

The Standard Democrat
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**Officer H. W. Schenning Dies, From Wound Received
in Gun Battle Friday Night When Reinhold Fleuker
Ended Checkered Career**

**Shooting Follows Hold-up of Honey Creek Store Last Friday
Evening – Leonard Fisher Confesses Burglaries and Blame's Fleuker
For Killing – Police Had Collected Mass of Evidence Against Fisher –
Schenning Funeral Tuesday Largely Attended**

H.W. Schenning, for seven years a member of the Burlington, police force and Reinhold Fleuker several times arrested but never convicted of hold-ups, are dead as the result of a gun battle last Friday evening that shocked this community to its very roots.

Principals in Tragedy



Art Rein – H. W. Schenning Above, Reinhold Fleuker Below

Leonard Fisher Tuesday confessed to being Fleuker's companion in the affray and is now awaiting trial on a second degree murder charge. Art Rein, the, fourth party in the shooting, escaped with a minor wound on his finger.

It was the end of the road for boy-hood friends and schoolmates. Fleuker went to his grave following a checkered career, condemned as a bandit. Schenning was buried as a hero - with all the plaudits

of the people of this community to which he gave his life as an officer of the law shot down in the performance of his duties.

Honey Creek Store Robbed

It was about 7:30 o'clock last Friday evening that Officer Art Rein, on duty at the police station, received a call from Wallace Drummond At Honey Creek stating that two men had just held up his store, secured about \$50 in cash and had headed toward Burlington.

Rein got in touch with Schenning and they decided to watch the main road coming from Honey Creek into Burlington. They had hardly parked their car adjoining the Al Jung filling station when a car was noticed coming along the road on the north side of Echo lake.

The car was coming fast and when the driver noticed the police car parked near the corner he swung north on the Rochester road. The speed they were traveling and the description of the car aroused suspicion of the police officials and they started in pursuit. The bandit car speeded as fast as possible and Rein was obliged to travel 75 miles per hour on the slippery road to overtake it.

On the straight stretch of road between the Wegge farm and the Goats nest the police car passed the other car and compelled it to stop. Schenning and Rein got out of the police car, Schenning carrying the police shotgun and Rein with his revolver. They approached the bandit car, Schenning going to the driver's side. As he opened the car door he was greeted with a revolver shot. Yelling "They got me," he sank to the ground. The same second Rein opened the door on the other side of the car, fired one shot into the car and was fired at, in return. The shot fired at Rein just nipped his finger.

The driver then started the car. Rein rushed and picked up the shotgun Schenning had dropped and fired after the fleeing car. Rein, then turned his attention to Scheming. With the aid of August Schultz of Milwaukee who happened to be passing that site at the time, Schenning was loaded into the police car and rushed to Memorial hospital.

Fleuker Body Found

Rein had hardly returned to the police station and reported the affair to Sheriff Reichert when a report came in that the body of a man was lying in the snow beside the road at the corner of Bellwood and English Settlement roads. Investigation showed it to be Reinhold Fleuker. The body was found about a mile from the shooting. His companion realized Fleuker was dead and had dumped his body from the car and continued his escape.

Fleuker still had a revolver in his hand. He had disguised himself by wearing three pairs of trousers and several topcoat's to make himself as large as possible. His mustache had been bleached to make it gray and his face covered with grease paint. Some \$24 in money and is number of revolver bullets were found in his pockets. Coroner Yanny was called and the body was not touched until he and county police officials had made a complete investigation.

Leonard Fisher Arrested

Sheriff Reichert and a squad of deputies arrived here in record time and an intensive search was started. Officers Rein and Schenning had identified the driver of the bandit car as Leonard Fisher and Rein had taken the license number of the car. The car was found about 10 o'clock abandoned near the Milwaukee road depot.

Deputies and Burlington police went to the Fisher home on Spring Brook farm just south of Burlington. They were met at the door by Fisher who denied being with Fleuker.

The car was identified as one driven by Fisher. State records showed the license had been issued to Lulu Pike of Oxford, Wis. Fisher admitted ownership of the car, saying he had purchased it and transfer documents were at Madison being recorded. He said Fleuker had borrowed the car for the evening.

When Fisher was taken into custody Friday evening he stated he had been home all evening. He maintained this story when questioned at the county jail. He said Fleuker had driven him home early that evening and that he had let Fleuker take his auto. He seemed to be visibly shaken when told of Schenning's death Saturday night.

Fisher Confesses

Relentless questioning by District Attorney Brown and the confronting of Fisher with the chain of evidence gathered, finally broke him down and late Tuesday evening he made a complete confession.

District Attorney Brown, Sheriff Fred Reichert, Chief of Police Lawrence Grossman, Deputies Roscoe Pease, Edward Peil and Chas. McCarthy took his statement and aided in the questioning.

Fisher said that when the police car drove up on them he said that he would talk to Schenning. He started to talk and heard a shot immediately beside him. When Schenning dropped he pulled away. He said he did not know that Fleuker was shot. The car door remained open as he sped away and Fleuker slumped forward. The car rounded the Kornhoff corner and Fleuker fell out. Thinking that Fleuker was "playing 'possum" or "bailing out," Fisher threw away the guns and parked about a mile and one-half from home he said, then telephoned Burlington police to ascertain whether Fleuker had been shot and to tell them that Fleuker had used his car.

Admits Other Robberies

While Fisher denied that he was implicated in the holdup of the Meinhardt Bank, he is declared to have admitted that he accompanied Fleuker in the robbery of two filling stations here and the Plaza theatre besides participating in the robbery of the driver for the Racine Beverage Co. near Eagle lake.

The Search For Evidence

The district attorney's office, sheriff's department and Burlington police force conducted a relentless search for evidence before the Fisher confession. It was early established that two guns had been fired from the bandit car. Both were of .32 caliber. One of the guns was in the hands of Fleuker when his body was found.

The other gun, a Luger, in which there was one blank cartridge, was found along side the road a short distance from the shooting, plainly thrown from the car by the escaping bandit. The two guns, together with the bullet taken from Mr. Schenning's body were taken to Madison where experts can easily tell which gun fired the fatal shot.

Search warrants were procured and Fisher's home and garage searched for evidence. Cartridges, grease, paint, rags, etc., were found. Some of the disguise grease was taken from Fleuker's face

and mustache. This had all been sent to experts for examination.

Articles Trace Route of Car

Saturday the search for evidence revealed the trail of the driver of the bandit car as well as the desire of the driver to get rid of all incriminating evidence. He continued east after dumping Fleuker from the auto. He went to English settlement then south to the O'Neill corner and then back into Burlington on highway 11.

A light colored trench coat, such as was worn by the bandits when they entered the Drummond store, was found near the English settlement. Three parts of a sawed off shot gun were found at different places along this road. The stock and handle were found Saturday and the barrel on Sunday. All were carefully handled to prevent marring any fingerprints. Fisher is said to have admitted that this gun was in the car and that Fleuker had borrowed the gun from Ed. Kamin.

Schenning Wound Fatal

Dr. G. Warren Newell was notified of the shooting as the police car pulled through Burlington and rushed to the hospital. Schenning was taken immediately to the operating room.

The first examination showed no serious internal wound, the bullet having, struck a rib, and followed it around. It gave no evidence of being serious and because of the shock Dr. Newell decided to postpone taking of an x-ray until Saturday morning.

The x-ray Saturday morning showed the bullet lodged against the lower part of the spine. In the middle of Saturday morning Mr. Schenning started to develop dangerous symptoms and from then on he declined rapidly passing away at 7:40 o'clock Saturday evening.

Investigation showed the bullet had, just nipped a large vein and a slow internal hemorrhage started which could not be stopped. Blood transfusions were given and everything possible was done, but the slowly ebbing life could not be saved.

Schenning Obituary

Hubert W. Schenning was 37 years old. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. William Schenning and was born at Silver Lake, September 10, 1897. He grew to manhood there and in 1917 enlisted in the world war. He was assigned to the Eleventh Field Artillery and was in the service nearly two years, spending most of the time in France. He was mustered out in July 1919 and returned to Silver Lake.

On November 1, 1919 he was united in marriage with Miss Helen Wienke and soon after they, moved to Burlington where Mr. Schenning entered the garage business. Mrs. Schenning died October, 18 1926 In November, 1927, he was united in marriage with Miss. Mildred Rein, a sister, of the officer who was with him in the fatal shooting. Their married life was short as she died a year later.

In October, 1930, he was united in marriage with Miss Marie Kamier. She, and two children by his first marriage, Warren and Romaine, survive. His mother, Mrs. Minnie Schenning, three brothers Otto, Martin and Fred Schenning of Silver Lake and one sister, Mrs. David Elfers, of Burlington also survive.

It was seven years ago that Mr. Schenning joined the Burlington police force. He started as a motor cycle deputy, but his devotion to duty and his kindly manner soon won him a permanent place. He

was popular with the public and with his fellow officers. Always ready to answer any call, absolutely fearless in the face of danger and courteous to the public, he was an ideal officer.

Funeral Largely Attended

The universal esteem in which Mr. Schenning was held and the way the public reacted to the shocking tragedy was proven by the great tribute paid him at the funeral services Tuesday afternoon. People from all walks of life gathered to pay their last respects, hundreds coming from nearby places to make the funeral the largest ever held in Burlington. Burlington business places were closed during the services.

Always an active Legionnaire and a past commander of the Ross Wilcox post it was fitting that the Legion had charge of the funeral. The funeral procession was organized at Legion headquarters. The Legion color bearers were in the lead. They were followed by, the firing squad, the pallbearers and members of the Burlington police force, Burlington city officials, the city council and park board.

Then came twenty members of the Racine city police force in full uniform, the Racine county deputy sheriffs and the Kenosha county and state deputies also in uniform. They were followed by the Racine county board of supervisors and, county officials, members of the Burlington fire department, the Ross Wilcox Post of the American Legion, visiting Legion posts and the American Legion Auxiliary

The procession marched to the Schenning home on Edward street where short services were held by Rev. Louis Baganz. It then returned to St. John's Lutheran church where funeral services were conducted by Rev. Baganz. Following the services the body was taken to Salem Mound cemetery near Silver Lake where with the impressive Legion services it was consigned to its last resting place.

Fleuker Killed Instantly

The post mortem examination showed that Fleuker had been instantly killed. The bullet had torn through his body striking the heart. Coroner Yanny impaneled a jury which viewed the remains and then adjourned to a later day. His body was removed to the home of his mother and private funeral services were held Monday afternoon.

Fleuker had his first run in with the law following the Meinhardt Bank robbery in 1931. At that time Schenning came upon the robbers wounding Fleuker's brother-in-law, Frank Kamin. Kamin and Fleuker were charged with the robbery Kamin was convicted and sent to state prison but a jury freed Fleuker. He was also arrested as being connected with bank robberies at Flossmore, Ill and Hartford City, Ind. but was freed of both charges.