

A Typical Incident in the Life of Harry Simms

By TOM JOHNSON

TYPICAL of Harry Simms activity in the Kentucky strike was his action only a few hours before the bullet of the murderer snuffed out his young life, in saving seven leading comrades from his own fate at the risk of his life.

I had pulled into Pineville early Tuesday night for a last minute meeting with leading comrades from the Strike Executive before the mass demonstration to greet the Writers' Committee which was scheduled for the next day. When I arrived at the strikers home where the meeting was to be held I found Harry already there together with three of the local leaders. Three more local comrades were to come to the meeting and as every minute of delay meant additional danger of the meeting being discovered and raided Harry volunteered to go down to the relief warehouse to speed up the comrades who were late.

He returned with them a few minutes later and as he came into the room I saw something was wrong. "We were trailed by a carload of gun thugs coming back, but managed to lose them," Harry told us. "As we pulled up at the house here we found another car load parked down the street with their lights off. As we came in they left—undoubtedly to go in to town for reinforcements for a raid."

In a moment we were ready to leave. The eight of us piled into the two cars outside and ready to defend ourselves from attack we swept out of town to a strikers home miles distant where our meeting was at last held.

It was from this meeting that Harry left with another comrade for the 12-mile walk to Brush Creek from which he never returned.

Unquestionably Harry's timely warning—brought to us at the risk of his own life—alone saved those of us in the house from going on a ride that night—a ride from which none of us would have returned.