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## Article Title: The Lynching of Juan Gonzalez

Full Citation: Michael De La Garza, "The Lynching of Juan Gonzalez," *Nebraska History* 85 (2004): 24-37

URL of article: <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH2004Gonzalez.pdf>

Date: 8/26/2011

Article Summary: Omaha Police Detective Tom Ring was gunned down in 1915. A statewide search for his killer ended with the death of a Mexican immigrant, Juan Gonzalez. Spectators did not agree about the circumstances of Gonzalez's death, but there is evidence of racist hysteria directed against him.

### Cataloging Information:

Names: Juan Gonzalez (also spelled Gonzales), Tom Ring, Frank Cashman, Willie Brown, Juan Parral (aka Joe Contano), Arthur Crisman, Norfolk Chief of Police Jolly, Carl Pilger, Henry W Dunn, Joe Davis, Charles Van Dusen, Louis Rasmussen, WC Condit, AN Madrid

Place Names: Omaha, Norfolk, Scribner

Keywords: lynching, posse, reward, stereotyping, racism, Juan Parral (aka Joe Contano), meatpacking, Juan Gonzalez (also spelled Gonzales), Tom Ring, Frank Cashman, Willie Brown, Juan Parral (aka Joe Contano), Norfolk Chief of Police Jolly, Carl Pilger, Charles Van Dusen, Louis Rasmussen

Photographs / Images: Juan Gonzalez (*Omaha Bee*, March 20, 1915); Detective Thomas Ring\*; workers at the Skinner packing plant with inset article "Omaha Market Is Biggest in World" (*Omaha Bee*, March 3, 1915); unidentified Mexican mother and children; downtown Omaha area east of Sixteenth Street, site of a search for Ring's killers; inset article "Police Hunting Ring's Slayer in Downtown Area" (*Omaha Bee*, Feb 12, 1915); Omaha Chief of Police Henry W Dunn\*; Omaha Police Department "Auto Patrol"\*; Charles Van Dusen\*; inset article "Posse Brings Down Mexican Who Shot Ring" with photo of Gonzalez (*Omaha Bee*, March 20, 1915)

\* photographs from Howard Bartling's *Omaha Police Department Official Souvenir 1909*

# THE LYNCHING OF JUAN GONZALEZ

*By Michael De La Garza*

**A**bout noon on Wednesday, February 10, 1915, Detective Tom Ring of the Omaha, Nebraska, police force and Special Officer Cashman of the Union Pacific Railroad entered a decrepit rooming house near Fifteenth and Chicago streets. They were hoping to apprehend two men Cashman suspected of robbing Union Pacific freight cars. A Burlington Railroad special officer named Phillips stayed behind to watch two Mexican men the officers had just interrogated and from whom they had learned the location of the suspects. Cashman and Ring directed A. N. Madrid, proprietor of the flat, to knock on the suspects' door. Madrid bravely complied and pounded the fateful knocks that would trigger a chain of events leading to two deaths and a controversial trial.

In response to an inquiry from within, the lawmen identified themselves. Their intentions were obvious. A voice from the room responded, "Then keep away from the door!" Undaunted by the admonition of a suspected desperado, Ring stepped up onto a washstand next to the door and peered over the transom. A loud, foreboding gunshot exploded from the dingy flat, and who or what Ring saw was forever blown into oblivion. A horrific cocktail of human blood, flesh, and brains splattered onto the hallway floor. Ring, shot in the head, died immediately.<sup>1</sup>

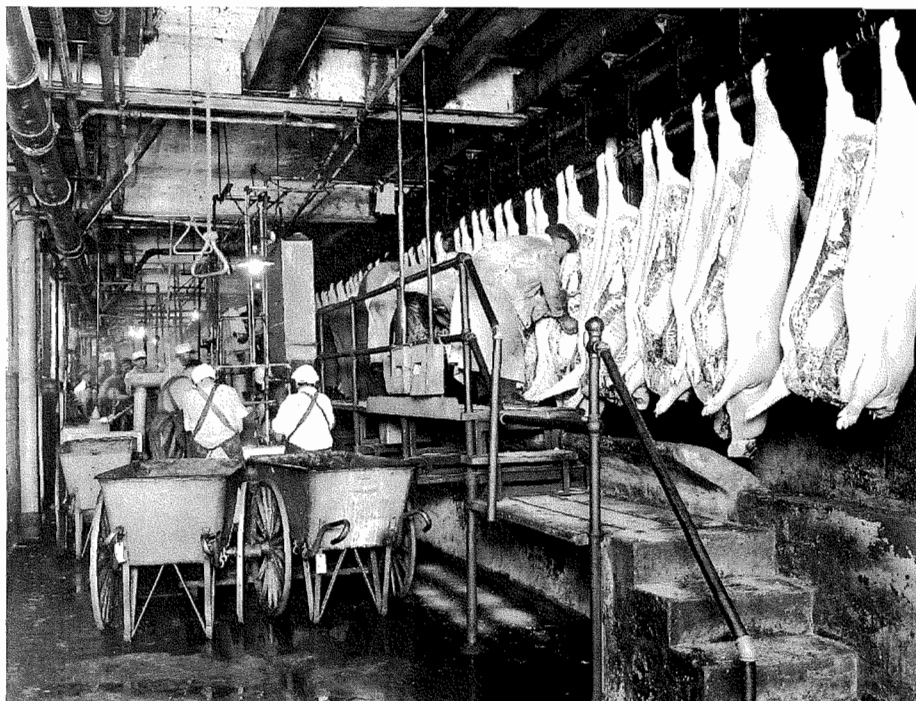
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Juan Gonzalez, prime suspect in Detective Ring's murder, remained at large for nine days, eluding up to three hundred armed pursuers. Finally run to ground near Scribner, northwest of Omaha, he was shot to death while surrendering. *Omaha Bee*, Mar. 20, 1915 (digitally enhanced from microfilm)

Inset: **Murdered while attempting to arrest a robbery suspect, Detective Thomas Ring was a respected Omaha police detective. His murder led to a statewide manhunt and the eventual killing of the Mexican immigrant blamed for his death.** Howard Bartling, *Omaha Police Department Official Souvenir 1909*, Omaha: Bartling, 1909

## Lynching of Juan Gonzalez



### OMAHA MARKET IS BIGGEST IN WORLD

Receipts in Sheep, Hogs and Cattle  
Larger Than at Any Other  
Market Today.

PRICES HERE ARE HIGHER, TOO

The South Omaha live stock market was the biggest in the world yesterday. In receipts of cattle, hogs and sheep South Omaha surpassed other points, in sheep even registering more than Chicago, Kansas City and St. Joseph put together. Prices at South Omaha were also considerably higher, even taking into consideration the differential, than other markets. The run of cattle was 5,100, hogs 18,700, and sheep 17,500.

Workers occupied on an endless line of hog carcasses at the Skinner packing plant suggest the huge labor needs of Omaha's packing industry, fed by a livestock market that, by 1915, was the largest in the world. Employment in the packing plants drew many Mexican workers fleeing the economic dislocation in Mexico. NSHS RG3882-32-185c; Omaha Bee, Mar. 3, 1915

What followed was one of the largest statewide searches in Nebraska history up to that time, accompanied by widespread hysteria that eventually resulted in the lynching of the Mexican immigrant blamed for Ring's death. This event, never thoroughly chronicled in Nebraska's history, has been overshadowed by subsequent racial unrest in Omaha that may have culminated in the lynching of an African American man, Willie Brown, in 1919. But before Willie Brown was murdered, white Nebraskans lynched Juan Gonzalez.<sup>2</sup>

Only a few articles have been written describing the early years of Nebraska's Latino community, an aspect of Nebraska history that has been largely ignored. This study is an attempt to begin to fill the gap by surveying some of the economic and social factors that contributed to the growth of a distinct Mexican-American presence in South Omaha at the beginning of the twentieth century. The primary focus, however,

is on the lynching of Juan Gonzalez, the immigrant worker alleged to have murdered Thomas Ring, a prominent Omaha police detective. This incident is a vehicle by which the influence of racist sentiment in the general population at the time can be surveyed. The sensational, but now virtually forgotten nine-day pursuit through eastern and northeastern Nebraska is chronicled here for the first time. How could such a major event have been forgotten?

The context of the Gonzalez lynching is important in understanding the event. An important element of that context lies in the origins of Omaha's Latino community. Mexicans came to the United States for two fundamental reasons: Political and economic turmoil in Mexico forced many to leave; expanding economic opportunity in the United States made Mexico's northern neighbor a logical destination.

The problems facing Mexico stemmed from the economic dislocation of the

middle and lower classes by rapid industrialization. Between 1895 and 1910, for example, the number of weavers across the nation declined by 26 percent. Leather workers were undercut by new shoe factories in Mexico City and San Luis. Makers of soap, wax, and candles faced industrial competition or outright obsolescence. Increasing poverty, unemployment, and migration were the logical results.<sup>3</sup>

Some of the Mexicans who fled northward in search of political, social, and economic freedoms came to Omaha, presumably drawn by the meatpacking industry, the prime mover of the Omaha economy. World War I provided the impetus for the rapid growth of the meatpacking industry: The warring European nations needed American meat. Thus, 1915 and 1916 were significant years in the history of the meatpacking plants. Both the demand and the price for meat rose throughout the period. Between 1914 and 1920, the

total annual value of Omaha's packing industry was approximately \$15,000,000; in 1921 the figure dropped to \$1,600,000.<sup>4</sup>

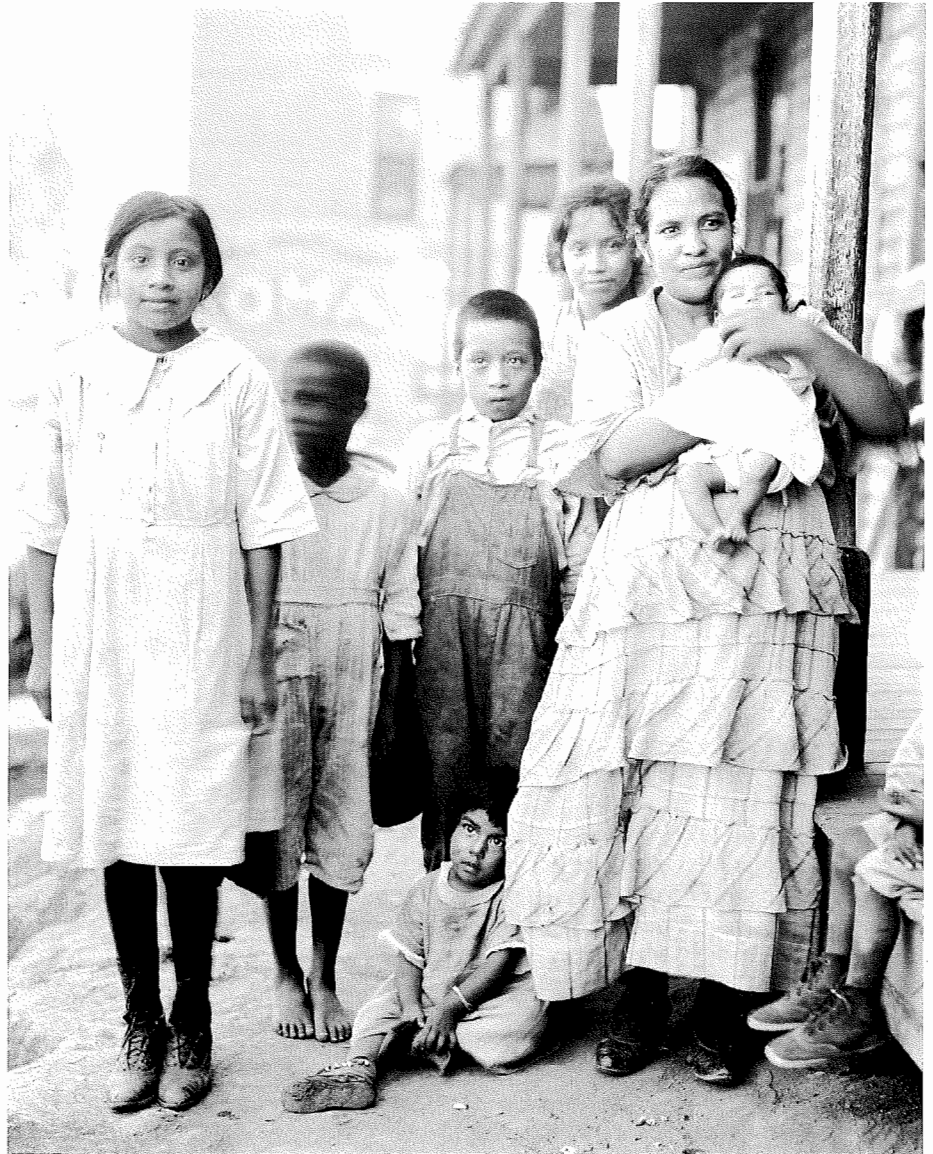
Nebraska State Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics figures indicate that Douglas County processed 183,337,500 pounds of dressed meat in 1908. The amount of processed dressed meat jumped to a high of 1,340,003,232 pounds in 1915. Furthermore, packing plants in Kansas City, Omaha, Fort Worth, St. Joseph, St. Paul, Sioux City, Oklahoma City, and Denver were responsible for slaughtering 41.8 percent of the cattle in the entire country.<sup>5</sup>

Before World War I, labor unrest led Omaha packinghouses to hire Mexican workers. Most of those who arrived during the 1910s lived in boarding houses and hotels along Q and R streets. By the 1920s some six hundred Mexican immigrants were living in South Omaha, most concentrated on R Street from Twenty-third Street to Thirty-third Street. By the end of the decade they had begun to move eastward into the Czech neighborhood of Brown Park.<sup>6</sup>

Church, business, and social entities served as a cultural support system for the small but growing Mexican population. Omaha Mexicans participated in the mutual aid Sociedad Benefica Recreativa, also known as "Esperanza." The organization owned a large hall and offered the community social and beneficent services, as well as recreation. Dances and dramatic plays were presented there, and national holidays were celebrated as well.<sup>7</sup>

Probably the most significant factor that isolated the Mexican community in this region was American racism and ethnocentrism. Ironically, this particular American attitude toward Mexicans did more to inhibit Americanization among the new arrivals than did anything else.

Anglo Americans had very much regarded racial mixture as a violation of the laws of nature. Little Spanish-Indian blending had occurred in southeastern America, and Anglos were horrified at meeting the predominant mestizo population of the Southwest. Thomas Jefferson



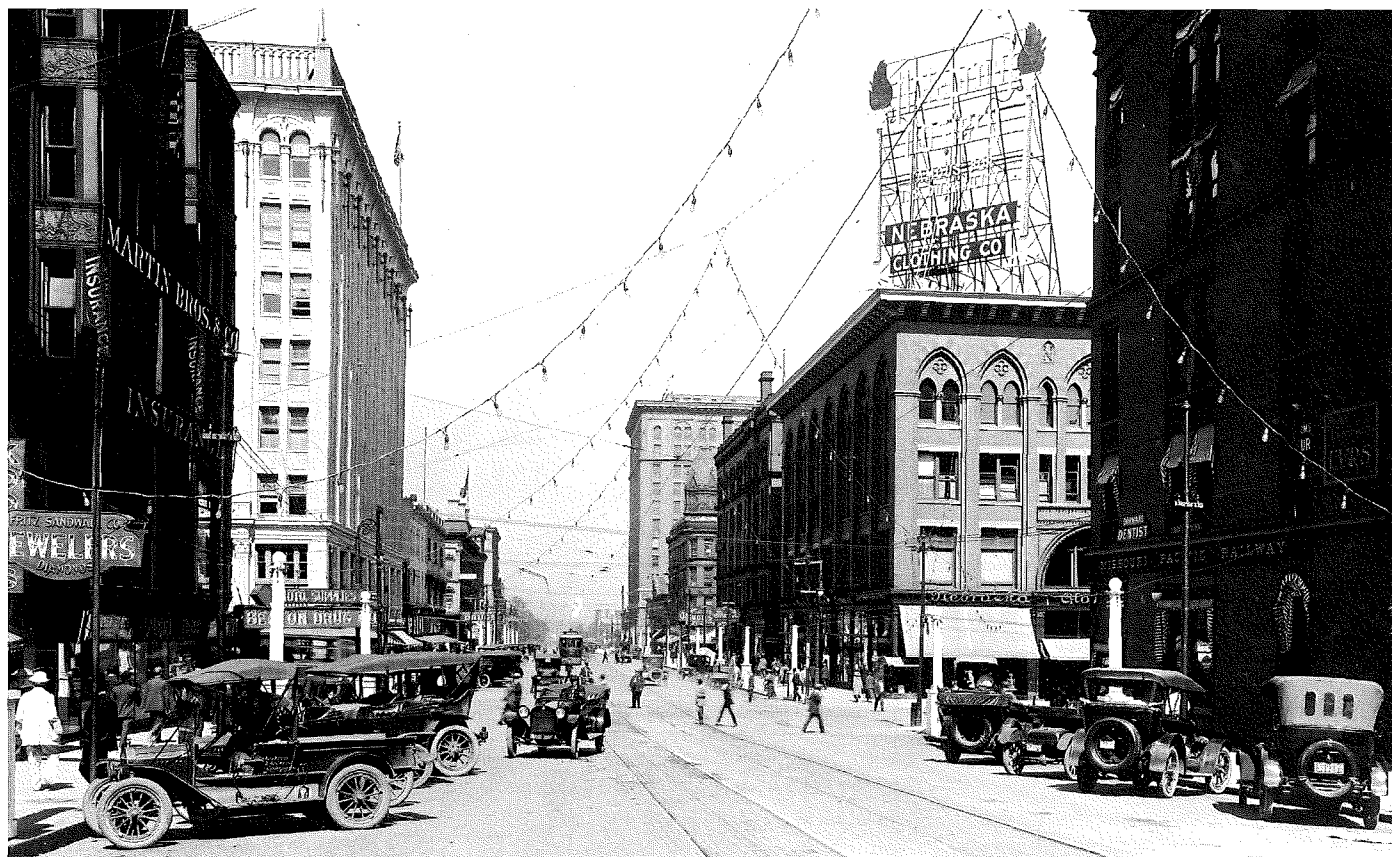
**Unidentified Mexican mother and children. Many Mexican immigrant families lived along Q and R streets in South Omaha, establishing churches, businesses and social organizations. Many Anglo-Americans perceived Mexicans as having an inherent shiftless, criminal nature, and such racist and ethnocentric attitudes were reinforced by tensions on the U.S.-Mexico border. NSHS RG3882-21-163**

Farnham, a New England attorney who toured California in the 1840s, echoed the view of many Americans when he concluded that racial mixtures in California had produced "an imbecile, pusillanimous, race of men . . . unfit to control the destinies of that beautiful country."<sup>8</sup>

Mexicans were perceived as having an inherent criminal nature that had to be subdued. Every Mexican was a potential outlaw. By and large, the American consciousness was oblivious to the brutal social, political, and economic oppression that spawned the era of banditry in California and the South-



## Lynching of Juan Gonzalez



Following the murder, Omaha police conducted a house to house search for the killers in the downtown area east of Sixteenth Street, just northwest of this bustling commercial area at Fifteenth and Farnam streets. NSHS RG2341-1225

west during the 1870s and 1880s. The racial stereotypical image of the “conniving Mexican outlaw” who is “naturally criminal” became imbedded in the American psyche. In addition, American historiography had judged Spain’s legacy in North America to be a consummate failure.<sup>9</sup>

Consequently, most Americans of the time believed Mexicans to be inherently lawless and criminal because of their Indian blood. They were assumed to have a natural propensity for stoop labor because they did not aspire to land ownership. Eugenicists were opposed to Mexican immigration out of fear that miscegenation of the superior Nordic with lower races would produce inferior strains of people. In 1916 Madison Grant expounded this theory of Nordic superiority in his work, *The Passing*

*of the Great Race*. He argued that the “melting pot” would ruin the mix of supreme Anglo stock.<sup>10</sup>

In addition to racist sentiment, labor unions opposed Mexican immigration because it produced a cheap foreign labor pool that lowered wage scales.<sup>11</sup> T. Earl Sullenger remarked that the Omaha Mexicans accepted their place as ordinary laborers and had low ambitions. He also concluded that painting, drawing, and music were native talents of Mexicans, but they did “not respond very favorably to musical instruction” because it was “too difficult for them.”<sup>12</sup>

Racist and ethnocentric attitudes toward Latin culture were probably further stirred by international events. Tensions between the United States and Mexico were exacerbated by such incidents as the invasion of Mexico

by U.S. Marines in 1914, and Pancho Villa’s raid into southern New Mexico, followed by an American troop invasion of northern Mexico. Secretary of State Robert Lansing asked Mexico to show more persistence in bringing to justice those responsible for the kidnapping and murder of American citizens in Mexico between 1916 and 1917, and Mexico countered by accusing the United States of failing to protect Mexican nationals in the Southwest (between 1916 and 1917, five hundred Mexican nationals were reportedly killed by Texas Rangers). Within this milieu of tense international and racial relations, the events following the murder of an Omaha police detective challenged the sensibilities of Nebraskans and the steadily growing Mexican population in Omaha.<sup>13</sup>

European immigrants commonly rented rooms to other immigrants, and some Mexican immigrants also had taken on boarders. Many others shared rooms. Juan Gonzalez shared his rented a room with a sickly, unemployed compatriot, Juan Parral (also known as Joe Contano). Most Mexicans in Omaha worked for the meatpacking industry, but circumstantial evidence suggests that Gonzalez may have been fencing goods stolen from railroad cars. Some of the stolen articles had made their way to Kansas City, Missouri, with the help of an accomplice, Joe Contasso, alias Juan Sanchez. Gonzalez's unfortunate choice of occupation soon brought him face to face with Detective Thomas Ring.

Thomas Ring was born in Canada on October 3, 1860. He was hired as a policeman in Omaha on March 3, 1902, and achieved the rank of detective on February 1, 1909. He was well known for his honesty and success in catching criminals, and had been instrumental in many high profile arrests during his service to the city. In one noteworthy case Ring solved a murder by tracking down a postcard that incriminated the killer. Ring had never killed or injured anyone in the line of duty. He was one of those rare individuals whose powers of persuasion were more effective than a blackjack or a pistol. On the horrible day in 1915 when the lives of Juan Gonzalez and Thomas Ring collided, the result was an explosion of emotion that ultimately victimized a vulnerable community.<sup>14</sup>

Nebraska was then experiencing its most inclement weather in some time. For weeks rain was followed by sleet, which turned into snow. Roads were filled with huge drifts under which water was running. Blizzard-like conditions converted telephone and telegraph lines into ropes as thick as a man's wrist.<sup>15</sup>

To divert their attention from the dismal weather, some Nebraskans turned to the theater. A major movie of the day was *Tillie's Punctured Romance* starring

Charlie Chaplin, Marie Dressler, and Mable Normand. It was billed as "a key-stone riot," and some critics rated it the best comedy ever produced. Unfortunately, not even the greatest antics of Charlie Chaplin could upstage the live-action tragedy that blighted the Nebraska landscape for nine days in February 1915.<sup>16</sup>

Boxcar robberies were a problem for railroads in the early part of the twentieth century. Railroad detectives were an elite corps of private investigators who worked under cover as they traveled up and down their assigned rail lines. These special agents were normally dispatched to investigate serious crimes, not mere misdemeanors, and their duties included the investigation of train wrecks and robberies, recovery of stolen property, and the arrest of suspected criminals. Detectives were hand picked from public law enforcement agencies.<sup>17</sup>

Union Pacific Special Officer Frank Cashman was based in Omaha. His job was tracking down boxcar robbers in that region. Given the nature of their jobs both Ring and Cashman had, presumably, developed extraordinary skills at evaluating situations related to the execution of their duties. They had no reason to think that combining their areas of expertise in a joint effort would end in two deaths, the unfair incarceration of hundreds of innocent men, and a sham trial.

The events of February 10, 1915, began when Cashman, Burlington Special Officer Phillips, and Tom Ring observed three presumably culpable men swaggering flamboyantly out of a decrepit rooming house and into a saloon at Fifteenth and Chicago streets. The officers noted that two of them were wearing new shoes. Perhaps doubting that the men could afford such luxuries, the officers questioned them. Juan Alvarado, Florentino Camara, and Miguel Macias dutifully cooperated, telling the officers that they had purchased the shoes from Mexicans living on the second floor of the rooming house they had just left. The officers knew they had to act quickly.

Leaving Phillips to watch two of the Mexicans they had just interrogated Ring and Cashman went to the rooming house where the events described earlier unfolded, and Ring met his death.<sup>18</sup>

Although any nearby bystander would have normally run for safety when the shot rang out, an eyewitness at the end of the hallway, Arthur Crisman, heard the exchange of words while shaving and claimed to have witnessed the entire event. Crisman also said he saw Ring receive a shot in the chest just as the suspects darted into his room and jumped out the rear window. It was thirty-five feet to the ground. One of the fleeing suspects landed in a snowdrift, the other crashed through a shed roof, breaking a thick oak plank in his fall. They ran along the alley behind the rooming house, and neighbors reported seeing two men turn onto Cass Street and run eastward toward the railroad yards.

Three policemen of the South Omaha District, Officers Rich, Bitter, and Rogers, arrived at the scene and gave chase, but lost the suspects in a maze of freight cars. One of the fleeing men appeared to be injured. Events at the murder scene remained unclear. After his arrest several days later, Juan Parral said he had been outside the room at the time of the shooting and was neither an eyewitness nor a participant in Ring's murder.<sup>19</sup>

According to Parral, it was only after the murder that Gonzalez had searched for him and compelled him to join in the escape, forcing him to carry what Parral thought was the murder weapon. Caught up in the intensity of that ghastly moment and perhaps fearing that he could be implicated regardless of his innocence, Parral obliged, taking the weapon and fleeing with Gonzalez. Parral continued to maintain that he was not in the room at the time of the murder. Police officers gave no credence to his story, basing their assumptions about the murder solely on the words of Arthur Crisman, the only alleged eyewitness to the murder.<sup>20</sup>

# **POLICE HUNTING RING'S SLAYER IN DOWNTOWN AREA**

**House-to-House Search of District  
east of Sixteenth Street is  
Instituted.**

**SUSPECTS NEAR PLATTSMOUTH**

**Omaha Officers Lead in Hunt for  
Two Mexicans Answering De-  
scription of Men Wanted.**

**REWARD MONEY IS OFFERED**

**REWARD MONEY IS OFFERED**

When the suspects eluded their pursuers, police quickly established a "Latino dragnet." Reports of sightings began to pour in from throughout eastern Nebraska, and by February 15, at least a hundred Mexicans had been arrested. *Omaha Bee*, Feb. 12, 1915 (digitally enhanced from microfilm)

Searching the suspects' room, officers discovered photographs of three men they now believed to be the criminals. Madrid and Crisman had "both more or

less positively identified them as the men who were concerned in the shooting." Goods discovered at the murder scene suggested to authorities that the

men who lived in the room were the boxcar robbers. Crisman disappeared before Parral's trial and never testified. But what does it mean to "more or less positively" identify the picture of a suspect?<sup>21</sup>

Having missed capturing the suspects, Omaha police quickly established a Latino dragnet. Forty Mexicans were apprehended by the afternoon and were held until they could clearly establish their innocence. In effect, any Mexican male found loitering anywhere in Nebraska was a potential suspect in the murder.<sup>22</sup>

By February 13, three days after the murder, local law enforcement outside Omaha had sprung into action. Police had been dispatched to investigate alleged sightings in Dundee, an Omaha suburb, in the country between Millard and Elkhorn west of Omaha, in Plattsmouth to the south, and in other areas. Mexican immigrants lived in various settlements along the Union Pacific lines, and all were deemed suspects. Police acted on the theory that the criminals had headed for the Mexican camps along the rails. Implicit in an Omaha newspaper report was the prevailing, bigoted attitude:

Another development of the day was the establishing of the identity and records of the murderers. It has been learned that all three are professional crooks with long crime records in Kansas City and other places. They are Mexican Indian half-breeds, and thoroughly bad men, say the police.<sup>23</sup>

The identity of the alleged killers was established days after dozens of suspects had been incarcerated. Apparently the ethnic heritage of Mexican males automatically branded them as prime suspects in the eyes of the police.

Incidents in Lincoln and in Wahoo, about thirty miles north of Lincoln, serve as typical examples of an over-zealous preoccupation with Mexican suspects on the part of authorities. By February 14, Valentine's Day, three Mexican males made the mistake of showing their faces in Lincoln. Sheriff Gus A. Hyers of Lincoln performed his

duty, arresting the three men he suspected of being the fugitives. The suspects fit what he knew to be the criminal profile: they were a trio and they were Mexican. Sheriff Jerry Daly at Wahoo, not to be outdone, arrested two men fitting the description of the outlaws. His knowledge of the criminal profile led him to these suspects because they were a duo and they were Mexican. Authorities at Wahoo had suspected the men they apprehended were the guilty parties because of the state of exhaustion they were in when placed under arrest. What people of color in 1915 would not run away from a group of angry white men in uniforms wielding weapons and barking threats?<sup>24</sup>

A rumor in police circles was that the police were dismayed at being outwitted by fugitive Mexican nationals. As of February 15 at least one hundred Mexican males had been arrested. All matched the latest and most obvious incarnation of the evolving criminal profile: they were Mexican. Meanwhile, the real slayer or slayers of Tom Ring remained at large.<sup>25</sup>

Contrary to the expectations of the police, the fugitives had not immediately headed out of the city. With the help of friends in the Mexican community, Gonzalez and Parral had actually remained in a hotel within the city limits of Omaha for two days. They had spent the nights waiting in the yards for an opportunity to board an outbound freight train. They finally succeeded on Friday, but jumped off the train some distance from Omaha to avoid discovery. They walked all day Saturday, February 13, and boarded another freight train west of Rawhide (a former Chicago and Northwestern station in Dodge County) later that night. This train carried them into Norfolk, about 110 miles northwest of Omaha. From Saturday night until Monday night, Gonzalez and Parral hid in the cellar of a section house. They had hoped to steal a ride on another train and head west, then eventually work their way

back east to Sioux City.<sup>26</sup>

On Monday, February 15, around 9:00 P.M., Special Officer B. L. Ely of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad and Norfolk Policeman Oscar Hodgson scoured the rail yards at Norfolk for suspects. As they combed the yards, they encountered two suspicious characters and gave chase. Gripping his Colt .45 automatic in both hands and resting it on a coupling, Gonzalez snapped the trigger three times point blank at Agent Ely's face. All three cartridges were defective. Both suspects fled, but Parral, either exhausted or ill, and carrying a .45 caliber pistol in his pocket, soon gave up without a struggle. Gonzalez disappeared behind a fusillade of shots he fired at the officers.

Norfolk Chief of Police Jolly was notified of the event and ordered Officer Carl Pilger to South Norfolk, where he had a near brush with death. Pilger had walked down Fourth Street until he reached the chief's home when the shiny badge on his coat became a target for the escaping Gonzalez. The bandit scored a direct hit, but fate intervened and the life of Officer Pilger was spared that night: The bullet shattered the butt of Pilger's revolver. Gonzalez pulled the trigger three more times but again the shells failed to discharge. Pilger returned fire and followed Gonzalez back into the rail yards. By that time Chief Jolly had made his way to the tracks and suddenly found the muzzle of Pilger's revolver pointed at his face and Pilger yelling at him to raise his hands. "Don't shoot Charlie, it's me!" Jolly responded.<sup>27</sup>

Gonzalez headed south toward a section house just east of the passenger depot and took cover. From the doorway, he fired approximately fifteen shots at officers and deputies. Presumably the authorities thought Gonzalez was finally in their clutches. An exchange of gunfire followed. The outlaw held officers at bay for what seemed like an eternity. Even taxi drivers assisted officers in returning fire. As bullets traced random trajectories through the air, all partici-

pants were no doubt reminded of their own mortality.

Gonzalez was cornered like the prey at a foxhunt. He was outnumbered and outgunned. Escape was impossible. There was a suspenseful and nervous silence. A waiting game ensued. A locomotive headlight was brought in to help keep the dwelling under surveillance through the night. The continuous roaring of the engine powering the headlight only heightened the anxiety during a night that never seemed to end. The event that began with the murder of Tom Ring finally appeared to be coming to an end, and crowds of people gathered to witness the drama.<sup>28</sup>

At 7:00 A.M. on Tuesday officers and deputies saw their opportunity. Some of them boarded an eastbound train that passed so close to the section house that they could peer into the windows. Officer Pilger, Agent Ely, and Chief Jolly, with a band of assistants, rushed toward the back door. Tensions were high. Anything could happen. Pilger broke a window with a brick. The crash of the breaking glass resonated throughout the little house. The sound caused a guard to jump for cover and a stray cat to scurry through the yard. The crowd nearby was in suspense as Henry Kennedy stuck his head through the window. Authorities rushed in and searched every room, only to make a frustrating and terrifying discovery: Juan Gonzalez, like a spirit in the wind, had absconded.

How did he do it? Authorities speculated that he could have escaped through the cellar and mingled with the crowd that had surrounded the building. Given Gonzalez's cunning and boldness, that is plausible. They also thought he could have boarded a train during the firing. At the very least, the outlaw's pursuers were flabbergasted.<sup>29</sup>

On the following day, February 17, authorities were in a state of frenzy. At 8:15 A.M. Officers Lyman Wheeler, Jim Murphy, and Eddie Fleming, Sergeant Ezra Ferris, and Northwestern Special Agent William T. Dineen left Omaha for

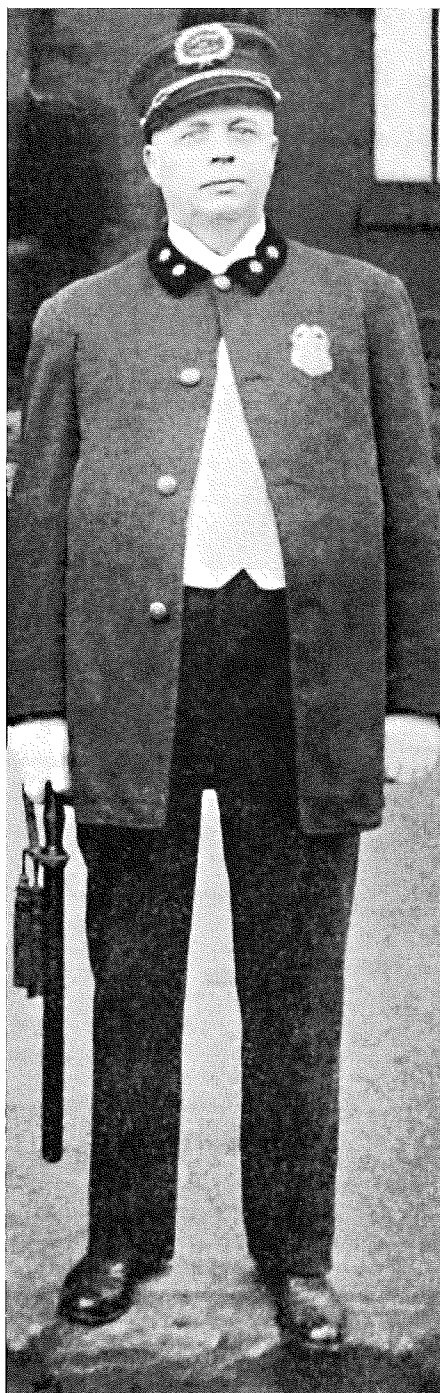


## Lynching of Juan Gonzalez

Norfolk, heavily armed. Their superiors had instructed them to assist in whatever capacity necessary to mow down the murderer. Exactly two hours later, a second squad headed by Sergeant William Russell took a Union Pacific train to Columbus and teamed up with a third unit including Charles Van Deusen and D. C. Rich, Officers A. F. Frankel and George Emery, Assistant Chief Special Agent C. A. Lowell of the Union Pacific, and Special Officer Fred Pontag of the Missouri Pacific. All the men had been warned that Gonzalez was armed with a .45-caliber automatic, and they were equipped with long-range rifles, shotguns, and heavy revolvers.

The railroads, telegraph companies, and the telephone company also aided in the search for Gonzalez. Every train that had passed vicinities of Gonzalez's hideouts had been stopped and searched. The telephone company kept Omaha's Chief Dunn at City Hall and Captain Mike Dempsey at the police station in touch with the manhunt at Norfolk. Telephones were also used to inform farmers in adjacent counties to be on the lookout for the escaping murderer. Many posses were organized and on the hunt.<sup>30</sup>

Also on February 17 an unidentified farmer reported seeing a man who matched Gonzalez's description north of Beemer. The farmer also said his suspicion was heightened when the stranger tried to evade him. The outsider was on foot and headed in the direction of Emerson. Authorities received a second report that a stranger of a similar description had been seen approximately two miles south of Emerson. Officers in the field promptly sent squads to both vicinities. Police Sergeants Russell and Ferris, Northwestern Special Agent Dineen, and Officers Murphy, Wheeler, and Thomas were dispatched from Norfolk to Emerson. Sheriff Condit of Dodge County, Union Pacific Special Agent Lowell, Detective Van Deusen, and Officers Williams and Emery were dispatched to Fremont in the hope that one squad or the other



**Omaha Chief of Police Henry W. Dunn (shown here as captain in 1909) sent squads of officers to the Norfolk area, swelling the posse to three hundred men. Bartling, Omaha Police Department Official Souvenir 1909**

could head off the criminal. Police and detectives searched every corner of northeastern Nebraska and the vicinity of Sioux City, Iowa.<sup>31</sup>

According to Joe Davis, a Greek section hand, Gonzalez was first seen in the South Norfolk yards about 7:20 P.M. on Wednesday, February 17, entering a bunkhouse where five Greek section hands were sleeping. The dwelling was located directly across the tracks from the empty section house where Gonzalez and Parral had been hiding Sunday and Monday. Gonzalez had asked Davis, "You are my friend, are you not?" Davis responded in the affirmative and noticed that the criminal was wearing a horse blanket over his shoulders. Gonzalez asked, "You will not tell on me, will you?" Davis assured him that he would not. Gonzalez next asked, "Where is my partner?" Davis replied, "He was arrested and is in jail." Gonzalez was apparently cold, hungry, and exhausted. He said, "I am very hungry and tired. Give me something to eat." Davis helped him to two cups of coffee and a large piece of bread.<sup>32</sup>

This was no time for cowardice. Davis had to act. When he began to put on his shoes Gonzalez became suspicious, but the section laborer assured Gonzalez that he had to do some cooking in the morning and needed to fetch some water from outside. As Davis walked from the dwelling, his companions yelled at him to go to the telephone. This upset Davis since he feared this would only further arouse Gonzalez's suspicion. Nevertheless, the railroad laborer ran to the nearby residence of Burt Schrader. Meanwhile, Gonzalez finished his meal, calmly walked out of the bunkhouse, and disappeared into the darkness.

Schrader conveyed Davis's news to night driver Novak, who quickly informed Officers Dixon and Hodgson. The officers dashed to their automobile and raced to the rail yards to make a preliminary search. Leaving Dixon behind, Hodgson drove on to notify Sergeant Russell of the Omaha police,

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who was at the Perry Hotel in South Norfolk. Norfolk Chief of Police Jolly arrived on the scene, and a squad of officers made another search of the yards. The night was pitch black. They were dealing with a target who had been outfoxing authorities for days. Gonzalez was right under their noses. Yet, their best efforts had failed to uncover the fugitive. He was no ordinary criminal, no ordinary man, but someone to be reckoned with.

The officers concluded that searching in the dark was much too dangerous.

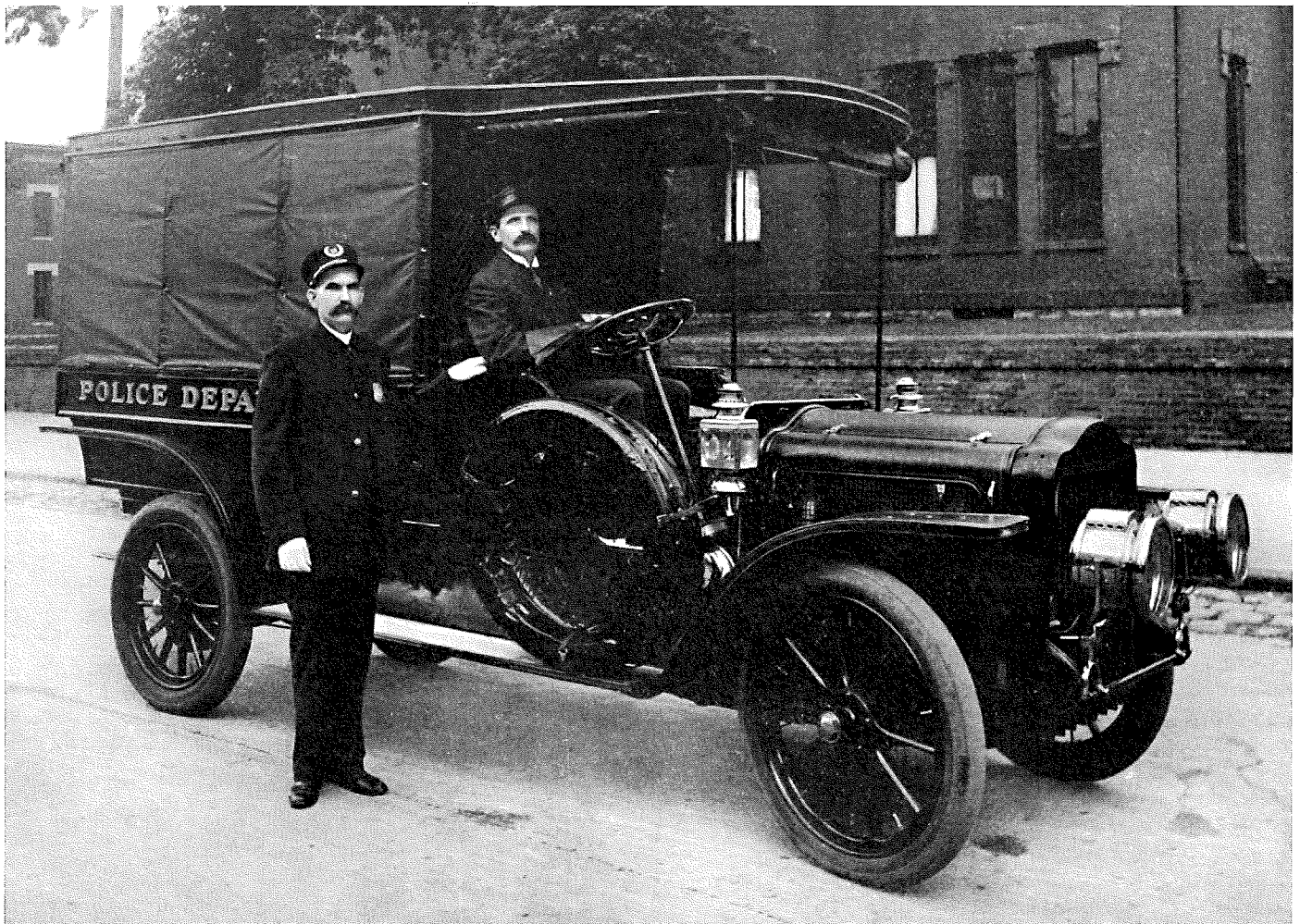
Instead, they decided to concentrate their efforts on outgoing trains to prevent Gonzalez from escaping. They kept a vigilant watch throughout the night. They were also confident that the vigilant trainmen could spot Gonzalez.

The officers held a conference in the Perry Hotel shortly after 4:00 A.M. At daybreak, the party searched all the barns on the north and south sides of the Northwestern tracks for about a mile east, watched by crowds of curious people who had come to observe the hunt. Officials abandoned this concen-

trated search and split into three squads.

Late Thursday Sergeant Russell commented,

I am positive now that Gonzalez is around Norfolk. Our search is thorough and where that Mexican can be hiding is a mystery to me. I hope, however, that we can round him up before nightfall. I am leaving a few men near Pender and Emerson to head him off that way. It is my idea that he has always wanted to go to Sioux City. I believe I have cut him off from that direction. We are concentrating all our work in Norfolk now.<sup>33</sup>



An Omaha Police Department "Auto Patrol," manned by Conductor Dillon and Chauffeur Hans Nielsen (1909). Four nine days patrols combed the region, traveling by car and train, searching buildings and railroad cars, while civilian posses roamed the countryside. Bartling, *Omaha Police Department Official Souvenir* 1909

## Lynching of Juan Gonzalez

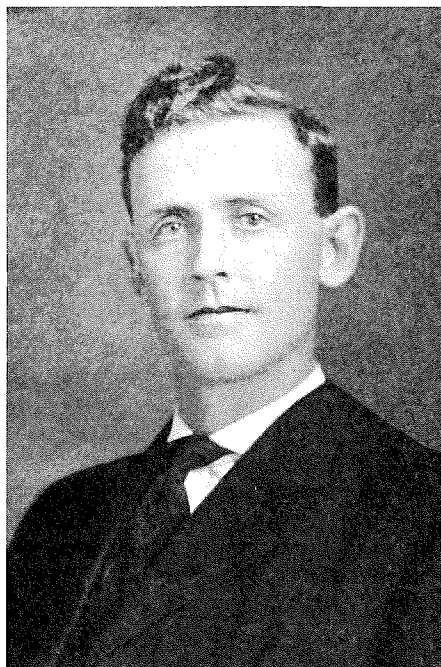
Only later did authorities learn that Gonzalez had headed east when he left the workmen's house, boarding an east-bound train, possibly in an attempt to leave Nebraska through Omaha. As he hid in a freight car, his desperate hope of eluding Nebraska officials for the last time must have been overwhelming. Away from friends and acquaintances in the Mexican community, there was no one to turn to. Under official sanction of the law, the man-hunters were determined to run him into the ground. They also had the full support of the majority community.

Gonzalez must have believed he would never see his day in court, and that a Mexican in his predicament did not have a chance at equal justice. Even contemplating a jury of his peers would have been an absurdity at the time. Escape was his best option. Giving up meant certain death.

At 5:00 A.M. on Friday, February 19, the train was stopped and searched at Scribner. Sheriff Condit of Fremont, Officer Clark, and Northwestern Agent Ely were searching the second section of freight train No. 116 eastbound when they saw a man jump from the top of the cars. The fleeing suspect had not fired a shot, but the officers commenced firing in order to stop him. A chase ensued. Condit and Ely cornered him, and Ely shot the notorious brigand in the face. To their surprise, the wounded suspect identified himself as Harold Hunter of Tilden. With blood dripping from his injured face, Hunter told Sheriff Condit that he had seen a man wearing a blanket over his shoulders board the train at the east end of the South Norfolk railroad yards. He also believed that the real suspect was still on the train. Although officials had searched two sections of the train during the night, a total of forty-eight livestock cars, Gonzalez had been nowhere to be found. Officers speculated he might have been hiding in a feed rack. Condit, Ely, and a local officer again began searching the second section of freight train No. 116. As authorities were clos-

ing in, Gonzalez leaped from his hiding place, firing several shots as he ran into the countryside.

Posses from Fremont, Scribner, and Hooper, joined by officers from surrounding counties, comprised a three-hundred-man force seeking to surround the suspect. This time the saga seemed to be coming to an end.



**Charles Van Dusen, a close friend and colleague of Tom Ring, walked toward Gonzalez, exchanging shots with the suspect who was hiding behind a log. Gonzalez threw out his gun shouting, "Charley, I give up," then was killed by a shot from the eighty-man posse.**  
*Bartling, Omaha Police Department Official Souvenir 1909*

Meanwhile, Hunter's condition had worsened, and he was transferred to the Fremont hospital. Officials searching the train found a blanket similar to the one Joe Davis, the section hand, had described.<sup>34</sup>

Gonzalez had suffered greatly during his flight from the law. He had gone without food for days, and hunger pangs had worn him down. The chase was chipping away at his life. He was dying a slow tortuous death. He was

clad in a light suit without underclothes or a hat, and undoubtedly had been soaked through much of the time by rain and melting snow. The elements had gradually eaten away at his body. Time was running out.

On February 19 Louis Rasmussen, a twenty-year-old man from Scribner, and two companions, Carl Ross and Lester Mieslbaugh, discovered the fugitive. Rasmussen emptied his pistol into the haystack where Gonzalez was hiding. The criminal returned three shots. The three young men reported that the incident had occurred three miles east of Scribner. They had seen Gonzalez run toward Pebble Creek.

Authorities concluded that the bandit was hiding between the creek and the Elkhorn River, both flowing high. Armed men were guarding all the bridges. Posses were organized by authorities from various jurisdictions. An eighty-man posse that included Sheriff Condit, Joe Gregg, Detective Charles Van Deusen, William Dineen, Clarence Eldam, and Charles Rasmussen, found Gonzalez's tracks along the creek and followed them a quarter of a mile. Just as they reached a sharp bend in the creek, Gonzalez, hiding behind a log, peered over the creek bank. Almost out of ammunition, he commenced firing anyway. The posse returned a hail of gunfire.

Several officers from Omaha circled to the rear of Gonzalez and took potshots at him. All were unsuccessful, and Gonzalez managed to get a secure position behind a log and held the posse at bay. The sounds of gunfire soon attracted the attention of approximately two hundred armed men.

Gonzalez had fired about twenty shots when Detective Van Deusen, a close friend and colleague of Tom Ring, broke away from his own cover. Firing continuously into the sheltering log, the detective walked toward Gonzalez. He was just ten feet away when one of the criminal's shots missed him by an inch. Seconds later, the desperado's gun fell at Van Deusen's feet. Gonzalez leaped

up on the bank, threw his hands in the air, and shouted to the detective, "Charley, I give up, but . . ." when a weapon was fired from behind Van Deusen. The bullet whistled past the detective and Gonzalez fell to the ground. Van Deusen thought he might be feigning injury. The detective asked, "Have you any ammunition?" Gonzalez shook his head.

Van Deusen, Missouri Pacific Detective Fred Palmtag, and Louis Rasmussen picked up the wounded man. "Well, Tom Ring is avenged, but that doesn't bring him back," Van Deusen remarked. Gonzalez died as he was being placed on a wagon headed for Scribner. Posse members who saw the transgressor's body were shocked at Gonzalez's emaciated appearance. He apparently had little or nothing to eat for more than a week.

The Norfolk paper reported that the impact of the shot had pushed Gonzalez backward, and the bullet was a steel-jacketed .38 caliber slug. Omaha papers reported he was shot by a steel-jacketed .44 caliber bullet, and that his own gun was still in his hands when he collapsed. The coroner ruled that Gonzalez was shot by an unknown gunman while resisting arrest.

A. N. Madrid, Gonzalez's landlord, was taken to Scribner to identify the body. On February 20 Juan Gonzalez was buried at Scribner's Pebble Creek Cemetery in a potter's field. His birthplace and parentage were unknown. He was estimated to be thirty years of age. E. J. Spear was the undertaker.<sup>35</sup>

The death of Frank James, brother of Jesse James, the bank robber, the day before could very well have been on the minds of this Nebraska posse who may have believed that they had run down their own local Jesse James.<sup>36</sup>

Four days after the coroner's inquest, posse participants arrived at a different conclusion. Sheriff Condit, who was one of the first to open fire at Pebble Creek, Judge J. C. Cook, and others who led the posse at Scribner continued to put their ingenious police skills to work

even four days after Gonzalez's death. They satisfied themselves that no member of posse had shot Gonzalez. Instead, they concluded, the malefactor had used his last bullet to kill himself before surrendering. Authorities theorized that he attempted to shoot himself in the heart, but aimed too high. The felon, who was known to use .44-caliber steel-jacketed bullets, died from a steel-jacketed .44 caliber bullet that had lodged in his back. Louis Rasmussen, the young Scribner man, was using steel-jacketed .38 caliber bullets.<sup>37</sup>

Why were leaders of the posse so concerned with proving that they were not ultimately responsible for Gonzalez's death? What logical sense did it make for Gonzalez to have committed suicide while seeming to surrender? Had a policeman shot him in the back? Either Juan Gonzalez surrendered or committed suicide. The differing accounts of Gonzalez's final moments cannot both be true. If he did surrender, he may have been shot with his own gun by someone in the posse, or have died in the manner ruled by the coroner and reported by the *Norfolk Daily News*. If he did shoot himself, he may have been making one last attempt to defy the posse and not give a possible lynch mob any satisfaction. On the other hand, if Sheriff Condit's version of events is true, it would remove the stigma of being a lynch mob from the posse, and it would preserve the more heroic image of a posse facing down a criminal who was defiant to the end.

The changing nature or interpretation of the coroner's report for Juan Gonzalez may have had its roots in a desire for the reward. As early as February 12 several public and private entities had offered reward money for the fugitives totaling \$800. Reward money had come from the following: county commissioners, \$100; city commissioners, \$300; Burlington Railroad, \$100; Union Pacific Railroad, \$100. The standing state of Nebraska reward added the final \$200.<sup>38</sup>

On February 20 Juan Gonzalez was

reported to have been shot with a steel-jacketed .38 caliber bullet. At least half a dozen pistols and rifles could have used that kind of shell. Coroner A. P. Overgaard and Dodge County Attorney Snider of Fremont took charge of the coroner's hearing. The jury returned a verdict that the bandit had come to his death by a gunshot from an unknown person.<sup>39</sup> Varying accounts began to appear at the very moment he died. Posse members probably became concerned how the reward money would be distributed. Who would be the lucky individual to claim the prize for killing the killer?

On February 21 twenty-one-year-old James Rassmussen was reportedly identified as the only member of the posse at Pebble Creek who used steel-jacketed bullets, though others may have used .38 caliber pistols and rifles.<sup>40</sup> Furthermore, young Rassmussen appears to have been triggerhappy. He was the Scribner lad who first spotted Gonzalez in a haystack and tried to kill him on the spot. Only when he ran out of bullets had he and his friends contacted authorities. Older posse members, especially those from Omaha who had spent many days searching for Gonzalez, may have felt metaphorically emasculated at being outdone by such a young man. They must also have felt they deserved compensation and were reluctant to share the reward.

By February 23 Omaha police chief Dunn had announced that four hundred dollars would probably be divided among Sheriff W. C. Condit, Policeman Clark of Fremont, and the three young men (Rassmussen and friends) who found Gonzalez at the haystack near Pebble Creek. Furthermore, Dunn said,

You will notice that I say that this is the "probable" way of dividing the money. It seems at this time that these men are entitled to the money, but perhaps someone else might turn up that was equally helpful. Personally, I would like to see everybody who in any way helped run the murderers down get some of the money. I suppose, however, that this is impossible, so all I can do is thank the men.



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Sheriff Condit and Officer Clarke of Fremont risked their lives and I want to compliment them. W. T. Dineen of the Northwestern was also invaluable, and so was Mr. Lowell and Mr. Palmtag of the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific respectively.

The work of the Norfolk police stands out so well that complementing them seems superfluous. Chief Jolly and his men stood by us all the time, and so did every other officer in every town that were called in for help. The farmers in that section acted like true citizens too.<sup>41</sup>

Dunn also stated that the reward money would most likely be paid after Parral's trial. In the event that anyone objected to the manner of dividing the money, he would then place the entire reward in the hands of the court and let the claimants fight for it.

Sheriff Condit and others may have found Dunn's decision disturbing, and perhaps that is what led to Condit's next move. By February 24, Condit and other Fremont officers concluded that Gonzalez was, in fact, killed by a .44-40 caliber bullet. No one in the posse had used that caliber of weapon, but Gonzalez had. The .44-40 bullet taken out of Gonzalez's back was the same caliber as the bullet that killed Detective Tom Ring. Thus, according to Condit and others, Juan Gonzalez shot himself instead of surrendering.<sup>42</sup>

This conclusion would have seriously compromised the intentions of Detective Van Deusen and District Attorney Magney, who had already decided to prosecute Juan Parral for the murder of Tom Ring. Magney maintained that Ring was killed with the .45 caliber pistol found in the possession of Juan Parral. By maintaining that both Ring and Gonzalez died from the same caliber bullet, Condit was, in effect, suggesting that the county attorney was prosecuting the wrong man, and Parral was a scapegoat. If it was Condit's intention to publicly blackmail Omaha authorities into handing over more reward money, it worked.

On March 6 Omaha policemen involved in the incident told Dunn that

### POSSE BRINGS DOWN MEXICAN WHO SHOT RING

**Officers Kill Gonzales, Who is Run  
to Cover in a Haystack Short  
Distance from Town  
of Scribner.**

**DISCOVERED BY FARMER BOYS**

**Detective Van Deusen, Partner of  
Dead Officer, Arrives in Time  
to Take Part.**

**POLICE AND BANDIT IN BATTLE**

SCRIBNER, Neb., Feb. 19.—(Special Telegram.)—Ignacio Gonzales, the object of a man-hunt which for the last five days has covered the entire northeast part of the state, was shot to death near here at about 4 o'clock this afternoon, when he was surrounded by Omaha police in a hay stack.

**MURDERER OF DETECTIVE TOM  
RING KILLED AT SCRIBNER.**



IGNACIO GONZALES.

The coroner ruled that Gonzalez was shot by an unknown gunman while resisting arrest. Although circumstantial evidence suggests he may have been guilty of Ring's murder, there is little doubt that prevailing racist attitudes had much to do with his fate. *Omaha Bee*, Mar. 20, 1915 (digitally enhanced from microfilm)

they wanted none of the reward money. They were satisfied simply that the murderers had been brought to justice. Given the extravagant magnanimity of his fellow officers, Chief Dunn announced that the large share of the reward would be divided among those directly connected with the slaying of Juan Gonzalez in Scribner. Dunn said the money would then be divided among Sheriff Condit, select posse participants, and the three youths who found Gonzalez.<sup>43</sup>

Given the various versions of

Gonzalez's death, the account reported by the *Norfolk Daily News* is the most likely: Gonzalez surrendered, but was shot by James Rassmussen, making his death execution without due process of law—a lynching.

Omaha posse members, many of whom had diligently pursued Gonzalez for the entire nine days through very harsh weather, probably felt that they, not the Scribner authorities, deserved the bulk of the reward. The conclusion of the Omaha newspapers that Gonzalez had died from a .44 caliber slug may



suggest a bias toward the Omaha authorities who put forward that version of his death. A .44 caliber pistol in Gonzalez's hands was the physical evidence that linked him to Ring's murder. The county attorney's decision to prosecute Juan Parral conflicted with the previous notion that Gonzalez was the killer. Magney's conclusion that Parral's .45 caliber weapon linked him to Ring's murder only gave Sheriff Condit a reason to divert the reward money back to the Scribner posse members.

Therefore, the sheriff came to a judgment that would kill the proverbial two birds with one stone: Gonzalez shot himself with a .44-40 caliber weapon. Since this was the same caliber used in the murder of Ring, Condit was clearly implying that Magney was railroading Parral. Furthermore, the suicide scenario removed Rassmussen's exclusive claim to the reward money, and this version of events also removed the lynch-mob stigma from the posse.

However, other unsettling questions remain in this extraordinary case. Matters pertaining to the treatment of Mexicans during the dragnet and details of Ring's murder in relation to the fate of Juan Parral remain to be discussed. Subsequent events demonstrate how bias expressed against the Mexican community during the Gonzalez saga culminated in the murder trial of Juan Parral.

According to Edward F. Morearty, an attorney and author of *Omaha Memories: Recollections of Events, Men, and Affairs in Omaha, Nebraska, from 1879 to 1917*, Parral was prosecuted by County Attorney George A. Magney and defended by former judge Abraham Lincoln Sutton. Morearty concludes his brief account of the case by saying that the Mexican was found guilty of murder and given life imprisonment. In fact, the charge against the defendant was reduced to manslaughter during the trial, and a little less than two years into his ten-year sentence, through federal intervention and with the cooperation of the governor, Parral was deported.

Was Morearty making a conscious effort to erase the collective memory of that incident? Given the factual circumstances, which point to a miscarriage of justice, he may very well have wanted this case to be forgotten.

Newspaper accounts during the first quarter of the twentieth century hardly come to terms with the fact that Mexican communities were becoming a permanent part of Nebraska history. Racist sentiments of the day clearly precluded journalists and reporters from covering the emotional impact that the killing of Juan Gonzalez and the subsequent trial of Juan Parral may have inflicted on Mexicans living in the Cornhusker State. Their voices and emotions were presumably deemed unimportant and inconsequential. One can only speculate about the emotional toll this must have had on in their lives. A letter to the editor in the *Omaha World-Herald* on June 12, from Maurice Civin, expresses at least one reader's belief that significant racial stereotyping had occurred:

Personal liberty! What a grossly abused phrase. Personal liberty, when every Mexican is arrested because three bandits committed murder within the very pupils of the eyes of several police officers who were unable to catch those criminals! To show that they earn their bread and graft the police officers immediately get busy and arrest over 100 innocent men for the only reason that they happen to wear sombreros. All these arrests result in absolutely nothing and had it not been on account of an accident the murderers would still pursue their vocation unmolested.

Several desperadoes make a few holdups and the police again do not know what to do, but something must be done to reassure the frightened citizens, so the order is given at the bureau of psychological research to start the wheels of the patrol wagon in motion and two savants are detailed to "run in" all suspicious characters.

The modern school of criminology, as any blacksmith will tell you, teaches that every man who is shabbily dressed is a suspicious character and every man who is poor is a has-been, will-be, or would-be criminal and consequently the cheap lodging houses are raided and every one of its inmates arrested.

I want the powers that be to understand that every time they arrest a man without a warrant and go through his pockets without a search warrant they commit rape upon the United States constitution and violate our much boasted of personal liberty.<sup>44</sup>

Racism played a major role in the fates of Juan Gonzalez and Juan Parral. The newspaper accounts strongly suggest that authorities had no intention of bringing in Gonzalez alive. Furthermore, the fact that a Mexican criminal had consistently outsmarted the best detectives and officers must have left authorities bewildered at the very least.

Authorities and innocent civilians alike had learned to fear Juan Gonzalez. The police and other investigators were besieged by countless Gonzalez sightings in what was possibly the largest manhunt up to that time. Unlike other criminals who might have killed innocent bystanders during their flights, there is no evidence that Gonzalez killed or tried to kill innocent civilians. However, he did return fire on anyone who tried to arrest him. It would be fair to assume that for many Nebraskans the name Juan Gonzalez evoked a combination of emotions ranging from hatred to fear and hysteria. Further, a morbid admiration, akin to the notoriety associated with Jesse James or Butch Cassidy, could have been taking shape, and he may have represented the authorities' failure to ensure public safety.

Was the Willie Brown lynching incident of 1919 in part a white public reaction to retake the loss of control they felt over Juan Gonzalez in 1915? Nebraska historians have not pondered this possibility. In the 1919 incident the public clearly empowered itself by literally pulling Brown out of jail and lynching him. As horrible as this incident was, it is remembered, yet it represents the power of the majority community.

The majority was virtually powerless in dealing with Juan Gonzalez. Like Joaquin Murrieta, a celebrated bandit of California gold rush lore, Gonzalez dared to cross the line and expose the

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human frailties of the majority population. Not only had Gonzalez matched wits with them, he outwitted them many times. The sense of hysteria felt by the community at large was incalculable. This may be why he has been forgotten, even at the cost of forgetting one of Omaha's greatest detectives.

Perhaps this study can become a step toward coming to terms with the present rather than opening up old wounds. Like the Willie Brown incident, the lynching of Juan Gonzalez should become a part of our collective memory, even if he was guilty of the crime for which he was pursued, as should the trial of Juan Parral, whose trial appears to have been a grave injustice committed by the judicial system. Among the many "lessons" to be learned from this history is the likelihood that most people are guilty of harboring stereotypical views of members of other races and creeds, and their actions, even in the name of justice, can be influenced by those biases.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> *Omaha World-Herald*, Feb. 11, 1915; *Omaha Daily Bee*, Feb. 11, 1915; *Nebraska State Journal* (Lincoln), Feb. 11, 1915.

<sup>2</sup> James C. Olson and Ronald C. Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, 3rd ed. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997), 292.

<sup>3</sup> Alan Knight, *The Mexican Revolution* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990), 132.

<sup>4</sup> Minnie Eliza Ferguson, "South Omaha Packing Industry," Master's thesis, (University of Nebraska, 1934), 132-33.

<sup>5</sup> State of Nebraska, *Twelfth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics, 1909-1910*, (Lincoln, Nebr. 1915), 173; State of Nebraska, *Fifteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics, 1915-1916*, (Lincoln, Nebr., 1915), 106; Federal Trade Commission, *Food Investigation: Report of the Federal Trade Commission on the Meatpacking Industry: Summary and Part I* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1919), 125.

<sup>6</sup> Omaha City Planning Department, Alden Aust, Director, *A Comprehensive Program for Historic Preservation in Omaha* (Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission, December 1980), 69.

<sup>7</sup> T. Earl Sullenger, "The Mexican Population of Omaha," *Journal of Applied Sociology* 8 (May-June 1924): 289-93.

<sup>8</sup> David Weber, "The Spanish Legacy in North America and the Historical Imagination," *Western Historical Quarterly* 23 (February 1992): 7.

<sup>9</sup> Larry D. Trujillo, "La Evolucion del Bandido al Pachuco: A Critical Examination of Criminological Literature on Chicanos," *Issues in Criminology* 9 (Fall 1974): 48; Weber, 9-10.

<sup>10</sup> Madison Grant, *The Passing of the Great Race* (New York: Charles Scribner & Sons, 1918; New York: Arno Press and the New York Times, 1970).

<sup>11</sup> Trujillo, "La Evolucion del Bandido al Pachuco," 50-51.

<sup>12</sup> Sullenger, "The Mexican Population of Omaha," 290-91.

<sup>13</sup> Juan R. Garcia, *Mexicans in the Midwest: 1900-1932* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1996), 29.

<sup>14</sup> *Omaha World-Herald*, Feb. 11, 1915; *Omaha Daily Bee*, Feb. 11, 1915; *Nebraska State Journal*, Feb. 11, 1915; State of Nebraska, Vital Statistics, Health Records Management Section, Certificate of Death No. 1241, Thomas Ring.

<sup>15</sup> *Norfolk Daily News* Feb. 15, 1915.

<sup>16</sup> *Nebraska State Journal*, Mar. 7, 1915.

<sup>17</sup> Mark R. Ellis, "Law and Order in Buffalo Bill's Country: Crime and Criminal Justice in Lincoln County, Nebraska" Ph.D. diss., (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1999), 228-29.

<sup>18</sup> *Omaha World-Herald*, Feb. 11, 1915; *Omaha Daily Bee* Feb. 11, 1915; *Nebraska State Journal*, Feb. 11, 1915.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> *Omaha World-Herald*, Feb. 17, 1915; *State of Nebraska v. Juan Parral*, District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, State Subpoena for Arthur Crisman, Doc. 17, No. 756 (1915).

<sup>21</sup> *Omaha World-Herald*, Feb. 11, 1915; *Omaha Daily Bee*, Feb. 11, 1915; *Nebraska State Journal*, Feb. 11, 1915; *Omaha World-Herald*, Feb. 17, 1915; *State of Nebraska v. Juan Parral*, District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, State Subpoena for Arthur Crisman, Doc. 17, No. 756 (1915).

<sup>22</sup> *Omaha World-Herald*, Feb. 11, 1915; *Omaha Daily Bee*, Feb. 11, 1915.

<sup>23</sup> *Omaha World-Herald*, Feb. 13, 1915; *Omaha Daily Bee*, Feb. 13, 1915.

<sup>24</sup> *Omaha World-Herald*, Feb. 14, 1915.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, Feb. 15, 1915.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, Feb. 17, 1915; *Omaha Daily Bee*, Feb. 17, 1915; *The Norfolk (Nebr.) Daily News*, Feb. 16, 1915. Parral several times changed his account of what happened between the day of the murder and the arrival in Norfolk, but he repeatedly denied being in the room when Ring was shot. The changes could have been coerced.

<sup>27</sup> *Norfolk Daily News*, Feb. 16, 1915; *Omaha World-Herald*, Feb. 17, 1915; *Omaha Daily Bee*, Feb. 17, 1915; *Nebraska State Journal*, Feb. 17, 1915; *Lincoln Daily Star*, Feb. 17, 1915.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> *Omaha World-Herald*, Feb. 17, 1915.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, Feb. 18, 1915; *Norfolk Daily News*, Feb. 17, 1915.

<sup>32</sup> *Norfolk Daily News*, Feb. 19, 1915; *Omaha World-Herald*, Feb. 20, 1915; *Lincoln Daily Star*, Feb. 19, 1915.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>34</sup> *Norfolk Daily News*, Feb. 19, 1915; *Omaha World-Herald*, Feb. 20, 1915; *Lincoln Daily Star*, Feb. 19, 1915.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*; State of Nebraska, Vital Statistics, Health Records Management Section, Certificate of Death #1093 for Juan Gonzalez.

<sup>36</sup> *Nebraska State Journal*, Feb. 19, 1915.

<sup>37</sup> *Omaha World-Herald*, Feb. 24, 1915; *Norfolk Daily News*, Feb. 24, 1915; *Nebraska State Journal*, Feb. 24, 1915; *Lincoln Daily Star*, Feb. 24, 1915.

<sup>38</sup> *Omaha World-Herald*, May 28, 1915.

<sup>39</sup> *Norfolk Daily News*, Feb. 20, 1915; *Lincoln Daily Star*, Feb. 21, 1915; *Nebraska State Journal*, Feb. 20, 1915.

<sup>40</sup> *Nebraska State Journal*, Feb. 21, 1915.

<sup>41</sup> *The Norfolk Daily News*, Feb. 23, 1915.

<sup>42</sup> *The Lincoln Daily Star*, Feb. 24, 1915; *Nebraska State Journal*, Feb. 24, 1915.

<sup>43</sup> *Omaha World-Herald*, Mar. 6, 1915.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*, June 12, 1915.