

# THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR



**RAID ON LAWRENCE** - On Aug. 21, 1863, William C. Quantrill and his band of 450 hard-riding, straight shooting horsemen rode into Lawrence, Kan., at dawn. Four hours later they rode out, having killed 150 men, looted and then burned the town. This drawing, from the Library of Congress collection, shows a woman pleading for the life of her husband during the raid. (UPI)

## House Is Expected To Approve Bill Assisting Widows

Washington—UPI—The House was expected to approve legislation today that would raise the monthly compensation of more than 122,000 military widows to keep up with the rise in the cost of living.

The bill would cost about \$11.7 million a year over the next four years.

Another veterans' measure that the House planned to take up today is a bill extending higher education aid to children of completely disabled veterans.

Both pieces of legislation, approved by the Veterans committee Wednesday, are to be considered by the House under a hurry-up procedure requiring a two-thirds majority for passage.

The widows' bill would raise the monthly base rate of compensation from \$112 to \$120 to account for a rise in the cost of living during the past six years. Recipients, survivors of veterans who must have died from service-connected causes, also receive 12 per cent of the basic active service pay of their deceased husbands.

The education bill encompasses children of veterans permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service. These benefits now are available to children of veterans whose fathers lost their lives in service.

The monthly allowances are for college instruction for a student who attends school on a half-time basis, to \$110 for one who is enrolled full time.



**BUILDING FAIR SITE** - Dan Kimball, left, board chairman of the California World's Fair, and Fred Hall, right, executive vice president and general manager of the fair, watch as the two-million ton of rock is placed on Pier J, site of the fair in 1967-68 at Long Beach, Calif. The 300-acre pier will be created mostly from actual ocean bed. (UPI)

## Mahoney Urges Special Session

Salem—UPI—Sen. Thomas Mahoney (D-Portland) has urged a special legislative session be called so the 1963 Legislature's \$60 million tax increase package could be referred to the people for an election.

Mahoney, who said he voted for the tax measure, said he had signed a referral petition in Portland.

He said he feels the people should have the right to vote on the measure, and that delaying tactics have hampered efforts to circulate referral petitions.

## Crews Control Fire West of Bridgeport

Salem—UPI—State fire crews controlled a 160-acre grass and sagebrush blaze west of Bridgeport in Baker county Sunday, and four other small blazes scattered around the state, forestry officials here said.

Of the five fires, only one was lightning caused, it was reported.

## HYDRO-BRUSH QUIK CAR WASH

- CAR WASH
- CAR WAXING

EASY TO FIND: Right Behind Parko D'Alba and 4-M. FFA Center in the Fairgrounds.

## Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence

By MERTON T. AKERS  
UPI Correspondent

William Clarke Quantrill paid off his grudge against Lawrence, Kan., on Aug. 21, 1863 in blood and fire.

The Confederate captain's guerrillas—about 450 hard-riding, straight-shooting horsemen—struck the sleeping town at dawn.

Four hours later they rode back towards Missouri with their loot, leaving at least 150 men dead and the town in ashes.

Of the deal all except 17 were citizens just turning out of bed to start their day's work. The 17 were unarmed Union recruits, all of them teenagers.

Quantrill's hatred of Lawrence dated back to the border fighting days before the Civil War when Kansas was being formed under the "squatter sovereignty" provisions of the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

Anti-slavery men, especially New Englanders, decided the new state should be free. Pro-slavery men, especially Missourians, were equally determined it should be a slave state. Both sides sent in their partisans as early as 1854. The original settlers of Lawrence were anti-slavery and the town soon was known as a hotbed of abolitionism. The fighting between Kansans and Missourians lasted periodically until it was merged into the greater conflict of the Civil War and Kansas was admitted to the Union in 1861 as a free state.

Born in Ohio

Quantrill was born in Canal Dover, Ohio, July 31, 1837, and originally was a school teacher by trade. He drifted west and lived for a time in Lawrence under the name of Charley Hart. He soon became a part of the outlaw half-world on the frontier, turning his hand to whatever exploit seemed to pay the best regardless of which side it was on.

By Civil War time he definitely had chosen the Confederate side and organized a band of guerrillas which raided into Kansas almost at will. He was commissioned a Confederate captain but paid little attention to orders from superiors, joining military expeditions with his men as irregular cavalry when plunder seemed in prospect, operating independently at other times. Shortly before the raid on Lawrence, Quantrill had gone to Richmond seeking a colonel's commission as a Partisan Ranger but he apparently failed.

Quantrill's men never wore military uniforms. Most of them wore "guerrilla shirts," especially red or butternut. These shirts were made by their wives or sweethearts and often were covered with fancy embroidery. It was more of a jacket than a shirt with four large pockets which served as haversacks and cartridge boxes. Each guerrilla was armed with two, three, four or even six Navy Colt revolvers, caliber .44. Some carried captured carbines or shotguns. They were expert horsemen and dead shots with both hands at full gallop.

The guerrillas struck the town from the southeast at the first light of dawn—about 5 a.m.

The first man they killed was the Rev. S. S. Snyder, a United Brethren minister. He was shot as he milked a cow at his farm on the outskirts of town.

Hoffman Collamore, 16-year-old son of Mayor George W. Collamore, off for a day of hunting, rode by the guerrillas. In the half light he took them for Union cavalrymen and rode on with a wave. They shot him and left him for dead. (He recovered.)

Then the guerrillas galloped onto Massachusetts st., the main avenue, at what now is 11th st. and head north to the main part of town. Squads dropped off each block to cover the side streets. One vidette rode to Mt. Oread, now the site of the University of Kansas, for sentinel duty.

The Union recruit camp lay in their path. The young soldiers were just rolling out of their blankets when the guerrillas struck. Seventeen of the youngsters died under the Navy Colts in a few minutes. Five escaped as the guerrillas rode down their tents. The recruits were unformed but not armed and were waiting to be mustered into Federal service in the 14th Kansas.

Quantrill and one of his lieutenants, Capt. William H. Gregg, led the raiders north on Massachusetts st., Quantrill firing to the left, Gregg to the right.

Headed for Hotel

They headed for the Eldridge House, a four-story brick structure and the main hotel.

Surrounding the hotel Quantrill demanded its surrender, guests and all. A porter beat a gong, and awakened the guests who complied with Quantrill's orders.

Then the guerrilla chief sent most of his men off to loot and burn the town. "Kill! Kill! and you will make no mistake," he shouted to his men as they spread over the little town of about 2,000.

The Eldridge House guests were robbed. The building, only recently erected, was pillaged. Then the guests were herded to the City Hotel around the corner and the Eldridge was set afire. They were kept prisoners there during the rest of the raid and not further molested. The City Hotel proprietor had befriended Quantrill earlier when he was in Lawrence and presumably that is why the guests received special treatment.

Quantrill carried a list of men to be killed. At the top was the name of U.S. Sen. James H. Lane who lived in the west part of town. He ducked into a cornfield and escaped.

Gov. Charles Robinson lived on Mt. Oread. He hid in his stone barn and watched the raid.

Editor Escapes

John Speer, editor of the Lawrence Tribune, also escaped into a cornfield but two of his sons were killed and

their bodies burned to ashes in a blazing store.

Mayor Collamore and his hired man hid in a well behind his home. His name was high on Quantrill's list and the guerrillas searched the house and grounds. Not finding him, they burned the house. The mayor and his companion suffocated in the well and so did a friend who tried to rescue them.

For four hours the killing and looting went on. Men were killed as their wives clung to them. One young boy was shot to death because he wore a blue uniform his mother had made for him from his father's old army clothes.

No women were killed. Quantrill and his men prided themselves on their "chivalry."

Dr. Richard Cordley, a Congregational minister and an eyewitness, wrote later: "The carnage was all the worse for the fact that the people were not expecting an indiscriminate slaughter. The general feeling was that they (the guerrillas) would do what they had done elsewhere—rob and burn a town, shoot a few marked men if they could find them and then leave. . . . Hence many who could have escaped remained in their homes and were killed. . . . The attack was perfectly planned. Every man seemed to know his place and what he was to do. . . . The surprise was so complete that

no organized resistance was possible. . . . Everyone had to do the best he could for himself."

Union Troop Helped

About 9 a.m. Quantrill started his men back toward Missouri. A rearguard rounded up the last drunken guerrillas.

Senator Lane organized a few men and pursued. A Union cavalry troop came from the east and tried to cut off the guerrillas. Neither succeeded.

Quantrill rode away with his loot almost unmolested. He lost only one man, the Rev. Larkin Skaggs, Baptist minister turned guerrilla. The only surviving son of editor John Speer shot him as he left town. A Delaware Indian, White Turkey, scalped the wayward preacher.

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