

DIAL R-326 ALL DEP'TS

THURSDAY, NOV. 30, 1939

SECTION C—PAGE 1

MAN DIES IN JAIL

G. D. FOWLER, 36, VICTIM OF ACUTE ATTACK SUN. A. M.

G. D. Fowler, 36, who resided at 1034 Hamilton Street, died in the city jail last Sunday morning about 8:45. Dr. John Martin, who was called on the case and examined Fowler before he was moved from the jail cell and later at Williams Funera Home, stated at a coroner's inquest that the deceased died from natural causes, probably an acute heart attack.

No evidence of foul play was brought out at the inquest, in which testimony was given by Dr. Martin; Policeman W. M. Erwin, who arrested Fowler late Saturday night and locked him up; Jenkie Banks, colored man who was in the jail at the time of the man's death; Policeman P. C. Luter, who gave Fowler his breakfast Sunday morning; and R. L. Wrenn at whose home Fowler was at the time of his arrest Saturday night.

Mr. Erwin stated at the inquest that he was called to the home of R. L. Wrenn on Washington Street Saturday night about 11 o'clock and found Mr. Fowler there in an intoxicated state. Mr. Erwin stated further that there was no sign of any foul play there and that the man submitted without any disturbance. After giving Jenkie Banks instructions about keeping a fire in the stove, Mr. Erwin said he locked up and left the man in jail.

Mr. Luter, next to testify, said that he answered a call at the Municipal Building about 8:30 and was informed that a doctor was wanted at the jail for Mr. Fowler. Mr. Luter stated that the prisoner had seemed normal when breakfast had been served to him some time earlier. The policeman said that he secured Dr. Martin and reached the jail in a very few minutes after he received the call.

Mr. Wrenn testified that Mr. Fowler came to his home about 8 o'clock Saturday night and that he was drunk and disorderly. He further stated that he sent for a policeman about, he thought, two hours later, informing in the meantime Mr. Fowler's wife that he was calling an officer. Mr. Wrenn said that he used no force in trying to get Mr. Fowler out of his home.

Jenkie Banks, colored man who was in the jail from the time Mr. Fowler was brought in until his death, testified upon being questioned that the white man was drunk, falling down two or three times after he was locked up. Banks said that he told the man that he would kill himself if he didn't watch out, to which Fowler replied, "That's all right. I ought to be dead anyway." The Negro said that Fowler lay down after a while and slept all right through the night.

Questioned about the fire in the jail stove, Banks said that the jail was comfortable all night, and that Fowler waked up about sun up Sunday morning. He said that they sat by the fire and talked, remarking that Fowler "talked all right."

Banks said that after Fowler ate breakfast that he started complaining with his stomach, saying "I ought not to eat that." The color-

ed man said that Fowler then drank some water, after which he said that he was going to vomit, saying a minute later that he

wished he had some soda.

Questioned as to the length of time between eating and getting sick, Banks said that Fowler became sick after drinking the water, saying that he was cramping. After that, the Negro said, Fowler began getting worse, complaining of cramping and beginning to sweat. Banks said that he told the sick man to take off his coat, remarking that he didn't know what to do for him.

It was then, the colored man stated, that he saw passing the jail

a man to whom he called and asked bring someone to see the sick man. Banks said that no one came and that he called a colored woman and told her to send somebody down there, that a man was dying. The Negro said that he knew that the man was dying and that he was about to have a fit himself.

Questioned about Fowler's actions earlier Sunday morning, Banks said that the white man had said that he felt bad but had made no complaints to Mr. Luter when he

brought breakfast.

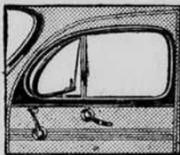
Questioned at length about the time that elapsed between his becoming sick and dying, Banks finally stated that he thought it was about 30 minutes.

Asked if Fowler said anything after making a final struggle, Banks stated that he did not and that he walked over to look at him, saying, "That man is bound to be dead."

The Negro said that Mr. Fowler had pulled his shoes off the night (Continued on Page 8, Sec. C)



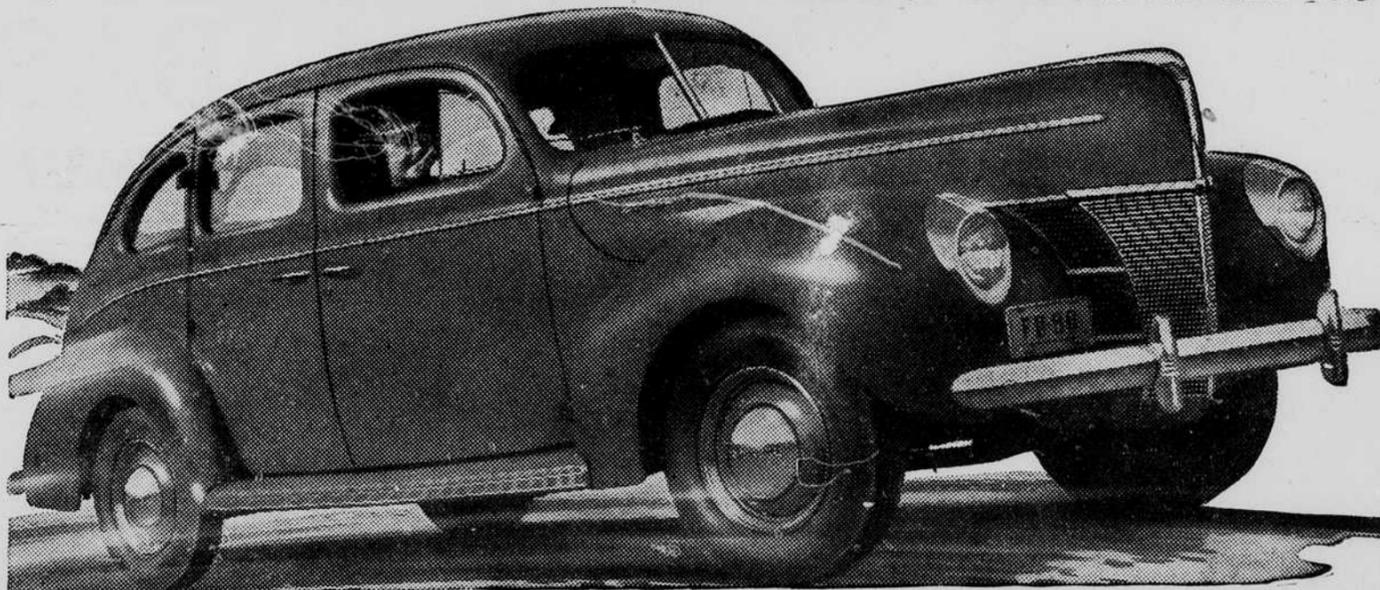
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