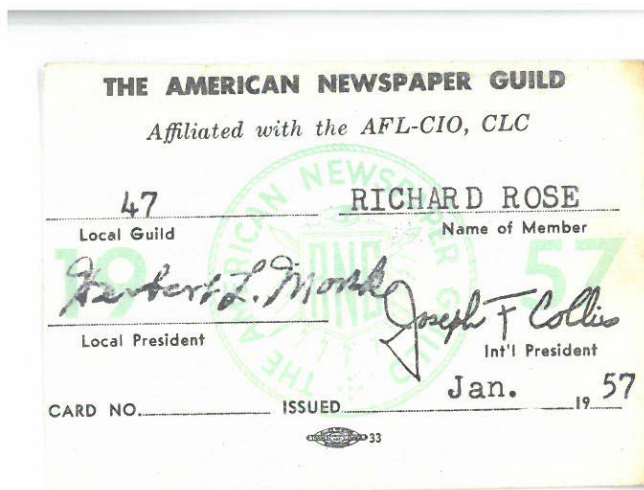


My reporting career on the Post-Dispatch began with a bang. Working as a reporter was good training in the methodology of accuracy, imagination and persistence in seeking information, and writing quickly and to the point. My Union card lapsed when I left the Post-Dispatch for Oxford, where I learned the craft of English journalism. It was my reporting skills that enabled me to make a breakthrough in Fleet Street and television.



ROBBER FLEEING FROM DRUG STORE SHOT AND KILLED BY PROPRIETOR

Druggist on Maryland Fires 3 Times, Hits Holdup Man as He Tries to Enter Auto With \$250 Loot

8/16/55
 A robber was shot and killed today by Morris Landau when fleeing from Landau's drug store at 4501 Maryland avenue with about \$250 taken from a cash register.

Landau, standing near the doorway of the store, fired three shots from a pistol as the robber attempted to enter an automobile parked across the street on Maryland, west of Taylor avenue.

A bullet struck the robber in the left arm and entered his chest. He collapsed on the front seat of the automobile and was dead on arrival at City Hospital. In his possession was found \$168 and papers indicating he lived in Fulton, Mo.

Earlier Holdup Attempt.

Police said the robber apparently was the same man who tried to hold up Franc's Pharmacy, 5501 Pershing avenue, only a short time before he appeared at Landau's drug store.

"I was in the back of the store when I heard a sound up front," Landau told the Post-Dispatch. "One of my employes said the place had just been held up. I got my pistol and ran to the front door.

"I saw the fellow just getting into his car. I fired three times.

Mrs. Juanita Thomas, Negro, a clerk in the store, said she saw the robber standing by the cash register. He told her: "If you want to live, take it easy."

Walter Sherman, a clerk, said he was standing near a cash register when the robber entered. The man asked Sherman for a bottle of whisky, Sherman said, and he wrapped the bottle and gave it to him.

As Sherman opened the cash register to change a bill for the man, he said, the robber reached across the counter and began to scoop out the contents. When Sherman grappled with him, the robber said: "Take your hands off this money if you want to live."

Held Hand in Pocket.

In the earlier holdup attempt at Franc's Pharmacy, the man held his hand in his pocket as if he had a weapon. He demanded that Frank Falsetti, the proprietor, give him "some drugs."

When Falsetti, at first suspecting a joke, refused, the robber said: "I've got a knife here and I'm not kidding. If you don't have any drugs, give me some money to buy some." He muttered something to the effect that he had just been discharged from City Hospital.

Finally, Falsetti shouted to Ellis Stitzer, 5521 Waterman boulevard, one of seven or eight customers in the store: "This guy's trying to hold me up." The robber then ran from the store and fled in an automobile.

Falsetti, accompanied by Stitzer, got into his automobile and gave chase. They lost the robber at Union boulevard and Easton avenue when the man went through a red light.

The car used by the robber was recovered near the Landau drug store. It had been reported stolen in the Central police district.

The dead man was about 30 years old, slender and six feet tall. He wore glasses and was unshaven.