



**Alex Street
Retires Today
to Private Life**
—
**Has Record as Gov-
ernment Operative
That is Among
Famous**
—
FORMER SHERIFF

In the famous Oklahoma case Alex, altho he knew he was facing death every moment, never carried a gun during the entire investigation, the top man in the assassinations, with whom he chummed a lot, being armed all the time and many times being on the point of pulling his gun and assassinating Mr. Street. he went right on dealing with him, appealing to him as man to man, until finally, after his arrest, he confessed to Alex one evening, while he and Alex were eating a big steak in a restaurant, to which Alex had taken him, the officer being unarmed at the time and still knowing men were watching and waiting for an opportunity to rescue the head of the assassin's ring.

**J. A. STREET, ONE
OF NERVIEST OF
U. S. OFFICERS**
**Man Who Caught Indian
Slayer of Henrietta
Schmerler, White Wo-
man, Is Tucumcarian**

SANTA FE, N. M., Nov. 2 (AP)—
Federal Agent J. A. Street, who has caught the Apache murderer of Miss Henrietta Schmerler, is a former sheriff of Quay county, New Mexico, who got his chance with the United States department of justice through United States Senator Holm O. Bursum and Judge Reed Holloman.
"He is the nerviest man I have ever known," Judge Holloman said Monday, reflecting over 23 years of close friendship with Street. "He does not know the quality, fear, and seldom carries a gun when at work."
Street and Holloman met in Tucumcari shortly after the judge came to New Mexico and Street was sheriff of the county. When Tucumcari was incorporated in 1908, Street was its first mayor and Judge Holloman its city attorney.
Afterward, when Holm Brusum went to the United States senate, the way was paved to place Street in the government service.
"Street has made good consistently," Judge Holloman said, "and is one of the most brilliant operatives in the department. He has no particular system, and possesses a remarkable faculty of being able to quickly adapt himself to whatever circumstances may be presented."

Albuquerque Journal
Nov. 3, 1931

The Hauntings of ALEX STREET

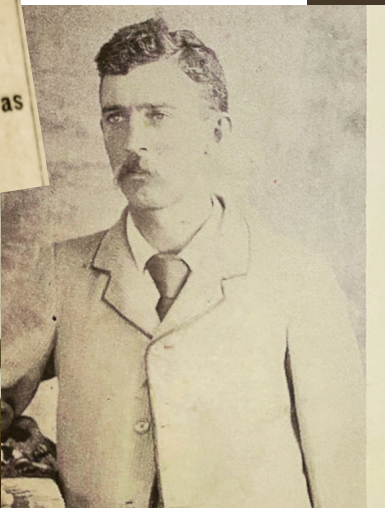
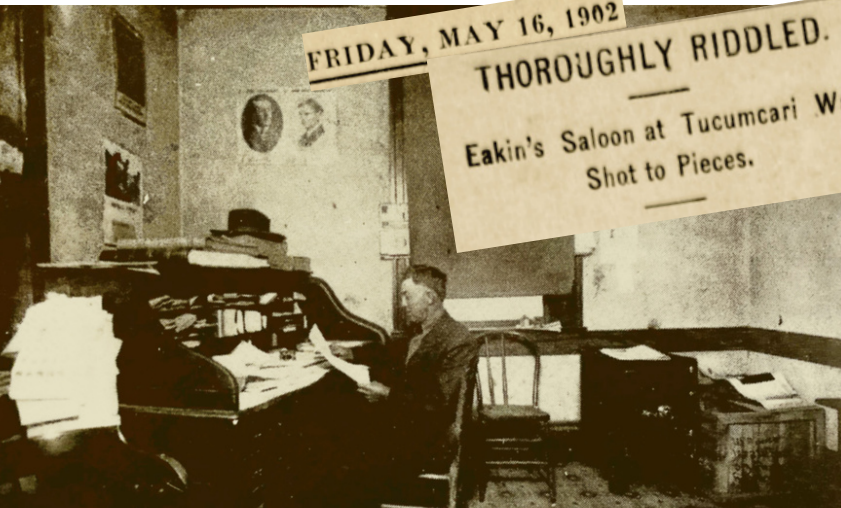
History Alive Tour

Oct. 13, 14 and 20, 2023 at 6pm

This History Alive tour takes a walk into the incredible life and times of Alex Street. Former sheriff, mayor and a founder of Tucumcari, Street made a name for himself as one of the "Nerviest of Investigators" of his time. From outlaw stakeouts on the old frontier territorial cattle trails, to an undercover federal agent in the legendary Oklahoma Osage murders and senior investigator in the brutal slaying of student Henrietta Schmerler on the White Mountain Apache Reservation in Arizona, among many others, Street made his mark as an unconventional lawman of the West, comparable to the likes of Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp.

"Street had the reputation of being able to look a man straight in the face and make him cough up his past."

— Jack Potter
State Representative Union County,
Trail Boss and
Old West Storyteller



Sheriff Street in his office in the first jail and courthouse in Tucumcari and Alex and Lula Street from "A History of New Mexico: a Mark of Time" by Mary Grooms Clark



Alex Street was born in Ripley, Mississippi in 1869. Not long after his mother's death, at the age of 14, he set out on his own. By 1882, he had made his way to what was known then as "The Indian Territory" in Oklahoma. Many stories note that he lived among the Indians, learning their language and their way of life. Little did he probably realize, his early experiences as a young lawman in the Indian Territory would serve him well in the future.



Alex Street in the Tucumcari Roundup 1916

(Photo: Tucumcari and Quay County Then and Now Facebook Group)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1937

CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO, EVENING NEWS-JOURNAL

WHAT OTHER EDITORS SAY

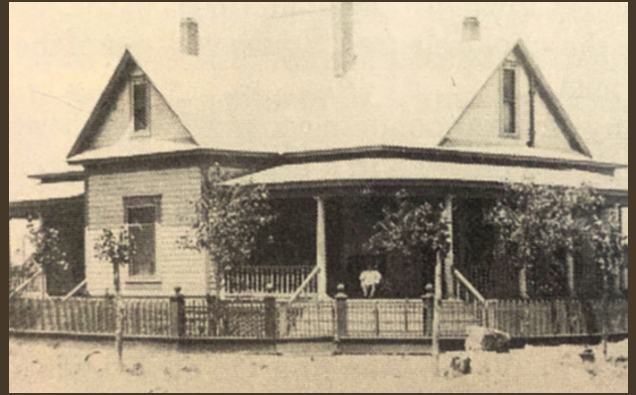
A Product of the Old West.

He was just an ordinary cow-poke at the start—one of the thousands in the cattle country who seem born solely to ride the range and waste their pay at poker and whisky. But because Alex Street had icy courage, a quick mind and a certain native honesty, he graduated from the ranks of the buckaroos and became one of the most famous peace officers of his time, a career which has just been ended by his death at Albuquerque, N. M.

In his own life he saw the transition of the West from the era of the fenceless wilderness, when shooting irons were the only law, to the modern age of security and comfortable property rights. And in that transition he played a notable part.

Five terms he served as a territorial sheriff in New Mexico, when the country was hard as its own rimrock. Then he became a government agent. The full story of his adventures will probably never be recorded, for Alex Street was never one to talk about his own exploits. Once in awhile, however, something he would do shone so brilliantly that he achieved national fame. There was the solution of the Osage murders in 1926, for instance, when Street, risking his own life every minute of the months he worked on the case, brought to justice at last the slayers of twenty or more men and women in a plot to get control of Indian oil rights.

But Alex Street never talked about those things. Modest and even shy, he preferred the background to the limelight. His deeds, however, have stamped him forever as one of the best of the western men who brought the law to the open country.—K. C. Star.



Alex Street Home in Tucumcari, NM

Built around 1907, the Street home was located on the northwest corner of Main and Rock Island Streets. It was destroyed by fire on May 13, 2020. For additional photos, see Tucumcari and Quay County Then and Now Facebook photo albums.



Alex Street Funeral, Tucumcari, NM

His funeral procession was led by a detail of federal department of justice operatives from the El Paso office and a detail of New Mexico state police officers. Known as the "Father of Tucumcari", Street was laid to rest in Sunnyside (now known as Tucumcari) cemetery in August 1937. (Photo: Ron Taylor post from Tucumcari and Quay County Then and Now Facebook Group)

"Mr. Street was a grand man, an excellent citizen whose passing is a sorrowful one for New Mexico."

Governor Tingley, 1937