

KILLED BY POLICE; FAMILY PROSECUTES

Oscar Brown, Slain as Robber Suspect, Proves Innocent Victim

Two burglars entered the Peoples Cloak and Fur store, 3332 State street, at 10 o'clock Monday morning and at the point of revolvers bound and gagged Louis Wolens (white), proprietor, and thrust him into a closet in the rear of the establishment while they rifled the place. According to Wolens they escaped with coats and other wearing apparel estimated to be worth \$700. He was released from his temporary prison by a chance customer who arrived a short time after the burglars had made their getaway. Wolens without delay telephoned the Cottage Grove avenue police station and reported the robbery.

Officer Opens Fire

Within half an hour Policeman John Shannon (white) arrived to investigate. The officer found Oscar Brown, aged 36, of Indiana Harbor, Ind., in the store and questioned him. Brown, it is claimed, became excited and made for the door. Officer Shannon, apparently believing him to be one of the burglars, opened fire. The bullet struck Brown just above the heart and passed through his body. He was rushed to Provident hospital, but died soon after being placed on the operating table. Brown maintained his innocence and says he was in the store for the purpose of purchasing some things for his wife, Mrs. Beatrice Brown. Upon seeing Brown at the hospital, Wolens stated he was not one of the burglars.

Will Prosecute

Attorney W. E. Monson, 184 West Washington street, has been retained by relatives of the dead man to prosecute Policeman Shannon. The coroner's inquest scheduled to take place Tuesday was postponed until Sept. 30 and will be held at the King & Hill undertaking parlors, 3604 State street, where Brown's body was taken. According to a statement from Acting Capt. Michael J. Cullinan of the 3d precinct station, Policeman Shannon is considered a faithful officer and has never been called before the trial board for misconduct. Brown at the time of his death was employed by the Inland Steel company, having come to Indiana Harbor from Hurtsboro, Ala. He is survived by a widow and two brothers, Aaron and Mose Brown.