

THE POLK COUNTY POST

VOLUME 1.

(TWICE A WEEK.)

INDEPENDENCE, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1919.

(TWICE A WEEK.)

NUMBER 58.

MURDER AND SUICIDE; LENA BROWN KILLED

When George Jones went to the home of his sister-in-law, Miss Lena Brown, seven miles southwest of Independence, on last Saturday morning to ascertain why she had not appeared at his home for two days, he found the bodies of Miss Brown and Melvin C. Spores, a neighbor, in the sitting room of her home. Both had been shot several times thru the breast and after the arrival of the corner and other officers it was soon ascertained that Spores had brutally murdered Miss Brown and then killed himself. The murder and suicide must have occurred sometime the preceding Thursday. Spores still held the gun in his hand. In his pockets two notes were found. One addressed to Miss Brown said: "I have gotten a divorce from my wife and now you come through and marry me." The other stated: "I killed Lena Brown and am going to kill myself."

Miss Brown, age 28, owned a small farm near the home of her sister, Mrs. George Jones, and spent the nights with the latter. She was also a sister of Mrs. H. Harmon of the same neighborhood, and her mother also lived with the daughters. Miss Brown was quite well known in this section, being often seen on the highways riding some high spirited horse with grace and ease. She was immensely fond of horses. Miss Brown also specialized in Jersey cattle.

Spores, who came to the locality recently from Portland, was living on a farm belonging to John Moran, close to the farm of Miss Brown. He at one time was quite well to do, living in Lane county, and has two brothers. His wife resides in Portland and was seeking a divorce. After the murder his relatives disowned him, but his wife had the body buried in Portland.

Spores' infatuation for Miss Brown was a great surprise to the community for their acquaintances are confident that no closer tie existed than that common to neighbors. If Spores sought Miss Brown in secret and forced his attentions upon her it is not generally known.

The evidence that Spores committed the murder is too plain to justify any suspicion otherwise.

SALEM ROAD IS A DISTINCT PROJECT

There appears to be some misapprehension regarding the improvement of the Dallas-Salem road, according to later advices regarding the action of the state highway commission. The state engineer, instead of having been instructed to prepare plans for the paving of this highway was instructed to petition the federal government for co-operation with the state in building a post road from Salem westward about seven miles to the intersection of the Independence-Salem road with the Salem-Dallas road. In this action the commissioners were unanimous. If the federal government cooperates this stretch of the road will be paid for in equal amounts by the government and the state, the latter contributing funds for the sale of bonds under the Bean-Barrett act. The commission favors the construction of this section of the road as proposed, without regard to future legislative appropriation.

Under these circumstances and conditions the improvement of the Dallas-Salem road as outlined should not interfere with or retard the early completion of the west side Pacific highway, which was provided for and made of primary importance by legislative action. This trunk highway is necessarily an inter-county road in which Polk, Yamhill, Benton, Lane and other western counties thru which the highway is laid are vitally interested, and to stop its construction for local consideration does not appear to be the purpose of the commission. Should the federal government approve the plan as requested by the commission, and the improvement work progresses as outlined thru the several counties of the coast country, Dallas would not only get the benefit of the main trunk line connection at Rickreall—for the commission will doubtless build by this route—but an improved roadway from this city to Rickreall, and thence to the state capital over the post road. The intervening few miles from Brunk's corner to Rickreall would certainly be cared for, and the pavement would be brought into Dallas, according to the provision of the bill.

The county of Polk would not be called upon to supply funds for the preparation of the grade on the proposed post road, and hence would be free to employ its money, approximately \$9,000, for the grading of the main highway wherever the commission may designate. The statement made last week by The Observer, that the Dallas-Salem road was to have right of way over every other proposed betterment, seems to be at variance with the facts. It is known that the commission is anxious to get the highway south from Independence in shape for hard surface, this connecting link in the trunk line southward, and it is probable that if the county is unable to meet the demand for funds to complete the grading, the commission may lend a hand.

Much speculation will be put at rest by the action of the legislative assembly, which will be asked to give additional power to the commission in the matter of locating highways. But whatever action is taken by the legislative body, the plans for the improvement south from Rickreall will unquestionably stand unchanged.—Polk County Observer.

The Nation "Dry" Hops Remain "Wet"

The nation has gone "dry" by nearly the unanimous action of the 48 states in ratifying the constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors within the United States of America beginning Jan. 16, 1920. It can be accurately prophesied that it will be a long time "dry" for as it took 36 of the 48 states to change it from "wet" to "dry" so will it take 36 of the 48 states to change it from "dry" to "wet." Among the so-called intoxicating liquors coming under prohibition is beer and the chief use of hops is for the brewing of beer.

One would have supposed that when the manufacture and making of beer had been prohibited by constitutional provision that the market price of hops would have fallen to such a low figure as to make them valueless and their growing profitless. But there was no decline in hop prices, in fact there has been an incline. The foreign demand for hops is so great as to create a market for this year's crop at a good price. Even three year contracts are being offered at a price over twenty cents.

How many years this foreign demand will continue no one cares to surmise. It is reasonable to assume that after two years the raising of hops will be resumed in Belgium, France, Germany and Austria. Will there will be sufficient acreage in these countries to supply the world with beer hops? Not likely, and it looks as tho American hops will be in demand as long as any portion of the world remains "wet."

"FLU" BAN TO BE LIFTED

There are but a few cases of influenza remaining within the city and if there are no new ones in the meantime, it is the opinion of those in authority that the churches may resume their regular services on Feb. 2 and the schools begin on the following Monday. The Isis will begin Saturday night, February 1. It is thought now that the disease may be carried by a convalescent for ten days after the fever is broken. Acting under this theory, every precaution will be taken to prevent convalescents from leaving their homes until the expiration of that period.

Restrictions have been removed on pool halls and usual business conditions are prevailing.

A third wave of the epidemic has struck some places in the East. There is no doubt that the disease will not be entirely stamped out until Summer. In most cases those who have had it once are immune to subsequent attacks. It is yet pretty much a mystery to the medical world.

THE RHYMING SUMMARIST

No party fetes nor school or church
While the town's been fluing
And long as the germies stick around
Not a darn thing doing.
It may be "grip" with a fancy name
But many are confessing
That in its place
They'd rather face
Well, itch would be a blessing.

Since King Hoover no longer reigns
Eatings not a fake,
Some day soon it will taste as good
As Cora Hubbard's cake;
One by one the boys come home
Forsaking army treading
And every girl
With heart awhirl
Figures on her wedding.

The rain comes down in sheets of wind
And seeps in from the ceiling,
The wall paper maw put on
Begins of course its peeling;
The old Willamette has riz and riz
Its's what might be called a hummer,
The water now
We're thinking how
To save it for the summer.

The world wags on as it always does
No chance of changing nature,
It can't be done by mortal man
Or act of legislature;
But the place in which we live
Is subject to improving,
So let us try
To ride on high,
Keep the old town moving.

ABRAHAM NELSON, PIONEER, CALLED AWAY

"He giveth His beloved sleep."

So it was that Abraham Nelson passed into that eternal sleep Monday, Jan. 20. A sleep beautiful and calm without even a trace of pain, senility being the direct cause of the passing. His eighty years here had been full of good works, his was a life of peace and plenty. A man strong in his convictions with many friends who knew that he always stood for the right, he was recognized as an important factor in the formation of public affairs. At one time he was a regent of the Monmouth State Normal and he was a member of the local school board for years, serving in that capacity when the present public school building was erected.

Abraham Nelson was born in Van Buren county, Iowa, October 29, 1839. When but a young man of twenty five like many other ambition youths acquired a "Western fever" and crossed the plains with an ox team coming to Idaho in 1864. But in his dreams it was still better farther on for two years before Miss Sarah Henkle had gone to California and engaged in teaching the youngsters of the Golden West. This same bewitching young lady, who had played on his heart strings back in Iowa, was there and young Abraham cared not how long and winding the trail might be, so in '66 he came with his possessions to Independence living on the farm now occupied by Allen K. Chase. On November 20, 1867, the pretty romance culminated at Hymen's altar when Miss Sarah E. Henkle became the bride of Abraham Nelson. They lived on this same farm for sixteen years when they moved to their farm home on the outskirts of Independence. In 1916 they retired from the activities of farm life and moved to their home on Monmouth street.

On November 20, 1917, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson celebrated their golden wedding. During the afternoon amid a host of friends and a bower of golden-hued chrysanthemums the couple sat before the hearth. The glow of the fire place smiled on their faces as they passed thru the dreams of their younger and more romantic days and imaged a scene of tranquility and profound repose. Both expressed to friends that "it did not seem they had been married so long."

On account of health regulations, the funeral was private, being conducted at the home Wednesday, Dr. Dunsmore paying a pretty tribute to the departed. They carried the body to the I. O. O. F. cemetery and left it in a peaceful spot where the boughs of trees rustle in the Summer and the birds sing sweetly all day long. As friends gathered round the flower-covered tomb, as their thoughts teemed with the assurances of immortality, then with tranquil and submissive hearts they turned away and left their loved one with God.

Besides his widow Mr. Nelson is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Della Nelson Butler, wife of Dr. O. D. Butler, one son, Ross, one grandson, Dr. Maurice Butler of Monmouth and one great-grandson, Master Marlo Dole Butler, one brother residing in Kansas and five sisters, four of whom are in Iowa and one in California. V. S.

DEATH ENDS LIFE OF SUFFERING

James Stalnaker, a resident of North Independence, died one day last week thus ending a life of suffering due to blindness and poverty. He has a number of children among them being Harry H., a member of Co. L., reported wounded in action.

MRS. FRED REECE DEAD

Mrs. Fred Reece, for many years a resident of Independence, died at her home in this city the first of the week of dropsy, an ailment she has suffered for many months.

CIVIC CLUB LOOKS AHEAD TO FEB. 22

The "flu" has gone on its ways upsetting the plans of organizations. Wednesday, Jan. 29, was red letter day for federated clubs and each club was expected to raise money in some way for the scholarship loan fund. However, with rigid restrictions on, no benefits could be given. With February, the month of holidays, approaching, plans are being made for a big "jollification" by the Civic Club and Liberty Chorus. Dr. Butler of the Board of Health states that by Feb. 22, he was sure it would be safe to plan a large gathering. As this date has grown to be an annual event with the club and as the members are eager to start a memorial fund for our soldiers and sailors, this date will be chosen and it is hoped to give something the general public will enjoy after so many weeks of retirement.

ROBBED THE BELGIAN BABIES

One night recently somebody stole the Belgian Baby Funds in Independence. This money was being collected in two milk bottles stationed in front of Williams' drug store.

Priscilla Dean in the dramatic production, "Brazen Beauty" at the Isis Saturday night, Feb. 1.