

LAKESIDE MAN IS SLAIN LATE SUNDAY

W. T. Trester, 82, Fatally Shot
Through Head At Farm
Near Morrill

An inquest is being held at Morrill, Neb., this afternoon to ascertain the responsibility for the fatal shooting of W. T. Trester, 82, well-known Lakeside ranchman and land owner, which occurred in a farmhouse near Henry, Neb., Sunday night. Trester was shot through the head and death was nearly instantaneous.

Trester had been trapping between Morrill and Henry for the past month. He was in the farmhouse with Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Bean and their grown daughter at the time of the shooting.

Scotts Bluff county officers made an investigation of the shooting and took Jerry Bean into custody. He is being held at the Scotts Bluff county jail at Gering. Bean is about 48 years old.

HELD FOR TRIAL IN SLAYING CASE

Jerry Bean Accused of Fatally
Shooting Former Lakeside
Man Near Henry

Man Near Henry

Charged with the fatal shooting of W. T. Trester, 82, former Lakeside ranchman, Jerry Bean, 41, is being held in jail at Gering pending his being given a trial in the district court of Scotts Bluff county. Bean pleaded not guilty when arraigned at Gering and was bound over to the district court on a charge of first degree murder.

Bean was Trester's tenant on a farm near Henry, Neb. He was refused bail and is being held in jail.

Counsel for the defense offered no testimony other than the plea made by Bean. The state advanced the theory that there had been a quarrel between Bean and Trester over Trester's alleged attentions to Bean's 14 year old daughter.

The prosecution produced witnesses who testified that they knew of the aged man having proposed marriage to the girl and that Bean objected. Trester made his home with the Bean family near Henry.

Bean's story, county officials said, was that while he and Trester were talking at the farm home on the night of December 21, two men drove up and demanded \$100 for two dogs they claimed Trester had killed. When Trester refused, they drove off in an automobile.

Soon after a pistol shot came crashing through a window of the farmhouse, cutting Trester on one ear. Bean added that he gave first aid and then went to a nearby skating pond for his wife and their daughter. When he returned he found the aged man sitting in a chair dead. The top of Trester's head had been blown off by a shotgun charge.

Ben and Dick Baughman and C. A. Fike were among those called to the Trester farm, two miles east of Henry, and testified as to the condition of the place upon arrival. Dr. Vanderhoof of Scottsbluff testified as to the cause of Trester's death and his condition upon examination. Moorhouse and Parker, the latter the headgate man at the Tri-State headgates who summoned the sheriff, both testified that they searched for tracks about the Trester home but were unable to find any.

Deputy Sheriff Frank White of Scotts Bluff county testified that only one empty shotgun shell was found on the place, just outside the door. Three shotgun shots were believed to have been fired during the evening, two by Trester and the one that killed him.

Two 32-20 calibre steel-jacketed bullets were introduced as evidence, one of which was found by Sheriff Koenig lying on the floor behind the slain man, and the other taken from his body after an examination by Dr. Vanderhoof.

A third bullet of this calibre, said to have been found beneath Trester's chair by Moorhouse, was not introduced as evidence. Trester's shotgun and the open jack knife, the latter found lying between his legs, were introduced as state's exhibits.

Bean was said to have told White that two beaver and three muskrat hides found on the place were the property of the old man, who had been illegally trapping. He said, White stated, that Trester's son, A. H. Trester, told him to spring all the old man's traps in order that he might not get into trouble. A. H. Trester who stated that he had visited his father shortly before Thanksgiving and again about a week before his death, declared on the stand that he had had no conversation with Bean.

Lakeside and community were shocked to hear the news of the tragic death of W. P. Trester who was shot by some coward who took advantage of his victim by firing through a window. The funeral was at the church here Wednesday afternoon. Glen Miller undertaker of Alliance, in charge. The sermon was preached by Rev. Luther of Antloch who spoke words of comfort to the bereaved ones. The body was laid to rest beside his wife who passed away six years ago and was buried on the hill south of town. Many neighbors and friends paid their last respects to Mr. Trester. The sorrowing ones have the sympathy of their many friends.

Say Aged Farmer Murdered; Slayer Unnamed by Jury

A verdict of murder by some unidentified person was returned at Scottsbluff Tuesday in the death of W. P. Trester, 82, last Sunday at his farm near Henry.

Meanwhile Jerry Bean, 41, renter on the Trester farm, continues to be held in jail and County Attorney Wright is preparing a complaint charging him with murder, which he expects to file.

Wright admitted, however, that he had disclosed no motive for the slaying, nor could Trester's two sons, Lon and Howe, living at Antloch and Lakeside, respectively, aid officials in determining a reason for the slaying.

Trester is said to have had little money.

Bean's story was that the shot which killed Trester was fired through a window after an argument between Trester and two strangers who accused the aged farmer of killing a dog belonging to them.