

OFFICERS SURE NEGRO KILLED ERHARDT COUPLE

Sheriff Satisfied Gibson Is Slayer — Told Officials Detailed Story of Crime Here Last June

"There is no doubt in my mind that Mose Gibson is the man who murdered Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Erhardt," said Sheriff Montgomery last night after his arrival from San Francisco, where he and L. M. Laney, county attorney, interviewed the condemned negro last Saturday afternoon. "The negro talked freely of the crime," the sheriff said, "without any leading questions being asked, and appeared to be familiar with the grounds and the house."

The sheriff said that one thing above all others made him certain that the negro committed the crime which shocked the entire community early last June. The negro, Mr. Montgomery said, told of mistaking a jar of jam for some liquor, and after drinking it he said he threw it on the floor. He told the sheriff it was fig jam. The jar of jam was found on the floor with the top broken off the morning the crime was discovered, and stains of the jam were found throughout the house, the sheriff said last night. This puzzled the officers a great deal, and only a man who committed the crime or was present could sell how the jam got on the floor.

According to Mr. Montgomery, he and Mr. Laney arrived at the prison at San Quentin, where Gibson is kept in the condemned cell, about 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon and asked to see the negro. Sheriff Jackson, to whom Gibson made his first confession, had intended to be present, but could not leave Santa Ana, and the Maricopa officials went without him. Gibson, who has been sentenced to hang on Sept. 24 for the murder of Roy Trapp, a Fullerton, Cal., rancher, was brought to the office of the captain of the guards, where the interview took place.

Negro Talked Freely
After presenting Gibson with a package of cigarettes, which apparently loosened his tongue, the sheriff said, he and Mr. Laney asked the negro about the crime here. Following the interview the prison officials said that the negro had talked more in the hour and a half to the Maricopa county officials than he had during the entire time he has been in the prison.

Gibson told the officers that he had been released from the Tucson jail after serving a term for bootlegging about June 1. He said he went from there to Nogales and then started back to Phoenix. He got as far as Tempe, he said, and then walked from Tempe to Phoenix on Saturday, the day before the crime was committed. He told of walking along the paved road and said that near Phoenix he entered the yard of a house on the left side of the road and found a miner's jack hammer, which he picked up and put in his pocket. He said he arrived in Phoenix early Sunday morning and went along the Santa Fe tracks toward the west side of town. He said he hid the hammer along the tracks.

Out near the Erhardt home, Gibson said, he left the tracks and noticed the Erhardt home. He said he saw the old man in the yard as he passed the place. He said he then went to the bank of the canal near the house and sat there watching the place. At all times the negro insisted that he was alone, the sheriff said, and told the story without any apparent trace of remorse or emotion. He appeared very cold blooded, the sheriff said, and spoke of the canal as a big ditch of water.

Intended to Rob House
About 9 o'clock on Sunday night, the negro said, he got the hammer from its hiding place and took a street car going west and rode out to near the place. After leaving the car for a while, he said, he entered the Erhardt home by the front gate, intending to rob the house. He said he obtained a file in the tool house back of the house, and with the point of this file he punched a hole in the window screen on one side of the hook.

This, he said, failed to release the hook and he punched another hole on the other side of the hook and opened the screen, removing it from the hinges. He said he started to enter the window but bumped his head on some pan that was hanging on the window ledge and knocked it down. After this noise, he said, he retreated and waited a while for the people to go to sleep.

After a bit, he said, he entered the kitchen through the window and went into the screen room where the couple were sleeping. The negro said he almost ran over the bed and Mr. Erhardt sat up. Gibson said he struck with his hammer as the man was reaching for something and he fell back onto the bed. He then struck him several more blows. Mrs. Erhardt, he said,

arose and started to run and as she entered the kitchen from the screen room she was hit on the shoulder and she fell.

Fought With Mrs. Erhardt
He followed her, he said, and she arose from the floor and tried to fight him off. The negro said she was a large woman and gave him a hard struggle, but he finally overcame her with several blows of the hammer and then he covered her body with blankets taken from the bed. It was at this time, he said, that he noticed the jar of jam and broke the top off on the edge of the range.

Gibson said he then set about to "shake down the place," and went into the screen room, where he took a few dollars from the pockets of Mr. Erhardt's pants, which lay on the chair. He then searched all the rooms, he said, using a small flashlight he had with him. He said it soon gave out and he found another one which was also dead, and he then used matches. He said he did not turn on the electric lights because it would attract attention. After his supply of matches ran low he said he rolled a bunch of newspapers and lighted them for a torch.

It took him an hour, he said, to make the search and he found only the few dollars in the old man's trousers. He went back into the screen room, he said, where he found a shirt belonging to the old man. This shirt he took with him as he left the place by the back door, which he unlocked. He said he stepped out of the kitchen to the cement floor of the back porch.

During the entire interview, Mr. Montgomery said, the negro told of and described the various pieces of furniture which he had encountered in the place, the location of the rooms, the number of trunks he had found, and said that one large trunk he was unable to open with the iron bar he had found in the back yard of the place. The large trunk which he was unable to open was a wardrobe trunk belonging to Al Erhardt. It was not opened, although it gave proof that a strenuous effort had been made to do so.

Washed Off Blood Stains
The negro then said he left the house and went to the front of the house, where he threw the hammer away into some bushes. Gibson said he then went out to the bank of the canal and washed his hands and face and washed the blood from his person. He took off the bloody shirt he had on, he said, and threw it into the "big water ditch" and put on the shirt which he had taken from the house. He said he then followed the Santa Fe railroad tracks back into the city and arrived near the Southern Pacific station about daybreak.

He said he waited around until a passenger train was about ready to pull out and made a dash and boarded it. He said he told the conductor he had not had time to buy his ticket before getting on and paid his fare to Maricopa. From there, he said, he beat his way to California, where he murdered Roy Trapp.

Gibson told the officers, Mr. Montgomery said, the location of the Standard Oil plant and the location of the canal from the Erhardt home, and told of taking clothing from the wardrobe in the front room. He told the officers, Mr. Montgomery said, that there were vacant lots around the house and that the canal ran across the road in front of the house. He told them that a shot gun stood in the corner of the kitchen and that a short gun of some kind lay on the ledge near the old man's head. He said that he did not place Mrs. Erhardt on the bed after he had beaten her with the hammer. Mr. Erhardt, he said, was never out of bed. Mr. Montgomery said that before talking to the negro he had doubted the truth of the confession but since he has seen him and talked with him, there is no doubt in his mind that the negro is the guilty party. The story told by the negro, the sheriff said, could not have been made up or acquired second hand, because he knew too many of the minor details.

NEW SCRAP STARTED

(Boston Transcript)
Wife (on rainy holiday)—John, let's go somewhere. I've been shut up in the house all day.
Hub—You mean shut in, my dear. You can't truthfully say you were shut up.

CHRONIC INSOMNIA

(American Legion Weekly)
"A woman," observed Henry Peck, "is never so sleepy at night as when she hears friend Husband fumbling at the front door keyhole, and never so wide awake as when he is trying to tiptoe up the stairs."

BABY WAS AWAY

SPOKANE—Mrs. H. W. Munson went into her baby's bedroom to kiss the tot goodnight. But the two-year-old son wasn't there. Police finally found him toddling along several blocks from home, in his nightie and apparently having a good time.

The cathedral at Aix-la-Chapelle contains four relics connected with the life of Christ.

In Texas nearly \$9,000 was loaned during the past year to 54 service men through the memorial students' loan fund for educational work in the University of Texas.

taking several tables of bichloride of mercury. George Draper, a well known resident of Miami, is in the Miami Insanitation hospital and Mrs. B. F. Gardner, with whom Draper is said to have become infatuated, is the object of much cross examination as to the cause of Draper's attempt at what is thought to have been a suicide past between the two to end their lives.—Record.

Rodeo Expected to Be Good
KINGMAN—Kingman's second annual rodeo, September 3, 4, 5 and 6, will eclipse anything of the kind ever pulled off in Kingman. With purses running close to \$4,000 and another thousand spent on other features of

entertainment, and with some of the best riders and ropers in the west coming here, the show cannot help being a good one.

M. G. Wagner and his assistant, Lee Robinson, have been working hard the past few days getting things in shape.—Miner.

Part of Convent Razed
TUCSON—The widening of Broadway this week swept into a mass of crumbled adobe bricks and stone one-half of the first convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph, which since 1870 clung to the side of the old Saint Augustine church in that center of religion, St. Augustine plaza.
The lines laid out by the city called

for the uprooting of the Saint Augustine hotel and garage.

The fifteen feet swept out of existence the old classrooms of the convent wherein many of the elder women of Tucson today received their first education, from the four pioneer sisters of the order.—Citizen.

U. of A. Extension Workers to Meet
TUCSON—The extension workers of the University of Arizona agricultural extension service will hold a conference at Flagstaff, August 18, 19 and 20, for the purpose of discussion and reporting on their projects for the first half of this year. The convention will be attended by state agricultural officers,

county agents, home demonstration agents and specialists representing the various departments of the college of agriculture.

C. S. Brown, president of the Arizona farm bureau, will attend the convention and tell of his work in the counties where he has been organizing community farm bureaus. His work has been done in co-operation with the national movement to establish county and community farm bureaus.—Citizen.

Made Liquor at Barracks
PRESCOTT—Eating might be mighty poor at Whipple Barracks if no substitute cooks were to be found, for the three chefs in that department were placed in confinement in the guard

house yesterday by order of Lieutenant Colonel Sheppard for making liquor.—Journal Miner.

NOGALES—The total of exports and imports for the month of July was \$5,416,822, according to figures given out yesterday. Of this amount \$3,146,551 passed through the port of Nogales. Great impetus was given the business of this district by the heavy importations of garbanzos from Sonora and Sinaloa, and should the pace set by the first month of the fiscal year keep up for twelve months the total would be \$66,000,000, or almost twice as much as that for the last year ending June 30.—Oasis.



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ABOUT THE STATE

Guard Passengers Against Gamblers
NOGALES—Special police have been placed on Southern Pacific of Mexico trains running between Nogales, Sonora, and San Blas, Sinaloa, to curb crooked gamblers who ride back and forth, fleeing unwary passengers, both Mexican and American, and to do general police duty for the protection of travelers over the line. This action was taken following complaints from numerous victims of card sharps and

because of various other annoyances to which passengers were subjected and which were beyond control of the train crews.—Oasis.

Killed in Collision With Train
KINGMAN—Luis Suarez was instantly killed Thursday on the Santa Fe track between Tucson and Crozier, when a westbound freight collided with the speeder Suarez was running, and on which there were six other Mexicans. The others were bruised up some but not badly hurt.

The train had just turned a curve when it came upon the speeder and hit it head on. Suarez was thrown against the cowcatcher and his head mashed.—Miner.

Legs Maimed by Binder
HOLBROOK—One of the saddest accidents that has happened in many a day in Navajo county occurred on Wednesday at Showlow when B. J. McNeil, while driving his binder, ran over his 7-year-old son and cut both his legs so badly that one of them had to be amputated at once, but Dr. W. G. Morton of Holbrook, who was called on the case is hopeful of saving the other.—News.

Dead Baby Found in Canal
YUMA—Francis White yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock while bathing in the drainage canal one mile north of the Colorado river near the "second railroad bridge" discovered the body of a little one and one-half year old Euella Valenzuela who disappeared from her home three nights ago. According to the theory which has been advanced, the little tot was stolen from her mother's bed about midnight. Footprints were found leaving from the Valenzuela home the morning after the loss of the child and Indians searched the surrounding country and the river and canal for the young girl, but were unable to find any trace of the child.—Sun.

May Be Suicide By Poison
GLOBE—Poisoned as a result of



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