

Crook County Journal

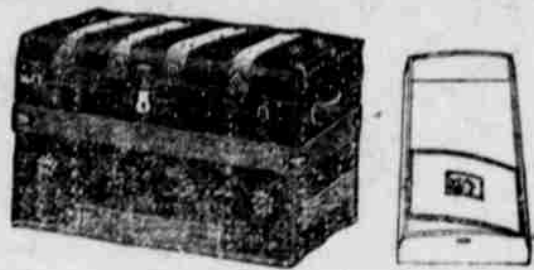
VOL. IX.

PRINEVILLE, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, JUNE 29, 1905.

NO. 28

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GORMLEY THE TAILOR

PRISONER DIGS HIS WAY OUT OF JAIL

Notorious Stock Rustler Got Tired of Staying in His Cell and Took to the Woods Friday Night.

Charles Slavin, a stock rustler who has been confined in the county jail since last May awaiting the action of the grand jury, got tired of his confinement Friday night and with the aid of a fellow prisoner dug his way to liberty through the brick walls of the building. A horse and comrade were waiting for him in the vicinity of the jail and when the news of the jail-break reached the ears of the county officials, Slavin had put many miles behind him. Notices to all the sheriffs and peace officers in the surrounding country and states were immediately sent out, but it is not probable that Slavin will allow himself to again be taken into custody.

Slavin's escape from the jail occurred about midnight Friday. Tim Edmondson, who is also confined in the jail with several indictments against him for stock stealing, aided him in his successful efforts to get away. Some time during the day Edmondson, who had been given the privilege of working about town, secured the possession of a saw, and Friday night cut the lock of the inner cell in which Slavin was confined. As soon as the latter stepped into the corridor of the jail the work of tearing out the bricks began. Corbett Holt, the murderer of the Warm Springs chief of police, who is also an occupant of the building, was commanded to help in the undertaking. But Corbett thought better of the job and crawled up on top of the cells where he rested contentedly while his fellow prisoners with heaver like tenacity tore a hole in the wall large enough to permit the passage of Slavin to the fresh air outside.

About six o'clock Saturday morning Edmondson crawled through the same opening and went to Sheriff Smith's house where he told that official that one of his choicest birds had flown. Questioned regarding the matter Edmondson disclaimed all knowledge of the escape, saying that he had been drugged and had remained unconscious of his surroundings during the early hours of the morning.

But a visit to the interior, where the evidence of outside assistance was too plain to be disputed, and Edmondson made a radical change in his assertions. He admitted that he had sawed off the lock and had helped to dig out the bricks and later Corbett Holt substantiated his statements. Edmondson claimed that he had been threatened with death if he refused to lend his assistance.

Sheriff Smith holds to the opinion that Arch McKay, who broke jail at Fossil a few weeks ago, was waiting outside the jail for Slavin. A heavy rain during the whole of Friday night completely obliterated the tracks of the horses and their destination can only be surmised. It is believed, however, that both the men, and there may have been more, are headed for the Blue mountain region, a district in which they are well acquainted and in which they have been engaged in stock rustling for several years.

PETER HOOFER GETS IN TROUBLE AGAIN

Peter Hooper, who was convicted at the last term of the circuit court for selling liquor to Indians near Ashwood, and who until a short time ago was serving out his sentence in the county jail here, is again in trouble. It seems that when he left this city, without stopping to bid good by, he went

to Condon where the law again has him in its folds. The following is taken from the Canyon City Eagle:

Peter Hooper was brought to the county jail last Tuesday to await the action of the next grand jury on a charge against him of stealing a dog. Last week he entered the employ of Barker & Pliter, sheepmen of Condon, to assist in driving their sheep to the mountain range and in passing the home of Emil Scharff, near Monument, it is alleged that he took a sheep dog belonging to Emil Scharff. Two persons were sent to secure the dog from him, and failing to get the canine, a warrant was sworn out before Justice Rea, of Monument, and he was arrested Monday in Fox valley by Geo. Irvin. He had his preliminary hearing before Justice Rea Monday and was held under \$500 bonds to await the action of the grand jury at the next term of circuit court.

It is understood that Hooper denies stealing the animal, but that the animal followed his band of sheep from the Scharff ranch.

ARMED MEN GUARD GRANT COUNTY'S RANGE

Armed guards are protecting the Grant county streams from usurpation by cattle and sheepmen. Men who have been instructed to shoot, if the herders do not stop, are guarding the grazing lands belonging to small ranchers and prohibiting the stockmen from tearing down fences or otherwise damaging property.

Great posters, printed on cotton cloth, have been posted on trees and signboards warning the sheep and cattlemen not to run or range their herds within prescribed territory and a strong organization of ranchers, business men and mining men is backing up the warning by arming a patrol and guarding the reserved lands. This notice reads:

"Warning to sheepmen and cattlemen: All owners, or those in charge, of sheep or cattle are hereby notified and warned that they will not be allowed, under any consideration, to run and range their stock upon the territory within the following described boundaries:

This ultimatum is signed by F. A. Phelps, president of the association of men interested in barring out the stockmen, and H. E. Hendryx as secretary. The names of nearly 100 men who are in the organization are appended.

There is bound to be trouble in Grant county if the stockmen persist in using the district from which they have been warned. If the patrol is not sufficient to drive out the stock, the organization formed against them will go into the field to make a fight.

RAILROAD MEN SEE THE COUNTRY

Party of O. R. & N. and Columbia Southern Officials View the Resources of Crook County.

If the rapidly settling country through which they traversed and the many notable developments seen in that country while enroute, are a criterion of the report to be made by the men who visited Prineville last Saturday and Sunday relative to railroad extension into Crook county, that report will be favorable to the highest degree. The membership of the expedition exploring Crook county's resources was made up of J. P. O'Brien, general manager of the Harriman railroad lines in Oregon, Washington and Idaho; R. B. Miller, general freight agent O. R. & N.; R. C. Judson, industrial agent O. R. & N.; G. W. Boshke, chief engineer O. R. & N.; E. E. Lytle, president of the Columbia Southern; W. W. Cotton, corporation counsel O. R. & N.; H. F. French, president of the University of Idaho; and F. R. Stanley, secretary of the Deschutes Irrigation & Power company.

The party arrived here late Saturday afternoon in the big automobile of the Central Oregon Transportation company. They came from Bend where two days had been spent looking over the country and inspecting the work of the irrigation company above that place. Previous to that they had been over the greater part of the Agency Plains country covering the entire wheat belt in that section, and then were driven in the auto to Bend by the way of Culver and Forest. From Bend they crossed the desert, coming around Powell buttes where they afforded ample opportunity to see the development taking place in that section.

Saturday and Sunday the party spent its time gathering statistics relative to the resources and products tributary to this city. Saturday evening a public reception was tendered them at Athletic hall by the business men here, at which time the country generally was given a thorough discussion. Without exception the members of the party expressed themselves as greatly impressed with the rapid strides being made by a district so far removed from modern methods of transportation.

Sunday morning the party took private conveyances and left for Shaniko by the way of Hay creek and neighboring districts where

they will spend some time looking over that region.

COWBOYS RAID THE TOWN OF SUMPTER

Two cowboys, one George Duncan, and the other a comparative stranger, created a sensation at Sumpter Tuesday night by shooting up the town. Although on the border line of the wild and woolly West, Sumpter has never been treated to a genuine old-time "shooting-up-the-town" programme until the advent of the two frisky young men mentioned. Duncan, who had at one time been through an experience here that did not reflect credit upon him, no doubt had a grudge against the city, and took this occasion to "get even." In a measure the two men carried out this idea to the letter, as for two hours they rode up and down some of the streets, giving the police and residents the most interesting time they have had for many a day.

Duncan and companion came here Tuesday, claiming to hail from Nevada, and having several horses in their possession. Towards evening they began to imbibe freely, and about dark started their performance by going into the Bank saloon, owned by F. McDonald, and drawing revolvers commenced several gunplay movements that were anything but appreciated by those present. After this they mounted horses and rode up to North street, and while passing the alley immediately back of the First National Bank commenced to shoot indiscriminately.

Joseph Swartz, thinking it another fire alarm hastened from his residence and reached the intersection of the street just in time to have a shot fired at him by one of the horsemen. Swartz lost no time in getting to cover. From this point the two men rode along North street and fired as they went. W. C. Calder came outside and a shot directed at him sent him back into the house.

By this time the whole town was aroused, and the police and residents took a hand in the shooting. Shots began to fly thick and fast, and several narrow escapes are reported. Chief of Police Ed Rand came very near receiving a shot, the bullet striking a post within a few inches of him. As the two bandits rode swiftly through the streets and out of town several shots were fired at them, but it was too dark for the marksmen to bring them down. Edward Houser was standing behind a tree, and fired point blank at the fleeing men with a shotgun, but he also failed to unhorse either of them. As they turned a corner one took a shot at Houser, the bullet striking the tree behind which he was standing.

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FOURTH OF JULY

At Prineville, Oregon

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An Elaborate Program consisting of Horse Races, Foot Races, Fat Mens Race, Novelty Races, Hose Race, Base Ball Games, and numerous others will be given. Suitable purses will be hung for the different events. The Prineville Military Band will furnish music for the occasion and a Grand Ball will be given in the evening.

CELEBRATE AT PRINEVILLE