

Out of the courtroom, though, he could express himself. He was frank in his likes and dislikes in his departmental associations although outwardly polite and seemingly good natured.

Captain Murphy received his lone-wolf appellation almost from the start of his career as a homicide executive. He always denied the charge. He said he would accept an enlarged squad if he could pick his own staff, men with whom he could work. But it always seemed that the men he wanted were not made available to him, at least not for long, and the men who were, Captain Murphy said, would not make good homicide sleuths.

## Spoke Up To Boss

In the middle of an investigation he was not afraid to speak up to his superiors, if he felt they were interfering.

In the presence of a half dozen reporters at the scene of one murder, a newly appointed safety director pushed into the home and started up a stairway to talk with Captain Murphy. He put his hand on a newel post and the homicide



RALPH D. MURPHY  
Former homicide chief

chief ordered his boss in no uncertain terms to get out of the dwelling because he was covering up the murder suspect's fingerprints. And the director asked the sleuth's forgiveness for his in-

In 1956 he resigned because of a mounting wave of public criticism resulting from his failure to solve three homicides. Afterward there was talk of him running for sheriff but he never did. He decided to spend the rest of his life caring for his ailing wife, who died little more than a year ago of cancer.

## Born Near Seattle

Captain Murphy, born near Seattle, followed the Murphy family to Toledo around 1908 by which time he had mastered telegraphy. He followed that pursuit, for 12 years, serving as a telegrapher on the Mexican border in the Pershing expedition. He also was a telegrapher in World War I. In 1921 he joined the Toledo police force. He worked on the morals squad. He resigned in 1928, rejoined the force the next year, and in 1934 was assigned to the homicide squad then directed by detective Capt. John Hovey. The story always was that Captain Murphy's lone-wolf policy was merely an extension of that carried out by Captain Hovey, who seldom talked to his young assistant. He succeeded Captain Hovey in 1937 when Captain Hovey retired.

Surviving are his brother, assistant city engineer, and sisters, Hazel Murphy and Mrs. Mildred Snyder, all of Toledo.

Services will be tomorrow at 1 p.m. in Boyer-Van Wormer Mortuary, Secor Road, with burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS**  
O'clock noon on the 28th day of February, 1963, at the office of the Clerk of the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Toledo, Ohio, located in the Webster Building, corner of East Manhattan Boulevard and Elm Street, and publicly opened and read immediately thereafter by the Clerk, for the furnishing of materials and the performance of labor required for the Electrical Modernization of the Thomas A. Edison High School, located at 3301 E. of Toledo.

Health Care

## AS MURDER SUSPECT FACED QUESTIONERS



Steve Kotowicz, 22-year-old suspect in the murder of Clement L. Mikolajczyk, Lagrange street grocer, is shown at the left as he faced his interrogators today in a quiz at the Safety building. Seated at the table, left to right, are Kotowicz, Detectives Bert Dobzeniecki and George Eckerman, and Joel Rhinefort, assistant Lucas county prosecutor. Standing are Detective Joseph Swiatecki, left, and Detective Ralph Murphy.



# 'Baby Dillinger' Is Called Slayer of Toledo Grocer

A 22-year-old Toledo gunman who has boasted "the cops will never take me" is sought by city detectives for the wanton slaying of Clement L. Mikolajczyk, Lagrange Street grocer.

Police revealed today that the killer is the one member of the gang of "Baby Dillingers" who eluded the recent roundup of a score of youthful gunmen and their junior high school "molls."

Mr. Mikolajczyk died Sunday in St. Vincent's Hospital of a bullet wound inflicted Saturday afternoon during an attempted holdup of his grocery store at 3227 Lagrange Street. With him in the store when the stickup man entered was his wife, Frances.

### Hunted Him for Month.

Detectives Ray Sheets and Owen Green, who were chiefly responsible for the smashing of the youthful bandit ring several weeks ago, said they have been seeking the killer suspect for a month. They believe that the steel jacketed bullet that killed Mr. Mikolajczyk in a burglary of Buddy's Lunch Box Lunch recently.

The youth police are seeking became bold after the lunchroom burglary and exhibited a 45-caliber automatic to street corner acquaintances, boasting: "The cops will never take me." A pistol of this type was stolen in the burglary.

The suspect served more than a year and a half in the Mansfield State Reformatory after pleading guilty here to a burglary committed March 16, 1933. The youth was sent to the reformatory three weeks later on a sentence of from one to 15 years and was released on parole Nov. 1, 1934.

He is described as being 5 feet 6 1/4 inches tall, weighing 150 pounds and of muscular build. He

has deep chestnut hair and fair complexion. His description has been issued and his picture shown to all policemen in the hope he may be sighted and plucked up. Police warn that the youth is "dangerous" and liable to shoot on the slightest provocation.

Failure of Mr. Mikolajczyk to immediately comply with an order to raise his hands brought the gunfire. The bullet struck the merchant's arm and deflected into his abdomen.

Police say that the suspect has been in hiding since the middle of August following the holdup of a Kroger grocery store. On that occasion detectives waited in the youth's room for five days hoping he would return. The youth is suspected of committing two other recent robberies.

Detective Capt. Joseph Fruchey warned today that any persons found to have been harboring the suspect will be prosecuted.

### Circulars Are Prepared.

Circulars carrying the youth's picture and description and stating that he is sought for murder were being prepared today by John Luoy, superintendent of the Police Identification Bureau. These circulars will be sent throughout the country later in the week if the youth has not been arrested previously, Mr Luoy said.

Services for Mr. Mikolajczyk were to be at 8:15 a. m. Wednesday in Gasiorowski Brothers' Mortuary, 3302 Lagrange Street and at 9 a. m. in St. Adalbert's Church. Burial will be in Calvary. The Mikolajczyks live at 216 Hudson Street.

# WIDOW FACES MAN HELD AS SUSPECT IN MATE'S KILLING

GRILLED IN GROCER'S DEATH



—Staff Photo by George Blount.

Steve Kotowicz, 22-year-old suspect in the murder of Clement L. Mikolajczyk, Lagrange Street grocer, is seen here in the Safety Building after his arrest last night in the Roanoke Hotel, 714 Superior Street.

Attends Grocer's Rites,  
Proceeds to Show-Up,  
Confronts Bandit

FIVE HOLDUPS TOLD

Prisoner Seized While  
Asleep; Police Test  
Captured Gun

Four hours after seeing the body of her murdered husband lowered into a Calvary Cemetery grave, Mrs. Frances Mikolajczyk was taken to the Safety Building today to confront a 22-year-old man suspected of being his killer.

She was to view the prisoner, arrested last night as he slept in a Superior Street hotel, in the hope of being able to pick him as the bandit who shot down Clement L. Mikolajczyk as he stood by her side in their Lagrange Street grocery Saturday afternoon.

Two others who saw the killer as he fled accompanied Mrs. Mikolajczyk to police headquarters. They were Mr. and Mrs. Louis Micholak, 134 Weber Street.

As the gunman dashed from the Mikolajczyk store at 3227 Lagrange Street, he bumped into Mrs. Micholak. Mr. Micholak, having heard the shot, gave chase, but was soon outdistanced by the killer.

Gun Tests Underway.

While arrival of the witnesses was being awaited, scientific efforts were under way in the Police Department's laboratory at the University of Toledo to prove that the prisoner, Steve Kotowicz, is the killer of the grocer.

Patrolman Arthur Eggert, ballistics expert, was comparing bullets fired from a 45-caliber automatic pistol found in the suspect's hotel room with the steel-jacketed bullet that killed Mr. Mikolajczyk, seeking to determine if all bear the same tell-tale markings.

For three hours before he was placed in a police "line-up" to be viewed by the grocer's widow and the Micholaks, Kotowicz was questioned by Joel S. Rhinefort and Thomas J. O'Connor, assistant county prosecutors, and Detectives Ralph Murphy, George Eckerman and Bert Dobzeniecki.

In Vicinity at Time.

They obtained from him an admission that at the time of the slaying he was in the vicinity of the Lagrange Street grocery. But he insisted not only that he was not the killer, but that he had not been in the Mikolajczyk store in nine years.

He heard sirens of the police cars speeding to the store, Kotowicz said, and ran through alleys and back streets to the downtown area "because I knew I was 'hot' for robbery." (He was referring to an earlier admission that he had participated in five recent hold-ups.)

Kotowicz was firm in his denial that he was the killer and refused to answer most questions put to him about the slaying and about the burglary of Buddy's Box Lunch, in which, police believe, the murder weapon was stolen.

Suspect Won't Talk.

After one such question, to which a "Yes" or "No" answer was all that was required, the assistant prosecutors and detectives waited 11 minutes for Kotowicz to reply. When he still remained silent, they finally gave up and proceeded to another question.

An anonymous phone tip to police resulted in the arrest of Kotowicz at 8:30 last night. He was seized by three detectives as he slept in his room in the Roanoke Hotel, 714 Superior Street.

Kotowicz had been sought by police since shortly after Mr. Mikolajczyk was shot down in his store when he was slow in obeying a bandit's order to put up his hands.

Sticks to Story.

The prisoner denied that he had shot the grocer. He did confess, however, to participating in a series of recent hold-ups. These included the robbery of Patrolman A. L. McLaughlin Aug. 28, two holdups in an Elm Street Kroger store and the robbery of a gasoline station at Central Avenue and Cherry Street and a drug store at Ash and Huron Streets.

Kotowicz was grilled by detectives until 3:45 a. m. in a fruitless effort to break down his insistence that he was not the killer of Mr. Mikolajczyk. Then he was locked up in a cell to await further questioning.

Please Turn to Page 2, Column 5.

## BANDIT SEIZED IN MURDER HERE

Ballistics Test of Gun Found  
In Suspect's Room Will  
Be Made Today

Continued From Page 1.

effort to break down his insistence that he was not the killer of Mr. Mikolajczyk. Then he was locked up in a cell to await further questioning.

The arrest was made by Detectives Harry Manson, Archie Best and Patrick Bruen. On receiving the tip that Kotowicz could be found in the hotel, the three policemen set out, Manson carrying two tear gas bombs.

With hands resting on their pistols, the detectives unlocked Kotowicz's room with a pass-key and silently filed in. Kotowicz was asleep in bed. Before he could awaken, the detectives seized him.

Gun Found in Room.

Kotowicz was allowed to dress and then was whisked off to the Safety Building by Manson and Best in a patrol wagon. Bruen remained behind to search his room. He made two important discoveries:

Among Kotowicz's clothing was a shirt and tie answering the description of those worn by the slayer of Mr. Mikolajczyk.

Suspended on two nails driven into the inside of a bureau drawer was a 45-caliber automatic pistol, cocked and loaded with steel-jacketed bullets. The bullet that killed the grocer was a steel-jacketed 45 and a pistol of the type found in Kotowicz' room was stolen in the burglary of Buddy's Box Lunch, a crime of which Kotowicz is suspected.

No money was found in the hotel room. The extent of Kotowicz's property, as far as Bruen could determine, was a change of socks, trousers, shirt and necktie.

On the way to the Safety Building, Kotowicz questioned Best and Manson as to who had supplied the tip resulting in his arrest. He seemed relieved when the officers said that the anonymous caller had not been a girl.

Linked To Bandit Gang.

Manson, Best and Bruen were joined in grilling Kotowicz in the Safety Building by Detectives A. L. Dlugwiewcz and Bert Dobzeniecki. But outside of his confession to participating in five robberies which bore out the police claim that Kotowicz was a member of the "baby Dillinger" gang of boys and girls recently rounded up, no admission could be gained from the prisoner.

Shortly before Kotowicz was arrested, police picked up a 16-year-old truck driver who admitted he had taken Kotowicz for a ride in his delivery truck Monday evening. Kotowicz told him, the youth said that the police were looking for him.

The driver said he thought Kotowicz was joking. And he didn't inform police of his friend's whereabouts, he said, "because I didn't want to snitch—I know what jail is like."

After further questioning today, during which the boy admitted that he knew where Kotowicz had been "hiding out," but denied that he had given him any assistance or knew he was wanted for murder, the truck driver was released.

He said that Kotowicz was a free spender and "a rather quiet chap." Kotowicz, he continued, left his home, 251 E. Central Avenue, some time ago following an argument with his parents over an auto accident in which he was involved.

At the Roanoke Hotel, it was learned that Kotowicz first registered there Aug. 28 as "Steve Tiller of Monroe, Mich."

He paid his first week's rent of \$2.25 with nine quarters, prompting the proprietor to remark: "Been playing poker?"

"No," Kotowicz answered, "that's just tips."

Kotowicz stayed at the hotel until Sept. 7, being visited frequently by youths younger than himself and going out often—both during the day and at night.

Returns With Money.

He checked out Sept. 7, saying he was going back to his family in Monroe to get some more money. He returned to the hotel last Wednesday, tendering a \$10 bill for payment of two weeks' rent.

Again Kotowicz went in and out of the hotel often and had many visitors. He was out last Saturday afternoon—when Mr. Mikolajczyk was shot—and returned that evening, hotel attendants said.

From then on there was a marked change in Kotowicz' habits. He stayed in his room most of the time, going downstairs only at noon to phone a girl, and usually leaving the hotel only at about 11 p. m., to be gone for two or three hours.

While in his room, hotel attendants reported, Kotowicz usually kept the door locked and a chair propped under the door-knob, although the chair was not so placed when detectives entered the room last night.

He still continued to receive visits from youths, however. Two about 18 years old went to his room Sunday, Monday and yesterday, attendants said.

Served in Reformatory.

Kotowicz served nearly 19 months in the Mansfield State Reformatory after pleading guilty to a burglary committed here March 16, 1931. He was sentenced to serve one to 15 years and was released on parole Nov. 1, 1934.

From acquaintances of the youth, police learned that in recent weeks Kotowicz has displayed a 45 caliber automatic pistol in street-corner gatherings boasting: "The cops will never take me."

Services for Mr. Mikolajczyk, who died in St. Vincent's Hospital 25 hours after he had been wounded, were conducted this morning in Gasiorowski Brothers' Mortuary and St. Adalbert's Church. Burial was in Calvary.

# KOTOWICZ DIES IN CHAIR

**Grocer's Slayer Executed  
After Attempt at Suicide Fails;  
Walks Nonchalantly to Death**

By RALEIGH G. HOOVER,  
News-Bea Staff Writer.

COLUMBUS, May 20. — Twenty-two-year-old Steve Kotowicz flicked away a cigaret, walked the few steps from his cell, sat down in the electric chair last night in the Ohio Penitentiary and died—to pay the state of Ohio's price for murder of a Toledo grocer.

Three hours and 15 minutes earlier he had attempted suicide with a razor blade. He slashed his left arm above the elbow as he lay on the cot in death row.

Two guards discovered his suicide attempt, took him to the prison hospital, where his arm was bandaged. Immediately the youth was transferred to the cell adjoining the death chamber. Given a cigar, he smoked calmly, walked

up and down—and waited. Later he switched to cigarets.

Kotowicz died eight months to the day after he shot Clement Mikolajczyk, Lagrange Street grocer, in an attempted holdup.

Sullen, brown-eyed Steve, who shot Mr. Mikolajczyk in cold blood as the grocer worked over his books with his wife, walked the distance between the quick and the dead in exactly one minute.

Less than an hour later Steve's body was in a hearse, being driven to the Stanley J. Urbanski funeral parlors at 2907 Lagrange Street, Toledo, five blocks from where he shot Mr. Mikolajczyk, to await funeral arrangements. He will be buried in Calvary Cemetery.

## ONE LAST "DRAG"

Steve entered the death chamber at 8:32 p. m. He paused for a moment, glanced briefly at the 80 witnesses who crowded the box-like room almost up to the chair itself. He took one last "drag" on his cigaret, snapped it away. A faint smile twitched his lips.

Rev. J. A. Sullivan, the prison's Catholic chaplain, touched the youth's elbow. Steve turned and with long, slow strides, walked to the chair and sat down. His eyes again darted over the witnesses, who strained closer—as far as Warden James C. Woodard and the other officials would permit. Those in front could have touched Steve's knee in one step.

A guard pushed up his slit trouser leg, adjusted an electrode. Another strapped down his arms. Then both guards began adjusting the electrode to a small, shaved spot on the crown of his head.

## FUMBLE WITH HOOD

The electrode was strapped on like a football helmet. The guards had difficulty in adjusting it, and Steve frowned as the leather roughed his face and chin.

The guards clapped the leather hood over his forehead and eyes. One moment Steve's eyes were covered, but the hood slipped down and the youth had another glimpse of the world. Warden Woodard stepped forward and assisted the guards in adjusting the hood and this time it stayed in place.

Dr. George Keil, prison physician, pressed a button on the wall behind the chair.

A light bulb on the wall behind

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# Kotowicz Executed

**Dies in Chair After  
Suicide Attempt Fails**

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the chair flashed red. There was a dull "brrrrrr," as of a dynamo starting. Seconds passed.

The physician stepped forward, opened Steve's shirt, applied his stethoscope to the region of the body around the heart.

The death chamber was still as death itself. Suddenly the physician stepped back, looked at his watch.

"A sufficient current of electricity has passed through the body of Steve Kotowicz to cause death at 8:39 p. m.," Dr. Keil announced.

Father Sullivan, who with Rev. C. J. Yager, of Toledo, Lucas County Jail chaplain, had been facing Steve since he sat down in the chair, stepped forward, moistened the forehead above the hood, murmured a few words.

"You are excused," Warden Woodard told the witnesses.

## WHERE DID HE GET IT?

Seven minutes had elapsed from the moment Steve had flicked away his cigaret until Dr. Keil pronounced him dead.

At 5:15 p. m. Wednesday two guards who had been watching Steve in his cell in death row observed that he was lying on his back on the cot, his arm bleeding.

On the floor beside the cot the guards found an old razor blade.

"We don't know where Kotowicz obtained the razor blade," Warden Woodard said later. "He may have had it concealed in a shoe or his clothing for some time. Several years ago prisoners were allowed to have safety razors in their cells. This was discontinued, but no doubt we have as yet been unable to find and dispose of all razor blades that were in the prison."

The youth would say nothing about his suicide attempt. He had little to say during the whole of his last day on earth, prison officials reported.

## A CAREER OF CRIME

At 7 p. m. Father Sullivan and Father Yager returned to Steve's cell and remained with him until he died. Rev. Yager had been with him most of the day. None of Steve's relatives appeared. His two sisters, Frances, 19, and Julia, 15, visited him Tuesday for the last time, as did his attorney, Eldon H. Young.

Steve's mother, Mrs. Helen Mahlin, had not been to the penitentiary for some time, Warden Woodard said.

Steve's death ended a career in crime that began when he was a mere boy. Several times he was before juvenile authorities for various crimes. Finally he served a term in the Boys' Reformatory at Mansfield. He was paroled, later arrested for more serious offenses.

He killed Clement Mikolajczyk Sept. 19, 1936, because he "wanted some money." Only a few hours before the shooting a companion saw him on the street, asked him if he wanted to buy a drink.

"No," answered Steve, "I haven't any money now, but I will have some in a little while."

## DELAYS FUTILE

At the trial before a jury in Judge Robert G. Gosline's Common Pleas Court, ballistics experts testified that the bullet which killed the grocer had been fired from the gun found in Steve's room. The de-

fendant had pleaded not guilty on reason of insanity and by a jury Steve was convicted Dec. 1936, after the jury had deliberated a day and a half. Sentenced to March 31, he was taken to the Ohio Penitentiary Jan. 6 and placed in death row.

The Court of Appeals upheld the Common Pleas Court verdict. A stay of execution was granted to allow an appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court. The high tribunal refused to alter the decision, Steve was sentenced anew to die May 20.

He leaves another sister, Marie Hattie Wiecezorek, Detroit, and two brothers, Joseph and Stephanie.

Services will be at 8:45 a. m. Saturday in the mortuary and at 9 a. m. in St. Hedwig's Church. Burial will be in Calvary.



# 'Let's Get It Over With,' Says Youth; Guilt Admitted

By CHARLES EGGER.

COLUMBUS, May 19.—As the clock whittled away the last few hours of his life today, a jittery 22-year-old boy struggled hard to "keep that chin up" in his death cell at Ohio Penitentiary.

"I ain't very scared. It just kind of gets you to walk up and down and have nothing to do except wait for time," said Steve Kotowicz, who will be electrocuted tonight for the murder of a Toledo grocer.

"Why should I be afraid to die? I'll go out without knowing what I missed. I'm still a kid and never saw any of the world. I never had any money and couldn't do anything anyway."

He smiled somewhat wistfully when told Governor Davey had refused to intervene and possibly give him a commutation to life imprisonment.

"Hell, who wants to stay here

for years and years? I'd just as lief have it over with."

Steve made no excuses for his record, didn't even blame his environment as, he said, "Those social people would."

"I have a mind. I can think. I knew what I was doing; now I'm going to pay."

He still denied that he actually shot Clement Mikolajczyk, but added:

"I was just as much to blame as any of them. I could have stopped the thing if I wanted to. But I thought it was a joke when they borrowed my pistol."

The slain man was a "good guy," Steve said. "We always used to hang around his place and I liked him a lot."