

THE OREGON MIST

VOL. XXX.

ST. HELENS, OREGON, FRIDAY, SEPT. 8, 1911.

NO. 42.

LOCAL ITEMS

SCHOOL BOARD UPHELD

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Masten, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Everson and Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Jeffcott visited Astoria and Seaside during the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Wilson and Miss Iva Wilson took in the Centennial Exposition and visited the beach at Seaside last Saturday and Sunday.

W. A. Harris and N. A. Perry spent last Saturday and Sunday with their families at Seaside.

Ed Bennett, Roy Craig and Harold Ross were visitors to the Centennial Exposition during the past week.

W. B. Dillard returned last Monday from a few days spent at Seaside. Mr. B. Dillard has several lots at the beach and will probably put up a cottage on them by next season.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Collins of this city, went down to Astoria on the evening train last Monday, to attend the Columbia County teachers institute.

Mrs. B. P. Ballagh, of Prairie City, was, is visiting in this city with her sister, Mrs. Yeoman.

A crowd of about thirty were taken up to the farm of A. E. Velguth, on Sauvies Island, last Thursday, and left there last evening to picnic and have a good time. Peter Brakke and the Triton brought them home in the evening. Part of the day was spent by the picnicists in hunting arrow heads and a number of very pretty specimens were found.

John Dateman returned from the hospital in Portland this week, after being there for some time as a result of injuries received while working on one of the boats here. His leg was badly injured above the ankle, and is now in a cast, which cannot be taken off for some time to come.

Seneca Fouts, the well known Portland attorney, was a business visitor to the county seat this week.

Keys Lost—
A ring with a number of keys on it lost in St. Helens. Finder please leave at the Mist office.

FOR SALE—Heavy wagon, or will trade for one horse wagon. Inquire C. C. Moyer, Warren, Oregon.

at Hearty—

Tonight, Friday, September 8th, is our chance for the Ladies of the Congregational Church are going to serve supper at the Guild Hall, and there will be a great plenty for all. They say that they are selling it but the charge is only 25c and from the bill of fare that they have prepared it looks as though they are giving the biggest part of it away. Here it is: Clam Chowder, Veal, Potato Salad, Sliced Cucumbers, Cake, Sherbet, and Coffee and Tea with cream. The proceeds will be used in repainting the church building, though if the "eats" were not furnished by the church people it looks to us as though there would not be any proceeds, but on the contrary the church would be in debt. Everybody come out and have a "square."

Membership Day—

Next Sunday is to be a banner day at the Methodist Episcopal church. At the morning service the sacrament of baptism will be administered to all who wish the same. In the evening a large company of probationers are to be received to full membership and quite a number of letters from other churches are to be presented. It ought to be a day long to be remembered. It will form a fitting climax of a year's work in which the membership of the church has increased over 200 per cent and every department of the work has been greatly quickened. The public is most cordially invited to all and all other services of the day.

Two masked men entered the house of Mrs. C. Silene Monday, and pointing a revolver at her informed her they wanted her money or her life. She told them to help themselves, and they changed their minds. All they got was gallons of wine.

Letters unclaimed at the Saint Helen, Oregon postoffice for the week ending September 2, 1911.

John MacKay, or e letter; Nela Carlsson, care of Ole Johnson, one letter.

Letters unclaimed for by September 16 will be sent to the dead letter office.

M. C. GRAY, P. M.

School to Start.

The Public School, District No. 20 Columbia Co., Oregon will begin for a nine months term Monday, Sept. 11, 1911. With Mrs. G. F. Collins of St. Helens as Principal and Miss L. A. Williams of Portland as assistant.

T. C. WATTS

Dist. Clerk.

MOTHER AND SON SLAIN

Lonely Cabin in the Woods Ten Miles From Here Is the Scene of Revolting Double Murder. Victims Are Daisy and Harold Wehrman. Crime not Similar to Hill Tragedy. Court Should Offer Reward.

One of the most mysterious murders in the history of Columbia County occurred ten miles west of here some time Sunday, when Mrs. Daisy Wehrman, aged 35, and her four year old son were badly beaten and then shot to death. The crime was revealed on Wednesday.

When Sheriff Thompson of St. Helens, received word of the murder he hastened to the Wehrman home, a cabin, the front door of which he found padlocked. After entrance was forced Thompson and his deputies discovered the bodies of the mother and child on the bed half nude.

The condition of the faces and bodies of both showed signs of a struggle, it being apparent that they were severely beaten before the bullets, from a 38 revolver ended the fight between the woman and her assailant.

The Wehrmans are newcomers to this vicinity, having acquired a small piece of orchard land ten miles from here, six months ago, Mrs. Wehrman taking charge of the place while her husband who is employed with the New York

Bakery of Portland, passed only the week-ends at home, arriving on Saturday and returning to the metropolis Monday morning.

Wehrman arrived in Scappoose as usual last week and met his wife and son, purchased some groceries for over Sunday and rode with the deliveryman to his cabin home. This is the last seen of his family alive.

Mrs. G. S. Siercks, a neighbor, happened to be passing the Wehrman home Tuesday morning, and noticed that the front door was padlocked and peered in at the window and saw the bodies of Mrs. Wehrman and the baby lying on the bed. For some reason or other she did not report her discovery till she had made a second visit to the cabin Wednesday. Sheriff Thompson, who happened to be in Scappoose, heard of the crime and hastened to the scene. He made a thorough investigation, but awaiting the coroners arrival before taking action in the case outside of working up several clues.

From the condition of the bodies

his face in his hands, completely stunned. "Great God!" he finally exclaimed; "I can't believe it."

His first inquiry was when the next train left Scappoose. He called up his cousin, Mr. Meyers, on the telephone, told him the facts, and asked him to prepare immediately to leave for the scene of the crime. "You're the only one I have out here, and I want you to come along," he told him.

Wehrman men went to where he has been employed since his arrival in Portland. "My God!" he exclaimed again, on his way to the bakery, "what man could have done this?" and his voice broke out in sobs. At the bakery he informed one of the two other men who work there with him on the late night shift, and one of them accompanied him down the street to his cousin's house.

Wehrman is a young man, and would have celebrated the sixth anniversary of his wedding today. He has been in Oregon since July, 1910, and all with whom he has been associated since that time give him a character of the best. He started to work Tuesday morning at the bakery, after an absence of nine days. Saturday, August 28, he left for his week-end visit with his family, and Monday his wife reported by phone to the bakery that he was sick and could not come to work. He remained at home until Sunday evening, when he reported for work the same night.

Shortly after coming to Portland, in August, 1910, he took up residence with his family with Mrs. Jack Emmett, at 614 East Ash street, remaining there until March of this year, when he removed his family to Scappoose. Mrs. Emmett said last night that she had become very closely acquainted with the couple during their residence with her, and that she thought much of them.

"Mr. Wehrman," she said last night, "was a fine, sober and industrious man. He was quiet and unassuming, and although they lived with us as part of the family, I never noticed the slightest difference between the couple. They evidently regarded each other with great affection. He gave her all the money he earned. She was a good business woman."

Both Mr. and Mrs. Wehrman lived in Eldora, Ia., when they were married.

His wife's maiden name was Daisy Lund. Immediately after their marriage they moved to Waterloo, Ia., where Mr. Wehrman was employed in the bakery of Alstedt & Lavglass for three years. Later he entered the employ of Humphrey & Stevens, bakers in the same town, and remained with them two years. After leaving them in March, 1910, he went direct to Seattle, where he started a transfer business with his cousin, W. H. Hammer, and continued in it until July, when he removed to Portland, and went to work for the New York Bakery.

With the money he had earned as a baker he bought a one and one-half acre plot at Scappoose in February of this year, and removed his family to it in March. He had erected a modest house upon it.

Mr. Wehrman says his dwelling is in an isolated place, the nearest neighbor being about a half mile away. He said that he knew of absolutely no enemies who could have been implicated in the deed, nor could he divine a motive for it, as there were practically no money or other valuables in the house. He said that he had never had cause for suspicion that anything might happen since his residence there. He said he was little acquainted in the neighborhood, and knew scarcely anybody.

It was discovered that following death the body of the woman was not violated. Clipped in the dead woman's hands as she lay lifeless on the bed in the little one room shack which served the family as home, was a wisp of hair, light in color, indicating that she had struggled with her assailant or assailants. This hair may have come from the head of the boy, but investigators are not inclined to this theory for the reason that the little fellows hair is of a darker shade.

The scene of the crime was visited yesterday morning by Sheriff Thompson of Columbia County, Coroner Frank Sherwood of Columbia County, Sheriff Stevens and Deputy Sheriff Hunter, of Multnomah County; Detective Sergeant J. M. Hunter, Bertillon expert of the Portland Police Department; Deputy Sheriffs Grant and Lake of Columbia County, Deputy District Attorney W. A. Harris, of St. Helens, Dr. J. H. Flynn, of Scappoose, and Dr. E. Ross, of St. Helens.

The remains of both the mother and child were taken to the undertaking parlors of Enley and Son, in Portland, yesterday afternoon.

The investigators found a roughly-built, single-room house and inside a bed on which were stretched the bodies of the two victims. That of Mrs.

Wehrman was laying face upward on the bed and was partly nude while over toward the wall was the body of the child, face downward and stretched across the arm of the mother. On the floor lay a bloody hatchet, one or two which had been in use in the family. An examination of the bodies disclosed that 38-caliber revolver bullets had passed through Mrs. Wehrman's head. There was a large gash over the left temple of the child and 3 bullets of the same caliber had penetrated his head from a point half an inch below the right ear. Five bullets were found, 3 in the walls, one in the bed and one on the floor. The boy was fully dressed and his mother evidently was also fully dressed before the attack upon her. Her feet were incased in a pair of tan oxfords over which were rubbers. The rubbers were clean, indicating that she had probably not been outside the house after donning them.

The interior of the house presented a neat and orderly appearance. Nothing of value had been taken except a 32 caliber revolver which Mrs. Wehrman was in the habit of keeping loaded at the head of her bed. A couple of boxes of cartridges for use in this weapon remained on a piece of two-by-four scantling which ran entirely around the interior of the house about four or five feet above the floor and which was used as a shelf. Mrs. Wehrman's gold watch remained hanging in its case on a nail and on an adjacent nail were two rings one set with a garnet and the other with two pearls.

Detective Sergeant Hunter tried to obtain hand and finger prints, but did not get satisfactory results. He was able to get imprints of portions of fingers and thumbs but not of a full hand. His investigation disclosed that the murderer had washed his hands in a granite basin left on a drygoods box near the door and had wiped them on a towel which was found hanging at the foot of the bed.

So far Sheriff Thompson and Sheriff Stevens declare that they have no tangible clue on which to work. All the neighbors for miles around were called yesterday and questioned carefully, and one in particular, a man who has heretofore borne a bad reputation, will be required to submit to a searching cross-examination later.

With his cousin, L. C. Meyers, Frank E. Wehrman, husband of the murdered woman, went Wednesday night to Scappoose. The two men managed to get within a mile of the house in a machine and then walked the rest of the distance. They remained outside of the house all night and till the county peace officers arrived yesterday morning. Mr. Wehrman's mind seems wrecked by the shock. His face was pale and haggard, yesterday he spoke scarcely above a whisper and his condition was such as to arouse the sympathy and pity of all observers. His brain seemed to have been numbed by his grief and he was subject to lapses of dazed silence.

A jury was drawn at Scappoose yesterday and went to view the scene of the crime with the officials. It consisted of James McKay, Fred Grant, Louis Grant, Matthew Englert, M. H. Bushman and John Weimuller.

The witnesses and jury came to St. Helens this morning and the inquest is now in progress, but it is not expected that anything not already known will be revealed. The verdict will of course be that Mrs. Wehrman and Harold Wehrman were murdered by some party or parties unknown.

The local officers have been highly complimented by the Portland officials for their manner of handling this case. Sheriff Stevens, of Multnomah county, informs us that Coroner Sherwood has proceeded with his work in a manner that could not be improved upon. District Attorney E. B. Tongue is in St. Helens today.

The county court will be requested to offer a reward, and also, Governor West. The bigger they make it the better.

Miss Annie L. Hazen, niece of M. F. Hazen of this city, arrived here on Thursday of this week to assume a position in the St. Helens School. Miss Hazen's home is in Lebanon.

One day this week a Chinaman was hit by the evening train just beyond Scappoose and instantly killed. Coroner Frank Sherwood was summoned and took charge of the body, which was turned over to the deceased's relatives.

Card of Thanks.

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to the friends who showed us so many kindnesses during our recent bereavement, and especially the Sunday school classes of Mrs. Rutherford and Miss Phillip.

Mrs. Carrie Watts, and Family.

VICTIMS OF SCAPPOOSE TRAGEDY, BEREAVED HUSBAND AND FATHER, AND DIAGRAM OF SCENE OF CRIME



Above, Mr. and Mrs. Wehrman. Below, Harold Wehrman. Large Cross on Bed in Diagram Marks Position of Mother's Body and Smaller One That of Child Who Found. Position of Hatnet, Gun and the Washbasin Wherein Slayer Washed Blood From Hands is Shown.

when found, Sheriff Thompson believes the crime was committed some time Sunday night.

Frank E. Wehrman, who spent all of last week with his wife and son on their farm near Scappoose, first heard of the crime through the Oregonian when found last night at his lodgings, 176 East 8th Street. He was completely overcome by the news of the tragedy, but as soon as he recovered sufficiently to talk declared he would go immediately to Scappoose to aid in running down the criminal. He is completely at a loss to account for the murder of his wife and son, asserting that he has no enemies

toward whom suspicion may be directed.

Wehrman, who is employed at the New York Bakery, East Seventh and Belmont Streets, returned to Portland from Scappoose Sunday evening and reported for work but as his position was temporarily filled did not resume his work until Tuesday night.

When told that his wife had been found murdered he sat back in his chair completely dazed by the announcement, and when he recovered he asked eagerly:

"Are you sure of it? Isn't there a mistake?" He sat on the chair for a short time,