

ERNEST KOHLBERG SHOT DEAD IN COLD BLOOD IN HIS OWN STORE

John S. Leech Who Did the Shooting is Speedily Indicted By Grand Jury and Trial Will Take Place Within a Few Days To Prevent Any Delay of Justice--Eviction Writ Supposed To Be The Cause of The Awful Crime.

E. Kohlberg, one of the oldest and best known business men of El Paso, was shot and almost instantly killed by John S. Leech, proprietor of the Southern hotel, at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon in the Kohlberg cigar store, 115 South El Paso street.

Mr. Kohlberg owned the Southern hotel, and the shooting occurred within forty-five minutes after his agents had caused an eviction notice to be served on Leech, which fact is said to have been responsible for the killing.

Leech was arrested almost immediately after the shooting and placed in the county jail. At 8 o'clock last night at a special session of the grand jury an indictment was returned against Leech charging him with murder in the first degree, and it is said his trial will be held at once.

DIED ALMOST INSTANTLY.

Mr. Kohlberg died within ten minutes after he was shot, without having regained consciousness. Doctors Thompson W. Grace and G. E. Callan were hurriedly summoned to the aid of the dying man, but he breathed only a few times after their arrival.

Two shots were fired by Leech, but only one took effect. The bullet, which was of .38 calibre, entered on the right side of the back between the shoulder blade and the back bone, broke the fourth rib, severed the large artery ascending from the heart, known as the aorta, broke the third rib in front and lodged under the surface of the skin.

As far as can be learned, Walter Kohlberg, the dead man's son, was the only witness to the shooting.

Eviction Notice, the Cause.

According to him, Leech entered the store and demanded of Mr. Kohlberg what he was going to do about an eviction notice which had been served because of \$1150 due in back rent. Mr. Kohlberg is said to have replied that he had nothing to do with the matter, as it was entirely out of his hands now; but to go see Mr. Charles Stevens, his agent, or Mr. R. C. Walshe, the attorney who had the matter in hand. Mr. Kohlberg, according to his son, then turned and started toward the rear of the store, whereupon Leech shot him in the back. It is said there was no quarrel or no loud words spoken and so quiet was the whole conversation that Henry G. Buchaz, the bookkeeper, who was in the same room, did not have his attention attracted until the shots rang out, after which he reached Mr. Kohlberg in time to catch him before he fell.



THE LATE ERNEST KOHLBERG

FUNERAL OF MR. KOHLBERG TUESDAY

Services Will Be Held at
Jewish Synagogue at
5 O'Clock.

Funeral services over the body of the late E. Kohlberg will be held at the family home, corner of Corto street and West Boulevard, Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock. The services will be conducted by Rabbi Martin Zelenka of Mt Sinai Synagogue, of which the deceased was a member. Interment will be made in the Jewish section of Concordia cemetery.

The pall-bearers will consist of the following prominent business men of the city, all of whom were intimate friends of Mr. Kohlberg: A. Krakauer, J. Callsher, H. Elchwald, Henry Buchaz, Judge Joseph Magoffin, A. A. Kline, Frank Powers, H. B. Stevens.

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