

WEATHER.  
Yesterday 81  
Last night 51  
Tonight and Friday  
and warmer.

# ROSEBURG NEWS-REVIEW

IT'S ALL HERE  
and  
IT'S ALL TRUE

XXVI, No. 118, OF ROSEBURG REVIEW.

ROSEBURG, OREGON, THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1921.

VOL. X, No. 160, OF THE EVENING NEWS

## HEADLESS BODY FOUND TO BE THAT OF DENNIS RUSSELL

### CORONER'S JURY RETURNS VERDICT AFTER 2 HOURS OF CAREFUL DELIBERATION

Russell Was Killed on Pacific Highway by Gunshot Wounds Inflicted by Persons Unknown, Jury Reports; Wording Carefully Studied.

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**TEXT OF VERDICT.**

The undersigned jurors, having made such inquiry as to appear before Morrill E. Coroner, coroner of Douglas County, Oregon, on the 15th day of July, 1921, to inquire into the cause of the death of an unknown person, having been sworn, according to law, after inspecting the body and hearing the testimony adduced, upon our oaths each and do say that we find the deceased is named W. Dennis Russell, a native of Douglas County, Oregon, aged about 44 years, that he came to his death on the 13th day of July, 1921, at a point on the Pacific highway about one-half mile south of his residence near Dole in Douglas County, Oregon, by gunshot wounds, inflicted by an unknown person.

All of which we duly certify in this inquisition in writing by signed this 20th day of July, 1921, at Roseburg, Douglas County, Oregon.

**BARTON HELLIWELL,**  
Foreman.

**JOHN THRONE,**  
**ROBERT KIDD,**  
**PAUL BUBAR,**  
**O. C. BAKER,**  
**NAPOLION RICE.**

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After two hours of careful deliberation and study over the evidence and testimony introduced in the inquest over the headless and charred body found in the wreck of the Brumfield auto on Wednesday night, July 13, the coroner's jury returned the above verdict, finding the body to be that of W. Dennis Russell, and that he met his death on the Pacific highway one-half mile south of his residence near Dole and that death was caused by gunshot wounds inflicted by a person unknown to the jury.

The jury retired from the courtroom at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. At 6 o'clock the jury was taken to dinner, returning to the

### Japs Not To Discuss Problems

(By Associated Press.)  
TOKIO, July 21.—The Japanese cabinet, says Nichi Shimbun, decided to participate in the proposed Washington conference with the general program of not discussing problems affecting the sovereign rights of the participants nor the Shantung and Yap questions, which it is held were decided at the Paris peace conference.

### Irish Conference Still Up In Air

(By United Press.)  
LONDON, July 21.—The basis for a formal conference has not been found, the official government communique announced shortly following the Lloyd George-De Valera conference on the Irish question lasting an hour. De Valera goes to Dublin tomorrow and will communicate with Lloyd George later.

### Willard Ackley Is Married

Announcements have been received by friends in Roseburg announcing the marriage of Willard Ackley and Miss Dorothy Woodward, at Homer, New York. The wedding took place on July 10th. Mr. Ackley was a student at the Roseburg high school and was a prominent athlete star. He was popular among the younger set, who are much interested in the news of his marriage. It is understood that they are to make their home in New York.

### Miss Adeline Stewart Returned to her home in Riddle last evening, after spending the day here shopping.

the hair on the pieces of scalp, he said, "That's Dennis Russell's hair." He examined the burned shoes and said they were like the ones Russell wore. "His hands were not rough," continued Mr. Moore. "His fingers were long."

Tom Scott As Witness.  
Tom Scott, of Melrose, a neighbor of the Brumfield's testified that he examined the body in the morgue. He would not swear that it was Dr. Brumfield, but said he thought it was his body.

H. D. Conn Testifies.  
H. D. Conn, a Melrose man, stated that he knew Dr. Brumfield. He was asked to examine the hair in evidence. He said the hair did not look like the color of Brumfield's. "At about 9 o'clock on Wednesday night I heard a blast report," said Mr. Conn. "It came from the direction of the auto wreck."

J. T. Fry Testifies.  
"I was well acquainted with Dennis Russell," said J. T. Fry, who was employed near the Russell cabin. "I viewed the body in the morgue and identified the toenails. The toenails were very peculiar and from examination of the dead body I would say it was Russell. The shape of the body seemed to be similar to that of Russell, and the hair on the scalp looks the same as that of Dennis."

J. E. Rose Talks.  
J. E. Rose, an acquaintance of Russell, was the next witness. His testimony was similar to that of Fry. The toenail identification was the main point of the testimony.

J. B. Patrick on Stand.  
J. B. Patrick, brother-in-law of Dr. Brumfield, took the stand and stated that he had viewed the dead body in the morgue. "It appeared to be that of Brumfield," the witness said.

Lymon Spencer Called.  
Lymon Spencer, of the Imperial Cleaners, said he had measured Dr. Brumfield for a suit of clothes on September 27, 1920. The chest measurements were given as 35 1/2 inches over the vest. All the suit measurements were given in detail. The waist measure was 27 inches. Mr. Spencer viewed the body at the morgue and he said he did not believe it was Dr. Brumfield. He said he was certain the hair did not correspond with that of Dr. Brumfield.

A. J. Carman Testifies.  
A. J. Carman, S. P. conductor, stated that he was on train No. 12 on July 13th. He said he saw Dr. Brumfield's car enroute to Roseburg at about 40 miles per hour on the straight highway beyond Dillard. This was at 2:10 p. m. He could not tell who was in the car, he said.

J. H. Hogan Testifies.  
J. H. Hogan, a brakeman who was on train No. 12 on July 13, said he saw Dr. Brumfield at Myrtle Creek on the afternoon of that day. He saw him walking along the side of the Myrtle Creek station towards his auto and spoke to him.

Dr. Brumfield's white Panama hat was introduced as evidence. The hat was found in Brumfield's office

### Amount of Reward Increased To \$1,000

With the murder theory established by the finding of the coroner's jury the county court this morning increased the amount of the reward offered for the capture of the murderer of Dennis Russell from \$200 to \$1,000. This with the \$1,000 offered by the state gives a reward of \$2,000 to be paid to the person who locates the murderer. The county court held that the original award was too small but delayed increasing the amount until it was definitely held by the jury that a murder had been committed.

### HAND AND FOOT FOUND NEAR WRECK

Officers Search Locates Man's Hand and Woman's Foot On Trash Pile.

### ARE WELL PRESERVED

Portions of Human Bodies Found When Officers Investigate State-Made By Chimney Sweep—Had Been in Solution For Long Time.

A man's hand and forearm and a woman's foot and ankle, found a short distance below the scene of the Brumfield auto wreck caused considerable excitement this afternoon. Sheriff Starmer this morning received a telephone message from Coquille stating that a Roseburg chimney sweep had arrived there and had made an affidavit that near the river below the place where the wreck occurred he had found an arm and a leg. The Coos county officers stated that the man was sincere in his statement and that there should be an investigation.

The chimney sweep stated that he found the portions in a can on a trash pile near the river. He dumped them out and took the can in his camp equipment. When he heard of the murder case he reported the matter.

An investigation was made by Sheriff Sam Starmer and Deputy Percy Webb and the hand and foot were located in the place where the chimney sweep had left them.

Coroner Ritter and District Attorney Neuner were notified and an investigation was made. The pieces had evidently been in preserving solution for many months and possibly for a number of years. Both the hand and foot had been amputated, showing marks of having been taken off with clean instruments. They have absolutely no connection with the murder case but the officers are at a loss to account for their presence.

The chimney sweep was uncertain about the day when he found them but thought it was the 12th. The trash pile was located about two hundred feet below the place where the Brumfield car went over the grade.

### Phone Rehearing Getting Exciting

(By Associated Press.)  
SALEM, July 21.—Charges and retorts exchanged between James Mott, Astoria attorney, and Attorney Shaw of the telephone company, concluding with the statement of Chairman Fred Williams of the public service commission that the attorney general would be asked to settle the dispute, occurred at the forenoon session of the telephone rate rehearing today. Mott and Shaw got into words over Mott's request that he be allowed to call as a witness an Astoria telephone company employee. Deputy District City Attorney Tomlinson of Portland, in an argument late yesterday demanded the restoration of the telephone rates as low or lower than those prevailing before the increase last March, made retroactive. He urged the readjustment of the Oregon rate situation, a lower basis on the company's present rate situation and divorce as far as possible from the American Telephone and Telegraph company. He charged poor business management.

### Troops Will Be Sent To Silesia

(By Associated Press.)  
PARIS, July 21.—France will send reinforcements to Upper Silesia whether or not Great Britain joins in the movement. The French move will be made to insure the safety of the ten thousand soldiers already on the ground.

### Officers Make Search In Marsh

BEND, July 20.—After an all night search in the La Pine-Crane Prairie sections, Deputy Sheriff Stokio and State Officer Nixon learned that a car answering the description of that driven by the supposed Dr. Brumfield turned off on the road to Sellers Marsh, which is 70 miles south of Bend and is not properly a marsh at this time of the year. The road turns off before reaching Crescent from La Pine.

The two officers are in pursuit today. They learned definitely that the fugitive is not between La Pine and Crescent.

### St. Helens Has Suspect

ASTORIA, July 20.—Astoria police are on the lookout for a suspicious woman character, seen in St. Helens Monday and believed by witnesses to be Dr. Brumfield, sought in Roseburg, in disguise. The woman was large and well dressed and would not have aroused suspicions had it not been for "her" pronounced blonde hair, beneath the edge of which hair could be seen protruding. When sought later the "woman" could not be found. Lower Columbia river points have all been warned to scrutinize suspicious female characters closely.

### Clearing Decks For Big Conference

By A. L. Bradford  
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)  
WASHINGTON, July 21.—The great nations of the earth are clearing decks for the Washington disarmament and Pacific conference. Japan's acceptance is regarded as certain, although the Nippones fear the discussion of the far eastern problems may effect the Asiatic position such as negotiating with China relative to the return of Shantung to China, attempting to compromise the Yap situation with the United States, the discussion of the Siberian-China government, the possibility of the Japanese military from Siberia and possibly from Manchuria. The other nations will consider with the United States to make effective an agreement on a limitation of armaments to insure the peace of the world. Great Britain would revise the Japanese relations to accord with the people's wish for more cordial relations from the United States. France is willing to trade the armament limitation for insurance of safety against further German attacks and Italy will continue in close co-operation with the United States. China can remove Japan's menace.

### Young Man Faces Very Grave Charge

SALEM, July 21.—Richard Burton, about 24 years of age, who, officers say, offered to marry Miss Frankie Edwards during her term in jail here, was today held in Corvallis prison charged with a statutory crime, pending the arrival of Constable Walter DeLong of Salem, who was responsible for his arrest.

It was from Miss Myrtle Ennis 15 year old Salem girl, said to have been a close friend of Miss Edwards, that the information, causing Burton's arrest, was elicited by officers. The complaint, charging Burton with rape, was signed by the district attorney.

According to officers, Burton recently has been residing at Corvallis where he is thought to have been driving a truck. While in Salem he was an employe of a state institution and resided at the home of the Ennis girl.

Although Burton's arrest came in connection with the case of Miss Ennis, officers said that Burton offered to marry Miss Edwards "to get her out of trouble," when she was jailed following her elopement with Rev. Fred Royston, Salem minister, who is at present held in Portland on a federal warrant charging him with violating the Mann act.

Burton probably will be returned from Corvallis by Constable De Long this evening. He will be arraigned before Judge G. E. Unruh, in the justice court.

James I. Stewart, of Corvallis, went yesterday in this city on business.

## CHAIN OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE THROWN AROUND THE MURDER MYSTERY CASE

Testimony At Inquest Told of Dr. Brumfield's Activities On The Day of The Wreck-Was Seen In Myrtle Creek In Afternoon -On Road In Evening

In spite of the fact that the de-capitalized body in the morgue was last night adjudged to be that of Dennis Russell by the coroner's inquest jury, the mystery case has by no means been completely solved. The search for the murderer of Dennis Russell continues and will continue until the man is found, dead or alive or some clear explanation of Russell's death can be obtained.

Public opinion seems to coincide with the jury's verdict and it is generally accepted that the mutilated form found in the wreck of the Brumfield car on the night of July 13th is that of Russell. Expert testimony introduced at the hearing inquest yesterday afternoon confirmed the belief that he met his death by murder.

Sheriff S. W. Starmer holds a warrant for the arrest of Dr. R. M. Brumfield, the missing dentist, and the owner of the wrecked auto. Officers from all sections of the state are on the lookout for a man answering Brumfield's description and many reports have been received to the effect that the man has been seen. Little credence can be placed in these reports and the mystery will remain as deep as ever unless the man for whom the warrant has been issued is located.

Sworn testimony taken at the coroner's inquest proved beyond a doubt that Dr. Brumfield was on the highway between Myrtle Creek and Dillard on the afternoon of July 13, the fatal day. No testimony was introduced by any of his friends or relatives to the effect that the doctor had planned any such trip. J. H. Hogan, brakeman on train number 12, testified that he saw Dr. Brumfield at the Myrtle Creek station on Wednesday afternoon at 1:18 o'clock. Mr. Hogan was on the rear of the train and waved a greeting to the dentist as the train passed thru. He said he did not know if Dr. Brumfield answered him but said he turned and looked at him. The doctor had just come out of the station and was walking towards his Elks club with the disc wheels, which was standing a short distance away.

A. J. Carman, who was also on the same train with Mr. Hogan, stated that he did not see Dr. Brumfield in Myrtle Creek but saw him on the long stretch of paved highway near the bridge south of Dillard. The train had stopped, Mr. Carman said, and he saw the Brumfield car speed along at a rapid rate of speed. He remarked at the time that the Brumfield car was "hitting it up" pretty lively. Other local people passed the car on the highway, it was said.

The object of Dr. Brumfield's trip to Myrtle Creek has not been made known. In his telephone message to Mrs. Brumfield at noon that day he said nothing of the trip south.

The doctor was next seen in Roseburg on the same afternoon by Millard Meredith. Mr. Meredith is exact to the minute in the time he talked with Dr. Brumfield. He stated that he also talked with the dentist on Wednesday evening at about 7 o'clock. Dr. Brumfield said nothing to Mr. Meredith about his trips.

The next testimony introduced before the coroner's jury was to the effect that the Brumfield car again made a trip south on Wednesday evening. Several witnesses testified to seeing the car, and while some were not positive that Dr. Brumfield was driving, others were of the opinion that the dentist was at the wheel. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Gurnee testified that they passed Dr. Brumfield in his car at about 7:45 Wednesday evening. The Gurnees were enroute to Roseburg and passed Dr. Brumfield driving his red car near the aviation field. They said the doctor was driving about 20 miles per hour. Both Mr. and Mrs. Gurnee were confident the man driving was Dr. Brumfield and described his clothing accurately. The Brumfield car is next seen on the pavement opposite the Booth orchard. Walter Bowman and others in his car testified that the Brumfield car was stopped in the middle of the road ahead of them. As Mr. Bowman drove up to it and stopped, a man jumped hurriedly into the car, ripped the gears and zig-zagged four times across the road and then struck out in a bee-line and disappeared from view around a curve ahead of them. Mr. Bowman said that Dr. Brumfield was the driver. He said the man had turned and looked at him and in the lights he was positive of the identification. Two feet were seen dangling from

(Continued on Page 6.)

## District Attorney Neuner Issues Formal Statement Concerning Mystery Murder

In a statement issued this afternoon District Attorney Neuner, asks that friends of Dennis Russell and Dr. R. M. Brumfield exercise patience until the mystery surrounding the sensational case can be cleared up. Although Attorney Neuner declined to state his theory of the case, it is quite evident that he has a definite and fixed opinion in regard to the affair. Mr. Neuner is being highly commended for the fair and impartial manner in which the inquest was conducted, particularly for his courtesy in allowing the attorneys representing Mrs. Brumfield to participate in the examination of witnesses.

"I have not had time to really review my normal equilibrium," Attorney Neuner said in a formal statement, issued from his office this afternoon at the request of the News-Review. "As you know I arrived here the morning of July 13, and within a few hours was taking testimony at the inquisition, and while the testimony was voluminous, the coroner's verdict was absolutely justified by the testimony adduced at the hearing."

"I had no theory and had reached no conclusion as to the details of the unfortunate affair as the details were not given in the press of California, and consequently I had only a general press report and my sincere desire was and now is to get the truth of the matter, and if a person is guilty of the crime that he be brought to justice."

"I am not making any statement for publication as to my theory or

**ELKS ENTERTAIN TONIGHT.**

The Elks will entertain their ladies this evening at the club rooms, and the usual good time will be had, as at the previous social evenings. Dancing and other amusements will form the entertainment of the evening. All Elks and their families are invited to participate and help make the evening a success.

Mr. Fisher and Mr. Pollard, well known Riddle residents, returned to their homes last evening after spending the day in this city attending to important business matters.



WILLIAM DENNIS RUSSELL, MURDERED ON PACIFIC HIGHWAY ON NIGHT OF JULY 13. (From photograph taken in 1913.)