

Douglas County Law Library E-Mail Newsletter



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Meeting and Event Announcements

The Defense Bar meets the second Friday of the month. This month the meeting will be on the 12th.

Annual Registration Fee Increase

The primary funding source for the Douglas County Law Library is docket fees. Filings have been down significantly this year. In order to maintain the high quality of service the Law Library provides to its users, the Douglas County Law Library Board of Trustees voted at its October 21st meeting to increase the annual Law Library Registration Fee for attorneys to \$25.00 for 2011.

Survey on Library Use

In order to ensure that Library funds are being expended on material that is valuable and useful to its users, a "User Survey on Law Library Resources" is being planned. The survey will begin sometime this month, and will involve Library users indicating whether and how much they use certain resources currently available in the Library's collection.

Users are requested to help in this process by evaluating the Library's resources they have used in the past or may use in the future, and then relaying that information to the Library. This can be done informally now or by waiting for the formal survey coming later in the month.

Local Opinions Database

As reported in the May 2010 issue of this newsletter, there is a searchable database of memorandum decisions authored by local district court judges available in the Law Library. Opinions written since the fall of 2004 are in the database, which can be accessed through Law Library workstations. For more information, visit or contact the Library.

Reels of Justice Film Series



The Law Library's "Reels of Justice Film Series" continues at 2:00 PM, Sunday, November 21st, with a screening of [*The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean*](#). The film stars Paul Newman and was directed by John Huston.

In the film, after being beaten and left for dead by the denizens of a saloon in 19th-Century Vinagaroon, Texas, a desolate outpost on the edge of civilization, drifter Roy Bean (Newman) retaliates and wipes out the company. He takes over the saloon and establishes himself as judge, dispensing rough justice as "The Law West of the Pecos." He conducts trials, participates in various questionable activities, and dreams of someday meeting the famous actress Lily Langtry (played by Ava Gardner in a cameo appearance). Loosely based on the life of Phantly Roy Bean, Jr., saloonkeeper and justice of the peace in Val Verde County, Texas, who was known as a "hangin' judge"

The program will include an appearance by a local attorney who will give commentary on the film and on how the film portrays the justice system.

The screening will be in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium. All screenings in the film series are free and open to the public.

The next film in the "Reels of Justice Film Series" will be [*Amistad*](#), scheduled for screening in February 2011.

Attorney Needed for This Month's Film Series Screening

Are you a fan of *The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean*, or, do you know about law and the justice system in the Old West? Are you an attorney who would be willing to share your knowledge and expertise with others? If so, please consider volunteering to give post-screening commentary on this month's free "Reels of Justice" film.

It's all very informal, no briefs to write or witnesses to depose, just a fun Sunday afternoon helping the Library reach out to the community.

If you are interested, please contact the Library as soon as possible.

Current Art Gallery Exhibition

The October and November exhibits in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are paintings by Jack Collins.

The exhibits will run through the end of November. All pieces are for sale and may be purchased directly from the artist. Contact information for Mr. Collins is available in the Library.

The December 2010 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions are open for scheduling. More information on the exhibits will be in the December E-Mail Newsletter.

For more information on past, current, and future Art Gallery exhibitions, or for more information on the Art Gallery, please consult the Art Gallery page on the Law Library's website.

If you would like to exhibit your art in our gallery, or know of local artists who would like to show their original art here, contact the Law Library at 838-2477 or by e-mail at info@douglascolawlibrary.org.

New Acquisitions

Newly acquired material added to the Law Library's holdings:

AALL Spectrum, v. 15:1 (Sept./Oct. 2010).

Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 29:8 (Oct. 2010).

Courtroom Criminal Evidence, 4th, v. 1 and v. 2, 2010 Supplements.

Internet guide for the legal researcher newsletter, v. 5:5 (Sept./Oct. 2010).

Kansas Code of Civil Procedure Annotated, 4th, [v. 1-v. 3], 2010-2011 Pocket Parts.

Kansas Court Rules and Procedure, Volume I - State, 2010, Supplement.

Kansas Court Rules and Procedure, Volume II - Federal, 2010, Supplement.

Lawyer's Guide to Kansas Evidence, 5th ed., 2010/2011 Pocket Part.

Search and Seizure Bulletin, v. 47:10 (Oct. 2010).

Did You Know?

Every month, a bit of Law Library trivia is posted in the Law Library and on the Law

Library's website. The previous month's "Did You Know" tidbit is then published here in the Newsletter. The hope is for this to improve communication between the Law Library and its users.

October's entry was:

There will be an election in early 2011 to choose the five attorneys who will serve on the Douglas County Law Library Board of Trustees for the 2011/2013 biennial term.

This Month In Legal History

November 13, 1909 - Earl Ross Bullock's crime spree comes to an end.

On October 11, 1909, Earl Ross Bullock robbed the State Bank of Eudora in Eudora, Kansas, of around \$800, and later that evening shot and mortally wounded Lawrence, Kansas, Police officer T. Wilson Pringle, who was trying to apprehend Bullock for an earlier burglary of a second-hand store and pawnshop in Lawrence. At the time, authorities had no solid evidence on the activities and whereabouts of the bank robber and murderer, but were later able to piece together his subsequent movements. Bullock



made his escape from the area, presumably by train, and began going by the alias of James Donaldson. He eventually worked his way down to Jacksonville, Florida. He was spending the loot he had stolen from the bank in Eudora, making a number of purchases including two expensive diamond rings. He was also making arrangements to buy a boat. Somewhere around November 1, 1909, he met and befriended a 14-year-old native of Jacksonville named William "Willie" McKay. Bullock, himself being barely 18 years of age, told Willie McKay

that he was from New York and that his parents were both dead, all of which was untrue. He said that they had both died of grief because he had robbed a dry goods store when he was a little boy, which was also untrue, his crimes being much more recent than that. The two began to hang out with each other, on one occasion taking a boat up a river to an orange grove where Bullock practiced shooting pistols. One day, Bullock told McKay that his name was not really Donaldson, but that he would not tell the boy his real name because there was a reward out for him. He told McKay that he knew of a place near Kansas City where they could get some easy money, a bank where only one man worked. He asked McKay to go along with him, offering to pay his fare. Although Bullock refused to tell McKay exactly where they would be going, the boy agreed to accompany the fugitive. They first made their way to Montgomery, Alabama. On November 8, they took a train from Montgomery to Memphis, Tennessee, where Bullock pawned one of his rings. The next day, November 9, Willie McKay's 15th birthday, they left Memphis on a train bound for Kansas City, arriving there the morning of Wednesday, November 10. They spent the day hanging around the freight yards and then caught the evening Union Pacific train approximately twelve miles southwest to Bonner Spring, Kansas, where they spent the night in a hotel. They got up the next morning and walked to Linwood, Kansas, nine miles southwest of Bonner Springs, arriving there around 5:00pm. They got something to eat, and then took the evening train to Lenape, Kansas, about eight miles east of Linwood, again spending the night in a hotel. They got up the morning of Thursday, November 12, and took the train back to Linwood, arriving around 1:00pm. They ate, and then began walking towards Eudora, covering the seven-mile distance in around two hours. They arrived in Eudora around 3:00pm, and immediately went to the

State Bank of Eudora, the same bank Bullock had robbed just a month earlier on October 11. McKay was carrying two .38 caliber revolvers. Bullock was armed with two more revolvers. When the two young men entered the bank, there were three men inside, Edward A. Wilson, the bank's cashier who, along with Deputy Sheriff E.F. Woods, had been locked in the vault during the previous month's robbery, Harry Wilson, the cashier's sixteen year-old son, who was working the teller window, and Fred Starr, a twenty year-old assistant cashier at the Kaw Valley State Bank in Eudora, who was there to clear the day's transactions between the two banks. As he entered the bank, Bullock shouted, "Throw up your hands!" The two Wilsons did not react. They thought it was just another jester making what by that time had become a tired old joke. Edward Wilson said later that, "I had got so sick of having the old gag sprang[sp] on me after the robbery that I paid no attention to it." Starr saw Bullock and McKay's guns, and put his hands up immediately saying, "Why certainly I will." Without provocation, Bullock fired one of the revolvers, hitting Starr in the jaw. The wounded man staggered over against a wall and then fell to the floor, bleeding profusely. When the shot rang out, the two Wilsons realized that this was no joke and both raised their hands. McKay was shocked. They had earlier discussed just forcing whoever was in the bank into the vault, locking them in as Bullock had done the previous month, taking the money, and escaping. There was a passenger train due in town shortly, and they were to get on it and leave town before the alarm could be sounded. Bullock's shooting of Starr changed all that. After firing the shot, Bullock told McKay to guard the front door and to shoot anyone who tried to come in. With McKay standing by the front door, Bullock went into the open vault. He came out after several minutes and went over to the cash drawers, emptying their contents

into his coat pockets. After he had cleaned out the drawers, he asked Harry Wilson where the back door key was. Wilson told him that the door was unlocked. Bullock opened the back door and broke through the screen door to get outside. McKay followed as Bullock ran towards the Wakarusa River at the north end of town. Avoiding the bridge, they initially tried to swim the river, but were unable to make it across. They fled on foot southwest from town along the south side of the river. As soon as the two bandits left through the bank's back door, Harry Wilson ran out the front and into Charles Pilla's dry goods store next door. In addition to being the owner of the store, Pilla was the president of the bank that had just been robbed for the second time in a month. Harry dashed in the front door, shouting, "The bank's robbed! Ross Bullock has shot Fred Starr!" There was a sale going on and the store was crowded, and after a momentary pause, all the men in the store grabbed shotguns, revolvers, and whatever other weapons they could lay their hands on and went off in pursuit of the fleeing bandits. The two telephone companies in town connected to every phone on their lines asking townspeople and farmers to arm themselves and help hunt down the bank robbers. Men poured out of town to help in the pursuit. About three-quarters of a mile from town on the farm of Al Smith, a band of about ten or twelve men caught up to the fugitives. The men began shooting at Bullock and McKay. McKay was terrified and told Bullock that he was going to surrender. Bullock said, "Give me the guns and stand right there." He took the two revolvers that McKay had been carrying and ran off, saying, "I won't give up, I'll die first," as he left. McKay put his hands high up over his head and shouted "I surrender, I surrender, don't shoot, please don't shoot." The pursuing men took McKay into custody and continued after Bullock. Bullock turned and fired six shots at Clyde Hughes, who was at the head of the

men, but missed every time. The gunfire momentarily stopped the pursuit, and Bullock ran on. He entered a small patch of woods near the river and the pursuers lost sight of him. Bullock saw John Miller on the opposite bank and fired twice at him. Miller had crossed the river and was trying to get downstream and head Bullock off when he was seen and fired upon by the gunman. Bullock's aim was poor, and Miller managed to dodge behind a tree and was not hit. Miller said that Bullock was standing beside a large log when the fugitive fired at him, and that after firing the two shots, Bullock had stepped behind the log. Miller heard a single shot. He thought that Bullock had shot himself. A minute later, the men pursuing the young desperado came up and discovered that Miller had guessed right. Bullock was lying on the ground in his shirtsleeves, breathing heavily. The whole right side of his head was blackened with gunpowder, and he was bleeding from a bullet hole in his right temple. His coat was found about 150 yards from where he lay, the pockets stuffed with money taken in the bank robbery that afternoon. One man was left to guard Bullock while the rest of the men dealt with McKay. The boy was extremely frightened as the angry men took him back to Eudora. The town was in an uproar, full of more angry armed men. At least forty farmers had ridden into town on horseback carrying their shotguns, adding their numbers to the aroused citizens of Eudora. As McKay was brought into town, someone shouted, "Lynch him, string him up, string him up!" A general cry to hang McKay went up, and the crowd moved towards the frightened boy. Three men, Steve Joy, Dug Smith, and Frank Williams took McKay and ran with him out of town on the road to Lawrence, seven long miles away. The angry crowd followed, but at some distance behind. As the four ran along the road, they saw a large car approaching them at a high rate of speed. The men blocked the

road, waving and yelling for the car to stop. As it slowed to a stop, McKay broke away from his guards and ran up to the car, pleading "Let me in, for God's sake take me somewhere. They are going to kill me. They are going to lynch me. For God's sake do something." As it turned out, the car was coming from Lawrence where it had been hired by the *Lawrence Daily World* to get its reporters to Eudora to cover the bank robbery. When the car stopped, Steve Joy pulled the reporters out of the car bodily and threw McKay into the back seat. Joy and the other two guards jumped in next to him. The driver backed around and sped off toward Lawrence and safety. The pursuing crowd, cheated of its chance for vengeance on McKay, turned its attention to Bullock, who had been taken to the Eudora City Hall. He was lying on a cot in the building that was eventually surrounded by hundreds of people, eager to be allowed in to see the dying bandit. As the authorities were waiting for an ambulance to arrive from Lawrence to take Bullock back to the larger town, a line of people moved through the building to view the injured man. He was finally put in an open wagon, covered by an oilcloth, and driven in the pouring rain to the office of Doctor Edmund R. Keith in Lawrence, arriving about 10:00pm. Despite the rain, there was a large crowd surrounding the building where Doctor Keith's office was located. The *Lawrence Daily World* reported that while Bullock lay dying, a small boy was standing outside the newspaper's office, denying that he was in jail or had taken part in the Eudora bank robbery. In a strange coincidence, his name was also Willie McKay. Known as "Pug," he had been a friend of Bullock's before the first bank robbery, and had at one time been under suspicion of having brought food to the fugitive in the days following the shooting of Officer Pringle. At 2:25am on November 13, 1909, without ever gaining consciousness, Earl Ross Bullock was pronounced dead, thus

ending his short but violent career as a desperado. Bullock's body was taken on the evening Santa Fe train to Kansas City, where there was a secret funeral and interment at a cemetery there. As his mother had done after the robbery and murder the month before, Bullock's father blamed his son's descent into crime on Amie Blankenship, a local woman. He said all the trouble had been caused by her having broken off her engagement to his son earlier in the year, and on her not having returned the deep love that his son had felt for her. It was reported that after Bullock had disappeared in October, Ms. Blankenship feared that Bullock would come back and harm her, and so had been working with local attorney Edward Riling and Lawrence Mayor Sam Bishop, trying to get information from Bullock's family on the fugitive's whereabouts. Riling had dictated a series of letters that Ms. Blankenship had sent to Bullock's mother and sister, saying that she still loved him and intimating that she wanted to know where he was. Several examples were published in the *Lawrence Daily World*. This subterfuge failed to gain any information on Bullock or his movements. On November 16, 1909, McKay was arraigned in Juvenile Court before Judge Hugh Means on charges of bank robbery and intent to kill. As reported in the November 17, 1909, issue of the *Lawrence Daily Journal*, Fred Starr sent word to Judge Means that McKay was obviously terrified during the robbery, and that he did not think that the boy would have shot him. He wanted leniency for McKay. On November 23, 1909, Starr was discharged from the hospital with the bullet from Bullock's revolver still lodged in his jaw. Doctors were not going to try to remove it unless it caused him trouble. On November 27, 1909, Judge Means paroled Willie McKay. He had received a number of favorable letters from people who knew the boy and the boy's family. The Judge assigned Marshall Gorrill, the boy's attorney, the responsibility

for finding McKay a suitable place to work in good surroundings. Until such work was found, McKay would be free from confinement. If no suitable work were found, McKay would be sent to the State Industrial School for Boys in Topeka. The bank in Eudora eventually got back \$579.65 of the money stolen by Bullock and McKay on November 12, only twenty cents shy of what the two had made off with. The men who had tracked down Bullock along the Wakarusa River were to be given the \$650 reward that had been offered in response to the robbery and murder he had committed in October.

From: Lawrence Daily Journal, v. 53: issue 274 (November 16, 1909), and issue 275 (November 17, 1909), Lawrence, Kansas; Lawrence Daily World, v. 18: issue 22[8] (November 13, 1909), Special issue (November 13, 1909), issue 229 (November 15, 1909), issue 230 (November 16, 1909), issue 236 (November 23, 1909), and issue 240 (November 27, 1909), Lawrence, Kansas; and, the United States Census, 1910, Douglas County, Kansas.

Each month, an event from "This Month In Legal History," the history of law and jurisprudence of Douglas County that occurred during that month, is included in the Newsletter. The current entry is also posted for the month on the Law Library's website. Entries from past months are archived on the website. Submissions from readers are welcome and encouraged.

Law Library Volunteer Opportunities

The Law Library Volunteer Program provides a capable and dependable volunteer work force to assist with the day-to-day operations of the Law Library and with its special projects. This work force supplements the paid Library staff and allows the Library to provide the best possible service to attorneys, local judges, and the public.

The Volunteer Program is instrumental in linking a valuable community resource - the

citizens - with a valuable community institution - the Douglas County Law Library - for the benefit, growth, and enrichment of both.

If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering for one of them, or if you would like more information on our program and/or the positions we have open, please contact the Library or visit the "Volunteers" page on the Law Library's website.

Feedback

This Newsletter is intended to be useful to its readers. As in any enterprise, feedback on how the Newsletter is fulfilling this goal is crucial to our achieving it. If our articles are helpful, let us know. If they are not, let us know. If you have suggestions on how to improve the Newsletter, please let us know. Thank you.

Submitting Articles for Newsletter

The Editor encourages readers to submit articles for publication and/or make suggestions on material to be included in future issues of the Newsletter.

To Subscribe

Contact the Law Library by mail, e-mail, or telephone and request a free subscription to the Newsletter. It will be sent to you as a PDF attachment to an e-mail. The Library's mailing address is: Douglas County Law Library, Judicial and Law Enforcement Center, 111 East 11th Street, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044. The Library's e-mail address is: info@douglascolawlibrary.org. The Law Library's telephone number is: 785-838-2477.

Classified Ads

Free classified ads may be placed in the Newsletter by contacting the Law Library. The Editor reserves

the right to refuse anything deemed inappropriate and to add restrictions as the need arises.

No Ads this Month.

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