

55 STORIES OF FALLEN NORTH DAKOTA PEACE OFFICERS (from www.ODMP.org)

-Travis Bateman,
Bill seeker for SB2277

PAUL MARTIN

Deputy Sheriff Paul Martin was struck and killed while deploying spike strips in an attempt to stop the pursuit of a stolen vehicle on Highway 200 at 5:35 p.m.

Authorities were notified of a stolen vehicle that crashed through the door of an ambulance bay from Sanford Medical Center in Bismarck. When Mercer County deputies located the SUV in Hazen, the driver fled, and a pursuit began. Five miles west of Hazen, the driver crashed into a Mercer County Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle with its emergency lights activated. The impact propelled the patrol vehicle into Deputy Martin, who was deploying stop sticks.

The subject was apprehended at the crash scene. He pleaded guilty to felony homicide and was sentenced to 28 years in prison.

Deputy Martin had served with the Mercer County Sheriff's Office for 18 years. He is survived by his wife, three children, and four grandchildren.

JOSEPH RUNIONS

Deputy Sheriff Joe Runions succumbed to a gunshot wound sustained the previous day while searching for stolen property on a farm.

A representative from a bank that owned the stolen storm shutters had gone to the farm owned by the suspect. While searching a granary, the suspect ordered them out and then opened fire with a .410 gauge shotgun, striking Deputy Runions in the face and the other man in the shoulder. The two men then attempted to take cover.

The suspect then obtained a .22 caliber rifle and shot the other man in the head as he ran from the granary, killing him. Deputy Runions took cover as the suspect continued firing and was not struck again. The suspect was arrested a short time later.

Deputy Runions was taken to a hospital in Bismarck, where he died of his wounds the following day.

The 61-year-old suspect was convicted of two counts of murder and sentenced to life. He died in prison on May 10, 1955.

LEE S. FAHLER

Patrolman Lee Fahler was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a suspicious person.

The man attempted to bribe Patrolman Fahler as he was being questioned. At that point Patrolman Fahler put the man under arrest and the two started to walk towards the suspect's car. The suspect produced a handgun and opened fire on the officer. The suspect was shot and killed in return gunfire.

During the ensuing investigation over 20 cases of whiskey were found inside the vehicle the man had been driving. He was in the process of smuggling the whiskey from Canada to Chishoim, Minnesota. The man was placed under arrest and charged in connection with Patrolman Fahler's murder and smuggling.

Patrolman Fahler had served with the Minot Police Department for only 2 months. He was survived by his wife and 8-year-old son.

PATRICK DEVANEY

Officer Patrick Devaney was shot when he and Special Agent Kersey Gowin, of the North Dakota Attorney General's Office, were attempting to arrest two or more thieves. The officers were laying in wait in a field for the automobile tire thieves when they were shot.

Officer Devaney was killed instantly. Agent Gowin was taken to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to his wounds early the next morning.

Five men were arrested, however, one confessed and was convicted. He served two years in prison before escaping and was considered at large.

Officer Devaney had served with the Minot Police Department for only three months. He was survived by his wife and five children.

EVAN PAULSON

Officer Paulson was shot and killed when he surprised three men robbing a pharmacy that used alcohol in its medicine. One of the men shot him in the stomach as he entered the building. The man then shot him twice in the head.

Two of the suspects were eventually apprehended and convicted of his murder. They served short prison sentences and were released. The third suspect was never captured.

PUNNY ARTHUR "TEX" GOYNE

Chief of Police Tex Goyne was shot and killed at 2:45 am by a man who was wanted for writing a bad check.

He attempted to arrest him during a traffic stop on the outskirts of New Salem. The man began to struggle and produced a .32 caliber handgun, which he used to fatally shot Chief Goyne. The man then committed suicide at the scene.

Chief Goyne had served with the New Salem Police Department for four years. He had previously served with the Beach Police Department, Dickson Police Department, Garrison Police Department, Riverdale Police Department, and Stark County Sheriff's Office for a total of 18 years. He was survived by his wife, five children, two brothers, and a sister.

ED MUMBY

Chief of Police Ed Mumby was shot and killed after responding to a dispute over a 1-cent tax on soda.

When Chief Mumby arrived, the subject held him at gunpoint and forced the chief into his car.

After driving for about 10 miles, the man shot and killed Chief Mumby before dumping his body on the side of the road. The man fled to South Dakota, where he was captured.

The man, 32, pled guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Chief Mumby had served as the Chief of Police of the New Salem Police Department for seven years. He was survived by his mother, two brothers, and two sisters. His wife had died eight months prior.

KERSEY E. GOWIN

Special Agent Kersey Gowin was shot and killed while he and Officer Patrick Devaney, of the Minot Police Department, were attempting to arrest several thieves. The officers were laying in wait in a field for the automobile tire thieves when they were shot.

Officer Devaney was killed instantly; Agent Gowin was taken to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to his wounds early the next morning.

Five men were arrested, however, one confessed to the shooting and was convicted of murder. He served two years in prison before escaping and was considered at large.

Agent Gowin had served with the agency for one year. He was a veteran of the United States Army in the Spanish American War and the Philippine Insurrection. He was survived by his wife and two sons, father, and three brothers. He is buried in Bethany Lutheran Cemetery, Minot, Ward County, North Dakota.

CHARLES PULVER

Game Warden Pulver suffered a fatal heart attack while on duty. He was survived by his wife, two daughters, parents, and brother.

BERYL E. MCLANE

Patrolman Beryl McLane was killed in an automobile crash on State Highway 13 between LaMoure and Napoleon.

His patrol car was struck head-on by another vehicle driven by a drunk driver. The driver of the car was charged with manslaughter.

The 27-year-old driver was convicted of second-degree manslaughter and sentenced to one to three years.

Patrolman McLane was a U.S. Army veteran of WWI and had served with the North Dakota Highway Patrol for 13 years. He had previously served with the Aberdeen, South Dakota, Police Department for nine years and with the Jamestown Police Department. He was survived by his wife, son, daughter, two grandchildren, and two brothers.

RUDOLPH F. HOWELL

Deputy Howell died from injuries he received several days before while while chasing a suspect. Deputy Howell saw the suspect enter a motor vehicle and attempted to stop him. The suspect began to run with Deputy Howell in pursuit. During the chase Deputy Howell collapsed and hit his head on the pavement, fracturing his skull.

Deputy Howell had been with the agency for three years and was survived by his wife and three children.

BURKETT M. MILLER

Chief Miller was struck and killed by a vehicle being pursued by the North Dakota Highway Patrol. Chief Miller was manning a roadblock when the 16-year-old driver of the fleeing vehicle struck him. The boy was taken into custody after the incident.

KENNETH A. LENERVILLE

Officer Kenneth Lenerville was shot and killed when he interrupted a burglary taking place opposite his upstairs residence.

The suspect was arrested by Sheriff Earl Kramer of Hettinger County, North Dakota, within a few hours of the shooting. The sheriff and another officer, Officer Jim Wrist of the North Dakota Truck Regulatory Department, stopped the suspect and an accomplice on Main Street of Mott, North Dakota. The shooter was convicted and sentenced to prison but was paroled and later incarcerated again on drug possession charges.

GEORGE E. "DOC" MOODY

Sheriff Doc Moody was shot and killed while attempting to evict a man who was illegally staying in a house.

A man who had returned to his farm home after being away for the winter encountered the man in his house and was threatened with a rifle. The man went to the sheriff and swore out a warrant.

Sheriff Moody and two deputies returned to the house and told the man to come out. When the man came out, he fired a shot into the air from his rifle. Sheriff Moody returned fire, striking him in the hand twice. The man then shot his rifle again, striking Sheriff Moody in the chest. The man then fired at the deputies, who were all unarmed.

The suspect stole one of the vehicles and fled the scene. He was located by a posse a short time later and shot and killed.

Sheriff Moody had served as the Sheriff of Richland County Sheriff's Department for 11 years. He was survived by his wife and three children.

EVAN M. JONES

Deputy Evan Jones was shot and killed while serving civil papers.

The subject shot him in the leg, causing him to bleed to death. Another officer was shot and wounded.

The suspect was arrested and charged with murder. He was convicted of second-degree manslaughter and sentenced to one year in prison.

Deputy Jones was survived by his wife and three children.

VALENCE LEEWAYNE PASCAL

Deputy Sheriff Val Pascal succumbed to a gunshot wound he received from a man he had arrested for failing to appear in court on a DUI charge in Leeds, North Dakota.

At 2 p.m., Deputy Pascal placed the subject, whom he knew well, in the back of his patrol car. He had taken his place behind the wheel when the suspect shot him in the back of the head with a homemade .22 caliber pistol. The suspect then shot and killed himself. The suspect had no prior record and had never been a threat to the community.

Deputy Pascal died at St. Luke's Hospital in Fargo the next morning.

Deputy Pascal was a United States Army veteran and had served with the Benson County Sheriff's Office for two years. He was survived by his parents, brother and sister.

RALPH LEO BURDICK

Deputy Sheriff Ralph Burdick succumbed to injuries sustained one week earlier when he was pinned between two vehicles while on duty at a Labor Day rodeo event in Fort Totten.

Deputy Sheriff Burdick was survived by his wife, 2 sons, two daughters, one granddaughter, and two brothers.

FRED AUGUST PATRIKUS

Sheriff Patrikus succumbed to a gunshot wound received five days earlier when he was attempting to arrest an escaped convict from St. Cloud Reformatory in Minnesota. During the arrest, Sheriff Patrikus was shot in the abdomen. The suspect, 25, had escaped a week earlier. He had served nine months of a five year sentence for grand larceny. He was apprehended, convicted of second degree murder, and sentenced to 25 years.

Sheriff Patrikus had served as Sheriff for three years and was survived by his wife.

STEVEN RICKIE KENNER

Sergeant Steven Kenner was shot and killed after responding to a domestic disturbance involving a man threatening a woman with a knife on East Broadway Avenue at 10:38 pm.

When he and another officer arrived at the scene they located the man sitting in a van. The officers approached the van and instructed the man to show his hands. Instead, the man opened fire striking Sergeant Kenner. The other officer returned fire, striking the suspect.

The officer was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his wounds.

On July 31st the subject who shot Sergeant Kenner was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Sergeant Kenner was a National Guard veteran and had served with the Bismarck Police Department for 32 years. He is survived by his wife and four children.

CARL PETERSEN

Officer Carl Petersen was shot and killed when he attempted to arrest four men who had broken into a local hardware store at approximately 2:00 am. As he approached the building, he was shot in the leg and bled to death at the scene.

Three weeks later, two of the men were arrested and charged with his murder. One was convicted of murder and sentenced to 25 years in prison. On July 26, 1936, he was released. On January 14, 1923, the other suspect was sentenced to 18 months. He was released six months later. A third suspect was arrested in Aberdeen, Washington, in 1926. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to 25 years. On April 8, 1936, he was released. The fourth suspect, believed to be the shooter, was never apprehended.

Officer Petersen had served with the Westhope Police Department for one week. He was survived by his wife and nine children. He was preceded in death by a daughter.

He was buried in Dovre Lutheran Cemetery, Newberg, North Dakota.

Chief of Police Leo Dagner suffered a fatal heart attack after arresting two drunk men and placing them in the town jail. He had just placed them into the cell when he collapsed.

He had not yet locked the cell door before collapsing. One of the men went outside and notified passersby of what happened.

Chief Dagner was survived by his wife, four sons, three brothers, and two sisters.

ASLAK O. "OSCAR" THORSEN

Deputy Sheriff Oscar Thorsen was shot and killed by a mentally disturbed man holed up in a hotel. Officers were attempting to arrest the man on a civil disturbance charge.

The suspect, an escapee from an insane asylum, was apprehended a few days later. When captured, it was discovered that he was suffering from sunstroke. He was admitted to a hospital, where he died on July 11, 1936.

Deputy Thorsen was survived by his wife.

CHARLES H. MCCARTHY

Sheriff Charles McCarthy and Deputy U.S. Marshal Clinton Miller drowned in the Missouri River after falling through the ice.

The two were traveling up the river to serve subpoenas for an inquest case. The witness appeared for the inquest on Monday but neither officer showed up. A search party was sent out the following day and located a spot in the river where their sleigh drove onto the ice and then fell through. Both officers, their horse, and the sleigh were swept away below the ice.

Sheriff McCarthy had served with the Burleigh County Sheriff's Office for a few months. He was survived by his wife and two children.

GEORGE FRANK PIEPKORN

Deputy Sheriff George Piepkorn was stabbed to death while trying to arrest a suspect during a domestic dispute in Wing, North Dakota.

The suspect, along with an accomplice, were arrested and charged with murder. On March 5, 1931, while awaiting trial at the state penitentiary, he hanged himself from a bar at the head of his bed with his suspenders. His accomplice was sentenced to prison for aiding and abetting and released on August 5, 1931. A week later, he was arrested when it was determined he helped an inmate escape while in prison.

Deputy Piepkorn was survived by his wife and four children.

He was buried in the Wing Cemetery.

BRYAN KEITH SLEEPER

Deputy Sheriff Bryan Sleeper suffered a fatal heart attack while assisting another deputy in arresting a combative subject at about 12:45 am.

The other deputy had attempted to stop the man for speeding, but the suspect refused to stop and drove to his home. During the ensuing confrontation, the man was tased twice before Deputy Sleeper could handcuff him.

Deputy Sleeper collapsed moments later. He was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Deputy Sleeper had served with the Burleigh County Sheriff's Office for four years and previously served with the North Dakota State Penitentiary for seven years. He is survived by his wife, two sons, daughter, mother, father, six sisters, nieces, nephews, and grandson.

CARL G. NELSON

Chief of Police Carl Nelson succumbed to gunshot wounds sustained three days earlier while he and two other officers attempted to apprehend four men at the Kilby Rooming House. The men were wanted for robbing a pool hall the previous evening.

The suspects opened fire as the officers approached, striking Chief Nelson. Despite being wounded, Chief Nelson was able to return fire and killed the suspect.

A special train was dispatched to take Chief Nelson to St. Paul, Minnesota, for treatment. He remained in the hospital in St. Paul until dying three days later.

Chief Nelson had served with the Carrington Police Department for three years. He was survived by his wife and son.

CHARLES ROBERT SNEESBY

Policeman Charles Sneesby was shot and killed while investigating burglary call at the United States Post Office in Devils Lake at 502 Fourth Street NE.

He was shot at close range as he entered the building to investigate a light that he observed inside. A citizen who lived next door observed four men flee the scene in an automobile.

One of the suspects was apprehended near Shelby, Montana, on January 7, 1933. He was later transferred from jail to a hospital where he died of pneumonia on March 18, 1933. It was later discovered that a second suspect was in the North Dakota Penitentiary for a conviction of another crime. On September 13, 1933, he was arrested as he was being released from prison. On December 1, 1933, he was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life. On March 28, 1946, he was denied a new trial.

Policeman Sneesby was survived by his wife and five children. He was preceded in death by a son. He was buried in the Grand Army Of The Republic Cemetery in Devils Lake.

NICHOLAS J. ETHEN

Patrolman Nick Ethen suffered a fatal heart attack while investigating a burglary at the Peavey grain elevator on College Street.

He and the county sheriff were inspecting the facility when he suddenly collapsed.

Patrolman Ethen was a U.S. Army veteran of WWI and had served with the Devils Lake Police Department for six years. He was survived by his wife, daughter, two sons, and four siblings.

THEODORE C. WANNER

Patrolman Wanner was killed when his patrol car struck the side of a train as he attempted to make a traffic stop. The vehicle he was attempting to pull over sped over the railroad crossing. Patrolman Wanner attempted to make it over the crossing too but his patrol car struck the side of a boxcar.

Patrolman Wanner had served with the agency for 4.5 years. He was survived by his wife, son, parents, brother, and two sisters.

E. M. "NED" MORRIS

Chief of Police Ned Morris succumbed to wound sustained on November 17th, 1924, when he interrupted three men breaking into a confectionery shop at the corner of Central Avenue and 1st Street West.

Before he could draw his weapon he was attacked by one of the men and struck repeatedly with a pick-handle. He was then shot in the back by one of the subjects. Despite his wounds, he was able to drag himself to a nearby cafe and called for assistance.

Despite ill health as a result of the wounds, he eventually returned to duty and was promoted from Night Marshal to Chief of Police. He succumbed to the wounds approximately 18 months later on May 31st, 1926.

Chief Morris was survived by his wife, three sons, three daughters, and five siblings.

CHARLES M. ALLMARAS

Sheriff Allmaras was shot and killed while attempting to serve a court order on a man in order to retrieve furniture for the man's estranged wife.

As Sheriff Allmaras and the subject's wife exited his car, the suspect opened fire with a .22 caliber rifle, striking Sheriff Allmaras three times. He was taken to a local hospital where he died the following day.

The 51-year-old suspect was arrested and charged with first-degree murder. He was convicted of the murder and sentenced to life in prison. On May 22, 1964, he hanged himself from a beam in the prison commissary where he worked.

Sheriff Allmaras had served as sheriff for 14 months. He was survived by his wife and eight children.

FREDERICK D. ALDERMAN

Policeman Fred Alderman was shot and killed as he attempted to track a man who had used stolen property to pay a fine.

The man had been arrested for public drunkenness the previous night and was required to pay \$8.50 before he could be released from jail. The man claimed that he could not afford the payment and asked Policeman Alderman if he could use his watch and various other personal goods to settle the debt. Policeman Alderman agreed and paid the remainder of the suspect's fine out of his own pocket.

After the suspect was released it was discovered that the property he had put towards his fine was stolen. Policeman Alderman and his partner spent the day canvassing the city for tips about the subject's whereabouts. They were given information that the man lived on the outskirts of town and they proceeded to the house at nightfall.

Fargo police officers were not equipped with night lanterns at the time and, in the darkness, Policeman Alderman mistook a neighboring home for the suspect's residence. Policeman Alderman knocked on the door of the home and asked to be admitted. When he received no response, he attempted to force the door open. As he did so, the occupant of the home opened fire on him, striking him in the chest and killing him instantly.

The woman told police that she had mistaken Policeman Alderman for a tramp who was attempting to break into her house. She was initially charged with Policeman Alderman's murder, but a jury ruled the incident justifiable homicide because Policeman Alderman did not identify himself to the woman.

Policeman Alderman had served with Fargo Police Department for only two months. He was survived by his wife and brother.

JASON DAVID MOSZER

Police Officer Jason Moszer was shot and killed while responding to a domestic violence call in the area of 3rd Street North and 9th Avenue North, in which shots had been fired.

The subject, armed with multiple long guns, called dispatchers after barricading himself inside his home and told them he was going to shoot at officers. The subject then shot Officer Moszer, who had set up on a perimeter location. The subject fired at other officers but did not strike anyone else.

The man's body was located inside the home suffering from a gunshot wound after an 11-hour standoff.

Officer Moszer was a member of the Minnesota National Guard and had served with the Fargo Police Department for six years. He is survived by his wife and two children.

JAKE WALLIN

Police Officer Jake Wallin was shot and killed while he and other officers investigated a traffic crash at the intersection of 25th Street South and 9th Avenue South at about 3:05 pm.

While officers were on scene, a male subject opened fire on officers, firefighters, and bystanders without warning. Officer Wallin was killed, two other officers were critically wounded, and a bystander was wounded. Officer Wallin's field training officer was able to return fire and kill the subject.

Officer Wallin was a Minnesota Army National Guard Operation Enduring Freedom veteran. He had served with the Fargo Police Department for only three months and was completing field training at the time of the shooting. He is survived by his mother, father, brother, grandparents, and fiancée.

HENRY S. HALVORSON

Sheriff Henry Halvorson was killed in an automobile crash while transporting a prisoner to the state penitentiary in Bismarck, North Dakota.

The crash occurred on U.S. Highway 10 near Tappen as he attempted to pass another car. His vehicle collided with another vehicle head-on.

Sheriff Halvorson had served as the sheriff of Grand Forks County for almost four years. He had previously served as an elected Grand Forks County constable for six years, police chief of the Larimore Police Department for two years, and police chief of the Northwood Police Department for nine years. He was survived by his wife, son, and daughter.

ROBERT D. MARTIN

Police Officer Robert Martin succumbed to injuries received in a motorcycle crash when a car turned in front of him while he was on patrol at 10:15 pm.

The crash occurred while Officer Martin was driving on 2nd Avenue North and the other vehicle attempted to turn into a driveway. He was transported to St. Michael's Hospital where he died later in the evening.

Officer Martin had served with the Grand Forks Police Department for two years and had previously served with the Williston Police Department.

LEON AUGUST "LEO" DAGNER

Chief of Police Leo Dagner suffered a fatal heart attack after arresting two drunk men and placing them in the town jail. He had just placed them into the cell when he collapsed.

He had not yet locked the cell door before collapsing. One of the men went outside and notified passersby of what happened.

Chief Dagner was survived by his wife, four sons, three brothers, and two sisters.

CODY NATHANIEL HOLTE

Police Officer Cody Holte was shot and killed after responding to assist deputies from the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office who were fired upon as they served an eviction notice at an apartment at 2627 South 17th Street.

When deputies made contact with the subject he fled into a bedroom and began firing at them with a semi-automatic rifle. Officer Holte and another officer from the Grand Forks Police Department responded to the deputies' call for assistance. When they arrived, the suspect again opened fire, killing Officer Holte and wounding one of the deputies.

Officer returned fire and wounded the subject. A woman inside the apartment was found deceased from a gunshot wound. The subject was arrested at the scene and subsequently charged with two counts of murder. He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison without parole in October 2021.

Officer Holte was a member of the North Dakota National Guard and had served with the Grand Forks Police Department for three years, assigned to the Uniform Patrol Bureau. Officer Holte was also a member of the Grand Forks Police Department's Honor Guard and was a member of the Northeast Regional Water Rescue Team.

He is survived by his wife, 10-month-old son, and twin brother. His brother also serves as a police officer in North Dakota.

DAVID L. STEWART

Police Chief David Stewart was shot and killed while attempting to arrest two thieves who had stolen kerosene from a bulk station during the night. He interrupted the burglars who then shot him twice in the chest and fled.

On April 10, 1935, both suspects were apprehended in Center, Texas. On January 30, 1936, the shooter was convicted of first degree manslaughter and sentenced to seven years. He was released on April 11, 1940. His accomplice was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to one year.

Chief Stewart had served with the Hope Police Department for two years. He was survived by seven siblings.

RONALD E. TRAUTMAN

Officer Ronald Trautman succumbed to injuries sustained on August 3rd, 1966, when his police motorcycle struck a truck on U.S. 281 just south of Jamestown.

He was taken to a hospital in Fargo where he remained until passing away on October 20th, 1966.

Officer Trautman had served with the Jamestown Police Department for 6-1/2 years. He was survived by his wife and two children.

JULIUS ALEXANDER NIELSEN

Officer Nielsen was shot and killed while attempting to arrest three men who had robbed a poker game.

The 25-year-old shooter and his two companions were arrested. On December 25, 1920, the shooter and two other inmates escaped from Fort Madison Penitentiary in Iowa where they were serving a life sentence for the murder of Deputy Sheriff William Maxwell of Plymouth County on November 14, 1919. The shooter was returned to the Iowa Penitentiary to finish serving out his sentence. He was charged with Officer Nielsen's murder.

Officer Nielsen was survived by his wife and seven children. He was buried at Trinity Lutheran Danish Cemetery in Kenmare.

SAM DOUGLASS

Constable Sam Douglass was shot and killed at a home in the Squaw Gap area by the father of a boy he was attempting to arrest.

He had gone to the boy's home but the boy's father armed himself with a shotgun and demanded that Constable Douglass leave at gunpoint. Constable Douglass returned home where he obtained his rifle and returned to the home to arrest the boy.

Constable Douglass and the boy's father exchanged shots and both were killed.

NELS H. ROMER

Chief of Police Nels Romer was shot and killed when he responded to a domestic disturbance on Christmas day at 12:30 pm.

He was shot by the male subject as he arrived at the home on 1st Avenue Northwest. The suspect then drove into town and shot at two citizens before being arrested by the county sheriff. The sheriff took the man to jail in Bismark to prevent an angry mob from lynching him.

On March 1, 1927, the 22-year-old suspect was found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to 23 years in prison. He was denied parole on June 5, 1935.

Chief Romer had served with the Mandan Police Department for five years and previously served with the Stutsman Sheriff's Department. He was survived by his second wife and three children. He was preceded in death by his first wife and one-year-old child.

HANS C. JESS

Officer Jess suffered a fatal heart attack while struggling with a suspect.

Officer Jess had served with the agency for 3 years. He was survived by his wife and stepson.

EVAN PAULSON

Officer Paulson was shot and killed when he surprised three men robbing a pharmacy that used alcohol in its medicine. One of the men shot him in the stomach as he entered the building. The man then shot him twice in the head.

Two of the suspects were eventually apprehended and convicted of his murder. They served short prison sentences and were released. The third suspect was never captured.

TIMOTHY L. WELLS

Deputy Sheriff Timothy Wells drowned in the Missouri River near Ft. Peck, Montana, during a training dive which involved filming sturgeon and paddlefish.

He was diving with six other rescue divers but failed to surface. The other divers immediately began to search for him but were unable to locate him.

Deputy Wells was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and had served with the Williams County Sheriff's Department for 4-1/2 years. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

CARL PETERSEN

Officer Carl Petersen was shot and killed when he attempted to arrest four men who had broken into a local hardware store at approximately 2:00 am. As he approached the building, he was shot in the leg and bled to death at the scene.

Three weeks later, two of the men were arrested and charged with his murder. One was convicted of murder and sentenced to 25 years in prison. On July 26, 1936, he was released. On January 14, 1923, the other suspect was sentenced to 18 months. He was released six months later. A third suspect was arrested in Aberdeen, Washington, in 1926. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to 25 years. On April 8, 1936, he was released. The fourth suspect, believed to be the shooter, was never apprehended.

Officer Petersen had served with the Westhope Police Department for one week. He was survived by his wife and nine children. He was preceded in death by a daughter.

ADAM GUSTAFSON

Lieutenant Adam Gustafson suffered a fatal heart attack after attending the department's outdoor range.

He had returned to the West Fargo Police Department headquarters following the training and was found unresponsive in the garage. Officers immediately started CPR before he was transported to a local hospital where was pronounced dead.

Lieutenant Gustafson was a U.S. Army combat veteran and had served with the West Fargo Police Department for 10 years. He is survived by his wife and three children.

KEITH ALLEN BRADDOCK

Senior Patrol Officer Keith Braddock was shot and killed by a subject who had become angry over service at a local bar. The subject had returned to the bar with two rifles and opened fire, shooting Officer Braddock.

Despite being wounded, Officer Braddock was able to return fire and shot the man in the leg. The subject remained in the bar and communicated with police using Officer Braddock's radio until the batteries ran out. A family friend of the man eventually talked him out, and he was taken into custody at 2:20 am.

Officer Braddock's death was not confirmed until the man was taken into custody. It was determined that he had bled to death approximately 30 minutes after being wounded.

The man was convicted of Officer Braddock's murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Officer Braddock was a U.S. Army veteran and had served with the Watford City Police Department for 17 years. He is survived by his wife, son, and two daughters.

EARNEST W. THOMPSON

Deputy Earnest Thompson was shot and killed by a prisoner who was serving a 90 day sentence for bootlegging in the Ward County Jail .

A posse captured the 34-year-old suspect the next day near Minot. Three weeks later the suspect was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life. The suspect's 22-year-old brother, who slipped him the gun, was also convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life. In 1924 his sentence was reduced to 25 years.

Deputy Thompson was buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Grey Eagle, Minnesota. He was survived by two sisters and a nephew.

WILLIAM WALTER HANSEN

Officer Hansen was electrocuted when he attempted to pick up a live wire which had fallen onto the ground. He was killed instantly when he touched the wire.

Officer Hansen was survived by his daughter.

HERMON MYRON PERSONIUS

Policeman Hermon Personius was shot and killed while investigating the robbery of a train. The operator of the train that was robbed called ahead to another operator to alert the police of the incident and to be on the lookout when the train arrived in Valley City.

Policeman Personius, the chief, another officer, and a civilian, met the train when it arrived and began searching it. Policeman Personius caught one man and turned him over to the other officer. He began searching inside another boxcar and was shot twice as he shined his light into the car.

The shooter fled into the darkness and was never seen again. A man was charged with his murder but freed when he proved he was somewhere else. On December 28, 1906, the man Policeman Personius caught was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor.

Policeman Personius had served with the Valley City Police Department for two and a half years. He was survived by his wife, five sons, and two daughters.

ARTHUR MILFORD SEM

Chief Arthur Sem succumbed to injuries sustained 6 months earlier when he was struck by a vehicle while investigating a traffic accident.

The vehicle that struck him skidded out of control on the icy road surface.

Chief Sem was survived by his wife and three children.

CHRISTIAN ANTON MADISON

Officer Madison was shot and killed while investigating a disturbance at a local hotel. Upon Officer Madison's arrival he discovered the suspect had left. He pursued the suspect and when he caught him a struggle ensued. The suspect was able to gain control of Officer Madison's weapon and shot him.

Three months later the 45-year-old suspect was found guilty of second degree murder and sentenced to 20 years.

Officer Madison was survived by his wife and four children.

FRANK PETERSON

Patrolman Frank Peterson was shot and killed when he surprised two men burglarizing a business on Main Street in Rugby around 5:00 a.m.

When Patrolman Peterson witnessed a burglary in progress, he moved his patrol car into an alley off of Third Street to block the suspects' escape. As he looked over their car and moved through the alley to find the suspects, the suspects opened fire on Patrolman Peterson. Despite being wounded, he attempted to crawl to his patrol vehicle to radio for back-up. The suspects walked closer to Patrolman Peterson, and used a total of seven guns to shoot him 16 times. Several of the shots came from the officer's service revolver.

The two men moved the police car and fled. They were arrested in Minot several days later and charged with first degree murder. Both suspects, ages 21 and 22, were convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life in prison on March 19, 1963. One was paroled in 1979 and the other shortly thereafter.

COLT EUGENE ALLERY

Deputy Sheriff Colt Allery was shot and killed following a vehicle pursuit of a stolen vehicle that ended in the area of 89th Street and BIA Road 7 near Belcourt, North Dakota.

Deputies and an officer from the Rolla Police Department located the vehicle after being alerted to its location by a remote monitoring company. The driver of the vehicle failed to stop and led officers on a pursuit until the car was remotely disabled on a gravel road by the monitoring company. As the vehicle came to a stop the occupant engaged the officers in a shootout in which he and Deputy Allery were both killed.

Deputy Allery had served with the Rolette County Sheriff's Office for three months and had served in law enforcement for five years. He had previously served with the Rolla Police Department, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Tribal Police Department, and as a corrections officer with the Rolette County Sheriff's Office.

GEORGE LINCOLN DIXON

Officer George Dixon was stabbed to death after he arrested a man for public intoxication at a local dance. He was escorting the suspect to jail when he produced a knife and stabbed him four times.

His killer was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Officer Dixon was survived by his wife and three children.