

Sheriff Fife's Bullet Ends Career of Western Desperado

WOMAN WHO HANDCUFFED FIFE TO TREE CAPTURED — GRAVE OF ACCOMPLICE FOUND—TELLS OF ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING ESCAPE FROM IRON COUNTY—REGISTERS ASTONISHMENT WHEN ARRESTED BY MAN SHE THOUGHT WAS DEAD.

The search for the assailants who handcuffed Sheriff Lewis R. Fife to a tree near the Homestake mine last week when he attempted to apprehend them on a wool stealing charge ended Monday morning when Fife and other officers captured Margaret Carter on a ranch in the Arizona Strip and found the body of John N. (Jack) Weston, buried in a crude grave, his death having been caused by a bullet wound inflicted by Sheriff Fife before they overpowered him and left him to his fate.

The finding of Weston's body not only brought to a close probably the most desperate and thrilling criminal case in history of Iron county, but also closed the career of one of the west's most widely hunted criminals. Weston has been wanted by Federal Authorities for several years on charges of counterfeiting, kidnapping, automobile theft, and various other violations, and to Sheriff Fife goes the credit for capturing a criminal who has thwarted the efforts of the police forces of a half dozen states. Weston was wanted in California for kidnapping a police officer and automobile theft, was a parole violator from the state penitentiary of Arizona and had served two terms in the Washington state prison. He was quite widely known in southern Utah and on the Strip, and at one time lived in Cedar City.

The woman is now lodged in the county jail at Parowan and will be brought to trial within the next few days before Judge LeRoy A. Cox on a charge of assault with intent to commit murder, which carries a penalty of five years to life imprisonment. The case will be prosecuted by County Attorney Scott Matheson and District Attorney Ellis Pickett. Charges for violation of federal statutes will be withheld pending the outcome of the trial.

Following a tip that the man and woman were somewhere on the Arizona Strip Sheriff Fife left Sunday with Deputy Wm. Dalton, Sheriff Wm. Brooks and deputy John Cottam of Washington county, and trailed the suspects to the ranch of George Weston, brother of the slain man. Camping near the ranch Sunday night, they went to the ranch early Monday morning found Sheriff Fife's car hid in the thick timber and near by was the grave in which the body was found. They then surrounded the house and

captured the woman, who gave her name as Margaret Carter. When captured she showed great surprise at seeing Sheriff Fife alive, apparently having thought that he would perish where she had left him tied to the tree.

The woman was taken to St. George and Tuesday morning Sheriff Fife deputies Dalton and Cottam, attorney Scott Matheson and Special Agent Merrill, federal officer from the Salt Lake office returned to the ranch, where an inquest was held by Justice of the Peace Roy Bundy. The body was positively identified as that of Jack Weston, and after finger prints, etc., had been taken the body was again buried. The body had been wrapped in a sheet, placed in a shallow grave, and covered with dirt and branches of trees in an apparent effort at concealment of the grave. The burial had apparently been made by the woman. One of the handcuffs on the man when he escaped from Fife had been chiseled off, but the other still remained.

The woman at first refused to talk but later reported that she had driven directly from where she left Fife to the ranch of Weston's brother. When she neared St. George she took Weston from the car, hid him under a bridge, then went into St. George and secured cotton, gauze, and aspirin to treat the injured man's wound, according to the report of officers. She also secured a hammer and chisel and removed one of the handcuffs. The officers report that Weston last spoke to the woman near Wolf Hole about one a. m. Wednesday and apparently died soon after as he was dead when the ranch was reached early Wednesday morning. They escaped from Fife Tuesday morning.

The woman divulged hiding places of loot and Sheriff Fife, Sheriff Jensen of Beaver county, Sheriff Theobald of Millard and Sheriff Brooks of Washington county left yesterday for Nevada to investigate and attempt to recover the stolen property. They are expected home today.

Mr. Merrill and Henry Taggart of the Federal office in Salt Lake City complimented Sheriff Fife on his fine work, Taggart stating that Fife "used as fine judgment throughout the entire case as I have seen in all my experience."