

# STANLEY KETCHEL SLAIN BY RANCHER

**Champion Middleweight Pugilist  
Shot in Lung by Hurtz, Whom  
He Had Reproved.**

## **POSSE PURSUING SLAYER.**

**Bloodhounds' Also in the Chase—Special Train Used in Effort to  
Save Fighter's Life.**

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., Oct. 15.—Stanley Ketchel, champion middleweight pugilist of the world, died here to-night at 7:05 o'clock as a result of being shot through the right lung early to-day by Walter A. Hurtz, a ranch hand.

The shooting took place on the ranch of R. P. Dickerson, a friend of Ketchel, near Conway, forty miles east of here.

An hour before he died Ketchel regained consciousness. There was then thought to be a slight chance for his recovery. His condition soon took a decided change for the worse, however, and he died quickly. The pugilist died in the Springfield Hospital, where he had been rushed after arriving here from Conway on a special train, chartered by Mr. Dickerson. Three physicians were on the train. An operation was performed on Ketchel at the ranch house in an attempt to locate the bullet. It was not found.

It is reported that a rifle bullet, the same pattern as that which inflicted Ketchel's wound, was found on the floor of the room in which the shooting took place. It is thought there is a possibility of this being the bullet that killed Ketchel.

### **\$5,000 Reward for Fugitives.**

Out in the wooded hills east of here Hurtz, Ketchel's slayer, heavily armed, is fleeing before a pack of bloodhounds and a posse of officers and citizens. Dickerson has placed a price of \$5,000 on the capture, dead or alive, of Hurtz. The members of the posse are armed with repeating rifles. Hurtz is believed to be a desperate man. He will be fired upon on sight.

After shooting Ketchel, who was at breakfast when he was shot, Hurtz rushed from the house into the yard. He then faltered a moment, turned, and went back into the room where Ketchel lay upon the floor. Reaching into Ketchel's pocket, Hurtz removed the pugilist's revolver and struck him over the head with it. Then he ran from the house.

"Ketchel can't tell me how to run my business!" shouted Hurtz to C. E. Bailey, foreman of the ranch, as he ran across the yard and away from the house.

Hurtz is said to have told Mrs. Goldie Smith that he would meet her here to-night. Officers this afternoon brought her here and questioned her, hoping to get a trace of Hurtz. She revealed nothing as to his probable whereabouts.

Investigation of Hurtz's belongings has led officers to believe his real name is Walter Dimpley, and that he is from Webb City, Mo. He had been at the Dickerson ranch since last Wednesday, and but few knew anything about him. Letters addressed to Dimpley, and photographs of him were found in the ranch hand's grip. Police are investigating this feature of the case.

### **Reproved Hurtz for Beating Horse.**

The trouble between Ketchel and Hurtz is said to have started when the pugilist upbraided the ranch hand yesterday for beating a horse. This angered Hurtz. Ketchel had just come down to the ranch, which adjoins one he recently purchased, to spend a few days.

It was Ketchel's custom while staying at the ranch house to eat at the table with his face toward a door leading into the house, the dining room being built in an old porch, but this morning his place at the table was changed by Mrs. Smith, and the pugilist was seated with his back toward the door. Suddenly Hurtz came through the door with a rifle in his hands and said to Ketchel:

"Throw up your hands."

Ketchel, not realizing the seriousness of the situation, smiled and started to walk toward Hurtz. Before he turned completely around Hurtz fired. The ball entered Ketchel's body below the right shoulder, coursed upward and entered the lung. Ketchel fell to the floor. The nearest physician was at Conway. It was 45 minutes before he arrived. It was hours before the special train arrived from here. By that time Ketchel was in a serious condition.

It was not long after the shooting until Ketchel became unconscious. Before he lost control of his faculties, though, he was able to say that Hurtz had shot him.

Mrs. Smith, in a statement to-night assigned another cause for the shooting.

"While I was working in the house yesterday," she said, "Ketchel insulted me. I became angry. He was greatly wrought up over the incident, and pleaded with me not to say anything to Hurtz about our conversation. He said he would give me the best team of horses on the farm if I would keep quiet. I made him no promise."

"When Hurtz came home I told him what Ketchel had said to me. He was very angry. I think that is what caused him to kill Ketchel."

After telling her story, Mrs. Smith admitted that Hurtz had promised to meet her here to-night. She took several policemen and county officials to the appointed meeting place to await the arrival of the slayer. Mrs. Smith says she is a daughter of Andrew Bright, a Christian County, Mo., farmer. She says she met Hurtz about a month ago.

### **Weakened by Fast Life.**

For more than a month Ketchel had been a visitor here. Weakened by the fast life he had led since his defeat by Jack Johnson, the fighter bade farewell to his manager, Wilson Mizner, and the bright lights of New York and came here to recuperate. He was thin and pale when he arrived, but country life seemed to put new life in his veins.

He bade fair to "come back" and resume his place at the top of the middleweight division. It was his greatest desire to take on weight enough to be able to meet Jack Johnson and retrieve his former defeat at the hands of the colored man. His friends were surprised at the sudden improvement in his condition. Even after he was shot the physicians hoped that his great strength would carry him through.