

Hattie Gainer Wahh. Post:

Mrs. Hattie Gainer had suffered from arthritis for the last several years. Her legs were often swollen and it was painful to see her walk. one of the favorite pasttimes of the 54-yr.-old woman was to sit at the left corner window in the living room of her second floor apt. on Hunterdon St. There she would talk to friends on the street in the neighborhood where she had lived for more than 20 years.

National Guardsmen, state and local police had engaged in intense fire with reported snipers late Sat. eve. on Bergen S. two blocks away from Mrs. Gainer's apt.

Despite the closeness of the firing, Mrs. Gainer continued sitting at her window that day, talking with passersby about the riot.

While Mrs. Gainer talked with friends, her three grandchildren, Mrs. Evans, (her daughter Marie, who lives directly below her mother), played on the living room floor.

"I was sitting in my living room talking with a girlfriend," said Mrs. Evans. "It was about 8:30."

Suddenly, Mrs. Evans said, the National Guard and police moved in without warning. They were presumably after a sniper.

"They just started shooting," she said. "Three bullets came by my head. My girlfriend and I hit the floor. Then I heard my children upstairs screaming and crying."

Mrs. Evans rushed out of her apartment in an attempt to go upstairs but was stopped by a state trooper who ordered her to ~~lie~~ lie on her stomach.

"My mother's up there," she said, "and something's wrong with her."

When she got into the room, she found her mother lying on the floor with blood rushing out of her chest and hardly able to breathe.

"The police were saying 'oh, we made a mistake. we shot the wrong person. we're killing innocent people.'" she said.

Mrs. Gainer died on the way to the hospital.

Hollie West