

BLAST IN THE DARK

Prowler Shoots Kildonan Man Who Defied Him to Open Fire

His arm torn by a gaping bullet wound, Ludwig Resler, 56-year-old East Kildonan chicken dealer, lay in the Winnipeg General hospital, Saturday, while municipal police pieced together evidence, which, they hope, will land the suspected bandit behind bars before nightfall.

Resler, who lives at 541 Oakview avenue, was shot in the left arm, midnight Friday, after he had dared the thug, discovered by his son, Albert, in the backyard, to go ahead and shoot, and the latter had replied by blazing away twice at point blank range.

Basing their investigation on claims by both father and son that they recognized the intruder's voice, Kildonan police predicted an arrest sometime Saturday. Chief T. Coley visited Resler in hospital during the morning and obtained a complete statement from him.

First victim of the armed prowler was 17-year-old Albert. As he stepped out of the back door to make a final check of the chicken pens before retiring to bed, a light was flashed in his face.

"Put up your hands," snarled a voice.

Momentarily blinded, the boy halted. Then he saw the man, armed with a small black revolver. Duck-



Hold-up Suspects

SHOT IN DARK

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ing back in the shed, he slammed the door and ran to his father.

Ignoring the prowler's weapon, Resler went to the door and a muttered conversation followed. "I have not got any," the father was heard to say.

"I'll shoot," the bandit warned. "Go ahead and shoot," Resler dared him. Two quick shots were the answer and Resler fell back into the doorway gasping. "He shot me!"

Only one of the bullets struck him, hitting him in the left forearm near the elbow. The bullet struck the bone and glanced off, tearing the muscle.

"I'm pretty sure I know who it was, too," Albert Resler told the Free Press, Saturday morning. "I'm sure my dad recognized the voice, also."

"We are selling all our chickens and perhaps this man saw the buyer come to our house this evening and thought we would have the money in the house." The buyer, Adolph Tim, and his wife, 174 Hargrave street, were in the house when the shooting occurred.

While Tillie Resler ran across the street to a neighbor's, Thomas Dripps, to telephone for the police and a doctor, Mr. Tim helped the boy to carry the wounded man into the house.

Hears Car Speed Away

"As I ran out of the house, I heard a car race away down the back lane," Tillie said.

"I'm going to see if I can follow the car tracks in the soft snow," Albert said. "If it's the man I think it was, he must have stolen the car, because he hasn't one of his own."

Mr. Resler is disposing of his house and chickens, preparatory to returning to Morris, Man., to farm again.

"Dad has had trouble ever since we moved here from our farm at Morris last March," Albert explained. "He has hardly ever slept at night, worrying about the chickens, in case some one should try to steal them."

"Poor dad," Tillie said. "He has never been in a hospital before in his life. He must feel terrible. And to make matters worse, he forgot to take his tobacco with him when he went to the hospital. He smokes a lot—a big package a day."

"Don't forget to take some when you go up to see him this morning," her brother reminded her. "And don't forget to phone to Morris and tell Lily." (Lily is their older sister, Mrs. Peter Letkeman.) "You can't write now, because its in the Free Press about dad being shot, so you had better phone her before she sees the paper, and then she won't worry so much."

Another sister, Minnie, Mrs. Joseph Kriner, lives in Toronto, Ont.

Exciting Visit

In the front room drinking coffee with other women members of the household, when the shooting occurred, Mrs. Tim was still excited and nervous, Saturday morning. She and her husband had travelled out to Resler's to make a deal over some chickens.

"We were all in the front room drinking coffee and the men were in the kitchen when young Albert ran in shouting, 'There's a man with a revolver out there.' Then things went so fast, I don't quite know what happened."

"I heard the father go out and



THOMAS C. JACKSON

who Saturday celebrated his 80th birthday at his home at 43 Cobourg avenue, Elmwood. He was born in Chatsworth, Grey County, Ont., and came west in 1882, settling on a farm in the High Bluff, Man., area. About seven years ago he took up residence in Winnipeg. Mr. Jackson is in very good health and spirits.

then the man asked him for something in a low voice . . . I could not hear what it was. Suddenly I heard two shots and they carried the father back into the house. We all crowded the porch to try and see what happened, but it was dark and we could not see anything.

"Mr. March (Emil March, 534 Home street) told us that the fellow pushed Mr. Resler into the back porch and then shot. We did not have any money or anything. It sure did scare me."

Mr. and Mrs. Tim returned back to the city in the ambulance after the shooting.

Property Deal On Main Street Is Given Approval

In one of the biggest real estate deals of the year the civic finance committee Friday approved the sale of 200 feet of Main street frontage, near York avenue, for \$12,840.

The purchaser is Arthur G. Lush, and he will pay \$1,284 cash and the balance in annual instalments of the same amount plus interest at six per cent.

A request from the rural rehabilitation commission for an additional appropriation of \$10,000 was referred to the city treasurer for a report. The city has already appropriated \$10,000, which has been used to settle 17 families. The board has 200 families waiting for settlement.

The committee approved the expenditure of \$450 for changing the seats at Sherbrook baths.

A resolution of the board of trade, urging the city to take action to popularize tax payments, was referred to R. W. Brown, tax collector. Mr. Brown was asked to think up some suitable methods by which this could be accomplished.

Relief cases increased by 50 to 7,118 during the week ending Feb. 18, the relief committee reported. The total is 254 below last year, and 1,467 down from 1937. Costs were down almost \$100,000 from last year. The figures were \$515,325 for the year to date compared with \$604,080 for the same period in 1938.

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