

UNKNOWN MALE III

?-September 19, 1914

An unknown man, supposedly upon the waylands of the Colorado & Southern railway track near the Curtis beet dump a mile and a half from the city Monday morning. A pick handle covered with blood and hair, with which the crime had evidently been committed, was found about fifty yards from the body later in the day. Steven Monuck, a Russian, is held here as the murder suspect.

The discovery of the body was made by Section Foreman Carson and his crew from Uva. They immediately reported the gruesome find to Sheriff Carroll, who, in company County Prosecutor Paige, Coroner D.B. Rigdon and Deputy Sheriff John Payne went to view the body and surroundings.

Returning to the city, the Sheriff wired to points along the railway to arrest all suspicious characters, and later in the day Monuck was picked up at Chugwater. He answers the description in every particular of the companion of the murdered man and has been identified as such by a number of Uva people, where he and the Austrian stopped for the purchase of tobacco and eatables.

Stains supposed to have been made by blood were found on an outside shirt wrapped around a bundle carried by Monuck and there was also blood on his shoes. About seven thirty Sunday evening there was a rain and the tracks of the murdered man and his companion were plainly evident. Two sets of tracks led up to the point where the murder occurred and from there, one man's alone was visible. The shoes of the murdered man exactly fit in one and those of Monuck were identical with the other.

About five thirty Sunday evening the men were in Uva where the murdered man purchased a package of Tuxedo tobacco and the one identified as Monuck by O.C. Forest, who made the sale, bought a can of tongue and some cookies. These articles, or what remained of them, were found near the body of the murdered man and were later identified by the cost mark as the articles sold the pair by Forest.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mouse who were walking on the track this side of Uva met the men about six thirty and while they were unable to understand what they were saying, believed the men were quarreling. Both at the store and later as the men were seen on the track, the one identified as Monuck carried a pick handle, supposedly the one that was later found near the body.

Still later in the evening, George Schwartz of Uva noticed the two men going down the track, and at this time, one of them was thirty feet ahead of the other. The pick handle was still in evidence. A party of Wheatland people also saw the men as they passed through here. They noticed the pick handle and that one of the men was carrying his coat. This was the one who was later murdered. His coat was found on the track, probably where he dropped it when struck.

After the pair passed this city, there is nothing to indicate what happened except the position of the body and the bits of property scattered about the scene of the murder. It is certain that the killing occurred some time between seven thirty and nine o'clock in the evening. The tracks were plainly visible as having been made after the rain.

The wounds on the murdered man's head indicate he was struck from behind on the back of the head. The skull is completely caved in. He was hit again across one

corner of the forehead, this also crushing the skull and exposing the brain. Another stroke laid the chin open to the bone and broke the lower jaw and still another split the upper lip and crushed the bone of the superior maxillary.

A pool of blood about the soil, indicates where the body fell and lay for some time. It is probable that the murderer (unreadable) pockets which were found turned inside out, dragged his victim down the slope of the grade away from the track to the point where found, a distance of about fifteen feet.

While the circumstantial evidence against Monuck is strong, he claims he never was at Uva and that he never saw the dead man. In order to startle some sort of expression from him, he was blind-folded and led into the presence of the corpse, where his eyes were suddenly uncovered. He was not disconcerted in the least, however. He looked a moment then murmured in Russian "Dead man; dead man".

The coroner's inquest was held Tuesday, the jury, consisting of A.E. Bolte, G.T. Goodrich and H.C. Corbridge, finding that the deceased came to his death from wounds inflicted by a club or pick handle in the hands of a person unknown to the jurors. The preliminary hearing will be delayed a day or two. The body of the murdered man was buried in potter's field here. There was nothing on his person to indicate his name or identity.

It is believed that both the murdered man and Monuck were employed in the grading gang recently laid off near Douglas. When arrested, Monuck was found in the company of two other laborers. While these were not detained at the time, they were later picked up and being held here for the little information they were able to give regarding Monuck.

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NEWS ITEM: As a result of new developments, the preliminary hearing of Steve Monuck, held for the murder of the unknown Austrian laborer here near the beet dump on the night of Sunday, September 20, is being held over. It is being regarded that it is possible now that Monuck may not be the right man in spite of the fact that many circumstances point to his guilt.

It is believed that another Uva witness will be secured to make the matter more conclusive one way or the other and this person will be examined in a short time, when the preliminary hearing will probably take place.