

The inmate, Joseph Bigbsy, is currently incarcerated for the murder of Officer Edward L. Barron, star # 14571; the attempt murders of Officers Daniel Abate, Keith Grabowski, and Richard Gaffney, and armed robberies, which occurred on September 28, 1973. On that date, near the corner of 80<sup>th</sup> and Colfax in Chicago, the inmate committed an armed robbery of Marvin Watts while armed with a German Luger. The inmate struck Mr. Watts with the Luger and threatened to 'blow his brains out' taking Mr. Watt's money and his watch. Within five minutes, the inmate robbed 70 year-old Lewis Lytele, threatening to shoot and kill him before taking fifty-five cents from him, which was all the money he possessed. An eyewitness to the armed robbery of Mr. Lytele called the police. Sergeant John Mitchell, who was first on the scene, observed the inmate fitting the description of the armed robber walking north on Kingston, on the east side of the street. He pulled his squad car to the curb near the inmate and the inmate ran east through a driveway. He reached the inmate and saw him with the German Luger handgun in his waistband. Sergeant Mitchell pointed his weapon at the inmate and told him to stop, and that he was under arrest. The inmate started to run through a small gangway. Sergeant Mitchell again told him to stop or he would shoot. The inmate turned and flipped his right hand toward the center of his body. Sergeant Mitchell then fired one shot toward the inmate's legs to try to stop him. The inmate fled and Sergeant Mitchell lost sight of him.

Officers Edward Barron, Daniel Abate and Anthony Norka also responded to the area and began to look for the inmate. They located the inmate at 7958 South Colfax. The inmate was backing away from the officers in a semi-crouched position. Officers Abate and Barron identified themselves as police officers and ordered the inmate to drop his gun. Instead, the inmate took his loaded gun, took aim and fired one shot at the officers. Officer Barron was struck in the head by the bullet and was killed instantly. Officers Abate and Norka returned fire and as Officer Abate was bent over his fallen partner attempting to aid him, inmate Bigsby again fired at the officers. Officer Keith Grabowski and Richard Gaffney responding to the scene from a different location. They identified themselves as police officers and ordered the inmate to stop. In return, the inmate then shot at Officer Grabowski and Gaffney. Officer Grabowski fired two shots in return. The inmate then backed around the corner and disappeared from the officer's view.

Officer Grabowski pursued the inmate and located him as Officer Abate was approaching from the opposite direction. The officers were able to place the inmate in custody. They found a watch and money in the inmate's pocket. A German Luger handgun was found on the rear porch roof at 7958 Colfax. The magazine clip was empty and the inmate's fingerprint was found on the magazine. Several .9- millimeter spent casings and metal fragments had been recovered from the yard below. Pursuant to a search warrant, a box of .9-millimeter cartridges was found in the inmate's bedroom drawer. The inmate was taken to Area 2 Headquarters and according to the police report, as the inmate was being uncuffed by Investigator J.L.DiGiacomo, the inmate made an unsolicited statement that, "I shot me a copper".

On May 15, 1975, the jury found the inmate guilty of all charges.