

Dayton Murder Victim Former State Legislator

**Crucifix Identifies Frank L.
Kelly of Mankato, Once
Student at University.**

**Bandit Believed to Have
Slain Him for Money
and Automobile.**

**Hunt for Slayer Shifts to
Minneapolis in Trail of
Stolen Car.**

Frank L. Kelly of Mankato, Minn., former member of the Minnesota Legislature and student at the University of Minnesota law school, is believed to be the man who was murdered near the Dayton school early Thursday morning.

The murdered man's body was burned when the school was fired to conceal the crime.

Identity was established last night through a crucifix found in the ruins of the fire. Later it was discovered that Kelly had left Mankato Wednesday in his automobile, accompanied by a stranger, after telling acquaintances he was going to Elk River. The Dayton school is on the Jefferson highway, midway between Elk River and Anoka.

Robbery Believed Motive.

Robbery is believed to have been the motive for the murder. It is known that Kelly had \$300 when he left Mankato, and it is believed that the man with him, alone or with the aid of confederates who joined the party between Mankato and Dayton, killed him for the money and his car. Sheriffs Earle Brown of Hennepin county and U. G. Pratt of Anoka last night were working on this theory and it was believed that more than one man took part in the killing.

The stranger who left with Kelly is described as being about 30 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing about 175 pounds, with blue eyes, fair complexion and light hair. He had told persons in Mankato that he was from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Boasted of Rum Running.

He had boasted that he had two brothers in the Northwest Mounted police, and that he could slip across the Canadian border with contraband liquor without trouble. He said he had a brother-in-law living in Bemidji, Minn.

One theory was that Kelly had been lured from Mankato on the promise of being able to purchase liquor in the Twin Cities or farther north.

Search for the murderer shifted to Minneapolis last night. Sheriffs Brown and Pratt, and County Attorney W. A. Blanchard of Anoka county returned to Minneapolis from Mankato, where they had identified the murdered man, and began a systematic search of garages for Kelly's car.

Complete Description of Car.

Detectives working under Frank Colwell, head of the police automobile squad, found yesterday that the car, a Scripps-Booth model, had been stored in a Minneapolis garage Thursday night, but had been taken out yesterday morning. Insurance papers obtained at Mankato gave a more complete description, and it was believed the machine would be found.

Kelly was a member of the House of Representatives in the state Legislature from Blue Earth county in 1909 and 1911. He was born in that county, and was graduated from St. John's Commercial college and Madelia high school.

He attended a business college in Minneapolis and then entered the University law school. In 1905 he returned to Madelia, where he took up farming.

Auto Salesman.

Two years ago he moved to Mankato with his wife and two children, and since has been employed by the Simonette Automobile company as a salesman.

Mrs. Kelly recognized the crucifix found in the burned school as one carried by her husband.

George Stein of the Main Auto livery, 18 Third street north, told deputy sheriffs yesterday that he was the man who drove to a store at Champlin a few hours after the murder and purchased gasoline. He said he was accompanied by a woman and that his car had been damaged.

His story cleared up that angle of the search.

Police last night were sent to Minneapolis addresses Kelly is known to have visited during trips to the Twin Cities to learn if possible the acquaintances he had established.

Reprinted by permission of the Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN).