

# D. M. REEVES IS CHARGED WITH THE SLAYING OF FRANK POTTER

Somewhat of Mystery  
Surrounds Circumstances  
of Shooting.

## MOTIVE IS LACKING

Tale of Parade With Guns  
Is Unfolded at Coroner's  
Inquest.

A grim jest, which turned to stark tragedy in the flickering of an eyelash, landed D. M. Reeves, Six Companies railroad employe and former Union Pacific railroader, in the county jail yesterday facing first degree murder charges as a result of the fatal shooting of Frank Potter, 30, Las Vegas resident of 328 North Eighth street.

Reeves is to be charged with the crime today, according to Assistant District Attorney Roger Foley, and a preliminary hearing is expected sometime this week.

BUT AS MOVES are being made to prosecute the alleged slayer, police officers and sheriff's deputies were attempting to find some motive for the slaying. At present they are baffled. While it appears, from the stories told by various witnesses, that the tragedy may have been accidental, Reeves sits solemnly in his cell and refuses to cast any light on the affair.

Sheriff's deputies are of the opinion that the whole story of the affair has not yet been told and Foley declares that a first degree murder charge is being filed in anticipation of further developments during the investigation.

**ACCORDING** to all information available now, Potter had come to the house to visit L. A. "Bill" Strasser, a brother-in-law of Reeves'. He had come early in the morning and during the day the crowd had had "a couple of drinks."

In the afternoon Reeves began cleaning his guns and had finished cleaning a rifle and was parading back and forth in the room fondling the gun and making remarks something about "wouldn't it be funny if I took a shot Bill," witnesses said. The exact words could not be recalled. However, the jests were made, of that all witnesses were certain, they said, and while there seemed to be no malice or threatening attitude on the part of Reeves, the witnesses said, he repeated the phrases several times.

**AFTER PARADING** back and forth for several seconds with the rifle on his shoulder, Reeves went out into another room and secured the pistol and returned.

Strasser was sitting on the arm of the chair in which Potter was seated and when Reeves returned, he pointed the gun in the general direction of the chair and it went off.

The bullet from the gun entered Potter's abdomen, just above the waist, penetrated the intestines in several places and finally lodged in the backbone.

**HE WAS** rushed to the Las Vegas hospital where he died, about three o'clock.

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# D. M. Reeves

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Strasser, immediately after the shooting, surged forward and pinned Reeves' arms to his side and then called for help. L. C. Kent, engineer on the Union Pacific, ran over to the house and, sizing up the situation, asked "what's been going on here?" Reeves, it was testified, answered, "I let my gun go off" and that was the only explanation that was made of the shooting.

**FUNERAL** arrangements for Potter are being delayed pending word from his mother, in Yucca, Arizona. In the meantime the body is being held at the Las Vegas Funeral Home.

A coroner's jury, which heard the testimony at the inquest last evening, returned a verdict finding that Potter "came to his death from a gunshot wound inflicted by one Dillard M. Reeves."