

WEATHER  
Highest Yesterday 50  
Lowest Last Night 35  
Tonight Saturday  
Probably rain.

# ROSEBURG NEWS-REVIEW

TODAY'S CIRCULATION  
**4200**  
LEASED WIRE SERVICE

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## LETHAL GAS IS USED TO EXECUTE MURDERER

### CHINESE MAN CONVICTED OF MURDER PAYS PENALTY IN GAS CHAMBER OF NEVADA STATE PENITENTIARY

#### Lethal Gas Used for First Time in History of Country to Take the Life of a Condemned Prisoner—Sentence of Russell Changed to Life Imprisonment at the Last Moment.

RENO, Nev., Feb. 8.—At 12:24 p. m. guards and doctors removed the body of Gee Jon from the gas chamber which had been pronounced legally dead. Major D. A. Turner, an army expert, was given the privilege of trying if he could restore life to the prisoner. "Even now, more than two years after death, I have more than a chance to restore life if you permit," Major Turner told the doctor. "I have had much experience with hydrocyanic acid gas cases and I know pretty well what can be done."

Associated Press Leased Wire. RENO, Nev., Feb. 8.—Gee Jon, the long slayer was put to death this morning in the first lethal gas execution in the history of the United States. Official physicians agreed from observation through a window of the stone death chamber that death ensued within minutes and that it was painless.

Minutes after the lethal gas was introduced into the chamber, Gee Jon still was alive but he did not appear to be suffering. Physicians expressed the opinion that he slipped into unconsciousness immediately.

At the end of six minutes physicians observing him through the window believed him dead. The Chinese was led into the chamber shortly after 10 a. m. and was surrounded by official physicians, grouping themselves with the condemned man around the window of the chamber in which the condemned man was strapped.

Gee Jon was in the chair when the gas was turned on. He kept a little as he was placed in the chair. The captain of guards told him: "Breathe up," and after he displayed no emotion. When the gas was turned on he held his head and looked around the chamber as the liquid hydrocyanic acid being blown in from the adjoining compartment of the building. Then his head fell forward.

His expression remained placid for the six minutes he continued to breathe. His head rolled back and fell forward periodically. The chief physicians were A. Huffaker, E. Hamer and Major D. A. Turner, of the United States Army Medical Reserve Corps.

They agreed that death ensued within six minutes. They withheld their comment on lethal gas as a method of execution pending more complete examination of the body. During the execution the witness could smell the poisonous gas, but it did not appear to have any effect on him or even bother any of the other men in the chamber. After the execution the chamber was emptied of gas in 30 minutes and the chamber was permitted to enter. The gas was being pumped out of the chamber by the prison.

Associated Press Leased Wire. NEVADA STATE PRISON, Carson, Nev., Feb. 8.—Gee Jon, Chinese slayer, faced death this morning in the first execution by lethal gas in American history. Until last night two men had been sentenced to die in this execution. A special meeting of the state board of pardons it was decided, by a 4-3 vote, to grant Governor Scruggs a commutation of the life imprisonment of Thomas Russell, an American Mexican, convicted of killing his neighbor, an Indian girl.

A. MacCarros, a former justice of the Nevada supreme court had been an impassioned plea on behalf of Russell, basing the argument largely on the record in the case, which the attorney contended, should be heard on the state case. The mother of the Indian girl had testified that she saw Russell kill her daughter, but Russell insisted that she was mistaken. Russell was sentenced yesterday as he was found guilty, and that it was the mother who was the slayer.

Yesterday the district judge who presided at Russell's trial telegraphed Governor Scruggs, expressing doubt whether it was a case of premeditated murder. The governor concurred in this doubt, while voicing the belief that Russell killed the girl. The execution of Gee Jon was set for 10 o'clock. The death chamber was a little stone building in the prison yard, in which cells had been fitted for the condemned men. It was arranged for the Chinese to be strapped in a chair in the cell. The deadly gas, to be vaporized from a liquid solution of hydrocyanic acid was in another air tight stone compartment. Warden Denver S. Dickerson had arranged for the witnesses to view the execution through two windows. A rehearsal of the execution yesterday afternoon snuffed out the lives of two cats in a time estimated at 15 seconds. A portion of the hydrocyanic acid was pumped in through the floor in the form of a fine spray. The cats died, apparently instantly and without pain. It was charged that Gee Jon and another Chinese now serving a life term, were sent from San Francisco by a tong to "execute" Tom Quon Kee, member of a rival tong. Quon Kee, an aged laundryman, was shot down in his shop at Mina, Nevada, August 21, 1917. Gee's accomplice, whose sentence was changed to life imprisonment made a confession implicating Gee Jon, but the latter denied he fired the shot.

### ALBANY BOY MAY SURVIVE POISON

ALBANY, Ore., Feb. 8.—The Horst Ruelhing, 2, sole survivor of the fatal dinner party here Saturday at which home-prepared beans, believed infected with botulism was eaten, was reported recovering this morning from illness which yesterday caused physicians to fear that he would meet the same fate as the other eleven present at the family reunion. A telephone report this morning from the Ernst Reltz, home, near here said the boy was apparently relieved.

Associated Press Leased Wire. Late today reports on the condition of Horst Ruelhing were not so favorable as those first received this morning. At noon it was stated that his recovery was doubtful.

### ELKS VOTE TO BUILD CITY PARK

#### To Purchase Farquhar Island Site for Construction of Municipal Playground.

#### TO COST 20 THOUSAND

#### Immediate Expenditure of \$5000 to Be Made in Preliminary Steps for Improvement of Park.

The members of the Elk's lodge last night voted to purchase and improve the Farquhar island site, between the Oak street bridge and convert it into a public park and playground. The immediate cost of this step will approximate an expenditure of five thousand dollars and before the project is completed a sum of \$20,000 will probably have been spent.

The offer of sale on the property has been up for consideration before the city and it was understood last night before the vote was taken that in the event the lodge did not accept the proposition the city council would doubtless purchase the site. However, when the matter was put to vote it received an unanimous affirmative and the Elks have signified their intention of immediate action.

The improvements to be made will include everything from the construction of a bridge to the clearing of the land and the installation of playground adjustment. The lodge felt that the step they have taken was justified from the standpoint of providing some suitable amusement facilities for the children of this city.

The bridge will be the first construction work to take place and will cost \$2500. It is planned to put in a bridge capable of supporting five tons at present and later a larger bridge for heavier traffic.

As soon as the land can be properly cleared steps will be taken to put in a modern children's playground. All the equipment which is usually used in this sort of thing will be immediately installed and the playground opened to every child of the city.

Another important item in the improvement work will be the opening up of an athletic field for use by the schools and city athletic teams. A baseball diamond, football gridiron and tennis courts will probably be included in this project.

The trustees of the local chapter will have direct charge of all the improvement work. It is announced that actual work will start as early in the spring as is possible, plans and specifications being in the making at the present time.

### FIVE ARE CARRIED AWAY ON FLOES

#### Twenty Persons Have Narrow Escape When Ice Bridge Breaks Up.

#### ALL ACCOUNTED FOR

#### After Many Hours All Persons Who Were Swept Away on Huge Ice Floes Reach Land.

Associated Press Leased Wire. QUEBEC, Feb. 8.—All of the 20 persons whose lives were endangered yesterday by the breaking up of a mile long ice bridge across the St. Lawrence river, escaped, the authorities said today. Five persons who floated for hours on the drifting ice and who were believed to have been lost reached shore in safety.

The missing men and women were seen floating off in the darkness on a huge slab of ice. The ice craft, carried up-stream by the incoming tide, it is believed, may have carried its human freight to a point where the five could reach solid ice connecting with the shore.

Four of the missing persons are Miss Jeanne Gagnon, 21 years of age, of Lauson; two sisters, named Helle, 20 and 23 years old, residents of St. David, a nearby village and P. Coutre, 32, also of St. David.

The name of the fifth person, a man, could not be learned. At least 14 men and women were saved, making their way to shore over the crumbling ice.

The five—three women and two men—were not definitely accounted for by the searchers until after 11 o'clock today. A peculiar accident was responsible for their salvation. The incoming tide sent the jagged block of ice on which they kept precarious footing, upstream to a point where the St. Lawrence narrows and is spanned by the Quebec bridge.

The narrowed straits jammed the ice together for a few brief minutes and the quintet jumped to the shore across the careening floes.

### NEW SCHOOL LAW IS PUT INTO USE

Associated Press Leased Wire. PORTLAND, Feb. 8.—The crippled children's law, enacted by the last session of the state legislature, was officially put into effect in Portland last night when the school board received a report of the committee on education with a partial list of crippled children entitled to the benefits of the act.

The law is the first of its kind passed in the United States. It provides that crippled children who are unable to leave their homes shall receive instruction in their homes under the direction of the city school system. The local school district has set aside \$1431 for the work in its 1924 budget.

Mellon explains change in numbers. The Southern Pacific company has stationed a flagman at the Oak Street crossing on account of the heavy traffic at that point. This is an excellent move on the part of the company as the danger of passing trains to the traffic was very great.

### PRINCE OF WALES BROKE COLLAR BONE

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The prince of Wales broke his collar bone while exercising one of his hunters at Billington Manor, near Ascott this morning.

The prince was putting his mount over a fence when the horse fell throwing his rider heavily on his shoulder. The prince got up and was remounting with difficulty when his equerry said: "I believe you've broken your collar bone."

"Yes, I have," Wales replied. An express train, which was stopped at Leighton Buzzard to take the prince on board, brought him to London before noon. After receiving further surgical treatment, he returned to St. James Palace and went to bed.

### NEGROES DIE IN TEXAS PRISON

#### Five Murderers Die in Electric Chair as State Inaugurates New System.

#### ONE WARDEN QUILTS

#### New Prison Officer Throws Switch When Former Warden Resigns Rather Than Be "Killer."

HUNTSVILLE, Texas, Feb. 8.—While Walter Monroe Miller, new warden at the Texas penitentiary here was officiating at the electrocution of five negroes early today, the former warden, R. F. Coleman, peacefully slept at his home here because he chose to follow the dictates of his conscience.

He resigned the post of warden last month when it became known that he would have to act as executioner in all death sentences in Texas. The state was searched for a successor. Miller, former sheriff of Johnson county, finally was decided upon. He accepted in time to assume his duties, which prescribed that he shall throw the switch at all electrocutions.

"It just couldn't be done, boys," former Warden Coleman told newspapermen. "A warden can't be a warden and a killer too. The penitentiary is a place to reform a man—not to kill him."

But Warden Miller, it was different. "It's a case of duty with me," he said. "I have hanged several men while I was sheriff and to touch the button or pull the switch of an electric chair means no more to me than pulling the lever of the gallows. At any rate, it's more humane—the chair."

Coleman is now proprietor of a hotel here. He had been warden for ten years, but his terms did not run consecutively. The five negroes were to be executed for murder. A last minute effort was made to save the life of one of the negroes, Melvin Johnson. An hour's stay of execution clemency was granted by Prison Commissioner Walter Sayles in order to allow E. W. Love, his attorney, to get in telephonic communication with Acting Governor T. W. Davidson, in an attempt to obtain a reprieve. It failed.

The other negroes executed were Charles Reynolds, Elwell Morris, George Washington and Mack Mathews.

### PUBLISHER OF COLORADO PAPER GIVES TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE

#### Tells of Aid Given Leo Stack to Enforce Contracts—Henry Ford Expresses Confidence in President Coolidge's Ability to Handle Situation—Walsh Assails Secretary Denby.

Associated Press Leased Wire. WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The names of Silas H. Strawn of Chicago and Atlee Pomeroy of Ohio, to be special counsel for the government in the oil lease cases were sent to the senate today by President Coolidge for confirmation.

The nominations were forwarded to the capitol after the president had signed the Walsh cancellation resolution. In attaching his signature, however, he appended a memorandum taking exception to the language of the preamble which declares the leases were made in violation of the law and under circumstances indicating fraud and corruption.

In a message of notification sent to the senate Mr. Coolidge declared that in signing the resolution he expressed "no opinion" with reference to the facts which purport to be found in the preamble of the resolution.

Associated Press Leased Wire. WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—After a disagreement of its members over the trend taken by the oil inquiry the senate oil committee decided to hold for Monday its examination of William G. McAduo.

Associated Press Leased Wire. WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—William G. McAduo will be heard by the senate oil committee Monday. Appearing at his own request he will explain fully his professional services with the Doheny Oil companies.

Associated Press Leased Wire. WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—James O. Lewis, one of the geologists employed by the committee in investigating conditions at Teapot Dome, protested in a memorandum read to the committee against suggestions which he said had been made by Senator Walsh, democrat, Montana. He insisted that when he accepted employment by the committee his "mind was open," with regard to matters under investigation and that he was free of prejudice which would have disqualified him from undertaking the work.

Frederick G. Bonifils, publisher of the Denver, (Colorado) Post appeared as voluntary witness to tell of his efforts to assist Leo Stack to enforce a contract Stack had with the mid-west and other oil companies supposed to own acreage in the Teapot Dome reserve before it was leased to Harry F. Sinclair by former Secretary Fall.

"Mr. Stack claimed they had leased over his head," said Mr. Bonifils. "I entered into a contract with him to help him enforce his rights. The agreement was that Mr. Stack was to get the first \$50,000 and the remainder was to be divided 45 1/2 per cent to Mr. Stack, 23 1/4 per cent to me, 23 1/4 per cent to my partner and 7 1/4 per cent to my attorney, H. H. Schwartz."

There were rumors about the Sinclair lease, the witness continued which led him to send a reporter, Mr. Stackbeck, to New Mexico to investigate.

"He brought back a shocking and astounding story," Mr. Bonifils said. "It was one we hesitated to believe. He was sent back to make further inquiries and was cautioned not to reveal his identity because there might be great danger of bodily harm to him."

The witness said that after Stackbeck returned, it was decided to publish a series of articles in the Post. The first appeared on August 25, 1922 and copies were sent to members of congress. The lease was attacked, "by analysis and theory" he continued, and later Senator La Follette, republican, Wis., introduced his resolution calling for an inquiry.

Mr. Bonifils said J. W. Zevely, personal counsel to Mr. Sinclair, called on him in Denver to discuss the matter and finally invited the witness, his partner, Stack and Schwarz to go to New York to see Sinclair. "When we arrived there," he said,

"Mr. Sinclair said rather brusquely that he did not know why we came to see him, that our suit was against the Mid-West and all its companies."

"You have filed suit then?" asked Senator Walsh.

"Oh, yes. Suit has been started against the Mid-West," was the reply. Mr. Bonifils told the committee that subsequently there was a meeting at Kansas City at which a contract was drawn. Under this the Sinclair interests were to pay \$250,000 for the stack rights and give those interested in the Stack case 320 acres in the Teapot Dome oil reserve. This money actually was paid over by the Sinclair people, Mr. Bonifils said.

"Under the agreement," the witness said, the Sinclair oil was bound within 14 months which will expire March 15, next, to repurchase the 320 acres at a cost of \$150,000 of the holders desired to sell.

Doheny had been much interested in Stack's efforts to obtain the Teapot Dome leases, but had suddenly for some unknown reason withdrawn. After the various contracts entering into the original claims and settlements had been read into the record, Mr. Bonifils said Stack had an agreement with the Pioneer, Helgo and other companies to sell their claims in Teapot Dome to anyone he could get to buy them. He added that he thought the original plan also called for Stack to seek a lease from the government for the whole Teapot Dome field.

Senator Walsh wanted to know what qualifications Stack had to the lease.

"He was prominent politically and socially in Denver," was the reply. "He ran for congress on the democratic ticket, and had been here in Washington for some time with the Mid-West crowd and I think he had a good many qualifications for doing this work."

"Just what was it you were to do in the matter?" asked Senator Walsh.

"I was to see if we could not get some value for his contract. It was reported to my attorney to be a valid and valuable contract. Mr. Stack, in spite of the contract, had been swept aside by the larger interests who were going to repudiate any obligations to him."

Referring to what he said was the sudden withdrawal of Doheny from offers to get the Teapot Dome field, Mr. Bonifils said after both of these reserves had been leased, one to Sinclair and the other to Doheny. "It looked like there was some reason why Mr. Doheny had thrown him (Stack) down and that there might be an agreement between these two oil kings, that one would take Teapot Dome, and the other the reserve in California."

Before the committee adjourned until tomorrow, Mr. Bonifils said that he had turned over to senator Walsh the report and evidence of "what Mr. Stackbeck had found in New Mexico."

The story was cut short by adjournment of the committee, whose members hurried to the senate chamber to take part in the debate on the Denby resolution. Senator Walsh said before closing that it showed conclusively the unfitness of Secretary Denby to act as secretary of the navy.

"Out of his mouth, is he condemned," Senator Walsh said. "He had every opportunity to defend his acts and has failed to act."

"A great crime has been committed. The very structure of our government rests upon its foundation in view of the revelations made in connection with it. There is but one way to restore that confidence which is indispensable to its stability and perpetuity, namely, to visit upon the perpetrators the punishment justly deserved."

"Are you willing, my colleagues, to turn back these properties into the keeping of Edwin Denby? I am not. Are you willing to condone the flagrant faithlessness which has characterized his administration of his great office as revealed by own testimony before you? I am not. Are you content to let him down easy lest his sensibilities be offended or (Continued on page eight.)"