

# Was the city marshal paid to overlook gambling in 1895?

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## Looking back, from page A1

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The second witness, Joseph Hession, who ran a saloon on the levee, denied paying Owens any hush money, that Owens knew of any gambling in town or that the marshal was a business partner.

On the other hand, Lincoln Browning declared, "I know of

Owens having taken money for allowing gambling. Twenty dollars at one time is the largest amount I know of. At the same time I gave Hession \$12. We had won \$155 from one man in a big game. No prosecution followed. It was given to him to keep his mouth shut. He understood fully what it was for." His testimony contained other equally damaging details.

It was Steve Fuller who related that Walter Neeld ran a game over Hession's saloon and that Owens knew of it. Neeld was far less communicative, denying that he paid Owens \$25 or \$50, but, "I squared it with him."

Charles Stineburg told the league that Neeld did indeed run a game over Hession's saloon. He said, "On

the night of Dec. 3, Marshal Owens was there and did not interfere."

Bert McGee harked back to the matter of the suit from Axtell's. Testifying that the store made the suit for Owens, McGee related that he went to Strother for the money; it was refused, but later after the Lafayette Beer Co. had refused to pay for the suit, Strother compromised by paying half."

Wilson Adams was the next to testify and charged that Owens took money on the side for letting people out of jail. John Emery admitted to having run a game several years earlier, but denied that he had ever given Owens money or seen the marshal at games over the Strother or Hession saloons.

*Next week: Testimony continues.*