

Deputy Amos Winthrop

Trying to do the honest thing in a crooked town.

You're not perfect. In the eyes of the Lord, who can say that they are not flawed in some way? But you try to do the best you can. In your case, this means trying to do right by the Lord and the town's residents, while **Sheriff Slade** keeps pressing them under his thumb.

Roy Slade is horribly corrupt. He constantly extorts bribes from townsfolk, forges evidence, and runs people out of town if he doesn't take a liking to them. Slade does everything he can to keep this town under his control, and it's hurting everyone in town. Every business suffers under his burden, and every year the town dies a little more as he drives business and profits away.

You do what you can to clean up his messes. You pass on what money you can to keep **Bedelia Derrick's Lucky Saloon** in business, and you direct people run out of town to the church in Bristlecone Hollow that takes in charity cases. You have been careful so far, though: Slade thinks that you're a bumbling absent-minded moron, and that he can hide his corruption and wrongdoing from you. Slade obviously underestimates his own malfeasance, as it is sufficiently large that no one could possibly miss it. But you make sure that Slade doesn't know that you know, nonetheless. You're hoping to either get some solid evidence implicating Slade or discover who his accomplices are. You think it's possibly that Slade is working for some local crime boss, but haven't found out who just yet.

Slade is currently preoccupied with catching **The Black Hood Bandit**, but you aren't too concerned. There are no credible accounts of this Bandit actually hurting anyone at all, or even stealing anything from the coaches he sticks up. It's odd, but it ain't nothing to be too worried about. Some of the newspapers seem to think he's some sort of pulp hero, instead of a villainous outlaw, though you know you can't trust everything in the papers.

Now, **The Fox Valley Killer**, on the other hand, he's the outlaw you're watching out for. Killed a bunch of innocents over in Arizona, then travelled the west wreaking havoc on small towns like **Providence Junction** here. According to the telegraph, the Killer's last couple sightings have been moving steadily in the direction of Providence Junction. He just knocked over a bank about a day's ride north of here, they say. Left no one alive in the building. And you worry that the pot at this poker tournament might be too tempting a target for the Killer to pass up. You'll be on the lookout, that's for sure, even if Sheriff Slade thinks you're being paranoid.