

Wheatland Policeman Slaying Investigated

WHEATLAND (UPI) 5-28-1961

county officers continued their investigation today into the gunshot death of a 54-year-old Wheatland policeman.

County Coroner Ted Schrader said Claude Goertz was found wounded in the head with a bullet from his 38-caliber service revolver Friday night. He died at Laramie County Memorial hospital Sunday at 5 a.m. in Cheyenne. He apparently never regained consciousness.

Schrader said there were some indications that the shooting was suicide. But he said the investigation would continue and an inquest would be held, probably not for several days.

Schrader said Goertz' stepdaughter, Elizabeth Wagner, was in the Goertz home, where the shooting occurred, at the time. Goertz' wife was at work.

Claude M. Goertz dies of gunshot wounds Sunday

5-28-1961
Claude M. Goertz, well known and well liked law enforcement officer for the Town of Wheatland, was rushed to the Cheyenne Memorial Hospital Friday night about 5:30 for gunshot wounds in his head. He passed away Sunday morning at 5 a.m. without regaining consciousness.

Ted Schrader and Dr. J. G. Allison were called to the scene and rushed the injured man to the hospital where he underwent immediate surgery.

Claude was born in Hillsboro, Kansas, 54 years ago on March 15, 1907, the son of Henry F. and Alice Baker Goertz. He was a member of the Moose Lodge and Methodist church, and had been employed by the Town of Wheatland for the past five years as a police officer.

He is survived by his wife, Irene; his mother, Mrs. Alice Goertz; two daughters, Mrs. Charles Fresorger and Mrs. Larry Smith, and stepdaughter, Elizabeth Wagner, all of Wheatland; one step-son, Vic Baus of Mt. View, Calif.; 4 brothers, John and Allen of Wheatland, Nelson of Canon City, Colo., and Henry of Chugwater; 3 sisters, Mrs. Lillian Fleanor of Manning, Kansas, Mrs. Alice Jewell, Scott City, Kansas and Mrs. Florence Milton of Cheyenne. He is also survived by five grandchildren.

Services were held Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m. at the Methodist church, with Rev. John Kuntz, of the Trinity Lutheran church officiating. Burial was made in the Wheatland cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Ray Schad, Don Throckmorton, Hal Ashen-hurst, Alex Fresorger, Ted Kruger and Jack Eddleman.

An inquest will be held in the near future.