

# TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE

TAMPA, FLORIDA

THE TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE – JUNE 20, 1909

## TWO INDICTED FOR THE MURDER OF WEST TAMPA MAN

Castenge Ficarrota and Andrew Re are Held for Famous Assassination of West Tampa  
Councilman

RE NOT PREVIOUSLY SUSPECTED

Arrest of Cigar Manufacturer Causes Surprise

*Startling Developments Within Past Three or Four Days and Probably Other Arrests to Follow*

In the indictment by the grand jury and subsequent arrest of Andrew Re, a well known Italian cigar manufacturer, formerly running a barber shop on Garcia Avenue, Ellinger City for the murder of G. Ficarrota, the West Tampa councilman, one of the greatest surprises this city has known in many months was sprung. Re has always been a respected member of his nationality and never was once under suspicion until the finding of the jury was made public yesterday afternoon, Re was shortly afterwards arrested by Deputy Sheriff George A. Bell and placed in the county jail.

The substance of the testimony against Re officers who are in possession of it refuse to make public, but it is stated that it is of the strongest possible nature. If not one of the actual participants in the shooting, it is alleged that Re was one of the instigators of the crime. The state expects to prove that for several weeks before Ficarrota was killed, Re drove in a buggy to the West Tampa jail almost daily and held long conversations with Castenge Ficarrota, who is charged with being a principal in the killing.

Jailor is Threatened

Re's telephone conversation with Ficarrota are alleged to have been overheard by the jailor, who notified the authorities of the circumstance after the crime had been committed. This caused Re to be shadowed by the officers working on the case. Some time later the jailor received a threatening letter, advising him to leave the city at once or else lose his life. Although the authorities kept their investigation as quiet as possible, it is alleged that Re learned several days ago that he was likely to be arrested, and it was feared that he would attempt to escape. However, Re was found at his home when Mr. Bell called. He made no demonstration, but insisted himself ignorant and innocent of the crime.

Another indictment was found by the grand jury against Castenge Ficarrota, a distant relative of the murdered man, who was arrested a short time after the murder, and who has been in jail ever since. Castenge Ficarrota is alleged to be one of the men who did the actual shooting, as the slugs loaded into shotgun shells which caused the councilman's death were traces to Castenge Ficarrota, and other shells loaded in like manner were found in his home. These were the only indictments found in the Ficarrota case.

### Statement by Sheriff

Speaking of the case yesterday afternoon, Sheriff Jackson said "There has been evidence of the strongest possible nature which has developed in the past three days, but we are not yet in a position to state whether it is more damaging against Ficarrotta or against Re. There is believed to be no doubt but that the clues at present being followed by officers will implicate others, and there is strong likelihood of other arrests being made. Five or six may be arrested as accessories, and probably at least three will be arrested before the next term of circuit court."

Sheriff Jackson declared that there are two different theories to be followed in the case, one of them being that Ficarrotta had been killed because he refused to make heavy contributions to defend Orniferio Chiramente, recently convicted of the murder of B. LaBella. Asked if he thought theory the more probable, Sheriff Jackson replied that he did not. Sheriff Jackson did not state what the other theory is. Asked if he thought the motive to be the one stated by the party who wrote the postal card to State's Attorney Phillips, Sheriff Jackson replied in the negative

### Other Indictments Found

Marcelina Garcia, the mullatto bartender who killed another mullatto in a fight in Ybor City, and who indicted for murder in the first degree some time ago, was indicated for manslaughter. When, at the instigation of Attorney Robert McNamee, habeas corpus proceedings were brought, Judge Wall decided that Garcia could not be held on that charge, but sent him to be tried before criminal court on a charge of manslaughter. Judge Gordon decided that he could not try Garcia for manslaughter after he had been indicted by the grand jury for murder in the first degree, so the case was returned to the grand jury. Dennis Kinslow, a negro, was indicted of the killing which occurred at Harney several days ago.

*Before adjournment yesterday, the grand jury brought in the following general presentment:*

In the circuit court of the sixth judicial circuit of Florida, for Hillsborough County, spring term.

We, the grand jury, duly empaneled and sworn to diligently inquire and true presentments make of all matters presented to our body, beg leave to report as follows:

First – We have investigated all cases of homicide brought to our attention and have presented such indictments to the court as in our judgment the evidence warranted.

Second – For insufficient evidence we are unable to find a true bill against George Johnson for the killing of Eli Otis, which occurred at St. Petersburg.

Third – We have visited the county jail and find the prisoners to be satisfied with the general treatment and the premises are in good sanitary condition.

Fourth – We find the Sulphur Springs Traction company are operating their cars without fenders on the front of the same, thereby endangering the lives of pedestrians. We ask that this matter be looked at after by the proper authorities.

Fifth – Complaints are made by residents of the county that there are no provisions made at trolley line crossings to get over the tracks were they cross the county roads. The same conditions applies to the railroad companies. As they are now they are dangerous to the traveling public. We advise that this matter be looked after.

Sixth – The present place of deposit of city refuse is used also as a place for deposit of dead cats, chickens and dogs, and the stench arising from these deposits is dangerous to the health of the community. This nuisance should be abated at once by the health authorities.

Seventh – In conclusion we desire to thank the Honorable Joseph B. Wall, Judge of this court and the State's Attorney Hon. H.S. Phillips for their courteous assistance to this body during its deliberations.

Donald S. McKay, Foreman, G.W. Lyons, Clerk.

#### To Defend Italians

Seen yesterday afternoon regarding the matter, Attorney Robert McNamee admitted the report to be true that he had been engaged to defend Castenge Ficarrotta and Andrew Re. Mr. McNamee and other counsel which may be engaged will make a strong fight for them. Friends of Ficarrotta have engaged Macfarlane & Davis to prosecute.