

obeyed. They also searched trunks of George Harris, manager of the house. They left in a high powered car. The sheriff in Greeley was notified, but by the time he arrived they had plenty of time to get away, and no clues were left.

March brought a brand new modern ambulance to G.R. Henning. This vehicle is the last word! It is arranged with an ambulance cot for the patient, leaving room for 3 attendants. It is beautifully decorated with silk hangings and equipped with those devices which will add comfort to the sick or injured.

April found land being leased by the Shoup Company to drill oil. Over 3256 acres of land was leased. This was on farm ground north and west of Lafayette. On the 25th voters elected bonds to erect a new high school, for \$63,000. Ground was later selected as the new high school site, that being where the present Angevine Middle School now stands on Baseline Road. During the year ground was broken and the school started. It would have 8 classrooms, a domestic science room, and auditorium and gym combined.

During June the laying of cement started to complete a paved road from the site of the new high school south into Denver. This road was opened on December 6, 1924. In late July, the citizens of Lafayette gave a big celebration for the Fire Department. They had broken the world's record in the main event "the wet test." They did it in 27 seconds.

The Lafayette Library Association was formed. It was started in 1923, under the direction of the Ladies Aid Society of the Community Church. It was started with 300 books.

The Sam Lucock Store was looted by bandits. \$2000 in goods was stolen, and at the same time a new Ford auto of Mr. Reese was taken. Fifty suits and a lot of shirts were taken. A car believed to be from the bandits was found east of town near the Blue Ribbon Road; a few of the stolen items were in it.

On November 30 an extensive fire damaged the Methodist Church. This building was at 211 E. Genesee.

by Lois Waneka

1925

STILLHOUSE RAID

T37

Deputy Sheriff Raymond Bailey, 25 years old, of Broomfield was captured by Sheriff Robert V. Blum, his own superior officer, after a running gun fight during a raid on a stillhouse three miles southeast of Lafayette.

Sheriff Blum and five deputies took Bailey into custody only after he fired several times at the raiders. He surrendered when the officers responded with a fusillade of bullets.

James Mazi, 38 of Denver, also was arrested. He did not resist the raiders.

The officers confiscated a 250 gallon still, 4,000 gallons of mash, sixty five gallons of liquor and complete paraphernalia for the manufacture of liquor on a large scale.

The still was found in a house built in a ravine. It was the largest liquor raid in Boulder county this year.

Deputy Bailey and Mazi were taken to the county jail to await the filing of charges.

Bailey previously had been active in the enforcement of the prohibition law in the district, Sheriff Blum said.

"Bailey has been on the force two years," Sheriff Blum said, "and he had a good reputation as an officer. I regarded his area as one of the driest in county."

For several months Sheriff Blum had suspected the presence of a large still near Lafayette, he said. He marshaled a force of deputies, including Under Sheriff Robert Burgener, Deputy Roy Reed, Ed Tangen, Traffic Officer H.O. Waxham and City Officer Charles Warren for a complete search of the suspicious area.

The officers discovered the distillery in a ravine. It was cleverly hidden in the side of a hill, and the roof and sides of the building were concealed by branches and sod.

As the officers approached, Bailey fled from the dugout. He carried a rifle on his shoulder, and when officers fired several times he knelt behind a rock and returned the shots. Then he got up, ran several yards, and shot again.

After the raiders had fired a volley of shots from their revolvers, Bailey surrendered. He refused to talk, and made no effort to deny his presence in the stillhouse.

"The raid undoubtedly will eliminate one of the largest channels of liquor distribution in the district," Sheriff Blum said. All the evidence obtained by the raiders indicated the stillhouse was the scene of extensive wholesale operations.

The still was supplied with water from a spring on the hillside. Hidden in the ravine were eighty-one barrels, numerous jugs and cans.

The preceding article appeared in the Boulder Camera Sept. 26, 1925.

According to local residents the case was never brought to trial and no charges held against the officer. Ray Bailey, married and a father of three, lost his life in the explosion of the Monarch Mine near Louisville, Colorado Jan. 20, 1936.

by James D. Hutchison

1926

KU KLUX KLAN

T38

"What do you mean by spying on the Ku Klux Klan," asked an angry voice behind a white sheet and hood. An impressionable newspaper reporter gazed into the questioner's eyes which darted out from slits cut in the hood and which rested condescendingly on the shaking victim.

The reporter had been kidnapped from his usual spying location outside the KKK's meeting hall. The sack which had been thrown over his head for a ride into the hills behind the Standard Mine, was removed when they arrived at the large KKK meeting grounds. The captive was forced to kneel at a well lit wooden altar as 1,000 white clad people from different Denver area KKK organizations looked on. A 30 foot cross burned nearby.

The interrogator, growing impatient with his game, drew a dagger high above his head and thrust it down into the altar next to the victim, who was, by this time, beyond

reproach and petrified. Finally after further lecturing he was released and forced to find his way home through the darkened hills which escaped his vision on the ride up.

This scene actually occurred in the mid 1920's in Lafayette. Lafayette's Klan contingent included about 100 to 200 city residents, including a majority of city councilmen, the mayor, and other city officials.

Based on a strict, white, protestant, anglo saxon order which prohibited the use of alcohol and extolled the ideals of Americans for America, the KKK grew to varying degrees throughout the country. No one was allowed to join unless he was born in the United States, had no criminal record, was honest and exhibited other morally correct forms of behavior.

The Colorado KKK was so strong that a majority of state government officials were members. Even the governor was associated with the group.

The first two members of the Lafayette KKK, a dentist and the manager of the Public Service Co. were approached by Denver Klansmen in 1924. Lafayette's first KKK meeting was held at the "J" barn near Isabelle Road north of town, and the Klan's membership grew steadily over the next two years. The process of joining the KKK started when a prospective member told a Klansman of his interest. An investigation committee then surveyed the person's credentials by talking to him and the Klan member he contacted.

School board members and a majority of teachers in Lafayette were also members of the Klan and church pastors may have been members also.

One well-known practice of the KKK was to visit Lafayette churches. A cross was left burning outside the church while they gave money and a speech about the purpose of their organization. Usually the minister was expecting their arrival but the congregation was not.

The KKK gave money to those they believed deserved and needed it. In Lafayette, those that did not were not born as U.S. citizens or were Catholics who owed their allegiance to the pope.

According to John James, owner of the Sportsman Inn, they burned crosses in front of the Catholic Church and bedecked in white sheets and hoods, watched the flames consume a cloth wrapped wooden cross.

One night when old time Lafayette resident William McDaniels was 17 years old, he and a friend decided to join the secret society. They climbed a hill where a meeting was in session and when they arrived McDaniels recognized horses owned by people who worked on a farm with him. When the boys asked if they could join, the guard said it was a closed meeting and they were not taking applications.

"They didn't want anyone to know who belonged. All we were in it for was the devilry of it, just to do something," said McDaniels. "That's the nearest I came to belonging."

The decline of the Klan power in the state occurred in the November elections of 1926, and the KKK organization in Lafayette died too.

Today there is barely a clue of that organization, most of the members have died and there are no records.