

KOBRAK

## Publisher Is Given Chance to Recover; Assailant Dead

By the Associated Press.

1943

CLEVELAND, July 23. — John S. McCarrens, general manager of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, today was given "one out of four chances to survive" bullet wounds inflicted by an assailant who later killed himself.

Dr. O. A. Weber, who removed a bullet from Mr. McCarrens' abdomen, said the 74-year-old publisher was in critical condition.

Mr. McCarrens was shot in the left wrist, right arm and lower left abdomen yesterday by Herbert L. Kobrak, 55-year-old native of Hungary, who had been active for several years in Cleveland's foreign language publishing field, Detective Inspector Frank W. Story said.

The shooting occurred in Mr. McCarrens' fourth-floor office in the Plain Dealer Building in downtown Cleveland, where Kobrak had made an appointment to see the publisher about starting a foreign language graphic newspaper.

## Publisher McCarrens Dies of Gun Wounds

### Five Transfusions Fail To Save Ohioan's Life

By the Associated Press.

CLEVELAND, July 24.—John S. McCarrens, 74-year-old general manager of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, died tonight at St. Vincent's Charity Hospital from bullet wounds inflicted Thursday by a gunman who then killed himself.

The publisher had been given five blood transfusions.

### Two Notes Found

Kobrak, a revolver bullet wound in his right temple, died 38 minutes later.

Two notes were found in Kobrak's clothing, one addressed to police and the other to "gentlemen of the press," Inspector Story said, indicating he had planned to kill Mr. McCarrens several months ago.

En route to Charity Hospital, Mr. McCarrens told associates Kobrak had come to him for financial help and that he had helped him previously. Shortly after Kobrak entered Mr. McCarrens' office, Miss Florence Anthony, a secretary, said she heard four shots in quick succession, and then, a moment later, a fifth shot.

"Mr. McCarrens opened the door of his office and came out. He said: 'I've been shot—a crazy man just shot me.' Then he walked into the office of Joseph Madigan, circulation manager, and collapsed."

### Kobrak Came to U. S. in 1913.

The letter found on Kobrak said he had worked more than 20 years ago for the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Herald, St. Louis Globe Democrat and the Western Watchman. He came to America from Hungary in 1913. He formerly was general manager of the now defunct Consolidated Press & Printing Co., publisher of foreign language papers.

Dr. Ervin H. Bolgar, Consolidated president until its dissolution in 1939, said "he tried to murder me in 1939 and I had him arrested."

Mr. McCarrens, who is president of the Forest City Publishing Co. which operates the Plain Dealer, a morning paper, and the Cleveland News, an afternoon daily, is a director of the American Newspaper Publishers Association. He served two terms as the ANPA's president.