

GANGSTER STABBED AND SHOT TO DEATH

**Morris Reich, Attacked, Runs
Ten Feet and Dies on Car
Tracks of Avenue B.**

POLICE SEEK A WOMAN

**Letter Found Gives Police Clue to
Cause—Four Gunmen in Affair
and Two Arrests Made.**

Four gangmen walked abreast through Avenue B yesterday afternoon from Eighth Street to a point between Second and Third Streets, where Morris Reich, better known as Moshe, the Strong-Arm Man, was standing in front of a poolroom.

There was some kind of a gang row on. Even the pushcart peddlers who lined the gutters sensed danger, and began to pull away their loads of cutlery and laces before the four men had spoken a word to Moshe. Moshe, dressed in his best, and with the air of one who has long commanded respect, stepped out to shake hands with the foremost of the gangmen.

For answer he received, just below his heart, a long dagger up to the hilt. Two revolvers came into play simultaneously with the dagger, and in an instant Moshe's strong arms, that had made him a gang leader in Avenue B, were lying helpless at his side as he groveled on the pavement. The first revolver shot struck the gang leader in the back as he turned to flee after receiving the knife thrust. A second shot struck him in the left thigh, while a third went wild.

Lived to Run Ten Feet.

Moshe died on the street car tracks ten feet away from the point where he was first attacked.

Avenue B, in the section where the gangmen settled their difficulties, was crowded as it always is with men, women, and children. With those that came pouring in from the side streets, the crowd that hemmed in the murdered man, and also his murderers, soon mounted up to 5,000 or more.

The gangmen who took Moshe's life might have escaped if they had been a little more careful in choosing the time of day in which to act. As it was, the revolver shots announced to two squads of policemen who were changing posts that there was trouble brewing. The police squads, representing both the Union Market Station and the East Fifth Street Station, swarmed into the congestion from both sides.

Two of the gangmen were pointed out to policemen as they worked their way through the crowd, and they were captured after being pursued to the roofs of East Third Street tenement houses. One of them described himself as Jack Willis, a bellboy of 647 East Eleventh Street, while the other said he was David Wolk, a hair dealer of 164 Orchard Street.

Both were held in the Union Market Police Station, while a crowd of 1,000 people gathered outside and exchanged opinions of the murdered man and his assailants. Some members of the crowd suggested that the slayers of Moshe ought to be rewarded instead of punished.

An aged pushcart peddler forced his way into the station house to tell about the dead man. He said Moshe had collected 10 cents a week from him for years, saying he could "have him run away" from Orchard Street if he did not pay. A grocer came to report that his delivery horse disappeared one day and next day Moshe came and told him he could get the horse back if he would pay \$15. Some members of the crowd recalled that when they had drunk too freely Moshe had come and had robbed them of their small change.

Allied With Labor Union.

By one and all he was described as a pickpocket and gangleader who preyed upon the district in which he lived. He was oversized, dressed flashily, and the only work he was known to do was to act as strong-arm man for an express drivers' union.

In his coat pocket a letter was found written in a woman's handwriting with lead pencil. It was a letter in a style hardly familiar to the gang circles in which Moshe moved. The letter, which was turned over to the Detective Bureau for investigation in the belief that it may possibly point to the clue for the murder, contained this paragraph:

The attempt you made to excuse your conduct is neither straightforward nor satisfactory. It is, in fact, only exculpating yourself by admitting a fault as great as the one of which I complain. Under these circumstances, whatever determination never, under any conditions, to admit of your addresses, feeling persuaded that the consequences would not be favorable to the happiness of either.

ESTHER K. ROSE.

A police theory of the crime, based upon the letter found in the dead man's pocket, was that the friends of the girl who wrote it planned and executed the murder. The letter was not dated and was not inclosed in an envelope, and no address was given by the writer. A search was made last night for Esther K. Rose, but she was not found.

The fact that Jack Sullivan, who figured conspicuously in the Rosenthal murder case, was known on the east side as Jacob Reich, led many east siders to conclude that Morris Reich was related to him and so was involved in some manner in the Rosenthal case. A dozen men who declared they knew Morris Reich well, and had known him for years, insisted, however, that he had no connection with Jacob Reich, alias Jack Sullivan, and was not an associate of the gunmen figuring in the Rosenthal case. He was "too cheap," they said, even in gangster society, to be in the company of the Rosenthal gunmen.

Men Arrested Refuse to Talk.

The two men arrested were questioned by a representative of the District Attorney's office, but they refused to tell anything about the murder or even to admit that they knew Morris Reich. The police examined a number of witnesses of the murder.

Sarah Hirschenbaum, who looked out upon the affair from her flat on the second floor of 36 Avenue B, identified Wolk, the police say, as the man who wielded the knife, while Louis Stample, a clerk in a drug store at 33 Avenue B, identified Wolk as the man who fired the revolver and used the knife as well. A revolver and a long knife were found in the gutter close to Reich's body.

Dr. Lowsley of Bellevue Hospital, who was called before the body was removed, said that the stab wound would have proved fatal even if no revolver shots had been fired.

Third Deputy Police Commissioner Newburger was passing through Avenue A in a Police Department automobile when he saw the crowds rushing to the scene of the murder. He arrived in time to see the police reserves using their clubs in order to force an opening through the crowd to permit the removal of Reich's body.

A sister of Reich, who formerly kept a poultry shop in Orchard Street, is being sought by the police. It was said by Reich's friends that up to two years ago he was a well-behaved east side boy. He then joined a gang known as The Little Doggie Gang. He was arrested several times for picking pockets, and for a number of months recently

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he has been sleeping on Orchard Street roofs. He wore on the fingers of his left hand two signet rings and a diamond ring.

GANGSTER IS KILLED.

Thomas Banaza, a Special Policeman, Shoots Gopher Leader.

Thomas Banaza, a special policeman at Happyland, South Beach, Staten Island, had a quarrel in the park Wednesday night with a group of three men and two girls, who finally left the park. In the early hours of yesterday morning Banaza, bound to his home in Stapleton after the night's work, noticed that the five were in the same car. When he got out at Water Street, the three men followed him. At the corner of Wright and Water Streets they set upon him. Banaza drew his revolver and used the butt in an attempt to beat them off. He had pretty well discouraged the leader of the attack when the other two closed in. Then, fearing for his life, he fired his revolver. One of the men fell, shot cleanly through the jugular, and the special officer held on to the man who had led the attack. The spot is only a short distance from the police station, and detectives who heard the shot arrested the third of the assailants as he started to run away.

Banaza and his two assailants were brought to the police station. The dead man was identified as Peter McCabe, whom the police credit with being one of the leaders of the Gopher gang of West Brighton. The other two gave their names as Edward Johnson and Joseph Erb. The police say both are identified with the gang.

Banaza was held on a charge of homicide, the others being detained as material witnesses. They denied that any attack had been made on Banaza, but could not explain why all three had

got off the car when he did, although their homes are miles away on the other side of the island. The police are looking for the two girls who accompanied them to Happyland.

BOY SHIELDS GUNMEN.

Tries to Take the Blame for the Killing of John Denunzio.

When Coroner Hellenstein was holding an inquest yesterday into the death of John Denunzio, 18, of 301 East 103d Street, who was shot last Sunday night in a quarrel with gangsters at the foot of East 103d Street, Stephen Foley, 14 years old, of 2,031 Second Avenue appeared to say that he had shot Denunzio accidentally, and that Christopher Teppler, better known in Harlem as "John Regan," who had been pointed out by the dead man's brother as the assailant to the police and arrested, was not guilty.

Foley said that he always carried Teppler's revolver for him, and that on the night of the quarrel he had tripped when running and dropped the revolver which, as he stooped to pick it up, had gone off and shot Denunzio in the stomach.

The detectives say that the boy made this confession to shield Teppler, and that they have found a letter which proves that they arranged it together, the older youth saying that if Foley were convicted he would only get a light sentence, probably in a Catholic Proctory, on account of his age. Foley is held at the Children's Society.