

SHOTS ARE FIRED

ONE MAN DIES AND ELEVEN PEOPLE ARE ARRESTED

The mob outside the Sweet home grew in size as the sun set on September 9, 1925.

Their shouts and chanting became louder. A rain of stones and trash struck the house, smashing windows. The eleven people inside — determined to defend the house — grew more tense and more fearful. They could sense the anger escalating outside. They could not depend on the police to control the crowd.

Shots rang out.

Two white men in the mob were struck by bullets and collapsed. One was hit in the thigh, and the other, Leon Breiner, died on the spot.

The police — who had been called to defend the people in the house — forced their way in and rounded up Ossian, Gladys, and the other nine people inside.

All eleven were arrested and escorted quickly to a paddywagon behind the house.

They were transported to the jail downtown. They would be questioned throughout the night.

Only Ossian's brother, Henry, admitted to firing a gun. All of them would wait a month and more behind bars for justice.

Meanwhile, as news of the shooting spread, the crowd outside the house continued to grow.

The mob attacked Black passengers in a car at the intersection of St. Clair and Charlevoix, a block to the east. They stopped another Black couple driving through the neighborhood, smashing the car windows and lunging inside.

Several hundred additional police officers arrived on the scene, under instructions to restore order. Still, the mob grew to as many as 5,000 people in the surrounding blocks as the night progressed.

No other arrests were made.

