

HARDMAN JUSTIFIED IN SHOOTING AND KILLING ADAMS

Coroner's Jury Returns Verdict Shortly Before Noon Today--More Letters are Introduced in Evidence--Adams Planned to Kill Members of the Hardman Family and Later Commit Suicide.

BEN HARDMAN IS RELEASED FROM CUSTODY

Says He Will Return to His Mother's Home Where He can be Found at Any Time--Only One Ballot is Taken by Coroner's Jury--Evidence Adduced Before Coroner's Jury is on File.

JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE. Coroner's Jury Exonerates Ben Hardman For Shooting John Adams. "We, the coroner's jury, summoned to inquire into the death of one John Adams, do find as follows: That the said John Adams came to his death from peritonitis resulting from a gun shot wound. That said gun that caused the wound was in the hands of Ben Hardman. That said gun shot wound was inflicted by Ben Hardman. That said shooting by Ben Hardman was justifiable under all the circumstances according to the evidence presented. (Signed: HORACE MARSTERS, GEORGE SCHLOSSER, CARL D. SHOEMAKER, NAPOLEON RICE, S. J. JONES, W. C. HARDING.)

After one of the most thorough inquests ever held in Douglas county, a coroner's jury this morning returned a verdict in which they exonerate Ben Hardman, who on Friday of last week shot down and fatally wounded John Adams, who had previously shot and wounded Paul Graf, near the home of Graf's wife, at Beaton. A large number of witnesses were examined during the progress of the inquest, and no stone was left unturned whereby the facts regarding the tragedy might be ascertained. In fact, District Attorney George M. Brown and Coroner N. T. Jewett were most diligent in their examination of the several witnesses, who told in detail the circumstances as they recalled them. Other than the witnesses who were present at the time of the shooting, several persons were called to substantiate the contention that Adams had uttered threats against the Hardman family prior to the time of the tragedy. Letters, written by Adams and found

near the scene of the shooting, were also introduced, and in a measure, explain the shooting. From the contents of these letters it appears that Adams was a love-sick man, and through the belief that he had been wronged, visited the Hardman home with murder in his heart. That he fully intended to kill the members of the Hardman family is unmistakable after careful consideration of the letters. Following the introduction of evidence this morning District Attorney Brown read the law governing the duties of coroner's juries, whereupon the jury retired to deliberate. Without even discussing the affair, the jurymen cast their initial ballot which was unanimous in favor of justifiable homicide. The verdict was later returned into court and filed with the coroner. Following the return of the verdict, Ben Hardman, who has been in jail since the night of the tragedy, was released from custody. Showing evidence of mental strain, Hardman had little to say following his release, further than lauding the members of the sheriff's force for the manner in which he was treated during his incarceration. Hardman would say nothing regarding the tragedy, other than informing the officers that he intended to return to the home of his mother where he might be found at any time in the event his presence was desired. According to the usual custom of many district attorneys, Prosecuting Attorney Brown will probably submit the evidence adduced at the coroner's inquest to the grand jury which convenes in November. Should the grand jury consider the evidence sufficient they have the right to return an indictment charging Hardman with manslaughter. Should they deem the evidence insufficient the case will pass into history without further comment. Graf, who was injured by a bullet at the hands of Adams, the dead man, is said to be much improved today, and his recovery is almost certain. Inquest Is Resumed. The coroner's inquest over the remains of the late John Adams, who was shot down and fatally wounded by Ben Hardman, was resumed at

the court house this morning. George Rapp, proprietor of a local rooming house, was the first witness called today. He stated that Adams first came to his house on Thursday night preceding the tragedy and rented a room. According to Mr. Rapp, Adams informed him at that time that he intended to go to Marshfield, and consequently desired to be called in time to take the stage on the following morning. Mr. Rapp said he was awakened as requested, and after partaking of breakfast boarded the stage in readiness to undertake the journey. Mr. Rapp testified that Adams appeared very nervous, and it was his opinion that Adams was suffering from excessive indulgence in liquors. Portions of the register introduced in evidence showed that Adams registered under the assumed name of "G. Micalo." David Hull, who is employed at the Barnard stage barn testified that Adams visited the stable about two weeks ago, and in a conversation said he was going to Sugar Pine mountain "to shoot down some people". Hull said Adams mentioned no names at the time, simply intimating that he was going to Sugar Pine mountain in search of trouble. Hull also said he observed two guns in Adams' possession at the time, both of which were partially concealed in his hip pockets. Charles Archeambeaux, a stage driver employed between Roseburg and Reston was probably the most important witness interrogated this morning. Archeambeaux said Adams had made a number of trips on the stage as far as Sugar Pine mountain, the first of which was in January or February. On the first trip Archeambeaux said Adams simply told him that he was going to the Hardman home in search of his wife, a daughter of Mrs. Hardman. On another trip, Archeambeaux said Adams told him he was going to the Hardman home in quest of his two children who were staying with his mother-in-law. On the last trip, which occurred on the morning of the tragedy, Archeambeaux said Adams appeared very nervous and frequently remarked that he was going to the Hardman home to "get the family" and would probably be brought back a corpse. Adams is also alleged to have told Archeambeaux that Graf, the man who lies at Reston suffering from a bullet wound of the lung inflicted by Adams, was taking too much liberty about the Hardman ranch. On the fatal trip, Archeambeaux says Adams left the stage at the summit of Sugar Pine mountain, which is about two miles from the Hardman residence. Archeambeaux also told of visiting the scene of the tragedy, and of finding a lead pencil about midway between the Hardman residence and the spot where Adams was fatally wounded. Archeambeaux says Adams displayed two pencils at the time he occupied the stage, but that one of them could not be found. Mrs. Graf was recalled this morning and denied a rumor to the effect that she once chased Adams from the Hardman home with a gun. She also branded as false another report to the effect that she had once thrown a pail of hot water in Adams' face. In reply to a question as to whether she ever attacked Adams with a gun, Mrs. Graf said: "Had I have ever chased him from the home with a gun I would have certainly used it. He always came to our house to raise trouble, and I am sure he intended to get us." Charles Foreman, who discovered Adams following the shooting, was recalled to the stand this morning and told of noticing scraps of paper about the ground in the immediate vicinity of where Adams body lay. He identified these scraps, and also qualified as the person who yesterday put them together. The letters were introduced in evidence, and read in the presence of the coroner's jury. Mrs. L. C. Williams, of West Roseburg, was also among the witnesses interrogated today. Mrs. Williams told of Adams calling at her home one night a few weeks ago, and leaving a letter with her addressed to Mrs. John Adams or Mrs. Rilla Nelson. At the time, Adams told her to deliver the letter to Mrs. Adams in person and not send it through the mail. Letters Introduced. One of the letters introduced in

evidence this morning was written by Adams on the day prior to the tragedy, and was enclosed in an envelope bearing the return mark of the Hoffman hotel, at Eugene. The letter was addressed to "Whom it may concern." In this letter Adams not only evidenced considerable love for his wife, but also told of his plans to kill the members of the Hardman family whom he blamed for his domestic troubles. This letter was incomplete yesterday afternoon and was only deciphered late last night. It reads as follows: "To whom it may concern: "I, John Adams do on this day take the law in my own hands for revenge for the people that I do kill for setting my wife, who used to be Rilla Nelson, or now at present, Mrs. John Adams, against me. My dear sweetheart Rilla told me on the fifteenth of May she would write to me if her folks would let her in a week and it has been a month and I think she has been turned against me by her folks and it has broken my heart. I will own up that I am crazy. I am worse than that at the present time. I have wept every day since the day we parted in West Roseburg. "Am sorry for my deed, but I have brooded so much over her that my poor heart is broken for the love of my wife, dear, which I should have, but cannot get on account of her people. We were married in Eugene at 10 o'clock on January 11, and it was the happiest hour of my life, but it did not last long, for just as soon as her people found it out they commenced to try to separate us and finally did it, but they have not got a Nelson to deal with this time, but have got a Pennsylvania Dutchman what don't give a damn if he does die for he is heart broken and they broke it by persuading my dear sweetheart, Rilla, to leave me. "I am sorry I have brooded so much over it, but I will tell you the God's truth I can't; my poor heart aches while I am writing this for the love I should have from my dear wife who has been turned against me. "There is one thing I wish you would do for me and that is to give my pension papers to my dear love, it will help her in her old age if she lives to be old which I hope to God and will pray as long as life is in my body for God to take care of her for me. "Please tell my dearly beloved wife that my love is all for her and I die for her rather than live without her. "Good by "Yours, "JOHN P. H. ADAMS, "Spanish-American War Veteran, Co. M, 25 E. S. V. Inf. "P. S. The only thing I am sorry for is that I could not get the rest of the relation my dear wife's brothers and sisters that were against me, there is more but I better not try to get them or the sheriff will get me and I would rather die than to go to jail, as I have a clear record. If I thought I could get them without killing any one else I would, but I don't want to kill some poor innocent person. I would rather leave them go for I am a crack shot and would not be taken alive, but dead. Good by, God bless you all and especially my dear wife and step children. I have a brother and sister, but nobody out here knows where they are and they are well off. Please do not try to find them and put any disgrace on them. I will carry it all. A second letter was addressed to "My Dear Beloved Wife, Mrs. John Adams or Mrs. Rilla Nelson." In this letter Adams accuses his wife of failing to keep a certain promise, no doubt made shortly prior to their separation. He also tells his wife to accept his pension papers that she may escape hard work in the future. In this letter Adams intimates suicide, and says he is only sorry he "couldn't get some others". "My Dear Wife: I am sorry that you didn't keep your promise. If you had I would never have done this, but seeing that you did not keep it, I took it for granted that they were all against you for marrying me so I thought I would bother them a little bit to and put them or some of them out of the way. In case you marry again they will never bother you again. I have to -hey parted you and me -but they will never p- -on and your next

TEN TAFT DELEGATES BOLT TO ROOSEVELT

All are Negroes From the South--Delegates go Armed and Violence is Feared--Suggested Weapons be Taken Away.

MISSOURIAN AND CHAIRMAN CLASH OVER MOTION

California Creates Consternation by Inscription on Banner--Offending Object Removed--Taft People Absolutely Refuse to Roosevelt's Plan for Seating Delegates--Wisc. Man Temp. Chairman.

(By Private Wire.) CHICAGO, June 18.--Ten Taft negro delegates this morning surrendered to Roosevelt. If Taft is nominated it is believed that Roosevelt will bolt the convention. Violence is feared here today. Some recommend the disarming of all delegates and spectators entering the convention. I have a seat in the convention. The feeling here is intense. Roosevelt's arrival has increased the belief that his first move is designed to abrogate committee roll call of delegates and substitute Roosevelt's. BINGER HERMANN.

EXTRA

EXTRA--Root elected temporary chairman.

excepting the reading of the temporary roll. This decision was appealed from by Hadley.

California Causes Ripple.

As seats filled up on the floor of the convention the congestion became so great that police had to shove delegates down the crowded aisles to their section. California created considerable commotion when the Golden state delegation entered bearing aloft the huge banner on which was inscribed: "Let the people rule--California for Roosevelt 77,000 strong." As soon as Sergeant at Arms Stone saw the cause of unusual excitement he demanded that Captain Healey take all banners out and allow no more to be brought into the hall. Healey questioned authority for such an order, but in meantime the delegates who carried the banner, which apparently had a maddening effect upon Taft supporters, folded up the offending streamer and calm followed the sudden tempest which seemed imminent. So much noise was made in delegates finding places that no one could hear Chairman Roosevelt pounding away with his gavel, nor was the invocation of Father Calligan heard by many beside the official stenographer.

Taft Forces Stand Pat.

When the republican national convention opened today at noon the Taft forces were firm in their refusal of the demand of Roosevelt devotees that the administration faction agree to a proposition that no vote on temporary organization be valid unless affirmed by about 440 delegates, a majority of whose right to seats was unquestioned. Roosevelt leaders declare that this proposition was made in the interest of harmony, and also because it was desired that the proceedings of the convention be such as to reunite the shattered wings of the party. Taft supporters flatly refused the offer, saying that it would simply mean a deadlock.

Police Guard Peace.

Great numbers of police are scattered about the coliseum, and with them are 400 special deputy sheriffs. The first state delegation to arrive.

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(Special to The Evening News.) CHICAGO, June 18.--The republican national convention was called to order and opened its doors to the public at 11:02 o'clock this morning, and immediately Chairman Roosevelt, of the national committee called the assemblage to order. Flashlight Taken. A request was made at 12:16 that the great audience stand and remain quiet while a flashlight photograph was taken. Two minutes later every one in the immense building was brought to their feet by the inspiring strains of the "Star Spangled Banner". Following the photographing, Father Calligan, of the Catholic church, pronounced the invocation at 12:29. At 12:25 the reading of the official call of the convention occurred. Hardly had the reading concluded when Governor Hadley, of Missouri, arose and after receiving recognition of the chair moved to amend the temporary roll. Barnes rose to a point of order at this juncture, but was not recognized by the chair. Roosevelt ruled against Hadley's plan to substitute delegates for those seated by the committee. The Missourian, demanding to "be shown," appealed from the decision of the chair, but was ruled out of order. Standpat Decision. Following Hadley's argument the opposition, led by Congressman Payne, of New York took the floor, but he was jeered and interrupted throughout his address. At the conclusion of the arguments the chair called upon the clerk to read a statement he had prepared, which ruled that all motions were out of order.

"THERE'S A REASON" The Deposits of this bank, which opened for business in April last--just two months ago--have already exceeded \$80,000.00 THE UMPQUA VALLEY BANK Officers and Directors O. P. COSHOW, President J. M. THRONE, Cashier B. W. STRONG, Vice-President J. C. AIKEN, Vice-President H. J. FREAR A. J. BELLOWS D. R. SHAMBROOK Perkins Bldg. Roseburg, Oregon

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