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La Grande Evening Observer

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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOLUME XXIV

LA GRANDE, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1921.

NUMBER 139

PRINCIPAL IN MURDER CASE ON STAND TODAY

DANIEL LANE PERISHES IN HOUSE FIRE

FLAMES WERE DISCOVERED BY NEIGHBORS ABOUT 3 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING.

SUICIDE THEORY IS NOT CONSIDERED BY CORONER

Remains Are Found in the Debris of the Home, During the Investigation Made by the Sheriff and Coroner, Assisted by Neighbors of the Dead Man.

Daniel Lane, living about eight miles north of La Grande on the hillside road running near the foot of Mt. Emily, was burned to death in his home early this morning, when flames completely devoured his residence.

The fire was first discovered about 3 o'clock, when August Erickson, living about half a mile west of the Lane farm, awoke to see the home in flames. By the time Mr. Erickson had arrived at the scene, the roof was falling in, and the house a total loss. The R. W. Butcher family, living only about 300 yards from the Lane house, failed to see the fire at all, until they were later aroused, as they were sleeping in the opposite side of the house that faced the Lane home.

Had Been Despondent. Upon arriving at the scene of the fire, the absence of the owner, who lived alone, was immediately noticed, and soon after, Sheriff Lee Warnick and Coroner H. Bohnenkamp were notified. They hurried to the scene, and after much water had been used in cooling the burning debris, the charred remains of Daniel Lane were found.

Because Mr. Lane has been despondent of late, and had desired to sell his home, it was first rumored that suicide had prompted the fire. Upon investigation, according to Coroner Bohnenkamp, there was no evidence found which would lead to the belief that Mr. Lane had committed suicide.

Seen Last Evening. As there was a basement to the house, the timbers fell to the basement, and it was here that the body was discovered. From the position of the rails of the bed, the evidence indicated that Mr. Lane had been asleep, and probably suffocated from the flames, did not arouse in time to seek safety. Two guns were found, a shotgun and a .22 but these were on the opposite side of another room. Nothing was found near the bed which would lead to the belief of suicide. Coroner Bohnenkamp stated that an inquest would not be necessary, as there was not enough evidence to warrant one.

Mr. Lane was seen by his neighbors last evening, when he was watering the horses in the barn lot. In the barn were found a raincoat and his "best" coat.

Deeds and Insurance Safe. In the pocket of the one was found two deeds to the place which he owned, which is known as the old Standley place, and contains a little over thirty acres.

Two insurance policies were also found in the pocket, one for \$400 fire insurance on his home, and another for the same amount on his barn. Letters were also found in the pocket from his daughter, Mrs. G. Donns, of Endicott, N. Y., and his grandson. The finding in the barn of the insurance papers and the deeds to the place was one of the first things which led to the belief of suicide.

But belief that the fire was a real tragedy is shown by the fact that in the back of his buggy were found a half crate of eggs, all packed and ready to be brought to town.

The remains were brought to La Grande by Coroner Bohnenkamp, and are now at the Bohnenkamp Chapel, awaiting word from the daughter in New York.

J'ever Hear This?

By STRICKLAND GILLILAN

Hades—Geography. The witty father was coming out of the church one Sunday morning after mass. A stranger who had attended the service was standing near the door looking intently at the priest as the latter went by. Stepping up to the clergyman, the stranger said, earnestly: "Where in hell have I seen you before?" "I could say, replied the father, politely, "that part of hell did you come from?"

William S. Spray is Named for Commissioner of General Land Office

WILL PROHIBIT THE WITHDRAWAL OF WHISKEY APRIL 15

WASHINGTON, Mar. 17.—A ban prohibiting the withdrawal of whiskey from bonded warehouses, in so far as it affects retail druggists, will be lifted on April 1. The liquor wholesalers are not included, and they must be out of business about May 15.

STATE DROPS CASE AGAINST BASEBALL MEN

"CHICK" GANDIL IS ONLY MAN TO BE TRIED.

Action Is Taken After Judge Dever Refused State More Time in Which To Gather Evidence.

CHICAGO, Mar. 17.—The state today dropped the cases against all of the former Chicago White Sox players indicted for the alleged throwing of the 1919 world series, except the case of "Chick" Gandil. This action was taken after Judge Dever refused to grant the continuance of over 60 days, requested by the state as necessary to gather new evidence.

State Attorney Crowe charged that the three ball players who had confessed, had been corrupted and that evidence expected from them was lost to the prosecution. Crowe declared that he would gather new evidence and seek new indictments.

NEW LIGHTING SYSTEM PLANNED

CITY MANAGER HAS COMPLETED SURVEYS.

Data to Be Used in Planning Lighting System Compiled—Smallpox On Decrease.

The engineering department of the city has made a survey to determine the approximate location of all houses and buildings in the city during the past week, according to the weekly report of George Garrett, submitted to the city commission at last night's meeting.

Data was also obtained to show the approximate size of each building and whether the building was connected to the city water mains, as well as whether the water was being used at the present time. Every street light was also located and a map of the data has been plotted on all of the city. The first use of the new map will be for the purpose of laying out a new street lighting system, a tentative plan of which will be discussed at next week's meeting of the council.

The city manager's report also showed that the contagious disease epidemic is continuing on the wane. Only 7 houses were quarantined during the week, which ended March 12, and 29 quarantines were released.

The police department contributed \$40 in fines and forfeits towards the city treasury; made 4 arrests, secured 4 convictions with two cases still pending. The cases were divided as follows: drunks, 2; disorderly conduct, 2; traffic violations, 2.

Improvement bonds to the amount of \$112,272.22 were paid and \$35,500 in improvement district interest was paid during the week. The treasurer's office received \$1,573.83 during the week, water rent being the largest single item, that being \$1,018.13, while improvement district installments came next, in point of size, \$21, 82 being collected under that head.

CLAIM OF LONG STANDING ACTED UPON BY COMMISSION

At the meeting of the city commissioners last evening formal action was taken on a claim of Miss Alberta Gates against the city. It was decided to offer her \$700, vacate an adjacent alley and cancel all street liens against her property, which adjoins the viaduct. The matter has been hanging fire for a number of years, the cash item being the amount it would require to move the house on the property and set it on a concrete foundation.

FRANK HAGENBARTH, OF UTAH, IS SPOKEN OF FOR INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 17.—William S. Spray, former governor of Utah, has been appointed commissioner of the general land office. Spray is an Englishman, having been born in Windsor, Berkshire, England, in 1864. He came to America in 1875, receiving a common school education in this country. During his life time he has been connected with many enterprises, for two years being connected with the Z. M. C. I. (general merchandising house) in Salt Lake. Later, he took up stockraising and farming. A director of various institutions, he was president and director of the Salt Lake Farmers and Stockgrowers Bank. Other offices held by him were county collector for Tooele county, Utah; city councilman, Grantsville; president state board land commissioners, U. S. Marshall for Utah, 1906-08; and governor of Utah from 1909-13, and from 1913-17. He is a member of the L. D. S. church.

Frank Hagenbarth, of Utah, president of the National Wool Growers' association, may be named as a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

NEW MASONIC DEGREE GIVEN

LA GRANDE IS ONLY LODGE OF KIND IN NORTHWEST.

Class of Sixty Receive Good Samaritan Degree Last Evening at Masonic Hall.

For the first time in the Masonic circles of Oregon, or of the Pacific Northwest, the Good Samaritan degree was conferred upon a large class in this city last evening, Charles M. Baker, of Cleburne, Texas, being the installing officer.

The local chapter feels that it is indeed honored to be the only chapter in the northwest. It will be known as La Grande Chapter, No. 9, Good Samaritan. This is a very popular degree in the south, according to Mr. Baker.

Scottish Rite Masons, Royal Arch Masons, their wives, widows, sisters, mothers and daughters are eligible to membership, and there was a class of about 60 went in last evening. The order is more than one hundred years old, and is conferred one of the most beautiful in Masondom.

Following the ceremony last evening, an oyster supper was served in the banquet room.

HARDING WILL REVIEW EUGENE V. DEBS CASE

WASHINGTON, Mar. 17.—President Harding has asked Attorney General Daugherty to review the case of Eugene V. Debs, Socialist, who is serving a sentence, under the espionage act, in the Atlanta prison.

ACTION ON WATER UP NEXT WEEK

COMMISSION DECIDES TO SELECT ENGINEERS FOR PLANS.

MATTER NEARLY CAME TO HEAD YESTERDAY EVENING

Engineers' Contracts Are Thoroughly Discussed and It Appears as Though Choice Has Simmered Down to Two—Cost Would Probably Be in Neighborhood of Half Million.

At next week's meeting of the city commission definite action will be taken on the proposed new water supply system for the city of La Grande. The matter was the chief topic of discussion at last night's meeting and at the meeting next Wednesday a contract for the preliminary work will probably be entered into by the commission.

Tentative contracts were discussed at last night's meeting from a number of engineers. Those receiving most favorable mention were the firm of Burns and McDonald, of Kansas City and Stevens and Kuhn, of Portland. In all likelihood the choice of an engineering firm will be between these two.

The contracts are very similar, all providing for a preliminary survey including an examination of the existing system and plans for placing it in first class condition. All the contracts also provide for educating the public to whatever system is decided on as the most feasible, the engineers agreeing to explain their plans at mass meetings and show slides illustrating the contemplated work.

The fees charged by the various firms are practically identical. A percentage basis is used in all cases. The percentage asked is five, the Burns and McDonald contract providing for no additional percentage for any amount over \$500,000, should the cost of the work exceed that sum, while no such provision is made in the Stevens and Kuhn contract. Also provides for no additional amount over the one-half of one per cent paid for the preliminary work should the funds necessary not be provided within two years.

Commissioner David I. Stoddard favored the Burns and McDonald contract and made a motion authorizing the city manager to accept that firm's contract for the preliminary survey, while Commissioner J. D. McKennon favored the Stevens and Kuhn contract, making a similar motion regarding that firm's contract.

President W. D. Grandy did not commit himself to any contract and, after some further discussion, the motions were withdrawn, the commission deciding to further investigate the contracts and the firms submitting them. A contract was also submitted by (Continued on page 8)

Clara Hamon Murder Trial Expected to go to Jury at 5 O'clock

JOE BEN CHAMPION, TWIN BROTHER OF JUDGE, CHARACTERIZES CLARA AS "INNOCENT COUNTRY GIRL."

ARDMORE, Okla., Mar. 17.—Clara Smith Hamon was acquitted by the jury late this afternoon, of the charge of murder.

Offered to Waive Argument.

ARDMORE, Mar. 17.—The defense counsel in the Clara Hamon murder trial began their argument this morning, after the judge had refused their offer to waive the right of argument. Joe Ben Champion, twin brother of the presiding judge, and arguing for Clara, characterized her as an "innocent country girl" whom Hamon had educated on the pretext that she was to be his stenographer, but really that he might lure her to yield to his physical brutality. The prospects at noon were that the case would reach the jury at 5 p. m.

KRONSTADT IS CAPTURED

RIGA, Russia, Mar. 17.—The mission here asserts that the Bolsheviks captured Kronstadt from the revolutionists on Wednesday night.

Strong Fire Opened. COPENHAGEN, Mar. 17.—The Bolshevik batteries opened a strong fire against Kronstadt yesterday, says a Helsinki dispatch. The Finnish refugees from Systerbark report that the Bolsheviks have been making extensive preparations for an attack on Kronstadt.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME TONIGHT

The championship basketball game in the city league will be played this evening at 8 o'clock, when the high school seniors will meet the Hall Room Boys. Neither of these teams has been defeated before, and a close game is expected tonight, the winner of which will be declared city champion.

At 8:15, the Puritan Squad will meet the Lumberjacks.

ANDREW BONAR LAW RESIGNS POSITION

LONDON, Mar. 17.—Andrew Bonar Law resigned today from the cabinet as Lord of Privy Seal, his resignation being due to ill health.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Tonight and Friday, occasional rains.

FEELING IS AT A HIGH PITCH OVER ALLEGED MURDER

WARSAW, Ind., Mar. 17.—Feeling is at high pitch as a result of the charge made by the authorities that Leroy Levitt was murdered by his friend and "double," Virgil Decker, who is held in jail, heavily guarded. The authorities charge that the plot was one to collect heavy insurance carried by Decker, but the latter maintains his innocence.

FLOOD WATERS ARISE ALONG WEST COAST

GRAIN FIELDS NEAR WALLA WALLA ARE DAMAGED.

Walla Walla, Mar. 17.—Flood waters have damaged the wheat fields east of here. Traffic on the interurban line has been suspended, owing to the high water in the streams threatening the bridges.

Willaumette River is At the Twelve-Foot Stage Today Noon—Rises 1.3 Feet in Four Hours.

Floods Follow Rains.

TACOMA, Mar. 17.—Floods are threatening southwestern Washington, following excessive rains.

Willaumette is Rising.

PORTLAND, Mar. 17.—The Willamette river is rising rapidly. It rose 1.3 feet from 8 a. m. to noon today, following a 3.9-foot rise yesterday. The present stage is 12 feet.

DECIDE ON IMPROVEMENTS

TWO IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS ARE CREATED.

Macadamizing, Cement Sidewalks, Graveling and Grading All Included in Plans.

A start in the spring's improvement program was made by the city commission last night when they created two improvement districts and granted another petition for grading and graveling under the plan adopted several weeks ago whereby the city does all the work and the property owners pay for the graveling, the actual cost of such work being charged up to them.

One of the improvement districts is along Oak street between Spring and O streets. A petition asking such district and having the road macadamized 24 feet in the center was presented to the commission a week ago but no action was taken at that time.

The other improvement district calls for cement sidewalks along the south side of Y street from the east line of Spruce to the east city limits. There is now no sidewalk in this section and residents reported last night that horse and buggy travel is uncertain during the winter along this street.

The other petition was from property owners on Second, between O and N. They ask that a strip 16 feet wide be graded and gravelled in the center of the street, as well as 12 approaches to the garages. The estimated cost of the graveling is 30 cents a running foot.

A communication was also read in the meeting from the brotherhood of railway and steamship clerks union, No. 475. The communication urged that the serious unemployment situation be relieved by the city taking immediate steps to get street and sewer work under way.

SUBMARINE STRIKES REEF; LANDS HIGH AND DRY ON ROCKS

WESTERLY, R. I., Mar. 17.—Submarine No. 2 struck a reef near here and went high and dry on the rocks. Lieutenant Farmer and the crew of officers remained aboard.

MRS. JONES MAY TESTIFY LATE TODAY

CHIN MON BILL TELLS HIS VERSION OF THE SLAYING OF JEU SHEU.

ALLEGES HE ACTED IN SELF DEFENSE ONLY

Dead Man Said to Have Been the Aggressor—Slain Man Alleged to Have Been Hop Sing Gun Man, With Two Notches in His Gun—Jury Inspects Scene of Crime.

Indications are that late this afternoon Mrs. Charlie Jones, charged jointly with Chin Mon Bill with first degree murder in connection with the slaying on December 19 of Jon Sheu, would go on the witness stand.

The largest crowd ever attending a trial in La Grande packed the circuit court room this afternoon when court convened at 2 o'clock, following an inspection by the jurors of the scene of the slaying of Jon Sheu. Probably 400 people were packed into the room, a large number of whom were forced to stand while they listened intently to the unfolding of the death tale by Chin Mon Bill, the accused Chinaman.

Chin denied getting any money for the ring, which it was alleged by the prosecution in its opening statement, was the cause of the fatal quarrel, but that another Chinaman had obtained money on it and given it to Mrs. Jones. Mrs. Jones gave the ring to "Louie," the Chinaman. Once she obtained \$100 and another time \$50 on it.

Chin Ho, the aged Chinese laundryman, was next called as a witness. He was busy working on the day of the tragedy, and paid little attention to what was going on, but heard that Jon Sheu was looking for Chin Bill. He admitted hiding Chin Bill's gun, Mrs. Jones throwing the gun on an ironing board as she entered, telling him to put it away.

At the opening of this morning's session, Mrs. Gertrude M. Taylor, of Portland, took the stand. She had known Jon Sheu for two years. Mrs. Taylor said that the dead man was known in his home community as a being of violent, belligerent and dangerous character. His reputation was bad, she added.

Sheu Always Carried Gun.

Mrs. Taylor further testified that she had seen Jon Sheu with a gun numerous times and later, when being cross-examined by F. S. Ivanhoe, said that he always carried a gun and that he was known as a gunman. At this time Mrs. Taylor also testified that Mrs. Jones had told her that Jon was "known to have killed two men in Frisco."

Continuing her testimony for the defense, Mrs. Taylor said that Jon Sheu was very much infatuated with Mrs. Jones and that he had said that he was afraid to be left alone with her for fear that he would kill her.

Jeu's infatuation led him to write Mrs. Taylor a letter telling her that she should tell Mrs. Jones that she should look out for him. Sheu said that he was going after her, and if he caught her with another Chinaman he would kill her. He was running away at the time, having escaped from the hospital where he was detained, having 20 days of his sentence to serve.

Jeu Sheu also got into a tangle with a Chinaman known as "Gold-tooth," in Portland, Mrs. Taylor testified. The "society" stopped the fight and prevented serious consequences.

Mrs. Jones did not desert her husband, Mrs. Taylor testified, but went to The Dalles because of illness in her family.

Sheu Was After Mrs. Jones. Mrs. Fern Carman, sister-in-law of Mrs. Jones, told how Jon Sheu came to her house in The Dalles on December 18, looking for Mrs. Jones and accused the latter of having stolen his trunk, suit case, automobile and "everything." He also said "I'm going to get her."

When Chin Bill, co-defendant with Mrs. Jones, took the witness stand shortly after the mid-morning recess, he told the jury that Jon Sheu had two killings to his credit and that he was a "first-class Hop Sing gunman." The two murders alleged to have been committed by the dead man were in California, the witness testified. One was the slaying of a man in Vallejo, California, while the other was a woman.

The latter was committed near Stockton, California, three or four years ago. (Continued on page 3)

