

YOUNG MAN KILLED

Tragedy Along Saint Mary's River Near Ohio-Indiana State Line
Accused in Custody

A dispatch from Decatur says: Doras Werling, age 27, of Pleasant Mills, was shot and killed Monday night, about 8:30 o'clock, by Joseph Everett, aged 53, in an argument over the right of some young men to swim in the St. Mary's River at a point where Everett was about to string a trot line.

Everett was arrested shortly afterward by Sheriff Burr Johnson and taken to Adams County jail. No charges had been filed tonight.

Feeling was high immediately after the shooting became known and a considerable crowd gathered about the jail. For a while it was thought it might be necessary to move Everett for safe-keeping, but by midnight the crowd had dwindled to thirty-five or forty persons and there seemed to be no talk of violence. Several extra guards were at the jail, however.

Werling, in company with James Halberstadt, Jr. aged 19, Thomas Halberstadt, aged 16 and Luther Sovine, aged 17, had gone to the river to swim. The spot where they expected to go in is behind the Sylvester Garwood property. It was related that Everett was on the river in a boat, intending to string a trot line from the shore to a stone quarry in the middle of the river. On the sloping bank were standing Gerald Frye, aged 25, with whom Everett frequently fished, and Sylvester Garwood, aged 51.

According to the story, as the four youths approached the shore, Everett called to them and asked them what they intended to do. They replied that they were going swimming. Everett said he would see about that.

He rowed to shore, left the boat and pointed a gun at James Halberstadt. Sovine started to run and James Halberstadt also turned to go. Werling apparently walked toward Everett. As he did so, Everett fired, the bullet entering Werling's leg.

At this Thomas Halberstadt called to his brother to go to Werling's help. The two brothers tried to hold Everett, but as they did, the man fired again, this bullet hitting Werling in the chest below the right shoulder. Werling toppled into the river.

The brothers released Everett and went to Werling's aid, pulling him from the water and carrying him part way to the bank.

Everett walked down the shore about 150 feet , then started up to the bank. As he reached the top, he met Hubert Ehram, aged 26, to whom he surrendered himself. Ehram kept Everett in his car until the sheriff arrived.

Dr. J. W. Vazard, who lives about a half block from the murder scene, heard the shots and hurried to the river. He could do nothing to save Werling. He lived about ten minutes after the shooting.

Sheriff Johnson and his aids went to Pleasant Mills a second time tonight to try to find the gun. It is thought Everett threw it in the river when he walked along the shore. Late tonight Everett began to talk some of the affair, although he seemed rather hazy. He said he did not know what he did with the gun. He admitted firing the shots, but said he did it after the boys jumped on him.

Dr. J. W. Miller, acting coroner, was performing an autopsy at midnight in an effort to locate the bullets.

Werling was employed at the Decatur plant of the General Electric Co. He has a wife and two children. James and Thomas Halberstadt are his brothers-in-laws.

Everett is a farm labor. During the winter he lived with two brothers, Peter and John Everett, who live two miles south of Pleasant Mills.

Contributed by Jim Cox