

# Officer Who Killed Self Rescued Wife From Villa

Jolly Garner, Brother of Vice President, Hid Girl and Her Mother After Bandits Seized Hotel

Jolly Garner, 48, youngest brother of Vice President John Nance Garner, who shot and killed himself Saturday night, because of ill health rescued his future wife from bandits during Francisco- (Pancho) Villa's bloody raid on Columbus, N. M., in 1914, his father-in-law, Police Officer Alvin C. Ash, revealed today.

Mr. Garner was a mounted customs officer at Columbus at the time of the raid.

He lived at Hotel Comercial, operated by the present Mrs. Ash.

When Villa's bandits captured Columbus, Mr. Garner was in the hotel where seven men were killed. With a brother officer, Bert Aguirre, he escaped from the building.

Mr. Ash said the bandits took possession of the hotel, started looting the building, set it afire, and captured the women, including Mr. Garner's future wife, then Miss Myrtle Ritchey.

The cool and daring young cus-

tom's officer slipped back to the burning building during the confusion, rescued his future wife, her mother and the other women, and led them to a safe hiding place in the town, Mr. Ash said.

Mr. Garner later married Miss Ritchey, and Mr. Ash, whom Mr. Garner succeeded as a customs officer at Columbus, later married Mr. Garner's mother-in-law.

Mr. Garner first patrolled the El Paso border on horseback in 1913. He was returned to the customs service here last January.

Funeral services for Mr. Garner were held at Peak-Hagedon chapel at 11 a. m. today with Rev. L. L. Evans officiating.

Mr. Ash and Mr. Garner's widow left at 1:45 p. m. today to accompany the body to Detroit, Tex., where services will be held at the Garner homestead at 4.30 p. m. tomorrow. Burial will be in the family vault at Detroit.