

Jack Zuta

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017

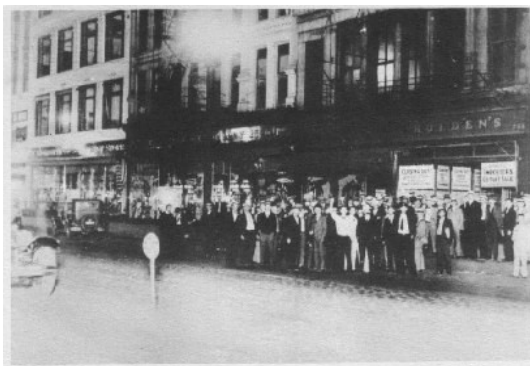
Jack Zuta was Al Capone's "greaser" (that is, accountant). Born in Poland, he immigrated to Chicago when he was 25 years old. He started out as a "goods man" (that is, a junk dealer) and he thrived to the extent that he was able to rent a hotel on the near West side and to set up a prostitution crib. He was successful at this business venture as well and soon attracted the attention of several members of Al Capone's Outfit—namely, Mike "The Pike" Heitler and Jake "Greasy Thumb" Guzik. Soon he was recruited as an accountant (that is, "the one who spreads the grease on political wheels").

During southsider Capone's bootlegger war with northsider Bugs Moran, Zuta "flipped" to Moran's gang and moved to the North Side of Chicago. Of course, this didn't make him particularly popular with Capone and his Outfit and he was forced to lay low.

At this time, Jake Lingle, a reporter (that is, "newshawk") for the Chicago Tribune, focused in a series of articles on shutting down Moran and his operation. Normally, this would have been a very dangerous goal. However, Lingle was a friend of Caspone's and figured that that relationship would protect him. Nonetheless, Moran asked Zuta if he had any contacts on the South side that could take care of Lingle. On June 9, 1930, Lingle was murdered on his way to the race track. Almost immediately, the dirt on the street was that Zuta was the "bankroll" for the hit.



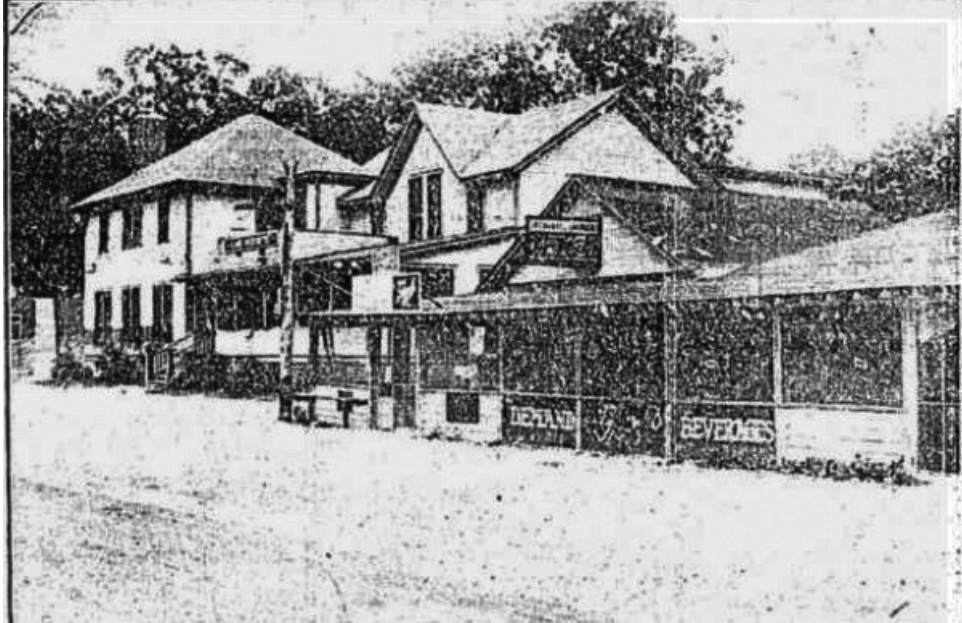
Jake Zuta



The street the night Zuta was attacked

It didn't take long for Capone to put out a contract on Zuta's life. On June 10th, as he was leaving Police Headquarters where he had been questioned about the Lingle hit, "he didn't get four blocks before up comes this sedan with droppers hanging off the side and they start pouring lead in the cruiser. They was all shooting back and forth and it got pretty hot 'til Zuta red-lighted into an alley" (*Stone Killer*, pp. 10-11). Zuta escaped and headed for a resort in Wisconsin to hide out.

A month later, on August 1st at the Lake Resort Lodge on Lake Nemabin near Oconomowoc, Zuta was gunned down by five men as he listened to music (he was listening to “Good For You, Bad For Me” played by Fred Waring’s Pennsylvanians) on a jukebox next to a crowded dance floor.



Lake Resort Lodge