

Fred Selak

Fred was a descendant of early settlers in Grand County. He and his brother, Frank, had a stage coach stop, store and post office called Selak. This was located near the old road coming from Tabernash on a hill north of Granby. When the road was moved, Fred moved to Grand Lake.



Selak Store and Post Office

Fred never married. His ranch was about 3 miles south of Grand Lake. It is now under Shadow Mountain Lake.



Fred was known to be wealthy. He often loaned large sums of money and held numerous mortgages on local property. There had been rumors that he kept a lot of money and maybe a stash of gold in his cabin.

When the Grand Lake postmistress called at Fred's cabin on July 26, 1926, no one answered her knock. Worried that something was wrong, she found one of Fred's employees and they forced open the door. The inside was a shambles and several holes were cut in the floor. Fred was not to be found.

The family of Fred indicated that the rumors of money in the cabin were surely false. They said he kept his money in Denver and Kremmling banks. However, Fred had owned a collection of old coins, which were now missing.

It was reported that Alonzo Osborn had displayed some old coins in the Grand Lake area. Secondly, other coins resembling those in the collection had been spent at a store in Granby. After interrogation by Denver police, Alonzo Osborn's son Arthur, 22, and his cousin Roy Noakes, 21, confessed to robbing and killing Fred.

The search for the body began the evening of Monday, August 16. The next morning, Fred was discovered hanging from a tree about three-quarters of a mile from Fred's cabin.

The motive for the crime was revenge. Fred had caused young Osborne to be arrested over a dispute involving the location of a fence line. Vindictively, Osborne decided it would be doing folks a favor to "bump him off" and he had recruited Noakes to help him. Robbing the cabin was more or less an afterthought. Both suspects were found guilty and sentenced to death. After appeals, the murderers were hung in Canon City on March 30, 1928.