

NEWS ITEM

Clay "Tricky" Riggle is being held in the local jail without bond for the double slaying of Frances Marie Williamson and Walter Akerblade. Six eye-witnesses saw Riggle appear at the open door of the Angle lunchroom in Wheatland last Saturday evening about 8:15 and after saying, "I told you I'd get you" he pumped nine shells into the bodies of Mrs. Williamson and Akerblade who were seated at the first two stools on the west side of the lunch counter in the Angle lunchroom.

Walter Akerblade partially raised from his stool and staggered toward the back of the lunch counter where he fell into the arms of Joe Ferguson who was seated at the far end of the counter on the same side with Mrs. Williamson and Akerblade.

Mrs. Williamson fell to the floor following the shots and both she and Akerblade were dead when authorities arrived. Akerblade had four bullets in his body and the fifth one went through his hand and grazed his face. Mrs. Williamson had four wounds in her body. Each victim had a bullet through the heart causing instantaneous death.

Following the shoot, Riggle, who had driven his car to the door of the Angle lunch room and had left the motor running jumped into the 1937 Chevrolet and headed east down the alley.

Jim Angle, proprietor of the cafe, immediately notified authorities and within 15 minutes all roads out of Wheatland were blocked, and a search was underway for the killer.

After an all night search Saturday following the shooting a large posse was formed on Sunday morning with instructions to shoot Riggle on sight. Several airplanes were also used in the man hunt and about 10 a.m. Sunday, John Phifer spotted the killer's car from a plane. The car had been driven to the west entrance of the Phifer ranch and then down into a deep gully where Riggle abandoned it. Further evidence revealed that Riggle had struck a telephone pole east of town in his wild flight and had sheared it off but didn't damage his car enough to hamper his escape. He did lose his hat, however, at the scene of the crash.

Following the finding of the fugitive's car, the search turned to that area of the country and first Riggle's dog was used in hopes it would lead the posse to the hunted man. The dog showed no interest other than being happy to be in his master's car.

Another dog that was part bloodhound was used in the hunt Sunday and this dog led the party back toward Wheatland in a southwesterly direction down toward the power plant where it failed to find further scent. It then worked back toward Chugwater creek.

On Sunday evening a trained bloodhound was brought from Laramie to Wheatland and about 5 o'clock Monday morning a new search was started with this dog. The bloodhound seemed to work pretty much in the same direction as the first one and later Monday snow and rain halted the search with this dog.

Although no definite clues had been found up to Monday evening, all local authorities, including Sheriff Bill Sutherland and his deputy, George Wain, were of the opinion that Riggle was still in this area.

Sheriff Sutherland and his assistants were just organizing further searching parties