

Rhyolite Herald, October 20, 1905

“JODOIN GIVEN LIBERTY: JUDGE NORRIS SUSTAINS CLAIM OF JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE – FIRST KILLING IN BULLFROG”

Bob Arnold was shot and killed at Bullfrog at about 1 o'clock last Saturday afternoon, by A.J. Jodoin, as the result of a trivial remark made a few hours before. The Bullfrog saloon was the scene of the tragedy. After the shooting Jodoin gave himself up to Constable Pruden and was locked up.

A coroner's jury was impaneled by Judge Norris and after taking considerable testimony, rendered a verdict that the deceased came to his death at the hands of A.J. Jodoin, who shot in self defense.

The remains of Arnold were taken Saturday evening to the home of John Wiley, who conducted a short service Sunday afternoon, after which a large number of the friends of the deceased formed a procession which marched to the grave.

Monday a preliminary examination of Jodoin was begun before Judge Norris. The prosecution was represented by Attorney's Thomas and Wilkinson, while Attorneys Davis and Arnold appeared for the defendant.

The examination lasted four days, during which time twenty witnesses were examined and their testimony typewritten by Miss Likins. The arguments were begun at 4 o'clock Thursday and finished at 5:30, when Judge Norris decided that the evidence was not sufficiently strong to warrant holding the defendant upon the charge of murder and he was therefore discharged.

The attorneys on both sides congratulated Mr. Jodoin, as did numerous other friends, causing his eyes to fill with tears.

In view of the outcome of the case, the statement of the defendant will have more weight than it might otherwise have, and a synopsis of it is here given.

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A.J. Jodoin, aged 32, was born in Central Falls, R.I., and came to Bullfrog last December. Occupation, mason.

When going home Saturday morning some of the boys suggested going into McGarry's for a lunch and taking it into Durkee's saloon to eat it. After lunch a poker game was proposed. The game started and Arnold was asked if he was playing. In reply to some remark Jodoin said "I have carried more money than any of you fellows." Arnold asked, "Do you include me?" Jodoin said, "Yes, you as well as any one." At that, Arnold pulled a gun and began striking Jodoin over the head. The latter tried to get the gun and failing, ran out and up the street. Getting away from Arnold, Jodoin went to the watering trough and washed away the blood from his head. He came back and went to bed.

In the morning he came down to Durkee's saloon to get some money to pay for having his head dressed. Finding no one there, he went away. Later his head was dressed by Dr. Wilkinson in Rhyolite and he went back to Bullfrog. He went into Wandell's saloon to get some money that he had left there, and found Arnold there. The quarrel was renewed and Jodoin suggested that both be searched, and that they then go out and fight it out with their fists. Arnold refused, but offered to let Jodoin hit him over the head with a gun to even matters. Jodoin refused a drink offered by the proprietor and asked for his money, which was given him. He started for the door and says that when three or four feet from it, saw Arnold pull a gun. Jodoin jumped outside and Arnold ran to the door with his gun pointed at the

defendant.

While Jodoin was getting at his un, Arnold fired once, and a second time as the former raised his arm. Jodoin fired once at Arnold, the next attempt failing to explode, and after another shot from the inside, Jodoin shot again, and says that is all he remembered of shooting.

In a short time officer Pruden came out with Arnold's gun and Jodoin gave up his gun and himself.

There was some conflicting testimony as to the details of the case and in regard to the plea of self defense, but the examination was conducted with the evident desire on both sides to be fair.

Arnold and Jodoin were both known as peaceable, law-abiding citizens, and their looks and deportment bore out that reputation. Their coming together in mortal combat was an unfortunate circumstance that happens all too often.

Bob Arnold, the deceased, was a prospector, well known in Rhyolite, where he lived with his brother, Ed. He was 36 years old and was born in Madisonville, Ky., coming to this district early last spring. His tragic death is sincerely regretted by all, and nothing but kind words are spoken of him.