Herrin Massacre Investigation Proceedings, 0801-0900

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Comments
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Q. At the meeting of the Lions Club, did you think that the troops would be necessary?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did Col. Hunter express any opinion as to whether or not they would be necessary?
A. I think he said, if necessary it would be done, in co-operation with the local authorities, but he didn't think it necessary at that time.

That is all.
HERMAN SLATER
having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness, examined in chief by Chairman McCarthy, and testified as follows:

Q. What is your name?
A. Herman Slater.
Q. Where do you live?
A. 912 North Van Buren, Marion.
Q. How long have you lived in Marion?
A. 21 years.
Q. What were you doing during the month of June 1922?
A. Working for A. A. Moseley, hardware dealer.
Q. That is in the city of Marion?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Were you there on the 21st day of June, 1922?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. What, if anything, unusual happened that day. Just tell the committee what you know about it.
A. Well, there was a bunch of fellows, about 15 or 20, came in there and took about 10 guns and I don't know just how much ammunition, about $50 worth I believe Mr. Moseley said.
Q. When they came in the store, what did they say?
A. I wasn't there the first time.
Q. Were you there the second time? What did they say then?
A. They told us to give up the guns. They had been to the other stores and couldn't get what they wanted and had come after ours.
Q. Did they tell Mr. Moseley what they wanted them for?
A. No, but I had an idea.
Q. What for?
A. To go to the Lester mine.
Q. There had been trouble out there with the guards, hadn't there?
A. It had been reported so.
Q. Who did they talk to?
A. All of us.
Q. Mr. Moseley was there?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And did he talk to them too?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Just what did they say about the guns?
A. He asked them who was going to pay for them and they said some fellows at Herrin. That is about all I recall.
Q. Where were those guns kept?
A. In a showcase there.
Q. Before they came, hadn't someone called up your store and told you the stores at Herrin had been raided?
A. No, that was about thirty minutes after they had been there.
Q. It was thirty minutes after they left that you got that message?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did you know any of those men?
A. No, sir.
Q. Do you know any men in Herrin?
A. A few.
Q. Could you tell from their dress or from their countenances what line of work they followed?
A. Well, most of them looked like farmers. They had overalls on.
Q. They might have been miners?
A. Yes.
Q. Both dress about the same, don't they?
A. Yes, all dress about the same.
Q. But you wouldn't know any of their faces?
A. No.
Q. Did you know a man by the name of Fontinetti? A. Yes.
Q. Was he in that bunch? A. No, sir.
having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness, examined in chief by Chairman McCarthy, and testified as follows:

Q. What is your name?
A. H. L. Cox.

Q. What is your business?
A. Hardware and furniture.

Q. Where is your place of business located?
A. On the square.

Q. In the city of Marion?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were you proprietor of that business on the 31st day of June, 1832? That is Wednesday before the killing?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did anything unusual happen that day in your store?
A. Well, a crowd of men come in.

Q. About what time?
A. In the afternoon about 2:30 or 3:00 o'clock.

Q. How many?
A. I don't know.

Q. What would you estimate?
A. 35 or 30.

Q. Did they tell you what they wanted?
A. They asked us if we had any guns.

Q. Just tell the committee what happened.
A. They asked me if I had any guns and I told him we had nothing but rifles and so they turned around and walked out.

Q. Did they get any guns at your place?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did they ask for ammunition?
A. Not just then, no, sir.
Q. Then afterwards, did anything further happen?
A. Why after I shut up the store I was called and told to come up to the store.
Q. Do you know who called you?
A. No, sir.
Q. What happened?
A. They wanted into the store. A bunch of men.
Q. How many in the bunch?
A. I judge there was 100 or something like that.
Q. What did you do?
A. I asked them what they wanted and they told me they wanted guns and ammunition. Said they wanted to see them, and I opened the door and let them in and they got a little ammunition.
Q. What kind of ammunition?
A. Cartridges for revolvers.
Q. Any shotgun shells?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did they get any guns?
A. No, sir.
Q. When you let them in the store, did you get the guns for them or
A. They didn't get any guns.
Q. Did they get ammunition?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did they see the guns?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Had you seen any of these men before?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did you know any of them?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did they tell you who they were?
Q. Did they pay for the ammunition?
A. No, sir.
Q. How much did they get, approximately?
A. $40 or $50 worth.
Q. What did you do?
A. I didn't do anything.
Q. Did you report the matter to anybody?
A. No, sir.
Q. Just prior to that time and during the day and the previous day, hadn't there been rumors of trouble out at the Lester mine?
A. I don't know.
Q. Had you heard rumors of trouble?
A. Nothing only I heard over the telephone.
Q. Who called you?
A. Paisley said the stores at Herrin were gone through.
Q. Did he tell you who the persons were going through the stores?
A. No, sir.
Q. Or what their purpose was?
A. He didn't say.
Q. Did you have in mind when they first came to the store and asked for ammunition and guns what they wanted them for?
A. Not particularly.
Q. Did you have in mind, when you got down to the store after you closed, what they wanted guns for then, when about a hundred men were there asking for guns?
A. I didn't know what they wanted them for.
Q. Did you have an opinion?
A. I know of some trouble.
Q. And you figures they wanted this ammunition to go out to the mine or to do some physical violence in some way, didn't you?
A. A man had his ideas, but I didn't know.
Q. No, but from what had occurred before, that was the feeling you had?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. They didn't come peacefully, did they?
A. There wasn't any disturbance.
Q. In other words, they forced you to give them ammunition and you gave it to them rather than subject yourself to physical violence?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. After this time, did you call the sheriff?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did you report the facts to anyone?
A. No, sir.
Q. And when did you first tell about the facts at the store?
A. I don't remember telling anyone.
Q. Did you have any insurance on the stock?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did you afterwards collect insurance for this ammunition?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did you call the chief of police and report to him?
A. No, sir.
Q. Is this a frequent occurrence, having people come to your store and demand ammunition?
A. No, sir.
Q. Had it ever occurred in your experience?
A. No, sir.
Q. But you didn't think enough of this to report it to the police?
A. I didn't do it.
Q. Why didn't you report it?
A. Well, there wasn't any use.
Q. What do you mean "there wasn't any use."
A. I didn't know what to report.
Q. They had in fact stolen this ammunition and -
A. No, they just came and got it.
Q. They didn't pay you for it, did they?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did they promise to pay for it?
A. No, sir.
Q. Didn't they take it away forcibly?
A. I didn't consider it stealing, they just came and got it.

FURTHER EXAMINATION BY MR. PIERCE:
Q. But you didn't think enough of this to report it to the police?
A. I didn't do it.
Q. Why didn't you report it?
A. Well, there wasn't any use.
Q. What do you mean "there wasn't any use."
A. I didn't know what to report.
Q. They had in fact stolen this ammunition and -
A. No, they just came and got it.
Q. They didn't pay you for it, did they?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did they promise to pay for it?
A. No, sir.
Q. Didn't they take it away forcibly?
A. I didn't consider it stealing, they just came and got it.

FURTHER EXAMINATION BY MR. PIERCE:
Q. If they got your automobile, wouldn't you consider that stealing?
A. Might have been.
Q. They didn't get any guns from you?
A. No, sir.
Q. They guns were in the case when you come in?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Someone called you up and told you to come to the store?
A. Yes, said they wanted ammunition.
Q. Did they say anything about guns?
A. No, sir.
Q. Didn't make any effort to take the guns?
A. No, sir.
Q. You made a report to the insurance company that you had lost ammunition - you made claim?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Who were the agents?
A. Mr. Allsbrook.
Q. Do you remember the name of the insurance company that wrote this insurance?
A. I do not.
Q. What was it, riot insurance?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. When did you take it out?
A. Took it out two or three days before this trouble came up.
Q. You took it out in anticipation of this trouble?
A. No, sir.
Q. How did you happen to take it out? Did you ever carry any before?
A. No, not on the stock.
Q. You didn't have riot insurance in force until about two or three days before this occurred?
A. No, sir.
Q. You took it out anticipating trouble?
A. No, sir.
Q. Hadn't you heard there was likely to be trouble out there at the mines?
A. Only in the paper.
Q. Didn't you hear it on the street?
A. No, sir, I wasn't on the street.
Q. Didn't you report the theft of this stuff to the sheriff?
A. No, sir.
Q. Didn't consider it stealing, it was just taking it?
A. Yes, sir. They just took it.
Q. Did you know what they wanted with ammunition?
A. No, sir.
Q. Didn't you think it strange that 100 men would come and want $40 or $50 worth of ammunition?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Now, you did have it in mind that they wanted it in connection with the mine trouble. You had that in mind, didn't you?
A. I knew of it, yes, sir.
Q. You let them take it because you thought they would take it regardless of whether you let them take it?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. In other words, you thought they would force the store open and take it?
A. I suppose that is what you call it.
Q. Now, why didn't you report that to the authorities, just the same as if they had broken in in the night time and taken $40 or $50? It is just the same as any other theft which would deprive you of your property, isn't it?
A. Well, I didn't think about reporting it. I just went back home.
Q. Suppose you would come in your store Monday morning and find all the guns had disappeared out of the gun case. Would you report it?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. What is the difference in taking $40 of ammunition and $40 of guns. Why report one and not the other? Can you see any difference?
A. Well, I don't suppose there would be.

Q. You say you would report if your store had been entered, when you go there next Monday morning. You would report that?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. They took your stuff and deprived you of your property just the same as if they had broken in. Do you see any difference?

A. Guess there isn't any.

Q. They why didn't you report it?

A. I ain't particularly got any reason.

FURTHER EXAMINATION BY MR. ICONE:

Q. What time of day did this thing happen, Mr. Cox?

A. You mean when they took the ammunition?

Q. Yes, sir.

A. Almost dark. Twixt sundown and dark.

Q. About 7 o'clock?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You had gone home?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And they called you on the telephone?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did they tell you they wanted.

A. Ammunition.

Q. Where do you live?

A. Marion.

Q. How far from your place of business?

A. About six blocks.

Q. And your store at that time was located just across the narrow street from the office of the State's Attorney?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you were located within one hundred feet of the sheriff's office?
Q. And a block or two from the county jail and sheriff's residence?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And on the same side of the square as the city hall?
A. No, on the south side and the city hall is east.
Q. You are on the south side at the extreme east end?
A. Yes.
Q. Did these men offer to pay anything for this ammunition?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did you ask for pay?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did you ask them who they were?
A. No, sir.
Q. They didn't tell you who they were?
A. They did not.
Q. Just asked for ammunition?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did you give them all they wanted?
A. They got what they wanted.
Q. Did you have anything remaining after they got what they wanted?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did they tell you what particular kind they wanted?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did they ask for any particular caliber?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did they have the guns they wanted?
A. I didn't see any.
Q. How did they know what you gave them?
A. I didn't give it to them.
Q. How did they know how to get it? Did they know where it was?
   A. Yes, they could see where it was kept on the shelves.
   Q. It is kept in boxes and each box has the caliber of the bullets within?
   A. Yes, sir.
   Q. And they took it from the shelves what they wanted?
   A. Yes, sir.
   Q. Do you know how much they took?
   A. Around $40 or $50 worth.
   Q. How many boxes?
   A. I don't know exactly.
   Q. How did you make out your proof of loss to the insurance company?
   A. Estimated it.
   Q. Is that the way you put it on, just estimated it?
   A. Yes, sir.
   Q. And you never requested a single soul to pay you for it?
   A. No, sir.

(Cross examination of H. L. Cox
written by Mrs. Daigh)
(Mr. Cox on the stand)

**FURTHER EXAMINATION BY THE CHAIRMAN.**

Q. In your own mind you knew what they were going to use this ammunition for, didn't you?

A. No, sir.

Q. You had an idea, didn't you, that it was not for any hunting?

A. I did not know what they wanted it for.

Q. With a mob like that you knew they were not getting in for any good probably, didn't you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. All right. You knew there was trouble at the Lester mine?

A. Heard of it.

Q. Were you in sympathy at that time with the men that were going out to attack that mine?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you think they were doing right in going out there to attack the mine?

A. I did not know they were doing that.

Q. If you had known it, would have you done anything to prevent it?

A. I would if I could have.

Q. Now, supposing that you had known they were taking this ammunition for the purpose of going out to attack the guards at the Lester mine, would you have then reported it to the Sheriff?

A. I would if I had known it.

Q. From what you knew of the situation that was the only possible purpose they would have had, wasn't it?

A. So far as I know.

Q. So far as you know that was the only possible purpose they could have used this ammunition for?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And yet, with that in your mind, you failed to make any
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you not feel that you were negligent of your duty as a citizen at that time, Mr. Cox?

A. Well, it might be that I was.

Q. Of course, from circumstances that have arisen since, you know that you were now?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You might have possibly done something then to have prevented these men from using that ammunition for the purpose for which they got it?

A. Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN: That is all.
A: Yes, sir.

Q: Do you not feel that you were negligent of your duty as a citizen at that time, Mr. Cox?

A: Well, it might be that I was.

Q: Of course, from circumstances that have arisen since, you know that you were now?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: You might have possibly done something then to have prevented these men from using that ammunition for the purpose for which they got it?

A: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN: That is all.
TESTIMONY OF THOMAS FREISS
BEFORE THE HERRIN MASSACRE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AT
MARION, ILLINOIS.

April 28, 1923.
Thomas Freiss,

having been first duly sworn, was examined in chief by chairman McCarthy and testified as follows:

Q. What is your name?
A. Thomas Freiss.

Q. Where do you live, Mr. Freiss?
A. Marion, Illinois.

Q. How long have you lived in Marion?
A. About 19 years.

Q. What official position do you hold in the city of Marion?
A. Night policeman.

Q. How long have you held that position?
A. 19 years off and on.

Q. Were you holding that position during the month of June, 1922?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you remember there were some killings out here on Thursday, June 22d?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Prior to that time did you know of any trouble out at the Lester Strip mine?
A. No, sir.

Q. Had you ever been out at that mine?
A. One time.

Q. When was that?
A. It was probably three or four days after the riot.

Q. You never had been out previous?
A. I came by.

Q. Had you been by at any time when they had armed guards?
A. No, sir.

Q. Had you heard there were armed guards at the Lester mine?
A. Yes, sir.
Thomas Freiss,

having been first duly sworn, was examined in chief by chairman McCarthy and testified as follows:

Q. What is your name?
A. Thomas Freiss.

Q. Where do you live, Mr. Freiss?
A. Marion, Illinois.

Q. How long have you lived in Marion?
A. About 19 years.

Q. What official position do you hold in the city of Marion?
A. Night policeman.

Q. How long have you held that position?
A. 19 years off and on.

Q. Were you hold that position during the month of June, 1922?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you remember there were some killings out there on Thursday, June 22d?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Prior to that time did you know of any trouble out at the Lester Strip mine?
A. No, sir.

Q. Had you ever been out at that mine?
A. One time.

Q. When was that?
A. It was probably three or four days after the riot.

Q. You never had been out previous?
A. I came by.

Q. Had you been by at any time when they had armed guards?
A. No, sir.

Q. Had you heard there were armed guards at the Lester mine?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. When did you first hear that?
A. I couldn't tell you.
Q. Just approximately how long prior to the time of the killing?
A. It must have been a week or two.
Q. Do you remember when Colonel Hunter arrived from Springfield?
A. About that time.
Q. That was on Sunday previous to the Thursday?
A. When he arrived in Marion?
Q. Yes?
A. No, I don't know.
Q. When was the first you saw him?
A. I couldn't tell you that.
Q. On Wednesday, that is the 21st of June, that is the day before the killing, what time did you go to work?
A. Well, I don't have no certain time to go to work.
Q. Do you remember what time you were there that day?
A. No, sir.
Q. What hours do you generally work?
A. Sometimes from 2 to 6 of a morning, sometimes I come on at 4 o'clock, 3 o'clock. I don't have any certain time.
Q. What hours did you work the day before the killing at Herrin?
A. I couldn't tell you.
Q. You do not remember?
A. No, sir. I worked all night but I know I go to bed of a morning and I get up and I don't have any certain time to go on.
Q. On the evening preceding the riots or the trouble at the Lester mine you were on duty from 7 to 7, weren't you?
A. No, sir.
Q. Were you on duty at 6 o'clock that evening?
A. Yes, sir. I am on duty every evening before 6.
You do not remember just what time you went on duty?
A. No, I could not tell you.
Q. Was it 4 or 5?
A. I couldn't tell you.
Q. Chances are it was the latter part of the afternoon?
A. Along in the evening.
Q. Where did you come from when you went to work that day?
A. Home.
Q. You had not been around the streets that day?
A. No, sir.
Q. If you came on duty, was there anything unusual happening?
A. Yes, that night.
Q. What was it.
A. People running here. Lots of cars.
Q. What were they doing?
A. Just excited. Everybody.
Q. What were they excited about?
A. I couldn't tell you. I didn't ask them.
Q. Did you know that there had been trouble out at the Lester mine?
A. I think so. I heard it.
Q. You heard it?
A. Yes.
Q. And you knew that is what excited the people that evening?
A. Yes, I heard it.
Q. And you could hear rumors about guards and guards killing one of the union men?
A. Yes, I heard that.
Q. And that is what excited the people?
A. I suppose so.
Q. Where were you stationed that night?
A. I could not say.
Q. Did you have any special part or any special place?
A. Yes, sir. Around headquarters and around the square.

Q. Did you notice any big gatherings there around the square?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where were they?
A. All around town and over the streets.

Q. In the road?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Large number of people were gathered?
A. Quite a few.

Q. Did they have any arms?
A. Yes, sir. I saw men with arms.

Q. How many men did you see with arms?
A. I could not say.

Q. Dozens of them?
A. I seen cars pass through the streets with arms.

Q. Did the people walking around the streets have arms?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see any people with arms?
A. No, sir.

Q. Then all of the people you saw armed were in automobiles?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you hear anything about hardware stores having been broken into and arms taken?
A. No, sir.

Q. When did you first learn about that?
A. Well, I couldn't say.

Q. Later in the evening?
A. Later in the night.

Q. Did you hear any explosions that night?
A. I heard some explosions but I do not remember whether they were that night or the night before.

Q. There were some explosions about 8 o'clock?
A. Yes.

Q. And that is while the crowds were gathered in the streets?
A. I did not see the time or hour but I think it was. That is my recollection.

Q. Where did you see automobiles with armed people in them?
A. Going through the streets.

Q. Which way were they going?
A. I think I remember seeing a car going west.

Q. How many?
A. I don't know.

Q. Approximately?
A. 6 or 7.

Q. Going west? That is in the direction of the Lester mine?
A. Yes. One of the roads that lead there.

Q. About what time did you see those cars?
A. Pretty early.

Q. Around 3 o'clock?
A. It was not very far from there.

Q. Do you figure it was around that hour?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Prior to that time, did you hear anything about the crowds, different crowds here in town going over to the Greater Marion Association and trying to get some rifles?

A. Yes, sir. I heard something about it. I helped hide the guns away.

Q. What was the reason you hid the guns away?
A. I cannot say. I assisted in putting the guns away.

Q. Who did you assist?
A. Mr. Faisley and Mr. Edrington.

Q. He is Secretary of the Greater Marion Association?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever help them put any other guns away?
A. No, sir. I never did.
...What was the reason?
A. I never asked them. I will explain it to you. Maj. Beilby asked me. We have a side room in the police station, and he asked me if I had a key to that room. He said, you go up and unlock the door. So I went up and unlocked the door and pretty soon here he came in with a handful of guns. He came in with two or three guns in his hand and piled them down inside of the door on the floor and I commenced to take the pins out to fix the guns so they would not operate and when they got the guns all put in I locked the door.

Q. Why did you think they were doing that, Mr. Freiss?
A. I supposed they thought something would take place.

Q. You thought on account of the killing at the mine?
A. All this excitement that the guns might be taken.

Q. That somebody might get those guns?
A. That is the opinion I had.

Q. That was in everybody's mind?
A. That was in my mind.

Q. That was the general opinion at that time, that they wanted those guns to go out and attack the guards and kill union miners, that was the general opinion around the square?
A. I never heard anything said around the square.

Q. I mean about the mob going to the mine to attack the mine.
A. I stayed here looking after my own business. I paid no attention.

Q. Just generally now, not what you knew exactly, but that was your opinion, that was what they wanted the guns for?
A. I was told that.

Q. When you saw those 6 or 7 loads of armed men going through in automobiles?
A. I never said 6 or 7. I said 6 or 7 men in the car.
2. In one car?
A. Yes, sir.

3. I understood 6 or 7 cars. How many cars, did you say?
A. I could not tell you. I could not tell you. I saw

100 men all told.

4. I mean cars?
A. I only saw one car with guns.

5. Which way were they going?
A. West.

6. Which way did you figure they were going?
A. I did not figure.

7. Did you kind of feel they were going towards the mine?
A. I could not figure.

8. What did you think they were going to do?
A. I did not know what they were going to do.

9. Is it very often that you see cars loaded with armed men
going through town?
A. Not very often.

10. So it is a little unusual is it not?
A. Yes, sir.

11. Coupled with all the rest of the things you heard and
what you knew about them trying to get the rifles and those things,
did you know of any other place that those men might be going to than
10 the Lester mine?
A. I did not know. How would I know?

12. I am not asking you that. Where, in your opinion, were
those men going?
A. I do not know. I had an opinion.

13. Do you think if we gave you a little time that you would
gain an opinions?
A. I could not tell you

14. Do you want to tell us?
A. Yes, sir. I want to tell the truth.
Q. Understand this, you were here?
A. Yes, sir, I was here.

Q. And you knew what was going on around here. You could sense the feeling and that is what we are trying to get at. Now, when those armed men were going through here, you were possibly satisfied in your own mind, as was everybody else practically that they were going to the Lester mine and there was going to be trouble there?

A. I did not know where they were going.

Q. Did you try to find out?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you report the fact of seeing those men go out to anybody?
A. I did not, no sir.

Q. Why didn't you?
A. I had something else to do.

Q. What was so important that you had to do at that time?
A. I had to see that women and children did not get run over on the street. That was my business. That was what I was paid to do and nothing else.

Q. What did you do when the mob formed over at this corner?
A. I could not tell you. I was just around doing what I told you I done.

Q. They were not killing anybody were they?
A. No, sir.

Q. It was not your business as to what they were doing?
A. I could not keep people out of the streets.

Q. You could not get them to go home, if you had tried?
A. No, sure not.

Q. Did you see Officer Thornton that night?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where did you see him?
A. I saw him on the corner there.
Q. Did you and he go down to the depot together that night and watch the trains and keep the boys off of them?
A. I don't know, probably did.
Q. That was about 9, was it not?
A. I could not say whether it was or not.
Q. That was after these armed men had gone through town?
A. Well, I could not say.
Q. Did you tell him about seeing these armed men go through town?
A. I saw them, I think, he and I were together.
Q. Did they try to run over you?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did you get out of the road to let them by?
A. I always get out of the way of cars if I can.
Q. Did you get out of the way to let it by?
A. If I was in the way I got out.
Q. Did you?
A. I don't know.
Q. Now, Mr. Thornton testified that there were eight cars with from five to six armed men in each car came through the town here. That he and you were over on this side of the square?
A. I remember seeing one car loaded with men that had guns.
Q. Did you and he talk about that car with each other?
A. I do not know.
Q. You do not remember what he said to you about that?
A. No.
Q. It did not cause any excitement in your mind at all?
A. I am a man hard to get excited.
Q. I am almost ready to agree with you. I, a carload of armed men and these other rumors did not excite you, I do not believe I could do it.
A. I don't believe you could.
Q. Did you see the chief that night?
A. I saw him that evening.
Q. What time?
A. I reckon when I went off of duty.
Q. What time was it he went off?
A. He was supposed to go home at 6 but he generally goes at 5.
Q. You had taken care of the rifles at that time, hadn't you?
A. When?
Q. Before the chief went home?
A. I don't think so.
Q. Did he tell you anything about two of the stores being entered?
A. I don't think he did.
Q. He did not tell you about that fact, did he?
A. It slipped my mind.
Q. He didn't tell you there was liable to be trouble because of that thing?
A. I don't think he did.
Q. If he had told you, you would have remembered it, wouldn't you?
A. I cannot remember everything that passed. I don't remember.
Q. That was a serious thing. Did you ever tell the Sheriff about these men going through town?
A. I did not see the Sheriff.
Q. Did you look for him?
A. I did not.
Q. Did you think he ought to know about that fact?
A. I supposed he knew about it.
Q. What made you think he knew about it?
A. He was Sheriff of the county and ought to know.
Q. Didn't you feel it was your duty to tell him about that?
A. That was not my business.
A. If you had actually known that those men were going over to the Lester mine to kill somebody, yet you did not feel it your duty to tell the Sheriff about it?

Q. What could I have done about those men going there? Wouldn't

A. You have felt it your duty to tell the Sheriff about it?

Q. If I had seen him.

A. You did not go out of your way to look up the Sheriff?

Q. I was looking after my own business.

A. And your own business of watching so women and children would not be run over was more important than the fact that a murder was going to be committed?

Q. Yes, sir, more important to me.

CHAIRMAN: Any questions, Mr. Pierce? That is all.
having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness, examined in chief by Chairman McCarthy, and testified as follows:

Q. State your name.
A. W. J. Brown.

Q. Where do you live?
A. Carbondale.

Q. What position do you hold?
A. City Clerk and also clerk of the City Court.

Q. On the 21st day of June 1922, which was the day before the killings at the Lester's mine, or near there, did you have occasion to see Sheriff Thaxton?
A. I did.

Q. Where did you see him?
A. In my office and I saw him out on the street and in the garage across the street.

Q. Who was with him?
A. The State's Attorney and I think one of the sheriff's deputies.

Q. Schaffer?
A. I think that is the name.

Q. Now just tell us what happened there.
A. Well, I knew nothing about it until I came out there to go to dinner and I didn't get home - just got across the square when I heard rumors of a truck being fired upon near Carterville. I ate my dinner and as I went back I heard people talking along the streets. Almost in front of my office is a garage in which a Bodge car had just arrived and the people crowded around it and I walked up and the men had gotten out and the people around there were noticing where it had been shot all to pieces. Bullet holes were all over it and there
were dents made by bullets all over the car. And this man was excited and scared and showed by his looks that he had been scared and very much unnerved. I engaged him in conversation and he told me very incoherently his story. He was so excited he could not tell his story and after I got from him that none was killed I asked who was in the car with him and he said there was one man just in front or in back of the truck that was taking those men over from Carbondale and I asked him how many were there and he said there were fifty or a hundred in the woods and I asked him if he was hit and he said no, as I remember it, but the man in the seat with him was hit. I asked him how many were dead but he didn’t know.

While we were talking and looking at the car, a car drove up and I walked up and four men were in the car. I recognized two of them but I couldn’t locate them at all. I had only a slight acquaintance with the State’s Attorney and had I met him anywhere else I wouldn’t know who he was. I asked if they were from Herrin and he said, “I am the State’s Attorney from Marion.” I knew who the sheriff was because we had a number of people coming in from court there. They got out of the car and went into the garage and he began to talk to the man and he said “You are lucky you are alive now,” and the fellow said he was going to Chicago and the sheriff said something about that was a good policy, or the thing to do. Somebody said that the sheriff Gibson of Jackson County and his Deputy, Davis, had been out to the scene of the riot and had gone back to Carbondale and they also said that as soon as Gibson found that the trouble was in Williamson County he returned to Carbondale. Thaxton asked where Sheriff Gibson was and somebody said he had gone home, and I said, “Come into my office and I will call him up” and we walked across the street to my office and I said to him - I either asked if
he had called troops or if he was going to ask for troops, and I don't remember his answer, but he led me to believe that he hadn't called for troops and didn't think he would. He came in and I walked into my office and he stood outside the gate. We were the only two in the office and I picked up the telephone and called the Sheriff of Jackson County and I said "This is Brown, the Sheriff of Williamson County wants to talk to you" and I handed the phone to Mr. Thaxton and I heard Gibson say, "What is it Mr. Sheriff?" and he said, "Were you over where the trouble occurred?" and he said "Yes, but I didn't get quite over there as I found the trouble was in your county and I came back". He asked if they needed help and Sheriff Thaxton said, "No, I think everything is in good shape, as I have men on the ground and I have everything in hand." Sheriff Gibson offered help and he said, "No, I won't need it. I have all the men on the ground and there won't be no more trouble." This may not be the exact words, but in the main it is. He turned to me and said, "The Sam T. Brush riot isn't 1, 2, 3 with what we are going to have in the next few hours." Then I asked him something about State troops, having heard him say what he did to Sheriff Gibson I thought it very strange for him to make the remark he did to me. As we walked over there I learned he hadn't called the Adjutant General or the Governor and that is the reason I asked him about it. That is about all that occurred.

Q. That was about what time?

A. It must have been about 1:30. I stayed with him about an hour and I got back to the office about 1:00 o'clock and it was thirty minutes after that that the conversation took place between the two sheriffs.

Q. What happened at Herrin after that time? Can you tell us what happened in Herrin?

A. No, I am at Carbondale.
All kinds of reports were coming in. Next morning about
10:00 o'clock a man came in asking where the jailer was. I
walked out and I said, "Who are you" and he said he was
the marshal from Carterville. He had a boy with him about
20 or 22 years old. He said the boy was scared to death
and his clothes were torn and he had no coat, no hat. They
finally found the jailer and was going to put him in
-He was scared to death and so was the marshal. He said,
"We want to get him in jail as there will be 50 men after him."
He felt in his shirt and took out about three or four dollars
and he handed it to them, but I think they returned it to them
a few minutes after that, and I had a call I think from Murphy-
boro asking did they put a man in jail and when I said they
had, they said "you go turn that fellow out if you don't want
that jail torn to pieces. Take that fellow out of town as
there will be 100 men after that fellow." So the day marshal
came around and I think the mayor told him to turn the fellow
loose and I think he did.

FURTHER EXAMINATION BY MR. IGE:

Q. Have you talked with the sheriff of your county about
your conversation with Thaxton?
A. No.
Q. You heard the conversation of Thaxton with the sheriff
A. Yes. I heard him say, "What is it Mr. Sheriff?"
Q. Jackson County, that is the county Senator Glenn comes?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Are he and the sheriff friendly politically?
A. I think so.
Q. No row between them?
A. No, not that I know of.
Q. Gibson is postmaster? A. Yes, he is now.
Q. He was a former sheriff?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. I take it he is friendly with Glenn?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. I understand State's Attorney Duty did not go into your office?
A. No one came in but Thaxton.
Q. How long does it take to drive by auto from Marion to Carbondale?
A. About an hour. I said, "Did you come by where this happened?" and he said they didn't. I says, "Has anybody been killed?" and he said, "I don't know. There was trouble somewhere out on the road but we came another road and I don't know a thing about it." I asked him, "Has anybody been killed?" and he says, "This man says there were several killed," and he says they didn't come by where this shooting occurred - that is the truck.
Q. Is Carterville between here and Carbondale? Do you go through Carterville to go to Carbondale?
A. On the railroad but not on the public road.
Q. You could leave Carbondale and stop at Carterville and get over here in two or three hours?
A. You could go in one hour and ten minutes sometimes, coming through Carterville.
Q. Mr. Brown, the people of your county are anxious to have this thing cleared up, aren't they?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. The sentiment we are meeting here isn't representative of the people in this part of the State, is it?
A. Not generally. There are a few men who are in sympathy with the Union men who are absolutely in sympathy with them. I heard a lady say just the other day that they got just exactly what was coming to them.
TESTIMONY OF HARRY HOWELL
BEFORE THE HERRIN MASSACRE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AT
MARION, ILLINOIS.

April 28, 1923.
Harry Howell, having been first duly sworn, was examined in chief by Chairman McCarthy and testified as follows:

Q. Will you state your name, please?
A. Harry Howell.

Q. Where do you live?
A. At Herrin, Illinois.

Q. How long have you lived at Herrin?
A. Since 1913.

Q. Were you a police officer during the month of June, 1922 in the town of Herrin?
A. Part of the month.

Q. What part?
A. I don't remember just what day I went to work.

Q. Were you an officer there on the 22d, the day of the killings outside of your town?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. What other officers were on duty at that time?
A. Well, Robert Herrin, Chief of Police Jake Jones and William Sadler, Monroe Smith. I believe that is all.

Q. Were they the regular police officers of the city of Herrin?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you have any special police officers at that time?
A. None that I know of.

Q. Now, they had some trouble at the Leister mine. When was the first you ever heard of trouble out there?
A. About the 21st, I believe.

Q. That was day before the killing?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Had you heard they had armed guards at the mine?
A. Yes, sir, I heard that.

Q. And that they were attempting to operate a mine there with non-union workers?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. That was commonly known among the people?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And was quite a bit of dissention among the citizens at that time?

A. I did not hear very much talk of it.

Q. How was that called to your attention on the 21st of June?

A. There were some wounded men brought to the hospital.

Q. What time was that?

A. I believe in the afternoon. I am not sure.

Q. Who brought them in?

A. I don't know. I believe one was brought in in the ambulance.

Q. Those were men that were shot outside of town. Were they in the truck?

A. I don't know.

Q. How many were there?

A. There was two brought in I know of.

Q. Do you remember the names of men, was one Henderson?

A. There was a Henderson man brought in. I think he was dead.

Q. These were other two union miners that had been shot out side of the mine?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. That was right after dinner?

A. I believe it was.

Q. That was the first you heard of any trouble that day, was it?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was you on duty then?

A. Yes.

Q. State what were your hours of duty?

A. I went on at 10 and off at 10 at night.

Q. What further happened at that time?
Nothing more that day, I know of.

Did anything unusual occur in the city of Herrin that day?

A. No, sir.

Did you hear about any stores being broken into, where crowds had come into and taken out arms and ammunition?

A. No.

Q. You did not hear about that?

A. I was traffic police at that time.

Q. Whereabouts were you stationed?

A. I was all over town where the pavement was.

Q. Was that around the business district of town?

A. Part around the business district and part a mile out.

Q. When was the first you heard there were any stores broken into?

A. I don't remember hearing of it at all.

Q. Didn't you hear that crowds of men had gone into hardware stores and got guns and ammunition?

A. No, sir. This is the first I ever heard of it.

Q. During the afternoon, was there anything unusual there?

A. No, there was nothing unusual I know of.

Q. In the evening was there anything unusual or out of the ordinary?

A. No, I was out on West Monroe that night.

Q. Did you see any crowds of men on the streets?

A. About as usual.

Q. Did you hear anything talked there about trouble out at the Lester mine?

A. No, I never stopped among a crowd.

Q. Did you hear anything about trouble at the Lester mine?

A. Only about fellows that were killed, that is everything I heard.

Q. Did you hear about union miners forming for the purpose of going out to get even with those guards?

A. No, sir.
Wore you in the down town district at all between 5 and 10 o'clock that evening?

A. Just passing through. That was all.

Q. How often did you pass through?

A. Thirty or forty minutes.

Q. If there had been any crowds during that time you would have seen them?

A. Any unusual gathering.

Q. But the crowds that were there were ordinary crowds that would be there almost any evening?

A. All that I noticed.

Q. Were there any crowds there, was it possible for crowds to have been there and you not notice them?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Where could they have been?

A. They could have been around any part of the town.

Q. You did not see any crowds?

A. None at all.

Q. This is the first you ever had heard about stores being broken into?

A. That is the first time I heard it.

Q. What other men were on duty during the afternoon of that day?

A. Mr. Herrin and Mr. Jones.

Q. What men were on duty at 10 o'clock that night?

A. Mr. Sadler, Mr. Smith, Mr. Davis and myself.

Q. Then you had four on at night and two in day time?

A. Three on nights not counting myself. I was on part of the time.

Q. Did you see any of those other men during the day?

A. I saw Mr. Jones and Mr. Herrin.

Q. Did you talk with them?

A. If I did I don't remember.

Q. You did not talk to them about any trouble?
A. Were you in the downtown district at all between 5 and 10 o'clock that evening?
Q. How often did you pass through?
A. Thirty or forty minutes.
Q. If there had been any crowds during that time you would have seen them?
A. Any unusual gathering.
Q. But the crowds that were there were ordinary crowds that would be there almost any evening?
A. All that I noticed.
Q. Were there any crowds there, was it possible for crowds to have been there and you not notice them?
A. Oh, yes.
Q. Where could they have been?
A. They could have been around any part of the town.
Q. You did not see any crowds?
A. None at all.
Q. This is the first you ever had heard about stores being broken into?
A. That is the first time I heard it.
Q. What other men were on duty during the afternoon of that day?
A. Mr. Herrin and Mr. Jones.
Q. What men were on duty at 10 o'clock that night?
A. Mr. Sadler, Mr. Smith, Mr. Davis and myself.
Q. Then you had four on at night and two in day time?
A. Three on nights not counting myself. I was on part of the time.
Q. Did you see any of those other men during the day?
A. I saw Mr. Jones and Mr. Herrin.
Q. Did you talk with them?
A. If I did I don't remember.
Q. You did not talk to them about any trouble?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did they talk with you about the happenings out at the
Lester mine that day?

A. They did not.

Q. Did you talk about that with anybody that day?

A. No, sir.

Q. And there were a lot of wild rumors going around, weren't they?

A. I did not hear very much.

Q. What did you hear?

A. I never heard anything but those fellows were wounded.

Q. And there was nothing happened that might lead you to believe
there was going to be serious trouble?

A. Nothing only those fellows being wounded and one being
killed is all.

Q. Did that happening cause any fear in your mind there might
be serious trouble later?

A. No, I thought probably that might be the end of it. They
would probably quit.

Q. Do you know where Mr. Herrin is today?

A. In the court room.

Q. And who else came with you?

A. Mr. Jones.

Q. Is Mr. Howell here?

A. That is my name.

Q. That is all.

FURTHER EXAMINATION BY MR. IGOE:

Q. What time did you go to work on Thursday, June 22d?

A. 10 o'clock.

Q. Anything unusual in your city at that time?

A. First thing I heard there were several fellows killed,
when I came to work.

Q. Where did you hear that?
A. I don't remember now.
Q. Where were you when you heard it?
A. I was up town somewhere near the city hall.
Q. Did you report at the city hall at 10 o'clock in the morning?
A. I never report at the city hall. I reported to the Chief of police at the bank corner.
Q. Did you report to the Chief that morning at 10?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did he tell you anything about what happened that night?
A. I don't remember.
Q. Did you and Chief talk over anything about it?
A. No.
Q. Was there anything unusual in your town at 10 in the morning of June 22d?
A. Only quite a lot of talk that was all.
Q. On Thursday morning, just a lot of talk. Where did you meet the Chief, on which bank corner?
A. City National.
Q. How close is that to the building used as a morgue?
A. It is on one corner of the block and the morgue on the other.
Q. Many bodies been brought to the morgue yet?
A. No, they had been none yet.
Q. And some one just told you there had been some killings at the mine?
A. Told me there had been some fellows killed at the cemetery.
Q. And you never heard about that until 10?
A. Never until I came to work.
Q. Did you ever hear any noise during the night?
A. No, sir.
Q. No loud explosions?
A. No, sir.
Q. Nothing unusual at all?
A. No, sir.
Q. You went on at 10?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you stayed on duty until what time? Until traffic cleaned out?
A. Supposed to go off at 10. Sometimes earlier.

Q. And Wednesday night about 10 o'clock?
A. I don't remember.

Q. You did not see any automobiles going through your town loaded with men with guns?
A. No.

Q. Nothing of that kind happened?
A. I don't know.

Q. Did the lights go out over there?
A. Not that I know of.

Q. Didn't the lights go out in Herrin on Wednesday night?
A. If they did I don't remember.

Q. You were there?
A. I was in Herrin.

Q. Will you say the lights did not go out?
A. I said I did not remember.

Q. Would that not be unusual?
A. Nothing unusual.

Q. And have them to stay out all night?
A. Yes, unusual.

Q. Did they stay out all night Wednesday night?
A. I don't know.

Q. Where does Herrin get lights?
A. From the C. I. P. S.

Q. Same place where the Lester Strip mine gets it?
A. I could not tell you.

Q. You could not tell us how long the lights were out?
A. I don't know.
Q. You never heard about hardware stores raided and arms and ammunition taken?

A. I did not.

Q. You never heard about that?

A. I did not.

Q. You never testified at any of the trials?

A. No, sir.

Q. Is that cemetery in the city limits of Herrin?

A. I don't know.

Q. Do you know what the limits of Herrin are?

A. I don't think it is, according to where our signs are.

Q. Have you any signs there?

A. Yes, sir. We have signs for traffic, for speed.

Q. Do you know now whether the cemetery is within or without the limits?

A. It is on the other side of the signs. I think it must be outside. I am not sure.

Q. On Wednesday night, you heard some people had been killed at the mine?

A. No, sir.

Q. You had not heard anybody been killed?

A. Only one man.

Q. You heard of one man?

A. The day before.

Q. You thought everything was settled then?

A. Yes.

Q. In what manner?

A. I don't know. I was not out there.

Q. Did you hear anything about a truce?

A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know what a truce is?

A. I have an idea it is kind of an agreement.

Q. An agreement to stop fighting?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you hear about a surrender?

A. I don't remember. I heard something about it but I don't remember whether that day or the next day.

FURTHER EXAMINATION BY THE CHAIRMAN

Q. On Thursday, after these men had been brought in there, did you see the Sheriff of this county over there?

A. I couldn't say. If I did I don't remember.

Q. What were you doing on Thursday?

A. After those men were brought there to the morgue I worked at the morgue the rest of the day as long as I was on duty.

Q. Did you see the Sheriff there at any time?

A. I believe I did. I am not sure.

Q. What time of the day was it?

A. I could not say.

Q. Did you see the State's Attorney there?

A. I don't know.

Q. Are you personally acquainted with the Sheriff?

A. I know him when I see him.

Q. Do you know his deputy, Mr. Schaffer?

A. I know him.

Q. Was he there?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Did you see him there?

A. If I did I don't remember. He might have been there. I did not see whether he was or was not. There were quite a number of people there that day.

Q. But there were not very many Sheriffs, were there?

A. I don't know.
Q. Who took charge of the bodies?
A. The undertaker.

Q. What officer?
A. I worked there myself and the Chief of Police part of the time and Mr. Jones part of the time.

Q. Nobody else? Any other officers?
A. I could not say. I know I worked there all day.

Q. But you cannot remember anybody else besides you and the Chief and Mr. Jones?
A. They did not work all the time.

Q. You do not remember anything else?
A. I don't remember who it was. Somebody else worked there but I don't remember who it was.

Q. That is all.
having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness, examined in chief by Chairman McCarthy, and testified as follows:

Q. State your name?
A. Robert Herrin.

Q. Where do you live?
A. Herrin, Illinois.

Q. How long have you lived in Herrin?
A. Ten years.

Q. What is your business there?
A. Coal miner.

Q. Do you hold any position in the city at this time?
A. Not at this time.

Q. Did you during the month of June, 1922?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. What position was that?
A. Chief of Police.

Q. How long did you hold that position?
A. Since May 8 of 1922.

Q. Do you remember about some trouble out at the Lester mine during the week of the 19th of June?
A. Somewhere along about that time, yes, sir.

Q. What was the first that you hear of any trouble with reference to this strip mine?
A. Believe it was about the evening of June 21st.

Q. What had you heard prior to that time?
A. I hadn't heard anything.

Q. Had you ever been to the mine?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you know they were attempting to run the mine with non-union men?
A. I hadn't heard much about it.
Q. That was common knowledge, wasn't it?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Wasn't the community worked up over it?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. As a result of that the people were pretty much worked up?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever hear they had armed guards out at the mine?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. There had been complaints about the way they had acted?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Had there been anybody held up from Herrin?
A. Not that I personally know of.

Q. You heard the reports?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, on Wednesday, what did you hear? On Wednesday what was the first thing you heard?
A. That was the 21st, on Wednesday?
Q. Yes.
A. Along in the afternoon I heard that some Union men were shot at the mine.

Q. How did you hear that?
A. From people in cars coming from that way.

Q. Were the men brought in to Herrin?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you see them?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you go to the hospital?
A. No, I went the next day.

Q. Did you talk with them?
A. No, not personally.

Q. Did the State's Attorney arrive at Herrin that afternoon?
A. Not that I know of.

Q. Did you find out what had occurred at Lester mine?
A. Nothing more than the men had been shot.
Q. There were three men shot?
A. I believe there were three.
Q. What happened after that?
A. That is about all I know of until the morning of
the 22nd.
Q. Did you hear anything on the morning of the 22nd?
A. I came down town about 6 o'clock on the 22nd.
Q. Did you hear anything unusual about the streets
of Herrin?
A. Yes, sir, unusual crowd on the streets.
Q. What were they doing?
A. Nothing. Everything was peaceful.
Q. There were just large crowds of men around town?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did you know what they were talking about?
A. Well, I knew of this trouble. I supposed that
was it.
Q. That was the reason they were there - just excited?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. After these men had been shot, did you hear any-
thing else that was unusual, or out of the ordinary?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did you hear about any stores being raided, or any
people going into stores and taking guns and ammunition?
A. I heard about it after it was over.
Q. Now what stores were broken into?
A. I couldn't say. There wasn't any complaint made to
me.
Q. Do you know the names of the stores?
A. I have heard since. Turners Hardware Store and
Bracey-North.
Q. You didn't hear that until after the battle?
A. No, sir.
Q. During the evening, did you hear any loud noises?
A. I believe I heard some noise the night of the 21st.
Q. What were they like? A. Explosions.
Q. Do you remember how many there were?
A. No, I do not.
Q. Two or three? A. Something like that.
Q. From what direction?
A. Southeast toward Lester mine.
Q. What did you think was happening when you heard those explosions?
A. I thought it was trouble at Lester mine - that they were blowing up something.
Q. Now, when these crowds were on the streets, were there any unusual demonstrations?
A. No, sir.
Q. Any attempted violence? A. No, sir.
Q. How long did you stay up? A. Probably after 12.
Q. Everything was quiet? A. Everything was peaceable.
Q. See any people going through the town?
A. Cars were going every way and the town was pretty well crowded.
Q. Was that an usual thing in Herrin?
A. There are not usually that many.
Q. What did they have in the cars? A. I couldn't say.
Q. Did you see any cars with armed men in them?
A. No, sir.
Q. You know now that they had arms?
A. Yes, sir, I suppose they did.
Q. Where were those cars coming from? A. I couldn't say.
There was just traffic on the streets, going and coming.
Q. Did they stop in your town?
A. Probably some did.
Q. Did you see a great many cars speeding toward the
Lester mine? A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did that cause you to fear there might be some trouble at Lester mine? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Those cars were loaded mostly with men?
A. Not unusually crowded, no, sir.

Q. I mean the cars that were started toward Lester mine?
A. They were going that way, but I wouldn't know how far.

Q. Those contained men mostly, didn't they? A. Yes, sir.

Q. It was in the minds of everybody that they were going over there to get even with those guards; isn't that a fact? A. Yes, sir.

Q. When you heard those explosions, you felt in your own mind that there was trouble at Lester strip mine?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. After hearing those noises and after hearing these cars starting off in this direction, which you claim was unusual on account of the numbers of people on the streets there congregated and talking of this thing, what did you do?
A. I didn't do anything.

Q. Did you think there would be trouble?
A. I didn't think there would be trouble in Herrin.

Q. But you did think there would be trouble outside of Herrin, didn't you? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you get in touch with the sheriff?
A. No, sir.

Q. You didn't report to him? A. No, sir.

Q. What you had seen or what you had heard? A. No, sir.

Q. Did you think that was your duty to report to him that those men were going over there?
A. I might have thought that there was trouble.

Q. You thought there was going to be trouble at Lester mine on account of all the people going that way and on account of things you had heard, isn't that a fact? A. Yes, sir.
Q. You didn't think it your duty to notify the sheriff?
A. It might have been.
Q. If there had been a murder would you have reported that to the sheriff?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. That is your duty, isn't it?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. If you thought there was going to be a murder committed, it would be your duty to report it to the sheriff?
A. Yes, sir.

FURTHER EXAMINATION BY MR. IGOE.

Q. Where were you Thursday morning, June 22nd?
A. I was in Herrin.
Q. What part of Herrin?
A. Just around about town.
Q. Do you know what particular part of town you were in at 9:00 o'clock?
A. I generally go all over town about that time.
Q. What time do you go on duty?
A. 6:00 o'clock.
Q. Anything unusual reported to you at 6:00 o'clock that morning?
A. I don't think so; only I found three men in jail.
Q. Charged with what?
A. They wasn't charged.
Q. Why were they in jail?
A. I couldn't say.
Q. Who put them there?
A. I couldn't say.
Q. Why were they in jail?
A. For protection.
Q. From where did they come?
A. The strip mine.
Q. Who put them in jail?
A. I couldn't say.
Q. Who was in charge?
A. The police.
Q. Which police?
A. The night police.
Q. Is the man who put them in there?
A. I couldn't say.
Q. Could anyone else put them there but him?
A. Yes, they could get the keys from the fire department.
Q. Does each police officer have a key to the jail?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. You don't know how the men got in jail?
A. No, sir.

Q. At 6:00 o'clock there were three in jail?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. What time were the two put in jail?
A. Sometime during the night of the 21st.

Q. Did you question those men at all?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did they tell you?  A. They said a man brought them in there and they were hiding out.

Q. What did they tell you about that?
A. They said they were afraid of being killed.

Q. Did they tell you of anybody being killed?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did they tell you what time they left the mine?
A. I don't remember that they did.

Q. During the night of the 21st they had been put in there?  A. Yes, sir.

Q. When was the third man put in there?
A. Sometime on the 22nd.

Q. When did you see him there?
A. Along about 8:00 o'clock.

Q. Who brought him in there at that time?
A. I couldn't say.

Q. Where were you between six and eight o'clock?
A. Around the streets of Herrin.

Q. What part of the streets?
A. Probably between the city hall and the hospital.
Q. That isn't very far from the school on 13th street, is it?
A. No, sir.

Q. You didn't walk up by the public school on 13th street?
A. No, sir, not any further than the hospital.

Q. Did you talk with the injured men at the hospital?
A. Not very much.

Q. Did you talk to them at all?
A. I had no conversation, just spoke to one, that is all.

Q. Who was guarding the injured men?
A. Nobody.

Q. Who brought the injured men in?
A. I don't know, they was brought in when I got there.

Q. At 6:00 o'clock in the morning they were there?
A. I think they was.

Q. Did you attempt to find out anything about their injuries and how they were shot?
A. They said they was shot at the strip mine.

Q. Did they tell you they were shot at the powder plant or near the mine?
A. Close to the mine, I believe.

Q. Were there any dead bodies in the morgue at that time?
A. No, sir.

Q. What time were the men killed at the cemetery?
A. I couldn't say.

Q. What time did you ever hear?
A. Sometime in the morning.

Q. About 8:00 o'clock, wasn't it?
A. I don't know whether it was that early.

Q. Then after 8:00 o'clock?
A. Must have been. I couldn't say for sure.

Q. You weren't anyplace between six and eight o'clock except the hospital?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you hear anybody testify that they saw you standing on the street watching the mob?
A. No, sir. I saw it in the newspapers.
Q. You never came and denied it, did you? A. No, sir.
Q. As a matter of fact you saw them marching men through town? A. I heard they did.
Q. Marched them down 13th street and made them crawl on their hands and knees? A. I have heard they did. I read it in the paper.
Q. And they were doing that while you were walking between the city hall and the hospital? A. I suppose so.
Q. How far was that from you?
A. About half a mile.
Q. You had no intimation of that at that time?
A. I didn't know it.
Q. You were within half a mile of that and you heard no shots? A. No, sir.
Q. You noticed nothing unusual? A. No, sir.
Q. And you didn't come over to testify after you heard that witnesses under oath had testified that you watched the mob marching down 13th street?
A. No, sir.
Q. Why didn't you come and deny it?
A. I wasn't summoned.
Q. You wouldn't want someone to accuse you of taking part in a murder, would you? You would consider yourself guilty if that is what they accused you of?
A. They said I seen them, yes, sir.
Q. They said you saw them march prisoners out to the cemetery and until the present time you didn't deny it because you weren't summoned? A. No, sir.
Q. You had been accused of really participating in that murder? A. No, sir, I was not.
Q. That is what it amounted to, didn't it? That murder wouldn't have been committed if that mob had been stopped?
A. I don't know about that.
A. No, sir. I saw it in the newspapers.

Q. You never came and denied it, did you? A. No, sir.

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Q. They said you saw them march prisoners out to the cemetery and until the present time you didn't deny it because you weren't summoned? A. No, sir.

Q. You had been accused of really participating in that murder? A. No, sir, I was not.

Q. That is what it amounted to, didn't it? That murder wouldn't have been committed if that mob had been stopped? A. I don't know about that.
Q. If you had stopped the mob on 13th street, they wouldn't have killed the men at the cemetery, would they?
A. I didn't know they were coming through the town.
TESTIMONY OF CHIEF OF POLICE AT HERRIN
BEFORE THE HERRIN MASSACRE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AT
MARION, ILLINOIS

April 23, 1923.
Q. Nothing about that that would cause you to look into the matter at all?
   A. That would, thinking I could do any good.

Q. Nothing about men in a hospital or in jail that would cause you, as Chief of Police to communicate with the Sheriff of this county, would it?
   A. No, sir. I protected the men we had in jail myself.

Q. Did they need much protection there?
   A. I could not say.

Q. They were locked up, weren't they?
   A. They were until I turned them out.

Q. When?
   A. at 1 o'clock on the 22d?

Q. Did you get their names?
   A. No, sir. They told me but I have forgotten.

Q. Did you ever turn them over to the state's attorney?
   A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ever taken statements and had them sign them?
   A. Never did.

Q. Why didn't you?
   A. The Police Magistrate questioned them. I do not know whether he kept a record or not.

Q. You kept no record?
   A. No, sir.

Q. You put them in jail and turned them out next day?
   A. Yes, sir.

Q. And so far as the men in the hospital were concerned, you went over there, didn't you?
   A. Yes, sir.
How many people said they saw you standing still and let the mob march by with the men?

A. I heard of one.

Q. He lives in Herrin?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You never accused him of telling you an untruth?

A. Told me, no sir.

Q. Never said a word since you heard he told that about you?

A. No, sir.

Q. When did you lose your position as Chief of Police?

A. I resigned on the 15th day of December, 1922.

Q. That is all.

FURTHER EXAMINATION BY JUDGE PIERCE:

Q. Have they elected you to any other office in this county since you resigned?

A. No, sir.

Q. They haven't rewarded you yet?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you go out to the cemetery where this massacre occurred that day?

A. The Cemetery?

Q. Yes?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. When?

A. I believe some where between 9 and 11 o'clock.

Q. On the 22d?

A. When I heard it happened.

Q. Who went with you?

A. A fellow named Harry Howell.

Q. Did you take along some body to protect you?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did Harry Howell have a gun?

A. Yes, sir.
A: No, sir.

Q: How many were dead?
A: Apparently one living.

Q: One living?
A: Yes, sir.

Q: What was his conditions when you got there?
A: He was laying on the ground.

Q: Shot?
A: Seemed to be.

Q: Did he die afterwards?
A: I believe he got well.

Q: He the only one that survived?
A: I am not sure.

Q: How many were there wounded or dead?
A: I believe six.

Q: How did you find out they were there if you did not see them marching?
A: I heard the rumor.

Q: What rumor?
A: I heard some one was killed at the cemetery, some men.

Q: You heard somebody was killed at the power plant didn't you?
A: Yes, sir.

Q: You did not go there?
A: No, sir.

Q: Why didn't you go out there?
A: That was out of my jurisdiction.
Q. Was not the cemetery outside of your jurisdiction?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Outside of the city limits?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the other place was outside of the city limits was it not?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. You say that you have known for several months that some of your citizens, or a citizen of your community over there testified here in this court that you stood by and saw those men marching to that corner and made to get down on their knees and hands, then the mob started away with them, all in your view? You have known that for several months?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. You have never attempted to correct that impression by inserting an article in the newspaper?
A. No, sir.

Q. Published no statement?
A. No, sir.

Q. Denied it to nobody?
A. Denied it to friends.

Q. Never approached the man that testified to it?
A. No, sir.

Q. Never talked with him?
A. No, sir.

Q. Never sought to find out how he came to make such a statement?
A. No, sir.

Q. Do you not know that, if true, would implicate you as an officer in the crime that was committed?
A. If it was true it would.

Q. If it was not true, should you not correct it, swear out a warrant. What do you people think people that learned of
A. I think they don't think it is true.

Q. They have heard no denial from you in any way. Do you not think people take somebody's word when not denied it is not true or do you people not treat oath that way in this county?

A. I am denying it now.

Q. You never denied it before to anybody in print or to anybody?

A. Everybody that asked me about it.

Q. Have you ever denied it before in print or to the man that testified to it?

A. No, sir.

Q. You are permitting, as Chief of Police, a record to go out of that kind, over the state of Illinois and to the states of the Union. Don't you think that it has lead to the impression that you people are lawless down here?

A. It seems to.

Q. Do you not think it ought to?

A. I think if it is true, yes, sir.

Q. But they have not heard it was not true. Why did you not correct it so that impression could not get a foothold?

A. I suppose that was negligent of my duty probably.

Q. Why didn't you correct that so it would not go out as an impression that you people were lawless down here or did not obey law or enforce it when you knew you were charged with it. Why didn't you do something? Didn't you consider it your duty to do something?

A. I would if I had been called before court. I had other things to look after.

Q. Yes, of course you did. Other things were more important to look after than to correct a statement that you were guilty of participating in one of the worst murders in history, is that right?

A. I do not think I have been accused of that.

Q. Do you not know, when you are accused? Is it not accusing you when a man testified from your community that he saw you, as a
Chief of Police permit a mob to take people unarmed off to death, is that not accusing you?

A. Just one witness.

Q. How many witnesses do you want to say it before you get it under your skin?

A. One has.

Q. And you have not denied it before?

A. Yes, sir, I have.

Q. Except deny it personally to some of your friends over there? Do you not think an investigation ought to be made of an officer of your kind?

A. I am satisfied with an investigation.

Q. Of course, you are satisfied with the consequences.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You are willing to deny them?

A. I have not done anything.

Q. If these reports are true you have done something?

A. They are not true.

Q. Then you are going to be able, as you take it, to establish your own innocence after you have permitted it to be procrastinated everywhere that you have been accused of participating in a murder?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you see these men in the morgue that day?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you heard reports and have you seen reports printed that in the morgue and about the morgue, this crowd, this mob were permitted to associate with those dead bodies and mutilate them, have you heard that?

A. No, sir.

Q. You never heard that before?

A. Not in the morgue, no, sir.

Q. Did you hear they were mutilated outside of the morgue?

A. I heard that, yes.
Have you ever attempted to correct that?
A. I would not be able to correct that, no sir.

Do you know it to be true?
A. No, sir.

Do you know it not to be true?
A. No, sir.

Did you ever investigate it to find out whether it was true or since?
A. I have asked questions but I could not find out anything.

Have you asked any questions of men that you knew?
A. If I did they did not tell me.

Did you ask questions of men that were out there?
A. I could not say.

Did you see anybody but dead and dying men out there?
A. I saw bystanders.

Who were there?
A. I couldn't say.

All strangers?
A. Yes, sir, all but boys that were with me.

Never seen them before?
A. No, sir.

Never seen them since?
A. No, sir.

Didn't you know every one of them by name?
A. No, sir.

By name, and have you not known them for years and are you not lying here?

Mr. RICE: I don't think we ought to say that. I am going to say what I think about it. I do not want these things to go out. I want to treat these gentlemen properly. I am going to object to it as not being with my sanction.

CHAIRMAN: Proceed with the examination.
JUDGE FINK: Q. What time did you go on the force that morning?

A. About 6 o'clock

Q. And where did you go on?

A. We generally relieve each other at the city hall.

Q. I did not ask what was generally done, what was done on the 22d of June?

A. I am on duty all the time.

Q. I asked you where you went on and when?

A. I went from my house to the city hall.

Q. And you say the city hall is about one-half mile from the school house?

A. I judge something like that.

Q. Which way does that road run from the school house?

A. It runs east.

Q. And was that road these people were marching up or from this strip mine disaster?

A. I could not say.

Q. Didn't you learn afterwards they came up there?

A. I heard they did.

Q. Did you hear who came with them?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you hear somebody made a speech there near the railroad track?

A. I read that in the newspapers.

Q. Who did you hear?

A. Clark made the statement.

Q. Did you see him down there where those dead bodies were?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see him after that time during the day?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see him with the mob that day?

A. No, sir.
Have you ever seen him since?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Where?
A. I have seen him in Herrin.
Q. Did you ever ask him if he made that speech?
A. I never talked to him.
Q. Did you ask him if he accompanied the people to the slaughter house?
A. No, sir.
Q. These bodies, when you were out there, when you examined them, had they been mutilated?
A. No, sir.
Q. No mutilations at all except gun shot wounds?
A. That was all.
Q. Did you see anybody that had been mutilated?
A. Not that I know of. At the time I was out they were not being bothered.
Q. That is all.

FURTHER EXAMINATION BY THE CHAIRMAN:
Q. At the time you saw these bodies there, were their throats cut?
A. There was blood running down, I couldn't see.
Q. Did you examine the bodies to see if all of them were dead?
A. One or two of them moved.
Q. What did you do to relieve those that were still living?
A. As soon as I could get back to town.
Q. How long did that take you?
A. Five or ten minutes.
Q. In the morning you say you come to work at 6 o'clock?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Between 6 and 8:30 you spend your time between the school house and the hospital?
A. No, sir.
A. Some wheres between the city hall and hospital as far as
I went south.

Q. Where else do you go?
A. Some wheres between the city hall and hospital as far as

Q. What were you doing particularly that morning?
A. Just walking up and down.

Q. Was there anything unusual in the district traveled by you?
A. Not all that morning, no sir. A good many people in town.

Q. How often would you spend two or three hours between the
city and hospital?
A. I couldn't say. I spend all morning in town.

Q. How many other mornings had you spent from 6 to 8:30 between
the city hall and the hospital?
A. I generally spend practically all mornings that way.

Q. The town is located between the city hall and hospital. How
far is that from 13th Street?
A. Somewhere between one-quarter mile.

Q. How far from the city hall?
A. Between one-quarter mile.

Q. From city hall to hospital?
A. Five blocks.

Q. Did you see any crowds of people around?
A. A good many.

Q. Did you investigate any crowds?
A. No.

Q. Is it very often that you see crowds of people in the
street that early in the morning?
A. Not as many as there were this morning.

Q. And you knew something unusual had happened or was going
to happen?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you knew it was not going to happen between the city
hall and the hospital, didn't you, and there was nothing unusual there?
A. Only crowds, that's all.
Q. Where were they located?
A. People standing around.

Q. Did you hear any rumors about anybody having been killed on that morning?
A. No, sir.

Q. You had not heard that rumor?
A. When I heard that I made a trip to the cemetery. I don't remember the time.

Q. You had not heard anything on any rumors about killing at the power house or any other place before these men were killed at the cemetery?
A. I never heard of the power plant. When I heard of the cemetery I went out.

Q. How long after they had been killed?
A. I couldn't say. As soon as I heard we went out. As soon as I found out, heard these men were killed there I went out and seen if it was a fact and went out after them.

Q. As a matter of fact you did not want to see this crowd?
A. The crowd that did the killing? If I seen them I would.

Q. Why could you not see them?
A. I did not happen to be at this point.

Q. Was daylight wasn't it?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. You can see out that far, can't you?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever go out in that part of town?
A. Very seldom.

Q. After this thing happened what did you do? After you got the bodies into the morgue stay around there all day?
A. Stayed around town.

Q. Did you see Sheriff Thaxton?
A. I am not sure.
Did he communicate with you?
A. No, sir.

Did you get in touch with him?
A. No, sir.

Did you discuss the situation with him?
A. No, sir.

Did you discuss it with any of his deputies?
A. No, sir.

Did you report this matter to anybody?
A. No, sir.

Did you report it to anybody in the world?
A. I never made any reports, no, sir.

You never reported to anybody?
A. No, sir.

What do you usually do when a murder is committed in your town?
A. Make arrests.

Who do you arrest?
A. The man that commits the murder.

How do you find out who commits the murder?
A. By investigation.

What investigation did you make with reference to these murders?
A. By asking.

Who did you ask?
A. Different parties, I could not say.

Do you remember any person you asked?
A. No, sir, I don't remember any person I asked.

What else did you do to find out who committed these murders?
A. That is all.

And when did you do that?
A. The time it was happening.

That was on the 22d?
Did you do anything on the 23rd as to who committed the murder?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ever do anything after that time to find out who committed the murder?

A. Talked with people.

Q. Did you try to find any one who knew anything about it?

A. I talked with people.

Q. Who did you talk with?

A. I never kept any record.

Q. Can you state to this committee the name of one person you talked with?

A. I do not believe I could.

Q. Can you give this committee one fact or one thing you did to find out besides inquiring of the people?

A. That is all.

Q. Who did you inquire of, business men?

A. Different ones. I never kept any names.

Q. Do you know of any business men who did it?

A. It is pretty hard to find out.

Q. Did you undertake any special investigation of your own to find out?

A. No, I don't think so.

Q. Did you not think it was your duty to do that?

A. I guess it was to some extent.

Q. Weren't you afraid if you did start you would find out?

A. No, sir, I was not.

Q. As a matter of fact you were entirely in sympathy with this organization or body of men that killed these men?

A. I did not take any part, no, sir.

Q. I am not accusing you of that. Weren't you in sympathy with them?

A. I was not interested.
Didn't you believe at that time those men had a right to go out and take those people, those non-union men who were undertaking to operate the mine and who were protected by guards, who had killed union men? Didn't you believe they had a right to do just the things they were doing?

A. I never expressed an opinion. Was not connected with the union at this time and never took any interest.

Q. Didn't you believe that the things they were doing and that they did do was justified by what had been done by those guards at the mine?

A. I don't think murder is justified.

Q. You don't think the action of these men was justified?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you think the action of those guards in killing union men was justified?

A. No, sir. I do not suppose it was.

Q. You did not think it was at the time, did you?

A. I never thought very much about it.

Q. Nobody in this community thought they were justified in killing union men?

A. It does not seem like they did.

Q. That was what caused this uprising?

A. At this time I was not connected, not taking any part.

Q. You were in this community?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And it was the killing of these union miners in cold blood that caused people to rise up in arms and do what they did?

A. I would think so.

Q. And is it not a fact that the large percentage of the people in the city of Herrin and that vicinity were men in sympathy with those men that went out to do justice to the men that had been killed?

A. I could not say.
A. No, sir.

Q. And you did not try to find out who committed it?

A. I might have in a round about way.

Q. But you made no earnest effort to find out who did it?

A. No, sir, that was an impossibility.

Q. You did not think it was your duty to cooperate with the Sheriff or get in communication with him to see if you could run down people who committed murders? You did not believe it was your duty, did you?

A. I suppose it was.

Q. You did not do your duty, did you?

A. I suppose the Sheriff was looking after that.

Q. Did you undertake to help him in any way?

A. He never called on me.

Q. And you did not believe it was your duty to try to find out who murdered these men unless police called on you to help him?

A. They would have been my duty, yes, sir.

Q. But you did not do your duty because the police did not ask you to do it, is that it?
The sheriff never called on help. We did what we could do before the coroner jury to get evidence.

Q. And that was the reason you did not give him help because he did not ask you?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ever get any witness secure any witnesses, and give names to the State's attorney or to the Attorney General?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you undertake during the time of these trials were going on to get any witnesses that might help, find out who murdered these men?
A. I did not know of any to get.

Q. Did you try to find any?
A. I talked to different people, that was all. Nobody seemed to know anything about it.

Q. And you did not go any further to find out?
A. That was as far as I went, yes, sir.

FURTHER EXAMINATION BY JUDGE FIERCE:

Q. What did you say you did with those two men that were in jail over there?
A. Give them something to eat, what they wanted to drink and turned them loose.

Q. That same day?
A. Yes sir.

Q. In the afternoon.
A. On the afternoon of the 22d.

Q. What do you mean by turning them loose?
A. Told them how to get out of town.

Q. Didn't you know men like that had been picked up by the mob and killed?
A. There was not any mob there.

Q. How did you know?
A. I could not see any.
Q. You did not know whether there was a mob in the town or on the street?

A. I could not see any.

Q. Because you could not see a mob this evening, there was not any around?

A. Not in sight.

Q. Do you not think it was extremely dangerous so that a mob could get hold of them?

A. If I had turned them out sooner, yes.

Q. You did turn them loose?

A. Not to the mob.

Q. You turned two men loose that were subject to a mob?

A. I did not turn those fellows out in this direction at all.

Q. You turned them out in your city, didn't you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And crime had been committed outside of your city?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. In order to get out of the city limits they had to go out of the city limits?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You did not know whether there was a mob waiting outside or not?

A. I looked after that.

Q. Where did you look?

A. Down the street.

Q. How far did you go?

A. Not very far.

Q. How far were the city limits?

A. Something like one-half mile.

Q. Could you see that distance?

A. No, sir.

Q. Then you did not see them safely outside of the city limits?

A. No, sir.
Q. You did not care much what became of those two fellows, did you? You were not interested in them?
A. I suppose I was.

MR. PHILLIPS: Did they ask to be released?
A. No, sir.

Q. They asked for protection?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. They did not ask you to turn them out?
A. They were very glad to be turned loose. They said if there was not a mob in that part of town they wanted to go.

Q. How long did you have them in jail?
A. I could not say. They were put in the night of the 21st some time during the night and turned out the evening of the 22nd, about 1 o'clock.

CHAIRMAN: Chief, what other officers are on duty between 6 and 10 o'clock that morning?
A. Jake Jones and Harry Howell, I believe.

Q. That is all.
TESTIMONY OF JACOB JONES
BEFORE THE HERRIN MASSACRE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AT
MARION, ILLINOIS.

April 28, 1923.
having been first duly sworn, was examined in chief by Mr. Igoe
and testified as follows:

Q. State your name?
A. Jacob Jones.

Q. Where do you live?
A. In Herrin.

Q. What is your business?
A. I am a policeman at the present.

Q. Of the city of Herrin?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long?
A. Since last May.

Q. Were you in the city on June 21, 1923?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were you acting as police Officer?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. And were you acting as police Officer on June 22d?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. What time did you go on duty June 21st last year?
A. I could not positively say. Supposed to be there at 6 o'clock in the morning.

Q. Were you there around 6 o'clock that morning?
A. Well, I judged I was.

Q. To whom do you report at 6 in the morning?
A. The custom is there a man comes down at 6 and one at 7:30 or 8.

Q. Do you report to anybody or relieve any post?
A. No, just meet there and the night watchmen go off.

Q. Where do you meet them?
A. City hall.
Q. That is your custom?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did anything unusual occur in your city on June 21st?
A. Not that I know of.

Q. Did you ever hear about anything unusual over there?
A. Not on the 21st, I don't think.

Q. Didn't hear about any people going through your town with arms?
A. Well, probably might have heard of something like that.

Q. When did you go off duty on the 21st?
A. 6 o'clock at night.

Q. And during that day you never heard or saw any persons going through in automobiles carrying arms?
A. I never seen any one. I might have heard.

Q. Did you know whether you heard it.
A. Sure, I heard some one speak of it.

Q. Did they tell you in which direction they were going?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you receive any complaint about stores being raided that day?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ever hear about stores in Herrin being raided?
A. I did after that time.

Q. How long afterwards?
A. Oh, probably two or three hours.

Q. That was on the 21st was it not? guess
A. I [k[k[k it was.

Q. Let us not guess about this now, let us tell whether it was or was not.
A. I don't know.

Q. You did not seem to know very much about anything do you?
You do not know whether this was the 21st?
A. I don't know whether they raided them or not.

Q. I thought you said a while ago you heard about it two or three hours afterwards.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. After that?

A. After they claimed they raided the stores.

Q. And what did that rumor tell you?

A. I don't know as it told me anything.

Q. Did it tell you that a hardware store had been raided?

A. They said some people went in and got ammunition and guns.

Q. What did you do when you heard that?

A. I never done anything.

Q. Why not?

A. I had no right to do anything.

Q. What are your duties as a police officer?

A. To keep peace.

Q. And to suppress crime?

A. As far as in my jurisdiction, yes, sir.

Q. Well, is the commission of a crime in the city limits of "errin in your jurisdiction?

A. It is.

Q. Why didn't you attempt to find out something about that crime?

A. Too far gone.

Q. Did you go over to the stores to find out?

A. No, sir.

Q. Why not?

A. I was not called.

Q. Do you have to be called to investigate a crime when you know it has been committed?

A. I don't know.

Q. Didn't some one tell you a store had been raided?

A. Yes, sir.
And ammunition and guns taken? Does that constitute a crime in the city of Herrin and Williamson County?

A. I don't think so.

Q. That is not a crime down there, is it?

A. No, sir.

Q. What is a crime in the city of Herrin?

A. Stealing is a crime.

Q. Stealing guns a crime?

A. Yes.

Q. Why was that not a crime?

A. They never stole it.

Q. What did they do?

A. They just went in and got it. They talked to the parties in the store, I understand.

Q. What do you understand about that?

A. I just understand they went in and took them. They wanted ammunition and guns?

Q. They did not take them, they just wanted them?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. They did not indicate such force as to cause the storekeeper to give them up?

A. No, sir.

Q. The storekeeper willingly and gladly gave up the stock of guns to persons who asked for it?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever go to the stores?

A. I have been several times.

Q. How many stores were raided?

A. I think probably three.

Q. Did you go to the stores that day?

A. No, sir.

Q. When?

A. Two or three days afterwards.
Q. How many guns taken?
A. I do not know.
Q. Did you ask them?
A. No, sir.
Q. Why not?
A. In fact it was not any of my business.
Q. Did they tell you how the guns were taken from them?
A. They just came in and wanted guns and ammunition.
Q. And they said they gave them to them?
A. They just wanted them and took them.
Q. These persons wanted a gift, is that the way you understood it?
A. I don't know whether they charged them or not, or whether I knew anything about it.
Q. What was the name of a store?
A. Ellis' Hardware store was one.
Q. And another store?
A. Bracy-North Hardware.
Q. What other store?
A. G. J. Turner.
Q. And to this day you do not know how many guns or what quantity of ammunition was taken?
A. I don't know.
Q. You did hear about that on the 21st?
A. If that was the day it was done.
Q. Did you ever hear about people being killed at Lester mine?
A. I heard of it.
Q. When did you hear about that?
A. That was the day of the killing.
Q. Do you know what day that was?
A. 22nd of June last year.
Q. Now were these guns or ammunition taken day before that or afterwards?
A. I could not say positively.
Q. Were they taken on any day before or after?
A. I don’t know.

Q. As you sit there you say you do not know whether raids occurred before or after men were killed?
A. I don’t know. I was not there when taken.

Q. You had a complaint about them, didn’t you?
A. No, just what people told me.

Q. Did people tell you that before or after men were killed at the mine?
A. I guess before, I judge it was.

Q. A pretty good judgment is it? It was the day before, is it not correct?
A. Possibly was.

Q. Did you see any automobiles carrying men with arms going through your town on the 21st of June?
A. No, sir, I don’t remember if I did.

Q. No one called that to your attention, did they?
A. No, sir.

Q. What were you doing in Herrin on June 21st?
A. I was around the city.

Q. Doing police work?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you arrest anybody that day?
A. I don’t know whether we arrested any that day or not.

Q. Did you arrest anybody?
A. I couldn’t say.

Q. Did anybody come to you and ask for protection?
A. There were some men brought to the city jail.

Q. Who brought them there?
A. I don’t know.

Q. When did you first see them there?
A. About 9 o’clock.

Q. At night?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. You went off duty at 6?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. What were you doing at the jail at night?
A. I come back to town.

Q. Did any one send for you?
A. No, sir.

Q. Were the men in jail at that time?
A. Not until I put them there.

Q. Who gave them to you?
A. I did not recognize any of the men.

Q. Why did you put them in jail?
A. They wanted protection.

Q. What did they tell you?
A. They said they wanted protection and wanted to know if I cared to lock them up.

Q. Was there anybody here in town?
A. I did not know where they come from.

Q. Why did they tell you they wanted protection?
A. They said they worked at Lester Strip mine.

Q. Did they tell you why they wanted protection?
A. They said they were having trouble there.

Q. Did they say what kind of trouble?
A. Nothing any more than what the public knows, what kind of trouble it was.

Q. What did they tell you what happened there?
A. That is about all they told me.

Q. They had been working at the mine wanted protection?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. You did not happen to hear about anybody being killed?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ever hear about a man named Henderson?
A. Yes, I knew Henderson.
He is still alive, is he not?
A. I don't know.

Q. Which Henderson do you know?
A. Jordie Henderson.

Q. Is that the Scotchman?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. You don't know whether he is dead or alive?
A. I do not.

Q. You heard he was killed?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. You don't know he was?
A. No, sir.

Q. On June 21st you did not know whether he was killed or not?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you hear any noises that night at all, on June 21st?
A. I don't believe I did.

Q. Did the lights at Herrin go out on June 21st?
A. I could not say.

Q. You don't remember that either?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you hear any noise the night of June 21st?
A. I don't remember.

Q. What time did you go to work the 22d?
A. 6 o'clock.

Q. Where did you report?
A. City hall.

Q. Did you see the Chief of Police?
A. Some time in the morning, probably 7 or 8:30. I judge about that time.

Q. When you reported at 6 o'clock what did you do?
A. I relieved the night man. I got out and made a round over the business section of town.
Q. How large is the business section of town?
A. It is about 4 blocks. The main business is north and south. About 4 blocks east and west.

Q. You were not on South 13th St. were you?
A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know where that is?
A. No, sir.

Q. You kept off 13th St.
A. I was on 14th.

Q. Why didn't you go on the 13th?
A. I had no business.

Q. What business on the 14th?
A. I went up around by the city hospital.

Q. Didn't you meet the chief there?
A. I believe he was there. I believe I remember seeing him on that corner.

Q. What was in the city hospital?
A. I guess there were patients there.

Q. You are still guessing are you?
A. I don't know whether there was anything or not.

Q. You are guessing about that?
A. I don't know whether there was doctor or nurse, I couldn't say.

Q. Were you on the outside?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Can you guess whether you are here or not?
A. I am here.

Q. Can you guess a little bit about the hospital? Can you guess whether or not there were any patients there as a result of anything that happened at the mine?
A. I cannot.

Q. Can you guess whether or not you saw the Chief of Police?
A. I did not.
Q: Can you guess anything that happened in your city on that morning?
A: Nothing happened that I know of.

Q: Where were you between 6 and 8 o'clock that morning?
A: I was in the business section of town.

Q: Where were you at 9:30?
A: About 9:30 I don't remember where I was.

Q: Did you go with the Chief of police?
A: Not out of town.

Q: You did not accompany him out to the cemetery?
A: I did not.

Q: Who were with him?
A: I do not know whether he went or not.

Q: Do you know whether he brought any bodies in or not?
A: I don't know.

Q: Do you know whether any bodies in the morgue or not?
A: I saw bodies in there.

Q: Were you along in the morgue?
A: Yes.

Q: Do you know where the school house was at South 13th St.?
A: I do.

Q: Where were you at 8 o'clock that morning?
A: About 8 between 8 and 8:30 I was in the city hall.

Q: You never were very far away from the city hall were you?
A: Not very far.

Q: How far is the school house from 13th St. is city hall?
A: The School house is 7 blocks on S. 13th St.

Q: That is 7 blocks from the city hall?
A: From the school.

Q: How far north of the railroad?
A: The city hall is in the first of the 300 block, about 9 blocks.

Q: Can you see that far?
A: No, sir.
Q. You cannot see ten blocks from the city of Herrin?
A. Not in that direction.
Q. Why not?
A. Trees and houses.
Q. You cannot see down the street at all?
A. You could if you were out on the street.
Q. Which way is 14th from 13th?
A. It is west.
Q. You were not on 12th that morning at all?
A. No, sir.
Q. Have you a 12th St. in Herrin?
A. We have.
Q. And on 11th?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. You never went closer to 13th than to be on 14th?
A. On 14th.
Q. Is it not a party of the square on 13th?
A. No, sir.
Q. Part of the business section on 13th?
A. There is some business in two blocks.
Q. What is that hospital on?
A. On 14th.
Q. And you say there is some business on 13th St. in one block?
A. North.
Q. Quite a bit of business up there is there not?
A. No, just wholesale houses, automobile garages.
Q. Between what streets is Goldoni's restaurant?
A. Between 14th and 15th on Monroe.
Q. And 13th is just next street from 14th?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And that whole morning you never got on 13th St. at all?
A. No, sir.
Q. That is not very far from the business section?
A. No, sir.

Q. You spent the time in going from the city hall to the hospital?
A. No, sir. I made one trip.

Q. You guess you saw Chief of Police a few times that morning?
A. Yes, I saw him.

Q. You never heard any shots that morning?
A. No, sir.

Q. If a shot was fired at the school could you hear it at the city hall?
A. If it had been a large enough one.

Q. You could not hear a revolver that far?
A. Not apt to. Not that distance as much traffic as there was on paved streets.

Q. There is not much traffic around 6 or 7 o'clock?
A. Yes.

Q. What kind of traffic do you have?
A. Automobiles.

Q. Automobiles do not make any noise?
A. Some trucks with tires worn off.

Q. Did you ever go to the cemetery that morning at all?
A. No, sir.

Q. When did you find out anybody been killed at the Strip mine?
A. I judge about 9:30 or 10 o'clock I understood somebody was killed.

Q. Who told you that?
A. I don't remember.

Q. What did you do?
A. I didn't do anything.

Q. Just stayed where you were?
A. Oh, went on about my duties.

Q. Were any bodies brought to Herrin before 9:30 or 10 o'clock?
A. About 9:30 there were some bodies brought in.

Q. What did you do then?
A. I stayed around the morgue.
Q. And helped them out there. Were any other police on duty?
A. Just the Chief.
Q. And if the Chief says you went out to the cemetery with him
he is mistaken?
A. He certainly is.
Q. Is there another man named Howells on at that time in the
morning?
A. He would be on duty about 10 o'clock. He is a motor cop.
Q. And you are just a patrolman?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. I think that is all I want to ask him.

FURTHER EXAMINATION BY JUDGE FIERCE:

Q. Which way does 13th St. run?
A. North and south.
Q. And which way does 14th run?
A. Same direction.
Q. And how far apart are they?
A. I don't know.
Q. A block apart?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Do you know where the school house is?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. On 13th St.?
A. No, sir, that faces 14th St.
Q. Is that between 13th and 14th St.?
A. It is.
Q. Now, some time during the morning you went to the hospital
on 14th St.,
A. I passed around by the hospital on 14th.
Q. And up in that neighborhood you saw Chief of Police?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. On 13th or 14th St.
A. He was on 14th.

Q. That was one block from 13th and how far from the school house?

A. Two blocks south or north and the school house is in the 700 block. That would be 5 blocks north of the school house on 14th.

Q. What was he doing there?

A. He was standing on the corner when I got there.

Q. How far is that from the city hall.

A. About 4 blocks.

Q. He did not have his car there?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see him go on in either direction?

A. No, I don't believe I did. I think he left before he did.

Q. Did you talk with him up there?

A. I don't think I did.

Q. You did not learn where he was going?

A. I never asked him.

Q. Was that about 8:30 or 9 o'clock?

A. I judge about that time, yes, sir.

Q. Then you went back down town?

A. I went back down west one block to Black Avenue. That is 15th St. and then back through the main business district.

Q. And then did you see the Chief of Police again after that?

A. I did.

Q. About how long?

A. I judge about one hour or one and a half hours, something like that.

Q. In other words, the Chief at the time you saw him, was in the neighborhood of 14th St. until you saw him down town. Was out of your sight and you did not know where he was for about one and one half hours?

A. I did.

Q. And that covered the period from 8:30 to 9:30 or 10?
You are pretty sure he was not down patrolling the business district?

A. I did not see him.

Q. You could have seen him if he was on the street?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. But you did not see him?

A. I did not see him.

Q. That is all.

FURTHER EXAMINATION BY THE CHALFANT

Q. Did you do anything to try to find out who committed these murders?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ever do anything to try to find out who committed the murders?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you report to the Sheriff what you found out about these people being killed?

A. No, sir, the Sheriff was over there.

Q. What is the reason you did not try to find out who committed these murders?

A. It was out of my jurisdiction.

Q. You cannot tell us a single thing you did or a single inquiry you made, or an investigation made by you to find out who committed these murders?

A. I did not have any chance to find out.

Q. What is the reason?

A. I was employed by the city and that was half way to the city.

Q. There were six right outside of town?

A. They were nearly a mile from city limits.

Q. They had been in town, hadn't they?

A. I don't know whether they had or not.

Q. You found that out afterwards?
A: There was a phone call come in from some one on 13th St.

Q. When did you get that report?
A. Along about in the neighborhood of 5:30.

Q. Who gave you that report?
A. Some woman phoned in.

Q. What did she say, that the mob was coming that way?
A. Said a lot of people coming towards town on 13th St.

Q. What did you do?
A. I went in up to business district and back to hospital.

Q. She said on 13th St. I thought. Why did you not go there and see who they were? How far was that from where your watch came?
A. I do not know where she phoned from but I was at the hospital, two blocks from the railroad.

Q. That is about 7 blocks from the school house?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. You did not go over to the school house?
A. No, sir, I did not go any further south.

Q. Did you tell the Chief of Police about that telephone message?
A. No, sir, I did not think I did.

Q. Did you tell anybody about it?
A. I made a report about it to the city hall.

Q. Is there a record of that report there?
A. No, sir.

Q. You do not keep a record of minor reports such as that?
A. No, sir.

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FURTHER EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSE

Q. Where were you when you got that report?
A. I was at the city hall.

Q. That is on 14th St.?
A. No, sir, that is on 15th.

Q. Then you went from 15th to 14th?
A. I did.
Q. But you never went to 15th St.? Why didn't you go over there?
A. They said they were coming down 15th.
Q. You never went to 15th to find out?
A. No, sir.
Q. Why didn't you go over there?
A. Well somebody told me if I got to the hospital that they turned back on 13th.
Q. Why didn't you go to 13th?
A. I did not know where any boys were and one man couldn't do anything.
Q. The Chief was there, wasn't he?
A. He was on the corner.
Q. Why didn't you tell it to the Chief?
A. I never done it.
Q. As I understand it, you were at the city hall and some woman told you a mob was coming into town on 13th St. and you turned right around and went to 12th from 13th St.?
A. No, sir.
Q. You went only to 14th St. to the hospital?
A. You see where the city hall is. I went in that direction. I took a southeast course to 14th St. 13th St. headed in this way not south of me.
Q. But it is in the city?
A. Part of it is and part out.
Q. And where the school is located is in the city?
A. It is.
Q. And some woman told you a mob was coming into the city on 13th?
A. She did.
Q. And you walked one block to the hospital?
A. From the city hall to the hospital.
Q. And there you reported it to the Chief of Police?
A. No, sir.
Q. You did not even tell him that?
A. No, sir.
Q. Why didn't you tell the Chief of Police?
A. It was already rumored there.
Q. How did you know he knew it?
A. I supposed he did. There was a lot of people talking.
Q. Were they talking to the Chief of Police, said the mob was coming down 15th St.?
A. No, sir.
Q. People around there was talking about it?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. You and the Chief of Police stood there and did nothing, is that right?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. That is all.
havine been first duly sworn, was called as a witness,
examined in chief by Mr. Pierce, at the request of Acting
Chairman Rice, and testified as follows:

Q. You may state your name?
A. William Sadler.

Q. Where do you reside?
A. Herrin.

Q. City of Herrin, this county? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long have you lived in Herrin? A. 16 years.

Q. What is your business?
A. Practically a coal miner.

Q. Anything else? A. Police and night chief there.

Q. On the police force? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long have you held that position?
A. Since the 8th day of last May.

Q. Were you on the police force on the 20th, 21st and 22nd of June, 1922?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. What were your duties then?
A. To look after the business part of town.

Q. What time of day or night?
A. Six to Six.

Q. Six in the evening to six in the morning? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you go on on the evening of the 21st of June?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Anyone else? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who else? A. Mr. Ira Davis.

Q. Where is he? A. I couldn't say.

Q. He is off the police force? A. Yes, sir.

Q. You two paroled the city during the night?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where is your beat? A. All around the business part of town.
Q. The city hall is on 14th street?
A. Between 14th and 15th streets.

Q. The business district is on 13th, 14th and 15th?
A. Yes, and 16th and practically down 17th.

Q. When did you hear of the trouble at the strip mine?
A. That night.

Q. What time that night?
A. I heard they fetched a feller in that night.

Q. You mean the night of June 21st?
A. No, I didn't hear anything about it that night.

Q. It was the night before you heard of the killing of a lot of people?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. They brought somebody in there?
A. They brought fellows to the hospital.

Q. Who was it? A. I don't remember.

Q. Did you know his name at the time? A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ever hear his name? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where did he live? A. In Williamson County somewhere.

Q. Did you learn where he was brought from?
A. The strip mine.

Q. Did you learn what happened to him?
A. Someone at the strip mine shot him.

Q. Was he dead or wounded? A. He was dead when I saw him.

Q. Where was he? A. At the hospital.

Q. What time did you see him that night?
A. I couldn't say.

Q. Was it before six or after six?
A. I came to work at six o'clock.
You didn't get down until six o'clock, and it was after that?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was it an hour after that? A. I suppose it was.

Q. Who brought the man in?

A. That is something I don't know.

Q. Were you present when he was brought in?

A. No, sir.

Q. How did you know he was in the hospital?

A. I heard people talking about it.

Q. Who talked about it? A. I don't know.

Q. Somebody told you a man had been brought to the hospital shot? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Anyone went with you? A. Ira Davis.

Q. Who was Davis? A. He was my buddy.

Q. Your body, what do you mean by body? A. He was my buddy, my partner.

Q. What was the next thing you heard? A. What about?

Q. About the strip mine or the trouble out there? A. Never heard anything and never asked anything.

Q. You didn't hear any more that night?

A. Heard people say there was a bunch of people out there.

Q. Did you see any unusual happenings in Herrin that evening? A. No, sir.

Q. Just the usual number of citizens in town? A. A lot of strangers passed through town.

Q. In automobiles? A. Yes, sir.
Q. Were there more than the average this night?
A. Couldn't say that there was.

Q. You heard there was some trouble at the mine?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you hear about any shooting?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you hear any explosion?
A. I heard one about four o'clock in the morning.

Q. Did you hear an explosion about 9 o'clock at night?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did the lights go out about 9 o'clock?
A. I don't know.

Q. You would know it if they had?
A. I suppose I would.

Q. You stayed on until six o'clock in the morning?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was there more than one body brought in to your knowledge?
A. They said there was another union man brought in crippled.

Q. Was he at the hospital?
A. I don't know. I didn't see him.

Q. You saw the dead man but not the crippled man?
A. No, sir.

Q. Were there any other men brought in the hospital?
A. Not that I know of.

Q. When you got through at six o'clock in the morning, where did you go?
A. I went home.

Q. When you got through with the night's work you went to the city hall, got ready to go home?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who came on at six o'clock?
A. I don't remember.
Did the chief of police come on?
A. I don't know whether he did or Mr. Jones did.

Q. One or the other came on?  
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are you sure both didn't come on?  
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you say the chief of police came on?  
A. I don't remember.

Q. How far is your home from the city hall?  
A. Two blocks and a half.

Q. Did you go immediately home after you were relieved from duty?  
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Got your breakfast?  
A. No, sir, I don't eat breakfast any morning.

Q. Did you get up before night?  
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you stay in bed all day?  
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you hear anything about a riot until the night following?  
A. No, sir.

Q. You didn't hear about people being killed?  
A. Yes, about 12:00 o'clock I heard it.

Q. Were you at home?  
A. Yes, my wife woke me and told me about the trouble.

Q. Did you get up?  
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you go down town?  
A. Yes, sir.

Q. What time did you go home?  
A. 4:30.

Q. About 12 your wife woke you up?  
A. Yes, sir.

Q. About what time did you get down town?  
A. Well, I washed, dressed and walked down town.

Q. What did you see down town?  
A. Just a bunch of people on 14th street.

Q. Who were they?  
A. I couldn't tell.

Q. Did you see anybody you knew?  
A. Sure I seen some.

Q. Did you speak to anybody you saw?  
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you make inquiries of anybody?  
A. No, sir, I didn't have time.