

Bad things happen everywhere even in small towns. Krum has had its share of murders, madness, mayhem and thievery.

January 6, 1889: Burglars entered the general merchandise store of John Bates before daylight and stole merchandise but no money. They attempted to get into Dr. Kimbrough's drugstore, but were shot at and ran away.

June 7, 1918: Otis Myers, age 45 was shot eight times by Yancy Story in the Krum post office. Otis died instantly. Witnesses said that Otis had a knife and Yancy had two guns. Yancy Story came to Denton and gave himself up to the officers. There was animosity between the two men. In March of 1919 the jury found Yancy Story not guilty of the Myers murder charge. This would not be the last Krum would hear of Yancy Story. In 1925 he and Wilbur Martin robbed the Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Krum.

January 29, 1925: On January 29, 1925 Fred Crane, about 24 years of age, was shot several times by Nathan A. Story. Crane, a tenant on Story's farm, died the next day. In May 29, 1926, Story was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 99 years in the State penitentiary. Nathan Story was the brother of Yancy Story.

June 9, 1925: Two hooded men roared up to the Farmers and Merchants State Bank's west side, jumped out of a stolen Cadillac with six shooters in hand and raced into the bank. The robbers Yancy Story and Wilbur A. Martin netted \$ 3,100 in cash and \$ 1,550 in liberty bonds

June 2, 1930: Sam Ward, age 33, a farmer living on the A.H. Knox place one and one half miles from Krum, shot and killed his wife then killed himself. Mr. Ward had been in a mental hospital for treatment five years prior to the shootings.

January 29, 1934: The McClister Dry Goods store was robbed in 1934. The burglars bored holes through the back door and then entered the McClister store and got away with merchandise valued at about \$750.

October 22, 1936: Car Theft Charge Filed in Krum Case: Charges of car theft were filed here Wednesday against R.C. Cantor, in connection with the taking of a vehicle belonging to Dr. A. H. Knox of Krum Tuesday, after Cantor was returned here from Burkburnett by Deputy Sheriffs Jim Woods and Jimmie Lee Wilkerson.

January 7, 1949: Joe A. Goforth, a 26 year old Krum farmer, went on a shooting spree in downtown Krum. Jake Chism, a Krum painter who was painting in the bank, was shot by Goforth. Goforth then ducked into the barbershop owned by Dave Windle. Deputy Sheriff Joe Hutchinson was wounded in the hand by the gunfire. The insane man fired his shotgun through the window of the barbershop and Sheriff W.O. Hodges fell, blinded. Mr. Goforth escaped from the barbershop and started running down the railroad tracks. The posse of officers and Krum citizens gave chase and Mr. Goforth was captured.

Sheriff W. O. Hodges had only been on the job seven days when the shooting incident occurred. In a Time Magazine article from, January 4, 1954, Sheriff Hodges recalled that the Krum residents warned: *"Don't go in there, he's crazy."* But Hodges drew his pistol walked up to the barber shop and called. *"This is the sheriff of Denton County. Come Out."* Instead of coming out Goforth fired and the sheriff was blinded and called out *"I can't stay here and bleed to death. Someone lead me away, and I'll walk behind and shield him with my big backside."* An insurance man took the chance and the sheriff tottered off to safety. Sheriff Hodges continued as sheriff even winning a second term. For years he hoped to get his sight back and traveled the world hunting for specialists. But finally resigned to his fate, he got a seeing eye dog named Candy. In January 1954, Sheriff Hodges and Candy went out for a walk, not knowing there was a thick fog. A jeep driver delivering papers failed to see them until it was too late. Both Sheriff Hodges and Candy were killed.

July 1949: Harry Huggins, age 40, was charged with burglaries of these stores in Krum: Lamm Grocery on April 5, 1949, Lamm Grocery, blacksmith shop, and Fowler Hardware on April 15, 1949, Cole Grain and Elevator and the post office at Krum on June 21.

December 9, 1949: Mrs. David Rudd, telephone operator, reported that someone was attempting to steal her automobile parked in front of her house. When the sheriff's officers began checking they found that someone had been quite busy in Krum on that day. Windows had been broken at Cole's Service Station and \$2 and \$3 in pennies taken. R.L. Lamm Grocery had \$30 to \$35 dollars missing. At the Krum Drug next door to the grocery store, someone had tried to open the safe with a drill taken from another store, Fowler Hardware. The electric drill and extension cord were not the only things taken from the hardware store, 10 wrist watches were also stolen. At the Wilkins Dry Good store across the street, entry was gained by breaking the front door glass and another attempt made to gain entry to a safe, again unsuccessful. At the Krum cafe, owned by Mrs. Pete Harris the thieves opened up the pinball machines to get money and also took several packages of cookies. At Dodd's Grocery, \$4 was taken out of the cash drawer and remainder of the stolen cookies left by the cash drawer. The thieves had also attempted to break into several more automobiles in the town of Krum.

October 29, 1954: George Piott, auto salesman for Krum Motor Company reported to the police that a man had offered him a diamond ring as security for a new car soon after a Monday night hotel robbery was reported by a Dallas hat designer Lilly Dache. Ms. Dache was robbed of \$30,000 in jewels while she was staying at a Dallas motel. Piott turned down the sale and notified the Denton County authorities.

Sources for articles: Dallas Morning News Archives 1855-1977 at newsbank.com, Denton Record Chronicle Archives at Newspaper.com and ancestry.com and Fort Worth Daily Gazette from The Library Of Congress chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers .

Please visit the Krum Heritage Museum online at www.krumheritagemuseum.com