THE DECADE OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1940-1949

January 25, 1940 Thursday

The Colorado Sheriffs and Peace Officer's Association is meeting today to recommend that the elected terms of Colorado County Sheriffs by expanded from the present two year term to a four year term. Their resolution read that better service could be effected in a four year term due to the experience needed today to serve as a Colorado Sheriff. However, the resolution passed today would not become a reality for another fourteen years.

July 4, 1940

Today, Undersheriff Clarence Bunch Fugate, better known as "C.B.", announces his plans to run on the Republican ticket this Fall for the office of Sheriff. CB was born in Lead Hill, Arkansas on July 19, 1887. As a small boy he moved with his parents to Eureka, Kansas where he received his education and grew to be an adult. In 1915 he moved to Lamar, Colorado where he homesteaded and a year later joined the Colorado National Guard. While in the Guard Fugate served a short time as Camp George West and from here he was sent to the Mexican border to fight Poncho Villa. At the entry of United States into World War One he was transfered to the regular Army assigned to the Colorado 157th. In 1919 he was honorably discharged from Fort D.A. Russell in Cheyenne, Wyoming and he immediately returned to Jefferson County where he bought a home in Pleasantview. For the next twelve years he maintained a cattle and livestock business in Jackson County. In 1932 he was appointed Deputy Sheriff by Sheriff James G. Biggins, remaining in that capacity until 1938 when Sheriff Willis Morris appointed Fugate as his Undersheriff.

Sheriff Willis Morris

As October of 1940 approached Fugate began to earnestly campaign for the office of Sheriff. He paraded a covered wagon with his name and intended office stenciled on the side up and down the streets of Golden and neighboring communities. His image alone bore certain traits indentifiable by all who met him. He always wore a light colored Stetson hat, sported western boots and a western cut to his clothes. He enjoyed a great sense of humor even under the most stressful of situations. He entrusted his most valuable personnal assets to a small tin box on a shelf in the Sheriff's office. Everyone knew that C.B. Fugate never liked to carry a gun, and normally did not. He lived alone in his house in Pleasant View, giving away money and coal to needy neighbors during the Depression. He had quickly earned himself a beloved place in the hearts of many Jefferson County residents.

October 12, 1940 Saturday

Tonight Undersheriff Clarence B. Fugate drove north to Arvada in his brand new Ford. Underneath his left arm he wore a shoulder holster and a two inch Smith and Wesson .38 revolver. At 4:15 am Fugate parked his car at Wadsworth and Grandview and met Deputy Sheriff Tony Muench and Arvada night watchman William Benson. A Denver General Hospital ambulance had just left the area carrying Red Marcum who had just been shot by Jack Carleton in the bar just down the block.

Undersheriff Fugate instructed Deputy Muench to guard the doors of Lee's Tavern (now Club Villa) while he and Benson went inside to arrest Carleton. It was now 4:30 am.

Neither Fugate or Benson had their guns drawn when they entered the bar. Jack Carleton was standing behind the bar, his wife, Marjorie, was passed out in a booth across the room.

"Jack, where's the gun?" said Fugate as he approached the bar.

"It's in the kitchen," answered Carleton.

Fugate walked toward the bat wing doors at the end of the bar that led into the cafe kitchen. Benson was close behind, then stopped and waited in front of the bar. Fugate pushed the bat wind doors open and went into the kitchen. Carleton walked down to the end of the bar and peered at Fugate over the doors.

"Wait a minute. Are you going to arrest me?" said Carleton.

Fugate turned to face Carleton. "Yes. I'm going to take you in."

Carleton backed away from the bat wing doors. Benson walked around the bar and entered the kitchen with Fugate who could not find any gun. Carleton pulled a pistol from his pocket and raised it toward the top of the bat wing doors. Unable to locate any gun, Undersheriff Fugate pushed the bat wing doors open and faced Carleton. Two gunshots erupted from behind the bar.

One bullet hit Fugate in the left lung, the other in the heart. As he fell, Fugate pulled his gun and fired one shot, the bullet hitting the wall beside him. Arvada night watchman Benson pulled his gun and fired three quick shots, each one hitting Carleton. Carleton fired once and hit Benson in the left hand, turned, and ran from the Cafe through the front door. Deputy Muench, who as standing on the sidewalk off Grandview, had his gun drawn when Carleton pushed his way out into the street.

Muench opened fire. Two more bullets hit Carleton. Carleton fired back. Deputy Muench ran for cover, while Carleton ran for an alley.

The wounded suspect made his way to the alley a hundred yards away. Bleeding from at least six bullet wounds, Carleton slipped down behind a trash bin, and waited in the darkness.

Arvada day watchman, Walter Hazelet, had just come on duty when he heard the gunshots, and arriving at the scene was instructed by Deputy Muench to block off one end of the alley while he covered the other end. In the darkness, Hazelet noticed Carleton hiding behind the trash bin. Quietly he crept up behind him and struck the man with his blackjack knocking the bar owner senseless.

The senior Deputy, Delotus H. Babcock, was notified about 5:15 am by Sheriff's dispatcher Fred Pettigrew of the incident that had just happened in Arvada. Babcock took over the case since the Sheriff, Willis Morris was out of town on a hunting trip. The senior Deputy drove to Arvada in his DeSoto with Carl Cline, the District Attorney for Jefferson County. O.A. Saunders, the County Coroner, was already on scene.

Jack Carleton had been transported to Denver General Hospital, with William Benson standing guard, for treatment of his wounds. Marjorie Carleton was sedated by a local Doctor as soon as she realized what had happened while she lay in a stupor in the cafe booth. When Babcock arrived he learned that the body of Undersheriff Fugate had already been moved to Woods Mortuary in Golden.

Bullets were dug out of the cafe walls. Photographs were taken. Afterwards, once the sun had come up, Babcock and Carl Cline went to the hospital to interview Carleton.

"I didn't want to go to jail", said Carleton as his reason for shooting the Undersheriff.

Marjorie Carleton was taken to jail as a witness, but was released two days later because she could not remember what happened.

November 5, 1940 Tuesday

Clarence Bunch Fugate had handily won the primary election for the office of Sheriff last September 10th as Willis Morris was not planning on running for re-election. However, since the death of C.B. Fugate, the Republican Party asked Morris to run once again, which Morris agreed to do. Today, Willis Morris won his bid for re-election and would remain in office. He would name Howard Vincent as his new Undersheriff.

May 10, 1941

Today Jack Carleton was found guilty of the shooting death of Clarence B. Fugate. The fifty four year old bar owner was sentenced to life in prison at hard labor. Nineteen years later Carleton died at Canon City and was buried in the Prison's cemetery called Woodpecker Hill. No one came to claim his body.

October 8, 1942

Past Jefferson County Sheriff Albert Jones today organized a scrap metal drive in Jefferson County. The War Production Board will make awards to counties with the highest per capita rate of scrap collected by October 17, 1942. Past Undersheriff Orville Dennis was named assistant to Homer Pearson as the local sugar rationing administrator for the county.

As predicted, Sheriff Willis Morris declined to participate in the forthcoming election, allowing Undersheriff Howard Vincent to run instead. On September 8 Vincent won the primary with a total count of 1.096 votes.

January 11, 1943 Tuesday

Today Howard Vincent became the next Sheriff of Jefferson County and announcing his choice for Undersheriff as George Koch.

Sheriff Howard Vincent

IN MEMORIAL

Undersheriff CLarance Bunch Fugate. Killed in the line of duty, October 12, 1940.

Howard Vincent was born in Denver in 1888 and attended Denver public schools, graduating from Regis High School. Later he attended the University of Denver. After his formal education, Howard joined his dad, J.T. Vincent, in the construction business and remained thus engaged until he was made Undersheriff for Willis Morris upon the death of Clarence Fugate.

April 10, 1943 Saturday

William Eugene Wymer, age 16, with two other companions decided to climb to the top of Castle Rock in Golden which looms 175 feet straight up from the mountain slope on the east side of the Golden Valley. On the way up Wymer and his friends overtook two boys from Lakewood, Donald J. Matta, age 8, and Milo M. Flint, age 11, who were also attempting to climb the rock. On the way up, Wymer began to harass the two young boys. First by words, then by taking their money, shoes, wrist watches, and even their socks.

About 5:00 pm the five boys reached the top of Castle Rock and without warning Wymer pushed Flint over the edge. Then Wymer grabbed a terrified Donald Matta and threw him also over the edge of the steep cliff. Both young boys bounced a way down the slope of the hill and lay in scrub bush and rocks. Matta died instantly while Flint lay in the brush severely injured but still conscious.

About a half an hour later two other young boys happened by the base of Castle Rock and discovered the bodies of Flint and Matta. Just before he died Flint told the two shocked youngsters that a "big boy had pushed them off the rock."

The story was relayed to the County Sheriff and Vincent arrested Wymer who was staying in a hotel room in downtown Golden. All night Sheriff Vincent worked on the side of Castle Rock, piecing each bit of evidence together in order to assure the prosecution of the street gang member from Denver, William E. Wymer.

The following day Sheriff Vincent filed first degree murder charges on the boy from Denver.

July 2, 1943 Friday Night

William E. Wymer was found guilty of the slaying of the two young boys from Lakewood last April. The jury fixed the punishment at life in prison.

December 22, 1943 Wednesday

On Sunday, Sheriff Vincent was working in his office. He had been suffering from what appeared to be the flu for several days when he was stricken with a heart attack. He was immediately taken to St. Anthony's Hospital Sunday and placed in intensive care. Today, Howard Vincent died.

December 27, 1943 Monday

Today Undersheriff George Koch was sworn in as Sheriff of Jefferson County after being selected by the Board of County Commissioners to fill the vacancy left by the death last week of Howard Vincent. Koch would serve as Sheriff until January 1945 to complete the term of Howard Vincent. Sheriff Koch announced that his choice for Undersheriff will be named later as soon as he selects the most appropriate person. He did name Carl Enlow, Fred Pettigrew, and William Watson as his chief deputies.

Sheriff George Koch lived in Golden Gate Canyon and enjoyed a ranchers life there for many years. He was an active member of the Gilpin-Jefferson Stockman's Assocation. Throughout the years in the Golden area, George Koch had been involved in the prevention of cattle rustling, and the subsequent apprehension of cattle rustlers.

January 6, 1944

Sheriff George Koch appointed today a Deputy Sheriff of six years, Carl Enlow of Lakewood as his Undersheriff, and added Ernest Shepherd on the department as another deputy.

June 26, 1944 Sunday

A week ago Sergeant Sidney Radner of Buckley Air Field challenged Sheriff Koch to handcuff, rope, chain, box, and straight jacket him for a show to raise war bonds. Tonight Sheriff Koch accompanied by past sheriffs James Biggins and

Sheriff George Koch

Willis Morris did chain, box, handcuff and secure in every fashion the body of one "Fighting Fifth" War bond showman before a large Golden audience at Central School in Golden. Five minutes later the Sergeant was free.

November 7, 1944 Tuesday

On September 12th Sheriff Koch ran against Christian D. Stoner for the Republican nomination for Sheriff. Today, Koch who had won the primary election defeated Democrat, Leonard E. Smith by over two thousand votes, in the general election.

March 8, 1945 Thursday

The Golden City Council voted on the sale of City Park or Pioneer Park to the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners as a site for a new courthouse. Ten acres of land, once owned by W.A.H. Loveland, located in and around 16th and 17th and Arapahoe streets, was the issue at hand. Today the land is a city park adorned with bubbling, ornate water fountains, rolling hills covered with lawn, and picnic areas enjoyed by residents. This land is too valuable for the City Council to decide such a sale, so today the Council elects to send the issue to a vote of the people on April 5th of this year.

June 14, 1945

The voters last week approved a measure that would allow the City of Golden to sell Jefferson County ten acres of park to serve as ground for a new courthouse. The land will be officially sold to the County for one dollar.

September 1, 1946 Saturday

In the early months of 1946 Sheriff George Koch was approved the money for the acquisition of a radio system for the Sheriff's Department. For the last eight years, the Sheriff's Department carried radio receivers in their cars and all radio dispatch services funneled through the Denver Police Department. Sheriff's Department mobile patrol cars were identified as Car 21 on the Denver Police radio system. In July of this year, George E. Crammer, manager of the Denver Mountain Parks, denied the County's use of a parcel of land atop Lookout Mountain for the erection of a small transmitter station and a 100 foot transmitting antennae. Sheriff Koch contacted Jack Browne, a local cattleman who owned land on top of Lookout Mountain, and asked him if he would be willing to lease some land for the radio system. Denver's land was not necessary, since Browne did approve this request and in July the construction began.

Today technicians completed the 250 megocycle radio station KRSU atop Lookout Mountain for the Sheriff's Department. Six cars in total in Jefferson County, including the cities, will be set up with the two way radio system and dispatching services will be located in the foyer of the jail. Denver's police radio system, KGPX, no longer serviced Jefferson County.

The body of Michael Randolph lies in the grass on a pine covered slope near Tiny Town, as police hunt for clues. Left to right are Deputy Coroner Warren Hawkins, Deputy Ed Frisby, Dr. Howlett, Sheriff George Koch, Undersheriff Carl Enlow, and Ray Humphries of the Denver Police.

November 5, 1946 Tuesday

Today in the general election, incumbent George Koch easily defeated Democrat Albert W. Newton for the office of Sheriff. The increase in the total number of votes could be seen by the rapid rise in population since the end of World War Two. In 1940 the population of Jefferson County was 30, 725 people, while in November of this year the population was registered at 45,225. Nearly fourteen thousand total votes were cast for Sheriff in this election.

August 2, 1947 Friday

A body, fully clothed, is found underneath a tree by three ranchers, Erwin Gray, his son, and Vern Sundwell about two miles from Highway 285 on the Tiny Town Road. The body was located about one hundred yards off Tiny Town Road near a large rock where the corpse had been decomposing for some time. Sheriff Koch was notified.

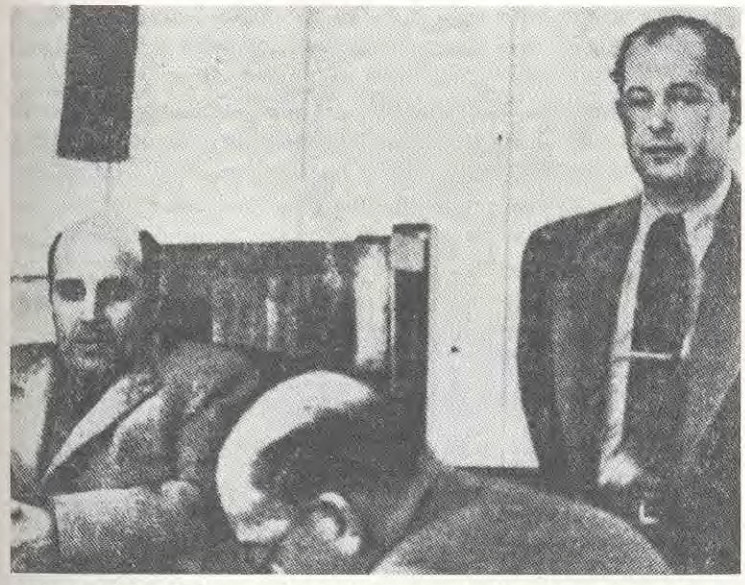
Later in the day, Sheriff Koch made the announcement that the body located near Tiny Town was that of Michael Randolph, a missing restaurant owner from Denver. Three bullet fragments had been removed earlier from the body's head, said the Sheriff, and now his staff was in the process of rounding up all relatives and acquaintances of Randolph for questioning.

August 4, 1947 Sunday

Undersheriff Carl Enlow, Howard Butefish of the Denver District Attorney's office and his associate, Jack Field, and the investigation staff from the Omaha Police Department today interviewed Archibald Miller in conjunction with the July 7th disappearance and subsequent death of Michael Randolph.

Miller, age 22, and his wife Charlotte; Robert S. "Batt" Battalino, age 45, and his wife Mildred were arrested in a mobile home park in Omaha after a warrant was issued for the arrest of the two men by Sheriff Koch. Interviews held Friday and Saturday with employees of Michael Randolph's restaurant in Denver revealed that the restaurant owner had some bad words with Miller and a very bad past relationship with Battalino.

Archibald Miller, ex-Marine, confessed to the lawmen in Omaha today that Robert Battalino shot Randolph in the head over an old quarrel, and Miller only drove the car. Battalino and Miller would be brought back to Jefferson County this week to stand trial for the murder of the Denver cafe owner.



Undersheriff Carl Enlow stands guard over convicted murderer, Robert S. Battalino as the court reporter takes down testimony in the trial of Archie Miller.

August 8, 1947 Thursday Morning

During the days after Battalino's arrest in Omaha, the accused killer had developed a respect for the soft spoken, honest, and direct Undersheriff of Jefferson County, Carl Enlow. Last night Battalino called Enlow to his jail cell and told the lawman that he had a "story to tell". This morning Enlow gathered all the necessary officials to hear what Battalino had to say.

The interview began. Carl Enlow and Sheriff Koch asking the questions.

"What was in your mind to do?" asked Enlow.

"Exactly what I did do," replied Battalino. "Let me tell you my story and then you ask your questions..."

Battalino gave a history of his quarrel with Michael Randolph and how he got Archie Miller to help him take the victim to the mountains for a "duel". Then Battalino came to the point in question. "...so we climbed over the fence. So I figured, well, I'll take Miller over along with me because I ain't going to walk home. He probably wouldn't have run away, but then you can't tell. So we get down there and I said: 'Mike, if you want to say anything'. Well, gentlemen, if it had of been me, that money that was in his pocket, I would have said," 'try to get this money to my kids' ", but as he was too selfish that he'd like to take that money with him. He said he would like to pray, and I said "Get with it". He prayed and for awhile I didn't interrupt him; I wasn't in no hurry. In fact, I wanted him to wait like I did for a long time. So finally he got done and he got his hands down and as near as I know I shot him about one inch above the eyes, right in the middle of head and I have no regrets, gentlemen."

December 17, 1947 Tuesday Evening

At 10:00 pm Robert S. Battalino was escorted into the courtroom flanked by Sheriff Koch and Undersheriff Carl Enlow. Fifteen minutes ago the jury reached a verdict and Battalino was shackled and brought from his jail cell to the District Courtroom of Judge H. Davies.

"I'll take all bets this kangaroo court finds me guilty," said Battalino to Sheriff Koch as he was being led into the courtroom. The Judge asked for the verdict. Attorney Carl Cline asked that each juror be polled his decision. Each juror said he had found Battalino guilty of first degree murder with the penalty of death. Battalino grinned and winked at all the people seated around him.

January 13, 1948 Thursday

Today Sheriff Koch and Undersheriff Carl Enlow transported Robert S. Batalino to Canon City for incarceration there in lieu of his scheduled execution on May 3rd.

Archibald Miller would be acquitted of murder in March of this year, the jury believing that this ex-Marine was an unwilling partner in the slaying of Michael Randolph.

Battalino would receive a stay of execution in May and his date of execution would be extended to January of 1949.

April 5, 1948 Monday

George Green of the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners accepted the deed to Golden's Pioneer Park from Senator Harold Ward Gardner today in order to construct a new courthouse for the county. It was hoped that the new courthouse would be occupied in 1955.

July 1, 1948

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department for the first time placed decals on their patrol cars to identify them. A large white circle was placed on each door with "Sheriff's Patrol" in curved letters surrounding numbers one through seven was the beginning of "marked" patrol cars for this department. Also, today, all members of the department began to wear new police type uniforms for the first time. The uniforms consisted of grey trousers, grey jackets, green shirts, western ties, sam browne belts (holsters and guns were varied), optional hats, and brown shoes or boots. By the end of the year, the department boasted uniformed Deputy Sheriff's in marked 1948 Chevrolet two door coupes and new 1949 Chevrolet and Ford cars. Credit for the creation of the uniforms and marked cars lies ultimately with the Sheriff, George Koch, however, it is known that the man who was instrumental in creating this new department was Undersheriff Carl Enlow.

November 2, 1948 Tuesday

Today Republican candidate for the office of Sheriff, Carl E. Enlow, defeated Democratic candidate, Raymond Anderson, 9,999 votes to 8,861 votes. A new era in Jefferson County law enforcement was now beginning. In January of 1949, Enlow would name Orville Kitterman as his Undersheriff.

Sheriff Koch would move to north Golden and manage the Hess Ranch as well as sell trucks at Craig Chevrolet. One of Koch's last acts as Sheriff was to form a reserve force of civilian personnel who could come to the aid of the Sheriff's Department in time of disaster or emergency. On October 7, 1948 Koch organized the Sheriff's Department Reserves, with the training of seven civilians to help the Sheriff's Department. These seven reserve men received white overall uniforms and were taught how to fight forest fires.

Sheriff Carl Enlow

January 6, 1949 Friday Night

Outside the prison walls, the searchlight could barely keep up with the prisoner as he quickly walked up the slope toward the small building. The prisoner wore sneakers, gray prison pants, a gray sweatshirt, and a stocking cap with visor which covered his balding head. He quickly entered the building and entered an anteroom where he began to undress. When his bare feet hit the cold, steel floor he turned to his guards and said, "What are you guys trying to do, freeze me to death?"

He quickly stripped to his underwear. He brushed aside the Catholic Priest who approached him. "I don't go for any of that stuff," he said.

Silently he crossed the corridor and stepped into the small sealed chamber. Chewing gum he sat down in the steel chair, smiling.

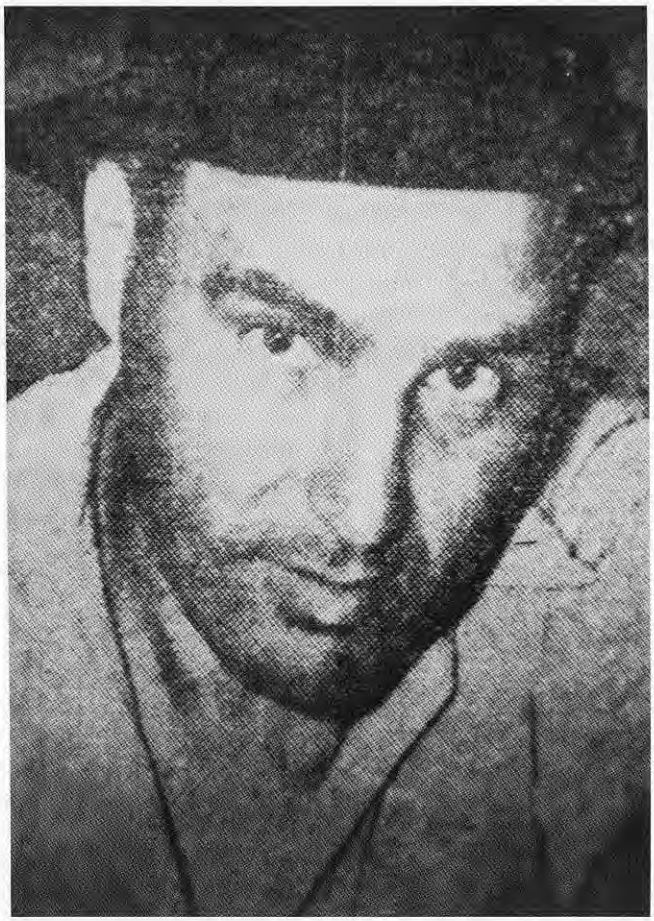
Guards strapped his feet, his wrists, his biceps to the chair, and as they were drawing straps across his chest he said: "First you try to freeze me, now you want to choke me to death."

They put a mask over his eyes and as the last guard left the small chamber, and slammed the air tight door, the prisoner said: "Take it easy."

He chewed his gum as the cyanide eggs cascaded from beneath his chair and into the crock of sulphuric acid. White plumes of deadly gas climbed up his legs, over his chest and into his nose. He stopped chewing his gum, spat it out and became tense. Then his chest swelled and seconds later Robert S. Battalino was dead.

Nearby, Sheriff Koch, Undersheriff Carl Enlow and Deputy Warden Orlan Dooley watched the man die.

Robert S. Battalino was buried in Woodpecker Hill at the State Penitentiary.



Robert S. "Batt" Battalino