

## HISTORY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The first degree murder trial of L. J. Dull, 73 year old retired dentist, from Butlerville, began on Wednesday May 3, 1933, in Third District Court before Judge Allen G. Thurman. What were the circumstances that lead up to this trial?

### ANSWER

Mr. L. J. Dull owned a large ranch on Wasatch Boulevard. He employed several workers. About 8 months before the alleged shooting took place, his daughter and her husband, Horace M. Randels moved to a poultry farm about a block away from the Dull ranch. During the afternoon of January 17, 1933, Mr. Dull went to the Randels' farm where he and his son-in-law quarreled over some eggs. Later that evening, Mr. and Mrs. Randels went to the Dull ranch to tend to Mrs. Randels 12 year old brother who was ill. Mr. Randel was standing at the foot of the boy's bed, helping him put on his pajamas when he was shot in the back twice and once in the shoulder, by Mr. Dull.

Mr. Dull was charged with first degree murder, which carried the death penalty. The trial began May 3, 1933. Mr. Dull's daughter was a witness for the prosecution. The defense countered that Mr. Dull was insane at the time of the shooting. The jury heard testimony from Mr. Dull's 12 year old son, ex-wife, and several of his employees. On May 15, 1933, both sides rested and the judge gave the case to the jury of 12 men. After 5 hours of deliberating, the jury returned with a verdict of "Guilty of second degree murder." Mr. Dull was sentenced to 20 years in the State Prison.

The following day, the defense started to prepare a motion for a new trial. On August 16, 1933, Mr. Dull was judged insane by District Judge Herbert M. Schiller. He was transferred from the State Prison to the State Mental Hospital at Provo. At the insistence of the District Attorney, the judge ordered that at any time that Mr. Dull was deemed sane, he would be returned to the State Prison to resume his 20 year sentence. On September 22, 1933, Mr. Dull was deemed sane by the hospital superintendent, Dr. Garland H. Pace, and returned to the State Prison, where he died of myocarditis, September 24, 1934.

The Dull property was eventually sold to the Winn Family, whose descendents are still residing on part of that property.

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