

ALBERT ANSON MEMORIAL

On January 24, 1971, a wedding reception was being held at the Twin Rivers Steak House, located in Ewing, Nebraska. The celebration was being held in honor of Glen Fletcher getting married. Some of those present at the reception were Abe Fletcher, patriarch of the clan, Robin Fletcher, Glen's son, and Clarence and Edward Fletcher, Glen's brothers. Family members began consuming alcohol around 4:30 in the afternoon and a small disturbance broke out among the guests before dinner time.

During supper a major altercation erupted at which time the owners of the Two River's Steak house, Alex and Mark Thramer attempted to evict Robin Fletcher. This event triggered a brawl in which the Fletcher's and other members of the wedding party attempted to prevent the eviction of Robin by assaulting the Thramer brothers. At this time Ewing Town Marshal, Albert J. Anson was called to assist with the situation.

Upon the arrival of Marshal Anson he attempted to regain order in the establishment, but to no avail. Glen Fletcher began to strike Marshal Anson. Anson attempted to place Glen Fletcher under arrest at this time. While attempting to take Glen Fletcher away, Abe, Clarence, and Edward Fletcher started to attack Marshal Anson. Clarence Fletcher put his arm around Marshal Anson's neck and pulled Marshal Anson Backwards. While Clarence Fletcher pulled back on Marshal Anson, Glen, Edward, and Robin Fletcher continued to strike Marshal Anson. The Patriarch of the family, Abe, announced, "No tin badge was going to tell him what to do," and then was heard stating, "Go get him boys." It was shown not only did Abe incite the brutal attack, but also struck Marshal Anson himself.

The men continued to strike Marshal Anson, at one point Glen and Robin Fletcher were able to get Marshal Anson to the ground where they continued to hit and kick Marshal Anson. On two separate occasions Robin Fletcher climbed onto a car and from the car jumped on Marshal Anson's back.

Eventually Marshal Anson was able to get to his feet and he sprayed two assailants with pepper spray. To which Robin Fletcher got up and struck Marshal Anson again. During the incident the Thramer brothers attempted to rescue Marshal Anson and pull him back into the Steak House by standing in front of Marshal Anson. This attempt failed and Glen and Robin Fletcher again attacking the Thramer brothers and Marshal Anson. Shortly after the rescue attempt by the Thramer's the fire whistle blew and members of the Ewing Fire Department arrived and assisted with breaking up the brawl.

It was estimated the assault on Marshal Anson lasted over a period of at least 20 minutes. Anson was beaten and bloody and taken away from the scene in an ambulance.

Anson never fully recovered from the injuries sustained in the brutal attack and passed away on December 1, 1971.

Marshal Anson served the community of Ewing proudly. Marshal Anson loved his family and his community deeply. Marshal Anson embodied the honor, courage, and sacrifice it takes to place on the badge upon ones chest and serve their community selflessly and with the highest integrity.