

County Sheriff Has Thrilling Experience

IN ATTEMPTING TO APPREHEND CRIMINALS NEAR HOMESTAKE MINE, SHOOTS MAN IN SIDE—IN ATTEMPTING TO BRING INJURED MAN TO CEDAR, WOMAN TURNS ON SHERIFF AND HOLDS HIM UP AT POINT OF GUN, DISARMS HIM, FORCES HIM TO A TREE AND HANDCUFFS HIM TO IT—IS LEFT TO HIS FATE, WHILE CRIMINALS TAKE HIS CAR AND ESCAPE. SHERIFF RELEASES HIMSELF AFTER TWENTY-FOUR HOUR'S STRENUOUS WORK.

Every Sheriff and Peace officer in Southern Utah, Southern Nevada and Northern Arizona are searching for a man about 55 years of age suffering from a gun shot wound in his side, and a woman about 35, desperate criminals who escaped Tuesday morning in Sheriff Lewis R. Fife's car after handcuffing the Sheriff to a pine tree in the desolate hills near the Homestake mine about 26 miles west of Cedar City.

The search began when Sheriff Fife returned to Cedar shortly afternoon Wednesday still handcuffed and suffering from severe shock and many cuts and bruises received as he effected an escape that was almost miraculous and could only be accomplished by a man facing the most desperate need. The Sheriff had been left handcuffed to a pine tree at about 10 a. m. Tuesday, and realizing that he was in a locality seldom visited by human beings and where he could be found only after exhaustive search, he set about to free himself which he accomplished after more than twenty-four hours of desperate effort and of the most harrowing of experiences. He first attempted to burn the tree down but failing in this resorted to stripping the tree of its limbs. He managed to secure a small rock and by hours of continuous hacking hued off a limb about four inches in diameter, then by wrapping his legs about the smaller limbs and throwing his weight onto them he stripped the tree of its limbs, one by one, until he was able to climb to the top and free himself.

Although almost crazed from thirst and exhaustion he secured water from the desperados' abandoned camp and made his way to the highway about five miles distant. He was then picked up by a passing motorist, brought to Cedar City and given medical attention.

The Sheriff had been called to the Lyman Sevy ranch west of Newcastle Monday morning on a report that five sacks of wool had been stolen during Sunday night. The sacks had been rolled for about a quarter of a mile then loaded onto a truck. Picking up the tracks there, the Sheriff, traveling alone, trailed the outfit all day Monday and Tuesday morning ran onto a camp near the Homestake mine. He found a man and woman in bed under a cedar tree. Although they reached for their guns to shoot it out the Sheriff succeeded in disarming them and handcuffing the man. He then started them toward his car, which had been left about five hundred yards away. After going a short distance the man started to run and was shot in the right side. He was apparently badly hurt and Fife left the woman with the injured man and went for his car. When he returned the woman had secured a shotgun from the camp and the man was leaning against a tree holding the gun on the Sheriff. Fife was disarmed, the woman taking his gun. A moment later when the woman turned her back Lew grab the gun from the man although narrowly missing being shot in the head in doing so. However, the woman again disarmed him and he was handcuffed to the tree. The injured man was then placed in the back seat of the sheriff's car and the woman drove away leaving Fife at the mercy of the elements, apparently to die of thirst. Only his undaunted fighting spirit avoiding such a tragedy.

As yet the couple have not been apprehended although Fife's car was reported to have been in Las Vegas for several hours Wednesday morning, the desperados apparently being in no hurry, feeling sure the Fife would not escape.

Undaunted by his experience and determined to "get his man", Sheriff Fife with other officers, returned Wednesday afternoon to the camp where a Chevrolet dual wheel truck was found together with about 350 gallons of gasoline apparently stolen from Ely, Nevada, and a quantity of net wire,

camp supplies and sundry personal articles of the pair. The truck, which bore 1934 Nevada license No. T-4264, was brought to Cedar and is stored in Arns Garage awaiting developments.

No trace was found of the wool stolen from the Sevy ranch.

Since the man was apparently badly wounded and still handcuffed, officers feel confident that following the Las Vegas clue they will soon apprehend the dangerous couple.