

MESSAGE IN BLOOD LEFT BY CONVICT

"I Am No Gink," Wrote Prisoner on Walls of Cell Before Ending His Life

DUNLAP DEMANDS PROBE

"I am no gink," written in his own blood on the wall of his cell was William Stehlik's answer to the taunts of his fellow convicts in the Eastern Penitentiary, according to the coroner's office. "Gink" is prison slang for informer.

Stehlik's suicide, by slashing his wrists and by hanging, has caused William A. Dunlap, a member of the board of prison inspectors, to demand an investigation into charges of alleged brutality at the big institution on Fairmount avenue.

A preliminary investigation is said to have revealed that Stehlik, serving from two to three years for highway robbery, had been taunted as a "snitcher" and a "gink," one who carried tales to the prison authorities.

Such an accusation, the bitterest that can be heaped about among members of the underworld, the taunt that was leveled at "Jack" Rose in the Rosenbach murder case, is said to have de-

pressed Stehlik and to have been a big factor in his motive for self-destruction. The convict, in ending his life, is said to have punched out a jagged triangle from a tin plate and to have severed his wrist arteries. Then, with part of his shirt, he drabbed the declaration on the cell wall and knotted the shirt about his neck hung himself from a window catch.

Charges Brutal Treatment
Mr. Dunlap charges that Stehlik was punished for taking part in a prison demonstration last Sunday against the quality of food furnished the convicts. This punishment, he said, included the turning of a high-pressure hose upon the convicts and then a beating by the guards.

Warden Robert G. McKenty denies that Stehlik was brutally treated. He says the dead prisoner was one of twenty-five drug users among the convicts, who had caused endless trouble and were back of much of the trouble at the prison, which has extended over a long period and caused many investigations.

The last inquiry by the state board of charities ended only a short time ago and resulted in the exoneration of the management of the prison.

Says Escape Was Intended
Certain prison officials said the real source of the trouble resulting in the death of Stehlik was an attempted wholesale jail delivery on last Tuesday night which was interrupted by keepers, who discovered that five men had almost completed a tunnel from their cells to safety outside the walls of the prison.

The statements of the prison officials that Stehlik committed suicide is borne out by the verdict of Deputy Coroner Joseph Ward, who said that he was called into the prison at about 7:30 o'clock yesterday morning and found

the body of Stehlik exactly as it had been cut down by Keeper O'Brien. Deputy Coroner Ward said that except that the dead convict's wrists were slashed there were no other marks of violence on the body.

Stehlik was serving a two to three year sentence in the penitentiary for highway robbery.

SAVES 2 FROM DEATH BY GAS

Man Breaks Down Door of Lodgers' Room With Ax

Smelling gas when he went to awaken two lodgers this morning, Rosario Calderero, 6425 Carlton street, took an ax and broke down the door. He found his two lodgers unconscious in bed. They were hurried to the West Philadelphia Homeopathic Hospital, where both are in a serious condition.

They are Paul Diliseo, twenty-three years old, and Eliseo Pallette, twenty-three years old.

It is believed gas escaped from a jet during the night.

THOUGHT IT A GOOD SWAP

Man Says Friend Gave Him Bag of Liquor for 2 Pounds of Sugar

Liquor for 2 pounds of sugar. Mike Goody thought that two pounds of sugar for a bag of 100 per cent liquor was not a bad swap.

But Magistrate Price, at the Twenty-second and Hunting Park avenue police station, didn't agree with him exactly.

Patrolmen Fredericks and McHale saw Mike standing at Allegheny and Ridge avenues about 2 a. m. And he carried a black bag. The patrolmen asked him what was in the bag, and he wouldn't show them.

The bag was opened before the magistrate this morning. It held one cognac, one bottle of Jamaica rum and a two-quart jug of rye whiskey.

Of course, the magistrate wanted to know where Mike got the good spirit.

"A friend of mine up in Manayunk has a couple of kids and they needed sugar. My friend said, 'get me some sugar and I'll pay you for it.' I took

two pounds of sugar to his home last night, and he handed me this bag." Mike didn't know his friend's name, the police say, nor could he tell where the friend lived.

The magistrate was not convinced, and held Mike in \$600 bail for a further hearing two days after Christmas.

SAILORS FIGHT SHIP FIRE

Quick action of the crew of the steamer Wynooche, docked at Washington avenue wharf, saved the vessel from probable destruction by fire early this morning.

Two sailors saw smoke pouring out of the hold and aroused the crew. While the men fought the flames an alarm was turned in and several engine companies responded. The fire was quickly extinguished with small loss.



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