

# FUNERAL PARLORS, POISONS AND PENNIES FROM A GHOST

VISIT TWO-GUN HARRY'S, A STEAM LAUNDRY MURDER, TWO HOTELS WITH A POISONOUS PAST, GRATEFUL GHOSTS, A HERO'S HAUNTS AND A FUNERAL PARLOR WITH A PERILOUS PAST.

"It was fun watching Harry Garrison shoot blanks in the air when people got off the passenger trains!"

- Vic Baum (from Tucumcari and Quay County Then and Now Facebook Group)

## TWO-GUN HARRY'S

Tucumcari's very own "pistol packin" local restaurant and curio shop owner Harry Garrison was known to meet the trains at the depot decked out in western wear with pearl-handled six-guns by his side. He made such an impression, a song by Dorothy Shay, Two-Gun Harry from Tucumcari" became a hit in 1948.



Two-Gun Harry's (1940?)



Maggie Wilker (L) and Sheriff Clyde Moncus (R)

## MAGGIE'S MURDER

In late September 1941 in the boiler room of the old, abandoned Tucumcari Steam Laundry not far from railroad tracks, lay the body Maggie Wilker. According to the Detective World article, her clenched fists were tied together with a knotted bandana handkerchief. The V-neck of her dark dress revealed dark bruised splotches, apparently the result of a stranglehold. Local authorities quickly suspected homicide.



The Palace Hotel, later known as the Tucumcari Motel (L) and the Adams House (R) were two very busy and prominent hotels from Tucumcari's past.

## TWO HOTEL CORNERS WITH A POISONOUS PAST

Located not far from the depot at the street intersection of Smith and Adams, were two hotels that played an important role in the early railroad days of Tucumcari. The Adams House Hotel and the Tucumcari Motel (also known as the Antlers in 1907, the Palace, and then Oklahoma before becoming the more recently recognized Tucumcari Motel probably in the 1950s) share some interesting and tragic poison stories from the past.

# GRATEFUL AND PLAYFUL GHOSTS

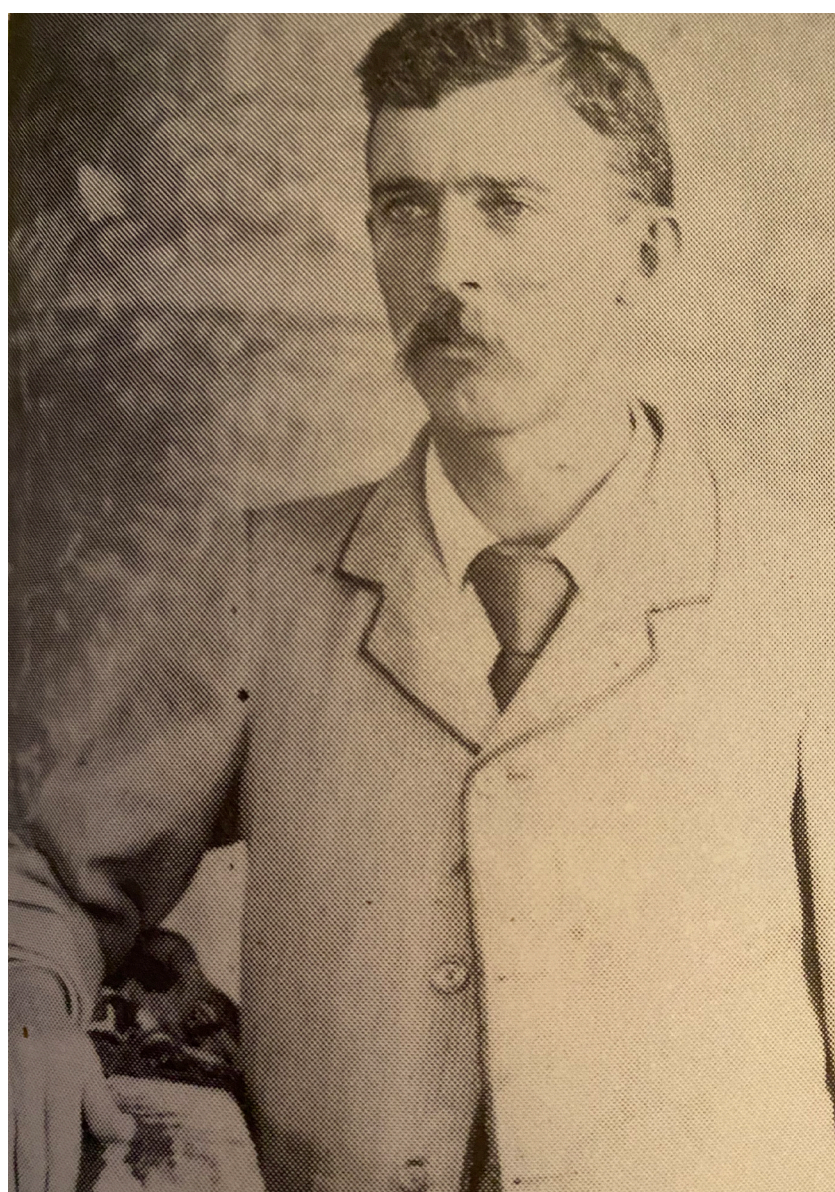
A grand old home built in the early days of Tucumcari may still hold some grateful and playful spirits within its 115 year old red sandstone walls.

Owners of this lovely home included Gaudins, Keators, Thaxtons, Smiths, Garcias, and sisters Fern George and Betty Bason. In the early-mid 2000s, the sisters had given it the name, "Hospitality House", ran a bed and breakfast, had "Mystery Dinners" and provided meals (free or donation) to those who visited. Betty also provided a few mysterious stories along with Jeff Garcia (who lived in the home in the 1990s.)

**Are there a few spirits who still linger? You decide!**

*For some more details on some of the families who lived there, visit [LostNewMexico.com](http://LostNewMexico.com). Currently the home ownership is under "red tape" within the HUD system. See the Facebook group, [Save Hospitality House](#), to learn more.*

# A HERO'S HAUNTS



Alex Street's career bridged the "wild west shooting iron law" of the New Mexico territory to the scientific federal investigator.

Find out about a true local hero and a founder of Tucumcari who had a life that spans some amazing history that could be a book all of its own.



Built in 1907, the lovely Hospitality House was home to many families over the years and may still hold onto some of those spirits.

# FUNERAL PARLORS WITH A PERILOUS PAST

What do some faux diamonds, dead bodies and a current downtown dispensary have in common? They all have a link to 113 South Second Street. Find out how!



**AND MORE INCREDIBLE STORIES!**