

WEATHER

Highest yesterday 95
Lowest last night 54
Tonight, fair; Thursday,
fair and cooler.

ROSEBURG NEWS-REVIEW



CIRCULATION 4000

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BRUMFIELD SUICIDES

HANGS SELF TO BUNK IN PRISON CELL; LETTERS TO WIFE AND WARDEN ARE LEFT

Makes Rope Out of Sheet From Bed and Fools Guards by Rolling Blankets Up in Form of Man—Suicide Carefully Planned—Guard Finds Dead Body.

(By Associated Press.)
SALEM, Sept. 13.—Dr. Richard M. Brumfield, convicted of the murder of W. Dennis Russell, the Dillard hermit, in Douglas county, committed suicide this morning, by hanging himself in his cell.

Brumfield ended his life by tearing up a sheet which he had stripped from his bed and making a rope from it. One end he tied to the end of his steel bunk and the other he fastened around his neck. He then jumped from the bed and strangled himself to death.

SUICIDE CAREFULLY PLANNED.

He had carefully planned the procedure for ending his own life and carried the cleverly planned action into successful execution. He had rolled up his blankets and placed them under a sheet in the form of a man, so that anyone looking into the cell would believe that he was asleep. He then hanged himself over the other end of the bunk where his body could not be seen from the corridor outside. His lifeless body was found at 12:45 p. m. when the guard opened his cell to give him his lunch.

HAS BEEN IN BED.

For the last three days, Brumfield has appeared despondent and ill and has remained in bed. He left letters to his wife, and to Warden Lewis, the letters being found in his cell.

BRUMFIELD DENIES CRIME.

In a letter left to Warden Lewis, Brumfield said: "Under the circumstances life is not worth living."

"I am innocent of the crime of murder. Because I could tell nothing of what happened that night they thought I was a liar. Several important points were overlooked by the jury. Several state witnesses testified to seeing the driver of the car wearing a straw panama hat. I possessed but one such hat and it was found in my office in the Perkins building. It would have been impossible for me to return it there.

"Two doctors testified that the two shots in Russell's back were made after death; that there was no hemorrhage inside the body from them. The only person who would shoot into a dead body would be an insane man or one who had killed the victim and saw a chance to lay it on to someone else.

"If I were substituting another man's body for my own would I leave his clothes on him and all kinds of identification? The ring on Russell's finger was one I wore at times but which I carried in my pocket most of the time because it always made a blood blister on my finger when I worked on the ranch. Also I mixed awaygam filling in the palm of my hand and the mercury would get on the ring.

"The suit of clothes I usually wore and carried the ring in was found at the scene of the wreck, partly burned, according to the

prosecution's testimony. Who knows when Russell got into the car? Perhaps he stole the ring from that gray suit of mine. A letter was found in his pocket (this was brought out at the trial) from a woman asking him to leave her alone—that she was married and did not want him to break up her home. A man who will break up homes is capable of anything almost.

"The letter from Canada—why might they not have been dictated by someone else? I'd have been as likely to write them as to give a man enough money to go home to Oregon wouldn't I? Some fellow from La Grande said I loaned him money in Canada to get home on.

"R. M. BRUMFIELD."

WRITES LETTERS TO WIFE
Brumfield sent the following letter to his wife:
"My Tiddie Girl:

"I hope you are not terribly shocked by my determination to go on over. When Dr. Smith told me that my neuritis might last several weeks I found it easy to make up my mind. I have suffered a great deal these last days.

"There is no chance of me ever having you again anyway, and life is worthless without you. You have been a wonderful wife and I have tried to be a good husband. There has never been any other woman in my life—you have filled it completely. I have learned what it is to worship a good woman. You have been an angel to me.

"You know what I want you to do soon. Be a happy girl. I am glad you are too intelligent to grieve over me. I do not need to ask you to take good care of the boys—you are a fine mother.

"Keep young, play, sing; swimming is the best exercise on earth to preserve your youth and beauty. Spend your winters where the boys can get the best school advantages—gypsy during vacations. Do not tie yourself down to a home or a business until you are sure you are quite done roving. You have a happier life ahead of you than I've given you.

"My life was given me to live in my own way—why can not I destroy it if I wish? If there's a God and a Heaven I have been preparing for them all my life by the way I have lived and treated my fellow man. A just God would not keep me out of Heaven because I had suicided when life became intolerable.

"Give Rosina and the other sisters and the brothers my love, also June.

"You and I were so happy—through all our trials and joys. No shadow came over my life

CHRONOLOGICAL REVIEW OF BRUMFIELD CASE

- July 13, 1922.—Decapitated body found under Brumfield auto at slaughter house, west of Roseburg.
- July 14—Brumfield charged with murder of Dennis Russell.
- July 15—Headless body claimed by brothers of Dennis Russell.
- July 17—Officers discover that Brumfield shipped box from Myrtle Creek and spread warning that he may be disguised as woman.
- July 18—Mrs. Brumfield claims body as that of husband. Refuses to believe murder charge.
- July 19—Coroner's inquest started.
- July 20—Coroner's jury finds body to be that of Russell.
- July 25—Rumor started that Brumfield was in eastern Oregon.
- July 27—Possess search eastern Oregon and northern California for Brumfield.
- Aug. 12—Brumfield caught at Calgary, Canada.
- Aug. 13—Brumfield claims loss of memory.
- Aug. 15—Brumfield refuses to recognize officers. Suicide feared.
- Aug. 16—Officers start home with Brumfield.
- Aug. 17—Brumfield reaches Portland, and found same after examination.
- Aug. 18—Brumfield spirited in to county jail after dark in order to avoid mob.
- Aug. 19—Brumfield arraigned. Waived examination.
- Aug. 20—Special term of court convened to hear murder case.
- Aug. 21—Brumfield charged with murder in first degree.
- Sept. 1—Plea of not guilty entered.
- Sept. 2—Judge Bingham appointed to try case.
- Sept. 2—Motion for change of venue filed.
- Sept. 7—Change of venue denied. Trial set for Oct. 5.
- Sept. 16—Brumfield's attempt to break jail frustrated.
- Sept. 23—Deputy Sheriff Hopkins attacked by Brumfield in cell.
- Sept. 25—Brumfield feigns insanity refuses food, attacks reporter.
- Oct. 5—Trial started.
- Oct. 11—Jury complete.
- Oct. 13—State scores testimony which clinched case.
- Oct. 17—Brumfield takes stand.
- Oct. 18—Brumfield declared sane.
- Oct. 20—Brumfield guilty.
- Oct. 21—Brumfield attempt suicide by cutting throat.
- Oct. 31—Brumfield sentenced to hang.
- Nov. 1—Brumfield placed in penitentiary cell.

with you until my mental trouble began. That I tried to hide from you, to our destruction.

"Of course you know I'm innocent of Russell's death. Every impulse of my life, every intent was just opposite to that—to hurt anybody.

"I'm so thankful you and the boys believed in me and continued to love me.

"I wish I might hold you in my arms for a while this morning. I love you deeply, tenderly, truly. God bless you. I'll wait for you.

"YOUR MELVIN."

The jinx "13" which has followed Brumfield throughout his short criminal career, played his trump card today as the self-placed noose tightened about the neck of the murderer of W. Dennis Russell and the dentist whose crime aroused intense excitement throughout the entire country, went to death at his own hands. With the death of Richard Melvin Brumfield, officially one of the most mysterious crimes ever committed in this country. But though the case is closed so far as the annals of the court are concerned there are many unsolved mysteries which will cause the case to live many years, for as yet no two persons have been found who hold the same views in reference to the case or who can explain satisfactorily the many mysteries which shroud the terrible crime.

History of Case.

It was on the morning of July 13, shortly before noon, when Brumfield walked into the Square Store in Roseburg and asked for an empty box. When he appeared there was a woman there who has never been identified who was buying a pink silk skirt.



Dr. Richard M. Brumfield Who Hanged Himself at the State Penitentiary Today Noon.

Brumfield was told to go out into the storeroom and help himself and he took a large box which contained scraps and articles from the store.

Later in the day, about 2 o'clock, he was seen at Myrtle Creek, where it was later learned that he had shipped this box under the name of Norman Whitney, to Seattle.

That evening he was seen carrying several bundles from his office in the Perkins building and placing them in his car. Later in the day he was seen speeding south in his fine Elgin car. Murders interrupted.

At about 8:30 p. m. Walter Bowman, a local restaurant keeper at that time, drove up behind a car parked on the Pacific highway near the Booth ranch and saw the car start away down the road in a very slipshod fashion with the legs of a man dangling out of the machine. Little was thought of the occurrence, however, until after the murder developed.

At 9:30 County Commissioner Edwin Weaver heard a big car stop near his home and next day found a large pool of blood there. Later developments caused the officers to believe that at this point Brumfield removed the jawbones of his victim to prevent identification and threw the bones into the river.

At 11 o'clock the huge Brumfield car was found bottom-side up in a deep ravine about four miles west of Roseburg. The car was burning and the flames were shooting high into the air. A report was made and a large number of people at once went to the scene from Roseburg.

When the coroner arrived a decapitated and nude body was found lying at the base of the concrete culvert several feet away from the burning car. The body was removed to Roseburg and Mrs. Brumfield notified that her husband had been killed.

The next morning when an investigation of the wreck was made two sets of articles were found showing that there had been clothing from two men in the car. W. Dennis Russell's name being given, while some of Brumfield's belongings were also found. In an effort to identify the body the officers found much confusion but finally found the body to be that of Russell.

The same day blood spots were found on the highway at the Booth ranch, and Russell's hat was found near the fence. Pieces of two bullets were found imbedded in the pavement.

Murder is Charged.
These findings caused the officers to issue a charge of murder against Brumfield and the chase was started. Later developments showed that two bullets had been fired into the body and that the head had been blown off with dynamite.

Motive Found.
In searching about for a motive the officers found Brumfield to be heavily in debt and carrying insurance amounting to more than \$20,000. The conclusion was that he had planned a body substitution in order to obtain the insurance money for his wife and family, figuring on making his escape to some other country.

Chain Tightens.
As the evidence continued to come in the chain of circumstances tightened closer and closer about Brumfield and a liberal reward was issued for his capture. The body was positively identified as that of Russell's and the shoes which he was wearing were also identified.

Box is Opened.

The officers traced the box which Brumfield shipped and when it was opened it was found to contain the pink silk skirt which the woman was buying when Brumfield appeared at the Burchard store and a number of other articles of a miscellaneous nature. Why Brumfield sent this box is

MRS. BRUMFIELD IS IN PORTLAND

Mrs. Richard Brumfield, wife of the slayer of Dennis Russell, is now in Portland according to friends in Roseburg. She has her oldest boy, Richard, with her, and the other two boys are with an aunt in California. Mrs. Brumfield was in Salem until about two weeks ago and paid regular visits to her husband in the penitentiary, where he was awaiting execution. She obtained a permanent position in Portland, according to advice received here, and about two weeks ago moved there to reside permanently.

something that has never been explained.

Rumors that Brumfield had been seen in eastern Oregon caused a search to be started there and posers were kept busy for several days tracing the supposed course of the murderer.

Brumfield Captured.
While this search was on Brumfield wrote a letter under the name of Norman Whitney, to Seattle, asking that the box be forwarded to his address near Calgary, Canada. The sheriff's office at Roseburg was notified and the dentist was placed under arrest by the Canadian Mounted Police.

Upon his arrest Brumfield claimed that his mind was a blank concerning all events from the day of the murder and he maintained this position thru the subsequent trial. He refused food and by the time the officers arrived from Roseburg he was in a serious condition physically. He was brought back to this city, stopping in Portland for an examination into his sanity. The examiner declaring him to be sane.

Brought to Roseburg.
Upon his return to Roseburg, he was spirited in at night and given a cell in the county jail. On several occasions he feigned insanity, and twice made attacks, once upon Deputy Sheriff Hopkins, and again upon a newspaper reporter. He still maintained a lapse of memory, and did not recognize his wife, his attorneys, or the officers.

Legal Action Started.
Following Brumfield's arraignment and indictment on a first degree murder charge, the defense filed motion of prejudice against Judge Hamilton and Judge G. G. Bingham of Marion county was appointed to try the case. A change of venue was denied and the trial was started on October 5.

Case is Heard.

It would make a long story to review the testimony that was brought out at the case. It required three jury drawings to obtain the necessary men to hear the case, and the entire panel was exhausted. The evidence in the case bore out the facts already given, a letter which was found in Brumfield's being perhaps the strongest evidence against him. He had endeavored to write this letter as Dennis Russell would write it and had the original and a part of the copy when arrested.

After a long and bitter trial he was found guilty of murder in the first degree and was sentenced to be hanged.

On the following day Brumfield made his first attempt to end his life. With some instrument, which some claimed was a removable bridge from his mouth, he slashed his throat on both sides. He bled profusely, but survived the attempt, although he was very sick for several days.

Sentenced to Hang.
On October 31 he was sentenced by Judge Bingham to die upon the gallows on January 13, and was removed the following day to Salem, where he remained until he killed himself today.

Appeal Fails.
Every effort was made to save him from the gallows, and every court resource was used by the defense. An appeal was taken to the supreme court, the opinion sustaining the circuit court. The defense filed a motion for a rehearing and this is before the supreme court at the present time, no decision having been received.

News Causes Excitement.
The news of Brumfield's suicide caused considerable excitement when it was received in the city shortly after noon. Crowds immediately gathered and as the rumor spread thru the city frequent telephone calls were received at the News-Review office from people anxious to verify the rumor.

No other case in the history of the county has ever created such widespread interest as has the Brumfield case. All over the country, and even in foreign lands, the case has been a source of great interest.

Will a Mystery.
The case is still a mystery. There (Continued on page six.)

ABLE YOUNG IRISH STATESMEN COME FORWARD TO FILL GAP LEFT BY COLLINS-GRIFFITH

Cosgrave Looms Large—Understands the Temperament of His Own People and Is Essentially a Business Man—Young Men Needed As Irish Leaders.

(International News Service.)
DUBLIN, Sept. 13.—Though a cruel fate has wiped out two of Ireland's greatest figures—Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith—there are still strong, virile men behind the Irish government.

No Irish leader now in Dublin is well known in America, and perhaps, none is so picturesque nor so able as were Collins and Griffith, but there are men with great possibilities and doubtless the next few months will see the advent of new leaders who have clambered to fame from obscurity just as Griffith and Collins came to fame.

The men behind the Irish government have, first of all, the advantages of youth, sincerity and fearlessness. This will go far in the making of new leaders.

Cosgrave Looms Large.
W. T. Cosgrave, although in poor health, succeeded to the place left vacant by Griffith, and whether he will keep it or not only time can tell, but his health permitting, Cosgrave should come onto the world stage as a strong figure. Essentially a business man, Cosgrave is nevertheless an intellectual and a student, and while he lacks the magnetic gift of fluent oratory he is nevertheless a man of keen personality and one who understands the temperament of his own people.

Kevin O'Higgins, minister of economics, is the son of a country doctor and, although he has been a general in the Free State army, he has stuck to his portfolio and attempted to solve the economic problems of his country with all of the energy of his young life.

Among the military leaders Richard Mulcahy, commander-in-chief of the Free State army, holds the highest post. Mulcahy is the son of a postmaster in Clare and first went to war in the 1916 rebellion, when he covered himself with glory as an able leader of Irish fighters. Later he became a medical student and was most active in the war against the "Black and Tans." He has a youthful face, an ability to organize, keen judgment and, above all, an Irish smile that goes far.

Sean McKee, general in the Free State army, known as the "Blacksmith of Ballinasloe," is still another military figure that is outstanding. Having been a close friend of Michael Collins and one of his constant companions, General McKee is looked upon as a possible leader of the people. His great bravery has been demonstrated time and again, and what he lacks in tactics he achieves through courage. An idol of the troops and of the people, this former blacksmith may become a great figure in Irish history.

Typical Irish Leader.
Young Desmond Fitzgerald, whose soft brogue and twinkling blue eyes are those of a typical Irishman, is another man who has long been behind the scenes in Dublin and whose abilities have perhaps been hidden. He holds the portfolio of minister of publicity and jingles news and counteracts the propaganda of the enemy with great care, sincerity and judgment. Like Collins, he is of a kindly nature, and his sharp sense of humor is a constant aid.

J. J. Walsh, postmaster-general, who smokes a pipe with a vengeance and bites off his words with a snap and vigor, is another of the virile men behind the government. With a great record as an Irish athlete, Walsh is carrying on his work in a methodical yet strenuous manner. The wheels in the office of Walsh move rapidly, but they move with a certainty. Walsh knows what he wants done and has it done.

Patrick O'Hagan, minister of agriculture, is a man of recognized ability. He is a solicitor by profession, and thus far he has been free from factional fights in the Sinn Fein, a fact that may suggest him as a leader for the pro-treaty forces.

Must Be Young Men.
Whoever carries on the work of Griffith and Collins is certain to be a young man. The Irish Free State is full of young men—men who are in

the prime of life.
"The men who are backing this movement for the welfare of Ireland are the men who have fought for Ireland, and therefore they are all young men and are fighting courageous young men, too," said General Pierce Beasley, another of the young leaders. "The men who are opposing the Free State and who are shouting for the republic are the men who are under the bed when the 'Black and Tans' were here!"

Ireland has plenty of able young men, and tho it has suffered a terrible blow in the loss of Griffith and Collins, Ireland's young men will carry on, and soon there will come another leader and idol for the people.

DESTROYER WITH FOOD FOR STARVING CHILDREN

(By Associated Press.)
CONSTANTINOPLE, Sept. 13.—The United States destroyer Edsall is now steaming toward Smyrna with her decks piled high with supplies for the refugees of the near east who are starving. Many children have died of starvation, and thousands more are facing death. The destroyer carries food for 700,000.

MUST BE CLOSER UNION OR WORLD RUIN AHEAD

(By Associated Press.)
PARIS, Sept. 13.—Clemenceau believes in a closer union between the United States and the allies, and that absolute co-operation between France and Great Britain are necessary to avoid a general conflict, which is bound to result in universal ruin to the world, according to a message he sent to the London Times. This message was in reply to an inquiry from the Times regarding Clemenceau's forthcoming visit to America.

DYNAMITERS ATTEMPT WRECK RAILWAY TRELLIS

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Sept. 13.—Deputy sheriffs last night surprised four men who were attempting to dynamite the trestle on the Atlantic Coast line north of this city. Two of the dynamiters were captured.

Local Couple Steal March on Friends

Stealing a march on their many friends in Roseburg, and quietly slipping away Saturday evening, Miss Madge Miller and Mr. Parks Schneider were united in marriage at Salem, Sunday afternoon, returning to this city Sunday evening. Their wedding comes a complete surprise to their host of friends here who are extending congratulations and good wishes. Only a few close friends were present at the ceremony which was performed by the minister of the M. E. Church of Amity, Oregon.

Mrs. Schneider is the daughter of Dr. K. L. Miller of this city and a granddaughter of Von. and Mrs. Binger Hermann. She has resided in Roseburg all of her life and has been prominent in social and musical circles. Mr. Schneider formerly conducted the Baskin Grocery store in this city, and has been conducting a similar business in Klamath Falls for the past two years. He is a veteran of the World War. He is planning to continue his business in that city indefinitely, but will spend much of his time in Roseburg. Mr. Schneider is erecting a beautiful stucco bungalow in Laurelwood where they will reside.