

GUNMEN SHOOT SIX IN EAST SIDE SWARM

Foiled in Attempted Murder, They Pour Volley Into Crowd of Cloakmakers.

FLEE IN BLUE TOURING CAR

Intended Victim's Hat Pierced by Two Bullets—Police Net Gets Blackjack Crew.

Six men were shot down in an east side street yesterday, when they tried to halt the automobile flight of three gunmen who had made an attempt to kill a man at Second Avenue and Fifth Street. Two others were trampled in the rush to cover that followed the gunmen's fire from .45-calibre Colt automatics. In Bellevue Hospital last night one of the six wounded men was in a critical condition.

Joseph Masseria of 80 Second Avenue, said the police, was marked for slaying yesterday by friends of Silva Tagliagamba, who was killed two months ago at Grand and Mulberry Streets, dubbed by the police "the bootleggers' Curb." Masseria, out on \$15,000 bail for the killing, was cornered near his home, but by astonishing agility ducked the three shots fired point blank at him—two passing through the crown of his straw hat.

The three gunmen, noting the crowd running from tenements, sprang into their car and headed for safety. Striking cloakmakers were coming out of Beethoven Hall, Fifth Street, near Third Avenue. They ran into the street and tried to bar the escape. The would-be assassins poured twenty-five shots at the group and fled, leaving in the street the following:

BITTNER, ISIDORE, cloakmaker, 735 Fifth Street; shot in mouth and neck; Bellevue; condition serious.

FADERMAN, MORRIS, cloakmaker, 111 Ridge Street; trampled on; abrasions to left side; treated and sent home.

GOLDSTEIN, JACOB, cloakmaker, 42, 689 Beck Street, The Bronx; shot under heart; Bellevue; condition critical.

GROSSFELD, MORRIS, cloakmaker, 43, 870 Jennings Street, The Bronx; shot in chin; Bellevue.

HALTMAN, DAVID, cloakmaker, 50, 708 Belmont Avenue, Brooklyn; shot in right leg; Bellevue.

STUMP, FELIX, cloakmaker, 7 Hester Street; trampled on; abrasions to side; treated and sent home.

YOUNGBERG, HYMAN, cloakmaker, 1,367 Brook Avenue, The Bronx; shot in left hand; Bellevue.

ZASKOF, ISIDORE, cloakmaker, 45, 1,760 Washington Avenue, The Bronx; shot in right leg; Bellevue.

Masseria Twice Arrested.

In 1920, said the police, Masseria was arrested and charged with the death of Salvatore Mauro, who lived at 121 East Houston Street, and who dropped dead beneath the fire of gunmen early one morning in front of 222 Chrystie Street. Masseria was discharged subsequently for lack of evidence.

Two months ago Tagliagamba was slain and Masseria was promptly charged with the homicide. He managed to obtain \$15,000 cash bail and returned to his home in Second Avenue, between Fourth and Fifth Streets to await the calling of his trial on the Fall calendar. The police also dropped their affair with Masseria, but, they added yesterday, friends of Tagliagamba did not.

Just before 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon a blue Hudson touring car came slowly up Second Avenue. Three men, besides the driver, were in the machine which halted in Fifth Street, in front of Finkelstein Brothers' butcher shop, on the uptown side of the street and about twenty yards west from Second Avenue. Two of the passengers got out of the car and walked back to Second Avenue, entering a restaurant directly across from Masseria's home. They took seats at a table near the door and did not permit their order of coffee and cake to interfere with their watch on the three-story, old-fashioned brownstone dwelling across the way.

Kept Close Watch for Victim.

Meanwhile, the chauffeur in the car lighted a cigarette, while the third passenger leaned back in the rear seat and watched the throng passing along the streets, shawled housewives bargaining with the pushcart men or ducking in and out of the tiny stores, and long-bearded men in grave promenade.

An hour passed. Over in Beethoven Hall the striking members of the cloakmakers' unit of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union were busy devising ways and means of beating the "bosses." The two men at the table watched and waited. At 2 o'clock Masseria walked down the stoop of his home and, turning north, started along Second Avenue. Witnesses saw the two men rush out of the restaurant and come across the avenue. As they reached the curb one of them produced a Colt automatic. Masseria saw them, turned and tried to get into the shop of the Mathilda Millinery Company. For some reason he abandoned this idea and started toward his own home. He got only as far as the women's wear shop of Helney Brothers at 82 Second Avenue.

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One of the brothers was in the store and what happened he described as follows:

"The man with the revolver came close to the other fellow and aimed. Just as he fired the man jumped to one side. The bullet smashed into the window of my store"—he waved an arm at a patch of brown paper covering the puncture. "Then the man fired again and this time the man being shot at ducked his head forward. Again the man fired and again his target ducked his head down. The third shot made a second hole in my window."

Shots Startle Neighborhood.

Masseria darted off, apparently for his home. Scores saw the shooting and hundreds heard the reports. From all directions came women, children and men. The man with the automatic and his companion ran across Second Avenue to their automobile, climbed in and started west through Fifth Street. One man got out on the running board as the pursuers neared the car, and with a revolver in each hand fired shot after shot downward, apparently to frighten off the pursuit.

Down the street the strikers, their meeting over, were leaving the hall. A group of perhaps fifty were on the sidewalk. They heard the yells and saw the automobile, picking up speed, coming down the street. The men ran out and tried to stop the fleeing machine. Seeing their escape seemingly cut off, the three men in the automobile opened fire. One by one six men dropped. The strikers suddenly broke for cover and Faderman and Stump were trampled on. By the time the strikers were safely back in Beethoven Hall—where one of them found that a bullet had cut from end to end of a cigarette box in his left-hand coat pocket—the big blue car had turned the corner and was speeding up Third Avenue.

Requisition Car for Chase.

Half a block from the the scene of the attack on Masseria is the Fifth Street Police Station, and detectives and reserves were tumbled out for the chase. At Eighth Street and Third Avenue Detective Lieutenant James Cook and two other detectives were waiting to take a surface car uptown on another case. They saw the touring car whizz past, saw the pursuit organizing three blocks away, commandeered an automobile and

gave chase. At Fourteenth Street the quarry headed west to Fourth Avenue and sped up that thoroughfare. At Madison Avenue and Thirty-first Street Cook lost sight of the car ahead. Back on Third Avenue at Tenth Street, however, Detective Greer of the Clinton Street Station had caught the license numbers of the fugitive car.

Back at the scene of the wholesale shooting the victims were receiving emergency treatment in near-by doctors' offices, pending their removal to Bellevue. It was found that a gray pony, the motive power for lemonade vendor who had expected to get the trade of the strike meeting, had been hit by one of the stray bullets. The pony was taken to the headquarters of the New York Women's League for Animals, 350 Lafayette Street, where an effort will be made to save its life.

Find Masseria Sitting on His Bed.

Captain Arthur Carey of the Homicide Squad arrived from Headquarters and took charge of detectives and plainclothes men and uniformed men from headquarters, East Twenty-second Street, Mercer Street, Fifth and Clinton Street stations. While the reserves cleared the streets of the excited crowd clustered about strikers who were narrating their experiences, fifteen witnesses were rounded up by detectives who took them to the Fifth Street Station. As the result of their information Detective Frank Cassetti went to Masseria's home, found him sitting on the edge of his bed, shot-punctured hat still on, and took him to the station house. He was not arrested and after being questioned at length by Captain Carey and Assistant District Attorney Francis P. Marro was released. The police would not say whether the man had given them information to aid in the quest for his assailants.

Squads of detectives were hurried out to look for a car answering the description furnished to Captain Carey. At Eighth Street and Third Avenue Detectives Smythe, La Battaglia, Rosenberg and Hanson halted a Packard and declared that a search of the car disclosed a blackjack. The five passengers were at once taken to the Fifth Street Station. They were Isadore Hirschhorn, 24; Louis Bloomfield, 25; Max Kaufman, 24; Sam Cohen, 22; Jacob "Yock" Greenberg, 25.

Although the police, after prolonged questioning, exonerated the men of any part in the shooting affray, they were held on the charge of felonious assault. The police alleged that they had participated in an attack on July 27 on Chickes Harris of 146 East Eighth Street, a clothing-striker, who was beaten at Third Avenue and Seventh Street.

Hyman Bushel, an attorney at 1,480 Broadway, said last night that he was counsel to the striking cloakmakers and that he would offer a reward of \$1,000 for the arrest and conviction of the men who fired on the strikers.