

# R. SILBERBERG SHOT, KILLED IN HUNTING ACCIDENT

**Pioneer El Paso Business  
Man Dies While Climbing  
Through Wire Fence  
With Shotgun.**

**ON WAY HOME WHEN  
TRAGEDY OCCURRED**

**Companion Says Victim  
Died Instantly; Coroner  
Rawlins Will Conduct  
Inquest This Morning.**

**ROBERT SILBERBERG**, 55, member of the firm of Silberberg Brothers, jewelers, 200 Texas street, was instantly killed when a shotgun was accidentally discharged as he crawled through a wire fence on the Cottonwood Springs road while on a hunting trip yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Silberberg, who has been associated with his brother, Abraham, in business here for about 40 years, was carrying a 12-gauge double-barrel shotgun, the shot taking effect in his abdomen.

## ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

While no official verdict as to the cause of death has as yet been rendered, Justice of the Peace R. B. Rawlins said he would return a verdict due to accidental shooting at an inquest to be held at 9 o'clock this morning.

Mr. Silberberg was accompanied on the hunt by H. A. Pearce, a watchmaker and engraver for Silberberg Brothers.

"I stopped the car as we were coming home when Mr. Silberberg said he had seen a rabbit," Mr. Pearce said.

"We crossed the wire fence, which was to the left of the car, and started walking toward a clump of brush where the rabbit had disappeared. I went around opposite Mr. Silberberg and threw rocks into the brush to try to scare the animal out, but I could not raise it. We started back to the car, and I was walking quite a distance behind Mr. Silberberg. He came to the fence first, but I was not looking at him until I heard the report of the gun.

## SAW SILBERBERG FALL.

"I looked up, thinking he had shot at something, and saw him crumpling up on the fence. He had a knapsack on his back and the top of it was caught on a strand of barbed wire. He had not yet put his legs through the fence, but the gun was through, with the muzzle pointing toward him.

"I called out to him, asking where he had been shot. His arm was hanging down in such a position to make me think he had been hit there.

"But he did not answer me, and I ran up to him, loosened the knapsack and turned him over. I took off his hat and stuffed it in the wound to try to stop it from bleeding, and tried to get him to speak again, but when I felt his pulse, I saw that he was dead."

Mr. Pearce said that he then notified a man, whose name he did not know, who was in the vicinity, and together they went to the nearest telephone and notified the sheriff's office in El Paso. They were about five miles from the Newman road when the accident happened, he said.

Both shells in the gun were expended, Mr. Pearce said, but he did not see them.

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# R. SILBERBERG DIES IN ACCIDENT

**Pioneer El Paso Business  
Man Accidentally Shot  
And Killed.**

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not know whether both had been fired in the accident, because Mr. Silberberg had shot a rabbit a short while before. "I did not notice whether he had reloaded the gun," he said.

The accident was investigated by Capt. A. G. Falley and N. L. Chamberlain, county motorcycle officers, who ordered the body removed to El Paso.

Justice Rawlins went to the scene of the accident, but the body had been removed before he arrived. G. B. Holdsworth, who also works for Silberbergs, accompanied the officers to the scene.

According to Officer Chamberlain, L. M. Everett is the man who was nearby when the tragedy occurred and heard the shot.

Mr. Pearce said that a trip to Saledad canyon with another friend had been originally planned, but that it was called off when the friend could not go. He and Mr. Silberberg had planned the hunt since Thursday and had discussed it further Saturday night on the street car, Mr. Pearce said.

"He had rented a gun for me and bought a box of shells, but we had left the shells in the car," he said.

## GOT EARLY START.

"We got up early Sunday morning and went to the spot where we started our hunt and discovered that there were no shells for my gun. I thought Mr. Silberberg had them. We came back to town and found them at the Electric company booth at the plaza, and returned to start hunting. Mr. Silberberg had a 12-gauge, double-barrel gun, and mine was a 20-gauge pump gun."

He and Mr. Silberberg ate lunch at Cottonwood Springs, where they had lunched from the spot where they left their car, Mr. Pearce said.

"We had no luck hunting," he said.

"He had tried out my gun on a sparrow on the way up, had shot at a squirrel, killed a rattlesnake and shot at a rabbit before the accident occurred."

## ON WAY HOME.

"We were on our way home when the accident happened. It was a little after 1 o'clock. I had promised my wife that I would be home at that time, and had looked at my watch a short while before."

"Mr. Silberberg told me that he was anxious to get back home also, because he had planned to go down the valley in preparation for a duck hunting trip on the Holdsworth place."

Mr. Silberberg was born in Mexico City and had lived here since 1885. He is survived by his widow, Elena Silberberg; a daughter, Mrs. J. J. Ritterman, of Birmingham; two sons, Herman, assistant cashier of the El Paso National bank, and Albert, who is in Virginia; his brother, Abraham; a nephew, Julius, son of Abraham, and a grandchild, Eleanor Ritterman.

Funeral arrangements are pending. The body is at the Hartford company mortuary.