

He immediately contacted the police and that was the beginning of an investigation that eventually involved police forces on both sides of the international boundary.

Papers found in the car indicated that it belonged to one J. A. Kaeser of Moosomin, Saskatchewan. The investigators learned that Kaeser, a well-to-do farmer of the district, had been visiting Regina on business and that he had left the city three days earlier to drive to his home, some 175 miles to the east along Saskatchewan highway #1. His wife had expected him home the same day, but he had failed to arrive. She had no idea of his whereabouts and was greatly concerned.

As the condition of the car indicated murder, an intensive investigation was now launched with two primary objectives in mind — first to locate Kaeser, either dead or alive, and, second, to ascertain how the car got to Winnipeg.

When no trace of the missing man was found in Winnipeg, investigators began to suspect that he might have been murdered en route from Regina and his body disposed of somewhere along the highway. This, of course, was long before the practice of hitchhiking had begun — indeed, probably before the term was even coined. But the theory that Kaeser might have met death at the hands of a hitchhiker was strengthened when it was learned that he had been seen in the company of another man at Balgonie, Saskatchewan, on the day he went missing. Detachments along the route were now ordered to search every square foot of ground to a distance of about 200 feet each side of the highway. Additional men were called in from other detachments to take part in the search and it happened to be one of them.

I was assigned with another constable to a stretch of the highway from Balgonie east. A couple of inches of

snow had fallen in the area the previous day, making our task more difficult. But we applied ourselves to the job with diligence, examining every snow-covered mound, thicket and culvert along the way.

Toward dusk a courier arrived to inform us that Kaeser's body had been found.

Particulars of the Kaeser case had been included in the November 12 broadcast with a special request that farmers living along Saskatchewan highway #1 between Balgonie and the Manitoba border search their property adjacent to the highway. The broadcast brought a quick response — Mrs. Trout, a farmer's wife in the Sintaluta district phoned in. She had seen something being removed from a car in a nearby field three days earlier. On hearing the broadcast she had immediately gone to the field and found the body hidden under a blanket at the edge of a slough a short distance from the road.

The body, frozen into the grotesque stance of a boxer, was removed to Regina. The autopsy showed that Kaeser had been shot. He had two bullets in his head and two in his back. Five .38 calibre revolver cartridges were later found nearby.

In the meantime, joint investigation by the Winnipeg City Police and the RCMP, under the supervision of Inspector Slim Harvison, had brought out some interesting facts. A young transient, James Woodland, had been given a ride from the outskirts of Brandon to Winnipeg in the blood-stained car, which was being driven at the time by a man about his own age. The case was now beginning to break.

As a result of publicity given to the case by both press and radio, a man called Jack Heipel came forward and volunteered the information that he was the man who had abandoned the