

# On This Date

# April 16, 1915

UMPIRE REFUSES TO BE KILLED; WITH TWO BULLETS IN BREAST HE CHASES ASSAILANT

**John Hayes** (right), the umpire of a game between the El Monte and Irwindale teams in California, had just called a runner out at first base on a close decision in the third inning when he is shot twice in the right chest by Frank Ramirez, a spectator, who is said to have bet a large sum of money on El Monte.



After being shot, Hayes reels and falls to the ground before jumping up and rushing Ramirez and taking the revolver from him. Ramirez runs from the field, followed by some irate players and fans.

Ramirez out-distances his pursuers and made good his escape. Hayes, after chasing him several hundred feet, falls unconscious from the loss of blood and is taken to his home where surgeons remove the two bullets. The doctor reports that Hayes was not "seriously wounded".

A posse of Irwindale citizens, headed by Deputy Sheriffs Sepulveda and Reyes, scour the surrounding country for Ramirez.

The breaking point of the game came in the third inning. With no outs, Fred Johnson hits a fast one to shortstop. The ball got to first just a shade ahead of Johnson (according to spectators). Some of the El Monte players are protesting Hayes' call when Ramirez jumps down from the bleachers and starts cursing Hayes and pulls out his gun, fires two shots with both taking effect.

Ramirez had been working on a ranch at El Monte for several months.