

MERCHANT SLAIN IN W. BROAD STORE

Geo. A. Saraf Victim of Gunmen Last Night

FOUND BEHIND COUNTER

Four Negroes Seen Fleeing From Vicinity

George A. Saraf, operator of a small bar and confectionery store at the northeast corner of Duffy and West Broad streets, was shot and killed shortly after 10 o'clock last night.

Police expressed the belief that the shot was fired by one of four negroes who were seen fleeing from Saraf's store following the shooting. A negro woman who notified police of the shooting from a nearby store said that two shots had been fired, and others in the vicinity told police that they heard two shots.

Saraf, a man 47 years of age was apparently shot while standing behind the counter in his store. A pistol slug had passed through his neck and buried itself in the wall behind the counter after breaking several glasses which were stacked behind the counter, and a large plate-glass mirror.

Police were able to find no other bullets. The slug which was dug from the wall was lead, and had been bradded so that it was impossible to determine the caliber of the gun. Dr. John L. Elliott, coroner, was summoned to the scene and said that the wound probably caused death almost instantly. The body was turned over to Henderson Brothers for funeral arrangements.

Police found a bottle of whisky standing on the counter behind which the body was found lying on the floor. A man listed as R. G. Fouche of 1206 West Broad street told police that he saw four negroes run away from the store after the shooting. He said that two of them passed near him and he was able to give police a description of the men.

Another man listed as W. A. Strickland of 1201 West Broad street said he was nearby when the shooting occurred, and that one of the four negroes almost ran over him while getting away. Both men said that the four negroes were apparently young men. The colored woman who first gave the alarm that Saraf had been killed, could not be located by police. Lieut. Sidney E. Baughn said that apparently there was no one besides the four negroes in the store at the time.

Detectives Harry Pitts and Chris Fountain were among the first to arrive at the scene in addition to several police officers. Police immediately began scouring the vicinity for suspects, many negroes being questioned and released.

One man listed as Leoria Kelly, 34, was arrested near the scene and was held for further investigation after police found a loaded .32 caliber automatic pistol in his automobile. Kelly denied all knowledge. Police said that Kelly's pistol had evidently

been fired recently, but that all the bullets in the gun were steel-jackets while the bullet which was found in Saraf's store was lead. Kelly is being held for further investigation.

There was no evidence in the store that a scuffle or fight had proceeded [sic] the shooting. A cover was removed from an ice cream churn as though the dead man might have held it in his hand before he was shot. No money had been taken from the cash register, police said, and Saraf had some money in his pockets which had not been disturbed. Everything else in the store appeared to be in order. Early today police and detectives were still hard at work trying to obtain information which would lead to the arrest of the four men.

Mr. Saraf is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Saraf; four daughters, Phyllis, Antoinette, Mary and Rosa Saraf; and three sons, Phillip, George and Antonio. He was an Armenian, born in Turkey, but came to Savannah in 1936. He had been in business on the corner for eight years.

*****NOTE: Children's names were and are: Phyllis, Antoinette, Mary Anne, Rose, Philip, George and Antoine and George was 45 years old.***