

# THE STAYTON MAIL

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## Fearful Tragedy

### Four Persons Near Macleay Murdered and Bodies Burned

On the Hurst farm, near Macleay, Sunday night, four persons met death, and their taking off is shrouded in mystery. The persons were Mrs. Casteel, aged about 50, her son, age 22, and daughter, age 24, and Mont Montgomery, foreman of the farm, aged about 50. Their charred remains were found and identified in the ashes of the house, all except Montgomery appearing to have died in bed. His remains were found in the kitchen near the stove, and his suspender and belt buckles found indicate that he was dressed when the affair occurred, which was between nine and ten o'clock at night.

The sheriff and his deputies were on the ground the morning following the tragedy with blood hounds, but could find no clue.

A small bank was found outside the house, broken open. Also a double-barrelled breech loading shot gun was found in the yard, with the breech open and unexploded shells in the barrels. The gun was rusty and had not been fired for some time. Loaded shells were scattered about the yard. Montgomery's pocket-book, containing \$60, a bloody sock supposed to belong to him and a bloody hatchet, with a few short gray hairs clinging to it were found in the yard.

The Casteels first came to Myrtle Creek from Indian Territory. Residing there for a time they rented the Hurst place near Macleay. It is said that Mrs. Casteel's husband died three years ago, and that she was soon to marry Montgomery, who had been with the family 20 years. Also the daughter was engaged to marry a young man of Myrtle Creek, the event to take place Christmas. This gentleman states that the small bank found was Miss Casteel's, and that she had about \$90 in it.

Mr. Hurst, the owner of the farm where the murders occurred, and who now lives at Myrtle Creek, states that Mrs. Casteel should have had about \$7,000. He advised her when they left Myrtle Creek to deposit it with Ladd & Bush.

But for the fact of the gun and the broken and rifled bank being found, the crime might be laid to Montgomery, but these would indicate the deed to have been committed by others. He is said to have been deeply attached to the family. The most probable theory seems to be that the parties who committed the deed were aware of the woman having money, as she was commonly reputed to be well off, and that robbery was attempted, terminating in the greater crime of murder. The loaded gun points to the belief that Montgomery made an attempt to shoot the murderers and was himself shot, and was either carried or crawled into the house after it was fired. However, there are many theories, and the cause of these people's death may always remain a mystery.

### Jason Wheeler Dead.

Jason Wheeler, of Albany, died Tuesday morning of paralysis, was 84 years of age and one of the state's leading citizens. He was born in Ohio, Aug. 4, 1823, and came to Oregon in 1847, being one of the earliest settlers in this section. After the immigrant party landed at Oregon City, in company with Governor Abernethy, he traveled into Linn county, and settled on a donation land claim of 640 acres near Peterson's butte.

With the outbreak of the Cayuse war in 1847 he volunteered and was a member of Captain Maxon's company. In the battle of Wells Springs in 1848, he was wounded in the knee. He was carried 50 miles to the nearest camp, called Whitman, for treatment.

Politically Mr. Wheeler was a Dem-

ocrat. He rendered conspicuous service to his party and the state. He was elected sheriff of Linn county while still lying sick wounded after the Cayuse war. He served 3 years as county commissioner, one term in the territorial legislature, two terms as a councilman of the city of Albany, one term as mayor of the city and one term in the state legislature. He was a member of the committee sent to congress to obtain the passage of the Indian war pension bill.

He was active in the business enterprises of the valley. He was superintendent of construction of the Albany and Lebanon canal and of the military wagon road across the Cascades into eastern Oregon. This road is 450 miles long. Later it was sold to Colonel Hogg for \$130,000.

President Cleveland appointed Mr. Wheeler Indian agent at the Warm Springs Indian Reservation and he served three years.

He was a member of the Masonic order and the funeral was held under Masonic auspices yesterday at 1 o'clock. He was also a member of the Oregon Pioneer society and of the Indian War Veterans' association. He leaves three children, Mrs. J. M. Kitchen, of this place; Mrs. John S. Morgan, of Albany, and Frank P. Wheeler, of Blue Lake, California.

### Commercial Club.

The Stayton Commercial Club met at the City Hall Tuesday evening, and there was a fair attendance, altho not so many as should have been there.

At the previous meeting W. D. De Varney, of Portland, was present, and the railroad question was discussed. Mr. De Varney is one of the directors and promoters of the Corvallis & Alsea railroad, which has already nearly 20 miles graded out of Corvallis. He gave an interesting talk to the Club, and enthused the members with the belief that by proper effort on the part of the people of Stayton, a spur can be secured from here to some point on Woodburn branch, and practically the same train service be had here as at Turner—four trains a day.

Committee was appointed to secure data in regard to the matter, but at the Tuesday night meeting asked for more time to complete their report.

A committee appointed to investigate the probability of a laundry paying in Stayton also asked for more time. A partial report was presented, which indicates that such an enterprise here would prove profitable.

The meeting adjourned to meet next Tuesday night, after every member had been appointed a committee of one to solicit new members.

The Commercial Club ought to have a membership of at least 100. Every live resident of town should be a member. There isn't a town of any consequence in the state—or in Washington or California, for ahat matter—that hasn't a commercial body of some kind, and Stayton shouldn't rest easy, but get in and hustle with the rest, or we will be out of the race.

It is expected that Tom Richardson, secretary of the Portland Commercial Club, and also of the Oregon Development League, will be here soon, when a public meeting will be held, to which all will be invited.

### Soon Able to Return.

In about two weeks Archbishop Christie of the Catholic diocese of Oregon will be able to return from Chicago and resume his honored ecclesiastical place in Portland, if he makes the rapid recovery that is expected. The crisis has been safely passed by him after an operation for removal of gallstones. The operation was made by Dr. John B. Murphy at Mercy hospital November 20. Only the most favorable conditions have attended the case and it is expected that the eminent churchman will soon be completely recovered.

The archbishop had been ailing for a year past. The illness was not of a chronic nature, and had no connection

## Special Sale

ON

## SHOES

The Brown Shoe Co's.

WHITE  
HOUSE  
FULL DRESS  
SHOES  
For —  
Women



- \$6.00 Ladies Black Patent, plain toe, short vamp button shoes, sale price \$4.85
- 5.00 Ladies patent colt button shoes, the kind that don't crack, sale price 4.15
- 6.00 Ladies black patent lace shoes, Ogontz last, sale price 4.75
- 4.00 Ladies shoes, 1907 pattern, sale price 3.28
- 3.50 Ladies shoes, sale price 2.65

## Special Sale

ON

## Ladies Cloaks



Our entire line of Children's, Misses and Ladies Cloaks and Suits going now at sale prices. Not an old garment to show you. Beautiful Brown, Grey, Red, Bear Skin and Crinkle-down Cloaks on sale.

## Suit Cases and Trunks

A large line at prices very reasonable.

## G. D. TROTTER, Stayton, Or.

with the serious attack suffered by him three years ago. With his recovery from the present trouble it is said he will enjoy robust health. He is 64 years old, and a man of powerful mentality, who is much loved by the people of Portland.

A. S. Baty, of Gates, who lost a large amount of ties in the high water in the Santiam river last week, figures his loss at about \$5,000. He had been operating a crew on the Little North Fork near Elkhorn nearly all summer, and expected to take his ties from the river at Mehama, but most of them were carried past this place. About 5,000 ties lodged in the Salem and Stayton water ditches at this place, and will be run down the Salem ditch to Aumsville.

### Weeds Worth Millions.

New Zealand flax is one of a number of wild weeds that yield their gatherers great wealth. The flax, the strongest known, grows wild in marshes. When it is cultivated it dwindles and its fibers become brittle and valueless.

Indian hemp grows wild, and out of it hasheesh, or keef, is made. Keef looks like flakes of chopped straw. It is smoked in a pipe; it is eaten on liver; it is drunk in water; it produces an intense, a delicious happiness, and among orientals it takes the place of beer and whisky.

The most valuable weed of all the wild growths is the seaweed. The nitrate beds of South America, which yield something like \$65,000,000 a year, are nothing but beds of seaweed decomposed.—Columbus Dispatch.

## Other

## ..Countries..

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We issue drafts on other countries, and we make them payable in such money as is used in the place where the drafts are to be cashed.

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STAYTON STATE BANK  
Stayton, Oregon.

## New Crop

We now have the most complete line of Groceries we have ever shown. Our stock of this years crop in Canned goods has just arrived and consists of Preferred Stock, Extra Selected, A. & L. extra standard, also the standard in Red Cross, California state and other brands.

## Coffee

To introduce our Mokona 25c package Coffee we will give one-half pound free with every pound package. Other roasted Coffee from 20 to 40c a pound in bulk and in 1 to 5 lb. tins.

Goods delivered to any part of the city.

## Gehlen Bros.

## Here we Are Again

with a full line of

Single Double Harness Jackson Thompson Buggies

Milburn Old Hickory Wagons

Superior Drills. Canton Plows.

Korinek & Mielke, STAYTON, OREGON.