

Oldtime Watchman Had Colorful Life

Many oldtimers and "home-comers" will miss the presence of one of Llano's more colorful characters of the twentieth century.

"Two-gun" Casper, constable and night watchman at Llano for many years and also bronc buster and circus performer, had at the time of his tragic death several years ago, the distinction of being

set, Atascosa county, Texas, August 21, 1881, the son of Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Casper who moved to Llano in 1901. Constable Casper was in and out of Llano since that time, locating permanently here in 1919.

At the age of 12 years Casper began performing in road shows and circuses, and is credited with bringing to Llano over half a century ago the first railroad vaudeville and acrobatic show ever staged here.

Later he and his first wife, the former Rene Stone, rode in Wild West shows all over the country, his wife having been a remarkable bronc rider. They performed together in shows for six and one-half years.

Constable Casper rode in Zack Miller's 101 Ranch Show for several years, together with his wife, and also in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Shows in Oklahoma, Kansas, California, Utah, and Wyoming. And for a time he was with Buck Taylor of the Llano-Eckert section, who was the King of the Cowboys in Buffalo Bill's show, and whom Casper described as one of the best horsemen the world ever produced.

Casper was with the famous Boogen Red's Show when it played in Llano in 1906, and which a great many oldtimers here recall. Casper said Booger Red's real name was Tom Privett, though few people knew him as such.

Casper's first wife died at Pike, Oklahoma, in 1917, Casper himself was found early on the morning of July 22, 1949, dead from a gunshot wound.

He had been sitting on a bench in front of Tom Foster's Feed Store at the time. His gun was sent to Austin where it was determined that the shot came from his own gun, but it was never determined what had happened.

Casper, who was left-handed, a marvelous collection of guns which he had accumulated during his long years as a peace officer.



Virgil Casper

Llano's oldest peace officer, both in age and point of service.

He held the office of constable of precinct one at Llano for almost 30 years, and was night watchman about 15 years.

Casper prided himself on his long period of service as a peace officer, which was almost 40 years. Before joining the law-enforcement crew at Llano, he was a special officer in Arizona and New Mexico for a number of years.

E. V. Casper was born in Somer-

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