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INDEPENDENCE, OREGON, FEBRUARY 20, 1920.

CLYDE T. ECKER, PUBLISHER

EX-INDEPENDENCE MAN KILLS WIFE AND SELF

Russell Clark, a former resident of Independence, shot his wife and killed himself in Portland Tuesday in a very sensational manner. The details of the crime and tragedy are taken from the Portland Journal:

"Dad, I tried, honestly I did. God forgive me, and I know you and mother will—Russell."

The above, written on a post card and mailed to Matt Clark, a broker in the Railway Exchange building, was the last message left by his son, Russell Clark, supposed wife-slayer.

After probably half a dozen attempts at ending his life, Clark shot himself through the right temple shortly before noon Tuesday.

He was found in a dying condition in a room at the Oregon hotel, by Deputy Sheriffs Christofferson and Beckman. He died at St. Vincent's hospital at 3:45 o'clock, without regaining consciousness. His father and mother were at his deathbed.

Mrs. Russell Clark, his wife, was found dead at the Clark home, Clarkhurst farm, two miles northeast of the Twelve Mile roadhouse, Monday night at 6 o'clock. It is believed she was killed Monday morning about 9 o'clock by Clark, who then proceeded to the city, leaving instructions that his wife was not to be disturbed.

The 18 hour search for Clark ended with the discovery of the dying man by the deputy sheriffs. His wound was bound up and he was rushed to the hospital in an attempt to save his life, but the efforts were in vain.

Deputy District Attorney Earl Bernard visited the hospital in the afternoon in an attempt to secure an ante-mortem statement from the slayer concerning the affair, but the man never regained consciousness. His eyes were wide open and he groaned continuously but no intelligible words were uttered. He seemed to be in great pain, and the chloroform which he had evidently drunk was nauseating.

The worry and mental struggle of the past 26 hours, during which time he had tried repeatedly to kill himself, showed plainly on his face. He had suffered untold horrors during that time when he knew that he must die, but evidently revolted against the thought.

Clark had apparently fired the shot into his right temple about two hours before he was found. Indications were that he had also used a bottle of chloroform, which he had purchased on Monday afternoon.

The gun he used, the report of which is said not to have been heard by anyone in the hotel, was not the same weapon with which Clark is supposed to have killed his wife, but was almost identical and was of the same calibre.

Before entering the room Christofferson pushed the transom open and saw the blood covered sheets. He then broke open the door.

Clark rented the room at 4:30 p. m. Monday and signed the name of Lawrence McGinnis or McGee, of Seattle, on the register. Clerks at the hotel declare he did not leave the room after that time Monday.

At 10 o'clock Tuesday morning he called for a half grapefruit for his breakfast. The bellboy told the officers Clark was walking around the room at that time.

The officers also found an empty chloroform bottle, purchased at the Jones drug store. Clark tried to buy strychnine at the Nau pharmacy, stating that he desired to kill a dog. When the clerk told him that would be too cruel a method, he asked for chloroform and was given it.

Clark had arranged the bath towels and carpets in the bathroom to form a bed, and from appearances attempted suicide there by drinking the chloroform.

An all morning search on King's Heights resulted from the receipt by Chief of Police Jenkins of the following postal:

"I have killed myself up on King's Heights. Clark."

Deputy sheriffs and police detectives immediately rushed to the summit of the hills, and made a thorough search of the woods.

A bank book was found in Clark's possession showing that since January 21 he had deposited \$30,000 in the First National bank.

TWO RUSSELL CLARKS

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Clark, victims of the tragedy, have not been residents of Independence for over six years. Another Russell Clark has also lived in Independence. He entered the service and upon his return about a year ago, went to Portland to live.

The search on the heights was abandoned when a bottle of laudanum, another of chloroform and a towel and some cotton were found about 100 yards west of an old real estate office some distance from the Pittock home.

Clark visited his father about 11 o'clock Monday, and borrowed \$10 from him. The father says that his son betrayed no especial emotion at the time.

From there Clark proceeded to the Farnk Nau drug store, Fifth and Alder streets. At about the time Clark left the drug store, with a bottle of chloroform, he posted a card to the chief of police, bearing the cryptic message, "I have killed myself up on King's Heights. Clark."

From the drug store, he drove his machine to the Olds, Wortman & King department store, where he bought some cotton and a large towel. Then he is believed to have proceeded to the top of King's Heights in his automobile.

A bottle of laudanum and their all empty bottle of chloroform were found a short distance from the Henry L. Pittock house on the heights. Indications were that Clark had tried to kill himself by chloroform, but had evidently become violently sick and given up the attempt.

Following his failure, Clark drove back to Portland and left his car at the corner of Stark and Park streets.

He then mailed the final postal to his father, the card bearing the postmark of Station E, 4:30, February 16.

Shortly after that he engaged the room at the Oregon, signing the name of Lawrence McGee of Seattle. He attempted to disguise his handwriting, but the nervousness was apparent.

Clerks at the hotel declare that he staggered slightly, as though drunk. This is thought to have been from the effects of the chloroform. At 11 o'clock Tuesday morning a representative of The Journal inquired whether Clark had registered at the hotel. The signature of the man in room 330 appearing suspicious, a bellboy was dispatched to the room, and reported that the man was walking around, evidently dressing. It was undoubtedly shortly after that Clark fired the shot which ended his life. Deputy Sheriffs Christofferson and Beckman, making an investigation of the hotels, noted the same signature on the hotel register, and determined to visit the room personally.

A noise closely resembling that of a man snoring came from the room, and they were about to leave, when Christofferson hoisted himself and looked through the transom. Clark was lying in a puddle of blood on the bed. The deputy sheriffs entered the room, and the police were notified.

Appearances in the room gave rise to the conjecture that Clark had attempted to kill himself many times during the night and morning. Chloroform was spilled in a corner of the bathroom.

At 10 o'clock Tuesday morning he ordered some grapefruit sent to his room, and indications are that he tried to take the poison with the fruit. A towel saturated with chloroform, was found in the room. He had evidently tried to wrap it around his head and die from the strong effects of the drug. In this he was unsuccessful.

He finally crawled into bed, pulled the covers about him so as to muffle the explosion, and pulled the trigger. The bullet lodged in his head near the brain.

The theory that Clark had been found out in a possible attempt to get away with a large sum of money, was advanced by his partner, F. E. Manchester, and District Attorney Evans Tuesday afternoon, on discovery that Clark had drawn some \$35,000 or \$45,000 within a few days. It was intimated further that other sums gained through advances on automobile contracts for machines to be delivered later might be involved in the affair.

(Continued on Page 4.)

SUNDAY AND MONDAY, FEB. 22-23
(Including Sunday Matinee)

GRACE DAVISON

and

CONWAY TEASLE

in

"ATONEMENT"

To live, to love, to feel the treasures of life slipping from our foolish grip—that is anguish; but to live to love, to hold within our hand the reins of our life is joy. "Atonement" shows both the anguish and the joy of life. It is the story of a woman who forgave but could not forget, of a man who was tempted—who thought he had reached the depths of despair—but found that a second chance had been given him, and he devoted his life to righting the wrong he had never committed.

Comedy

"SKATE AT SEA"

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24-25

DOROTHY PHILLIPS

in

"PAID IN ADVANCE"

A gripping picture of the frozen North, written by the famous author, James Oliver Curwood and staged regardless of expense amid marvellous mountain scenery. The dramatic story of a girl who was snowed in at a lawless mining camp and had to make a great decision. Played by the dazzling star of "The Heart of Humanity" in a way you'll never forget.

Comedy

"SEEING THINGS"

International News

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, FEB. 26-27

TAYLOR HOLMES

in

"NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH"

If he told the truth for a week he would win his bet of \$30,000. It is a merry farce that produces gales of laughter likely to carry off the theatre. The first nighters do not stop laughing when the play is over. It contains an entirely original idea and is developed along the lines of the greatest number of laughs.

L-KO COMEDY

"It's A Bird"

SATURDAY, FEB. 28

FANNIE WARD

in

"THE CRY OF THE WEAK"

triumph of emotional continuity with action so swift, so skillfully knit and sustained in its suspense as to grip the interest of the beholder from the beginning until the high-pitched dramatic climax at the end which trembles on the brink of tragedy. The picture brings out the theory that one-half the crimes committed are really vengeance against the harshness of society.

"HEROLD LLOYD COMEDY

"Swing Your Partners"

Ford Weekly

ISIS THEATRE INDEPENDENCE

COMPANY K NOTES, N. G. O.

Don't forget that Friday, the 27th day of February, is inspection night and it is absolutely essential that all members be in attendance on that night. If you are not present on the above date, we will not be responsible for what may happen to you later.

Lieutenant Guy A. Newton received notice from headquarters that owing to an "athletic" heart it would be necessary to relieve him from military duty. The Company is losing a very efficient officer and

it will be found hard to fill his shoes.

At an election held this evening, Louis A. Seaggle, one of our ambitious young farmers south of town, was chosen to succeed Lieutenant Newton and we believe he will come nearer filling the bill than anyone else in this territory that is qualified and willing to accept the position. He has had considerable experience overseas as a drill master and the Company is to be congratulated.

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A FREAK SURE 'NOUGH

This has certainly been a freak of a winter for Oregon. First, a spell in December that made Minnesota and Wisconsin green with envy, and now when it ought to be raining for the best interests of health, crops, etc., there is no rain.

FIVE HOMES GRIEF STRICKEN WHEN LOVED ONES PASS

Clyde W. Beckett

Clyde W. Beckett, former assessor and later commissioner of Polk county, died at his home in West Salem last Saturday. He was 59 years old.

Mabel Boydston Ridgeway

The death of Mrs. Mabel Boydston Ridgeway, wife of William Ridgeway, at her home in Dallas Thursday evening has caused the entire town to mourn and all hearts to weep because of the passing of an universally respected and loved one called away in the bloom of womanhood.

Mrs. Ridgeway is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Boydston of this city. She grew to womanhood here. About four years ago she was married to Prof. Ridgeway, now principal of the high school in Dallas where they have since made their home.

Mrs. Ridgeway was a victim of the prevailing epidemic and had only been sick a little more than a week when the end came. However, her death was not a surprise as nurses and attending physicians had thought recovery was hardly possible. As she passed to realms beyond with her went the spirit of a little one in embryo who would soon have been a prattling youngster in its mother's arms. Mrs. Ridgeway was demure and unassuming but always won her way into the heart of those who knew her. She loved music and was a splendid performer and will no doubt continue her music in the Heavenly orchestra.

The memory of the beautiful young woman will forever have an influence in the world. In the lines of Coleridge:

"Ere sin could blight or sorrow fade,
Death came with friendly care
The opening bud to heaven conveyed
And bade it blossom there."

Mrs. Ridgeway was twenty six years of age. She is survived by her husband and one child. At this time no funeral arrangements have been made.

Mrs. E. L. Kilen

Mrs. E. L. Kilen, wife of the cashier of the First National Bank of Monmouth, passed away at her home in that city last Sunday evening. Mrs. Kilen had been an invalid for a number of years. Her remains were taken to Portland for cremation. At the time of her death she was forty years old.

Loy Gladys Sloper

Last Thursday Loy Gladys, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Sloper, passed away at her home, after a lingering illness. But a short time ago her parents took her to Portland where she might have the care of specialists, but all that medical skill could do was without avail and when just a bud she was taken from this earth to bloom in a fairer world. At the time of her death she was twelve years, 11 months and 25 days old. Dr. H. C. Dunsmore will conduct the funeral services from the family residence on Third street Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. Interment will be made at the L. O. O. F. cemetery.

Mrs. Kate Bevins

Mrs. Kate Bevins died in Oregon City this week of a chronic ailment. The funeral and burial will take place at Buena Vista where she lived for a number of years.

THIS WEEK FIVE YEARS AGO IN SOUTH POLK COUNTY

(From the Independence Monitor February 19, 1915)

Missall & Knapp sell their clothing store.

The Podunk Limited arrived and departed.

Ben C. Crow made his farewell appearance at the Christian church.

Camp Fire Girls organized in Independence with Lola Morgan, president; Hazel Calbreath, secretary and Leona Gaines, treasurer.

CRACKSMEN VISIT MONMOUTH BANK

Last Tuesday night the exterior of the First National Bank of Monmouth looked so good to burglars they decided at once to explore the interior. After entering the banking room they tackled the old vault where the books are kept. That day, however, as E. S. Kilen, cashier of the bank, was leaving for Portland with the remains of his wife, he had thought of their silverware, and hesitating to leave it and other valuables about the house, he had deposited them in this vault for safe keeping. The burglars, however, made a get-away with them, the loss being about \$375. They also took bonds to the amount of \$1,500, which belonged to Miss Todd, a Normal instructor. These bonds were \$1000 in Idaho Highway bonds, and \$500 had been issued by a Beaver Falls, Penn., Electric Co.

The cracksmen were very neat about their work and left no litter, hence the robbery was not discovered until after 9 o'clock the next morning, when officials entered the vault for books. The "nitro" used to blow off the vault door lock brought no loud explosions to arouse the peaceful citizens of Monmouth and the burglars made a safe retreat, without making a haul on the money vault. Sheriff Orr has thoroughly investigated the case but has no satisfactory solution.

DR. A. SLAUGHTER OF SALEM NOT GUILTY OF SYNDICALISM

SALEM, Or.—Dr. A. Slaughter, Salem chiropractic, was given a clean bill by Justice Unruh here Wednesday afternoon, following a preliminary hearing on a charge of violating the state syndicalism act. Judge Unruh held that, although Dr. Slaughter probably was in sympathy with the teachings of the Communist Labor party, he was not actually a member of that organization, and consequently could not be held liable for the radicalism of that body. Dr. Slaughter was defended by L. H. McMahan, who denounced the Democratic party and declared openly that he himself was a radical and favored some drastic changes in the governmental machinery.

TO ORGANIZE BALL TEAM W. R. MAILLIE MANAGER

A meeting was held this evening for the purpose of organizing a base ball team to represent Independence on the diamond this summer. W. R. Maillie, an old base ballist, was offered the place of manager. He will accept, at least temporarily.

There is much available timber in this section for a good ball team, including two or three players who have been in the leagues. From the bunch the experienced Mr. Maillie will be able to pick a team that will be one of the top ones among the amateur teams of the Willamette valley.

NEW REAL ESTATE FIRM STARTS BUSINESS CAREER

E. E. Tripp and Peter Kurre, pioneer real estate men of this city, opened a new office in the Barnett building on Main street. They intend to do a general real estate and insurance business.

P. O. POWELL CANDIDATE FOR POLK REPRESENTATIVE

P. O. Powell, an influential farmer living near Monmouth, will be a candidate on the Republican ticket for representative. Mr. Powell has many friends in this section who will be pleased to support his candidacy.

INDEPENDENCE IS PRAISED FOR RED CROSS SEAL SALE

Mrs. Clyde Ecker—The remittance of the Treasurer, Mrs. Jennie Cooper, of \$42.77 has reached this office. We are deeply appreciative of the work that you and your club and those associated with you have done in the matter of the seal sale in Independence. I note the write-up in your paper. It is the kind of publicity that we desire. I believe the

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