

## ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST FROM THE COMMUNITIES ABOUT ONTARIO

### SOUGHT REVENGE BY BURNING BARN

**SHEEP HERDER BELIEVED TO BE GUILTY OF MANY CRIMES IN JORDAN VALLEY.**

### CAPTURED ONCE BUT ESCAPED

**Woodhounds Placed on Trial of Jim Courdet Who is Hiding in Mountains Eluding Posse—Letter Leads to Suspicion.**

(Jordan Valley Express)

Laying bare a carnival of crime which has aroused the people of Jordan Valley the Jordan Valley Express tells the following story which would furnish ample material for the wildest wild west moving picture scenario:

When the big stone barn on the Duncan ranch was burned a few weeks ago it was generally supposed that the fire was accidental. Shortly after the calamity which cost him eight good horses and a lot of harness, machinery, etc., A. H. Groth received a letter telling him to "Go ahead and work hard and put up your hay; it will go up in smoke the same as your barn did."

This letter was unsigned, but was evidently, in the same handwriting as a threatening letter previously received by Mr. Groth and signed by Jim Courdet, a Frenchman who had worked for Groth some years ago and with whom he had had some trouble.

Mr. Groth brought these letters to town and exhibited them to the authorities. Courdet had been seen in this vicinity about the time of the fire and Deputy Sheriff Mumford was soon on his trail, which led over the line into Idaho. Securing the assistance of Sheriff Rock of Owyhee county, the man was followed to a ranch over at Three creek, in the southern part of Owyhee, where he was captured.

Returning, the party was within four miles of Silver City, last Sunday evening, when their car went to the bad and they stopped at a convenient camp for the night. Officers and prisoner were sleeping in a tent, the latter with Sheriff Rock, when the prisoner made an excuse to get up—and that was the last seen of him.

Unable to get trace of their man, bloodhounds were brought from Nampa, but seemed unable to get a definite scent to follow, and the officers were obliged to take up the chase unaided by the dogs.

The burning of the barn is only one of many crimes charged to the fugitive. Mr. Groth lost nearly all his horses a year or two ago, presumably from rabies, but it is now thought they were poisoned by his vengeful enemy. After the late fire Groth thought he still had one horse left, a two-year-old filly out on the range, but this animal was found dead a few days later, presumably poisoned.

Supplies have arrived for the post-office at the Duncan ranch, on the river. There was an office at that point some years ago. Mr. A. H. Groth is the new postmaster. They call the office "Rome." Just why it was given such an imposing and misfit name our reporter has been unable to learn.

Arthur Dunning's ranch is the scene of much merrymaking, along with the haymaking these days.

Among those present are: Misses Alice and Ethel Fenwick, Ernest Fenwick, Hank Ballard and Pat O'Keefe, Miss Ruby Fenwick and Mrs. Jim Parks joined the bunch yesterday.

Mr. H. B. Waters of Boise, sales manager for the Electrical Investment company of Idaho, was here Wednesday looking over the field with a view to the extension of his company's power lines from DeLamar to this city. Mr. Waters had visited the South mountain mining districts and the new camp on Boulder creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Kohout and daughter, Katherin, returned Wednesday evening from a two-week's outing at the coast. They came home in a splendid car, '17 model, and were accompanied by M. E. Bain, late publisher and editor of the Ontario Argus, who will visit here for a short time.

Jess Roberts has almost completely recovered from the case of blood poison in his left arm, and will soon leave to resume his duties as foreman at the Circle Bar ranch.

Bob and Alice McDonnell came up from their home on the Owyhee last Friday evening and spent Saturday with their parents. Miss Alice will teach the school at the Azucenaga ranch this coming season.

G. A. Newman, prominent stockman of McDermitt, F. R. Sprague, cashier of the Quinn river bank in that bustling burg, Frank Bengoa, owner of the Oregon Canyon ranch, and Sekundo Achabal came in Tuesday evening on a business visit.

Mrs. McCain and son, Tom, started Tuesday morning for Corvallis, to arrange a home for the fall and winter term of school. They will be joined about the middle of September by Miss Ila, Ernest and Cecil. The young folk will attend school.

Mrs. C. D. Joslyn, after a brief visit with her son and his family, left Tuesday morning for her home in Portland.

Miss Ruby Fenwick is now in the city. She will have charge of the primary department in the schools this fall and winter.

F. B. Cross came out from his ranch in the Junipers Tuesday and left for the nearest car-line point, on his way to Boise on business.

Mrs. Hansen went to Poverty Flat yesterday after her children, Weldon and Fern, who have been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Prince Hardisty.

Riley Horn came in Sunday evening, accompanied by his chief expert roper, Jess Griffith, to fill out his crew for the big fall round-up, which will begin on the 27th.

### VALLEY VIEW.

Miss Hannah Brown visited her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood, for a few days last week.

Mrs. T. J. Johnson is able to be out again after a two weeks illness.

Thomas Kennedy and family have moved into the Woods house, recently vacated by the W. Blakely family.

Miss Christine Frasier spent Saturday night and Sunday visiting Miss Divade Taylor.

Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Brown were visitors at W. E. Brown's last Saturday.

Last Saturday Calvin Taylor and mother, Mrs. Taylor, and sister, Mrs. McElhenry, of Oklahoma, went to Cambridge, Idaho, for a few days visit.

Chas. Johnson is suffering from an attack of rheumatism.

Last Wednesday fifty four happy ranchers met at the W. G. Armstrong ranch, with well filled baskets, ice cream freezers, etc. The occasion was a farewell reception to Rev. C. E. Pratt and family. Everyone pres-

ent had a jolly good time, and regretted when home going time arrived. The residents of Valley View are hoping Brother Pratt may be with them for another year.

Little Jimmie Frasier is on the sick list again.

W. T. Penn spent Sunday at the Moffett ranch near Arcadia.

Mrs. T. D. Downs called on Mrs. Parsons Saturday morning.

Rev. C. E. Pratt and family visited Valley View friends a few days last week.

Last Friday W. S. Rees and family took a trip over into Idaho, going up Little Willow, crossing the divide and returning by the way of Big Willow. They found it very dry thru that part of the country with short crops and little dry farming. Oregon's alfalfa fields looked good to them upon their return.

Rev. P. Koenig will have charge of the church services Sunday, September 3.

### DEAD OX FLAT.

August 29.—The home of Grandma Lias on Thursday, August 24 was the scene of a happy birthday party. It was Grandma's—she does not want-me-to-tell-birthday and relatives from Payette came out to make her happy. And they did.

Ice cream and cake, pumpkin pie, and many other good things helped to make the occasion an enjoyable one. The manifestation of love and affection by her estimable daughters and son made the day a happy one for grandma.

Grandma still returns youth and activity of both mind and body and though not as young as she used to be she still seems much of the joys of life for which to live.

Chas. Herr's birthday falls on the 24th day of August also, and he was presented with one of Grandma Lias' famous pumpkin pies.

Miss Jessie Lias left Sunday for Trinidad, Colorado, to resume her duties in the high school of that city where she teaches languages. Her sister, Agnes, who visited her mother here earlier in the season and went on to California to attend summer normal is back in Trinidad preparing for the school opening.

August 29.—A surprise party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gual last Saturday evening in honor of Mrs. Gaul's birthday. Some 20 odd neighbors and friends gathered in and a general good time resulted.

Chas. Kerr and family visited with Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Langley Sunday.

Chas. Lias, mother and sister, joined the excursion to Smith's Ferry Sunday and reported an enjoyable time.

Mrs. Bigelow of Moscow, Idaho, has been at the home of Chas. Herr the past week inspecting her land. Mr. Kerr has had under management the past season. Instead of sage brush she found corn, wheat and barley covering almost the entire 120 acres in his charge. She was highly pleased with the results. She returned home Monday.

Threshing is in full blast on the flat now. There are three outfits at work and the job will not last long this year.

The little 25 inch Case of C. O. Douglas driven by his gas tractor has been proven a grand success and has been busy ever since it arrived.

Mrs. John Underwood called at the Chas. Herr home Sunday during their absence.

Mrs. Welch, who was cooking for C. O. Douglas, returned to her husband in Seattel recently and C. O. is again without a cook.

Robt. Raney and his son-in-law, Herbert Thomas, are busy with a heading outfit trying to keep out of the way of Douglas' thresher.

In the fair premium list the following premiums offered by the Woman's club of Ontario was inadvertently omitted—For the best display of purple asters: First, \$2.00, \$1.00. The entries for this prize may be made thru department "R"

School books are sold strictly cash only. adv

Our supply of school books and tablets are larger than ever. Our values this year are really great and particularly in quality. Everhart Drug Co. adv

### MISS ESTELLE CURREY

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# 7th Annual Malheur County Agricultural Fair

## Sept. 19-20-21-22

### Fastest Harness Races Ever Held in Snake River Valley

Twelve entries for the 2:10 pace

Six entries for the 2:14 trot

15 horses from California, 12 horses from Montana, 6 from Colorado, also others from Alberta, Utah, Idaho Washington, Oregon and Wyoming.

Over fifty entries in 2:20 class. Also fastest running races ever given here with many entries in each race

Novelty races will be pulled off between the main harness and saddle races.

Something doing every minute from the sound of the first gong to the last

State will make Fish and Game exhibit, said to be the best in the United States.

Stockmen are going to have more and better animals than ever shown before.

Fruit, grains and vegetables will be there in abundance showing what Malheur county can do in an off year

The ladies are especially interested this year and have been working so they can excell all past displays.



Scene from "The Yankee Girl" at the Dreamland Saturday, Sept. 2nd.