

# Crook County Journal

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PRINEVILLE, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, SEPTEMBER 7, 1905.

NO. 38

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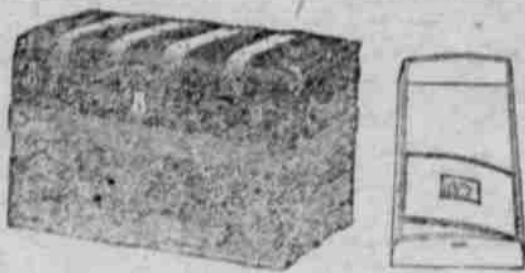
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## Announcement

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## MURDER MYSTERY STILL MYSTIFIES

### County Authorities Follow Up Clew, and Find That a Fake Story Is the Sole Basis.

The mystery surrounding the disappearance of "Shorty" Davis, is as much of a mystery now as it has been during the past five years notwithstanding the fact that the county authorities have finished the work of following up a clew furnished them by Christian Feurhelm several weeks ago. At that time, Feurhelm, who was in Portland as a witness in the land cases, related to County Judge Bell and District Attorney Menefee, that Joseph Lister had murdered "Shorty" Davis and thrown his body in a well on the Brink ranch three miles southeast of Prineville.

In view of the fact that the Portland papers had jumped at the opportunity to throw another black-shout over Crook county, and in order to test the truth of Feurhelm's statements, Judge Bell began an investigation of the well as soon as he returned from Portland, although confident that the search would bring nothing to light. Monday morning last, when the work of digging out the shaft had been nearly completed, Mr. Lister went to Judge Bell's office, and told him of the circumstances attending the statement relative to the murder which he had made to Feurhelm.

Some three years ago, Mr. Lister had driven into town with the latter and returning late in the evening sought to play a little on the superstitious nature of his companion. Lister told Feurhelm, when they approached the well that he had thrown Davis' body into the hole and related the circumstances attendant upon the murder of the victim. Feurhelm became much excited and by the time his place was reached the details of the gruesome tale, which Lister poured into his ear, had completely unnerved him. Lister then went into further details and told how he had frequently seen "Shorty's" ghost in the vicinity of the well, and Feurhelm's susceptible nature absorbed the whole yarn.

For over two years he carried what he supposed was a terrible secret, then while in Portland a few weeks ago he told the local authorities what he believed was the truth.

The old well on the Brink place, which had been filled by an accumulation of rocks and dirt, was cleaned out, but nothing bearing on a solution of the mystery was found. The fact substantiates Mr. Lister's story that the tale to Feurhelm was a "josh," and when the results of the investigation became known to the latter he will probably have a tremendous sigh of relief to learn that the great secret of his life has been wiped out like dew on a hot summer's morning.

## GREAT SOUTHERN NEXT INTO CROOK

The Columbia Southern railroad is out of the running in the talked-of movement for development of central Oregon. With the retirement of E. E. Lytle, its president, which was authoritatively announced by him last week, the last probability for its extension to Bend disappears, it is said, and the road becomes simply a branch line of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company, under direct management of the Oregon officials of the Harriman system.

"I intend to stay in Portland, and expect to engage in railroad enterprises for further development of the state. There are several propositions that have been brought to my attention, and some to which I am giving heed," said

Mr. Lytle. "These projects are not yet sufficiently matured to talk about. That is about all I can say at this time."

More than a year ago Mr. Lytle, it was announced tendered his resignation as president of the Columbia Southern to Mr. Harriman, but it was not accepted. Mr. Lytle retained the office and practically the general management of the road, with the expectation that the Harriman people would take up the matter of proposed extension into central Oregon. Nothing was done until a few weeks ago the local management of the Harriman system received instructions by telegraph to proceed into central Oregon and make a thorough investigation with a view to extending the line.

Mr. Lytle stated soon after his resignation that if something was not done soon to open up Central Oregon he would wait no longer, but do something himself. The last of the week announcement was made that he was seeking control of the Great Southern, at present nearly completed from The Dalles to Dufur. Negotiations are pending now, it is said, by which he will become interested in the road, in which event it will in all probability be extended in the near future to Madras and from there farther south. Mr. Lytle has always held that Crook county would pay unlimited revenue to the first line thrust across its borders, and upon the success of his efforts to gain a controlling hand in the management of the Great Southern, depends the time when this portion of the state will be favored with railroad facilities, for it is an assured fact that if Lytle gains a foothold his first step will be the building of an extension into the wheat belt in the northeastern portion of this county.

## MEGARGEL HAS PASSED CHICAGO

With a Billy Primrose grin garnishing his mud-blackened countenance, Percy F. Megargel, of the Buffalo Automobile Club and the American Motor League, accompanied by D. F. Fassett, a mechanic from Lansing Mich., pulled into Chicago a week ago Saturday on his try at the longest automobile run ever made on this continent—a trip of 9,000 miles from coast to coast and back again.

Megargel, who has engaged to furnish the Motor League with data regarding the routes from sea to sea, including a map of bridge, ford, desert and mountain pass, conditions, and the facilities for securing oil and water, has been a week on the road. He started from New York a week ago Saturday.

In the meantime, his home will be the little "Roe Mountaineer," a sixteen horse-power touring car equipped with everything from barometers and odometers to camera, typewriter and frying pan.

Megargel was due in Chicago Thursday, but was forced to make a slow run through Indiana owing to the rains.

He remained in Chicago over Sunday long enough to register at the C. A. C. clubhouse, scrub his face and eat a little snack that would have done credit to an elephant. Then he slid out toward the West. A number of local motormen piloted him along the Rock Island road.

Owing to its peculiar equipment, his car attracted a great deal of attention on Michigan avenue.

"It is a stock Roe, but the tonneau has been so arranged that it can be turned into a baby Pullman sleeper at nightfall. The car is covered with appliances for estimating speed, distances traversed, altitude, etc."

Megargel's schedule, which he has sent out, gives his arrival in Prineville September 18, but bad weather may delay him from one to 10 days, as it did last June when he crossed the continent.

## COUNTY'S SOLID GROWTH

### Census Returns Give Crook a Population of 5754, an Increase of 69 Per Cent Since the Federal Enumeration of 1900.

## GREAT GAIN IN BEND AND MADRAS REGIONS

### Both Districts Show Phenomenal Growth in Past Two Years—Prineville Increases 59 Per Cent.

Crook county's population, according to the census returns which have just been completed by Assessor J. D. Lafollett, is 5754, an increase since the national census of 1900, when the population was 3964, of 1790, or practically 69 per cent. While this increase, on the face of the records covers a period of five years, in reality the bulk of the new population has been added to the county during the past 24 months, or since the tide of new settlers first set in towards interior Oregon. This fact is shown by the returns from the Bend and Agency Plains districts whose increase in population has been nothing short of remarkable, while the city of Prineville follows closely in the wake of the two mentioned by an increase in population of over 59 per cent.

In the first two districts, however, where the greatest immigration has found permanent homes, there also is shown the greatest per cent increase in population. For instance, when the federal census was taken in 1900 the present Bend and Deschutes precincts were then under one division—Bend precinct, which had a population of 21. A short time ago when Bend was incorporated the population inside the corporate limits formed a precinct by itself and this today numbers 223. Immediately outside of the corporate limits is included Deschutes precinct with a population of 254. In other words in the same territory occupied by 21 persons in 1900, a total of 477 are now living, over 22 times the number there five years ago, and this great increase has come during the past two years, for in 1903 the population of Bend was scarcely more than it was three years previous.

Likewise is another gratifying increase shown in the returns from the northwestern portion of the county, notably in two of the present precincts. At the time of the federal census Kutchner and Haystack precincts were included under one division, that of Haystack. The population of the latter, which included all the territory around Madras, which has had a remarkable settlement during the past two years, was 353. Today these two precincts have a population of 1358, an increase of 280 per cent.

The growth of Prineville has been steady and substantial, and aside from the natural increase, the census blanks give the names of many new residents who, during the past few years have made this city their permanent home. The population given below is 1100, but Assessor Lafollett expresses the opinion that the city will exceed that number as he has not as yet completed his enumeration. This was the last precinct in the county to be covered.

On the face of the returns given in the summary below, it will be noted that several of the precincts show a falling off in population. Aside from the Warm Spring precinct, containing the Indian population which has had an actual decrease owing to many

deaths among the tribes, there has in reality been an increase in every precinct. Since the census of 1900 the divisions in the county have been changed, portions of one precinct having been included in another in such a way that the population has been increased in one at the same time showing a decrease in another. In 1900 there were 22 precincts averaging a population slightly exceeding 180. This year's census gives 26 precincts with a population in excess of 221.

The Warm Spring district shows an actual decrease of 214 during the past five years, strong evidence in support of the fact that death is slowly but surely bringing to a close the Indian population in this county. Had this precinct remained on a par with the others in the county, the census returns would have shown a much greater percentage of increase, as it is the 214 decrease has been counterbalanced by new residents, showing that in reality the increase in new residents has been about 2050 instead of the number noted above.

Below is given the returns by precincts for the year of 1900, when the national census was taken, and that of the present year under the supervision of county assessor Lafollett:

Precinct	1900	1905
Prineville city	656	1100
Ireland	81	82
Bend city	21	223
Montgomery	135	125
Black Butte	210	412
Haystack	353	732
McKay	212	275
Hay Creek	173	84
Willow Creek	131	133
Cross Keys	94	77
Ashwood	214	225
Deschutes (see Bend)		254
Johnson Creek	188	103
Mill Creek	113	100
Howard	134	61
Summitt	33	37
Bear Creek	94	100
Camp Creek	90	85
Hardin	111	91
Beaver	129	171
Mauzy	69	37
Nowson Creek	177	160
Kutchner (see Haystack)		626
Breese (see Johnson Cr.)		57
Powell Butte (see Montgomery)		80
Warm Spring	555	314
	3964	5754

Total increase in population since 1900, 1790.  
Per cent increase, 688.  
Yearly increase since 1900, 358.

## MINES LIKELY TO OPEN AGAIN

D. W. Leech of Woodburn, and two gentlemen from Salem, a capitalist and a lawyer, were in town last week. They had been over at Ashwood, inspecting the Red Jacket mining property, and it is reported that arrangements will probably be made during the Fall or Winter for the re-opening of the mine. The gentlemen were not very communicative upon the subject, but it is the prevailing opinion that outside capital has been interested in the project, and that \$10,000 has been raised for the purpose of pumping and sealing out the shaft and pushing the development work. The owners of the Red Jacket claim to have good ore in their mine, and it is hoped that the reports of renewed mining activity in the near future are true. There is also a rumor afloat that the deal for the Oregon King mine is still pending, with a fair chance of its consummation, although it is not learned that any statements have been made by those in a position to know positively, confirming the rumor. It is understood that some well known mining men are anxious to get control of the mine, and should they do so, would no doubt proceed to develop it. Confirmation of these reports would cause great rejoicing throughout this section, and particularly here and Ashwood. Much money has been invested in mining property by parties in both towns, and they will hail with delight a prospect of realizing on their investments.  
—Antelope Herald.

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