

FOLKLORE CORNER

By TED RAYNOR

THE MURDERED PEDDLER'S GRAVE

Thirty-five miles south of Carlsbad, near the confluence of the Delaware and Pecos Rivers, a murdered peddler lies buried. It is a solitary grave in 'lonely country.' The crossed branch design, the word "peddler" and the date 1894 remain easily visible on the headstone, and when the sun tips over the edge of the red sandstone the word "Jun", the month in which he was buried, can be seen.

Who killed the nameless peddler for what money and jewelry? He may have had? Old-timers do not remember that anyone was convicted for the murder.

When Willard O. Keen, a former railroad, came to Carlsbad in June 1895, the murder still was being discussed. His recollection was only the hearsay of the time, but this was the story as he remembered it:

Not one, but two Jewish peddlers, were murdered although only one of them is buried near the point where the Santa Fe Railway trestle crosses the Delaware River. The year before Keen came to Carlsbad a new bridge had been built to replace a washed-out bridge.

A night watchman on the bridge under construction found one peddler's body lodged against the crib which had been built for a crossing until completion of the bridge. The body had floated down the Delaware in high water.

Because it was known that there were two peddlers who traveled with packs on their backs and sold their wares among railroad construction crews and elsewhere in the area, search for the body of the second peddler was begun. His body was found upstream on the Delaware in a dry wash. Swift, high water from hard rains apparently had washed one of the bodies out of the shallow grave and downstream to the bridge. The body of the second peddler was buried where it was found and so far as was known no marker was placed on the grave.

The peddlers sold jewelry, clothes, handkerchiefs, tablecloths and other articles. Goods which apparently had belonged to the peddlers were found later in that vicinity.

In 1904 or 1905 when Keen then roadmaster for the railroad, and a gang were working along the tracks, two miles north of the Delaware River, they found handkerchiefs, socks and tablecloths, the edges of which had rotted away. These were discovered in a rip-rap which had been built up to prevent water from washing the side of the railroad. Keen notified peace officers.

He was under the impression that a Mexican was arrested before the bodies were found, but that the man was never convicted.

A year or so after the murder, W. A. Forehand and several other men camped near the peddler's grave. The next morning when Forehand went after the horses, he found a cave to the north, a half mile up the Delaware. Forehand looked in the cave and saw jewelry there, and he presumed it was among the wares of the murdered peddler. He left the jewelry in the cave.

To the best of Forehand's memory there was no arrest or conviction for the murder. Keen said that railroad men

made the engravings on the headstone. Above the word peddler crossed branches were engraved, with a four-leaf clover in the top center, and a rosette at the top of each corner. What may have been lettering between peddler and the date has been so blurred by erosion that it is impossible to make it out. There is a smaller footstone which has neither designs nor lettering.

The peddler's grave is in one of the most solitary spots of Eddy County. Twelve miles south of Malaga one turns left from U. S. 285 and follows the pipe line road to the first road to the right beyond the railroad tracks. That rough road parallels the railroad to the trestle over the Delaware. The grave is not more than 200 feet north of the trestle.

Mesquite grows near the grave, and a few desert weeds have taken root in the drifting earth and blossomed close by and on the grave. The sound of the low wide falls of the Pecos above its confluence with the Delaware can be heard at the peddler's place of burial.

Order of Rainbow Public Installation

Miss Marilyn Harkey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Harkey of Archo, was installed Worthy Advisor of Carrizozo Assembly No. 7 on January 21, at 7 p.m. at a public installation.

After taking the vows at the altar, Miss Harkey was escorted to the East by her father, thru an aisle formed by her officers holding peppermint red carnations. They sang "We Love You, Marilyn," after which Miss Harkey was given Grand Honors.

Her installing officers were Miss Judy McKnight of Picocho, junior past worthy advisor, as installing officer; Miss Frances Degner, installing chaplain; Mrs. Leona Brown, installing organist and Mrs. Ethel Roberts, installing recorder.

Miss Harkey's officers for the ensuing term are: Martha McKnight of Hondo, Worthy Associate Advisor; Willa Belle O'Rear, Charity; Mary Nickels, Hope; Sandra Kaye King, Faith; Leo Adcox Baker, chaplain; Ann Garrison, drill leader; Mary Alice King, treasurer.

Also Judy Stearns, Red; Barbara Taylor, Orange; Sherrie Shinnell of Alamogordo, Yellow; Georgia Franklin, Green; Jean McGuire, Blue; Sally Lewis, Indigo; Frances Schlarb, Violet; Patti Sargent, Inner observer; Patricia Henderson of Lincoln, outer observer; Opal McStrayer, organist.

Mrs. Alice King is Mother Advisor for 1953. The advisory board for the year is Mrs. Ethel Roberts, chairman; Mrs. Fronie Barney of Lincoln; Margaret Stearns, Frances Degner, Vernon Petty, Ralph McGuire of Ruidoso, and Jess Garrison who is Miss Harkey's Dad Advisor.

After installation, Marilyn introduced her parents and brother Howard in the East. The newly installed worthy advisor gave an inspiring talk on Nature and recited the words to "This is My Father's World." Mary Alice King played a piano solo, "The

Couple Exchange Wedding Vows

Miss Charlene Lednick of Alamogordo and George W. (Skipper) Harkey of Carrizozo were united in marriage Friday, Jan. 24, at 4:30 in the afternoon in the Trinity Methodist Church chapel in El Paso. Rev. Fowler officiated.

Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lednick of Alamogordo and Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Harkey of Carrizozo were the couple's attendants at the ceremony.

The bride was attired in a light blue two-piece wool suit, with navy blue accessories. She attends Alamogordo High School.

The bridegroom is a 1956 graduate of Carrizozo High School. He was an Eagle Scout, a member of the school band and was selected to play on the all-state basketball team.

He is employed by the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company in Alamogordo, where the couple will make their home.

Joint Installation of Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges

Jointly with Rebekah Coalora Lodge on January 4, the following officers of Carrizozo Lodge No. 3, I.O.O.F. were installed:

William R. Greer, noble grand; Bryan Hendricks, vice grand; Ralph P. Currie, recording secretary; Jefferson D. Morris, financial secretary; Robert G. Firman, treasurer; William J. MacVeigh, Walter L. Lenard and T. B. Smoot, trustees.

The Rebekah officers installed were: Catherine Cornett, noble grand; Elma Wilson, vice grand; Maud Risinger, secretary; Era Berry, financial secretary; Opal Greer, treasurer; Julia Sherrill, warden; Mildred McDonald, conductor; Ethel Roberts, inside guardian; Georgia Harkey, outside guardian.

Also Cordelia Harris, chaplain; Marian Schlarb, musician; Dorothy Current, flag bearer; Edith Lenard, R.S.N.G.; Afrey Garrison, L.S.N.G.; Madelle McDaniel, jr. past grand; Rachel West, P.S.V.G.; Estella Withers, L.S.V.G.

The installing officers for the joint installation were: Tom O'Rear, grand marshal; Fred McDonald, deputy grand master, and Connie O'Rear, deputy president.

January 7, on the regular meeting night of the Odd Fellow, the following appointive officers were installed: Tom O'Rear, warden; T. B. Smoot, conductor; Bill Baker, chaplain; Reed Sherrill, inside guardian; Charlie Burch, outside guardian; R. G. Stewart, R.S.N.G.; Henry Means, L.S.N.G.; William J. MacVeigh, P.S.V.G.; Walter L. Lenard, L.S.V.G.; James A. Harris, right scene supporter, and Bob Smith, left scene supporter.

Swaying Daffodils." The installation was followed by a social hour in the dining hall where cake, punch and coffee were served to approximately forty-five guests.



FOOD BUYS

WEDNESDAY IS DOUBLE STAMP DAY ON PURCHASE OF \$3.00 OR MORE

CHUCK ROAST U. S. D. A. CHOICE BEEF Lb. **45¢**
ROUND STEAK U. S. D. A. CHOICE BEEF Lb. **89¢**

BOLOGNA 49¢
GLOVER'S CHUCK WAGON Lb. 49¢
SLICED BACON 69¢
RATH BLACKHAWK Lb. 69¢
SAUSAGE 2 LBS. \$1.35
PEYTON'S WHOLE HOG 2 LBS. \$1.35
SHRIMP 5 LBS. \$3.29
FANCY PARTY PACK 5 LBS. \$3.29

HUNT'S DOLLAR SALE

PEACHES HUNT'S 4 for \$1
Sliced or Halves No. 2 1/2

TOMATOES HUNT'S 7 for \$1
SOLID PACK No. 300

JUICE TOMATO HUNT'S 10 for \$1
No. 300

CATSUP HUNT'S 6 for \$1
14 Oz.

APRICOTS HUNT'S — WHOLE UNPEELED 4 for \$1
No. 2 1/2

TOMATO PASTE HUNT'S 12 for \$1
6 Oz.

FRUIT COCKTAIL HUNT'S 3 for \$1
No. 2 1/2

GREEN BEANS HUNT'S — CUT 5 for \$1
No. 300

SWEET PEAS HUNT'S — GARDEN 6 for \$1
No. 300

SPINACH HUNT'S 8 for \$1
No. 300

CHILI SAUCE HUNT'S 5 for \$1
12 Oz.

CAKE MIX BETTY CROCKER — SPICE, YELLOW, DEVILS FOOD, CHOC. MALT, PEANUT DELIGHT, MARBLE 3 for 89¢

POTATOES No. 1 LONG WHITE 10 Lb. Bag 45¢

CAULIFLOWER PER LB. 17¢

PEARS PER LB. 17¢

APPLES 2 LBS. 29¢

RED DELICIOUS 2 LBS. 29¢

ONIONS 2 LBS. 15¢

YELLOW 2 LBS. 15¢

FOOD MART

Prices effective Jan. 31 thru Feb. 1 only S&H Green Stamps. Double Stamps on Wed.

expecting at your house?



tell them about it by long distance

Reserving spots are lowest after 5 PM. Call all day Sunday — always lowest for special delivery orders.

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Benefit Sale

FOR CARRIZOZO WOMAN'S CLUB

IN OUR STORE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

They will receive a share of the purchase price on every package of Betty Crocker Mixes sold this weekend.

THIS IS A COMMUNITY PROJECT ... LET'S SUPPORT IT!

Betty Crocker CAKE MIXES

CHOCOLATE DEVILS FOOD
WHITE • HONEY SPICE
YELLOW • MARBLE CAKE
CHOCOLATE MALT and
PEANUT DELIGHT

3 PKGS. FOR 89¢

FOOD MART

