

CHARGES IN A GUN FIGHT

POLICE TO BE ACCUSED TO CLARIFY STATUS.

Seven Arkansas City Officers Fired Shots in Battle Fatal to a Bank Robber.

(By The Star's Own Service.)

Arkansas City, Kas., Sept. 10. — Routine charges of fourth degree manslaughter probably will be filed before the end of this week against seven Arkansas City police officers who killed a would be bank-bandit here Monday night in a 2-block running gun battle.

W. R. Mathews, Cowley County attorney, said he probably will file the charges in the next day or two in order to clarify the status of the officers who shot and killed Richard Alan Wert, 27, of Ponca City, Okla., after he attempted to rob the Home National bank.

Coroner Holds the Body.

Wert's body is being held at the Rindt mortuary here pending arrival of the former Air Force lieutenant's parents from Pittsburgh, Pa. When released by Joe Morris, coroner, the body will be sent to Pittsburgh for burial.

Seven of nine Arkansas City police officers, deputy sheriffs and state highway patrolmen who converged on the bank and caught Wert in the act of holding a pistol in the backs of John Peck, vice-president, and Marvin Rose, cashier, engaged in the running gun battle as Wert fled through a front door of the bank, which had been left open while a painter renewed a sign.

Hit by 33 Slugs.

Wert was struck by 33 pieces of lead from .38-caliber pistols and sawed-off riot guns. Mortally wounded, he kept getting to his feet and firing back at the police. He finally was cut down in a used car lot.

At Newkirk, Okla., today, Judge Walter Doggett of Kay County said Wert had been committed last May 1 to the veterans' hospital in Oklahoma City as incompetent and for mental treatment. He was released by the hospital August 21 on a 15-day leave, Doggett said, and was restored to competency August 26, upon recommendation of psychiatrists at the VA hospital, according to Doggett.

Meanwhile a bystander in the gun fight, Lloyd Harmon, who was wounded in one thigh by a stray bullet, was released from the Memorial hospital.

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Roy E. Miller looks over part of his rock garden in his park at Lucas, Kas., which also contains a museum, picnic area and other attractions for the enjoyment of the public.

Years of Collecting Things Provide Joy for Others

(By The Star's Own Service.)

LUCAS, KAS., Sept. 10. — Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Miller of Lucas like to see children playing and folks enjoying themselves.

That's the reason for Miller's park, covering nearly one-half acre at the west edge of Lucas on K-18.

It's a dream come true for the Millers.

Both Avid Collectors.

Married 51 years last November, both Mr. and Mrs. Miller have always had a hobby of collecting things.

Unlike many hobbyists, however, the Millers didn't put their collections in cases or baskets to collect dust.

Back in 1932, Miller, a farmer, decided to build a rock garden.

In his spare hours, he mixed cement and spread it on chicken wire frames of various kinds and sizes. He and Mrs. Miller set displays of rocks and shells in the wet cement.

The result is one of the largest rock gardens in the state with displays depicting the Royal gorge, an Indian village, Pike's peak, churches, lakes and hundreds of other things.

He has a rock replica of the old Lucas Evangelical church. Even the window frames are carved out of rock. He also has biblical scenes, including a depiction of Noah's ark, with animals and people made of rock.

Rocks on display vary from

the size of a match head to more than a ton. There are rocks from 37 states, all gathered by the Millers.

Illness to Miller in 1943 forced them to end their rock and shell collection. They turned to other things, however.

A Private Museum.

A long, narrow frame building now contains a private museum of bottles, sea shells, tools, arrowheads and Indian items, guns, knives, what-nots and pictures of early day people.

Outside, Miller has a playground complete with slides, swings, merry-go-rounds, sand piles and other equipment for children. There are dozens of picnic tables and antique wood ranges on which to cook.

One Sunday this summer, the park had 334 persons enjoying picnics at one time. No charge is made to use the park.

Their showplace is still growing.

Miller, now 74, spends nights carving items such as covered wagons, animals and farm scenes out of wood and rock. Mrs. Miller, 70, arranges other items for the museum into groups for display.

What has it cost, besides the hundreds of hours of work through the years?

"I don't know," Miller said. "I do know it's been worth it, though, just to see people have fun and the children play."

POLIO IS MORE SEVERE

ACTING HEALTH HEAD URGES VACCINE SHOTS.

Fewer Cases in Missouri Than in 1957, but More Paralysis, Hardwicke Says.

By Lew Larkin.

(The Star's Jefferson City Correspondent.)

Jefferson City, Sept. 10. — While there are fewer polio cases in Missouri this year than in 1957, the attacks have been severe, Dr. H. M. Hardwicke, acting state health chief, said today in urging all to take vaccine shots, particularly booster shots.

Hardwicke said 1½ million persons in Missouri have failed to get the original shots and most of these are in the "susceptible" age bracket.

Only 47 per cent of the cases reported last year resulted in paralysis while 73 per cent this year have been paralytic. The case fatality rate from polio for this year is 16 deaths per 100 cases

while in 1955 there were only three per 100 cases.

"None of the polio cases this year resulting in death had received the polio vaccine," Hardwicke added, "and of the paralytic cases reported only three had received inoculations. Of the cases reported this year, 48 per cent are patients under 5 years old."

The health chief said there still is plenty of free vaccine in Missouri and he urged all persons up to 40 years old to get polio shots and those who took them last year to get booster shots this year.

THE FINN TWINS TO SUE.

Damages for Plane Seizure to Be Sought of U. S.

Washington, Sept. 10. (AP)—Charles Finn of Los Angeles said today he expects soon to

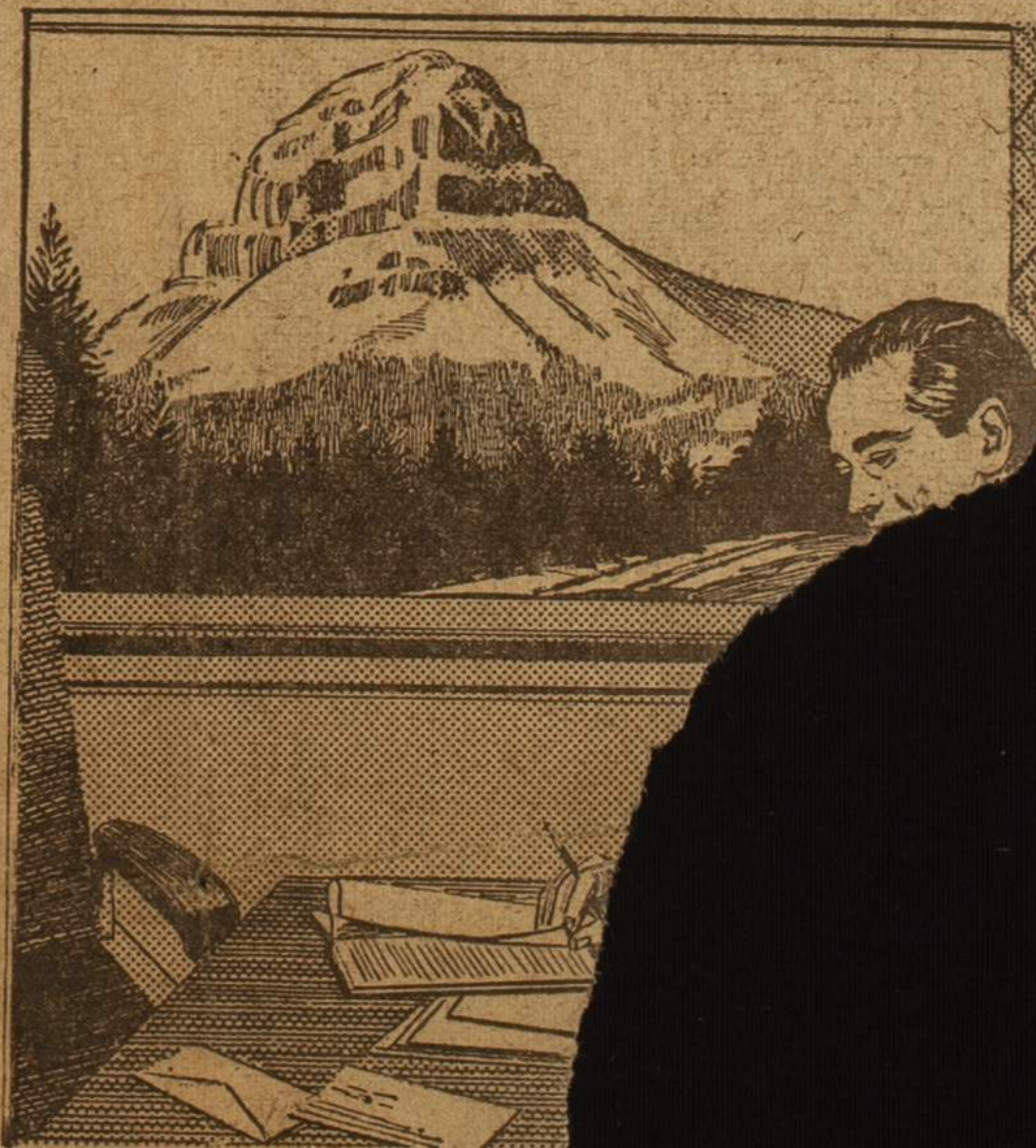
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