



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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DECEASED

21	0	32	W	100	19
	I	20	W	001	18



2M 11-27 2066

MINNESOTA BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

No. 7182Waseca County -

BERTILLON MEASUREMENTS

HGT., 1M.	HEAD	LENGTH	L. FOOT
O. A, 1M.		WIDTH	L. MID. F.
TRUNK		CHEEK WIDTH	L. LIT. F.
		R. EAR LENGTH	L. FORE A.

FINGER PRINT
CLASSIFICATION

}

DISPOSITION

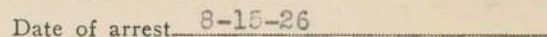
NAME Herbert Erno
ALIAS _____
ALIAS _____
CRIME Grand Larceny 2d dgr
AGE _____ HEIGHT _____
WEIGHT _____ BUILD _____
HAIR _____ EYES _____
BORN _____ BEARD _____
COMPLEXION _____
DATE OF ARREST _____
OFFICER _____

MARKS & SCARS: _____

9239

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING - ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

On the above line please state whether Police Department, Sheriff's Office, or County Jail



Charge Grand Larceny 2nd degree

Disposition of case 03 yearsResidence Waseca, Minn.

Place of birth..... 11

Nationality Fr-Ger-Amer

Criminal specialty

Age 27 Height 5' 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ "

Weight 152 Hair Brown

Build medium Eyes Blue

Comp. Sallow

Ver. cut scar, 1" at 3/5" above 1st

Marks and Scars: 1st left little finger, posterior of hand. Cleft scar 1 1/2 in.

at 1 3/5" above right wrist - antea

Hor. cut scar 1 $2\frac{4}{5}$ " at 2 $4\frac{4}{5}$ " ab

1st jt right little finger. anterod

and internal.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

(Please furnish all additional criminal history and police record on separate sheet)

DUPLICATE

R09239

Leave This Space Blank

Name Herbert Erno

Alias

Classification 32 I 17

Ref. 20 00

No. 7182 Color White Sex Male

1.—Right Thumb	2.—R. Index Finger	3.—R. Middle Finger	4.—R. Ring Finger	5.—R. Little Finger
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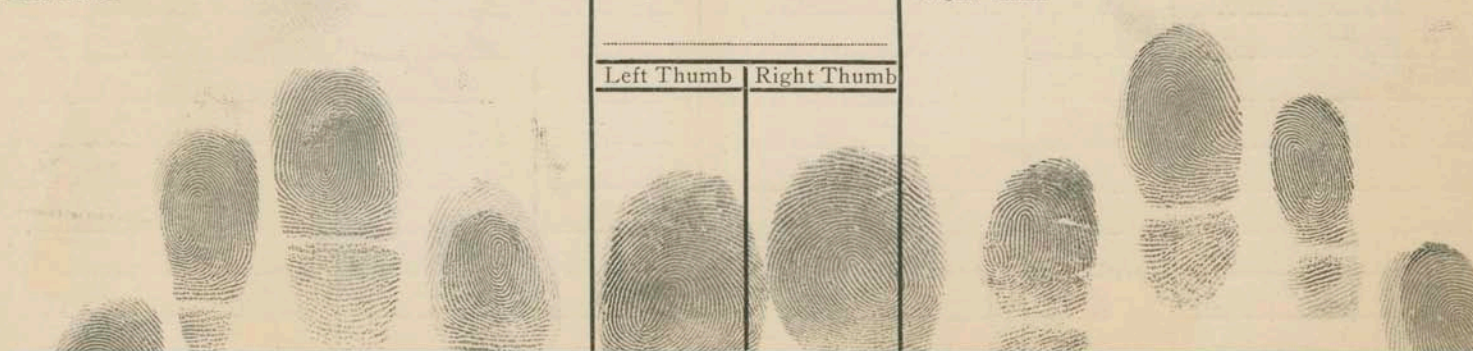


6.—Left Thumb	7.—L. Index Finger	8.—L. Middle Finger	9.—L. Ring Finger	10.—L. Little Finger
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Four fingers taken simultaneously	Amputations	Four fingers taken simultaneously
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Left hand



Classified by

Verified by

Searched by

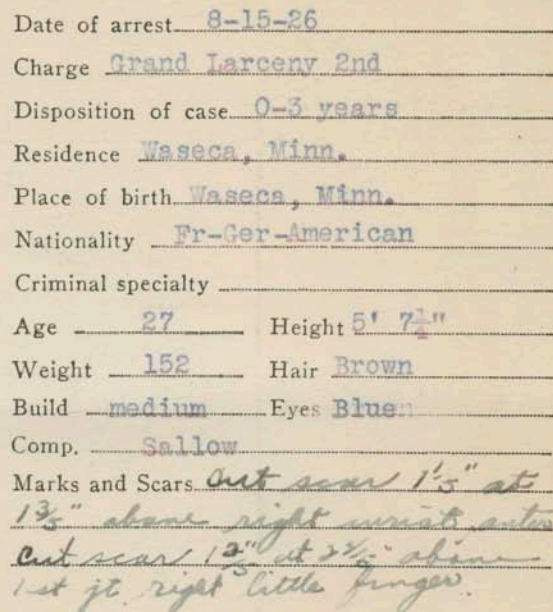
Prisoner's signature

Herbert Erno 7182

PLEASE DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING - ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

On the above line please state whether Police Department, Sheriff's Office, or County Jail



CRIMINAL HISTORY

[illegible]

(Please furnish all additional criminal history and police record on separate sheet)

909239

Leave This Space Blank

Name Herbert Erno

Alias

Classification 32 I 19

Ref. 20 00

No. 7182 Color White Sex Male

1.—Right Thumb

2.—R. Index Finger

3.—R. Middle Finger

4.—R. Ring Finger

5.—R. Little Finger



6.—Left Thumb

7.—L. Index Finger

8.—L. Middle Finger

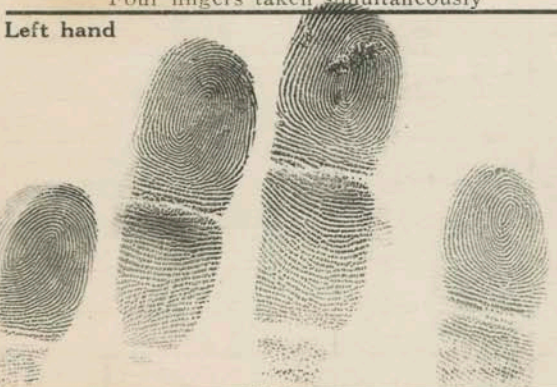
9.—L. Ring Finger

10.—L. Little Finger



Four fingers taken simultaneously

Left hand



Amputations

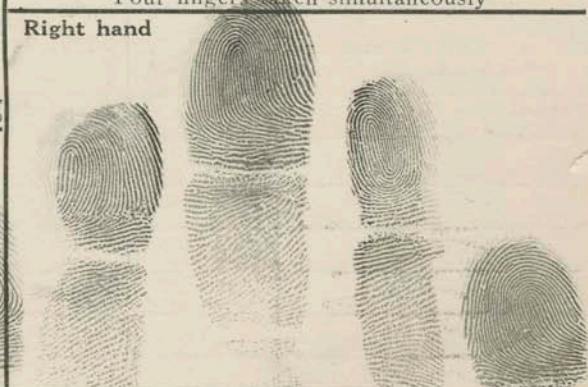
Left Thumb

Right Thumb



Four fingers taken simultaneously

Right hand



Classified by

Verified by

Searched by

Prisoner's signature

Herbert Erno 7182

PLEASE DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING - ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

On the above line please state whether Police Department, Sheriff's Office, or County Jail



Marks and Scars Vertical cut scar $\frac{3}{4}$ "
at $\frac{4}{5}$ " above 2nd joint of left
middle finger. Cut scar
 $\frac{3}{5}$ " above right wrist.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

[illegible]

(Please furnish all additional criminal history and police record on separate sheet)

R-09239

DECEASED


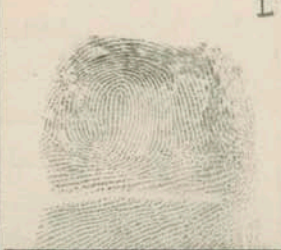








Leave This Space Blank

Name Erno, Herbert

Alias

No. Color Sex

Classification 21 0 32 W I 00 19
Ref. I 20 W 00 I 18

1.—Right Thumb 	2.—R. Index Finger 	3.—R. Middle Finger 	4.—R. Ring Finger 	5.—R. Little Finger 
6.—Left Thumb 	7.—L. Index Finger 	8.—L. Middle Finger 	9.—L. Ring Finger 	10.—L. Little Finger 

Four fingers taken simultaneously
Left hand



Amputations

Left Thumb Right Thumb



Four fingers taken simultaneously
Right hand



Classified by

Verified by

Searched by

Prisoner's signature

Herbert Erno

PLEASE DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD

ERNO, HERBERT

no gangster killed 3 people and self in Waseca

Cousins' Love Affair Ends With 3 Slain

Slayer Kills Himself in Waseca Farmyard

Special to the Minneapolis Star

WASECA, Minn. — A love affair between two first cousins ended in triple murder and suicide on a farm near here today.

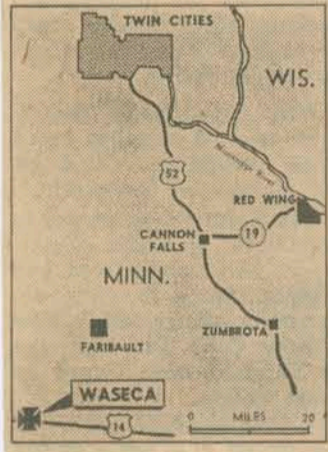
Howard Erno, a 57-year-old farmer, drove his ex-wife and her two bachelor uncles from their home today and shot them dead in the farmyard.

A fourth relative escaped to a neighboring farm. Erno then took his own life with a 22-caliber rifle.

Dead are Ellen Yanke, 37, and her uncles Clarence and Herman, both in their 70s.

Ellen's cousin, Florence, who also lived at the farm five miles southeast of here, stumbled into the home of

★ ★ ★ ★



Mr. and Mrs. Willie Kreutz. There, according to the Associated Press, she sobbed:

"There's a terrible tragedy at our house. Howard Erno is there and he's shooting."

Erno formerly lived at the Domy farm. He and Ellen had married in 1957. But the marriage was forbidden in Minnesota because they are first cousins.

Relatives filed a complaint against the couple on June 14, 1957, and the marriage was annulled.

"But he wanted that girl," said Edna Bailey, wife of the sheriff here. "He kept sending her gifts and writing her letters."

Erno apparently left the neighboring farm where he worked and went to the Domy farm with the rifle this morning.

Authorities said the kitchen table was set for breakfast. He drove the four people out of the house and then shot them as they scattered.

Florence ran a quarter of a mile to the Kreutz home to summon help.

"She was so exhausted she could barely talk," Mrs. Kreutz told Associated Press. "Then she asked us to call the sheriff."

There is no telephone at the Domy home.

"My husband and Florence looked through the window to the Domy farm to see if the man might be coming here and make us the targets," Mrs. Kreutz said.

"They saw someone moving in the farmyard but after a while there wasn't any movement."

Neighbors said Ellen and Erno had run away together to get married about two years ago. They reportedly lived together as man and wife on the farm where Erno worked, until relatives filed the complaint.

Florence Domy was taken to County Attorney Einar Iverson's office here today to tell the story.

MINNEAPOLIS TEMPERATURES			
Midnight	6	5 a.m.11	10 a.m. ...12
1 a.m.	8	6 a.m.11	11 a.m. ...14
2 a.m.	8	7 a.m.11	Noon17
3 a.m.	9	8 a.m.12	*1 p.m.18
4 a.m.	12	9 a.m.12	*Unofficial
1958 high, 34; low, 22. Precip. 12 a.m. to Noon, .01.			

THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR

Saturday, Jan. 24, 1959

LXXXI—NO. 52

Two Sections

24 PAGES

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Telephone
FE. 3-3111

5c in Twin
Cities Area

7c Elsewhere

EXCLUSIVE: Eyewitness Tells of 3 Slayings

By HUMPHREY DOERMANN
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

WASECA, Minn. — "Perhaps I shouldn't have run away," Florence Domy murmured half aloud as she stared out the window over a frozen lake here Friday noon.

Four hours earlier she had witnessed the murder of her two bachelor uncles, Clarence and Herman Domy, and of her cousin, Ellen Yanke.

(In a household of four, she was the only witness, the only survivor.)

Now she talked willingly but without feeling.

Her flight across snow-dusted cornfields, the police questioning and the later discovery that her 56-year-old cousin Howard Erno took his own life after the three shootings—gave her little time to think of herself.

Florence knew in her mind

HOUR OF TERROR ON WASECA FARM

what had happened, but she did not yet feel it.

She smoothed back her graying, short-trimmed hair and recalled helping her cousin Ellen finish working on a green gingham dress the night before.

They had also cut out the pattern for a gray dress, looked at a television show, and had gone to bed at 10 p.m.

Herman, 77, his asthma bothering him again, and

Clarence, 70, went to bed earlier. It was a night like any other.

Herman woke her with a breathless cry shortly before 8 a.m.:

"Clarence has fallen out in the hog barn!"

"Ellen and I got up quickly and dressed," Florence said, "we knew if we were going to care for Clarence out in that cold we'd have to be clothed for it."

Ellen, 36, 10 years the

younger of the two, dressed first and ran to the hog house.

"By the time I got to the kitchen door," Florence's voice went on, "Ellen came back crying, 'Clarence is dead. I can tell by the look on his face.'"

"I went out and looked; Ellen was right. I told her to take the car quick and get help from the neighbors, but still we didn't know it was a shot that killed Clarence.

"Back in the house with

Herman I heard a whine—or more like a moan it was. Erno came out from behind the garage where he had been all along — and had shot Ellen."

Florence paused to take a sip of coffee. Then she looked at the white tablecloth, as if thinking back over the years of caring for the uncles without the aid of modern conveniences, of guiding and counselling her younger cousin, of keeping the family together.

"I saw Erno standing there, his rifle raised up in the air. Herman went out toward him and told him quietly to stop the killing. Clarence was dead in the hoghouse. Ellen was dead by the garage door. I could only think of getting help somehow.

"I ran south through the trees and out into the field and then headed west towards the Kreutz place. I kept to the field. I guess I was scared to come back to the road although it would have been quicker. There were some more shots, but none of them hit me.

"I never saw what happened to Herman (he was found later with five bullets in his abdomen, neck, and shoulder) — should I have stayed there with him? Maybe that would have been best."

Mrs. Willie Kreutz, the neighbor, called Waseca sheriff Stan Bailey, who rushed out to the Domy farm—nearly 240 acres of plowed corn land, a group of gray shingled farm buildings, and the newly-sided yellow-brown

SLAYINGS

Turn to Page 3A



AP photo
FLORENCE DOMY, 36, WAS SOLE SURVIVOR
"Perhaps I shouldn't have run away"



AP photo
FARMHOUSE NEAR WASECA WHERE SHOOTING VICTIMS LIVED
Ellen Yanke, Clarence and Herman Domy were killed here

SLAYINGS

Continued from Page One

farmhouse—about five miles southeast of town.

Bailey found Erno in the pink-tinted dining room, crumpled beside the heater with a bullet in his head. A .22-caliber repeating rifle lay nearby.

"I think he went inside the house looking for Florence," said Mrs. Kreutz. "If she had stayed behind, I think he would have killed her instead of committing suicide."

None of the neighbors had ever had much use for Howard, Erno, who sometimes went by the name of Herbert Erno. Willie Kreutz used to go to school with him and remembers the day he shot a dog, wounding it.

Asked if he intended to put it out of its pain, Erno turned and said fiercely, "I think I'll put a bullet through you instead."

But he made no move to do so.

Waseca Police Chief Al Speis, who also grew up on a nearby farm, commented, "He always was an odd one."

Police records show that Erno was sent to St. Cloud reformatory in 1926 for three years on a boat stealing charge. Neighbors reported he had drifted through a long sequence of farm jobs—a good worker as long as he stayed.

In March 1957 he returned to the area and asked Herman and Clarence Domy to take him on as a farm hand. They agreed.

"I never trusted what he'd do next," Florence said of Erno.

"But I'll have to say this for him, he was a good hand on the place."

In June 1957, Erno and Ellen (who rarely left the place except on occasional shopping trips) went to Hastings, got a marriage license at the Dakota county courthouse, and were married by a justice of the peace the next day.

Ellen, good-hearted but not quick-witted, apparently did not know that first-cousin marriages were illegal in Minnesota.

The pair moved away: she to work at Everybody's cafe in Morristown, he at Best's dairy, north of Mankato.

Mrs. Louis Schneider, motherly owner of the cafe, said:

"She seemed happy enough while she worked here—although it was hard to tell because she never said much or showed much emotion. She was a willing worker when told what to do, but rarely did very much on her own.

"They say that Erno came here and saw her a lot, but I only saw him in here twice.

"She was only here a few

weeks when her mother came up to take her home. She cried and didn't want to leave, but she went finally."

Erno worked six months for the Best dairy, living in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Best.

He was a steady worker, she said, except during unpredictable moods when he lost his temper. In his final such spell there he quit, packed, and was gone within half an hour.

Ellen went to live for a short time with her parents in Blue Earth county, then returned to the Domy farm. Erno worked as a farm hand in Steele county, and sent her presents and letters pleading with her to come away again.

When she refused, Erno began visiting again. The Doms didn't like it, but continued to offer Erno a place at their table—as was their custom.

Arthur Kreutz, Willie's brother who lives nearby and rents some of the Domy land, warned Clarence that some day Erno would be back with a gun. He had seen Erno carrying and shooting his rifle while riding the Domy tractor — seen it too many times to be easy in his mind about it.

Willie's wife added: "I don't think Clarence ever took that warning seriously. Clarence wouldn't dream of hurting anyone, and he had such faith in people that he couldn't believe it of anyone else.

"He was always a cheerful person — he was a great talker and seemed to be in his glory whenever he could get anyone to lend an ear, particularly if the talk was about politics."

Although the Doms didn't go visiting as much as some, she said, they kept up on what was going on and were respected in the community.

Herman was the quieter of the two, partly by inclination and partly due to asthma which had been getting worse lately.

Marvel Brecke, Socony fuel dealer in Waseca, said he had been worried about Herman. After making fuel deliveries to the Domy place, Herman would always pay him in cash from a green fishing tackle box he kept in the house. Silver change was kept in a tobacco pouch.

"I was always afraid someone would try to rob him—he seemed to keep a good bit of money out there. But I guess that wasn't what I should have been worrying about after all."