



—Associated Press WIREPHOTO

Crime Bureau Agent Killed

Passersby inspect the wreckage Tuesday after state Crime Bureau agent Cliff Roberts, 41, was killed in Oklahoma City when his car hit a Rock

Island passenger train. The front end of the auto was ripped apart and Roberts was thrown 50 feet, police said. (Story on Page 4.)

Oklahoma Crime Fighter Dies as Train Splits Car

A veteran Oklahoma law enforcement officer and a Drumright woman died in traffic accidents Tuesday, raising the 1967 traffic toll for Oklahoma to 169. At this time last year 134 had died.

The victims:

MRS. H. B. CARROLL, 59, Drumright.

CLIFF ROBERTS, 41, Oklahoma City.

Roberts, 41, an investigator for the state Crime Bureau, was killed

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when his car slid into a train at an Oklahoma City Rock Island crossing.

The state Crime Bureau car was ripped in half and Roberts' body was thrown 50 feet from the point of impact.

Mrs. Carroll died in a three-vehicle collision on Oklahoma 99 a mile north of Drumright. The highway patrol said the crash involved two cars and a pickup

truck. Mrs. Carroll's husband, 59, was hospitalized.

The patrol said the Carroll car was struck in the rear by a pickup truck after the auto had pulled onto the highway from a Creek County road.

Driver of the pickup, John Howard Whitehead, 59, of Drumright, was not injured. His wife, Jennie Evelyn Whitehead, 56, received a fractured wrist and contusions.

Troopers said Carroll's car was knocked into another car stopped at an intersection across the highway. Neither the driver of that vehicle, Jess William Kinty, 60, of Oilton, nor his wife, Bernice, was injured. Carroll was admitted to a Drumright hospital with lacerations.

Roberts had a reputation as a successful fighter against underworld narcotics traffic in Oklahoma.

He teamed with other undercover agents to aid Texas Rangers in breaking a large Texas

narcotics ring. Texas officials made several arrests at Wichita Falls.

Roberts was also a key figure in bringing about the downfall of one-time narcotics czar John Dillon. He worked with local and federal officers in a Tulsa investigation that resulted in 17 persons going to jail.

Dillon operated a \$1 million a year organization in Oklahoma.

He was arrested in December, 1960, and convicted in February, 1961.

Dillon, from Coweta, failed to appear for sentencing and made the FBI's list of 10 most wanted men. His body was found in a well near Chelsea in northeastern Oklahoma in March, 1964. The slaying was never solved.

Tulsa Police Chief Jack Purdie said that although Roberts was not a Tulsa officer, he had "worked with him over a period of a year and he was a good officer and friend."

Cliff Roberts dead yesterday (3/14/67) in Oklahoma City. Car had accident with train. See Commission Exhibit 2874. Contrary to Standard's statement to the FBI, he told me Keester and Roberts had a great deal to say on the Walker shooting attempt but were afraid to speak out because of continuing financial ties to Watts, close friend of Walker's for whom Keester works. Roberts (and Keester) was an ex-Oklahoma City policeman, fired for drunkenness and shooting out public street lights. Roberts (after the Walker affair) left the detective agency he shared with Keester (which does peep-hole work for Watts' law firm) and got a job with state government under some shaky new ruling which did not require civil service exams, etc. (Last time I talked to Watts he told me Duff was working for friend of his in Oklahoma city by name of "Buttrum." This is enormously wealthy right-wing family in Oklahoma. Please recall that Duff (before securing this job) told SS he saw Ruby at Walker's. After getting job he renigged on this statement. When I asked Watts WHY his excessive concern for an old punk-like Duff, he replied: I felt sorry for him." Great balls on a duck!

Roberts' interest in narcotics may tie in with Ruby since Ruby came frequently to Ok. City. (over)

Roberts also told Standard that
Rudy told him (Roberts)
in the summer of '63
that Sen. Walker was "100%
right" about Cuba — "it
should be blown off the face
of the earth."
Roberts saw Rudy at
Vegas Club in
Summer of '63.