

MURDERED FOR TWO BITS

William Jones Alias Howells Confesses to Killing John McManis Near Basalt.

Last Saturday Sheriff Adams received a message from Basalt asking him to arrest a man with a wooden leg. Later in the day Deputy Sheriffs Oulds and Wm. H. Harris arrived from Basalt and in the evening a careful search was made. About 9:15 Deputy Sheriff Isaac discovered the fellow near the D. & R. G. freight depot and asked him where he was going. He replied that he was trying to make a train out of here. Isaac assured him that he also was trying to make a train out of Glenwood, but had met with poor luck and thought they would have better success by going up nearer the depot. The fellow seemed suspicious and started toward the brush, when Isaac closed in on him and, although the fellow drew a gun, the deputy sheriff succeeded, after a desperate struggle, in disarming his prisoner. The man was thoroughly game and fought like a tiger, using his wooden leg as an effective weapon.

Just after Isaac got the gun away from the prisoner Marshal Weidenhammer appeared on the scene, and realizing the desperate character of the stranger, clubbed him over the head with a gun to compel submission, but the prisoner would not give up, and in the terrible struggle that followed the three rolled down the bank of cinders into the brush. Policeman Malaby appeared on the scene at this point and the prisoner, bleeding profusely from his wounds, was taken to the county jail where he was searched and \$10 cash found in his pockets. He told the officers that he had dropped \$35 in bills tied up in a handkerchief at the point where the tussle had taken place. On returning they found the money as he had stated.

The man gave his name as Bill Jones, but later said his real name was William Howells. He is wanted for murdering near Basalt last Saturday morning a man afterwards identified as John McManis. Almost as soon as arrested he admitted to Deputy Sheriff Isaac that he had killed the man, and said that at the time of his arrest he tried to compel the officers to kill him, as he would rather be dead anyway.

Police Blotter

Glenwood Post: June 3, 1899

While in jail here he made the following statement:

"I am 23 years old and make my home in Denver most of the time. I worked last at the St. Joseph bazar. While there I had a letter from my sister living in Ouray telling me of her trouble; that William Holman, who had ruined her life, was to referee the Corbett-Spitz fight in Aspen. I decided to go to Aspen and see if I could not make arrangements with him to live with my sister and take care of her. In case he refused I intended to kill him and had brought a revolver for that purpose. I arrived in Aspen only to find that my man had left town.

"I came to Basalt and met a man who said he was going to Utah to shear sheep. He proposed that we walk out of town so that the marshal would not bother us and we could catch a freight train at night. We walked until we came to a ranch house and decided to go in and buy something to eat. I had 50 cents, and thinking if I showed that much money to the lady she would charge too much. I asked my companion for a quarter which he gave me. I gave him 50 cents and bought some eggs, coffee and bread and we went down and ate breakfast. After breakfast he asked me to shave him. I then reminded him that he owed me 25 cents which he refused to give me. I shaved one side of his face and then asked him for the money, telling him that if he did not give it to me I would not shave any more. He again refused and I threw the razor down and quit. He grabbed the razor and started after me. I ran and called for help twice, and thinking he was going to hurt me I pulled out my pistol and fired, killing him. I then went to him, thinking I would get my quarter, and found \$40 in bills in his pocket which I took, thinking it would help me get out of the country. I walked to Glenwood, where I was arrested. I do not know the name of the man I shot, nor did I know he had any money except the 50 cents until after I had killed him."

The prisoner was taken to Durant Monday, when a coroner's jury found that John McManis came to his death from a shot from a gun in the hands of William Jones alias William Howells.