

William Frank Dement (- 6 May 1927)

The Evening Star, April 13, 1927

Autoist Wounded, By Police in Chase Car, Which Officers Say Contained Liquor, Hits House in Southeast

Cornered by the police and suffering from a bullet wound in the head, William Frank Dement, 29 years old, 1354 Spring road, lost control of his high-powered machine early this morning, permitting it to crash up a steep embankment and obliterate the brick support of the porch of 565 1/2 Fifteenth street southeast. Austin Jarboe, 30 years, 303 Twelfth street, whom police allege had been operating a smoke screen for Dement during a whirlwind pursuit of the liquor squad which started near Bradbury Heights, was only slightly injured.

Dement, under the care of two special nurses, was reported in a critical condition at Casualty Hospital today, Dr. J. Rozier Biggs, who is attending him, has taken X-rays. He reports the bullet entered Dement's brain and has scattered, but he will not operate pending the developing of the X-ray pictures.

Alleged Whisky Fund

Both Dement and Jarboe are charged on the book at the fifth precinct station with illegal possession, transporting and use of a smoke screen. One hundred quarts of alleged corn whisky was confiscated in the automobile, which was only slightly damaged outside for a number of bullet punctures, police say.

Sergt. George Little and his squad reported to Maj. Edwin Hesse today that they had heard rumors that Dement and Jarboe were "coming through" last night, and were awaiting them. They said they picked them up near the District line at Bradbury Heights, when the chase began.

Policemen George Deyoe and W.A. Schotter, the former riding in the liquor squad automobile and the latter following on a motor cycle, are credited with the shooting at the Dement car. The officers claim they shot at the tires of the car and advance the theory that one of the bullets ricocheted either from the fender or the road, hitting Dement. Sergt. Little and Policeman W.H. Schultz both deny firing.

Officers Are Cleared

Having a preliminary report of the shooting today Inspector Charles Evans said that the officers would not be reprimanded for the shooting. Evans declared that both of the men had been taken into custody of police before on liquor charges.

The shooting and the following crash of the Dement automobile into the 15th street house aroused sleeping residents in the vicinity who thought a "young war" was in progress, it was said today.

It is estimated that repair of the porch will cost about \$200. Bricks were scattered for many feet.

Poor Smoke Screen Blamed

Police said today that Jarboe, who was caught by the police when he attempted to escape after the crash of their automobile, blamed the capture of Dement and himself on the poor quality of fluid used in the smoke screen. He is alleged to have told police that they were using crank case oil instead of the more effective embalming fluid or mustard usually used.

Police say that Dement and Jarboe obtained their cargo of alleged liquor in Southern Maryland and were "tipped off" at Waldorf that the liquor squad was waiting for them. This is said to have caused them to abandon the natural route and detour around Marlboro.

Dement. On Friday, May 6, 1927, William F., beloved husband of Mary C. Dement and beloved son of Ella T. and the late Edward N. Dement. Funeral from his mother's residence, 1354 Spring rd. n.w., Monday, May 9, at 8:3 a.m.; thence to Sacred Heart Church, where mass will be said at 9 a.m. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, May 7, 1927

**Coroner Hits Police in Liquor Car Death
Delays Inquest in Shooting of W.F. Dement,
Holding Report "Insufficiently Illuminating."**

Declining to accept the police report as "insufficiently illuminating" on the case of William Frank Dement, 29 years old, of 1354 Spring road, who died yesterday at Casualty Hospital as the result of a bullet wound in the head, inflicted April 13, as he was being pursued by the liquor squad, Coroner Ramsay Nevitt after a consultation at the morgue with Dr. Joseph B. Rogers, superintendent of the hospital, and Assistant District Attorney Raymond Neudecker, postponed the inquest, until Monday morning at 11:30 o'clock.

It was stated that the police report of the case made no mention of gunshot wounds or names of witnesses, and was unsigned. Policeman George Deyo and W.A. Schotter have been suspended from the force pending the disposition of the case, as is customary in such instances.

Dement's death followed a desperate effort by Dr. Charles Stanley White to remove pieces of the bullet which had scattered in his brain.

When shot, Dement, in company with Austin Jarboe, 30 years old, of 303 Twelfth street, was driving his car, laden with 100 quarts of alleged corn whisky, at a high rate of speed along Fifteenth street southeast.

The wound caused Dement to lose control of the car, which crashed into the premises at 565 1/2 Fifteenth street, with slight damage resulting. Jarboe, who was only slightly injured, was charged with operating a smoke screen.

They were apprehended by Sergt. George Little, Policemen George Devoe, W.A. Schotter and W.H. Schultz.

The Washington Post, May 9, 1927, p. 16

**Inquiry Today In Killing of Alleged Rum Runner
Policemen Suspended After Shooting of Man in Liquor Squad Chase
Coroner Delayed Case**

Blame for the fatal shooting of William F. Dement, 29 years old, 1354 Spring road northwest, alleged rum runner, will be fixed today by a coroner's jury at an inquest in the District morgue. Patrolman G.C. Deyoe, of the police liquor squadron, and W.A. Schotter, of the traffic bureau, who are alleged to have fired at Dement during a liquor chase, are suspended pending the outcome of the inquest.

Dement died Friday night in Casualty hospital, a day after surgeons had operated on his head, removing a part of the brain and a bit of bullet. He was wounded in the course of a race with the police liquor squad, under command of Sergt. George Little, the night of April 13. After being shot his car careened into a house in Fifteenth street southeast, tearing away a portion of the front porch.

Dr. J. Ramsay Nevitt, coroner, postponed the inquest Saturday after criticizing the police for their method of handling the case. The coroner declared the police investigation was incomplete and the actual report of the shooting vague. Sergt. Little declared that although he and three other policemen

took part in the chase, only Deyoe and Schotter fired at the fleeing car, which is alleged to have operated a smoke screen.

Funeral services for Dement will be held at his home and Sacred Heart church this morning at 9 o'clock. Burial will be in Congressional cemetery.

Interred: Congressional Cemetery, Range 88 Site 286