

Crook County Journal

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER FOR CROOK COUNTY

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER, \$1.50 YEAR

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Two Men Kill Each Other on Grizzly

A tragedy closely resembling the feudal battles of Kentucky was enacted some time Thursday night on the side of Grizzly mountain, about eighteen miles from Prineville, when Roscoe Brown and Felix Jones shot each other to death. So far as known there were no eye witnesses to the duel and the immediate cause of their trouble and the exact manner in which they settled it will probably remain a mystery.

About 9 o'clock Friday morning Sheriff Elkins received a telephone call stating that two men had been killed near Jones' sawmill on Grizzly and was requested to come at once. Accompanied by the coroner, Perry Poindexter, County Physician Edwards, County Attorney Wirtz and C. O. Pollard, the sheriff immediately started for the scene of the trouble. On account of the indefinite location given, the heavy roads and tire trouble the party did not reach the spot until 2 p. m. In the meantime a large party of neighbors had congregated and were awaiting the arrival of the sheriff and coroner.

The bodies of Brown and Jones were lying exactly as they fell, Jones with his rifle still in his hand and Brown's rifle close beside him. One lay by the side of the road and the other on the opposite side, just 36 feet apart. By Brown's body were two quart bottles of moonshine whiskey, one of which was mostly consumed.

On examination it was found that each body contained but one bullet wound. Jones had been shot in the back, just behind the shoulder, the bullet ranging diagonally through the chest and coming out near the left nipple.

Brown was shot in the left chest, the bullet severing the heart and breaking the spinal column. In Brown's case death must have been instantaneous, while Jones probably lived several minutes.

Considering the location of the wounds and their probable effect those present were forced to the conclusion, which was general, that Jones was shot first and after receiving the wound must have wheeled and shot Brown with remarkable accuracy.

After examination, the bodies were removed to the Jones sawmill, where a more detailed examination was made by the county physician,

upon which he based his testimony before the coroner's jury impaneled on the ground. Most of the witnesses testified that they knew of no previous trouble between the two men, though off from the witness stand several stated that Brown was extremely jealous of Jones, who was known as "Kentuck" and when in his cups Brown was disagreeable, while Jones was always of a jovial nature.

"Kentuck" had resided in the vicinity of Grizzly about three years, during the greater part of which time he has been employed by J. W. Jones at his sawmill, near the scene of the tragedy. Though of the same name, Felix Jones and J. W. Jones were not related, although "Kentuck" made his home with his employer.

About a year ago Brown came to the vicinity and soon after was married to a daughter of J. W. Jones. It was not long before there was trouble between Brown and his wife, and it was said that he accused "Kentuck" of being the cause thereof. While never making any open threats it seemed to be generally known that he had it in for "Kentuck," and Brown's father-in-law stated that he had warned "Kentuck," whom he treated as one of the family, that Brown might hurt him and to watch out for trouble.

Last Wednesday evening "Kentuck" went to the residence of another son-in-law of J. W. Jones and stayed over night. Thursday morning Brown came to the same place and the two visited with the family in an apparent friendly manner throughout the morning. After dinner "Kentuck" remarked that he intended to visit another neighbor, whereupon Brown insisted that "Kentuck" should ride his (Brown's) horse and that he (Brown) would meet him at a certain point on his return and they would go rabbit hunting.

"Kentuck" took the horse as arranged, leaving his rifle in Brown's possession at the home just mentioned. Later the family departed, going to the sawmill for wood, leaving Brown still at the house. This was the last seen of the men alive.

As the family returned home about 6:30 p. m. (which was after dark) they heard three shots fired and about fifteen minutes later

three more shots were fired, to which they paid no attention as it was not unusual for people in that vicinity to shoot at coyotes or rabbits at any time of the night or day.

The next morning, Brown's horse was seen standing alone on a hill a half mile from the home where the men had been the day before and going to the spot Mr. Pluard, Brown's brother-in-law, discovered the bodies of the two men in the same position as afterwards viewed by the coroner and his party.

One unexplained circumstance was the fact that the bodies of the men were still warm when the sheriff and doctor arrived at 2 p. m., although they had been dead, according to the best testimony, over twenty hours. Another was the fact that although it had rained intermittently, but hard, throughout the night and after the supposed shots were fired, the clothes of the men were dry, excepting that a pair of under trousers of one of the men were damp.

Taking the condition of the bodies and the clothes into consideration, the coroner's jury returned a verdict that the men had come to their death "by gunshot wounds inflicted in a manner to this jury unknown."

State and County Property Valuations

According to figures prepared by the State Tax Commission the total valuation of the taxable property in Oregon for this year is \$835,268,527, an increase of \$42,173,346 over last year. This does not include the property of public service corporations, the valuation of which is fixed by the commission. The levy last year was 1.2 mills, but owing to the fact that it must cover appropriations made by the last legislature this year's levy, it is estimated, will be about 5 mills. The last legislature passed a law allowing the commission to anticipate appropriations, and in the future the state will not have a low levy just before each session, and a high levy after each session. In the near future the commission will be able to fix the valuation on property of public service corporations and the total valuation for the state will then be available.

The value of the taxable property for Crook county this year is \$10,316,157. Last year it was \$9,001,677.

What About that Holiday Suit?

Before buying that suit for the holidays, call and look over my line. I have suits from \$15 up. A fit guaranteed. A. J. Reynolds, merchant tailor, McCallister bldg. 10-2

Estimated County Expenses for Next Year

Below is the estimated budget of expenses for Crook county during the ensuing year which begins January 1, 1914. Under the law passed by the last session of the legislature the taxpayers have the right to appear before the county court and decide on the amount of the tax levy. It is made unlawful for any tax to be levied, proposed or adopted unless an estimate shall have first been made of the amount of money proposed to be raised by taxation for the new year and such estimate published and an opportunity given for a full and free discussion. The date fixed by the county court for such hearing is set for December 6, 1913, at 9 o'clock a. m., at the county court rooms, Prineville, Ore. The estimates are as follows:

Roads, bridges, woods, special	\$75,000 00
Crook County High School	19,940 00
Widow's pensions	5,000 00
Indigent persons	4,900 00
Circuit court	9,000 00
Justice court	500 00
County judges' salary, stationery and postage	1,050 00
Commissioners' salary	1,200 00
County clerk's office	6,550 00
Sheriff's office	7,215 00
Assessor's office	8,600 00
Coroner	500 00
County school superintendent	4,340 00
County sealer, salary, exp.	1,200 00
Traut officer, salary	360 00
Treasurer	3,250 00
Janitor, courthouse	3,738 50
County fair	1,500 00
Elections	4,000 00
Telephone and telegraph	1,000 00
Scalp bounty	2,000 00
Lining jail	1,000 00
Watermaster	2,750 00
County general school fund	35,000 00
Hotel viewers	1,500 00
County surveyor's office	3,480 00
State tax	55,000 00
Traveling expenses county court, road inspection, including auto repairs, gas, etc	600 00
Stenographer for county court	120 00
County health department	1,000 00
County printing	1,500 00
Estimated debt, Jan 1, 1914	25,000 00
Library fund	500 00
Total	\$287,393 50

To the Taxpayers of Crook County:

The estimates published for your consideration are liberal, as we are bound to keep within the limit, and it is better to be long than short. We have paid off in indebtedness since January 6, 1913, the sum of \$139,000, so that for the present the county is out of debt, but as no taxes of any account will be collected during the next two months, we estimate that we will be \$25,000 behind by January 1st, but that like the other estimates, I consider very liberal.

Work Begun on the Prineville-Lakeview Road

The good roads meeting held last Thursday evening at the Commercial Club rooms was well attended. The question of making an all-the-year around highway between Prineville and Lakeview was heartily supported. Merchants agreed to supply the provisions and others offered the free use of their automobiles to carry men and supplies where needed.

A committee consisting of W. F. King, M. R. Elliott and T. H. LaFollette were appointed to take charge of affairs. This committee appeared before the County Court to enlist its support and received an allowance of \$250 to be used on the highway. Thus encouraged metal sign boards were provided, provisions secured, tent and camp equipment got together, and Tuesday morning bright and early ten autos loaded with men and supplies left for the Lake county line to begin work. The Lake county people will take up the road from the Crook county line and carry it south to California.

W. F. King, who has been over the route selected, knows every foot of it and just where work is most needed. On the way down men and

material will be left at the points where needed. One or two autos, as the case may be, will stay with the crew, and at night convey the men to a central camp, where food and bedding may be had.

It is thought that the road can be put in good shape in four or five days. The route selected is a good one, as Dame Nature has already provided the best kind of a country road. It is only in spots that work will be necessary. Some rock work will be needed, but an experienced powder man will take care of that.

Metal signs, two feet long by eight inches wide, marked "Prineville-Lakeview" with the number of miles to each place. These will be placed upon iron pipes four or five feet long on the west side of the road.

The road leaves Prineville over the west side grade to Powell Butte and thence to Millican, through the Fort Rock country and on to the Lake county line, a distance of some 70 miles, keeping well on the east side of the timber line.

The man behind the guns and the one who has worked hard for road betterment in Crook county is W. F. King. Doff your hat to him.

The fact that the state tax is nearly treble the amount of last year makes it difficult to arrange for weed fighting and road improvement without going skyward with the levy. The court desires next year to enforce the weed law to the limit, also to improve some long neglected roads. To do so, however, will require about one mill, or possibly two, higher than last season.

I am writing this that all my offer suggestions, whether in person or by letter, on December 6, 1913. We will be pleased to hear from any and all.

We have appropriated the smallest amount for farm demonstration work that the college would agree to handle it for, as we are inclined to believe our former work cost more than necessary. It is the purpose of the court to cultivate fifty one-acre tracts distributed throughout the county, and we will be pleased to hear from one or more farmers in each of the several communities who are willing to cultivate an acre, or even half an acre, under the direction of our agricultural expert.

The budget is published in the official papers only, as we are crowded for time but we will be pleased to furnish copies of reports of the various offices in detail to other papers that may wish to publish it as a matter of news.

If our \$75,000 road, bridge and weed budget is approved it will enable us to do something more than "sit on the lid," but unless the people are willing to stand a heavy tax very little can be done.

It will be well to bear in mind, meanwhile, that the levy is only one-half as high as it appears for the reason our assessment is not fifty per cent of our actual values.
G. SPRINGER,
County judge.

Call for Warrants

Notice is hereby given that all registered County Warrants will be paid on presentation to the county treasurer. No interest paid after this date—November 13, 1913.

R. L. JORDAN,
County Treasurer of Crook county.

Cement Sidewalks

See Wheelright & Phipps about your cement work. Better have it done now when men and materials are on the ground. You can save money by so doing.
10-30

CHRISTMAS IS NEARING!

Avoid the Rush by Doing Your Shopping Early

Our new Holiday Line is now beginning to arrive, which consists of all the new and up-to-date Staples carried in a complete Holiday Stock

An elegant supply of Stationery, Books and Lowney's Candy on hand.

New Christmas Presents for the Children arriving daily

D. P. ADAMSON & COMPANY