

WEATHER FORECAST

Fair tonight and Thursday.

LAS VEGAS OPTIC

WE PRINT THE NEWS

If You Read It in The Optic, It's So

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EAST LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO, THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1939

FIVE O'CLOCK EDITION.

RESTAURANT EMPLOYEE WHO RESISTS HOLD-UPS, MURDERED

Attempt to Rob Railroad Avenue Lunch Counter at an Early Hour This Morning Results in Death of James Baker--Reached For Gun and Robbers Shot Him Through Heart--Thugs Escape.

James Baker, night manager at the Meridian restaurant on Railroad avenue, prevented the robbery of this restaurant at an early hour this morning, but it cost him his life. When he reached for a gun under the lunch counter, instead of promptly obeying the command of the hold-ups to throw up his hands, one of the robbers shot him, inflicting a mortal wound which resulted in almost instant death. Before the night cook who was in the rear of the restaurant, could reach the front part, the robbers escaped out the front door, through which they entered, and had disappeared in the darkness. Up to late this afternoon the police had not the slightest clue as to the murderers.

No Eye-Witnesses The killing of Baker will perhaps remain an unsolved mystery. There were no eye-witnesses to the attempted hold-up and subsequent tragedy, as the cook was in the back yard at the time of the shooting, and there was no one in the front part of the restaurant except Baker and his assailants. Baker is dead and the man or men who killed him made their escape unobserved. Although Night Officer E. C. Ward was called within a few minutes after the shooting, and was on the scene within 10 minutes, so far as known he made no determined effort to apprehend the murderers, for after a cursory examination, Ward told him that Baker had committed suicide and let it go at that. Chief of Police Ben Coles did not learn of the murder until this morning and the sheriff's office was not notified until almost noon.

Summing up the above details, it would seem that the murder or murders have by this time put miles between themselves and Las Vegas, and their apprehension now seems improbable if not impossible. There were freight trains out during the early morning hours both east and west and it stands to reason that they would have taken advantage of the first opportunity to get away. If they are caught, it will probably be due to the vigilance of some trainman, on whose train they may be stealing a ride in an attempt to get as far away from the scene of the crime as possible. Not until late this morning were telegrams sent to the surrounding towns asking the officers to watch for suspicious characters aboard freight trains which had passed

through this city early today and on which the hold-ups might be riding.

Cook Heard Shots O. W. White, who is night cook at the restaurant, was the only person besides Baker near at hand when the shooting occurred, and he was not even in the restaurant at the time, but had gone to the back yard for something. As he started into the kitchen, he heard a shot, followed within a few seconds by another shot. He rushed in to see what the trouble was and as he stepped into the kitchen, Baker pushed open the swinging doors dividing the dining room from the kitchen. White asked: "What is the matter, Jimmie?" but says he had to repeat the question before Baker, who stood leaning against the door, revolver in hand, after repeated efforts to speak, managed to blurt out "send for a doctor, send for a doctor quick, I'm shot."

White hastened to the telephone and told central to give him a doctor. Doctor Mills was called, as was also Dr. Crall and Dr. Gordon. White also called police headquarters and informed Night Officer Ward of the shooting. The doctors arrived within a few minutes, as did also the officer, but while White was at the telephone, Baker, without uttering another word, reeled and fell to the floor dead. He was beyond all earthly aid when the doctors reached the restaurant.

H. B. Hubbard, proprietor of the restaurant, was then informed by telephone of the shooting of Baker, and he ordered the body turned over to J. C. Johnson & Co., undertakers, and it was removed to their morgue.

Bullet Found on Floor The bullet which killed Baker was of 45-calibre. It struck him a little to the left of the center of his breast piercing his neck tie and vest lapel and came out at the left shoulder blade. It passed so near the heart as to inflict a wound which caused almost instant death. This bullet was found on the floor back of the lunch counter this morning, while an employe was sweeping out the restaurant. It had blood on it and a small piece of splintered bone sticking to it.

The shot fired by Baker at his murderer or murderers, was from a 38-calibre Smith & Wesson revolver. The bullet went through the window, adjoining the front door at a rather high range, but this is easily accounted for, as Baker was mortally

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DETAILS ARRANGED FOR OPTIC'S MILITARY BALL

Say, boys, you of the New Mexico National Guard, tomorrow night is going to be an event in your lives which none of you will soon forget. You are going to have the best kind of a time. Just think of it, you are to be honored guests at The Optic's big military ball and Las Vegas society is going to turn out in full force to help The Optic show you a good time. If there is anything you want tomorrow night, just "holler" and you'll get it.

All day yesterday and today a force of workmen have been busy getting the Duncan opera house, where the ball is to take place, ready for the occasion. The seats have been taken out, the floor scraped, cleaned and waxed until it is slick as plans. And the decorating of the theater is being proceeded with, too. This is to be especially fine. If there is anything that The Optic has overlooked in arranging this affair, why it is certainly not its fault, for every possible detail is being looked after personally by the members of the editorial staff. The

members of the staff will act as the floor committee at the dance, introduce you around and see that you get started off right when the music begins.

Will there be plenty of girls, matrons and games at the ball? Well, we should say so. We've arranged that part of it by inviting every tripper of the light fantastic in the feminine world to come out and help us entertain. Present indications are that there will be more girls than boys, so you see you'll not be disappointed in this respect.

Watch tomorrow evening's paper for the final announcement. The musical program, committees, etc. will appear in The Optic. The programs will be handsome souvenirs of the occasion and there will be plenty to go around. Now, don't forget tomorrow is the night; don't forget the special street cars that will carry every man in uniform to and from the encampment grounds free; don't by all means forget to be there and to bring your girls.

SPAIN RUSHING SOLDIERS TO MOROCCAN FRONTIER

Madrid, July 22.—King Alfonso has cancelled all engagements on account of the serious situation in Morocco. Today the first line of reserves were summoned to colors and parliament asked for appropriations for further reinforcements, which will be rushed to Morocco. It is possible General Weyler, former captain general of Cuba, will be given supreme command in Morocco. The liberal press is joining in the popular protest against sending soldiers to Africa, alleging the war is for the sole purpose of protecting private mining interests. The newspapers demand a convocation of the Cortes and a statement of the government's intention.

Serious Internal Troubles During the night, families of Spanish troops about to leave to reinforce the garrison at Millilla assembled at the railroad station and attempted to prevent the departure of their relatives. A desperate battle with the

police followed. Clubs and revolvers being used. A dozen were wounded and many arrested.

The civil government at Bilbao has authorized a meeting to protest against the war. Processions are being organized and rioting feared.

It is reported from Algeria that patriots in the Salk region of Morocco are preaching a holy war and preparing to join the tribesmen before Millilla.

General Morina, commander of the Spanish troops in Morocco, reports the Moors displaying desperate courage and using modern weapons. He predicts a long and hard campaign.

Battalion Revolts Barcelona, July 22.—A riot broke out here today among the troops about to embark for Malilla. An entire battalion revolted and threatened the colonel and other officers with bayonets. Other troops disarmed the mutineers.

SURGEON TESTIFIES SUTTON SUICIDED

Annapolis, Md., July 22.— Surgeon General George Pickrell, U. S. N., who attended Lieut. Sutton after he was shot, testified today that the bullet entered Sutton's head on top near the back and a little to the right. This is much disputed.

Surgeon Pickrell stated that the fatal shot was fired within two feet of Sutton's head and in his opinion could have been self-inflicted. Taking the revolver, he illustrated the manner in which he believed Sutton shot himself.

Col. Doyer, senior officer of the marine corps at Annapolis, told of the report of the shooting made to him by the officers on the night of the shooting. He said Sutton's heart was still beating when he arrived, but that he died before he got to a hospital.

On cross examination, Pickrell said Sutton's body showed no other injuries than the bullet wound, which could have caused death.

Lieut. Willing, officer of the day, related seeing a fight between Sutton and Adams, and admitted saying, "Let Adams go ahead and knock Sutton's head off." He told of taking the revolver from Sutton's hand after he shot himself and stated there was no doubt but that it was suicide.

THREE HUNDRED LOSE LIVES IN EARTHQUAKE

Victoria, B. C., July 22.—The steamer Tricolor just arrived from Java, reports an earthquake on the west coast of Sumatra, in which 300 lives were lost, following the eruption of the volcano of Mount Kerintji, supposed to be extinct.

RAIN INTERFERES WITH MANEUVERS

At the national guard encampment grounds this morning the rain interfered with the regular planned program, and as a result the convoy attack was called off. This afternoon, however, the regular planned events were carried out on schedule time.

The afternoon's events consisted of a battalion parade and the official inspection as required by the United States law governing militia encampments. The inspection was under the supervision of Capt. A. S. Brooks, U. S. A., and was held on the parade grounds of the camp. It was truly an imposing sight to view these militiamen, marching like veterans and to see what splendid control the officers had over their men. Today's parade was a thousand fold better than the battalion parade held earlier in the encampment, and the officers are to be congratulated upon getting their men into such splendid shape, especially in so short a period.

Tomorrow's program will consist of the postponed convoy attack in the morning, and in the afternoon there will be but one event, in anticipation of The Optic's ball, and that will be a battalion drill, which will take place between 3 and 4 o'clock. It is to be hoped that as many of the townspeople as possible will be present at this drill, as it is well worth a trip to the grounds to see.

This morning saw a number of visitors at the encampment, and all of them expressed themselves as being surprised at the improvements in this camp over the camp held here two years ago. D. C. Winters was among these visitors, and he also was loud

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BOLD HIGHWAYMAN SHOOT'S TRACTION CAR CONDUCTOR

George Schmidt Shows Fight When Commanded to Throw Up His Hands and is Winged by Robber--Assailant Flees When Fired Upon by Nervy Employe and Makes Good His Escape.

The night of the 21st of July will long be remembered as a night famous in the criminal history of this city. Las Vegas is truly going back to its early pioneer days, for besides a murder, the details of which are given in the first column of this paper, there occurred an attempted hold-up of a street car, and one that would undoubtedly have proved successful, had it not been for the nerve or almost foolhardy bravery of Geo. Schmidt, the conductor of the car. The attempted hold-up took place at about 9:15 o'clock last night. At this hour George Schmidt, who had charge of one of the traction cars, had just completed his run to St. Anthony's Sanitarium, and had turned the electric current off the car, in order to reverse the trolley, and start on his return trip to the plaza.

Schmidt had gotten out of the car, and was walking around holding the trolley rope in his hand, when he was startled by the sudden approach of a man, who shoved a revolver in his face with the command to "throw up your hands."

Schmidt Showed Fight Schmidt, instead of complying with the robber, reached for his Colt's 45, which he always carries as an employe of the Traction company. When his assailant saw his hand move toward his hip pocket, he fired, not once, but twice, and his aim was so good that he struck Schmidt in the thumb of the left hand with one of the shots. This, while enough to feaze an ordinary man, did, not effect Schmidt in the least, for he drew his gun, and in turn shot at the highwayman, firing twice. His aim, however, was not true, for he did not wing his man, but the shots had the effect of making his assailant flee.

Up to this time Schmidt had been so excited that he did not know that he had been wounded, although as soon as he did discover it, he fastened the trolley in place, and brought the car back to town as well as he could considering the condition in which his hand was.

Robbery Probable Motive Schmidt stated at his home this morning to a representative of The Optic, that he doubted if robbery had been the motive of the attack, for he had not collected as many fares as usual considering the encampment. He had in his pocket exactly \$8.90 of the company's money, and \$3.50 of his own money, making a total of \$12.40, a sum hardly large enough to

tempt any man to go to such an extreme.

Schmidt went to Dr. Pest, who dressed his wound, and found that while the bone of the thumb had not been broken, nevertheless, it had been grazed by the bullet, and while it is not a very serious wound in itself, it is exceedingly painful. This morning the wound was still bleeding slightly, and this is regarded as a good sign, because whatever foreign matter is in the wound, will be carried out by the blood. He will be laid up for some days.

Company Offers Reward The street car company is acting in a most creditable manner, for besides paying Schmidt his full salary during the time he is laid up, this morning offered a reward of \$50 for the arrest and conviction of the highwayman.

The incident recalls another attempt of a somewhat similar nature, that was made in the city about six months ago. This time J. H. Noyes was the conductor concerned, who after some trouble mastered his assailants—there were two of them—by striking one of them over the head with his controller handle, rendering him unconscious, and putting the other to flight. It is thought in some quarters that the two crimes may have been committed by the same persons.

TWO SHOT IN RIOT AT KENOSHA, WIS.

Milwaukee, July 22.—A special dispatch from Kenosha, Wis., says that in a riot at the plant of N. R. Allen & Son's tanning company there this morning two were shot and several seriously injured. The strikers attempted to prevent the reopening of the plant. A committee of strikers were in the general offices of the company attempting to make a settlement of the strike at the time of the shooting. Negotiations were immediately called off by the company. Armed strikers are parading the streets and the governor has been asked for troops to protect property. The police are able to do but little with the strikers. The company has refused to hold further parley and all departments of the plant are closed. The inhabitants are refusing to be sworn in as deputies. The sale of weapons has been stopped by the police.

WEALTHY RANCHMAN VICTIM OF DEADLY LIGHTNING BOLT

In the early hours of Monday morning, Tebbert came upon the unconscious body of the unfortunate man and brought him to Roy for adequate medical treatment. Tebbert saw that the prostrate man had been struck by lightning, as his horse was found dead beside him. Although the physicians did everything possible to save his life, the exposure of 63 hours on the prairie proved too much and he died Tuesday morning.

Schneider was an unmarried man of about 40 years of age, who has been living for some time alone in the vicinity of Mills. He had several relatives in Jefferson City, Mo., and the body was shipped there for burial.

Special to The Optic. Roy, N. M., July 22.— Benjamin Schneider, a farmer who lives on a claim near Mills, Mora county, was found unconscious on the prairie last Monday by Henry Tebbert, a neighbor.

Although complete details are lacking as to the affair, it is understood that Schneider started out on horseback from his claim last Friday afternoon about 4 o'clock, in search of some discarded railroad ties, which he proposed using as fire wood.

Late Sunday night Henry Tebbert began to wonder where his neighbor was, and shortly afterwards started to make a systematic search for him.

GREAT SEA WALL SAVES GALVESTON FROM RUIN

Galveston, July 22.— To the great sea wall, a gigantic mass of marble and concrete 17 feet high and 17 feet thick at its base, finished four years ago, which yesterday withstood the onslaught of the raging gulf hurricane, is attributed the fact that Galveston still stands today, and that there was not a repetition of the disaster of 1900 when the city was destroyed and thousands of lives lost.

In the vicinity of Galveston the only loss of life occurred at Tarpon pier, where the waves swept ten persons from the rocks and they were all drowned. All night boats searched the bay for their bodies, but return-

ed empty handed. The bodies will probably be swept out to sea.

Working by lantern, gangs labored all night repairing the railroad trestle connecting Galveston with the mainland and railroad communication was resumed by noon today. This is the only bridge, and until repaired the island is entirely cut off, as no launch will attempt to cross the raging bay today.

Reports from up and down the gulf coast show that Galveston was the center of the storm. Rolover, Cape Land and Patton beach, where 300 people from Beaumont and other cities

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