

# Gene Paul Norris Classed as Most Feared Gunman in Southwest

Editor's note: Gene Paul Norris was described by lawmen as the most dangerous man in the Southwest before he died in a hail of bullets last April. This is the first of two dispatches outlining his career of robbery and murder.

By JOHN G. WARNER  
United Press Correspondent

Fort Worth, Tex.—Slight, boyish-looking Gene Paul Norris would kill anyone for a price.

When his gun wasn't hired, he had no trouble finding uses for it. Norris pulled some of the most daring robberies the Southwest has seen since Prohibition days.

He was, without doubt, the worst killer Texas has known since the turn of the century. His record is far worse than that of Clyde Barrow.

## Forty Slayings Rumored

"It is widely rumored in the underworld that Norris killed 40 persons," Texas Ranger Capt. Jay Banks says. "That's a pretty well-founded rumor, too."

Other estimates come lower, such as that of Fort Worth Chief Cato Hightower, who credits Norris with nine murders. All of those directly concerned Fort Worth, however, Norris was the triggerman in the Dallas-Fort Worth gang, and several of the gangland killings are attributed to his gun.

Norris, black-haired and smiling beneath the baleful eyes of a rattle-snake, didn't come cheap. The underworld rumors his fee at \$5,000 for one killing.

Not all were contracted, Norris killed to protect himself, also. "If he used a man to help him on a job, that man's days were probably numbered," Banks says. Norris didn't like loose witnesses hanging around.

Gene Paul followed his older brother Pete into the bloody life. Pete was soon derailed and is now serving a grand total of 700 years in prison.

It has been said the thing Gene Paul wanted most was to free Pete, once the FBI's public enemy No. 1. He tried once, springing his brother from a prison farm, and drew eight years in Huntsville Penitentiary for his trouble.

After serving two years of that sentence and gaining parole, Norris drifted to Fort Worth, where he teamed with Alcazar graduate Floyd Hill.

In October, 1933, Hill and a machine gun-wielding pal held up a trio of Cuban gun-runners at the Western Hills Motel in Fort Worth. The take was \$248,000.

Hill's partner was undoubtedly Norris, but he beat the rap. Although the gun-runners identified him as the man who was to have helped them obtain munitions for a revolt in Cuba and instead robbed them, the jury acquitted Norris when he produced witnesses saying he was in Duncan, Okla., at the time.

Hill Arrested  
Hill wasn't so lucky. The FBI arrested him while he was digging up his share of the loot and he was convicted. Norris went back to prison, however, as a parole violator and was released in 1935.

He drove a truck to a Wichita Falls warehouse, posed as a new salesman for an oilfield equipment company, and drove off with thousands of dollars worth of equipment. But a Negro trucker saw him and was scheduled to star for the prosecution.

One night before the trial the witness disappeared. Norris, in Fort Worth, caused enough trouble in a tavern to be tossed in jail that night. He had a perfect alibi, therefore, when the trucker was found in a crude grave near Burk Burnett last year, his head bashed in. It was possibly only the first time Norris had to get someone else to do a job.

Norris was credited, among other things, with the deaths of gangsters Leroy (Tincy) Eggleston, Frank Cates, Olen Ray Tyler and Edward Eugene Townley and his wife, dope peddlers who have been missing for months. Oklahoma City bootlegger Orville Lindsay Chambliss, implicated in the Western Hills job, has been missing for some time also.

Case of Frank Cates  
Norris was reported to have been hired as the trigger in a plot to erase four Oklahoma City bootleggers.

The case of Frank Cates shows something of Norris' nature. Cates, a 61-year-old rum-runner, procurer, confidence man and hot gem dealer, became in-

terested in gambling. He set up shop on the outskirts of Fort Worth but decided he wasn't making enough. He hired Norris to eliminate six competing gamblers.

Cates didn't stop there. He hired the late Jack Nesbitt to kill Norris after Norris eliminated the gamblers. Gene Paul caught wind of this doublecross and on Aug. 2, 1936, a bomb ripped Cates' house, nearly killing him.

Next—The last big job.

## Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Little Rock — Negro leader L. C. Bates, saying that he understands Negro children are gradually being accepted at Central High School:

"It just comes down to what we have always felt. The kids are the future citizens. They can get together and the more they get to know each other, the better citizens they can become."

Ottawa — Queen Elizabeth, in admitting that royal life has its dull moments:

"There are long periods when life seems a small dull round, a petty business with no point and then suddenly we are caught up in some great event which gives us a glimpse of the solid and durable foundations of our existence."

Washington — Rep. Kenneth R. Keating (R-N.Y.), in calling for broad new programs to train scientists:

"Recent revelations of Soviet scientific advances should awaken all Americans to a renewed realization that this country has no corner on the brains of the world."

Chicago — James T. Mangan, self-styled owner of all space, in offering to turn his "property" over to the United States:

"I want to save the nation's face in the satellite race."

Tokyo — Adio Dohi, Japanese student who was among at least 54 persons injured when famed Mount Mihara on Oshima Island near Tokyo erupted as scores of sightseers were viewing the crater:

"Suddenly I felt a rain of fire falling on me and I tried to run away. I ran desperately but it was difficult to see my way because of the thick smoke."

Cleveland — Dr. Gaines M. Cook, executive secretary of the International Convention of Disciples of Christ, in calling for Christian missions in underprivileged areas of the world:

"It is as futile to isolate ourselves as Christians as it is for us to live in isolation as nations. The tragedy of Hungary has been heard in every African village."

Hermosa Beach, Calif. — Mrs. Rosaline O'Keefe, the housewife who offered her airplane-riding rabbit to the government to get the jump on a Russian dog reported ready to ride the next Soviet satellite:

"'Crusader' rode a plane from Texas to Hollywood without batting an ear. He would prove that American animals are superior to Russian animals as space-riders."

## HILTS

### Recent Guests Are Listed

By MRS. M. F. CAVIN

Hilts — Recent guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Spannaus were Mr. and Mrs. Harold McFerrin and son of Redding, Calif.

Mrs. Dorothy Watson and daughters, Patty and Debra, formerly of San Francisco, arrived Saturday to make their home with Mr. and Mrs. Francis Gwinn's sister.

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Thompson and daughter, Marilyn, returned Friday from Long Beach and other California cities where they visited friends and relatives. Miss Marlene Smith, who has been residing in Long Beach, returned north with them and plans to make her home in Medford.

Mrs. Fred Bloomingcamp of Hornbrook and Mrs. L. J. Rohrer of Eagle Point called at the M. F. Cavin home Sunday.

Attending a layette shower for Mrs. John Rogers in Ashland recently were Mrs. Albert Perry and Mrs. Ward Rogers.

A daughter was born Oct. 5 in the Siskiyou County and General hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Shinar Marin. She weighed 6 pounds, 10 1/4 ounces and has been named Janney Marie.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Favero completed moving this week to Yreka where they will make their home. Favero retired from the Fruit Grower's Supply company several weeks ago.

Mrs. T. D. Killingsworth of Hornbrook spent Wednesday at the home of her daughter Mrs. Ray Middleton and grand-daughter, Cathleen Marie.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stretz, who have been living near Los Angeles, have returned north and will make their home at the Bur-Bel Resort on the Klamath river.

Mrs. Don Tisserand returned to her home in Anderson Sunday.

Mrs. Bessie Burton of San Diego is a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Shinar Marin and family. Mrs. Burton is Mrs. Marin's grandmother.

Steve Osiecki and son, Tommy, of Pasadena were recent guests at the Don Powers home.

Mr. and Mrs. William Kleaver Jr. and son of Corvallis visited Mrs. Elizabeth McGuire Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Laustalot and sons visited relatives in Cottonwood and Anderson last week end.

Robert Black, who is attending Oregon State college at Corvallis, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Black, and did some deer hunting last weekend.

Overnight guests Tuesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Al Simmen and family were Mr.

## Grange Notes

Phoenix Grange

Phoenix Grange met Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 8 p.m. Following the officers seating drill, the meeting was turned over to Lecturer Ethel Carr.

Youth Chairman Mrs. Willis House, in charge of the program, introduced Circuit Judge Edward Kelly, who gave an informative talk on juvenile delinquency, and the new Jackson county detention home which is to be dedicated soon and the way in which it would operate.

Judge Kelly devotes one day each week to juvenile cases only. He stressed the point of so many temptations these days to cause children to go astray. The rapid means of transportation which enables them to get far away from parental control in a short time, and many other reasons contributing to the problem.

Judge Kelly is a member of Central Point Grange, and remained as a visitor for the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Whiteside were elected to become members of the Grange.

Myrtle Hixon, reporting on agriculture, told of some instances where the prolonged rainy period was causing loss of crops. Some alfalfa seed had sprouted before harvesting, and the late cutting of alfalfa hay appeared to be a total loss.

Vaughn Quackenbush of the music committee said he had prepared a short talk on music, but preferred to talk about pears, red Bartlett's in particular, a hybrid pear in which he is interested.

Dee Hendrickson, reporting on horticulture, gave figures on the amount of pears sold during the past week in 10 major markets and quoted prices.

Chet Parker said he met with the Phoenix Community club committee, and plans are being made to cover the floors in the Community club building with tile.

Secretary Lesbia Lattie read a resolution from Baker district Pomona, concerning taxation had depreciation of property. Melvin Lattie, Andy Stevenson and Vaughn Quackenbush were appointed a committee of three to study the resolution and report back to the Grange at the next meeting. The Grange will then act on the resolution.

The chaplain reported Mrs. Marian Riegel had fallen and sprained her arm badly. Mrs. Loyd Bates, Mrs. Chet Parker and Melvin Lattie are ill.

The secretary read a communication from Grange Council Secretary Ralph James announcing there would be council meeting at Eagle Point Saturday, Oct. 12, at 8 p.m. Ladies are to bring cookies or sandwiches for refreshments.

Master Dee Hendrickson again announced the dedication ceremony at Upper Applegate Sunday, Oct. 13, at 2 p.m. Also the Jackson County Pomona meeting at Phoenix Grange Saturday, Oct. 26, at 10 a.m., an all day meeting.

Mrs. Hattie Hendrickson reporting for HEC in the absence of Chairman Coral Schroeder, announced the all day meeting and clean-up day of the HEC at the Grange hall with a potluck dinner at noon Wednesday, Oct. 16. She urged that all make an effort to be present.

The serving committee for Oct. 22 Grange meeting will be Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Lattie, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Stevens and W. B. Tucker.

Grange adjourned at an early hour and enjoyed cookies and coffee in the dining room.

Gertrude Levine, Publicity Chairman

Gold Hill Grange  
Gold Hill Grange will hold their annual Booster night Monday, Oct. 14. There will be various displays featured. Anyone wishing to display articles of interest such as flowers, fancy work, antiques, or anything else that they may have, is invited to bring same.

There will be a program and refreshments will be served.

In charge of these arrangements will be Master Hal Bishop, Chairman of HEC Lucy Edington, Lecturer Icia Walker, Tableaux Chairman Willie McLean and their committees.

Mrs. John Bruce, Publicity

REDS BATTER QUEMOY  
Taipei, Formosa — Communist Chinese artillery on Amoy shelled the Nationalist Chinese offshore island bastion of Quemoi Friday for the fifth time in 10 days, the Nationalist Defense Ministry said Saturday. The ministry said the Red guns fired 16 rounds in a one-hour-long sporadic attack, but failed to inflict any casualties or serious damage.

There was it was necessary to take three stitches to close the wound.

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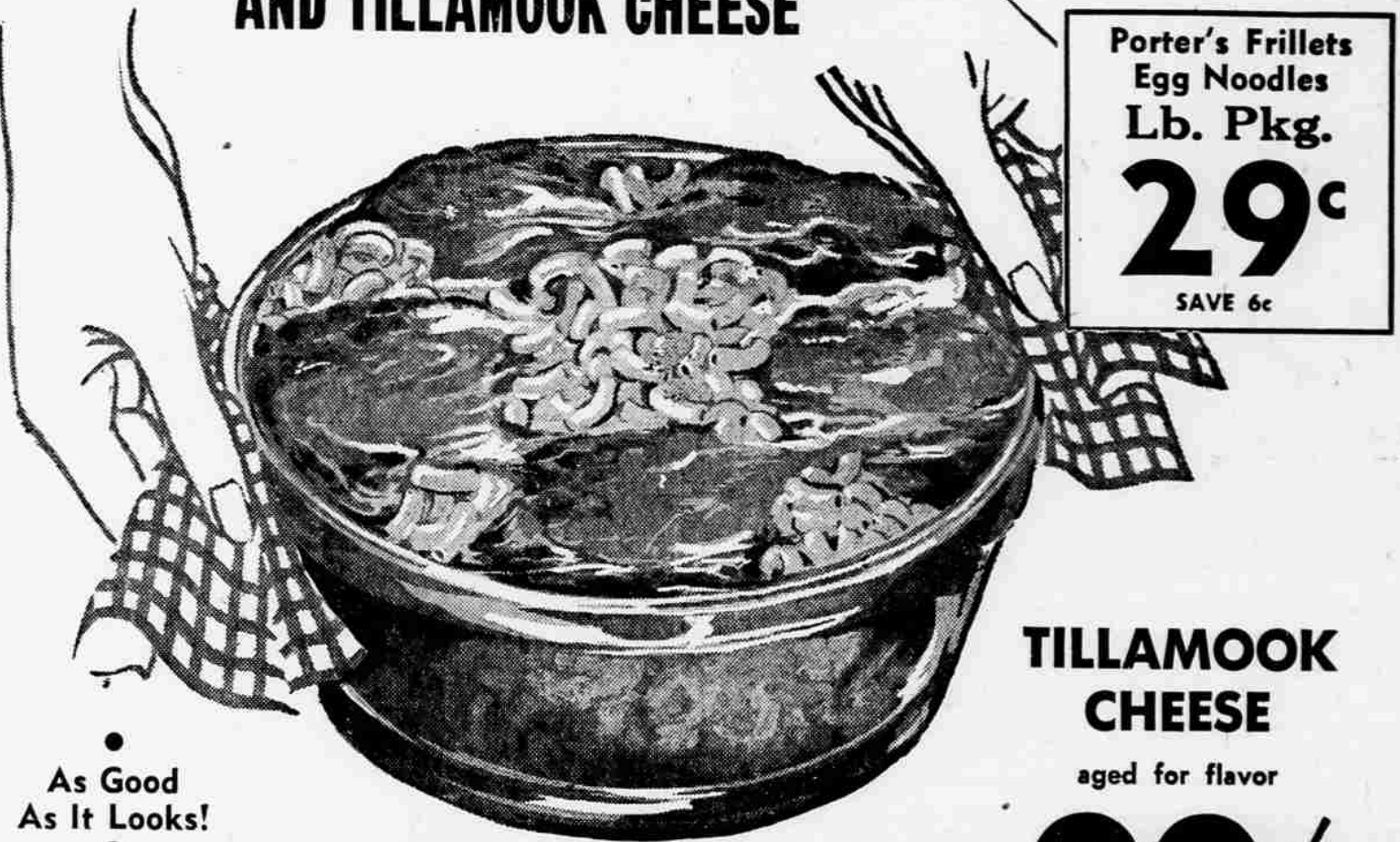
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**BLUE BELL  
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## Quick Draw Results In Criminal Capture

Sacramento — Two escapees from Chino prison were captured Saturday because one shot the other in the lung while practicing a quick draw.

The Sacramento county sheriff's office identified the men, whom they said fled Chino 10 days ago, as 23-year-old Paul David Wiggins and Willis Raymond, 32.

Officers said the two were captured at Truckee, Calif., by highway patrolmen and Nevada county sheriff's officers after a Nevada doctor called in to treat the wound tipped the lawmen.