

STILL WORK ON DOUBLE MURDER

Hastings Officers Pursuing Clue In Yager-Bird Tragedy.

Investigating Leavenworth Prisoner Who Was Near Scene.

(Special to The Star)

HASTINGS, Neb., Feb. 25.—A
clue that may lead officers nearer
to the solution of the Yager-Bird
murder mystery here was uncov-
ered by Sheriff Harm in his search
for the man who left a stained suit
case and hat in the office of an In-
dianola dentist during the week
that followed the tragedy here.

The clothes were left in exchange
for a suit of the doctor's taken
that night, and since some drugs
were missing too, officers believed
the robbery might have been
planned for the latter purpose.

The suit was sent to State Sheriff
Condit soon after it was brought
here from Dr. Emery's office at
Indianola, and the hat, which bore
a Denver firm's trademark, was
sent to authorities at Denver.

Through the hat and the name
"Ross" inside the band, the police
traced the purchase to James J.
Rossie, alias Jimmie Ross, alias
Tom Fina, alias "Jimmie the Bum,"
who is now serving a term in the
federal prison at Ft. Leavenworth,
Kan.

Rossie is described as a drug
addict. He is believed by police
here to have been the man who
was arrested in Hastings on the
day following the double murder,
but released on the next day be-
cause of insufficient evidence to
hold him.

Because of his peculiar com-
plexion, he made a lasting im-
pression upon those who saw him
and when his picture arrived here
Wednesday, a former motorcycle
officer, Donald Broughton, ex-
claimed:

"That's the same man!"

Broughton was commissioned by
the chief of police to take the man,
who gave the name here of Albert
Martz, to Juniata and see that he
was started west after his release
from arrest here.

State Sheriff Condit was much
interested in the case when noti-
fied of the sheriff's work here.

Sheriff Harm said this morning
that officials at the Leavenworth
prison have been requested to ques-
tion Rossie thoroughly in regard
to his whereabouts at the time of
the double tragedy here.

Should Rossie and Martz prove to
be the same man, however, many
unexplained points will remain to
be cleared up, Sheriff Harm said.

He refused to say whether he has
further information regarding that
the man was in Hastings during
fair which closed on the Saturday
before Clarence Yager and Hazel
Bird were found murdered east of
Hastings on Monday morning.

Mr. Condit said that while the
stains on the hat were found to be
red paint, further investigation
would be made of the clothes.