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ARIZONA SENTINEL

AND YUMA WEEKLY EXAMINER

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ARIZONA SENTINEL, FOUNDED 1872.

REAL ESTATE DEAL CAUSES A HORRIBLE TRAGEDY IN PHOENIX

MALCOLM G. GILLETTE SLAIN BY F. COFFMAN WHO THEN SUICIDES—COFFMAN LABORED UNDER THE INSANE DELUSION THAT HE HAD BEEN SWINDLED OUT OF \$1500 IN A REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION—THREE SHOTS WERE FIRED AT GILLETTE.

Phoenix, Ariz., May 7.—Laboring under the insane delusion that he had been swindled out of \$1500 in a real estate transaction, Finley Coffman shot Malcolm G. Gillette, chief clerk to the surveyor general, through the heart, in Gillette's office at the Capitol about 11 o'clock this morning.

Walking calmly through another office to the door leading into the rotunda he pointed his revolver at his own heart and in a moment was with his victim in eternity.

Three shots were fired at Gillette, but only one took effect. The weapon used in the double tragedy was a .32 calibre Savage automatic, holding ten cartridges.

Five were still in the clip when the revolver was picked up.

C. R. Craig and A. R. Cheever, the clerks employed in the office of the Surveyor General F. S. Ingalls, were in the room when Gillette was killed. Neither saw Coffman, though they both heard the three shots and saw Gillette, who was standing near the door leading into the hall, pick forward upon his face. By the time that Malcolm Gillette struck the floor, he was dead.

The shots were fired from a little hallway between the offices of Gillette and General Ingalls. General Ingalls was in another part of the building at the time, and no one was in his office. Coffman walked through the vacant office and into the hallway, from which he shot Gillette. Then he walked back to the door opening into General Ingalls' office from the rotunda, and there shot himself. R. J. Whitesides saw him fire a bullet into his own heart. Whitesides was crossing the rotunda and he saw Mr. Coffman sink to his knees, then fall upon his back. As the revolver dropped from his nerveless hand to the floor, it was discharged a fifth time. Whitesides picked up the revolver and turned it over to Chief of Police A. J. Moore, who delivered it to Coroner C. W. Johnstone.

Instantly the Capitol was in an uproar. Clerks and officials crowded the halls and lobbies, while about the bodies of Gillette and Coffman were dense throngs, anxious to see the dead men. General Ingalls and other officials took charge and gave orders that neither body be touched until the arrival of the coroner. White sheets were thrown over the bodies, but that over Coffman's remains were lifted more than once, on the chance that someone could identify him. Though many remembered having seen him, no one knew him. It was not until letters in his pocket had been examined that his name became known. When his name was made public, it was soon learned that he had shot Gillette from motives of revenge, thinking that Gillette had given him a worthless

deed to a ten acre tract near the Indian school. The deed was perfectly good, and all the evidence goes to prove that Coffman's mind had been unbalanced for days.

Jury is Impanelled
When Coroner Johnstone arrived he quickly empaneled a jury and the bodies were viewed where they lay. Malcolm Gillette lay with his face upon the floor, and a thin stream of blood had stained the carpet a deeper red. A few inches from his face was the cigar which he had just lighted when he fell. Sheriff Jeff Adams unbuttoned the shirt after the body had been rolled over, and a small hole, right over the heart, was disclosed.

A similar hole was found over Coffman's heart. He lay on his back, his mouth slightly open.

From the inside pocket of Coffman's dark coat, several letters were taken. Requests Embalming of His Body There was also this note, unsealed: "Phoenix, Ariz., May 7.

"Notify Ben H. Coffman, Bremen, Kentucky. Have my remains embalmed and sent to the above name. Cost not to exceed \$300. Also notify J. R. Kolb, of the Salt River Valley Nursery and L. C. Brown of the Phoenix restaurant to see that my remains are cared for. Mail the letters I have."

"F. COFFMAN."

Letter Explains Motive
The last doubt that Finley Coffman believed that Malcolm G. Gillette had swindled him, and so deliberately had planned the murder and suicide, was removed this afternoon when the letter to Brown was delivered and opened. The letter follows:

"Phoenix, Ariz., May 7.
"Mr. L. C. Brown,
"City.
"Dear Friend:—

"I am going to please ask you to have my trunk, suit case and telescope sent to Ben H. Coffman, of Bremen, Ky., Muhlenburg county. Above things are at the Salt River Nursery. Also see that my remains are prepared and sent to the above name. Charges to be light.

"I have been swindled out of money in a land deal, and now I am going to carry things to the limit. I was doped and drugged and my mind was so unbalanced I didn't know what I was doing when I closed the deal.

"Yours truly,
"F. COFFMAN."

Father Does Not Know
B. T. Gillette does not know that his son and Coffman ever had any arguments after the deal was closed, but there is good reason to believe that they had met several times. Coffman probably upbraided Gillette for swindling him, and Gillette may have treated him curtly. Coffman told several persons that the deed was worthless, and that he had been swindled out of \$1500.

WANTS GOMEZ TO DEPART "PRONTO"

OROZCO IS DECLARED TO HAVE TELEGRAPHED DIRE THREATS AGAINST GOMEZ.

Escalon, May 7.—Pascual Orozco refused to recognize Vasquez Gomez, as provisional president. On his march southward today Orozco telegraphed Gomez threatening him and his associates if they do not get out of the country immediately.

The establishment of civil government while a revolution is in progress is persistently opposed by Orozco, who in a telegram to Gomez declared that he would have been glad to have Gomez join the rebel army but that a government at Juarez would not be countenanced. Orozco continued southward today, and his advance guard is almost in touch with Huerta's federal army. A big battle is expected in the next twenty-four hours.

Gomez is Silent
Juarez, May 7.—Gomez admitted receiving Orozco's telegram, but would not discuss it.

ARKANSAS WILL SEND TWO DELEGATIONS

TAFT AND ROOSEVELT FOLLOWERS WILL HOLD SEPARATE CONVENTIONS.

Little Rock, Ark., May 7.—Roosevelt republicans in caucus planned to hold a state convention of their own today when they asserted the Taft leaders refused to grant the proper recognition of their delegates. As a result Arkansas will send two delegations to Chicago.

A MOST CHARMING SOCIAL EVENT GIVEN

The Yuma ladies are vying with each other in giving charming entertainments this spring, and each week affords one or more afternoons of pleasure to the list of social functions.

One of the largest and most elaborate affairs of the season was the party yesterday afternoon, when Mrs. Michelsen and Mrs. Rockwood were joint hostesses, at the home of the former, on fourth avenue, which was most tastefully decorated with willow boughs, and carnations and sweet peas lending their fragrance to the soft May-day air.

Cards were the entertainment, and whilst the game, followed by delicious refreshments.

Forty or more guests responded to their invitations, and the prettily decorated home was well filled with as joyous and amiable a bunch of ladies as you could find, for not only the prize winners—Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Hayden—but each guest carried home with her a dear little May basket filled with gypsophylla, ferns and Cecil Bruner roses, as a souvenir of a joyous afternoon, at a May party in Yuma.

The list of invited guests included the following names:

Miss Nugent, Miss Burchett, Miss Ione Greenleaf, Mrs. P. O. Spittler, Mrs. H. H. Donkersley, Mrs. J. S. Garvin, Mrs. R. G. Stitt, Mrs. Alice Harlowe, Mrs. W. E. Marvin, Mrs. Mel Greenleaf, Mrs. A. N. Kelly, Mrs. H. C. Haupt, Mrs. Withal, Mrs. P. T. Robertson, Mrs. Hayden, Mrs. J. H. Shanssey, Mrs. W. H. Shorey, Mrs. O. C. Johnson, Mrs. Thos. Eberhardt, Mrs. C. H. Colman, Mrs. Squire Munroe, Mrs. Gus Livingston, Mrs. H. V. Clymer, Mrs. J. A. Keitcherside, Mrs. U. G. Wilder, Mrs. E. S. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Geo. Hiegel, Mrs. M. A. Andrews, Mrs. Fred Ingle, Mrs. L. C. Grothaus, Mrs. D. L. DeVane, Mrs. June Brown, Mrs. Sumner Hackett.

TO BUILD A COTTAGE
Camlin Evans has made arrangements to build a cottage on Fourth avenue near Fourth street.

SPECIAL
The Arizona Republican and The Yuma Examiner, \$1.15 per month "See Shorey About It" at once.

PROMINENT CONTRACTOR SHOT IN LOS ANGELES ROOMING HOUSE

PETE WALKER, A PROMINENT CONTRACTOR OF BRAWLEY, YUMA, AND LOS ANGELES WAS SHOT AND KILLED LAST NIGHT BY MRS. ANNA DEWEY AT HER APARTMENTS—THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF DIAMONDS FOUND IN THE ROOM.

Los Angeles, May 8.—(Special to the Yuma Examiner). Pete Walker, a contractor, prominent in Yuma, Los Angeles and Brawley, was shot and killed last night by Mrs. Anna Dewey, at her apartments, 727 West First street, who then suicided. It is reported that Walker had been living with the woman. Many thousands of dollars' worth of diamonds were found littered about the room, and upon the persons of both, besides many other valuables. Walker was a prominent contractor on good roads, government work, etc., in Yuma and Imperial Valley. He had been exceptionally successful and made much money lately.

The above news will be received with sincere regrets by the many Yuma friends of the deceased.

Pete Walker was a genial and hard-working man and was the leading member of the Walker Construction Company, which recently completed a big contract for Colonel Ockerson, at Bee River, and another one for the Reclamation Service.

Recently they moved their offices from the Cotter building here, to El Centro, where Pete's brother, Balles, has charge. Further particulars of the killing will be eagerly watched for.

SOLDIERS ARRIVE TO PROTECT BOUNDARY

THIRTY-THREE MEMBERS OF THE TWELFTH UNITED STATES INFANTRY NOW AT YUMA.

The company of soldiers Yuma has been looking for since last Sunday arrived this morning. Thirty-three men will remain here at a point opposite the Imperial Heading, while the balance of the company will be stationed on the California side of the river. The company is a part of the Twelfth United States Infantry, and are expected to guard the boundary line.

The general staff in Washington stated that this was the only troop movement ordered or contemplated.

All official utterances are to the effect that there will be no intervention by the United States in Mexico, but the army is unquestionably being brought rapidly to a war footing to be ready if it arises, and there will be a feeling of greater security here with even a small body of soldiers ready for instant action in case their services are needed.

LAI D TO REST

The funeral of Mrs. J. Brydon was conducted at the residence of F. J. Pearson Tuesday morning at 9:30 o'clock by Rev. L. B. Mathewson who spoke very beautifully from the sentiment of the song, "God's Children Are Gathering Home." Immediately after the funeral services the body was conveyed to the Yuma cemetery and gently laid to rest. Mrs. Brydon came to Yuma in January, in falling health. Her home was in Mexico City, where her husband and son reside. They were unable to come to the funeral on account of the conditions in Mexico.

EL PASO COUNTY IS FOR ROOSEVELT

Dallas, Tex., May 7.—The first six counties heard from reported split conventions. El Paso county is instructed for Roosevelt as "one who will protect Americans in foreign countries."

Seven democratic conventions give delegates to the state convention as follows:

Wilson, 21; Harmon, 16; Clark, 2.

SUPERIOR COURT NEWS

In the Superior Court yesterday S. P. Barber was tried upon an indictment for assault with intent to commit murder. The case was tried by a jury, which, after hearing all of the evidence, found the defendant "Not guilty."

The Examiner office for the best for work.

HON. CALLAWAY TELLS STARTLING STORY OF DAM INVESTIGATION

TEXAS CONGRESSMAN RELATES DISCOVERY MADE BY THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE ON THE ROOSEVELT DAM—EVIDENCE SUBMITTED TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE SHOWED THAT THE PROJECT WAS SWITCHED FROM THE GILA TO THE SALT RIVER.

Fort Worth, May 7.—Congressman Oscar Callaway, from this district, was in Fort Worth yesterday on his return from Phoenix, Arizona, where he went as a member of a sub-committee of three from the committee on expenditures of the interior department to make an examination of the reclamation service's work and expenditures on the Roosevelt dam, in the Salt river valley.

In discussing the investigation and the methods used by the engineers in doing the work Mr. Callaway said:

"The first estimate made by the engineers of the reclamation service of the cost of the project was \$1,908,000. The last annual report of the reclamation service showed an outlay of about \$9,000,000 on the project, which is not yet completed. This caused the committee on expenditures of the interior department to believe the matter should be looked into.

Project was Switched
"The evidence submitted to the sub-committee showed that the project was switched from the San Carlos dam site on the Gila river to the Tonto dam site on the Salt river. The Gila river site was within six miles of the railroad, was on an Indian reservation and it would have cost the government nothing; was not connected with any general canal system that would have had to have been taken over by the government at any considerable expense, and was sufficiently near to a demand for power that all power generated by the water from the reservoir would have had ready sale without any great outlay in building transmission lines. The Tonto or Roosevelt site, to which the project was switched, was in the hands of a corporation, to which the government paid \$40,000 for the dam site. The government also built a road, at an outlay of \$10,000, to a clay pit to secure clay for the making of cement, and then discovered clay when the first pick was stuck in the ground to make an excavation for the foundation of the cement plant.

Drop Logs 4,000 Feet
"They also set a force on top of a mountain some distance up Salt River for the purpose of cutting timber logs which they expected to push over a cliff 4,000 feet high, down to the bed of Salt river, and then raft them down to the dam site. They cut the timber before they attempted to pass the logs over the bluff. The first logs they passed over the bluff reached the river bed in splinters and they had to abandon their timber already cut on the mountain top and find their timber at another place.

Substation on Chandler Land
"The government also built from the power plant at Roosevelt an electric transmission to Phoenix, a distance of eighty miles. At Mesa, twenty miles from Phoenix, on the transmission line, the government put in a sub-station and ran a transmission line due south directly across these 18,000 acres of land owned by Mr. Chandler, and near the center of Mr. Chandler's land put in a sub-station on this transmission line for the purpose of dispensing power. This sub-station was within half a mile of a town laid off by Mr. Chandler on his land and also is used for the purpose of furnishing power to seven different irrigation wells, five of which are on this land once owned by Mr. Chandler.

"No party, under the reclamation act, can have water to irrigate more than 160 acres of land. Mr. Chandler could not have the water to irrigate his 18,000 acres, but any party buying 160 acres from him had immediate right, under the reclamation act, to claim water for the tract, and could obtain it, provided the water was at all forthcoming. In his advertisements he claims that he has sold more than \$1,250,000 of land from this tract.

"We could find no other excuse at all reasonable for running this line directly across Chandler's land than to furnish him the assurance of water. The claim of the engineering department was that this particular transmission line was run in that direction for the purpose of furnishing power to pump wells on the Pima Indian reservation and ten wells were put down at a cost of \$10,000 per well, on the Indian reservation, and this line extended to those wells; but the Indians, from the first to now, including more than three years, have refused to allow this well water to run onto their lands, claiming that without being mixed with river water it will kill their lands, and these wells have never been used at all.

Connection is Hinted
"We found that the engineer on whose recommendation this transmission line was built was engineer for Mr. Chandler when Mr. Chandler's canal was dug, and went from his service into the government service, and that he was also vice-president of a bank in the town of Mesa, of which Mr. Chandler was president. Last winter, when it was understood that an investigation was going to be made, this man, W. H. Code, resigned from the government service and moved to California.

"The committee adjourned its hearings at Phoenix, Ariz., Thursday last at 4 o'clock, to resume again in Washington, where the investigation will be concluded."

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TAFT SECURES NEVADA'S VOTES

Fallon, Nev., May 7.—The Taft adherents practically controlled the republican state convention and named to the Chicago convention six delegates for Taft. The president's administration was endorsed and the convention endorsed United States Senator Nixon and Congressman Roberts. The vote pledged the delegates to Mr. Taft stood 80 to 17. Judge J. S. Dennis, of Tonopah, was chairman. These delegates were elected: Senator Nixon, Congressman Roberts, H. V. Morehouse, R. D. Govan, W. W. Williams and Mel Badt.

TRAVELING MAN DIED

E. F. Sanguinetti yesterday received a telegram from Los Angeles that Otto Keiser, "a knight of the grip," who has been traveling through Yuma for more than twenty years for Hansbrough & Co., the largest grocery house on the coast, had died in a San Francisco hospital. Mr. Keiser had many acquaintances and friends in Yuma who mourn his untimely taking off.

YUMA LADIES' AID ENTERTAINED SISTERS

The Yuma Ladies Aid of the Methodist church, entertained their Valley sisters yesterday afternoon, May 7, at the parsonage. In spite of the wind and cloudy weather all of the ladies were present.

The afternoon was spent in guessing games, and Miss Nora Morrow rendered several selections, both vocal and instrumental.

Roses and carnations were given as favors, and refreshments of punch and cake were served. A splendid good time was reported by all present.

WOMEN WILL PETITION

The Yuma County Political Equality League have put on foot an initiative petition for a vote on Woman's Suffrage at the coming November election.

HERE FROM CIBOLA
Leo Frankenburg is here from Cibola.

LADIES' AID TO GIVE DINNER

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist church will give a dinner election day. The place will be announced later, and a good dinner will be served. This will be much appreciated by all who know the Ladies' Aid's reputation for serving a fine meal.

BRITISH SHIP WILL GO DOWN WEST COAST

Victoria, May 7.—The British sloop of war Algerine, will leave for the Mexican West Coast to protect British subjects in connection with reported outbreaks at Mazatlan, San Blas and other points. She is expected to reach Mazatlan within two weeks.