

Reno Evening Gazette, Monday 30 Jun 1952

Prisoner Slays Nye Policeman

"Tonopah, June 30 - Roy Mike, 27 year old Moapa Indian is held here facing a murder charge after a wild Saturday during which he allegedly killed a Tonopah policeman, fled the Nye County jail, stole a sheriff's car and finally was re-captured near Beatty in a bullet-punctuated high speed chase.

Dead is Roy Maroon, 62 year old Tonopah policeman, jailer and deputy sheriff. Mike allegedly killed Maroon with one shot from the policeman's own gun.

Mike over powered Mr. Maroon when the jailer entered his cell to feed him Saturday afternoon.

Sheriff William Thomas of Tonopah said that Mike attacked Maroon from behind as the jailer placed a meal on the table in the Indian's cell. The youthful Mike stabbed the deputy with a sharp weapon, probably the sharp muzzled tear gas gun the policeman carried, the sheriff reported.

Fires Pistol

The prisoner then leaped into the hallway with the jailers keys and gun. Sheriff Thomas said Maroon had fired his gas pistol in the struggle in the cell.

Although stunned, Maroon followed the escaping prisoner into the hallway of the jail and struggled with him again, the sheriff's office reported. There were no witnesses to the fight in the jail, but Sheriff Thomas said blood stains on the floor indicated that at least two fights took place in the jail building.

Mike eventually broke away from the deputy and sprinted to a sheriff's car parked in front of the jail and again Maroon attempted to halt him. Mike drew the gun that he had taken from the officer and killed him with a shot through the heart, the Nye sheriff reported.

Alarmed by Maroon's calls as he attempted to subdue the prisoner and by the shot, two women Nye county employees, Miss Jane Douglass, secretary of William J. Crowell, District Attorney, and Margaret Henderson, county recorder, gave the alarm.

Officers in surrounding communities were alerted but Mike sped through Goldfield, to the south, before a net could be spread.

A posse of 12 men, including state police, sheriff's deputies and two Indian trackers set out from Tonopah, in pursuit of the fleeing prisoner.

Meanwhile, officers in Beatty, alerted by the all points bulletin, made plans to capture Mike.

A roadblock was set up at Springdale, about ten miles north of Beatty. Robert Revert, Beatty Constable

and W. H. Brown, Nye County Deputy Sheriff, aided by local citizens, manned the road block.

Warn Motorists

Norman Fields, a Beatty resident, was sent a few hundred yards ahead of the Springdale trap to warn motorists off the road and to fire a warning shot when Mike approached.

About 10 motorists were sent to safety before Mike appeared, still in the sheriff's stolen car. Field's fired the warning shot, and as Mike approached the roadblock, he sounded the siren and drove the car ahead full speed, breaking through.

A fusillade of shots struck the car but Mike sped on. Revert and Brown took up the chase, firing steadily. The rear tires were punctured, but Mike drove on the puncture-resistant tubes.

Mike fled through Beatty in a veritable hail of bullets which wounded him in the hand and shoulder and he suffered a grazing wound along the head.

About three miles south of Beatty, Mike attempted to pass a Lang Transportation Company truck and trailer, but the driver, A. D. Freeman of Los Angeles, refused to let him pass, realizing that something was amiss.

He drove down the center of the road and when Mike attempted to pass him on the right side, Freeman swerved his vehicle, flipping Mike's car into the ditch.

Revert said that he thought Mike, enraged when the truck blocked his way, fired two shots at the truck and trailer.

No Resistance

As his car came to rest near the roadway, Mike came out with his hands up and surrendered, the Nye sheriff's office reported. He did not attempt to fight at that point. Revert said he counted 20 bullet holes in the escape car.

Mike immediately was returned to Tonopah and Mr. Crowell said murder charges would be logged against him.

Mike was arrested Friday evening in Tonopah when he allegedly created a disturbance in Tonopah Hotel after unsuccessful efforts to borrow money to return home.

Mr. Crowell said Mike had signed a statement admitting shooting Maroon.

Maroon had been a resident of Tonopah since the gold strike and had followed mining in the district for

many years. He had been employed periodically as deputy sheriff and jailer for about six years. He is believed to have had relatives in California.

Mike's relatives in Moapa Valley were informed of his arrest Friday, were on their way to Tonopah to take the man home when the shooting occurred."

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W. Roy Maroon Services Held

"Tonopah, July 10 - Last rites for William Roy Maroon, Tonopah police officer who was slain here on June 28 in a jailbreak by Roy Mike, Moapa Indian, were held from the Elks Hall on Tuesday, July 1. The services were conducted by the Goldfield Elks Lodge, of which Mr. Maroon was a member.

Burial was in the Tonopah Cemetery and pallbearers were R. E. Lydon, Walter Bowler, Lee Henderson, W. H. Thomas, Frank Murnane and Elmer Often.

Born in Amador County, Calif., on April 24, 1889, Mr. Maroon came to Tonopah in 1914 and had made his home here most of the time since. He followed mining and in recent years served as town policeman and sheriff's deputy..