

Dallas Hower Found Dead This Morning

Prominent Decatur Man Dies Suddenly

Dallas M. Hower, 82, prominent retired business man of this city and a former deputy county sheriff, who was taken captive by bank bandits in December, 1926, was found dead in his home, 517 W. Monroe street, shortly before noon today by his son, Chalmer Hower.

Apparently Mr. Hower died of a heart attack. He had been to the corner grocery store, where he made several purchases, and returned home about 11 o'clock. When the son arrived home from work, he found his father near the dining room entrance, on the floor. He had on his overcoat and packages of groceries were strewn about him. Evidently the fatal attack struck him as he was walking through the front of the house to the kitchen.

Mr. Hower was a native of Root township, Adams county, and a son of Abraham and Sarah Archbold Hower. He was born in June 1860. He married Miss Lucy Stalter, who preceded him in death several years ago. They went to housekeeping on a farm, west of Decatur.

For more than a quarter of a century, Mr. Hower engaged in the meat market business in this city. He was employed in several shops and when his partner, John Baker, was elected county sheriff, he was named deputy. He also served as deputy to Sheriff Harl Hollingsworth and Burl Johnson.

Early in the morning of December 2, 1926, Sheriff Baker received a call that the bank of Linn Grove had been robbed by bandits. With his deputy, Sheriff Baker laid plans for the capture of the two men. A call was received that two strangers had stopped at a filling station on South Winchester street and the officials drove immediately to the site. When they got out of their car they were covered by the pistols of the bandits, who ordered them in their automobile and, at the point of the gun, to drive on.

Sheriff Baker and deputy Hower were forced to accompany the bandits on the hazardous journey, which terminated on Fairfield avenue in Fort Wayne, when the car turned over. Mr. Hower received a terrible beating and was taken to the hospital, recovering from his bruises in a short time, but remembering the experience vividly for years, and thankful that he escaped with his life.

The bandits, Sam Goldstein and William Rielly, were convicted and sentenced to prison and the Adams county authorities were given credit for apprehending the men.

Mr. Hower was a familiar and popular figure around the court house, enjoying the friendship of county officials, deputies, attorneys and persons who frequented the public offices.

He was appointed a member of the Adams county alcoholic beverage board and was scheduled to be renamed by the county commissioners at the next session of the board.

He is survived by two sons, Chalmer and Alton Hower, the latter of Fort Wayne; three daughters, Mrs. Arthur Ford of Muncie; Mrs. J. D. Dailey of Paulding, Ohio; Mrs. Ralston Sowers of Ridgeville. Two sons, Bert and Donald, preceded him in death.

Three sisters and two brothers also survive. They are, Mrs. Dan W. Beery and Mrs. James D. Harkless of Fort Wayne; Mrs. John T. Myers of this city; Rev. Ira Hower, a retired Methodist minister, Council Bluff, Iowa; D. I. Hower, Muskegon, Michigan.

The body was taken to the Zwick funeral home. Funeral arrangements were not completed this afternoon.