

ping. A few miles out of Arran something in the bush bordering a slough a short distance from the road caught his eye.

His curiosity aroused, he stopped to investigate. To his horror he came upon the blood-spattered bodies of two policemen partly concealed among the reeds. Kollenchuk lost no time in getting to the nearest telephone to notify the RCMP of his grisly find. Shortly afterward, Yorkton Sub-Division Detective Sergeant Jack Metcalfe was on the scene to take charge of the investigation that followed. The slain policemen were identified as Swan Lake RCMP Detachment Constable J. G. Shaw and Benito, Manitoba, town constable William Wainwright. Both men had died from gunshot and stab wounds.

Tire tracks, footprints and blood stains leading into the bush told the story: the two policemen had been shot through the head from the rear while the car was in motion. The car had come to a stop in a shallow ditch, but had remained upright. The slayers had managed to get the car back on the road, driven on for a few hundred feet, then disposed of the bodies and made their getaway.

The two officers had last been seen alive shortly before midnight of Friday, October 4, by Paul Bogara, son of a Benito district farmer. It didn't take Metcalfe long to establish the identity of the killers and piece together the story of events leading up to the slayings.

Bogara told the sergeant that late in the evening of October 4, he and three friends, Joseph Posnikoff, John Kalmakoff and Peter Voiken had been riding around the streets of Benito in Posnikoff's old touring car when they were stopped by Wainwright, the "town cop," and taken to his office for questioning about a break-in in the area. Apparently satisfied that Bogara

was not implicated, Wainwright had let him go but detained the other three for further investigation. Posnikoff and Kalmakoff had served time in jail for theft, and Posnikoff's old touring car had been seen in the vicinity of the break-in. The three, all in their early twenties and sons of Benito district farmers, were prime suspects.

By this time, apparently in response to a request from Wainwright, Constable Shaw had arrived from the neighboring Swan Lake RCMP Detachment to assist in the investigation. After questioning the three suspects separately, Shaw formally placed them under arrest for breaking, entering and theft. Presumably because cell facilities at Benito and Swan Lake were inadequate for three prisoners he had decided to take them to Pelly Detachment, twenty miles east and in Saskatchewan. Bogara, being now without transportation, asked for and was given a ride home. He told Metcalfe he was placed in the front seat of the police car with the two policemen, the three prisoners in the back, with Shaw at the wheel.

According to Bogara, the prisoners were not handcuffed, nor were they searched. This oversight, Metcalfe speculated, might have been due to the fact that the men were already in custody when Shaw arrived and he would have assumed they had been searched. Bogara was dropped off at his farm home and watched the car continue in the direction of Pelly.

An intensive manhunt now got under way. The killers had the advantage of a two-day head start. With the unpredictability of a policeman's working hours, the two victims' prolonged absence from home base had apparently not caused undue concern. Tracing the slayers' movements after disposing of the bodies, investigators learned that the trio had stopped at the home of a Pelly district farmer, Sam Peraluk, and