

# OFFICIALS SEE BOOTLEGGER MURDERED

The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY, Tuesday, November 1, 1921

SEVEN PRESENT DENY KNOWING MAN'S SLAYER

LURED TO AMBUSH OF OFFICIALS BY TWO OTHER BOOTLEGGERS

SHOT IN STRUGGLE

WITNESSES SAY HE FIRED TWICE, BUT DO NOT KNOW WHICH IS THE KILLER

Bruno Nistico, rooming in Wyoming st., was shot to death early Monday night when seven Federal prohibition operatives, headquarters police, and informers attempted to capture a truckload of what they suspected was whiskey at the old Faatz Hotel on the Cicero plank road.

Eighteen hours afterwards, county officials probing the shooting had been unable to ascertain who fired the fatal shot. Suspicion points to two of the seven men, both of whom, however, offer alibis.

Nistico's body lay unidentified in the County Morgue until 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, when Pasquale H. Bennett, a headquarters detective, together with Detectives Thomas F. Carroll and Acting Detective Michael J. Ryan, recognized the dead man.

The shooting comes as a tragic climax to the long continued warring between rival factions of the Syracuse bootlegging fraternity. Readiness of bootleggers to "doublecross" each other had already led to three cases of robbery on the highway at gun-point, but Nistico's death is the first to have occurred locally in the bootleg war.

Of the seven men who surrounded the suspected truck, only four were armed with authority. These were James A. Stapleton and Arthur Van Tassel, prohibition enforcement agents, attached to the Syracuse federal office, and Louis Snow and John Kolas, members of the police motorcycle squad.

These men were acting with the permission and authority of their superiors, Chief of Police Cadin and Michael H. Stapleton, in charge of the local enforcement office, both say.

With the four officers, however were William H. Hannon, a former prohibition enforcement agent; Harry Beam, alias Harry Yates, of 205 Burnet av., a confessed bootlegger, and John Timmons also known as John Timinski, named a friend of Beam.

So far, Snow and Kulas of the Tassel, one of the two federal agents, have been eliminated as potentialities in the inquiry as to who killed Nistico.

Suspicion, Chief Cadin and Frank P. Malpass, district attorney, both agree, points to James A. Stapleton, the other federal agent or to Harry Beam. Further investigation may clear both of these men, however.

One important witness is still at large, an Italian-American known as "Dominick," who accompanied Nistico on the supposed bootlegging venture, but who wriggled out of sight when the shooting began and has eluded [*sic*] capture since.

The 18 hours' probe conducted by Mr. Malpass, Chief Cadin, Coroner Crane and Sheriff Ten Eyck,

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The following pages of the Syracuse Journal were in bad shape and were not copied. Missing also were the editions from Dec 4, 11, 18 and 25, 1921.