

# Louis Loebl, Crack FBI Agent For 33 Years, Succumbs at 71

## Teapot Dome, Means, Pitts Among Cases Handled by Him

Louis Loebl, 71, well-known Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, who helped crack several sensational cases during his career, died early today at George Washington University Hospital.

One of the famous cases he worked on was the Teapot Dome case in 1922.

Another was the Linbergh ransom hoax in the early '30s in which Gaston B. Means, self-styled "world's greatest detective," induced Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McLean to employ him to find the Lindbergh baby a few days after the kidnaping in March, 1932. Means was sent to Leavenworth Penitentiary for defrauding her of \$104,000.

Another case in the early '30s in which he participated was the conviction of G. Bryan Pitts, executive head of the old F. H. Smith Co., an investment real



LOUIS LOEBL.

estate firm. Pitts was imprisoned for conspiring to embezzle \$5 million from the corporation he controlled.

Considered by FBI agents as one of their "outstanding men," he began his career in St. Louis in 1917. During his 33 years' service, his career had been extended past the FBI retirement age of 62 several times by the President. He had been in the Washington Field Office since 1927 and was at his desk only last Saturday. Much of his work was acting as principal liaison representative between the field office here and the State Department.

The son of a wealthy Hungarian land owner, he received his law degree from the University of Budapest. He came to this country to live shortly after the turn of the century. Before joining the FBI, he worked in the immigration office in Cleveland. He became a naturalized citizen in 1912.

Mr. Loebl had been in failing health since the death of his wife, Mrs. Rose Loebl, in 1947. He lived at 1601 Argonne place N.W.

He was a member of the Justice Masonic Lodge and attended the Washington Hebrew and Adas Israel congregations.

His only survivor is a niece living in Hungary.

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