



## MURDER IN FIRST DEGREE IS VERDICT RETURNED

### Russell Hecker Convicted Of Slaying Frank Bowker Sentenced Yesterday

## NOTICE APPEAL GIVEN

Case Is Strongly Contested—Jury Returns Verdict In Less Than One Hour—Law Says Must Hang

Russell Hecker, convicted murderer of Frank Bowker of Portland, was sentenced by Judge Campbell, Wednesday morning to die on the scaffold, Sept. 22, 1922. The execution will take place at the state penitentiary, to which Hecker is to be removed from the Clackamas county jail sometime within twenty days from the date of receiving his sentence, that period being the limit set by Judge Campbell for keeping him here.

Hecker appeared in the court room shortly before 11:15 o'clock, escorted by officers and by his attorneys. Court was opened immediately and without further preliminary Judge Campbell called upon the convicted man to rise and asked him if he had anything to say as to why sentence should not be passed upon him. Hecker, facing the Judge composedly, replied in a low but clear voice, "Nothing at all, your honor."

Reading of the sentence was prefaced by a few words from the Judge to the condemned man concerning his situation, of which the concluding words were: "My only recommendation to you at this time is that you devote the balance of your time—of your life—to making your peace with God."

Hecker received his sentence with less apparent emotion than Judge Campbell displayed in rendering it. None of his relatives were present at the time.

Twelve citizens of Clackamas county, seven men and five women, brought in the verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree in case of Russell Hecker indicted for the slaying of Frank Bowker on April 16 last. Bowker was a Portland musician. The case occupied the greater part of last week and was stubbornly contested by both defense and prosecution.

District attorney Stipp was assisted by Frank Lonergan and George Mowry deputy district attorney of Multnomah county; the defense attorney Gale S. Hill by Robert Myers of Portland and Gilbert Hediges, Oregon City.

The history of the tragedy was reviewed by both sides including arrangements by Hecker with Bowker to sell to the latter some liquor to be obtained from a man whose name Hecker claimed he knew as "Bob". The trip with Bowker was made out of Portland along the Eighty second street road, thence toward the rifle range beyond Clackamas and on this road the fatal shot which Hecker claimed in self defense was fired.

"Bob" did not put in an appearance and remained throughout the trial the "mystery" man. After the shooting, Hecker drove to Albany, to the Calapooia river into which he dumped the body encased in a hop sack. He washed the blood of Bowker from his hands at the Albany hotel; gave some of Bowker's money he had taken from the latter person into the keeping of a local barber; drove back to Portland, went to his apartment occupied by himself and Nellie Lahlhart and burned his bloody clothing in the basement furnace. He was subsequently arrested and kept in jail awaiting trial.

The defendant, in his own behalf, told on the witness stand of the crime and the all night ride from Portland to the Calapooia and return. His defense was, that excited by fear of Bowker who like himself was armed with a revolver, he had shot his associate in the liquor deal in order to protect himself. His attorneys emphasized his youthful age of twenty-four years; claimed that he had borrowed the revolver on two occasions; the fact that the direction of the bullet through Bowker's head was from the right side of the middle of the back toward the left eye and that there were no powder marks as would be expected at so close range; stripping the money from the dead man's pocket and sock; buying a hop sack big enough for a man's body to hold eight bottles of whiskey; carrying the body 90 miles and finally dumping it into the river.

In the courtroom during the trial were Hecker's father and mother, two brothers and the Lahlhart girl, Bowker's wife, two daughters and brother Albert.

When the jury returned a verdict Hecker's mother went into hysterics and was given medical attention. The convicted was obviously stunned but soon recovered the self confidence he had shown during the trial. The penalty is death. An appeal to a new trial will be asked.

## ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT DEPARTMENT OREGON G. A. R. HUGE SUCCESS

Enthusiastic Delegation From Meade Post Veterans and Relief Corps At Newport

The annual encampment of the Department of Oregon of the Grand Army of the Republic was held at Newport on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week.

A large delegation from Meade Post of this city was in attendance. There was a spirited contest for the position of commander of the Department which resulted in the selection of D. L. McKay of Portland, Comrade McKay saw more than three years of service in the civil war and spent fifteen months of that time in Libby prison. Other officers elected were Rufus Waggoner, senior vice commander, Newport; James Pass; W. T. Kerr, department chaplain, Portland; and Dr. J. M. Hall, medical adviser, Portland.

Grants Pass was selected for the next encampment. The citizens of the city will give free trip to the mammoth caves in that vicinity.

Frank Moore, H. S. Clyde, E. B. Grant, J. F. Butler, J. C. Sawyer, L. P. Horton, G. H. Webster, J. A. Hobbie, Josiah Martin, A. Maup, H. Loney and M. Swartz were present from Meade Post, Oregon City.

Among the W. R. C. members attending were Rosina Fouts Evans; Mary Barlow, Amelia Martin, Nellie Aldridge, Minnie Donovan, Ida Adamson, Jennie Morgan, Mayme Bennett, Mrs. L. P. Horton.

The W. R. C. headquarters were at the Hotel Gilmore.

## NEWLEWDS RETURN

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Laxton after spending their honeymoon in Victoria, British Columbia, returned to Oregon City on Saturday. They left the home of Mrs. Laxton's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Harding almost immediately for the summer at a point on the Upper Clackamas river where the groom is employed as locating engineer for the P. R. L. and P. Co., on the new power plant.

## Eddys Store Entered And Articles Taken

W. B. Eddys, Main street department store was visited by thieves sometime Friday night and several articles including shoes, skirts and kimonos were taken.

Entrance to the store was made from the Meade studio which had been entered by opening the front door by some instrument adapted to the purpose—probably a screwdriver.

Investigations by officers fail to locate either goods or thieves. The nature of the articles indicates that a woman might have been connected with the theft. Exit was by the back door route.

## REBEL UPRISING IN IRELAND RECEIVES SETBACK

The rebel uprising in Ireland is reported as having received a general setback. Free state troops are defeating the rebels everywhere. It is reported that the rebel leader de Valera has been wounded.

Some of the rebels still refuse to surrender and infest hotels and other fortified positions from whence they keep up a reign of terror. To rid Dublin and the country of these insurgents the Free State government, avter another effort to get them to surrender will from planes descend upon and blow up their rendezvous.

## New Stores Open In Canby

Three new stores have opened up in a building on First and C streets during the past three weeks. The Sheldon drug store has taken possession. Thursday the C. O. Thomas store opened for business and on Saturday evening the second store roof of the Koehler building was opened for business by the Swanby grocery.

## PETITIONS OUT FOR UNION HIGH SCHOOL A CANBY

Petitions for the proposed new Union high school at Canby will be put into circulation very soon in districts 86, Canby; 18, Mindorf; 20, Macksburg; 73, New Era; 81, Union Hall; 22, Oak Lawn; 38, Marks Prairie; 60, Union Hall; 63, Central Point; 91, Ninety-one; 97, Barlow; and 110, Lone Elder.

Two districts containing a number of opponents will be omitted from future petitions. Election will be called in each district affected on August 9, from 7:00 to 9:00 o'clock, P.M.

The proposed new high school building will be located at Canby.

## Mrs. C. J. Hood

Mrs. Emily Hood passed away on Monday this week. Her funeral was private in accordance with her wish and in charge of the local Christian Science Church, at the Portland crematorium.

The deceased was a general favorite, and will be greatly missed by a host of friends, the husband and the church which she helped to organize in this city.

## WEEKS OFFERINGS AT CHAUTAUQUA PARK WELL LIKED

### Patton Trio, Lorraine Lee, And Colton Singers, Delight Crowds of Friends

## PIONEERS CELEBRATE

### July Fourth Program One Of Best Of Course—Fire Works And Ball Game Enjoyed

One half of another Gladstone chautauqua has passed into history and it has been a memorable week from every standpoint. Splendid programs have marked every day and assuming that succeeding entertainments will be on the same high level of quality, it may be taken now for a certainty that the 1922 chautauqua will set a record for interest and for good things that will be difficult to equal in following years.

The huge chautauqua park is dotted all over with the tents of families and parties camping for the two weeks and the number of these is so augmented by visitors from every point within a radius of many miles that the capacious auditorium has been nearly always completely filled.

Local talent has played an important part in the program this year. The Patton brothers of Portland scored an immense success on their appearance Monday and at both the afternoon and evening performance they received enthusiastic ovations after their programs.

On the first day's program an important contribution to the success of the opening was made by a Canby girl, Miss Lorraine Lee, and her assisting company. Miss Lee proved herself a vocalist of much ability and she was well supported by her companion artists.

County Judge Harvey Cross, president of the chautauqua association, gave the address of welcome on the opening day, and B. F. Irvine, editor of the Portland Journal, was the speaker of the afternoon.

Sunday's fine program featured the rendering of the oratorio "The Holy City," by the Colton Oratorio Society, a chorus of fifty voices that has previously been heard here in splendid things.

Monday evening brought a notable lecture by Norman Allan Inrie, Canadian soldier-educator, who is on the chautauqua platform for the purpose of strengthening the ties between the members of the Anglo-Saxon race. The number hearing him was not as great as the excellence of this number deserved.

Tuesday brought the Oceanic Quintet five young ladies whose musical numbers took both afternoon and evening audiences by storm, and the finish to a perfect chautauqua day came with a lecture on human nature by Ople Read that brought out a record crowd for a lecture. Chautauqua lectures are usually passed up by a great many people, and more is the pity, for there is nothing of really greater worth on the whole chautauqua scheme than the messages brilliant men bring.

A little extra entertainment was provided Tuesday by way of celebration of Independence Day. A closely contested game of baseball between Molalla and Carus, won by the former 5 runs to 4, was played late in the afternoon, and a remarkable pyrotechnical display was staged on the ball field after the evening lecture.

The feature of the Wednesday program was the play "Cappy Ricks" given in the evening before a packed house by the Vivian players. It came up to its reputation of being "the most refreshing comedy in years," and the cast handled it splendidly.

Wednesday was chiefly notable, however, because it was Pioneer Day. The speaker for the occasion was an address at the morning forum hour by Judge Peter D'Arcy of Salem. He was followed by Col. Robt. A. Miller, one of the first presidents of the Gladstone chautauqua association. A barbecue dinner for the pioneers was served at noon and election of officers by the pioneers followed this. David Caulfield was elevated from the vice-presidency to succeed the president, Judge Cross, who was unable to continue longer in this office. Mrs. Geo. A. Harding was elected vice-president and the treasurer and the secretary, E. G. Caulfield and E. C. Hackett, were re-elected.

Electra Platt and Vernon Stone, among the chautauqua's best-liked entertainers, delighted a large audience Thursday afternoon and again for a short time in the evening. Two lectures were given also, J. C. Herbsman speaking in the afternoon and Dr. Elmer Lynn Williams in the evening.

This afternoon the program will be largely devoted to the G. A. R., with a lecture by Judge George M. Brown of the Oregon Supreme Court dedicated to those veterans. The Gilvan Grand Opera Company gives a musical prelude in the afternoon and a grand concert at night.

Among other notable things coming during the balance of the course might

## PETITIONS PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE ARE FILED

Twelve Not Having Received Required Number Of Signatures Are Yet To Receive O. K.

The three petitions being initiated by the voters themselves and on file with the Secretary of State on the first day of this week, are the single tax amendment; salmon fishing and propagation amendment; and the exposition tax amendment, this latter sponsored by the Atlantic-Pacific Highway and Electrical Exposition.

The legal period of time within which further initiative measures may be received is today, July 6. This is the final date and those measures not mailed to the Secretary of State before the close of today cannot go upon the ballot for the November election.

The state constitution provides that the initiative petitions shall be filed four months before the election at which they will be passed upon.

Affirmative arguments on any measure must be filed not later than July 15. Negative arguments may be filed at any time up to July 25. The cost of the argumentative space in the voters pamphlet will be about \$125.

In order to refer a measure to the people at the general election, an initiative petition must contain not less than 13,361 certified names. This number is eight per cent of the whole number of votes cast for justice of the supreme court at the general election held November 2, 1920.

## COUNCIL HOLDS HOT SESSION OVER ROUTE OF HIGHWAY

At the regular meeting on Wednesday night this week reports were made by the finance committee, city recorder, treasurer, chief of police and the water board. All was serene and satisfied thus far but no further.

A resolution inspired by citizens and business men who object at present to the city cooperating in the matter of constructing, at this time, the railroad avenue route as a part of the Pacific highway system was read.

In courteous but firm language it told the commission the city could not cooperate with them in improvement of the route they had authorized, but desired the Main street route and thence over fifth street out upon the hill route, until such time as the city should find it feasible to open the railroad route.

Wallace Caulfield objected to the resolution classifying some of its sections as "bank" and suggested that the city might get help from the commission indirectly for the railroad route and scored the council for going over the head of the city attorney who had not consulted in preparing said document.

Ben Harding took the opposite side and declared in favor of the resolution reminding the city fathers that there is no money for the commissioners' favored route. All looked the same to the man in goggles.

O. D. Eby drew the vials of wrath upon his head by his favorable attitude toward the Seventh street project declaring it his "personal" feeling that the present avenue is a fire menace and a civic blot. He declared he didn't want to get into the controversy but he soon found he was in "all over". In the midst of real Fourth of July verbal fireworks Metzner moved the adoption of the resolution, Krassiz seconded and she went over in the twinkling of an eye. And this action was followed by the authorization of a communication to the commission to meet with the council relative to this highly important matter.

This is written one more chapter in the calendar of the Pacific highway through this famous historic city.

## Canby Berry Shipments Heavy

Twenty tons of strawberries have been shipped from the W. H. Luche commission house in Canby by the Oregon Growers' Association this season. These berries were taken to the Woodburn cannery.

Canby sent its first shipment of loganberries to the cannery on Monday. Here were 150 crates and the berries were of excellent quality, but it is thought the loganberry crop will be short due to the hot weather.

## Vacation Is General

Mill workers here have been enjoying a real vacation. Beginning on Friday night the Oregon City Mfg. Co., closed its plant for four days, resuming operations on Wednesday morning. The Hawley and Crown-Willamette mills closed for three days beginning Saturday night. This permitted employees to enjoy week end trips, the Molalla Round-up, Fourth of July celebrations and Chautauqua, one of several of them.

## Fifth Street To Be Improved

An ordinance providing for improvement of Fifth Street with hard surface from the east side of Main Street 210 feet east was passed first reading at the regular meeting of the council Wednesday night. This section of street is part of the proposed Pacific highway route.

## DATE FOR CLACKAMAS 1922 COUNTY FAIR IS SET

From Tuesday to Thursday, inclusive, September 19 to 22, is the time set for the Clackamas county fair.

The secretary, David Long, states that the outlook for a successful fair is brighter than in any previous year. The dairy and poultry departments will be especially strong this year, it is believed.

Strong interest in the event is being manifested throughout the county this early.

## MERCURY CLIMBS TO THE THERMOMETERS SUMMIT

### Clackamas County Gets Touch of Temperature Felt in East

## HEAT REAHES 100

### Sunday The Hottest Day Recorded By The Oldest Citizens—Special Causes Cited By Weather Man

With the sun-tinged to red as it forced its rays through the Sunday's stifling haze the population of Clackamas took to the cooler spots of home or shady nooks of wood or along the streams wherever there seemed prospect of relief from the terrific heat. From eight o'clock in the morning until four in the afternoon the heat increased and the thermometer rose steadily from 87 degrees to 102 degrees, the highest point reported at Stafford while Oregon City registered 99.

In other parts of the county "Old Sol" made practically the same record. Beaver Creek reported 100. Gladstone Chautauqua grounds 99, Canby 99 and other sections only slightly varying from these records.

Owing to lack of statistics for this county it is impossible to state comparisons between hits and other years but it is claimed that this caps the climber for heat in this land of sunshine, rain and flowers. To an Oregonian accustomed to comfortable weather night and day, and though able to go about his duties as usual just naturally "kicks".

The weather man too apologizes for this freak of Oregon nature by explaining that this extreme heat wave was the gradual movement north of the area of low pressure which has been to the south for the last ten days. On Saturday it traveled northward to this section. Previously during this season with high pressure to the north and low to the south the northerly winds from the cooler spots blew over and cooled this section, but with the arrival of low pressure in this locality the winds decreased, and what remained were of course warmer. So the heat was not reduced greatly by even the shade of the woods. At night however, the temperature became gradually reduced until the morning was cool and comfortable.

Indications are the extremes of Sunday will not be again duplicated this season.

## GIRL TRAVELER RETURNED TO HOME AFTER BRIEF TOUR

Fourteen-year-old Sarah Gross, who started last week toward Molalla, to see for herself the "wild and woolly west," via the pony route, and accompanied by her two dogs, fell into the safe and motherly hands of Mrs. Church, court matron in this city and has been returned to her home and anxious parents.

Sarah is reported by Mrs. Buckley as a girl of excellent character. She had been absent from home several days when brought by residents of the Fishers' section of the county to this city.

## Joyride Results In Death

Three youths riding a motorcycle at terrific speed crashed into three autos on the road near Gladstone, Saturday night. They had passed other cars barely missing them as they whizzed by in uncertain course. The result of the crash was that Roy Michs of Lents sustained fatal injuries, Clyde Moak and Ural Kenney of the same place were in the side car and the latter received injuries about the head. In Moak's pocket was found a bottle of moonshine. Two of the autos were without lights it is reported. Young Michs passed away at the Oregon City hospital on Monday.

## New Firm Begins Business

W. H. Wilson, now a resident of Oregon City and in the tailoring business in Portland until recently has opened a cleaner, dyer and tailoring establishment at 514 Seventh Street emphasizing the fact that his is the only shop of its kind on the hill.

## Deputies Burke and Hughes Brought Charles Rucker From His Ranch Near Estacada to the Hotel de Wilson on Friday

He was booked on the charge illicit manufacture of intoxicating liquor. His equipment consisted of a complete still, 200 gallons mash, and one jug moonshine booze.

## Mrs. M. Druschell

Mrs. Matilda Druschell passed on at the home of her daughter in Canby, Sunday evening.

A native of Germany, the deceased came to America 66 years ago and has lived at Canby more than a quarter of a century. She leaves several children including Mrs. Louise Koehler of Canby and Mrs. Minnie Zimmerman of Portland.

Funeral services were held this morning at the Evangelical church. Interment was in the Zion cemetery at Canby.

## RAILROAD SCRAP MAY SET PROGRESS WHEELS IN MOTION

Interstate Commerce Commission To Decide Contest—Central Oregon Is Favored Spot

If the interstate commerce commission shall give the Southern Pacific railroad the privilege of retaining its Pacific, genuine expansion of railway facilities will result to Oregon, is the definite promise of Southern Pacific officers.

In this case a road following the line from Oakridge to Klamath Falls will be started at once and another line from the latter place to a connection via Westwood and Susanville, Calif., with the main line of the Central Pacific at Fernley, Nevada, will also be built. This the Natron project, is highly important to the state of Oregon, and since the supreme court ordered the unmerging of the Central Pacific and the S. P., it has appeared that this project must lie in abeyance as the S. P. claims largest interest in the project as a part of her future development in her twin system of lines.

The country to be opened up by this new line contains heavy tonnage, including lumber and timber. It will have for Eastern Oregon shipments to the south great advantage, as it is east of the Cascades and would eliminate the crossing of the Siskiyou at the Oregon line, resulting in a more direct haul and cheaper operation.

Litigation has been going on during the past ten years over the separation of the C. P. and S. P. lines and now that the supreme court has decided for the separation both the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific are vying with each other in promises to build the Natron cut-off, depending upon, of course, which one shall obtain reluctant control of the Central Pacific. Whichever way the matter is decided, the result seems likely to be favorable to Oregon.

## Forest Fires Grow More Threatening

Forest fires in timber holdings in Washington threaten the greatest devastation of recent years. Crews are combating the flames which have covered sections of Long-Bell, Inman Poulson and other lumber companies during the past week.

New lookout stations have been established and new fire fighting apparatus including modern pumping plants which have the power to raise water 700 feet are in use. Thousands of fire fighters are distributed over the threatened or burning districts.

## MOLALLA ROUND-UP ATTENDED BY HUGE CROWDS

The three-day Molalla round-up ended today with an attendance of about 4000. About 1000 persons were said to have been turned away for lack of seating room inside the park.

One of the features of the program was a series of baseball games in which Molalla defeated Springsdale, Macksburg and Aurora. One game was played each day. Other events were band concerts, bucking contests and races. A 2-year-old boy was the hero of the races today, when he rode with his father.

## PORTLAND HOUSEWIVES REQUEST LOWER FARE

The Portland housewives council has filed a petition with the state public service commission asking for the reduction of street railway fares. Among the claims set forth are: that there is downward trend in costs and that 8 cents for fare is now since the war is over, too much; that under this "excessive charge people cannot afford to use the cars as they might, under a five cent fare; and that the present charge discredits the city.

The commission is expected to set the date for this hearing at the earliest possible time after the hearing in the matter of reduction of telephone rates.

## More Booze Found

Deputies Burke and Hughes brought Charles Rucker from his ranch near Estacada to the hotel de Wilson on Friday. He was booked on the charge illicit manufacture of intoxicating liquor. His equipment consisted of a complete still, 200 gallons mash, and one jug moonshine booze.

## WINNERS IN BUY AT HOME LETTER CONTEST

Mr. E. B. Charman of Oregon City has been judged winner of the first prize of \$15 for the best letter on the subject, "Why we should buy at home." Mr. Charman's letter was published in last week's issue of the Banner-Courier.

The second prize \$10 has been awarded to Mr. B. L. Calverly of Oregon City, whose letter appeared on the Buy at Home page of June 15. Mrs. Opal Borgess of Borin, Oregon was given third prize and Mr. H. O. Neason of West Linn was given one year subscription to the Banner-Courier.

## MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL IN \$20,000 DAMAGE SUIT IS FILED

### Undue Influence Upon Jury Detrimental To The Defense Claimed

## MISCONDUCT CHARGED

### Many Affidavits Favoring Defendants Presented Arguments Before Judge Morrow

Motion for a new trial in the case of Dr. H. S. Mount against Drs. Orel A. Welsh, M. C. Strickland, A. H. Huyecke, C. H. Meissner, W. Ross Eaton, G. A. and C. E. Stuart was filed with the county clerk on Saturday and argument will be heard by Judge Morrow of Portland at a near date.

The original action brought by the plaintiff grew out of the publication of a communication, alleged libelous, and in which the defendant physicians scored the acceptance of a twenty-five dollar fee charged by the plaintiff for performing an autopsy on the body of Alex DeFori and in which they also questioned the accuracy of his findings in the case.

The result of the first trial was an award of \$20,000 to the plaintiff. General surprise was expressed over the amount of the verdict and announcement was made that the case would be carried to the highest courts. It is understood that this motion for a new trial is the first lap on the upward journey.

In the motion are 119 reasons set forth seeking a new trial. Affidavits include charges that nine of the jurors were patients of the plaintiff and none personal friends of the defendants and that some of the jurors were hostile to defendants; that one juror was in favor of returning a verdict for \$250 damages but voted for the larger amount in order to get rid of the case and go home. Another affidavit states that one juror who claimed when examined to be unbiased had a personal grudge against Dr. Welsh.

Charges are also made that one juror talked about the case with persons not on the jury during the progress of the trial; that plaintiff was guilty of misconduct in suppressing the report of Dr. Menne whom he employed to make the autopsy, which report defendants claim sustained their contention as to the cause of De Ford's death.

It is further contended in the motion that jury members were influenced by the attitude of the Judge believing that he would set aside anything but substantial verdict and if a substantial verdict was not awarded that the plaintiff would lose his license to practice medicine in this state.

E. B. Tongue, Earl C. and C. D. Latourette and Grant Dimick are attorneys for the defendants.

## BANK OF COMMERCE IS SETTLED IN NEW HOME

On Monday morning this week the Bank of Commerce, after occupying the present Hog building since its establishment in December 1915, opened for business in its magnificent new building at the corner of Main and Seventh streets.

The new quarters are unusually attractive and a credit in structure and appointments to any city of even metropolitan character.

The building itself is of double concrete fireproof construction with cream brick surface appropriately trimmed in white and with mahogany doors. The interior is done in marble with copper color frame and glass cages.

The heating and lighting systems are modern in every respect.

The coin and securities vault is acetylene torch or burglar proof with triple time locks. Its doors are of 6 inch steel weighing 12,000 pounds each. Besides this vault there are two others, one for safety deposit boxes and one for storage.

The apartments for convenience of the business and patrons, consist of offices for president, cashier, and assistant, coupon room, directors' room, and mezzanine floor for the bookkeeping department.

In this new and modern building Oregon City takes pride. And in every such substantial improvement there is encouragement to continued progress.