

# Widely Varied Tales Told in Isom Shooting

## Proprietor of Drugstore Says Deputy Warden Made No Move Until After First Shot Fired

## Killer's Humor Bad

## Convict Friend Testifies Hebron Man Attacked and Struck Ragsdale

Conflicting stories of the killing of E. W. Isom, Hebron, deputy game warden, by Jimmy Ragsdale, 37, dope addict, were told from the witness stand Tuesday by two eyewitnesses in Ragsdale's murder trial in Judge Grover Adams' Criminal District Court.

J. L. Hardin, proprietor of the D & D drugstore, Akard and Powhattan, where the slaying occurred late the afternoon of Jan. 29, testified that Ragsdale fired as Isom stood up from his chair, and that Isom made no move until after the first shot.

M. H. (Buddy) Hagan, a friend of Ragsdale, and under a five-year sentence on a Federal narcotic conviction, said that Isom had made threatening remarks about Ragsdale before the killing and that he hit or grabbed at Ragsdale before a shot was fired.

"Isom jumped up as Ragsdale passed by him," Hagan said. "Ragsdale fell over some scales as Isom hit or grabbed him, and Isom was following him as the first shot was fired, and Isom had his right arm around Ragsdale and had him bent back as the last shot was fired."

### Ragsdale in Bad Humor.

Hardin said that Ragsdale evidently got a pistol Hardin kept for protection from behind the counter while Hardin was out of the store. Hardin said he sold Ragsdale three or four drinks of whisky during the afternoon and Isom four or five bottles of beer. Ragsdale was in a bad humor, he said.

"Ragsdale asked Isom, 'What the hell is it to you if he's with me or not?' referring to Buddy Hagan," Hardin testified. "Isom was seated at

## Shooting

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.

a table and Ragsdale leaning against a showcase, with his right hand under his coat when he said this. Isom said nothing, and Ragsdale repeated his statement. Isom got up and Ragsdale pulled a gun from under his coat and shot Isom as he stood up, aiming at his chest.

Isom didn't have a chance to do anything before the first shot was fired, and had nothing in his hands that he could see, Hardin said.

### Kept on Shooting.

"Isom grabbed Ragsdale's hands after the first shot, but Ragsdale kept on firing," Hardin said. "One bullet went through a showcase. Isom began to drop to the floor, but Ragsdale kept firing. Isom slumped on the floor and after he fell, Ragsdale fired again but the gun snapped, all five cartridges in it having been fired."

Ragsdale said: "He asked for it and now he's got it," Hardin testified.

"Ragsdale started out the door, came back and pitched the gun by Isom's body, saying: 'It's his,'" Hardin testified. "Ragsdale then went out the door. I called the ambulance and the doctor said Isom was dead."

A friend with whom Isom came into the drugstore was drunk, but Isom was not, Hardin said. On cross examination by Maury Hughes, one of the defense attorneys, Hardin denied Isom and his friends gave liquor to young girls in the drugstore and said he didn't see Babe Pate, 13, slap

Isom or hear Isom threaten to slap her head off.

Isom and Ragsdale were strangers, Hardin said, but Ragsdale frequented the drugstore. Hardin said his partner in the drug business, named Sutherland dived under the counter on the first shot. Hardin said he has stopped selling whisky by the drink at his place since the killing.

Detective R. W. Corn said Isom was shot in the left breast and neck, and that he found no weapons of any description on his body. The State rested with the testimony of Dr. T. E. Kelly of the Emergency Hospital, who described Isom's wounds.

Hagan, the first defense witness, said he had known Ragsdale since 1933 when both were in the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth on narcotic convictions. Ragsdale was in the prison hospital for a nervous affliction, Hagan said, and is subject to spells of insanity over trivialities.

Hagan considered the D & D Drugstore a tough place, saying he had heard the initials stood for "drunks and dopeheads." Hagan said he was seated at a table with two girls, one being Babe Pate, when Isom and a friend came in, got a bottle of beer and came over to their table.

"Isom asked me: 'Who's that man standing over there with his hat over his eyes so he can't see where he's going,'" Hagan testified. "I told him that was Jimmie Ragsdale, and he said: 'I don't like that guy's looks. He looks like a ladies' man to me. He made other remarks saying he was just itching to get on that fellow and that he wished Ragsdale would make one move. His partner said that they would take care of him if Ragsdale did. I tried to get him to quit talking, telling him the law was outside, and Isom replied that 'I'm the law.' He said he had cleaned out tougher places than this one."

Hagan said he told Ragsdale what Isom said, and that Ragsdale laughed it off.

Mrs. J. C. Ponder, 1721 Canton, said she was in the drugstore shortly before the killing, when she heard Isom say: "That fellow Jimmie Ragsdale thinks he's one of those smart cute guys. I'd like for him to make one crooked move. I'd lay him out on the floor."

The court recessed after Mrs. Ponder's testimony until 9 a.m. Wednesday.