

CHARLES HABER, 51, AN EXPERT ON LOCKS

Charles L. Haber, a nationally known expert on safes and locks, died Tuesday of a heart attack at his home, 41-21 Thirty-ninth Place, Long Island City, Queens. He was 51 years old.

Mr. Haber, whose nickname was "Dr. Locksmith," was referred to by the police as "a legal safecracker." He had opened hundreds of safes—some without knowing the combination and others that had become jammed. His work also included testifying as an expert witness in court trials.

At his death, Mr. Haber was president of the Bridge Hardware Company, Inc., 1133 Second Avenue, a concern he had started working for more than thirty years ago as a \$15-a-week locksmith. Eight years later he became the sole owner.

Mr. Haber's work included changing or remastering every lock in a jail or large building after the master key had been lost or stolen. Among the jails was the one in Long Island City where Willie Sutton, bank robber and jailbreaker, once was confined. Mr. Haber had performed similar tasks in the Paramount and Times Tower Buildings and the Delmonico Hotel.

Surviving Mr. Haber are his widow, Renee, and three daughters, the Misses Susan and Judith Haber and Mrs. Daniel Dombey of Union, N. J.