

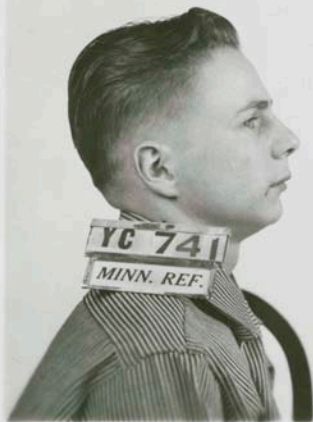


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[Ronald O'Kasick]

Beard.

OFFICIAL BADGE

***APPRECIATION  
DAY***

FOR MINNEAPOLIS  
POLICE OFFICERS

**ROBERT FOSSUM**

AND

**WARD CANFIELD**



FROM A CONTRIBUTING

***MEMBER***





STATE OF MINNESOTA, BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION  
488 WABASHA, ST. PAUL, MINN.

Record from

P.D.

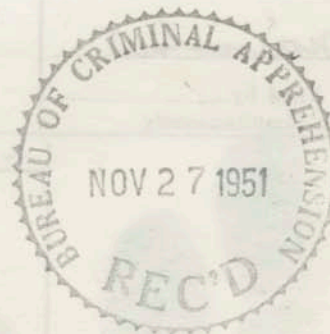
(Address) Mpls. Minn

On the above line please state whether Police Department, Sheriff's Office or Institution.



Date of Arrest 11/16/51.  
Place of Arrest Mpls. Henn  
City County  
Charge ROBBERY (Warr)  
Disposition  
Date received at Institution  
Residence 2301-13 Ave S  
Place of Birth Mpls.  
Nationality  
Occupation Laborer.  
Age 18 Date of Birth 4/5/33  
Height 5-3 1/2 Weight 117  
Hair D Ch-wvy Eyes D Haz.  
Comp. Florid. Build Slight.  
Scars & Marks

MODUS OPERANDI



R 130565

Duplicate

Name OKASICK, RONALD, CLAYTON.

Alias -----






Class. 18 L 1 T II 4

S 1 T OI 4






Reference -----

No. 41784 Color Wh. Sex Male

## RIGHT HAND

Thumb 18	Index	Middle 10	Ring 5	Little 4
				
/	1	/	/	/

## LEFT HAND

Thumb 9	Index	Middle 15	Ring 12	Little 4
				
/	1	/	/	/

Impressions taken by

Date 11/17/51 MWS in lab.

Classified by ----- Filed by -----

Four Fingers Taken Simultaneously

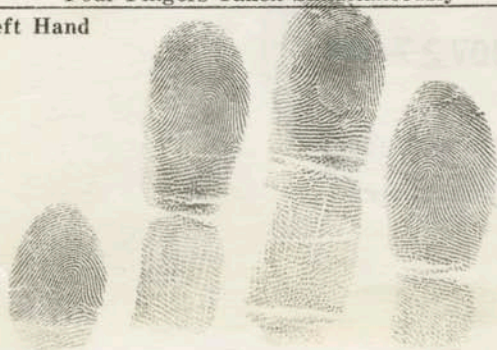
Note Amputations

Prisoner's Signature

Ronald C. Okasick

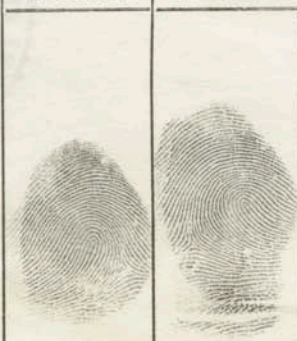
Four Fingers Taken Simultaneously

Left Hand

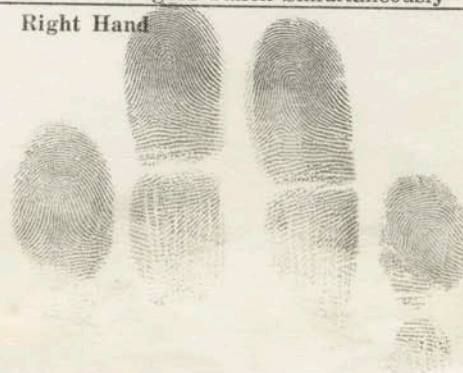


L. Thumb

R. Thumb



Right Hand





STATE OF MINNESOTA, BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION  
488 WABASHA, ST. PAUL, MINN.

Record from

On the above line please state whether Police Department, Sheriff's Office or Institution.

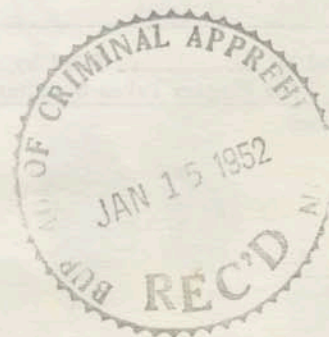
(Address)

Minn. State Reformatory  
Saint Cloud, Minnesota



MODUS OPERANDI

Date of Arrest \_\_\_\_\_  
Place of Arrest Hennepin  
City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
Charge Attempted Robbery 2nd deg.  
Disposition 2-7½ yrs.  
Date received at Institution 12-19-51  
Residence Mpls. Minn.  
Place of Birth Mpls. Minn.  
Nationality Fr.-Ir.-Finn.-Am.  
Occupation laborer  
Age 18 Date of Birth 4-5-33  
Height 5'3" Weight 115  
Hair Brown Eyes Hazel  
Comp. Sallow Build Small  
Scars & Marks \_\_\_\_\_





R130565






DECEASED

Name Ronald Clayton O'KasickClass. 18 L 1 T II 4  
S 1 T OI 4






Alias \_\_\_\_\_

Reference T  
HNo. YC-741 Color White Sex Male

## RIGHT HAND

Thumb <u>18</u>	Index	Middle <u>10</u>	Ring <u>5</u>	Little <u>4</u>
				
/	T	/	/	/

## LEFT HAND

Thumb <u>9</u>	Index	Middle <u>15</u>	Ring <u>12</u>	Little <u>4</u>
				
/	T	/	/	/

Impressions taken by

Date DEC 20 1951

Note Amputations

Prisoner's Signature

Classified by \_\_\_\_\_ Filed by J. V. L.

Four Fingers Taken Simultaneously

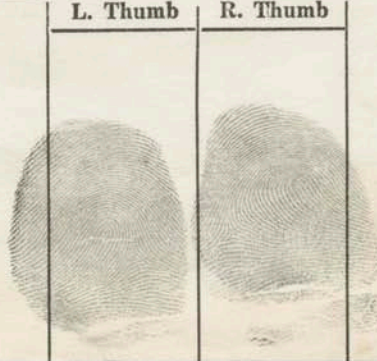
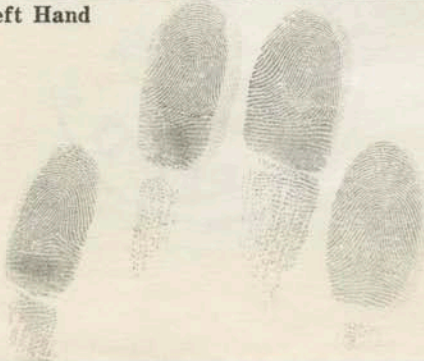
YC Ronald C. O'Kasick 741  
Four Fingers Taken Simultaneously

Left Hand

L. Thumb

R. Thumb

Right Hand



## 1-4

4573 JEU 1-23-58

954 043 A

J. Edgar Hoover  
Director.

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## 1-4

2

954 043 A

J. Edgar Hoover  
Director.

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
*	Mpls. Minn Juv	Ct 1948	curfew law, prob.	
*	Mpls. Minn Juv	Ct 1949.	1 yr prob.	
*	Mpls. Minn.	1951,	traffic viol of driv w/o lic & going thru stop signs, 6 mos. prob.	

Notations indicated by \* ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.



Pull Out of This Section

Peach  
Sports



# Minneapolis Sunday Tribune

UPPER MIDWEST SECTION

(Regional and Twin Cities News)

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1957

## You May Hold Key to Shooting of 2 City Policemen

By ED MAGNUS

Minneapolis Tribune  
Staff Writer

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Star and Tribune Company

Three sets of friends...  
three sets of parents...  
three sets of wives or  
sweethearts.

How long can that many  
people be unaware that  
their friend — or son, or  
husband—might have been  
involved in the fatal shoot-  
ing of one Minneapolis  
patrolman and the critical  
wounding of another?

Minneapolis police are  
asking that question after  
two weeks of checking out  
the hundreds of tips flow-  
ing into police headquar-

ters since Robert Fossum  
was slain and Ward Can-  
field wounded on Aug. 17.

Many detectives are bet-  
ting there are too many  
people in a position to be-  
come suspicious in this  
case to avoid a leak sooner  
or later. Some also doubt  
the three gunmen trust  
each other.

**THERE MUST** be many  
troubled consciences, they  
say.

But, meanwhile, the con-  
stant jangle of the tele-  
phone in the captain of  
detectives office has  
stopped—and police aren't  
happy about it.

"Time is slipping by,"  
says Detective Captain

Calvin Hawkinson. "We  
need a break soon, while  
this thing is still hot in the  
public's mind."

"We've followed out  
every lead we've received  
and many have been help-  
ful," says Detective In-  
spector Charles Wetherille.  
"But we need more."

**THE OFFICERS** explain  
they have learned a lot  
which will help tighten the  
case against the killers  
once they are arrested.  
But there's nothing yet  
pointing directly to the  
identity of the three gun-  
men.

Police, for example,  
through countless hours of  
work, some of it in their

off duty time, have traced  
these articles found in the  
stolen car abandoned by  
the fugitives after the gun  
fight:

A .300 caliber Savage  
rifle. It was purchased  
June 19, 1956, from the  
Montgomery-Ward retail  
store in St. Paul. The name  
and address given have  
been determined to be false.

An expensive straw hat,  
dark with a light band. It  
was one of five of its kind  
sold in the past two years  
from a clothing store near  
Fourth street and Nicollet  
avenue.

A box of special .38 cal-  
iber armor-piercing bullets.  
They were bought at a down-

town Warner's hardware  
store.

Three ticket stubs from  
Hilltop Drive-in Theater,  
4711 Central avenue NE.  
They were sold on Aug. 10.

Sellers of all these items  
presumably could pick the  
purchaser out of a police  
line-up and a few of them  
have been able to describe  
the buyer.

The water in a Japanese  
army canteen was found to  
be of a soft type not avail-  
able in Minneapolis. Police  
say the determination of  
which of the thousands of  
community water supplies  
in Minnesota it may have  
come from will be difficult.

Police also have been

able to trace the route of  
the shooting chase and, up  
to a point, the route the  
killers took after fleeing the  
slaying scene.

**THIS HAS LED** them to  
concentrate an alley-by-al-  
ley search in the area  
bounded by Chicago and  
Bryant avenues and Thirty-  
sixth and Forty-second  
streets.

Somewhere in these  
blocks, police are con-  
vinced, the killers had hid-  
den their own car. They  
had driven a car comman-  
deered at gunpoint to the  
site.

A woman they had kid-  
naped was in the com-  
mandeered car at the time

and described the point as  
being on an incline at the  
end of a curve. She was  
blindfolded so could only  
sense the car's motion.

The two cars sideswiped  
at the time and tests of  
the paint scratched from  
the killers' final getaway  
car indicated it was a 1948  
or 1949 Chevrolet with a  
finish known as Lake  
Como or Monaco blue—a  
medium light blue. It was  
a four-door sedan.

**THE WOMAN**, Mrs. Al-  
vin Anderson, 9448 Clinton  
avenue, Bloomington, heard  
the men mention "Forty-  
second street" at times and  
also "Second avenue." Po-  
lice believe the car could

have been hidden near this  
corner but say this is not  
certain.

Someone must have seen  
the flashily-dressed men  
park the car of this type  
somewhere in this area, po-  
lice are sure.

Police also are eager to  
learn anything they can  
about:

A white handkerchief  
with the initials "DLS" in  
(PICTURES—Page 7, Gen-  
eral Section.)

a monogram, the "S" being  
a larger figure than the  
other two letters. It was  
found near the shooting  
site.

Manhunt

Continued on Page Two



# MANHUNT: Police Stop Getting Tips

Continued from Page One

Four metal plates used by the killers for protection against bullets. Two were in the trunk of the stolen car and two were used inside the vehicle.

Two of the plates are of a common treaded type often used in hauling operations.

The other two were cut from seven-gauge steel, 3-16 of an inch thick. One was bent diagonally in two places, then pressed flat. The other has an initial which appears to be "RO" in a corner.

License plates number "3G 9874." These are the original plates on the stolen car.

The men had replaced these plates with some stolen at the rear of 617 E. Seventeenth street on March 7. Police do not believe the slayers would retain the incriminating original plates.

WETHERILLE urges south Minneapolis residents, in particular, to search trash cans and other likely places for the plates—and not to touch them if found, but to call police.

Police have reconstructed the events of Aug. 16 and 17 this way:

Several times on the afternoon of Aug. 16 (a Friday) parking lot attendants at Tenth street and La Salle avenue saw two young men, well dressed and wearing dark straw hats with flat crowns, moving suspiciously about the lot.

About 5:30 p.m. a woman reported her 1950 light colored Chrysler missing from the lot. She told police at 6:15 p.m.

On Aug. 17 officers Fossum and Canfield saw this car, bearing license plates which they noted on their list of stolen plates, going north on Bryant avenue from Thirty-third street.

THE OFFICERS gave chase with Fossum driving and Canfield doing most of the shooting once the fugitives opened fire. This was the route:

North on Bryant, east on Thirty-second street, north on Aldrich, east on Thirty-first, south on Lyndale, east

on Thirty-third, south on Grand, east on Thirty-sixth, south on Blaisdell.

At Thirty-ninth street the gunmen, swinging east toward Nicollet, struck a parked car containing three youths and stalled. The squad car, about 40 feet behind, spun around the corner and skidded to a stop.

Canfield ran around to the front of the Chrysler with his shotgun. He ordered the men out of the car. They didn't move so he aimed at the driver and fired, but there was no shell left.

THE GUNMEN leaped out of their car and quickly felled Fossum, who had run up with pistol in hand. Canfield fell seconds later.

The men leaped into the parked car and tried to drive off but could not shake their own car, which was locked to the other. They ran over Canfield with both cars, then fled on foot.

At Town's D-X station they took the car of Mrs. Porter Langford, 3920 Pleasant avenue, and sped south on Nicollet. They turned east on Fortieth street to First avenue, then north to Thirty-eighth street.

There they took the Andersons' blue-gray Buick, forcing Mrs. Anderson to accompany them. They continued on First avenue to Thirty-seventh street, then turned east, stopping momentarily near Oakland avenue. They were last sighted at Thirty-seventh and Chicago avenue.

THE MOVEMENTS then are not certain before they drove to their own car, letting one man out to drive it, and leaving in both cars. Mrs. Anderson was transferred to the killers' car in an alley near Thirty-eighth street and Fifth avenue, where her car was found.

She was let out of the killers' car at the rear of 3325 Columbus avenue and told to stay there for at least 15 minutes, facing away from the car. She waited a few minutes, then called police.

By timing Mrs. Anderson's ride from recordings of the radio dispatcher's reports and her call to police—about 14 minutes—detectives are

sure the gunmen did not go very far before picking up their own car.

POLICE ALSO are convinced the men would not have driven the stolen car very far before they were sighted by the officers at Thirty-third and Bryant. This helps pinpoint the neighborhood with which the men were familiar.

Mrs. Anderson reported hearing the men mention both "highway 8" and "New Brighton," which leads Wetherille to believe they may have fled toward northern Minnesota or northwestern Wisconsin.

Wetherille theorizes the men are the same ones who have staged a number of drug store holdups the past two summers. In each case license plates were stolen in early spring and used in the getaway cars months later.

On July 8, 1955, men with a similar description were involved in a police chase in which the fugitives' rifle shots disabled a squad car, Wetherille said.

THEIR USE of .45 caliber pistols and some of the other equipment found in the stolen car probably indicate they are army veterans, Wetherille said.

He assumes they were en

route to a liquor store hold-up the night of the slaying because it was too late for a drug store "plant."

They were wearing light colored gloves at the time, which has prevented identification by fingerprints.

But it is their natty dress which leads Wetherille to believe someone must have noticed the men in some Minneapolis neighborhood. All three men wore the dark straw hats with light bands.

ONE WORE an ivy league type of shirt, with black and white vertical stripes. Another wore a dark gray suit with black shirt and white tie. Ages were estimated at 18 to 23.

The men were heard to use the names "Jim" and "Bill."

Police promise three things to the person who can supply the missing links which lead to these men:

The \$4,000 reward money, complete anonymity and the lasting gratitude of an aroused police force.

## FARM-CITY WEEK SET

WASHINGTON — (P) — President Eisenhower Saturday signed a bill designating Nov. 22-28 as National Farm-City week.

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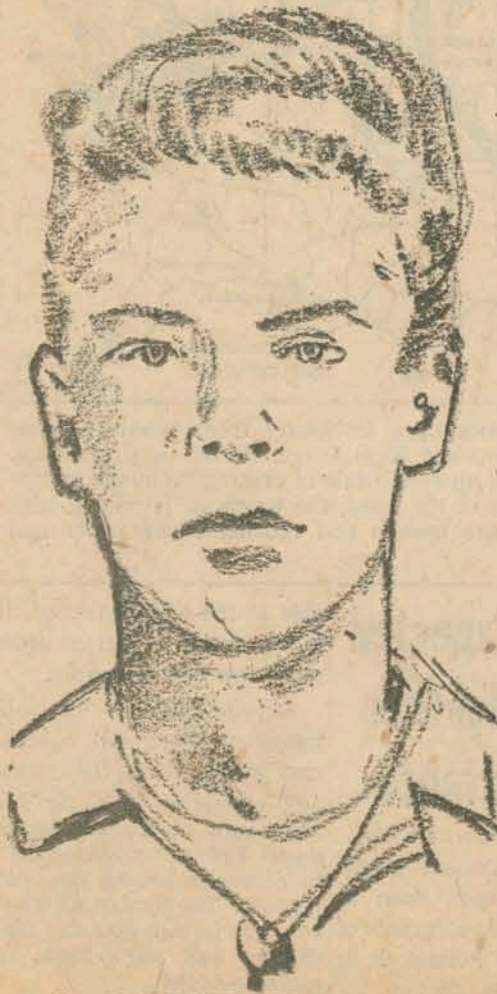
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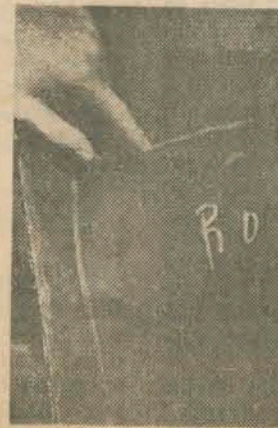
ONE KILLER WAS LIGHT  
About 5 feet 10 inches tall

## These Clues Worth \$4,000

THERE'S a \$4,000 reward waiting for anyone who can expand on the clues on this page to the point of leading to the arrest of the killers of Patrolman Robert Fossum on Aug. 17. The items include sketches drawn from descriptions of the three gunmen, the handwriting of a man who bought the rifle found in the fugitives' stolen car, articles found in the car and the route of the slayers' flight.

(See Story—Page 1 UM; You May Hold Key to Shooting of 2 City Policemen)

Name Jack Carlson Date of Sale 6/19/61  
 Street and No. 612-12 Ave So. Route Box  
 Post Office impl's. State Minn. (Article No.) 60-709  
 Make Savage Model 99  
 Serial No. # 745813 ☐ Shot Gun/Ga. 501 Cal  
☐ Pump-Bore  
 Part (If part only is sold) \_\_\_\_\_  
 RECORD OF FIREARM SALE ☒ NEW ☐ Second Hand



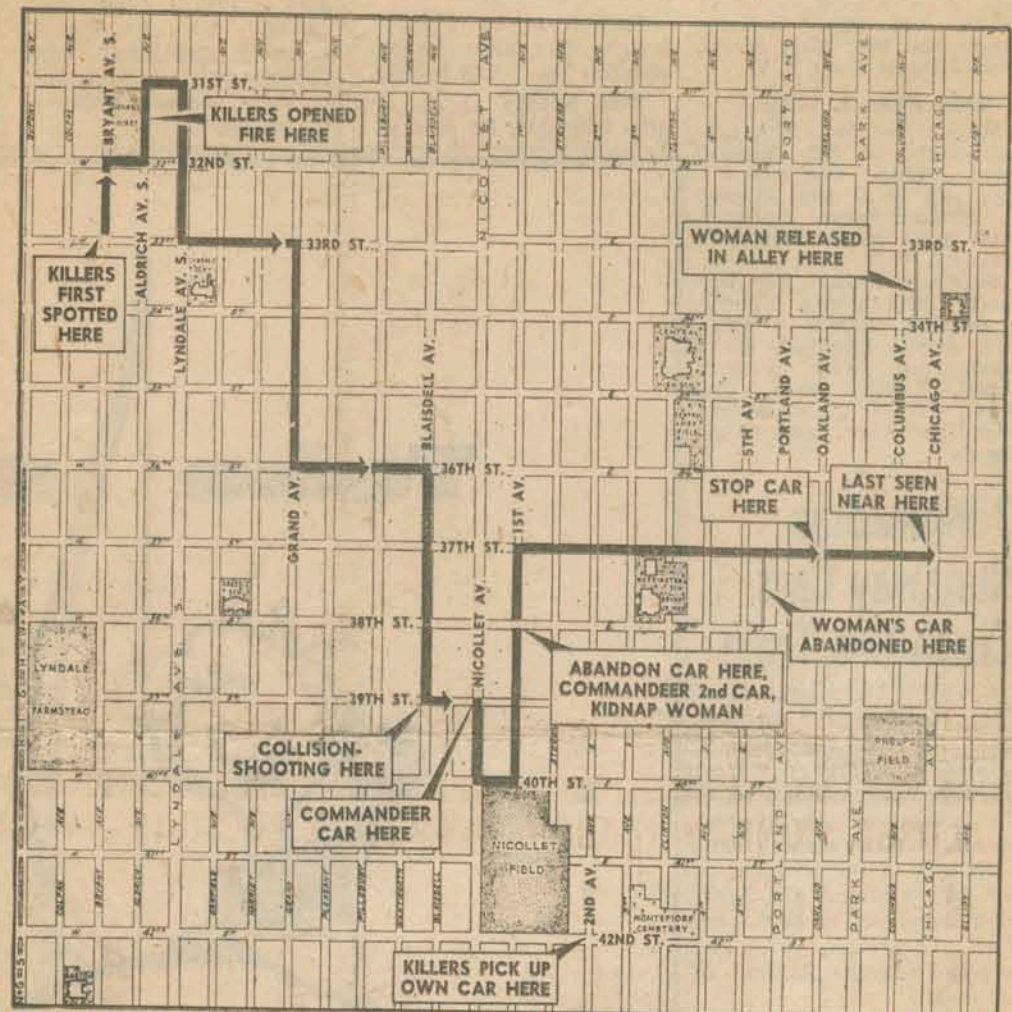
PURCHASER OF RIFLE GAVE FALSE NAME, ADDRESS CORNER OF STEEL PLATE  
Do you recognize the handwriting? Bore initials "RO"



TWO HAD DARK COMPLEXIONS  
Were shorter, about 5 feet 6 inches



SOME of the articles found in the stolen car abandoned by the slayers include: (1) Two steel plates of a type used by truckers. (2) Two plates of this type, cut from seven-gauge steel. This one had been bent along lines indicated, then pressed flat. Is there a steelworker who recalls this work? (3) All three men wore hats like this. (4) A handkerchief, found near the shooting site, bearing initials "DLS" with a big "S." (5) Roofing nails presumably to deflate tires of pursuers. (6) A .300 caliber Savage rifle. (7) A green plastic bag full of bullets. (8) A box of special .38 caliber armor-piercing bullets. (9) Army type bandages, surgical dressings and a green and white striped shopping bag. (10) A Japanese type army canteen.



THIS is the route of the chase and the killers' flight as pieced together by police. The point at which the killers picked up their own car is the only questionable part of the route—and it's a big question because police are eager to learn where the slayers' car was kept. Police are concentrating particularly on the area between Chicago and Bryant avenues and Thirty-sixth and Forty-second streets. Someone in this general area must have seen the three flashily-dressed young men or the killers' blue 1948 or 1949 four-door sedan, police believe. They promise to keep names of any informants secret.



Pull Out of This Section

Peach  
Sports



# Minneapolis Sunday Tribune

UPPER MIDWEST SECTION

(Regional and Twin Cities News)

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1957

...

## Police Kill Two Fossum Slayers, Seize Third After Trio Slays Hostage, Wounds Deputy



By **DON MORRISON**

Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Two of the Robert Fossum killers were slain by police Saturday night and the third was captured after the gunmen had killed a hostage and wounded a deputy sheriff.

The trio — Minneapolis brothers—was brought to bay on an Anoka county game farm as a highway patrol airplane directed scores of armed officers in the hunt. The third gunman tried to kill himself as officers advanced and was in critical condition in General hospital.

A wild chase that followed wounding of the deputy just north of Anoka ended with a hail of slugs from a highway patrolman's riot gun on the Carlos Avery game farm.

The third fugitive, who had retreated into a clump of willows, shot himself in the chest when almost 100 law enforcement officers encircled him and closed in.

## **Slain Hostage Was Painter**

The fugitives were brothers, Roger, 26, Ronald, 24, and James O'Kasick, 20, 3909 Thirty-eighth avenue S. James, rushed to Minneapolis General hospital for treatment of his self-inflicted wound, admitted the shooting of Fossum and his partner, Patrolman Ward Canfield, four weeks ago.

The slain hostage was Eugene Lindgren, 30, a painter who lived on Constance road, four miles north of Anoka.

Wounded in a freakish brush with the desperate trio was James A. Sampson, 30, Anoka county sheriff's deputy, who was shot in the side and ankle. He was rushed to St. Mary's hospital, Minneapolis, for emergency surgery. His condition was "very good" the hospital reported.

Police from the Twin Cities, Anoka, Champlin, Forest Lake and New Brighton, Minnesota and Wisconsin highway patrolmen and sheriffs and deputies from Hennepin, Anoka, Washington, Wright, and Chisago counties in Minnesota and Polk and St. Croix county in Wisconsin, were in the game farm manhunt.

## **This Is the Story of the Chase**

The trio had been hiding out, living in a 1950 Oldsmobile since the Fossum-Canfield shooting. Detective Inspector Charles Wetherille said police had been searching for the three brothers for questioning as likely suspects in the shooting.

About 4:30 p.m. yesterday, the trio ran out of gas and parked on the shoulder of Constance road near Lindgren's rural home.

One of the men walked to a filling station down the road. On his return trip, Sampson and his partner, Deputy Vern Gottwald, stopped and offered him a lift.

The man apparently accepted to avoid attracting suspicion, but three blocks short of where the other two were parked in their car, he had the deputies let him out.

There was a second car parked on the shoulder of the road, which the man said was his.

When the fugitive started to get into this car, the real owner, Bernard Bass, who was chatting with friends in a nearby field, approached and protested.

At this point, the other two gunmen began shooting from down the road. A gun fight developed between the deputies and the trio. The man with the gas can shot Sampson and crawled up the ditch to join his companions.

## **Woman Calls Anoka Police**

The reunited trio then ran up a hill toward the home of Leonard Patchem near where their stalled car was parked. Mrs. Patchem, who had heard the shooting, locked her doors and barricaded herself in a bedroom with her two daughters. She phoned Anoka police.

Peeking out a window, she saw the three men, carrying pistols, run up her driveway and around to the rear of her home. The trio ran across the wide lawn that

**Shooting**

**Continued on Page Four**





**RONALD O'KASICK**



**ROGER O'KASICK**



**EUGENE LINDGREN**



**JAMES CRAWFORD**

**TURN TO INSIDE PAGES FOR:**

**Full Page of Pictures—Page 5 U.M.**

**Other Stories—Pages 4 and 6 U.M.**



# GUNMAN CONFESSES

By WORTH BINGHAM

Minneapolis Tribune  
Staff Writer

James O'Kasick, 20, 3909 Thirty-eighth avenue S., Saturday admitted shooting patrolman Ward Canfield Aug. 17 and named his brother, Roger, 26, as the killer of Patrolman Robert Fossum.

The testimony came from O'Kasick in a second floor emergency room at General hospital, where he was wheeled in about 7:30 p.m.

O'Kasick said he and his brothers, Ronald and Roger, 26, had been hiding in the woods since the policeman's murder four weeks ago.

**HE SAID** the three were on the way to hold up a Red Owl supermarket when they were chased by the two patrolmen.

Here's the story of the hospital confession:

O'Kasick was taken from the ambulance at 7:30 p.m. and wheeled onto the elevator. Surrounded by hospital attendants and detectives, he was rushed into a small emergency room.

There attendants stripped the semi-conscious man and placed him on an operating table. O'Kasick had a blood-soaked bandage around his chest, covering his self-inflicted wound.

**HE WAS GIVEN** a hypodermic injection in the left arm and a bottle of blood plasma was suspended over him.

His breathing became spasmodic. One of the six doctors in attendance took his blood pressure.

It was 120 over 70.

At 7:45 p.m., O'Kasick was given another hypodermic in the right arm, and rubber straps were attached to his ankles and wrists for an electrocardiogram.

Then, at 7:48 p.m., Detective Capt. Joseph Rusinko made his first attempt to learn the man's identity. O'Kasick seemed unable to

Continued on Page Six  
Confession

# CONFESSION: 'I Didn't Want to Do It'

Continued from Page One

understand what was being said.

**AT 7:50 P.M.,** his left leg twitched, and a long electrocardiogram tape began to speed from its wooden box.

"The bullet must have missed his heart. All the T-waves are upright," a doctor said as he read the tape.

At 7:52 p.m., the plasma bottle was shifted to O'Kasick's right arm and a blood sample was taken.

Rusinko asked Dr. G. E. Hughes if he could speak to the patient again.

**CAN YOU** hear me?"

O'Kasick nodded. He nodded again when asked if his name was O'Kasick.

"Are you a Catholic?" Rusinko asked. O'Kasick shook his head negatively.

At 8:05 p.m., his blood pressure was taken again. It was 105 over 70.

**Q—**Didn't I have you back in Phillip Henry high school? What's your first name?

**A—**J-J-Jim. I didn't shoot him. My . . . my . . . my brother.

**Q—**Is Ronald your brother?

**A—**Yes, I no shoot, I was with . . .

**Q—**Was your brother with them? Take your time, Jim.

**A—**I shot Canfield, I didn't want to, he was waving a shotgun.

**Q—**Let's get this straight. Were you one of the three involved in the shooting of Patrolmen Canfield and Fossum Aug. 17?

**A—**Yes, Ronald, Roger and I.

**Q—**Do you know who fired the shots at Fossum?

**A—**Roger shot Fossum.

**Q—**Where have you been since the shooting?

**A—**In the woods.

Rusinko removed his coat and hat. Everyone in the room was perspiring. It was 8:20 p.m.

**Q—**Where are Ronald and Roger?

**A—**Are they dead?

**Q—**I'm asking you, Jim.

**A—**I saw Ronnie get shot. I didn't see Roger.

**Q—**Could you tell me who shot the deputy (Sampson, at Anoka) in the ankle?

O'Kasick shook his head. Then he launched into a garbled story of the afternoon's events, which became confused with the Fossum Canfield shooting.

**HE SPOKE** for about a minute. At the end he said:

"We got in the car and Ronald was driving, he didn't know Canfield was under the car. I want you to tell me if Fossum did (coughs) did Roger shoot Fossum when (coughs) when he was down."

"Yes," Rusinko said.

**Q—**Were you in on the small loan hold-ups?

**A—**Just one, Knight's pharmacy.

(O'Kasick later told detectives his brothers held up several Twin Cities drug stores during the last two summers.)

**"I KNOW** you think we did it on purpose . . . Fossum and Canfield . . . I could have shot it out today . . ." O'Kasick said.

"Why didn't you?" Rusinko said.

"I think even though you won't believe it, but God knows . . ."

"Let's go, I think we have enough for now," Rusinko said.



# Fear Haunted O'Kasick Brothers

By BARBARA FLANAGAN  
Minneapolis Tribune  
Staff Writer

Since Aug. 17, when the three O'Kasick brothers murdered a policeman and injured another, they had been stags at bay.

They ran for cover and found it in the woodlands north of the Twin Cities.

Saturday night James O'Kasick told police how the trio had lived during the four weeks they were being hunted.

Evidence of their life while hiding was to be found in the automobile they were forced to abandon on the Constance road late yesterday afternoon when police began closing in.

**THE AUTOMOBILE** — a 1950, four-door Oldsmobile sedan — had been a dark blue. It was hastily repainted, giving it a blotchy light blue-gray color.

Where was it repainted? "Looks like they did this job themselves," said one male bystander.

They also had patched two bullet holes.

The car carried a Minnesota license plate, 5M-9865. In the front seat was a revolver wrapped in a copy of the Minneapolis Tribune.

Dance music was coming over the radio. Evidently, they had it on and left it when they scrambled away from sheriff's deputies.

**AN AIR** mattress and several blankets were in the back seat. In the trunk was a jumble of camping equipment.

Placed against the backseat, but inside the trunk, was the metal automobile sun visor. It was planned to stop bullets.

An almost empty jug of wine, a canteen of water, and some smoke-blackened pots and pans pointed to their camping experience.

Among them was a half-empty bottle of pills to be taken for a nervous stomach.



MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE PHOTO BY PAUL PRESBREY

FUGITIVE JAMES O'KASICK WAS CARRIED OUT OF SWAMPLAND AFTER HE WAS CAPTURED

## Ronald Hated Being Little, Ex-Wife Says

By CHARLES HANNA  
And DAVID LEE  
Minneapolis Tribune  
Staff Writers

Ronald O'Kasick, 24, one of three brothers responsible for the Aug. 17 slaying of Patrolman Robert Fossum, was described by his former wife Saturday night as "a little guy that wanted to be a big man with plenty of cash."

This ambition, apparently, is what led him and his two brothers to their deaths in a barrage of police bullets

north of Minneapolis yesterday afternoon.

MRS. O'KASICK said her husband was a "nice quiet guy when he was away from his brothers. When Roger came around something always seemed to turn in Ronnie. He would get real funny and everything was hush-hush around the place."

Mrs. O'Kasick, the mother of two girls, 19 months and 8 months, said her marriage didn't go very well.

She said they were short of money and Ronald's painting and redecorating business did not bring in much money

even though he sometimes worked 12 to 15 hours a day.

"Ronnie was very sensitive about his size," Mrs. O'Kasick said. "He wanted to be big and important. He often said if he could only get some big money he'd be on top of the world."

"I DIDN'T like Roger," Mrs. O'Kasick said. "He would always start something between us and then he'd take Ronnie out for the rest of the night."

At the beginning of their marriage, Mrs. O'Kasick said things went smoothly. Then

things started to happen.

"I never did know what really went on when he was out with Roger and Jimmy."

She said the first thing she ever knew Ronald to do was to overdraw on his checking account.

She said she couldn't believe the reports that Ronald and his brothers were involved in the Fossum-Canfield shooting.

"RONNIE MUST have gotten scared and just shot without knowing what he was do-

Background  
Continued on Page Six



# Background

Continued from Page One

ing. He didn't have it in him to kill."

Mrs. O'Kasick said she did not know James too well.

"He was in the marines when we were married and I met him only once when he was home on leave."

The O'Kasicks were divorced May 28 after several months separation.

On the Sunday before the night which claimed the life of Patrolman Fossum and critically wounded patrolman Ward Canfield, Mrs. O'Kasick said Ronald came to her mother's home to see the children. He promised to return the next Sunday to visit the family.

She said she thought it strange that the initials on a metal plate used as a bullet shield by gunmen in the Aug. 17 shooting were "R.O.," but she did not suspect that Ronald or Roger might be involved.

**AT SEVERAL** points in the interview she broke down and sobbed.

"I just can't understand it, my head is in a whirl. Ronnie was so good with the kids. He played with them often," she said.

Neighbors described the three O'Kasick brothers as "quiet and real nice guys."

They said that Ronald and James were real sharp dressers.

Others said that they were not surprised that they were involved in the Fossum killing.

Most of them reported that the brothers had not been seen around the neighborhood after the shooting incident.

**ONE YOUNG** man said "We never knew them very well. I use to say 'hi' to Ronny and Roger, but they never answered. They were real quiet. Still we use to have some pretty good snowball fights in the winter."

Mrs. O'Kasick said Ronald told her many times about his early home life. His mother died when he and his eight brothers and three sisters were youngsters.

**SHE SAID** the family lived "down in the flats, about Thirteenth avenue S. and Twenty-Third street. Ronnie told me they didn't have much money and that they all were hungry many times."

A girl who was engaged to Jimmy said she broke off the engagement after he beat her up.

Joyce O'Kasick, 22, a sister of the brothers, and an escapee from the state reformatory for women at Shakopee, was arrested by patrolmen Ray Hanson and Arnold Gustafson about 11:30 p.m. last night in a parking lot at 206 S. Third street.

When the officers arrived at the Dugout bar they were told the O'Kasick girl was in the room. She saw them and they chased her to a parked car. When the officers drew their guns she jumped out of the car and ran before she was caught.

She was serving an 18-month sentence for second degree forgery when she escaped.



# 'I Shot Canfield; Roger Shot Fossum'

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MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE PHOTO BY EARL SEUBERT

**BODIES OF RONALD AND ROGER (IN LEATHER JACKET) O'KASICK LIE ON COUNTRY ROAD NEAR WHERE THEY WERE KILLED**



# Pilot Tells How He Directed Police Cars in Chase of Gunmen

By PAUL PRESBREY

Minneapolis Tribune  
Staff Writer

"I was patrolling east over St. Paul when I was dispatched to the Anoka area to assist in the chase," Robert Buckman, one of the highway patrol's two pilots explained Saturday night after landing.

It was Buckman who spotted the fugitives' automobile after the pursuing patrolman had lost it. He then directed the ground hunt by swooping low over the hiding gunmen.

From the air he saw them shoot the hostage, fire on Patrolman James Crawford, saw the flashes of Crawford's return fire and then watched them "hide in the grass."

"IT WAS NOT until later that I knew two of them were dead," Buckman said.

"I could see them lying in the grass but now as I recall it, I really saw only one move. Up in the air it's pretty hard to fly as low as I was and know whether there is any noticeable change in someone's position in grass like that."

"When I got the call, I started up to New Brighton and then wanted to go up No. 8 but the rain was right to the ground and I had to fly east to No. 61 to avoid it. I found I was in the clear at Hugo and headed back to No. 8 and then northwest to the game farm.

"I CONTACTED Jim and found that he and Ken (Kenneth Cziok) had lost them. Jim told me to go north and

then I spotted the car with the red bottom and white top and took out after it.

"I called to Jim and Ken to come toward me on a dirt road and then I saw the car go into the ditch. It was traveling about 55 or 60 at the time but wasn't damaged very much.

"I saw four people get out and one seemed to be being dragged along. I told Jim and Ken to slow down and watch out.

"I saw Jim get out on one side and Ken on the other. Then the men broke for the grass. Then there seemed to be only three and one was lying on the ground near the road. That I found out was the hostage.

"THEN I SAW Jim down on his knee shooting. I could see the flashes of his gun. He looked like he was right out in the open. I was really sweating it out with him.

"I could see at least one moving and the others I thought were just lying in the grass waiting to get a shot at the officers.

"The only real scare I had was when some other plane without a radio came in and started circling the same area.

"I got along side of him and tried to wave him down but the people in it just waved back.

"Finally he saw the highway patrol emblem and got out of there.

"I had enough to do watching the killers and trying to direct patrol cars into the area without having to dodge that plane, which couldn't do a thing because of its lack of

radio control.

"I had plenty of gas and I would have stayed up until dark if it had been necessary."

## Two 'U' Educators Get Research Posts

Two University of Minnesota educators were elected to top posts of the Social Science Research Council in Skytop, Pa., last week.

Malcolm M. Willey, university academic vice president, was re-elected director at large, and John G. Darley, associate dean of the graduate school, was named to a council committee on grants-in-aid.

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