

KOONS, JOHN ELLSWORTH

1867-March 26, 1944

On July 4th, Sheriff Ed L. Wood of Albany county disclosed that a search is underway for John Koons, 74, who has been missing from the homestead ranch of his son Dillon Koons, in the Laramie Dell country since early in March or late in February.

Koons was reported to have been seen sometime between Feb. 24 and March 10 at the Fred Gibbs ranch. The old man's disappearance was not reported at the sheriff's office until two weeks ago, as Dillon expressed the belief that his father was in Laramie. Upon investigation, it was learned that John Koons had not been seen in either Laramie or Wheatland.

The mysterious disappearance of John recalled that the decomposed body of his son, Dan Koons, was found in the loft of the John Koons house on S. 4th street in Laramie on June 9, 1929 after a four-months search. Two bullet wounds were found in the body and a pistol with some discharged cartridges lay nearby. The Albany county coroner pronounced the death suicide at the time.

When the sheriff's officers drove to the Koons ranch recently on official business. Dillon told them his father had disappeared while he himself had been absent from the ranch a few days. He said his father had taken most of his clothes with him.