

N.O. Policeman Shot in Hand At DA's Office

A New Orleans police officer today accidentally fired his pistol in the district attorney's office, wounding himself in the hand. The ricocheting bullet barely missed two women employees of the office.

The policeman is Ptn. Lionel Keating who is assigned to the tactical squad. He was shot in the ring finger of the left hand and taken to Charity Hospital. The incident occurred about 11 a.m.

Keating was in the building to testify in Criminal District Court. Guns may not be worn in the courtrooms and it is common practice for policemen about to testify to check their weapons in the outer area of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's office.

Keating was taking his gun out a desk when his finger became entangled with the trigger mechanism and the gun went off, according to

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a spokesman for the district attorney's office.

The bullet struck Keating, hit the floor and ricocheted wildly across the room, narrowly missing a telephone operator and a secretary.

The sound of the gunshot was heard through much of the second floor of the building where the DA's office is located, causing some excitement.

Two other police officers who were in the DA's Office immediately took Keating to the hospital.

Garrison was not in the office at the time of the incident.