

Edward W. Lockett
Died Nov 1940

9 Nov 1940, Rocky Mountain News, p. 4, News Article: "Man Burned To Death Sleeping In Boxcar' -- "Edward (Willie) Lockett, 45, of 2742 Larimer street, a Negro, died in the Denver General hospital early Saturday of burns suffered Friday night when a boxcar in which he was sleeping near Twenty-first and market streets caught fire.' "A passerby who saw smoke coming from the closed car called the fire department. An attempt to save Lockett's life was made by rescue squad No. 4, in charge of Capt. William Lindsay. Officials said Lockett had sought shelter in the car and had accidentally ignited litter on the floor of the car before falling asleep."

15 Nov 1940 Colorado Statesman, News Article: "[Winos' Drink Toast To 'Slim' Lockett, Dead Pal] By Ted Wood -- The "wino's" down on Larimer St. tipped their bottles and drank a last toast to Edward "Slim" Lockett, who followed the wino trail into the jaws of death last week. The 45-year-old father of a youthful son, died in Denver General hospital of burns -- burns-suffered as a result of spending his "bed money" for "one more bottle." Broke and homeless, "Slim", whom associates said was a "relief wino", crept into an empty freight car at 21st and Market streets. Sometime later passersby turned in an alarm and firemen, after breaking in a door, found Lockett unconscious on a blazing pile of straw and paper. Captain William Lindsay in charge of Rescue Squad No. 4, theorized that the victim had either built a fire in the car or dropped a burning cigaret (sic) on a pile of inflammable rubbish. Huddled around a small stove in a Larimer St. habitue, friends of the dead man were unanimous in their declaration that "Slim" was a "regular guy." But everyone is a regular guy who will "pot up" on every bottle. LARIMER ST. A PROBLEM The "wino" problem on Larimer St. and in the immediate vicinity, is nothing new to the police department. Although "Slim" was known as a "good guy," other members of the wino circle have often been encircled by the long arm of the law. For "Winos" must have their wine when they feel the urge to imbibe, and to get it they have been known to resort to petit (sic) larceny, car prowling and even "strong arming" men who looked like "ready money." Workers returning from the recent beet harvest have been victims of those who would take a chance on imprisonment for a bottle of wine.

But "Slim" Lockett, according to his associates, was different. He was always able to "dance to every set" but none could accuse him of ever breaking the law. So the "winos" told reporters that it was "a shame" that "Slim" had to go that way. They hoped that his body, which had been unclaimed as we go to press, would be claimed by relatives. Thus ends the story of another "wino" who attempted to follow the trail that always leads to tragedy. A small group of friends huddled closer to a slow burning stove, watching closely the progress of a "mulligan" and lamenting the death of a "regular guy". Cars skidded around the corner where "Slim" Lockett was a familiar figure, and huge flakes of snow tip-toed softly to the white blanket that already covered the streets -- and the body of Edward "Slim" Lockett lay unclaimed even by the son he leaves behind -- another victim of the "wino trail".

15 Nov 1940 Colorado Statesman, Funeral Notice: "LOCKETT, Edward (Slim), late of 2740 Larimer St. Funeral arrangements later."

45 yrs old, black, male, Int: 15 Nov 1940. Denver Riverside Cemetery, Records of Burials, 1876-1953, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Library Film #2712, Salt Lake City, Utah.