

FOUND DEAD

E. E. KOGLMEIER MURDERED IN HIS HARNESS SHOP AT 319 S. SANTA FE STREET.

PUT UP A DESPERATE FIGHT

Literally Cut to Pieces by His Assaultants Before He Succumbed to Wounds.

ROBBERY WAS EVIDENTLY THE MOTIVE

Pockets Turned Inside Out and Shoes Taken from Feet—Still Alive When Found, but Died Moment Later.

E. E. Koglmeler, pioneer El Paso harness maker and a member of the El Paso volunteer fire department, was murdered last night at 9:45 o'clock in his little harness shop at 319 South Santa Fe street.

Hold up men are believed to have been the murderers of the pioneer. He was found about 9:50 by Special Patrolman Keyser.

Officer Keyser passing down Santa Fe street at that hour looked into the little harness shop to bid the old harness maker good night as was his custom. He had been talking to him only a short while previous, and Koglmeler told him that he had some special work that had to be finished last night. He lived in the rear of his shop.

Lying in a Pool of Blood.

When Keyser looked into the store he saw Koglmeler lying face downward in a pool of blood. He rushed into the store and turned the old man over, but he was breathing his last and before medical aid reached him had expired.

Keyser called the police and Coroner E. B. McClintock, who held an inquest over the body, but did not reach a verdict last night.

From the appearance of Koglmeler and the store, it is evident that Koglmeler struggled with his murderer or murderers. His shoes had been torn from his feet. There were five lashes in the back of his head, one on the forehead and one over each eye. Nearly anyone of them would have caused the man's death, according to the police, as they were inflicted with a hatchet or some other sharp instrument.

Usually Kept Money in Store.

Officer Keyser said last night that Koglmeler usually kept his money in the store. The police advance the theory that a man or men entered the store and tried to surprise Koglmeler. Instead of obeying the command to hold up his hands, the plucky little German evidently gave fight and his death was the result. His pockets had been turned wrong side out and emptied before Keyser found him.

An Old Resident.

Koglmeler came to El Paso about eighteen years ago. He established a little harness shop at West San Antonio and Santa Fe streets, where he had been in business until about four or five months ago, when he moved to the site where he was murdered.

About 14 years ago he joined the volunteer fire department, there being no paid department at that time. Since joining the fire fighting force, Koglmeler had not, so far as is known, missed attending a fire. He kept his

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horse ready to be harnessed on a moment's notice and always rode to the fires in his buggy.

Came from California.

He came here from Visalia, Cal., where he had been conducting a harness shop. Thirty years ago he came from Germany with his parents and moved with them to Visalia. His parents are living there now. Two years ago Mrs. Koglmeler died in El Paso. The only child, a son, is now in California with his grand parents.

After the coroner held his inquest, the body was removed to the McBean, Simmons & Carr undertaking parlors, where it is being prepared for burial. The Sons of Herman, of which the deceased was a member, will probably have charge of the funeral arrangements. It is not known at present where interment will be made.

Looking for Murderer.

Detectives, patrolmen and mounted patrolmen are casting out a dragnet over the city today in an effort to catch the murderer or murderers. All suspicious looking characters were carefully looked over last night, but the scrutiny failed to disclose to the police and detective departments any clue as to the man or men who are responsible for the man's death.

Fighting For His Life; Koglmeier Is Murdered

Harnessmaker Is Found Dying in His Shop, With Many Evidences of a Desperate Struggle; Had Been Beaten Over the Head With Some Blunt Instrument; Robbery Theory Is Abandoned.

AFTER apparently struggling desperately with his assailants, E. E. Koglmeier, aged 62 years, volunteer fireman and pioneer El Pasoan, was murdered in his place of business, 319 South Santa Fe street, some time between the hours of 7:30 and 9 o'clock Saturday night. Five jagged cuts and holes, some of them being located in the back of the head, and four wounds of a similar nature inflicted on the face, resulted in his death. Life was all but extinct when Mr. Koglmeier was found lying in a pool of blood about the center of the room of his harness and saddlery shop. He was in his shirt sleeves. Robbery is not believed to have been the motive for the crime.

William Gieseler, a merchants' policeman, was the first one to discover Mr. Koglmeier. He had passed the shop on his first round at 7 o'clock Saturday night when it is said that he spoke to Mr. Koglmeier. Returning to the shop on his second round at 9:15 o'clock, Gieseler saw the door of the place open. Gieseler walked in. He had a presentiment that something was wrong. The glare from the officer's flashlight disclosed the body of Mr. Koglmeier. He was unconscious, and it was evident that he had only a few minutes to live. The police were immediately notified.

Mr. Koglmeier was still alive when patrolman Letcher arrived. The patrolman was the first policeman on the scene. It was shortly after his arrival that Mr. Koglmeier died. Chief of detectives Jesse C. Stansel and detective O. W. Smith followed Letcher. Detective Fred Delgado then went to the place. Coroner E. B. McClintock viewed the body when it was

removed to a local undertaking establishment.

Evidences of a Struggle.

Despite the fact that the first blow evidently had been delivered when his back was turned to his murderers, Mr. Koglmeier must have struggled before he was beaten down for the last time. Trails of blood ran from almost every section of the room, showing that the struggle had been long before the victim was finally compelled to succumb from the blows dealt him with either a dull hatchet or some iron instrument.

Theory of the Crime.

The belief is that two men called at the harness shop a little after 7 o'clock. They had gone there under the pretext of making a purchase. Bridles, harness and collars hang suspended from the ceiling of the place, and the two murderers had evidently selected a horse collar as their purchase. This

article was lying near the ladder which is used in taking the wares from the ceiling hooks. It is believed Koglmeier had climbed the ladder and taken the collar from the hook when the first blow was struck him, on the back of the head.

At one time during the fight Mr. Koglmeier had been thrown on a pile of blankets in one corner of the store. It was then, it is thought, he was struck several times on the back of the head. After falling for the last time it is believed that the murderers kicked him in the face, both eyes being blackened and his face otherwise discolored when the officers found him.

No Evidence of Robbery.

While robbery may have been a motive for the crime, there is no evidence to substantiate this theory. A safe stands in one corner of the store. The combination of this was on and there were no signs to show that the safe had been tampered with. It is denied that Koglmeier kept any sums of money at his place of business, his custom being to place his money in the banks. The pockets of his trousers were not turned inside out, and there was no ev-

idence about the man to show that his clothing had been searched for money after he had been murdered.

In a rear room adjoining the store, which Koglmeier slept in before moving to his home in Highland park some time ago, in a pair of trousers which were hanging on the wall, detective Stansel found \$1. The date on the coin was "1873" and it had evidently been carried by the owner for some time. While there was no money in the pockets of the trousers that Koglmeier was wearing at the time he met his death, there was nothing to show that they had been rifled. One of the hip pockets was pulled out, but that was all. The theory that robbery played any part in the crime has practically been discarded by the officers.

Had Lived Here 20 Years.

Koglmeier had lived in El Paso about 20 years. During that time he had made many friends and was considered popular. He was well liked by the paid fireman and the volunteers. He was a member of hose company No. 2. On the occasion of the annual banquets of the volunteer firemen, Mr. Kogl-

meier was always one of the speakers. He was not known to have had any enemies.

Mr. Koglmeier came here from Visalia, Cal., where a son, living now, survives him, and where it is said that his first wife died a number of years ago. He was a native of Germany. About five years ago he was married to Miss Anna Miller, of El Paso. She died about two years ago. There were no children from the second marriage. There is a brother living in Germany, who survives.

The deceased was a vice president of the local order of the Sons of Herman, and chairman of the board of

stewards of the Fraternal Union of America.

It is expected that the funeral will be held Wednesday morning.