

News of a Day in New Jersey

KILLED BY BULLET SENT THROUGH FENCE

Camden Man Was Shot With Rifle
—by Professed Friend Who Soon
Gave Himself Up to the Police

John P. Kripps, 38 years old, of 1829 South Seventh street, Camden, was shot and killed by Dennis Whalen, of 609 Central avenue, yesterday afternoon. A bullet from a rifle struck Kripps over the heart, and he died while being taken to the Cooper Hospital. Although the shooting was declared to be accidental, Whalen disappeared in the excitement, but he surrendered himself last night. The dead man leaves a widow and two children.

Employed by Archibald Babnew, a huckster, Kripps was in Babnew's yard, in the rear of 1738 Van Buren street, when there was a report of a rifle. Kripps straightened, placed his hand over his heart and then fell to the ground. He was unconscious when picked up. With his frantic wife sitting beside him and holding his hand, the wounded man passed away while the auto ambulance was speeding to the hospital. An added touching feature lay in the fact that Kripps' brother, William, was in the hospital seeking treatment as a result of an accident when the body was carried in on a stretcher.

Although a dozen police and detectives were on the scene within a few moments, Whalen could not be found. From the investigation it was shown that Whalen and some friends had been practicing shooting a rifle at a bottle hanging from the fence that separated the yard from Babnew's. It was not thought that the weapon had sufficient force to send the leaden missiles through the heavy board fence. An examination showed there were three clean holes bored by bullets through the fence where Kripps was standing.

Whalen was overcome when he surrendered. He thought he had only wounded Kripps, whom, he declared, was a close friend of his.