

George W. Powell

(- 4 Mar 1920)

Powell. Suddenly, Thursday, March 4, 1920 at 2:30 p.m., George W., Jr., beloved son of George W. and Emma E. Powell (nee Behrens), in the 12th year of his age. Funeral services at his late residence, 923 C street s.w., Saturday at 4 p.m. Relatives and friends invited.

Safe in the arms of Jesus

The Evening Star, March 5, 1920, p. 16

C.M. Whalen Admits Shooting Playmate Believed Revolver Was Unloaded When He Aimed at George W. Powell, Twelve Years Old

Charles Michael Whalen, sixteen years old, in whose home, at 923 Maryland avenue southwest, George W. Powell, twelve years old, 923 C street southwest, was shot and killed yesterday afternoon, told the police, they say, that he fired the shot, which ended his playmate's life

When Detective Keck and police of the fourth precinct visited the scene of the shooting they were told that young Powell had accidentally shot himself while handling the revolver, but later in the day, the police stated, the Whalen boy admitted the shooting.

Boys Were Amusing Themselves

The two boys and a companion were in the house, Whalen's father, a Baltimore and Ohio railroad conductor, was at work, and Mrs. Whalen was visiting at the home of her brother, not far away.

Young Whalen procured the weapon from a trunk in a room on the upper floor, broke it and, he thought, removed all the cartridges, but it developed that one cartridge was left in the pistol.

Going to the kitchen, Whalen is said to have pointed the weapon at his companion, feeling certain it was unloaded. The trigger was pulled and the bullet entered Powell's head just above the right eye, killing him almost instantly.

Whalen Summons Help

Whalen summoned a physician from Emergency Hospital and also notified police of the fourth precinct of the shooting. Then he ran to the Powell home and told Mrs. Powell of what had happened.

Detectives Mansfield and Tormey of the fourth precinct heard Whalen's version of the affair placed him under arrest and took him to the house of detention. Powder marks on the dead boy's face convinced Coroner Nevitt that the weapon was held close to Powell's face when the shot was fired. An inquest will be held at the morgue this afternoon.

The Evening Star, March 7, 1920, pt. 2, p. 14

Death Held Accidental Coroner's Jury Returns Verdict in Shooting of George Powell

A verdict of accidental death was returned by a coroner's jury at an inquest held at the morgue Friday in the case of twelve-year-old George W. Powell of 923 C street southwest, who was shot and killed by Charles M. Whalen, sixteen years old, at the latter's home, 923 Maryland avenue southwest, Thursday afternoon.

"We believe his death due to an accident, the result of children playing with firearms," was the verdict.

Thirty minutes before the shooting the boys were playing in the back yard of the Whalen boy. Mrs. Etta Burnett told the jury that she saw the boys enjoying themselves and did not imagine the noise heard as the discharge of a weapon

The first intimation of the tragedy was when she heard the Whalen youth call, "For God's sake, won't somebody come to me?" She responded to his call.

Myles Spence, a thirteen-year-old companion of the other boys, testified that young Whalen took the pistol from a trunk, and pointed at him before aiming at Powell. He pulled the trigger, thinking the revolver empty. The shot caused Powell's death.

"He took three cartridges from the pistol and thought he had taken out all four," Spence testified. Counsel for young Whalen declared he thought it unnecessary for his client to make a statement.