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# ***Kelly Murderer Taken, Confesses***

## **ADMITS KELLY KILLING**



Earl Slater, 28 years old, of Winnebago, Minn., in the Hennepin county jail, today told a revolting story of the killing last week of Frank L. Kelly, Mankato automobile salesman and former legislator. This picture of Slater (left) was taken as the prisoner was brought to the Hennepin county jail shortly before noon today. Deputy Sheriff John McGuire is at the right.

# YOUTH FREELY TELLS TALE OF BRUTAL CRIME

## Lured Mankato Man to Schoolhouse, Shot Him After Robbery

Calmly, without a tremor or nervous movement, Earl Slater, 28, of Winnebago, the father of two small children, confessed today that he murdered Frank L. Kelly, Mankato automobile salesman and former state legislator, to get \$20 in cash and a check for \$150.

He told in detail how he loaded the body of the dead man into the back of the automobile and drove over country roads with it for three hours, how he returned to the little schoolhouse at Itasca, put the body in the building and then fired it.

### Confesses Revolting Crime

Slater was captured at 4 o'clock this morning in Blue Earth, Faribault county. Sheriff U. S. Pratt of Anoka county and Deputy Sheriffs John McGuire and Fred Hamilton of Hennepin county, arrested him.

He was brought to Minneapolis immediately. Shortly before noon he was questioned. After the confession, Sheriff Brown made a short statement.

"Slater confessed in the calmest manner to one of the most brutal and revolting crimes I have ever heard of," he said. Not a regret did he express. In cold, matter of fact tones he described details of the killing. It took little persuasion to get him to confess."

The body of Kelly was recovered from the charred ruins of the little schoolhouse near Dayton ferry Thursday morning. A rosary inscribed with the name "Frank L. Kelly" led to identification.

Slater, in his confession, said he twice returned to the scene of the murder. Once was when he put the body in the schoolhouse and set fire to it, and again on Thursday morning. At that time he said he saw people searching the building.

### Slater's Story of Crime.

Kelly was lured to the schoolhouse, Slater said, because he believed Slater had hidden liquor there. Slater told the following story, according to the sheriff:

"When we got near the schoolhouse, where I had told Kelly I had liquor hidden, we stopped the machine. I went inside and then called for Kelly. He came in and I stuck my gun at him and ordered him to throw up his hands.

"I took the \$20 cash and the \$150 check. Then I made him indorse the check. I told him to stay in the schoolhouse or I would blow his head off.

"I ran from the building for the automobile. Then Kelly drew his gun and shot at me through the window of the schoolhouse. I kept running. Kelly came out the door and pulled the trigger of his gun several times. I could hear him, but the gun would not go off.

"Kelly then turned and ran back. I ran after him and shot him through the back and when he fell he fell on top of me. I thought he was grappling with me but I saw he was dead. I did not know what to

do with the body, so I backed the automobile up and loaded him in the back of it.

"That was about 3 o'clock Thursday morning. I drove around until 6 or 7 o'clock and then I came back to the schoolhouse. I found some kerosene in the building. I dumped the body out and dragged it in the schoolhouse and set fire to the building. Then I drove off."

Slater was at first thought to be a booze runner. Deputies from the sheriff's office worked on that theory but gave it up later. They are now convinced that Slater was not smuggling liquor, but that he told the story of the booze cache to lure Kelly to the little schoolhouse.

In Mankato, Slater posed as Will Larson, a western Canadian saloon keeper, according to Sheriff Pratt.

Today, several residents of Mankato identified Slater as Larson, and told of seeing him with Kelly. They said he left Mankato Wednesday night with Kelly.

The two men came to Minneapolis and left the car Thursday evening in Hill's garage, opposite the West hotel. They left again later that night. They were seen in Elk River at 1:10 a.m. Thursday. Two hours after that the murder was committed.

#### **In Minneapolis After Killing**

After the murder, Slater returned to Minneapolis. He left the automobile in the Ninth street garage, 25 South Ninth street. He cashed the \$150

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# **Schoolhouse Murderer Confesses**

check taken from Kelly, according to the sheriff. He spent the night at the Russell hotel, 16 South Fourth street.

He did not return for the automobile. Saturday morning the sheriff's deputies traced the machine and posted a guard in the garage.

In the car was found Kelly's overcoat. There was a bullet hole in the back of the coat. It was stained with blood. There were blood stains on the floor of the automobile. The numbers on the car had not been changed.

Slater did not incriminate any other person in his confession. He planned and committed the crime alone, he said.

Slater has been going under the name of McDonough for some time, said the sheriff. His wife is known as Mrs. McDonough. In other towns Slater has other names, said the sheriff.

The complaint charging Slater with the murder was to be issued this afternoon, according to W. A. Blanchard, county attorney of Anoka county.