

Father of 5 Fatally Shotgunned in Tussle At Elk's Rest Club

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A 36-year-old Peorian was shot to death early Sunday on the entrance steps to the Elk's Rest Fraternal Club at 201 SW Glen Oak Ave.

Police said the fatal shooting of James C. King, of 716 W. 5th Ave., was still under investigation. However, indications were the shooting was accidental.

Shortly after the mishap, officers look into custody Albert F. Charles, 68, of 206 SW Glen Oak Ave., who has admitted firing the gun. Acting Det. Sgt. Jack Ertl refused to disclose late Sunday what Charles said in a statement given to police and representatives of the state's attorney's office.

Police said they received a call at 1:16 a.m. Sunday and on arrival found a man, later identified as King, lying in a pool of blood on the stairs leading into the club. Several bystanders told investigators that the man who did the shooting lives across the street and had gone home.

Police then went to 206 SW Glen Oak Ave., and found Charles upstairs. The man was dressing and was ready to accompany officers to the station.

He also told policemen that the shotgun used in the shooting was in the corner of a living room at the Glen Oak avenue home and

pointed the 12-gauge weapon out to them.

THE GUN, the same caliber as the empty shell found at the shooting scene, still had a loaded shell in the right barrel. The left barrel was empty, police said.

Peoria County Coroner Horace Paylon said that King died of a shotgun blast in his groin and subsequent hemorrhage. An inquest into the death is pending.

A number of witnesses to the shooting were taken to the police station early Sunday and released after giving statements to police. Charles is being held on an open charge, pending further investigation.

While official reports on how the shooting happened were scarce, an unofficial source said that Charles came into the club looking for a man.

King was at the door of the club and seeing Charles enter with a shotgun, tried to take the weapon away from him. During the brief scuffle which followed, the weapon discharged with the load hitting King in the groin.

King, the father of five children, was employed by the Lens & Camera Co. at 135 SW Jefferson Ave.



X JAMES C. KING

He was born Oct. 14, 1925, in Peoria, a son of George and Lula Stephen King. He married Ida Ann Hill in Peoria in 1951.

SHE SURVIVES him with five children; three sons, James Jr., Tillman and Bubbi and two daughters, Debbie and Evelyn, all at home; his mother, and stepfather, Ellis Garmon.

King was president of the Gospel Chorus of St. Paul's Baptist Church and was assistant superintendent of Sunday school at the church.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday at St. Paul's Baptist Church, the Rev. A. L. Abbot, pastor, officiating. Visitation will be at (Join Funeral Home) from 4 to 9 p.m. today. Burial will be in Springdale Cemetery.