

OREGON CITY ENTERPRISE

WOMAN PROMISES TO TESTIFY SHE WATCHED MURDER

EYE-WITNESS SAYS SHE WILL REVEAL SECRET WHICH HAS BEEN HIDDEN 47 YEARS

WEALTHY FARMER, 75, CALLS PROCEEDINGS A "HUGE JOKE"

James Boys Said to Have Buried Loot After Robbing Bank—Plat Lost in Fire and Fortune is Spent in Search.

BEDFORD, July 9.—With four men under arrest for alleged complicity in the murder of a wealthy stockman and his son at Slam, Iowa, in September, 1868, and arrangements made for the protection of the state's chief witness, representatives of Attorney General Conson's office tonight said they were prepared for the next phase of Taylor county's double murder and buried treasure case.

This, they say, would come Tuesday, when the preliminary hearing of the defendants, Bates Huntsman, Samuel Scrivner and Henry and John Danewood, will be called in the local court.

C. A. Robbins, assistant attorney general, left tonight for Des Moines for a conference with his chief, Attorney General Conson, after arrangements had been made to insure the appearance of Mrs. Maria Porter, of Juitman, Mo., at the hearing Tuesday. She is the woman who, as a 14-year-old girl, is said to have witnessed the killing of the cattleman, believed to have been Nathaniel Smith, of St. Joseph, Mo., and his son, and the subsequent burial of \$50,000 on the old Collins farm near Slam.

Samuel Scrivner, the wealthiest man among the defendants, in an interview here today characterized the whole proceeding as a "huge joke." The Danewoods, although they declined to treat the matter seriously, announced that they wished to retain the "best lawyers" in the country.

Another version of the story came to light when six residents said the money had been buried on the farm by the James boys, after they had robbed a bank. This was said to account for interest in recovering it in after years.

The loss of the plat in a fire which burned the house on the place, and the death of Jonathan Dark, the only member of the gang who knew where it had been buried, it was said, made necessary the search that extended through so many years.

ESTACADA ASKS FOR PART OF FAIR FUND

FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS TAKEN FROM GENERAL FUND FOR THE COUNTY FAIRS.

A delegation of twelve from Estacada and the country immediately adjacent to that city came to Oregon City Friday to petition the county court for a part of the \$1824 county fair fund for the East Clackamas fair at Estacada.

The county fair is held annually at Canby and residents of the Estacada district have always contended that they were unable to take part owing to the distance from one side of the county to the other. Several years ago the East Clackamas fair was organized and the Estacada people have begun a vigorous campaign for a part of the county fair fund.

The county court claims that it is unable to appropriate any part of the county fair fund for any other purpose than for the county fair, but Friday \$400 was taken from the general fund of the county and turned over to the county fair board. Estacada boosters have been referred to this board for a part of the \$400 fund.

The warrant conveying \$400 will be made payable to the county fair board and its purpose, according to the wording of the court order, is to promote county fairs and to collect and arrange exhibits for the state fair from this county. The use of the term county fairs, is taken to indicate that the court would approve the offering of financial aid to the East Clackamas fair.

THREE GET DIVORCES.

Three divorce decrees were signed by Circuit Judge Campbell, separating J. H. Ketchum from L. G. Ketchum, Ida C. Neff from Milton B. Neff and Grace Rollson from L. H. Rollson. Of the three plaintiffs, only J. H. Ketchum was given alimony, \$15 a month.

AUTO CLUB SEEKS 100 MEMBERS IN MONTH

CAMPAIGN IS PLANNED IN WHICH EVERY OWNER IN COUNTY WILL BE ASKED TO JOIN.

Plans for a membership campaign which is expected to bring in 100 members within the next month were made at a meeting of the Clackamas county automobile club Friday night. The organization now has between 50 and 40 active members.

Letters will be sent to every registered automobile owner in the county, asking them to take part in the activities of the club and each individual member of the organization is expected to take part in the work. The dues were cut from \$2.50 to \$1 a year, at the session Friday night.

Two big events, the annual banquet and a run up the Columbia river, are being planned for the next month. The social runs committee, composed of John Busch, Ray Caulfield and Mort Parks, is making the plans for the trip over the new scenic highway. The annual banquet will be held either the latter part of this month.

PLEDGE GIVEN TO AMERICAN SHIPS BY THE GERMANS

BERLIN INFORMS WASHINGTON GUARANTEE OF SAFETY IS OFFERED.

IMMUNITY TO AMERICANS ON NEUTRAL VESSELS IS PROMISED

America to Be Permitted to Employ Four Hostile Craft if They Are Needed—Complete Reply Forwarded.

BERLIN, July 9, via London, July 10.—Germany's offer, embodied in the reply to the United States note regarding the sinking of the Lusitania and submarine warfare, was delivered to James W. Gerard, the American ambassador, last night. Its essential features are:

First, reiterated assurances that American ships engaged in legitimate trade will not be interfered with nor the lives of Americans upon neutral ships be endangered.

Second, that German submarines will be instructed to allow American passenger ships to pass freely and safely, Germany entertaining in return confident hope that the American government will see that these ships do not carry contraband; such ships to be provided with distinguishing marks and their arrival announced a reasonable time in advance.

The same privilege is extended to a reasonable number of neutral passenger ships under the American flag and should the number of ships thus available for passenger service prove inadequate Germany is willing to permit America to place four hostile passenger steamers under the American flag to play between North America and Europe under the same conditions.

ROBBERS GET RICH HAUL FROM LIMITED

LOUISVILLE, Ky., July 10.—Four masked bandits held up the New York to New Orleans express of the Louisville and Nashville railroad near Greenville, Alabama, early today, frightened Conductor Phil McRea to death, overpowered other members of the train crew and escaped with currency consigned to a bank in Houston, Texas.

When the mail car was entered the mail clerk was covered with revolvers, thrown to the floor and securely bound. He was then tossed into the weeds beside the roadbed. The mail was rifled after the engine and mail and express cars had been detached from the passenger carrying section of the train and ran down the tracks considerable distance.

These reports of the sensational holdup were received at the offices of the general manager of the Louisville and Nashville this afternoon. Efforts were made to obtain further details, but it was stated at the railroad offices that there were no means of confirming reports from New Orleans and Greenville that the robbers obtained \$200,000. Five suspects have been arrested, but possess are scouring the woods in search of the bandits.

The currency taken by the robbers is reported to have been consigned by express to Houston.

No estimate has been made of the loss sustained by the rifling of the mails. Pouches were ripped open, however, and mail was found scattered about the car and on the ground near by.

JURY HOLDS THAT THAW IS SANE ON THE FIRST BALLOT

VERDICT IS FIRST VICTORY IN LONG FIGHT OF PRISONER FOR FREEDOM.

APPEAL BY STATE FROM LOWER TO HIGHER COURT IS EXPECTED

Justice Refuses to Grant Motion to Release Thaw Pending Further Action—Decision is Not Considered Final.

NEW YORK, July 11.—Harry K. Thaw was this afternoon found to be sane by a jury in the court of Justice Hendrick which heard the evidence in the trial through which the slayer of Stanford White sought his permanent release from Matteawan.

The verdict today is the first real victory gained by Thaw in his long nine year fight for liberty following the killing of White on the Madison Square garden roof. He betrayed no anxiety as the jury filed back into the courtroom after being out about half an hour and when the finding was announced smiled broadly and immediately turned to accept the congratulations of his counsel and friends.

Justice Hendrick will probably announce his decision in the case tomorrow. The finding of the jury is not final, as the court has the power to render a different decision. Should Justice Hendrick find Thaw sane, however, the effect will not be to free Thaw, as the state formally announced an appeal. Thaw may possibly be released on bail.

Immediately the finding of the jury was announced, John H. Stanchfield, Thaw's counsel, moved that the defendant be liberated pending action of the court upon the jury's recommendation. This motion Justice Hendrick refused to grant, however. He announced he would meet the attorneys for both sides in his chambers at 11 o'clock tomorrow, when he would give his ruling on the motion. The justice did not say when he would announce his action upon the recommendation of the jury that Thaw be released as sane.

DR. O. A. WELSH IS NAMED COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

COUNTY PROBABLY WILL LOSE OSTEOPATH OFFICIAL BEFORE NEXT MONTH.

Clackamas county will no longer have the distinction of having the only osteopath county health officer in the United States.

The county court Wednesday refused to reappoint Dr. J. A. Van Brakle, who has served two years despite the efforts of physicians of the "regular" school to remove him, and named Dr. Orel A. Welsh.

Owing to the fact that Dr. Van Brakle's term expired on the first of this month, Dr. Welsh will take over the office within a few days, said County Judge Anderson Wednesday afternoon. Besides Dr. Van Brakle and Dr. Welsh, Dr. W. E. Hemphed made application for the place. Judge Anderson said that the vote was not unanimous but refused to say how the three members of the court voted, or to name the other candidate who received a vote.

Dr. Welsh was raised in Oregon City and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Welsh. He was graduated by the Oregon City high school, McMinnville college, University of Oregon and Ann Arbor and has taken work in several other schools. He has practiced in Oregon City for about a year.

FATHER SEVERELY CUTS SON WITH MOWER

Kenneth Ross, the three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ross, of Willamette, was severely cut and bruised early Tuesday afternoon when his father ran into him with the moving machine while cutting hay.

The accident happened about 2 p. m. Dr. Hugh Mount was called immediately. The boy was taken directly to the Oregon City hospital and a special nurse was called from Portland. The doctors announce the case as critical, but it is believed that they will save one if not both of his legs. One leg was severely mangled just above the ankle and the kneecap of the other was lacerated. The attending physicians say the wounds are such that he may never fully recover.

CASH EXCEEDS THE DEBTS OF COUNTY

GENERAL ROAD FUND SHOWS DEFICIT—\$86,265.25 CASH, ACCORDING TO REPORT.

The amount of cash on hand in all funds exceeds the total of unpaid warrants in the Clackamas county treasury, according to the semi-annual report of County Treasurer Dunn, which has been filed with Clerk Harrington. Every fund shows a balance, with the exception of the general road fund which has outstanding about \$75,000 in unpaid warrants. The special road fund shows a balance but in the report of Treasurer Dunn these two reports are grouped together under a general head, road funds. The special fund has \$27,337.33 on hand, making the general fund in the report appear to have a balance. The county has cash on hand in all departments \$88,565.25.

The balances shown by the various funds, according to Treasurer's Dunn's report, follow:

Special school fund	\$4,000.00
Special city fund	648.05
General city fund	19,903.38
County school fund	15,910.83
Road fund	27,537.33
State school fund	53.67
Institute fund	213.92
Trust fund	2,037.71
Taxes collected by assessor	134.20
County fair fund	1,824.81

"Kill Me For Hill Murder" Crazy Man Requests Sheriff

OTTO STAUB WOULD SACRIFICE OWN LIFE FOR MAN WHO KILLED FAMILY.

"People accuse me of the Hill murder and I have come here to give myself up," Otto Staub, 42, told Sheriff Wilson Monday morning at 8 o'clock when the official arrived at the courthouse to open his office. Staub arrived here from Vancouver, Wash., at 6 o'clock and waited for the sheriff two hours.

"Did you murder the Hill family?" Sheriff Wilson asked the man. Staub had been praying and arose from his knees. "I am not guilty, but people say I am," he said. "If you are not guilty why did you come here to give up yourself?" Wilson queried.

Staub produced two Bibles from under his arm. "This book says I must love my neighbor as I love myself," he said. "It says I must love my neighbor enough to give up my life for him, and I have come here to give up my life for the man who murdered the Hill family. Take me and let him go. I will sacrifice myself that he may be saved."

The man has insisted all day that he must take the place of the Hill murderer. To visitors in the county jail he reasoned with apparent sincerity that he should be allowed to take the place of the man who committed the Ardenwald crime.

Staub, who is a Swiss but who has lived in this country about 22 years, was found insane at an examination Monday and later in the day taken to the state hospital at Salem. He has worked at Vancouver, Fairview and other towns near Portland, including Ardenwald.

SUIT AGAINST CLATSOP COUNTY IS ENDED

The suit of Edward Killfeather, of Portland, against Clatsop county, following the construction of a hospital for the county by the Portland man, ended Thursday after a trial extending over a period of three days. The case was tried before Circuit Judge Campbell.

The county attempted to enforce a clause in the contract in which a penalty of \$10 a day was prescribed for every day the building was uncompleted. The county alleged that the delay in the completion of the building was 135 days. The court allowed 125 days, ruling that 10 days of the delay was caused by the county itself.

The decision of Judge Campbell for Killfeather was \$3191.25. The county, previous to the trial, had offered \$2500 for a settlement. The total cost of the hospital was \$18,000. George C. Brownell and William Stone represented Killfeather and J. W. Searcy, to whom the claims were assigned, and D. C. Fulton and D. W. Mullins appeared for the county.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CHANGE.

LOS ANGELES, July 9.—Official notice of the change of the Tiger club from Venice to Vernon was received by President Maier here today from Al Baum, president of the league. The first game on the new grounds will be played Sunday morning. Improvements have been made on the Vernon field since the Tigers moved from there to Venice last year, the outfield being extended and the stands overhauled.

WILSON IGNORES INFORMAL DRAFT OF GERMAN NOTE

ADMINISTRATION WILL AWAIT COMPLETE MESSAGE FROM BERLIN.

PROPOSED CONDITIONS ARE REGARDED AS NOT NEUTRAL

Ambassador Von Bernstorff informs His Government Proposals in Present Form Are Unacceptable to U. S.

WASHINGTON, July 8.—The United States government will not engage informally in a discussion or negotiation with Germany regarding the character of the forthcoming reply to the last American note on submarine warfare.

Ambassador Gerard, at Berlin, has been informed that such is the president's decision and that the ambassador is to make no comment on the tentative draft given him by the German foreign office. If asked for an expression, he is to say that the United States will await a formal reply before discussing the question further.

The outline of the German note as called by Ambassador Gerard is known to be far from satisfactory to officials. With respect to the sinking of the Lusitania, on which more than 100 Americans perished, no admission of liability is made. Whether in extension or not, the view is expressed in the draft that when torpedoed it was not believed the Lusitania would sink as rapidly as she did.

As for the future, citizens of the United States would be permitted to travel with safety on the high seas if passengers on American ships or belligerent ships not carrying munitions of war.

The United States would be required to inform the German government of the date of departure and character of vessels carrying Americans, and guarantee that such ships had no munitions of war aboard.

In this connection high officials here today said that it would be an unnecessary act for the United States to notify any belligerent government of the date of departure from an American port or the character of the cargo of a merchantman of another belligerent.

MOTHER SAYS SHE HEARD SON'S CRY WHEN CAR HIT HIM

MAN KILLED ON INTERURBAN LINE IS WILLIAM LACOURSE—INQUEST TODAY.

Between 12 and 1 o'clock Wednesday morning Mrs. Clod LaCourse was awakened, she says, by the voice of her son. "This is Bill," he said, and asked for help.

When the family gathered for breakfast, Mrs. LaCourse told her husband of the voice. He came down town from their home and heard that a man had been killed 11 o'clock Wednesday morning near Island station by a Portland bound interurban car. His son failed to return from Portland Tuesday night and he went to the morgue. To his horror the mangled body was that of his son.

"The sight of his body hurt me like a shot," he said Wednesday in describing the finding of his boy.

William LaCourse, the victim of the car, had been working near Gervis and spent Tuesday in Oregon City with his parents. Tuesday night he went to Portland and evidently started home about 9 or 10 o'clock. At 10:30 o'clock he appeared at the Hotel Belle barroom and asked for a drink but was refused as the barkeeper thought he was drunk. Later he was seen by Marshal Reed, of Milwaukie, walking toward Island station, the first stop south of Milwaukie.

Motorman Hart, of the car which hit LaCourse, said Wednesday morning when Coroner Hemphed began his investigation that he saw the figure of LaCourse lying on the track when within about 20 feet of him. Although he threw on the air brakes, he was unable to stop. Death probably came instantly.

William LaCourse was born 21 years ago at St. Louis and has spent all his life in this state. He intended to return to St. Louis within a week to work in a hop yard and a ticket from St. Louis to Portland was found in a pocket.

TWO ON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD ARE ELECTED

CRITICISM OF COURT BY ESTACADA DISTRICT UNMERITED, SAYS JUDGE.

Judge Grant H. Dimick and Guy T. Hunt were elected members of the county fair board Thursday by the county court. These two with O. D. Rhy will form the board this year.

The county fair fund this year amounts to \$1824, which has been raised by a tax of one-twentieth of a mill on all the property in the county. The spending of this fund rests with the county fair board.

Considerable criticism has been directed at the county court by many living in the Estacada district, because the East Clackamas fair has not received any of the county fair fund. Judge Anderson declared Thursday, and other officials affirm his statement, that this criticism was unwarranted, as he understood the law to take from the hands of the county court the power to spend the fair fund and put it with the county fair board.

EDISON ACCEPTS DANIEL'S OFFER TO HEAD BOARD

BUREAU OF INVENTION AND DEVELOPMENT IS ORGANIZED IN NAVY DEPARTMENT.

SECRETARY URGES SUBMARINE MENACE BE MET BY AMERICA

Great Inventor Agrees to Take Charge of Board to Work Out Ways of Protecting Fighting Machinery and Ships.

WEST ORANGE, N. J., July 12.—Thomas A. Edison has accepted an invitation from Secretary Daniels to head an advisory board of civilian inventors for a bureau of invention and development to be created in the navy department. His acceptance will go forward at once to Washington, where the new plans await word from the man "who can turn dreams into realities."

Mr. Daniels' idea of utilizing the inventive genius of Americans in and out of the military and naval service to meet conditions of warfare shown in the conflict on land and sea in Europe is outlined in a letter written last Wednesday asking Mr. Edison whether, as a patriotic service to his country, he would undertake the task of advising the proposed bureau. The plan is to have several men prominent in special lines of inventive research associated in the work.

Among the great problems to be laid before the investigators the secretary mentioned submarine warfare, adding that he felt sure that with Mr. Edison's wonderful brain to help them the officers of the navy would be able "to meet this new danger with new devices that will assure peace to our country by their effectiveness."

PLOT TO DESTROY STEAMERS CHARGED

WASHINGTON, July 12.—"Secret service agents are cooperating with the police in every eastern and southern city in an effort to run down what is believed to be a conspiracy, significant in scope, to destroy freight steamers clearing from American ports for England and France," the Times says here this afternoon.

"The exposure of the conspiracy is now nearly ready, it is freely reported, and officials expect revelations of so startling a nature as to surprise the world."

"A large amount of money is behind the conspiracy, it is hinted in well-informed circles. An idea of the extent of the suspected plot may be obtained from the fact that secret service agents blame the conspirators for the attempt of months ago to fire the French liner La Touraine. It was reported then the fire was caused by internal combustion, but officials now believe it was due to a bomb."

"The conspirators are also believed to be responsible for placing similar infernal machines aboard the steamers Kirkoswald, Bankdale, Devon City, Lord Erne and Cressington court."

"The bombs found aboard several ships were not dynamite but of highly inflammable chemicals which were designed to burst into flame from the heat in the hold. All of the bombs burst were similar in construction. They were small cylinders, constructed of zinc, about four inches long by one and a half inches in diameter. At the base were screw caps, supposed to be for the instruction of the chemists. They are self-consuming and only their failure to explode caused the discovery."

AMERICA'S DUTY TO NEUTRALS IS NOW CONSIDERED

REPLY OF GERMANY TO NOTE FROM WASHINGTON RESENTS ISSUE OF GRAVITY.

BERLIN'S POLICY IS ALTERED BY UTTERANCES OF BRYAN

More Favorable Answer Indicated Two Weeks Ago—Formal Rejection of Proposals as to American Ships Probable.

WASHINGTON, July 10.—Official Washington takes a grave view of the situation produced by Germany's refusal to meet the demands of the United States, growing out of the sinking of the Lusitania, with a loss of more than 100 Americans.

Upon President Wilson rests the burden of deciding the policy which the United States is to follow. Quietly and carefully he is considering the situation, it was said at the White House after telephone conversations with the president at Cornish, N. H., and the country may expect him to act with "deliberation as well as firmness" when he has examined all phases of the problem.

Secretary Lansing withheld comment. As soon as the complete official text of the German reply arrives, which will be tomorrow, he will begin a careful study of it, and on Monday or Tuesday will go to Cornish for a conference with the president. The president will then return to lay before the cabinet the course on which he has determined.

What action the United States will take officials would not predict. Some of those who have been familiar with the president's point of view and with the details of the present situation, however, pointed out that there seemed to be only one course open with dignity and honor to the United States—the continued assertion and exercise of the rights of neutrals on the high seas in accordance with the established practices of international law. Responsibility for any rupture in friendly relations, which might subsequently ensue between the United States and Germany, it was declared would then fall upon the Berlin government.

There is as yet no definite crystallization of opinion among officials as to details, but the distinct tendency is toward a reiteration not only in a formal note, but in actual practice of the principles for which the United States has been contending.

The unanimous verdict of high officials was that the German reply was thoroughly unsatisfactory and leaves the situation exactly at the point where it was in the days immediately following the sinking of the Lusitania. While the continued exercise of American rights in the future is urged as a logical course to be followed, it is recognized also that the United States cannot abandon the demands it has made for the disavowal of intent to drown Americans and the question of reparation.

COURT ORDER TIES UP WEST LINN WORK

CASE, ARGUED BEFORE JUDGE CAMPBELL, MAY BE CARRIED TO HIGH COURT.

Street work in West Linn was tied up Friday when Circuit Judge Campbell granted J. W. Moffatt a restraining order. The case was argued Friday, Clarence Eaton appearing for Mr. Moffatt and B. N. Hicks for the city.

Each incorporated city in the county has received 60 per cent of the money raised by road tax in the city limits. This fund, which the plaintiff alleged was intended to be used only for construction and maintenance of county roads in the city limits, was being used for the improvement of residential streets, according to Mr. Moffatt. The city alleged that there was no distinction between county roads and streets in an incorporated city and that, once the money was deposited with the city by the county, the county could in no way direct or restrict its expenditure.

The case is considered important in that under a law passed by the last legislature, incorporated cities will receive 70 per cent of the road money collected in the city. It is considered probable that the case will be carried to the supreme court. In case the decision of the circuit court is sustained, the spending of this fund by cities will be greatly restricted.

Salem Statesman: Dr. Hills thinks Heaven will remind him of the Willamette valley. There is an ancient story of a Boston man who went to Heaven and asked for admission, and was told to go right in, but he would not like it.