

## JOSEPH WHITMER

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Source: Crawfordsville Daily Journal Wed Nov 11, 1914

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Joseph H. Whitmer of 5 miles east of Ladoga, a man of 72 was lured to a dark spot in the railroad district of Indianapolis and brutally assaulted Tuesday night. He was beaten on the head with a blackjack and robbed of \$660 by his assailants. The police have found no trace of the men who attacked the aged farmer. Mr. Whitmer told conflicting stories of the affair, probably because of the injuries he received. He said he had been drinking in several bars with two stranger during the afternoon. His nephew, Mr. Clark of Ladoga, accompanied the aged man to the city Tuesday. The Indiana Times says of the "lure of the farmer into a dark spot to rob him." Whitmer, who is registered at the Hotel Edward came to the city Sunday with his nephew, Mr. Clark of Ladoga, Whitmer said he has stopped at Max Patton's saloon, 302 W Washington street yesterday and while there met two strangers The three men, according to Whitmer had a number of drinks. From Patton's place he said they went to the State Bar, 23 North Capitol Avenue where other drinks were ordered. Whitmer was unable to tell the police whether he had visited other saloons after that or if it was from the State Bar that he in company with the two strangers started for the west side. "When found Whitmer was lying near the Beomont entrance of the John D. Adams Road Machinery Company. He was suffering from a scalp wound that was evidently the result of a blow from a blunt instrument. The right side of his face was bruised and scraped in falling. After the police arrived a search of Whitmer's pockets revealed that the robbers had overlooked \$1 in paper money and some small change. They had also failed to take Whitmer's watch. Bicycle police from the Substation No 3 and Detective Stewart and Sgt Fletcher and a squad of police from headquarters were rushed to the scene. They were unable to find any person who had seen Whitmer in company with the strangers Whitmer was unable to tell the police how he reached the lonely section of the city where he was found. He said, however that he in company with two strangers, had taken a street car ride and that they then proposed walking a short distance. It was during this walk he was assaulted and robbed. Whitmer was taken to police headquarters in the police emergency automobile and his injuries dressed by a physician."