

GARTNER

Henry
1951 Jan 10

Laid:
Gyulai Ida

Attack Occurs At Hungarian Legation Desk

Assailant's Motive Revealed as 'Grudge'

By EDWIN HOFFMAN
International News Service

A fanatical Hungarian alien today stabbed and slightly wounded a woman official of the Hungarian legation in what he described to police as a deliberate attack.

The stabbing victim was Miss Ida Gyulai, counselor of the legation, who lives at 2118 Leroy Pl.

The assailant, who identified himself as Hendrick Gardner, was subdued after a terrific struggle with male officials of the legation, during which he screamed to this reporter and International News photographer John Stein:

"Take pictures! Take notes! You've got your story!"

A legation employe drew a gun, menaced the reporter and photographer with it, and indicated they would be shot if they attempted to take notes or pictures.

Gardner told police who rushed to the legation:

Had Grudge Against Woman

"It was not an assassination attempt. It was an attack. I wanted to wound her slightly. That is all."

Detective chief Robert V. Murray quoted Gardner as saying he bore a grudge against Miss Gyulai because she had blocked his attempt to return to Hungary to visit his family.

Murray said Gardner had visited the legation twice previously in unsuccessful attempts to win clearance for a trip to Hungary.

The detective chief announced that the assailant will be charged with assault with a deadly weapon.

Police described the weapon as a "hunting knife with a 10-inch blade." Gardner had secreted the knife in a briefcase which he took from one of the suitcases he carried into the legation building.

Minister in Building

Meanwhile, the Washington bomb squad rushed to the legation to investigate the contents of a mysterious black suitcase which Gardner deposited in a reception room along with two other traveling bags.

The Hungarian minister, Imre Horvath, was reported to have been in the building at the time of the attack.

A man who identified himself only as "Shangri-La" informed the New York office of International News Service that he would have a "juicy story" in Washington, involving "an agency of a foreign power with which the United States is unfriendly."

Woman Stabbed Twice

The Washington office was told that "it's very strange, but believe it worth looking into. The man seemed honest — didn't appear crackpot."

Police said Miss Gyulai was stabbed twice in the left side and once in the left arm. None of the wounds was serious.

When "Shangri-La" telephoned this morning, this reporter and photographer Stein were assigned

to contact him at Union Station. Gardner — or "Shangri-la" — said he could be identified by a distinctive plaid scarf. He wore, besides the scarf, a brown coat, brown soft hat, brown gloves and a gray suit.

The bespectacled, 59-year-old mystery man had three pieces of luggage. He insisted upon taking all three pieces with him and told the reporter that he would "have the story very quickly."

Won't Give Motive

But he refused to disclose the nature of the "story."

When the reporter sought to call a taxi, Gardner insisted that he would proceed only by "private automobile." The private vehicle was rented at a downtown garage.

Gardner instructed the driver to go to an address on Leroy place, in the block where the Hungarian legation is located.

As the car drew near the legation, Gardner spotted Miss Gyulai who a few minutes later became the victim of his long-bladed knife. She was approaching the building on foot.

Hurries in Pursuit

He yelled to the reporter and photographer "Come on, hurry," and leaped from the car in hot pursuit of Miss Gyulai, who entered the legation.

Stopped at the reception desk near the legation entrance, Gardner conferred with two Hungarian receptionists in their own language, motioning to this reporter and Stein to be seated.

Within a moment or two, he was admitted to an inner room and the door was closed behind him.

Almost immediately, there were sounds of a wild struggle, a scream, the thud of heavy blows, the clutter of overturned furniture.

Screams at Pressmen

Gardner, breaking loose from the grasp of the legation officials, wrested open the door and cried: "Take pictures! Take notes! You've got your story!"

It was then that one of the legation men drew a gun, while another pinioned Gardner's arms and a third telephoned police.

Gardner, before the attack, told this reporter that he had been in the United States 26 years but was not a citizen.

He gave no advance inkling of the knifing plot, nor did he in any way indicate that he planned violence.

