

## SHOOTS JEWELER EDHOLM

G. C. Porter, a World-Herald Reporter, Attempts a Murder.

## BECOMES ANGRY ABOUT A CUFF BUTTON

Fires a Shot at Mr. Edholm, Inflicting a Flesh Wound in His Left Cheek and Later Surrenders—Deed Without Provocation.

Albert Edholm, jeweler, 107 North Sixteenth street, was assaulted with a pistol at noon Thursday in his place of business by G. C. Porter, a newspaper correspondent whose headquarters are in the World-Herald editorial rooms.

Dispose over the loss of a cuff button, worth probably a few cents, led to the assault. This is the story told by Mr. Edholm and corroborated by eye-witnesses. Porter had left the button at the jewelry establishment to be repaired and when he called it could not be found.

Reports conflict as to whether Porter shot his victim with the butt of the weapon or with a shot. Edholm declares positively that he was shot while Porter is emphatic that he struck the jeweler with the pistol, but did not shoot him. At the same moment he thrust his right hand in his coat pocket and started toward me in a threatening manner. I feared he had a gun and was about to shoot, so in self-defense, I struck him in the face with the butt of my revolver. I positively did not fire a shot. If Edholm was shot the bullet was fired by somebody else."

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## ESTABLISHMENT OF A SHELTER.

The injured man was given immediate medical attention, and his wound will probably not prove serious although it is very painful. He related to a reporter for The Bee his version of the affair.

"Porter entered the store about noon," said Mr. Edholm, "and asked for a cuff button which he said he had left with his wife for repair about two months ago. He said he had called for it three weeks ago, and that we were unable to find it then, but that we told him we would look it up. That may be true; I don't remember about the button, but in any event we were unable to find it for him today, and after searching for some time, I told Porter to bring me the mate to the lost button and that would be of assistance to us in looking it up. He replied that he would do no such thing—that he wanted his button immediately. I explained to him that I could not do impossibilities. Just then, with Porter's warning, he drew his pistol and fired. It was shocking to me, for I had no idea that he was in the humor to commit a tragedy."

Mr. Edholm discussed the affray with remarkable calmness, despite the pain he was suffering. He had given Porter every assurance that his loss would be made good, if it is said, in case of final failure to discover the missing button, and witnesses agree that the jeweler treated Porter with his characteristic courtesy.

## WITNESSES TO THE ASSAULT.

The assault was witnessed by Miss Jessie Lawrence, Miss Besse Covles, C. H. Hahn, a World-Herald reporter, a Chicago traveling man by the name of Wertz and others.

Miss Lawrence is employed in Mr. Edholm's establishment and her experience was intensely thrilling, for she stood almost directly within range of Porter's weapon. When he first entered the store he asked Miss Lawrence to get his cuff button and she looked for it several minutes before calling the attention of Mr. Edholm. Miss Lawrence continued her search and was standing behind the counter beside the proprietor when Porter committed the assault. Miss Lawrence displayed remarkable nerve and instead of hurrying from the exciting scene, as most women would have done, she assisted other witnesses in calling a doctor and looking after the wounded man.

## ADRY ATTRACTS BIG CROWD.

At the noon hour North Sixteenth street was thronged with shoppers and other pedestrians, the report of the weapon having immediately drawn a large crowd. Mr. Edholm remained in a rear room at his store until after a physician had dressed his wound. He then went to his home in the rear of the building, where the higher, the victim's eye would have been ruined. As a result of the wound the left side of Mr. Edholm's face is swollen to three or four times its natural size and blood constantly oozes from the puncture.

Jeweler Edholm is of slight build, mild-mannered and is not given to indulgence in quarrels, so any who know him best, Porter's action cannot be accounted for. He appeared to be in full possession of his senses when he entered the store and talked calmly but firmly up to the moment before he fired the shot.

The police say that Porter has been drinking to excess of late, and this is the only theory on which his strange action can be explained.

## Calm After the Storm.

While the young women employed in the store conducted themselves like heroines, there was a general flurry among the elegantly attired shoppers in the adjacent sidewalk looking at pretty window displays and discussing Christmas bargains. They heard the noise, saw the commotion, and in the embryo panic that prevailed for a few minutes they could not be convinced but that murder had been committed.

An instance showing the extraordinary nerve and calmness of Miss Lawrence it may be stated that within thirty minutes after the shooting she was busily engaged in rearranging trays of jewelry in a show case, and business was moving along in the Edholm establishment just as though nothing out of the usual had happened.

## Porter's Career in Omaha.

Porter has been in Omaha about twelve

years. He was first employed on the old Republican, going from there to the other papers. Later he became assistant in a private newspaper correspondence bureau. He remained in that capacity for some time, but had a misunderstanding a few months ago and went to the World-Herald, where in connection with that paper he established a news bureau of his own.

## Porter Surrenders.

Shortly after 2 o'clock Porter, accompanied by his attorney, Will P. Gurley, surrendered to the police at the station. He asserted that he had no intention of trying to escape, but that after the shooting he wanted to eat his dinner and also wanted immediate legal advice, hence the delay in reaching the police station. It is said that he ate his dinner as calmly as though nothing tragic had occurred.

The police officer at the station Porter gave his version of the affair as follows: "The trouble started with a jeweler and woman who is employed in Edholm's store. I had left a valuable jewel there to be repaired and when I called for it the young woman refused to give it up. I did not want any words with a woman, so I transferred the discussion to Edholm, the proprietor. He was seemingly in an angry mood, and would give me no satisfaction. He even denied that he had been entrusted with any jewel of mine and when I asserted my rights he called me a liar, also applying names to me. At the same moment he thrust his right hand in his coat pocket and started toward me in a threatening manner. I feared he had a gun and was about to shoot, so in self-defense, I struck him in the face with the butt of my revolver. I positively did not fire a shot. If Edholm was shot the bullet was fired by somebody else."

Porter's bond was fixed at \$1,000, which he furnished, with a business man as surety. He then resumed his work in the World-Herald office. The weapon that figured in the affray was not secured by police.

Mr. Edholm's attention being called to Porter's denial of having fired a shot, he replied: "It makes no difference what Porter says; I think I know when a bullet hits my way into my flesh. All the correspondents will have heard of the shooting. The headquarters, which have been at Des Moines, will be moved to Omaha, and all the business will be transferred from that point.

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