

BANDITS RESORT TO VIOLENCE AND TORTURE

Shepherd and Family Held Up in Home near Progreso, and Robbed of all their Savings, by Five Masked Men Bandits Secure \$180 and Watch

Epifanio Vijil, whose home is four miles southeast of Progreso, and who with his family was held up by five masked men and robbed of about one hundred and eighty dollars and a gold watch on Thursday night, January 13, 1910, was in Estancia Tuesday of this week. In talking to a News reporter, he told his story about as follows:

"Some time after dark, as everything about the house was quiet, suddenly there came a noise at the door, as if some one was trying to lift the latch and enter. I stepped towards the door, but before reaching it, it was hurriedly thrust open and a number of revolvers were held to my face, at the same time a voice telling me not to move or I would be killed at once. My hands were tied behind my back, one of the bandits, of whom I had by this time seen there were five, continued to hold his gun in my face. My wife, who had been in the kitchen, hearing the noise, came rushing in, only to face several guns. When she spoke one of the bandits fired his gun the bullet grazing Mrs. Vijil's forehead. Her hands were also bound behind her back, and a handkerchief was closely tied about her head, covering both nose and mouth, almost cutting off her breath. My daughter, thinking it strange that neither my wife nor I spoke, came from the kitchen, to meet a like reception from the bandits.

"After securing us helpless, the robbers demanded money and lots of it, claiming that they knew we had quite a bit hid away in the house, and demanded of me to tell them where. Seeing we were helpless, I motioned toward a trunk, saying it was in there. One of the party rushed outside for an ax with which to break open the trunk. He begged them not to destroy the trunk, that the keys were in my pocket. As my hands were tied, I could not produce the keys, and one of them coming over grabbed the pocket, tearing the whole pocket away in his haste to secure the keys. Upon unlocking the trunk, he threw the things out until he found the money, about one hundred and eighty dollars. They also took a watch, for which I had paid twenty-five dollars.

Examination Easy

On last Friday and Saturday, County Superintendent Chris L. Burt conducted the semi-annual teachers examination at the school house, there being ten applicants. Of these two, Miss Mary E. Lobb and J. I. Ferguson, took the examination to complete their first grade certificates. Besides these two, the applicants were: J. D. Stephens, Willard; T. E. Underwood, Estancia; Miss Laura Young, Estancia; Effie Foster, Cedarvale; Elsie Hall, Mountainair; E. S. Dill, Mountainair; Mrs. J. H. Lynch, McIntosh; and Concepcion Perea, Torreon.

The questions are reported to have been rather easier than usual, much to the delight of the applicants. That Torrance county teachers are equal to any in the territory is shown by the number of higher grade certifi-

"Not satisfied with this amount the robbers demanded to know where the rest of the money was. I told them there was no more. That I was a poor man and that was all I had saved. Evidently they did not believe me, as they were not satisfied. One of the gang took off my shoe, and rolling up a piece of paper placed it between my toes, and threatened to light it, if I did not reveal the hiding place of the rest of the money. As there was no more, I could not, and he struck a match and set the paper a-fire. Not satisfied with this, he rolled up another piece of paper and after placing it between my toes, grabbed the lamp and poured oil over it, to which he then applied a burning match. At this my wife succeeded in moving the bandage over her mouth sufficient to speak, and begged and prayed with them to spare our lives as they had all our savings. Upon hearing her prayer, calling upon the Holy Mary to save us, the bandits held a hurried conversation, then unlocked the door, taking the key with them to the outside. They placed the key in the door and fumbled with the lock as if trying to lock us in. After some minutes I succeeded in twisting my hands around to my pocket and secured my knife, with which I cut the bandages from my wife's hands, who in turn released myself and daughter.

"The bandits spoke Spanish, but made many mistakes, so I think they were Americans who had learned some Spanish. Their faces were covered so I could not see them. Later I found where they had had their horses about two hundred yards from the house. Friday we tracked them quite a way, and on Saturday followed them almost to Mountainair.

Mr. Vijil showed his awful fright even five days after the ordeal his nerves being still a tremble, and after having recounted the awful experience, could with difficulty control himself. Asked a number of questions, he replied to each, and then immediately returned to his story, repeating portions of it over and over. The officers have taken up the clues in the hope of running down the bandits, but the chances are strongly against them.

icates held by them, and the further fact that all are striving to further improve their grades.

Superintendent Burt announces that during the spring, probably some time in March, an examination will be held for those pupils who have completed the 8th grade of the common schools. This is the first year that such an examination has been held in New Mexico, and shows that our schools under the efficient management of Superintendent Clark are fast forging ahead. From reports throughout the county, there ought to be between 75 and 80 take this examination. Arrangements are being made to hold the examination in several different places in the county for the convenience of applicants.

John Clark, section foreman and his wife have both been on the sick list. Mr. Clark thinks he will be ready for duty in a few days.

Hogrefe--Steuer

At High noon on Monday, January 17, Rev. B. F. Summers united in marriage Miss Jessie Hogrefe and E. N. Steuer, of Stanley, at the office of the county treasurer in Estancia. Mr. Steuer is the operator and agent for the New Mexico Central at Stanley, while his bride is one of the belles of that little city. Both have many friends, whom the News joins in wishing for Mr. and Mrs. Steuer a long and happy married life.

STATEHOOD BILL PASSES HOUSE

Not Much Trouble Anticipated in the Senate

Washington, Jan. 17.—For the third time the house of representatives passed a bill today giving separate statehood to the territories of New Mexico and Arizona. The vote was taken amid applause. The absence of opposition was the most striking feature of the debate.

The bill provides the limitations that are to prevail in the power of the states to legislate, restricts the sale of liquor among Indians and provides methods for state organization. Friends of the measure declare they have encouraging assurances of its passage by the senate. —Albuquerque Journal.

Prospects Good For Measure in Senate

Washington, D. C., Jan. 17.—That the Taft plan for statehood for the territories of New Mexico and Arizona will succeed in eliminating opposition in the senate and turning indifference into cooperation is becoming evident. Political developments in Indiana where Beveridge is said to be facing the fight of his life are believed to have something to do with the changed attitude of the Hoosier senator toward the present statehood bill as an administration measure.

The support of Mr. Aldrich is believed to be assured for the bill in view of his close relations with the administration in connection with certain important measures in which the president and the senator from Rhode Island are equally interested.

The statehood bill, presented this session as a conservative measure particularly desired and advocated by the president, is believed to be a different proposition from any previous effort for the admission of New Mexico and Arizona into the union. The proposal of Taft to eliminate the possibility of another Oklahoma incident: his cautious plan for the holding of constitutional conventions and other strictly administration features of the new bill have done away with much of the opposition which has heretofore been based on the fear of radical developments in connection with the entry of two new states into the union. With the objectionable phases of the proposition cut out, political circumstances it is believed, were never more peculiarly favorable for the successful outcome of the long fight for statehood made by the southwestern territories. —Albuquerque Journal.

W. S. Rogers of ten miles northwest of town was a business visitor to Estancia Friday. Mr. Rogers is the cauliflower and cabbage farmer of that section.

Planing Mill Busu

The News Reporter visited the planing mill owned by E. Romero, Tuesday and found the machinery whizzing and buzzing, dressing out lumber to be shipped where ever wanted. It is quite an experience to one who never inspected this kind of machinery before. Mr. Romero reports that he has a million feet of lumber on hand and has orders for it as fast as he can dress it out.

ATTEMPT TO BURN MCGOY'S STORE

Bold Fiend Fires Building Twice in same Night

On Friday of last week news reached Estancia of the attempt to burn the immense store of W. M. McCoy & Co., at Mountainair on Sunday morning, January 9th. The populace of the Ozone City was awakened by the screeching of the whistles of the pump engine and the railroad yard engine to find flames shooting high on the east side of the store building. Two men sleeping in the second story of the building were the first to "get busy" and with the water from their room, right over the fire, soon had the blaze extinguished. It appears that some scamp, probably in revenge had set fire to the building. Preparations are being made to build an addition on the east side of the store, the foundation being already in place. The drop siding had been removed, and the wall boxed up. The miscreant had loosened some of the boards here, and after saturating the wall with kerosene, fired it.

Some twenty or more men appeared on the scene to assist in putting out the fire. Smelling smoke throughout the building a careful investigation was made, and in the cellar, it was found that the sleepers of the building had been saturated with oil and these were badly charred. While putting this fire out, the engine whistles again took up their tune. On rushing out, the fire fighters found that the wall had been fired in another place, while they had been busy in the cellar. One of the boards had been removed and a sack stuffed with excelsior and paper, saturated with oil, had been forced behind the boxing and fired. On removing the sack, a name of a certain party was found on one of the papers, which may prove a clew in locating the coward who perpetrated the dastardly deed.

Young Folks Compete as Orators

A large audience greeted the girls and boys at the Methodist Church last Tuesday night, in the double Silver Medal Contest, held under the auspices of the local W. C. T. U. One of the boys had withdrawn from the contest while another, probably on account of uncontrollable stage-fright failed to put in an appearance, thus leaving only four in the boy's contest. Five of the young ladies made their appearance, and all did well, considering the short time they had had for drill and rehearsal.

Miss Minnie Law, L. A. Rousseau and Earl Scott acted as judges, awarding the girls' medal to Miss Nannie Marsh and the boys' medal to Ralph Bedford.

Those participating were: Misses Edith and Bessie Atkinson, Nannie Marsh, Rena Smith and Goldie Short, and Masters Henry Hayes, Piccard Walker, Edgar Lambert and Ralph Bedford.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION FIXES VALUES OF PROPERTY

Valuations about the Same as in Past Years, which will Result in Same High Rate of Assessment. Land Values Vary from 25 cents an Acre up

Santa Fe, N. M., Jan. 14.—The official proceedings of the Territorial Board of Equalization, which met in regular meeting in Santa Fe this week, were given out for publication today. The proceedings, in tabulated form give the valuations placed by the board upon the different classes of property throughout the territory. Railroad property is assessed on a mileage basis, this property including all rolling stock and other equipment, as well as permanent improvements. The property and equipment of sleeping car companies was not assessed by the board, this class of rolling stock being cared for by taxation made by the federal government.

The following valuations apply to property in the county of Torrance:

On the New Mexico Central railroad from Santa Fe to Torrance, \$2250 per mile. (The board makes no provisions for the assessment of the shops and other buildings and improvements in Estancia.—Ed.)

On the El Paso & Northeastern railroad on its main line from the Texas line north to Santa Rosa, per mile, \$7650.

Agricultural Lands

On agricultural lands, in cultivation, under the so-called "Campbell or dry farming system," not less than \$2 per acre.

On semi-agricultural lands, not in cultivation, but susceptible of cultivation under the so-called "Campbell or dry farming system," \$1 per acre.

Where conditions warrant the local taxing authorities are directed to place values on agricultural lands at a higher value in proportion or based on location and quality.

Grazing Lands.

On grazing lands with stock water thereon, by well or other wise, so located or situated as to utilize privilege of grazing upon government land, per acre \$1.50.

On grazing lands so situated or located as to utilize grazing privileges on government land, without stock water, \$1 per acre.

On large tracts of grazing land held in alternating sections with government lands \$0.25 (twenty-five cents) per acre.

On grazing lands other than those above specified, 40 cents per acre. This rate to be applied to lands which are suitable for or being used for no other

purpose than grazing.

Timber Lands.

On timber lands west of the Rio Grande river, within ten miles of a railroad, \$5 per acre.

On timber lands east of the Rio Grande river, within ten miles of a railroad, \$3.50 per acre.

On all other timber lands, over ten miles from a railroad \$4.50 per acre.

The valuations placed upon lands in the foregoing schedule are intended to apply to and are hereby made applicable to, and to include all land grants and other tracts of land, and such grants and tracts of land, when consisting of more than one of the classes of land as classified by this board, shall be separated as far as possible, into the respective acreages of each class and shall be assessed at the valuation per acre specified in the classification of this board.

Live Stock.

On range stock horses, \$12.50 per head.

On saddle ponies, \$15 per head.

All other horses and mules shall be assessed at the same percentage of their actual value as other classes of property, in the same localities.

On range stock cattle north of the 35th parallel, \$10 per head.

On range stock cattle south of the 35th parallel, \$9 per head.

On cattle other than range stock, not less than \$15 per head

On common goats, \$1 per head

On improved Angora goats, \$1.50 per head.

On sheep, \$1.75 per head.

On burros, \$2 per head.

On swine, \$3.50 per head.

Banks.

National banks and other banking institutions and trust companies shall be assessed on their capital, surplus and net undivided profits, at the same percentage of valuation as other classes of property in their respective localities.

All mercantile stocks shall be assessed on same basis as banks.

Telegraph and Telephone Lines.

On all telegraph lines carrying one wire, per mile, \$50.

On each additional wire, per mile, \$5.00.

On local telephone companies in cities, towns and villages, for each telephone instrument, \$15.

On long distance telephone companies carrying one wire, per mile, \$20.

On each additional wire, \$5, per mile.

Woodman Installation

On Monday night the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors held joint public installation. A large crowd attended being well entertained by the ritual of installation. A spread was enjoyed after the program, which all pronounced of the best.

The Woodmen officers inducted into office are: Past Consul, F. H. Ayers; Consul, H. L. Banium; Advisor, T. N. Russell; Banker, Jas. Walker; Clerk, J. R. Carver; Escort, Miles Smith; Watchman, W. C. Horr; Sntinel, A. J. May; examining physician, W. H. Mason; managers, A. J. Green, J. W. Brashears and R. J. Watson.

The Royal Neighbor officers are: oracle, Mrs. Bennett; vice oracle, Miss Zella Roberts; re-

corder, Mrs. Mason; receiver, Mrs. Souders; chancellor, Miss Minnie Laws.

The M. W. A. enjoys the distinction of having the largest membership of any lodge in the valley, while the Royal Neighbor camp stands first among the lodier organizations.

The News has information that Mr. Murrey, receiver of the New Mexico Central railroad, Mr. Lantry Civil Engineer and contractor, and perhaps others went to Roswell Saturday, and will cross from there to Torrance by automobile to inspect the route, in view of the proposed extension of the New Mexico Central to Roswell. Mr. Lantry, it is supposed, represents eastern capitalists, who will await his report and recommendations, before investing any money in the New Mexico Central.