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CHASE GANG KILLER THROUGH THE COUNTY

Exciting Aftermath of Slaying Near Morton Grove; Death Car Speeds North

A dark high-powered sedan bearing the bleeding body of a mortally wounded Chicago gangster and driven by the man who shot him and fatally wounded his brother, early last Thursday morning thundered straight Lake county from north to south leaving a broken trail of blood to mark its going. The Libertyville police, with other stations along the route, were enlisted in the chase.

The bloody and ghastly race began at the Arlington Inn near Morton Grove at 5 o'clock in the morning. A goodwill party and dinner had been thrown by Andrew (Sonny) Grom, owner of the inn, who aspired to get control of the beer racket on the River and Higgins road.

Attending the dinner was, among others, William O'Brien, roadhouse owner and beer racketeer; and his brother, Robt. O'Brien, barkeeper and operator of the Radio Inn at Niles. The party ended when the freely flowing liquor turned the inn to a house of death in which lay Robert O'Brien, shot through the heart, and his brother, Willie, adding to the crimson pool with the blood from three bullet wounds.

Earl Green, manager of the inn, was the only witness to the shooting left in the place when the police arrived. He said that Grom had shot both of the O'Briens, and that he had taken the body of Willie, put it in his sedan, ordered his wife and 10year-old daughter to accompany him, and then driven off toward the north. The police at first believed that he might have gone to Antioch, near where he is said to own a brewery.

John O'Brien still lay on the floor and Green was trying to stanch the blood that welled from his wounds. The police rushed him to the Belmont hospital, where is was later stated that he couldn't live.

Green told the police that Willie's body was bleeding so profusely that the blood would be bound to run down between the floor boards of the car and drip into the road. It is this trail of blood for which the police of Lake county towns have been searching. Chief Druba of Libertyville took up a stand at Milwaukee avenue and Route 21 hoping to intercept the death car, but feared that he had been warned too late to make the capture.

Grom was later caught when he returned to Cook county and was exonerated by a coroner's jury when witnesses testified that he fired in selfdefense.

James Williams, 50 years old, and Bob Grimshaw, 42 years old, both of Fox lake, were seriously injured when the car in which they were riding got out of control on the highway near Fox lake last week, and struck a culvert.

Boy Scout troops of Lake county are planning the first annual intertroop first aid contest to be held at the Waukegan Township High school gymnasium on Thursday evening, April 17.



