

Dick Leiser Experiences Exciting Time in Hold-up

The Fargo papers give the following account of the hold-up at Moorhead last Wednesday in which Geo. Sheffield was killed. We print as complete an account of the affair for the reason that one of the men held up was Dick Leiser who is well known to nearly every one of the readers of The Enterprise.

Geo. Sheffield was shot to death by a masked bandit at the Great Northern station, Moorhead, at 1:05 Wednesday morning. Mr. Sheffield, second "trick" man, and R. E. Leiser the other night man, were in the ticket office when two masked men entered the men's waiting room of the station. One of the bandits covered Night Baggage man Rhea and two passengers with a gun, and the other went to the registry window on the north side of the ticket office and ordered Leiser, who was at work opposite the window, to hold up his hands.

Leiser thought it was a joke but obeyed the order when he turned toward the window and found himself covered with the bandit's revolver. Sheffield was near the ticket window in the southeastern corner of the office and was busy counting up the cash to make the turn-over. Ordered again to hold up his hands Sheffield turned toward the registry window, facing the bandit.

Instead of holding up his hands Sheffield picked up the revolver that was kept on a shelf near the cash drawer and swung on the bandit. The gun snapped, it was not loaded, and Sheffield backed towards the ticket window in the men's room. The bandit fired, missing Sheffield, the bullet nicking one of the bars in the window grill and lodging in the wall of the women's waiting room. Sheffield snapped the gun twice more and the bandit fired two more shots, missing each time. Sheffield was now close to the ticket window in the men's room when the fourth bullet fired by the bandit struck him near the heart. Sheffield's last act was to throw his useless gun at the bandit.

The bandit then ordered Leiser to hand over the cash box and when it was passed to him through the registry window, he and his partner hurriedly left the station and were last seen running towards Eighth street.

Sheffield proved himself to be one of the gamest men who ever held a gun and would have gotten his man if the revolver had been loaded, as it was supposed to be. The revolver was left for the protection of the men in the ticket office, but a week ago it was loaned to D. H. Thompson by the night baggage man. Thompson used the cartridges to kill a horse and returned the empty gun the following day.

Leiser had just gone on duty in the office at the time of the tragedy. In his own words told to a Courier-News reporter the affair was as follows:

"I was standing with my back to the window," said Mr. Leiser, "when I heard two commands 'Hands Up.' At first I thought it was a joke but when I turned and found I was confronted with a very businesslike gun I changed my mind and tried to reach the ceiling with my hands.

"George, who was standing in the corner of the office, turned around and reached for the gun he keeps near at hand and pulled the trigger only to find that there was no charge in the chambers. At this the bandit at the window fired and missed, fired again and failed to hit his mark and then with the third bullet poor George crumpled up in the corner and I guess died instantly.

"The men were cool throughout the affair," continued Leiser. "There was no haste, just a firm determination to get the job through with. They made me get the cash box and when I handed it to the man with the gun at the ticket window he said, 'I have half a mind to kill you too, damn you,' but with that he turned and made for the door."

Leiser, then, according to his story, left the depot and rushed to the Comstock hotel, where he telephoned to the police and to the Fargo depot, after which he returned to his post.