

# Nicholas Raczenko - Murder

Friday, July 8, 1983

Nicholas Raczenko (Radchenka), was born in Minsk, Byelorussia, in the former Soviet Union (now Belarus), in 1925. When he was a teenager his father was shipped to Siberia. During World War II his mother and four brothers were sent to a German concentration camp, where his mother and one brother were killed by Allied bombing intended to liberate the camp. In 1949 Raczenko came to Canada by way of Germany, eventually living on Lilly Street in downtown Winnipeg.

On July 8th, 1983, Raczenko, then 58 years old, visited several downtown bars with two acquaintances. The trio ended up at the Yale Hotel on Main Street. At about 11:45 p.m. Raczenko left the hotel alone after having an altercation with an unknown male in the washroom.

Raczenko walked south on the west sidewalk of Main Street. As he approached Dufferin Street, Raczenko passed by a young adult male that was standing on the corner. The male suddenly lunged at Raczenko and stabbed him in the stomach for no apparent reason. Raczenko, not realizing that he was stabbed yet, asked the male why he did this. The male stabbed Raczenko again while stating *"Here, I'll give it to you again"* and ran off west on Dufferin Street.

Raczenko collapsed on the sidewalk and was assisted into the Northern Hotel by a beer vendor clerk. The clerk later told police that while he was helping Raczenko, he had observed three males between the ages of 18 and 20 standing on the corner of Dufferin and Main Street that ran off as soon as he looked at them. The vendor could not provide any other descriptors of the males.

Raczenko was taken to the hospital and died four months later from complications as a result of the stabbing. Raczenko was able to describe his killer to the police before his passing.



**The male that stabbed Raczenko was described as a white male between 18 to 20 years of age, 5'3" with a thin build and blond curly hair. The male was wearing an orange T-shirt and black pants. This male would likely be in his early 40's today.**

As nothing was taken from Raczenko, robbery was not the apparent motive for the assault. Although he could not identify his killer or the motive, Raczenko had received a threatening phone call two weeks earlier and it is possible that the stabbing was not random.

Nicholas Raczenko was a regular patron of Winnipeg's Main street hotels and was fairly well known in the area. However, it was unknown if he had any enemies that would want to see him harmed.

As Raczenko died four months after he was stabbed, the murder gained little attention in the media either at the time of the assault or his death. He left behind a wife and three children.