

# INTERURBAN AGENT IS SLAIN BY AN UNKNOWN MURDERER

Otis Hendren, Night Man at the Local Traction Station, is Shot to Death Supposedly by Stranger Who Had Been Seen Lurking Around Depot Monday--Murder Occurred at Near 10 O'Clock--A Mystery as to the Motive.

## MAN WAS SEEN RUNNING FROM THE STATION

W. O. Hendren, night agent at the Interurban station, was murdered at 9:45 o'clock Monday night by an unknown man. Hendren was shot through the heart with a 32-calibre revolver. He died a few seconds after the shot was fired.

A stranger who had been around the station for an hour or more previous to the murder and who was seen running from the station by several persons is supposed to be the murderer. He is described as a dark complexioned rough-appearing man, about 35 years old and about 5 feet, eight inches high. He wore a brown suit of clothes, a dark shirt and a soft felt hat.

### Stranger Runs From Station.

Persons who saw and talked with the man earlier in the evening state that he appeared extremely nervous and say he continually kept looking toward the ticket window. He was unshaven and very rough-looking. He ran from the station immediately after the shot was fired. Leaving the station through the door to the waiting room he ran southwest on the interurban tracks to Hill Street. Here he turned west and it is believed he ran down to Sunset Hill.

At the time of the murder Hendren and Jim Sutton, the dispatcher, were the only men in the station besides the murderer. Sutton was busy at his desk issuing train orders when he heard the shot fired. Cutting his order short he arose from his desk and stepped into the waiting room. Sutton's office is just west of the waiting room. Just as he stepped into the waiting room the door slammed as if some one was leaving. Hendren was standing at the door of his office, his hand grasping the door knob. As Sutton entered the waiting room Hendren gasped and sank to the floor. He was dead when Sutton reached him. As he sank to the floor his body lay partly in the waiting room and partly in the ticket office.

### Warned One to be Careful.

Many persons were on the streets near the station at the time of the shooting. As the man ran from the station he was seen by any number of persons. Several young lady students were on the opposite side of the street and saw him run. University students C. A. Scott, Sherwood Bloomberg and Ralph Denny were in the Crawford Restaurant at the time. Hearing the shot they ran to the street just as the murderer ran from the station. One or two of them started to run after the fleeing man but followed only a short distance.

Gilbert Clippinger of the University was walking along Indiana Street just as the man crossed Indiana Street to Hill Street. As the man passed Clippinger he slowed up and said, "You better not go up to the station, there is trouble and some shooting up there." He then ran on down Hill Street toward Sunset Hill. This was the last seen of him.

### Trains Searched For Fugitive.

Immediately after the killing a great crowd gathered at the station. Sheriff Maze, Deputy Sheriff Boes and Officer Williamson were at the scene immediately and started out to look for the murderer. Other parties were organized and a systematic search of Sunset Hill and vicinity was made, but no additional trace of the man was found.

### Parties went to Indianapolis and took several men from freight trains, but they proved that they had been on the train all night by trainmen and were not held.

### Mystery for Cause of Crime.

Although several detectives have been employed by the interurban company to work on the Hendren murder case nothing of any importance has been developed which in any way clears up the mystery of the Monday night tragedy. Several detectives from Indianapolis and Lafayette have been here in the last thirty-six hours and have, followed up every clew they could get hold of. Some of the clews have been found to be valuable and others are still being investigated.

On account of the mystery in the case the identity of the detective is unknown. He is said to be a cold-blooded order and that he ordered

Hendren to throw up his hands. They believe that when he refused to do so he was shot.

A definite motive for the murder has not been agreed upon by the officers and others interested in the apprehension of the murderer. Many believe that he attempted to rob the agent and that Hendren attempted to put the man out of the station and was shot.

From Rupert Bartley, the Interurban agent, comes perhaps the most plausible story of the crime. Robbery is believed by Mr. Bartley to have been the motive. Mr. Bartley is well acquainted with the surroundings in the office and knew the habits of the murdered man.

### Wife Left Shortly Before.

Mrs. Hendren was with her husband until after 9 o'clock. At that time she went to her home at the corner of Seminary and Bloomington streets. It is Bartley's belief that after Mrs. Hendren left the station that the murderer, who had been around the station all evening, attempted to rob the cash drawer and was caught in the act by Mr. Hendren. A scuffle followed and Hendren was killed.

Mr. Bartley says that a bucket of drinking water which is kept in the station all day is generally taken from the sub-station into the ticket office by Mr. Hendren at near 9 o'clock. The sub-station is just east of the ticket office and there is a door between the two rooms. It is the belief of Mr. Bartley that the man, watching Hendren, saw him leave the ticket office and step into the sub-station. The murderer, he believes, quickly stepped into the ticket office from the waiting room and attempted to get into the cash drawer.

### Hendren a Nervy Man.

As he was working at the drawer, Hendren, returning into the room carrying the bucket of water, caught him in the act. A scuffle followed in which Hendren was shot.

The fact that the bucket was turned over and on the floor and that the water was spilled and so splashed around is evidence that there was a scuffle and as Hendren generally went into the sub-station at near 10 o'clock to get the bucket Mr. Bartley's theory is very probable.

Mr. Hendren, says Mr. Bartley, was a very nervy man and would not hesitate to attack any one who was trying to rob or take advantage of him. The bullet which killed Hendren entered his left breast and penetrated the body. The bullet passed entirely through his body, severing his spinal cord. The bullet after passing through his body struck the top of a desk in the middle of the room and glanced off against the window frame. The bullet was picked up later. It is of .32 caliber and one of the patented sort which are very hard. The bullet was not even flattened by its contact with the table or the window frame.

Another theory advanced by many who knew Hendren well, is that the stranger became obnoxious around the station and that Hendren, as he is often called upon to do, attempted to put him out. As Hendren advanced upon the man, the stranger fired the fatal shot.

### Talked With the Stranger.

Probably the best description of the man who is believed to have committed the murder comes from Albert Flemming, an Interurban lineman. Flemming went to the station at 9 o'clock that night with another one of his gang. These men work at night after the current

shut off. That night they were to Plainfield.

They went to the station Monday night to take the 9:17 car. When they arrived they noticed the stranger. Especially did they notice his nervousness and appearance. So strongly did his appearance impress them that they remarked about it several times. Each noticed that the man carried something in his right coat pocket. They both remarked about this and believed at the time that it was a revolver.

The man sat in a seat in the waiting room part of the time and walked around the station platform part of the time. Once when the man sat down Flemming distinctly heard the thing the man carried in his pocket strike against the seat.

### Stranger Looked Suspicious.

Mr. Flemming believed that the man carried a Colt's Automatic revolver. During the time Mr. Flemming and the other man waited at the station for their car the stranger addressed them asking what time he could get a car for Terre Haute. He was told that one left a few minutes after ten o'clock.

Mr. Flemming describes the man as very tough looking and as medium in height, about 35 years old, medium weight, dark complexioned and unshaven. He wore a dark suit, a soft felt hat and a dark shirt. His right shoulder appeared to droop, and was much lower than his left. "He looked to be a desperate character," says Mr. Flemming.

The first thing Mr. Flemming learned when he arrived at Plainfield was that Mr. Hendren had been killed. He immediately suspected the man whom he had seen in the depot and stated that he believed that he knew who the murderer was, although at that time he knew nothing of the circumstances of the killing.

Mr. Flemming was here Tuesday morning and said that he could identify the man he had seen at the station. He said that the man so impressed him that he could never forget his appearance.

Soon after the killing of Mr. Hendren the body was taken to the Gil-Hispie Undertaking rooms and prepared for burial. Later it was taken to the home on east Seminary street. Deputy Coroner Wright arrived from Fillmore soon after the murder and viewed the body before it was moved.

## SENATOR SLACK TO SPOKE

Bryan and Kern Club Was Addressed by the Democratic Minority Leader of the State Legislature Upper House, in the Assembly Room of the Court House.

## ROUSING MEETING IS ASSURED

State Senator L. E. Slack of Franklin addressed the Bryan and Kern Club in the Assembly Room of court house at 7:30 o'clock Wednesday. Mr. Slack is an eloquent speaker and a rousing meeting was held. Mr. Slack is leader of the minority in the Upper House of the State Legislature and is one of the most brilliant Democratic speakers of the state.

Mr. Slack arrived in Greencastle at 8 o'clock over the Big Four. All of the issues of the campaign were thoroughly discussed.

## GRAND JURY IS SUMMONED

Judge Rawley Issues Order That This Be Meet on Next Monday For the Consideration of Such Cases as Come Before It.

The Greencastle Grand Jury will meet on their bar duties on Monday, the fifth. Judge Rawley issued an order for the summoning of the jury and the subpoenas were issued Wednesday. It is not known that the session will last long. There are few cases to be investigated, none of importance. The drawn will consist of Cunningham, Greencastle, Evans, Greencastle, Clarence Perkins, Jackson, Sand Bales, Russell, Sam G. Nelson, Monroe, etc.

# MISS RUTH RUNYAN IS FIRST; GRAND TOTAL VOTE OF 81,175

THE CLOVERDALE YOUNG LADY IS GIVEN \$15 AS HER AWARD—BESIDE GETTING FIRST IN HER DISTRICT SHE SECURES GREATEST NUMBER OF NEW SUBSCRIBERS—MISS ROXIE HURST OF MT MERIDIAN SECURES SECOND PLACE WITH VOTE OF 69,695.

## MISS MARY JACOBS IN THE NORTH

Fillmore Rural Route No. 1 Contestant is Given \$25 and Miss Laveta Evans, of Roachdale, Who Finished Second in That District Gets \$15—More Than 500 New Subscribers Added to Lists During the Contest.

### SOUTH DISTRICT—

Miss Ruth Runyan, Cloverdale:

First, South District	.....	\$25
Greatest number of votes	.....	15
Most new subscribers	.....	5
Total, .....	.....	\$45
Miss Roxie Hurst, Mt. Meridian:		

Second, South District .....

Second largest vote .....

Total, .....

### NORTH DISTRICT—

First, Miss Mary Jacobs, Fillmore, R. R. No. 1	.....	\$25
Second, Miss Laveta Evans, Roachdale	.....	\$15
Total awards .....	.....	\$105

fore last and last week. These aided her greatly in the race and enabled her to finish ahead of Miss Hurst. Saturday was a busy day with the candidates and many votes were cast. The total vote cast Saturday was 210,895. The committee which audited the vote used an adding machine and there was no chance for error. The vote for the entire contest was carefully audited.

## THE OPTION BILL IS LAW

The County Unit Passes the House By a Vote of 55 to 45 at 10:45 Saturday—There Was Little Struggle.

## FRIENDS OF MEASURE JUBILANT

Local option with the county as the unit is a law. The bill passed the house Saturday by the decisive vote of 55 to 45. It is understood that five Democrats voted for the bill and three Republicans voted against it. This information is not final. There was little difficulty in passing the bill. For several days there has been little opposition. The Indianapolis Star and some Republican leaders told stories of lobby activity, but in fact there was little doing in opposition to the bill.

The news was received here shortly before noon, and created some little excitement. The college bell was rung and the people upon the streets gathered in groups to talk the situation over. The partisan character of the measure was still in evidence, as was shown by the fact that few asked what the result would be on temperance, but always what the result would be on the political line. So far as the Democrats of the county are concerned the matter is now history. The temperance Democrats were in favor of their own methods of solving the question. They were doubtful of the power of the Republican measure to bring the result promised. Now that the rival method has won they cease their opposition, and will join heartily in attempting to secure results. No one wishes to repeal it. All temperance men hope it will succeed as the Republicans promised. They will not work against it. They will work for it. Should the Democrats remember the insults heaped upon them by Republican speakers from Watson down, and refuse to aid, there is no chance. But we are jubilant.

Specially interesting was the race between Miss Hurst and Miss Runyan in the south district. For the last two weeks of the contest these young ladies had been right together. Miss Runyan, however, secured more new subscriptions than Miss Hurst and secured the 3000 and 5000 certificates given respectively week be-

fore last and last week. These aided her greatly in the race and enabled her to finish ahead of Miss Hurst. Saturday was a busy day with the candidates and many votes were cast. The total vote cast Saturday was 210,895. The committee which audited the vote used an adding machine and there was no chance for error. The vote for the entire contest was carefully audited.