

Missing Former Northland Fur Trader Suicide

Charles Henry Baxter, 64-year-old San Bernardino resident and former wealthy owner of Canadian trading posts, who had been missing since Wednesday, was found dead south of Colton yesterday, a victim of suicide, Coroner R. E. Williams reported.

Baxter, who lived at 336 Twentieth street, shot himself in the throat with a heavy caliber rifle after crawling into a small lean-to shelter he constructed from canvas in the Santa Ana river bed west of the San Bernardino-Riverside road.

Baxter, according to his son, James Henry Baxter, manager of a Highland avenue cafe, had been in ill health for several months and has been despondent since his widow, Lucy, was seriously injured in an automobile accident three months ago.

All marks of identification were removed from the victim's clothing and no papers were found which would give a clue to his identity. However, Baxter had scratched his name and the address of the cafe where his son was employed on the stock of his rifle. No notes were found.

Leaving his home last Wednesday noon, Baxter drove away and was not seen again by friends or relatives. His disappearance was reported to police.

Baxter was retired and had lived in San Bernardino three years. For 23 years he operated a string of Indian trading posts in Yukon territory, Canada, and reportedly lost a fortune several years ago in collapse of the fur market.

The body was found by C. E. Stull of Riverside who was walking along the river bottom 200 yards off the highway. Deputy Coroner Edward P. Doyle said Baxter apparently had been dead since Wednesday afternoon. His body was removed to Stephens & Bobbitt mortuary where funeral arrangements are pending.

Mr. Baxter is survived by his widow, Mrs. Lucy Ellen Baxter of San Bernardino; his son, James and a granddaughter, Sherilyn Barbara Baxter, San Bernardino.