WÉATHER Partly Cloudy

98th YEAR-NO. 357.

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KALAMAZOO, MICH., MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1931.

14 PAGES

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(Continued on Page Twelve)

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SHOT TO DEATH



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EXPIRES AT HOSPITAL; MYSTERY VEILS TRAGEDY AT FIRM'S OFFICES

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Four law enforcement bodies of the city and county of Kalamazoo and the State of Michigan Monday afternoon had launched upon exhaustive investigations of the mysterious shooting of L. J. White. president of the L. V. White Company, in the firm's offices at 648 East Michigan avenue, at 7 Sunday

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The Kalamazoo police department, the secret service division of the Michigan State police, the prosecuting attorneys' office, and the county coroner's office were conducting the investigations. The four separate investigating bodies were combining their efforts with one object in view—to establish definitely, if possible, whether or not White was murdered.

FINGERPRINT EXPERT HERE At the request of Police Commissioner Rock Fleming two detectives from the state police division, one of them a fingerprint expert, arrived in Kalamazoo Monday afternoon to join in the investigation. In addition to the two state police detectives from Lansing, two state troopers from the Paw Paw post of the Michigan State Police started an investigation at Midnight Sunday and continued until the two officers arrived from headquarters Monday.

PROSECUTOR ACTS

Monday morning Prosecuting Attorney Paul M. Tedrow was informed about the shooting and immediately began an investigation. Tedrow was questioning persons who were in the vicinity of the White offices at the time of the shooting, and was taking statements from all persons who knew anything about the case. He would make no announcement of his findings, but stated he was seeking to ascertain beyond any question whether or not a murder had been committed.

Investigation by the Kalamazoo police department Monday was been murdered. Police obtained sexeral finger prints at the L. V.

(Continued on Page Twelve)

Station Attendant Finds Oil Company's Executive Lying on Floor Near Unopened Steel Vault.

WIFE OUTSIDE IN CAR

'A Short Man,' Last Words of Dying Man; Rear Door Jimmied; Burglar Tools Scattered Around Room.

The mysterious shooting to death of Lauren V. White, 43, of 827 West South street, president of the L. V. White Company, in the offices of the firm in East Michigan avenue Sunday night, was being investigated Monday by city and county officers and detectives of the Michigan State po-

lice.

White was shot through the right chest about 7 Sunday evening in the general offices of the company, and died as he was being admitted to Bronson hospital a few moments later. A second bullet had passed through his left coat sleeve.

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WIFE HEARS SHOTS FIRED
Mrs. L. V. White and a threemonths old baby sat in the family automobile in a drive at the
side of the office building and
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place.
Fearing something had happened to her husband, Mrs. White ran to the L. V. White filling station No. 1, directly west of the company's offices, and informed A. C. O'Rourke, attendant that she had heard shots in the offices. O'Rourke ran into the offices and there found White, lying face downward on the floor, in front of a vault door. A revolver was lying a short distance from the wounded man.
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White was taken to Bronson
hospital in the police ambulance
but died before medical help
could be administered. The bullet entered the right chest and
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on the left side and at the back.

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DOOR FUUND "JIMMED"

Investigation of the White shooting by police was based upon two theories—one that the oli company president had been attacked and fatally wounded by burglars and the other one that he had shot himself, possibly by accident.

A door leading from the general

he had shot himself, possibly by accident.

A door leading from the general offices of the firm to the wafe-house at the 'rear was found to have been "limmied" in three places. The "limmy" marks on the door were freshly made and splinters were found on the floor of the warshouse.

Inside an inner record room which extends off the general offices police found an iron bar, a hammer handle, and two chisels, laid out side by side on the floor. Lights in the offices were out when O'Rourke, the attendant, entered in response to Mrs. Whites call. The safe and vauit doors, extending along the south wall of the general offices showed no evidence of having been tampered with and deske in the offices had not been ransacked.

COMPANY GUN USED

Police Monday were certain White was shot with a company's gun, a 38 caliber weapon, which was kept in the desk used by William Clark, an official of the firm. This gun had been taken from the drawer, which was left partially open. The holster in which the sun was kept, was still in the desk.

Two bullets had been fired from the sun was kept, was still in the desk.

which the gun was kept, was still in the desk.

Two bullets had been fired from the gun. Police found one bullet had crashed through a wall partition leading from the general offices into White's private office. This bullet entered the wall a distance at about four feet from the floor. It was recovered by police.

White's body was lying at the side of the center tier of desks in the general offices. The head wan nearest the vault door and the revolver lay on the floor near the feet. The wounded man fell face

(Continued on Page Twelve)

PAGE TWELVE

MILY SWI

Station Attendant Finds Executive Lying on Floor Near Vault.

(Continued from Page One.)

downward. He wore an overcoat and gloves.

MOVEMENTS CHECKED

Upon discovery of the shooting police began a check-up of White's movements leading back from the time he last entered the offices. They were informed that he and Mrs. White and their threa-month old son had stopped at the station adjoining the offices about 5 or 6 for gasoline and oil, and that White had entered the offices at that time. The Whites then went for an automobile ride and returned to the offices about 6:30 or 6:45. White drove the car into the company's driveway and parked at the northwest corner of the building. He got out of the car and went into the offices. Mrs. White could not state the exact time that her husband spent in the offices but he returned to the car later and said to her, that he had forgotten his glasses. He went to the offices and just after he entered, shots were heard by Mrs. White. time he last entered the offices.

tered, shots were heard by Mrs. White.
O'Rourke, the attendant, tried to open the front door of the office building but found it locked. He then went to the rear door, the one leading from the offices to the warehouse, and stated he found that door partially opened. That was the door which had been "limmied." He used a flashlight and discovered White lying on the floor. He then turned on the office lights.
NO EVIDENCE OF STRUGGLE Police could not learn whether

floor. He then turned on the orfice lights.

NO EVIDENCE OF STRUGGLE

Police rould not learn whether
or not the office lights were on
the first time White entered after
the ride with his family. Neither
could they learn whether or not
the lights were turned on when he
went back for his glasses. They
were unable to establish the fact
whether or not White entered the
general offices through the front
door leading into the hall which
connects with the warehouse, of
whether he walked to the rear of
the offices and entered through
the "Jimmied" door. His movements inside the offices still were
a mystery Monday.

No evidence was found on
White's body or his clothes that
would Indicate there had been a
struggle. Police claim the outer
garment worn by White showed
evidence of powder burns, indicatting the shot which killed the oil
company president had been fired
at close range. White's glasses,
which, he told his wife, he had
forgotten in his office, were found
underneath the body.

SEEK FINGERPRINTS

The private offices of White, located to the east from the general offices, were undisturbed.

Police were informed that la

forgoiten in his office, were found underneath the body. SEEK FINGERPRINTS

The private offices of White, located to the east from the general offices, were undisturbed. Police were informed that a service man for the company had been at the warehouse and offices about 6:30 and that at that lime the night light was burnins, and the doors were secured.

Desks, office equipment, doors, and other turnishings and paraphernalia were inspected closely for fingerprints. Photographs of the interior of the offices were taken by police.

Dr. Horace R. Cobb, county corones, was notified of the shooting and began an inquiry. Evidence brought to light in the preliminary investigation Sunday night and Monday morning was to be placed before Prosecuting Attorney Paul M. Tedrow Monday, by Dr. Cobb, and it was considered probable an inquest into the death would be ordered.

LIST OF SURVIVORS

Mr. White is survived by the widow, Mrs. Margaret M. White, who before her marriage to Mr. White three, years ago resided in Toledo, and three sons, Ronald White, 18; Richard White, 16, and Lauten V. White, three months cld. Surviving also are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. John S. White, they have south street; one sister, Mrs. Helen Webster, West South street; two nephews, Patrick and John Webster; two neces, Jean and Irene Webster, also of West South street; we nephews, Patrick and John Banks, Emilra, New York.

Mr. White was born in Elmira, New York, and mrs. Cora Cronk, Geneva, New York, and Mrs. Loe Striissin, and Mrs. Cora Cronk, Geneva, New York, and Mrs. John Banks, Emilra, New York.

Mr. White was born in Elmira, New York, and moved to Kalamazoo to enter business 22 years ago. When in Elmira he was employed as a messenger for an expression of the England of the Dixia Service Company as shipping clerk and later entered the employ of the Kalamazoo and since that time had been engaged in the distribution of gasoline and motor oils. The company was reorganized about 1922 under the name of the L. V. White Company which operated oil stations in Homer. Albion, Charlotte, Clivet, Nishilbe and Hastilbe and Hastilbe and

dependent dealers, operating 2,000 retail stations in ten Middle West states. The sales of gasoline for 1920 were 100,000,000 gallons. It was about a year ago that he resigned the presidency of the latter organization. His successor is J. Wallace Gehrken, Monroe, organizer of the Monroe Co-operative Oil Company.

Mr. White was a member of the Mascas and Elks and also belonged to the Kalamazoo Exchange club, the Park Club and Marle Hills Country Club.

He had been in ill health for several months, but in recent weeks had been reported improving in condition. He had been under treatment in a local hospital.

APIDE TA AIDDI ANICO

W.J.HAGELSHAW. 60 **CLAIMED BY DE**

Services to Be Held Wet nesday for Former Supervisor.

AUGUSTA, Oct. 12—W. J. Higelshaw, 60, former supervise from Charleston township, an owner of the Walnut fruit farreast of Galesburg, died at home at 2 p. m. Sunday. He was born in Newton township, Calhou County, May 7, 1871. He was maried to Miss Anna Schultz, Dec. 1898. They moved to the farwhere Mr. Hagelshaw died, 1908. He leaves his wife an three children: W. J. Hagelshay Jr., and Laura and Luella, resting at home. He also leaves seve brothers and a sister, most whom live in Calhoun Count Mr. Hagelshaw was a member the Augusta Maccabee lodge. Prvate funeral services will be he at 2 p. m. Wednesday at the Higelshaw home.

ation other methods for helping the general economic structure.

PROBE BEING MADE BY FOUR AGENCIES

(Continued From Page One)

White Company offices, but officers were not certain that those which were photographed would prove valuable in the investigation. Although no inquest has yet been ordered into the White death Monday. Coroner Cobb announced that he had called a coroner's jury composed of Jack Dold. John S. Ritchie, George VanderWalker, Clyde E. Walker, Frank Rineharf and Andrew Loughead, to be held in readiness in event an inquiry later is held. This jury was sworn in Monday forenoon.

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LAST EDITION

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DEEP MYSTERY

Five Agencies Fail to Find Conclusive Proof Oil Firm Head Was Murdered.

BULLET HOLE IN SLEEVE

Discovery Supports Theory He Was Killed by Robber: Funeral to Be Held at 3:30 p. m. Wednesday.

Two bullet holes through the left fore-sleeve of the overcoat and four each through the left sleeves of the suit coat and shirt

sleeves of the suit coat and shirt worn by L. V. White, 45, president of the L. V. White Company, at the time he was fatally shot at 7 Sunday night, were discovered Monday by officers of the sheriff's department. The find presented to law enforcement officials the most tangible evidence thus far discovered that White was murdered.

The bullet did not so much as grave the left forearm of the oil company president, a minute examination of the bydy showed. In the opinion of some of the 20 or 30 officers investigating the mysterious shooting, the bullet could not have taken the course it did with out inflicting firsh wounds, unless the sleeves were pulled tightly up from the arm. This was taken as an indication that White may have been grappiling with a page 18 sunday. an indication that White may have been grappling with an assailant at the time.
EXIT HOLE ON OTHER SIDE

The hole made as the builet entered the sleeve was located two or three laches from the cuft and near the inside seam. The exit hole was at a point near the elbow, and the appearance of the sleeve on the coposite side of the sleeve. Four holes were made in the suit coat and shirt sleeves, because, andoubtedly, the sleeves were wrinKled and doubled inside the over-

coat sieeve.

The bullet which made these boles was the one which entered the partition between the general approximation of the property of the control of

grasta Ino

The bullet which made these hales was the one which entered the partition between the general edices and the private office of 1. V. White, officers were certain. The bullet which caused White's death entered the right chest and lodged near the skin at the back and at a point lower than the wound where it intered the body.

The bullet taken from White's bedy and the one retrieved from the will of the office were of the same calibre as the gun which was found at the feet of the wounded

man, police stated.

Officers of the sheriff's department discovered the builet holes as they were making a minute inspection of the clothing worn by Witters the time he was shot. This additional evidence was immediately given to other law enforcement bodies working on the case and baffled explanation. Officers who held to the theory Witters accidentially shot himself were at a loss to understand how a builet could be so directed by a revolver in White's

Funeral services for L. V. White will be conducted at 3:30 Wednesday at the home, 827 West South street, with the Rev. Terrance Phelps, paster of the First Congregational church, efficiating. The body will be placed in a vault at Mountain Home cemetery. bearers will be Edgar Raseman, Jr., Rock Fleming, Forest C. Buskirk, Paul Praetorius, Dr. Edgar Honey, Jr., and Dr. John A. MacGregor. Honorary pailbearers will be J. J. Theisren and Roy Clemens, St. Joseph, Mich.; C. B. White, Detroit; James A. Gilmore, Chicago and A. B. Connable, A. H. Berry, John Pyl, George MacCullom, Claude S. Carney, John L. Hollander, and Guy Tyler, Kalamazoo.

hand. Others who were inclined strongly to the belief that White was murdered by a burglar could not offer a legical explanation how an intruder could have shot at White in such a manner that the built would cut through three sleeves without at least grazing the arm.

Thrsovery of the bullet holes in the sleeves served only to add to the mystery which surrounds the shooting of the oil firm president. Forty hours of unceasing investigation, in which city police, Michigan state pelice, the prosecutor's office the sheriff's department, and

(Continued on Page Ten)

Continued From Page One)

cession, with an interval not longer than five reconds. She said she was not certain at first the sounds she heard were shots, but that, after a few moments, she became offices her husband had entered a short time before, found that the coms were dark. She then notified A. C. O'Rourke, attendant at one of the White stations adjoining the office building, that she feared something had happened to Mr. White. O'Rourke went to the offices and found White lying on the floor, face downward, in front of the safe. Mrs. White said she did not necice whether are not the not notice whether or not the lights in the office were on the first time her husband entered, nor the second time—when he went to get his glasses which he had left in his private affice adjoining the general

HIS DYING WORDS

Mrs. White said her husband's dying words were "A short man-back room."

Officers Tuesday were investigating a report that White apparently was carrying a newspaper or a builted of papers under his left arm as he walked from his private office. Sometime during Monday's investigation it was reported a paper had been picked up from the floor beside White's body.

Working on the theory White was attacked by a burglar, officers questioned all persons they knew had been in the vicinity of the Lavy. White Company offices at the hour of the shooting, but found no one who saw any one run from the building after the shots were fired.

FIND NO FOOTPRINTS

Neither could they find any footprints at the rear; sides of front of the building. All offices and the large warehouse of the White Company were inspected minutely again Monday by officers. The gun with which White was killed, a weapon owned by the L. V. White Company and kept in a desk in the general offices, was closely examined for fingerprints. This gun was found on the floor of the offices near White's feet. Two bullets had been discharged from its chamber. Investigation into the White death was being continued Tuesday with all five law enforcement bodies co-operating. The prosecutor was to question present and former employes of the company and the fingerprint investigation was to be continued. Several fingerprint have been obtained about the offices of the White Company. White was failedly shot the third time he entered his offices Sunday evening. He had been in the offices late in the afternoon and about 6:20 or 6:45 returned leaving his car in which sat Mrs. White and their three-months-old son. Lauren, Jr., parked in a driveway at the northwest corner of the siation, He was in the offices He willoud, dying, on the floor in front of the safe by O'Rourke, the attendant, with a builet wound in his right side. He died as he was being admitted to Bronson hose pital.

The rear door leading from the

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The rear door leading from the general offices to the warehouse, in the same building, was found "jimmied" in three places. Four tools, an iron bar, a hammer handle and two chisels, were found in

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pital.

The rear door leading from the general offices to the warehouse in the same building, was found "jimmied" in three places. Four tools, an iron bar, a hammer handle and two chisels, were found in an office stock room leading off the general offices to the south. No evidence of a struggle was found.



State of Michigan,

The Probate Court for the County of Kalinazeo

At a session of said court, held at the probate office in the City Kalamano

in said county, on the

16th

deser March

Present: Hen. John

Tollander

Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of . V. White

trator The day having been appointed for hearing the petition of LeBoy H. Tibby. Administration of the section as the copy and precisor the sum of the or mer charm. Desitioner further press that men filling with this Sourt due proof of the common that the first enter on order reducing petitioner's bond.

It is sidered, that said hearing be and is here'y adjourned to the A. It is the state so clock in the first inform.

Blh

Julige of Probate.

L. W. WHITE ESTATE

CLAIMS

1.	Bank of Kalamazoo, notes
2.	Home Savings Bank, "
3.	Nine E. White
4.	Bell Shoe Co
5.	Dr. Ed. Honey, Jr
6.	Dr. J. F. Berry
7.	Petroleum Age110.74
8.	Park Club, dues82.50
9.	Consumers Power, stove145.CO
10.	F. L. Cornish Co
11.	Emma L. White
12.	C. L. Mahoney
13.	Colman Drug Co20.98
14.	G. Vanbochove48.40
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