

IDENTITY OF BODY AGAIN IN QUESTION

Woman, Alleging Corpse at Oswego Was Her Father, Called Notoriety-Seeker.

\$660 IN GOLD IS AT STAKE

Mrs. Effie Robinson's Claim Disputed by Bernhard Halst, Who Brings Out Sensational Evidence to Support His Contention.

OREGON CITY, Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Probably the most sensational and startling affidavit ever filed in the Probate Court of Clackamas County has just been presented by Frank C. Hesse, an attorney of Portland, and a member of the firm of Hesse & Beckett, in which charges are made that bring into question the identity of the man whose body was found at Springbrook schoolhouse, near Oswego on September 12, last.

Hesse has a client, Bernhard Halst by name, who avers that the dead man was his brother, but that far he has brought forward no evidence to prove this supposition. One phase of the case that makes it unusually interesting is the fact that the dead man had \$660 in gold in his pockets. Coroner Holman took charge of the remains and turned the money over to the Treasurer of Clackamas County.

In less than a week after the unknown man was buried, Mrs. Effie B. Robinson, of Firland Station, Multnomah County, appeared and demanded that the remains be exhumed. This was done and she declared that the body was that of her father, F. A. Williamson, who had come from Texas, Kan., last Summer, to see her, and that he insisted upon being out in the country where he could live the life he loved, so they came to Oregon City together on August 7. After having dinner at the Brunswick Restaurant, she told him goodby and Williamson crossed the suspension bridge and started out on a prospecting tour.

Woman Identifies Body.

Six weeks later his body was found in the brush near Oswego. There were no indications of violence, it being evident that heart failure had been the cause of death. Mrs. Robinson learned of the discovery of the body through the newspaper. She positively identified the articles that were found in the clothing, and her picture was found in the dead man's watch. Mrs. Robinson then applied for letters of administration, which were granted.

No sooner was this done than Attorney Hesse filed a contest, and a hearing has been ordered for January 10, in order that the contestant may have an opportunity to procure additional evidence in support of his claim.

The affidavit of Hesse contains no less than 20 exhibits, being letters written to him in an effort to let the light shine on the real facts of the case. He has conversed with Mrs. Lull, he says, who lives next door to Mrs. Robinson, and has been on rather intimate terms with her. Mrs. Lull believes the father story is a myth.

Called Notoriety-Seeker.

Hesse also saw H. E. Potter, who resides not far from Mrs. Robinson's home, and Potter likewise has made every report that Charles Ridgway, who used to live next door to the administrator, had made the statement that her claim was nothing but a pretense. Hesse also says that she is a woman who likes to be mixed up in affairs of general notoriety; that some time in the Summer she alleged that she had stolen \$1000 from Mrs. Robinson, and that she had stolen several hundred dollars from her residence, and that one morning everything was brought back and hung to the door. In his effort to secure testimony to discredit Mrs. Robinson, Hesse engaged a private detective, who went to the house of Mrs. Robinson, with the pretense of buying her a watch. He told her that he used to live in Wisconsin, whereupon Mrs. Robinson, or either of her two half-sisters, made the statement that they used to live in Appleton, Wis., where their father was a director in a bank in 1833, and where he lost \$40,000 which he had on deposit. She also told him they had formerly lived in Viroqua and Neillville, Wis., where she knew Fred Beales, a wrestler. Hesse lost no time in writing to Beales, signing the name of J. H. Murphy to the letter, and the answer was unanswerable. Hesse also wrote to the Chief of Police at Texarkana, but has received no answer. Then he penned a letter to the Chief of Police at Appleton, Wis., and obtained the following reply:

Never Lived in Appleton.

Appleton, Wis., Oct. 7, 1908.—Hesse & Beckett, Portland, Or.—Gentlemen: Yours of the 2d inst. regarding the case of Williamson at hand, has been received. I am unable to find any one who has ever lived here by that name, and have made every possible inquiry and consulted all the city directories from 1850 to the present time, and also find that no such man was ever interested in any of the banks and that there has not been a man by that name in town since 1860, and that was a state bank and paid no taxes. I have also written to Chief E. W. Haester, Chief of Police, Appleton, Wis. You certainly must have the wrong location.

Hesse wrote to the Chief of Police at Troway, Wis., and was advised that Williamson left there about 20 years ago and has not been heard from by the authorities since. However, the City Marshal of Neillville, Wis., sent the following interesting letter to Hesse & Beckett:

In reply to yours of Nov. 2, I will say that I believe Mr. F. A. Williamson never lived here. I have ascertained that Mrs. Robinson had an uncle who lived in the town of Washburn, with whom she lived a part of the time. His name is Charles Lowrey, postoffice address, Granton, Wis., R. F. No. 4; this is about 15 miles from Neillville, east.

I have heard that she went by the name of Williamson, but she was known here, before and after her marriage, as "Crazy Jane." I know of no husband and no family. I understand that the Robinsons are now living at Lents, about 10 miles from Portland, and have been told that at the time she was here her father lived at Viroqua, Wis.

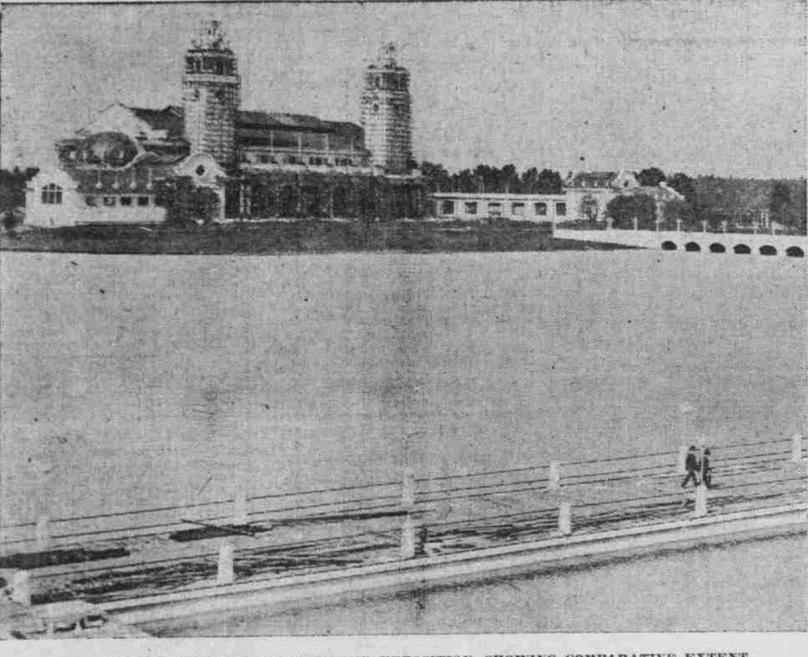
If you can reach the Lowreys you will be able to get information as to the whereabouts of the man who was buried at Oswego. Four days after writing this letter, the Marshal of Neillville sent the following message to Portland:

Old Scandal is Involved.

Since writing some days ago I have learned more about the Williamson-Robinson family which may be of service to you. At the time of the birth of Mrs. Effie Robinson her mother had one Jessie Williams arrested on the charge of being the father of the child. Jessie Williams was acquitted by the court. It is firmly believed by old friends of said family that the grandfather of the girl, by marriage, was the true father of the girl. This Jessie Williams now lives in the town of Marshon, on a rural route running out of Granton.

This Marshal of Neillville, whose name is J. W. Hommel, seems to have become interested in the case, for in another letter under date of December 2, he says: Regarding the Robinson woman, will say

PERSPECTIVE PLANS OF THE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AT THE ALASKA-YUKON-PACIFIC EXPOSITION, SEATTLE.



GOVERNMENT BUILDING AT PORTLAND EXPOSITION, SHOWING COMPARATIVE EXTENT. SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—The above drawing shows the perspective plans of the Government exhibit building to be erected at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition to be held in Seattle in 1909.

that I learned that her aunt lived in the village of Granton and I went over there today. This aunt, an own sister to Mrs. Robinson's mother, is Mrs. Cynthia (Emaline) Lowrey. She tells me that the child Mrs. Robinson's mother died when she was two years old, and that she was her mother's first husband's name was Stace Core, with whom she lived about two years, when they separated. They had no children. She or he later secured a divorce and she married a man by the name of Joyce Jennings, to whom she had four daughters. Mrs. Jennings, Mrs. Robinson's mother, died about eight years ago. Mr. Jennings died about two years ago, both deaths occurring in Sugar Grove, a few miles from Viroqua. It is evident from what they tell me that Mrs. Robinson was born in that neighborhood. When the Lowreys came up into this country, the girls were named after their mother. Mrs. Lowrey tells me that her sister (Mrs. Robinson's mother) told her that it was her own stepfather who was the father of her child.

The man Williams was arrested on the charge but the case never came to trial. The scheme was worked up by the stepfather in order to clear himself. None of the family ever lived at Appleton, and he never had any children. The whole tribe was poor and all girls and boys had to work out for a living. The name of the stepfather and father of Mrs. Robinson was Ashbury Moore. He was a member of the Grand Lodge, and whether the man had teeth at the time of his death or whether he had never had teeth, but they mustered the information that he was "damned mean."

I found when the Lowreys two letters and wired them but they said they were not going to bother writing, as they "wasn't worth it." They think some "skin game" of mine.

After some correspondence with Charles Lowrey, at Granton, Wis., Hesse & Beckett received the following telegram from him:

Ernie B. Robinson's father died in Vernon County, near Viroqua, Wis., in Spring 1903.

Woman Accused of Fraud.

Mr. Hesse believes, therefore, that the name of F. A. Williamson is simply used by her as a fictitious name and that she is attempting a daring fraud to obtain the \$660, and he makes the following deductions:

First—That in order to prove the body is that of Christian Halst, a brother of the petitioner, it will be necessary to have a certificate of the death of Mrs. Robinson's natural father and stepfather.

Second—That if Mrs. Robinson's mother's own stepfather, Ashbury Moore, was the real and true father of Mrs. Robinson, and if he died and was buried at Sugar Grove, Wis., it is perfectly evident that he cannot be the man found near Oswego.

Third—If Stace Core, whom Mrs. Robinson's mother married about four years after Mrs. Robinson's birth, is also dead, having died at Sugar Grove, Wis., it is evident that he cannot be the party found near Oswego.

Fourth—If Jesse Williams, who was arrested by the girl's father on the charge of being the girl's father, is still alive, it is shown beyond doubt that he cannot be the person found near Oswego.

Fifth—If Joyce Jennings, the second husband of Mrs. Robinson's mother, died about two years ago at Sugar Grove, Wis., he cannot be the person found near Oswego, all of which will go to prove that the person found is not Mrs. Robinson's father.

Mr. Hesse is now trying to secure copies of the death certificates of Ashbury Moore, Stace Core and Joyce Jennings, and believes with this evidence he can establish the fraudulent nature of Mrs. Robinson's claim.

That Mrs. Robinson, however, clearly established the identity of the dead man is believed here by the officials who had charge of the case. She even described the minutest detail his pipe, which she said had a crack in the stem, which fact had up to that time escaped the notice of the Coroner. Her picture was in his watch, together with a note giving his name as F. A. Williamson, and stating that his daughter was Mrs. Robinson, of Firland Station.

HOOD RIVER CLEW SLIGHT

Trainrobbers Believed to Have Bought Soap in Apple City.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Hood River County and city guardians of the law are busy trying to get information concerning the three men who recently held up the O. R. & N. train at Fairview, but so far have obtained but little evidence as to their actions or presence here.

It is believed by J. H. Huggins, of the grocery firm of Wood & Huggins, that he sold the men the soap that they used to make cups to explode the nitro-glycerine that blew open the express car door. Mr. Huggins says that two men came to the store about 4 o'clock of the afternoon that the train was held up and secured a box of matches and a cake of soap, stating that they were not particular about the kind or quality of the soap, and that he gave them a bar of the common laundry kind.

Both of the men, he says, were rough-looking characters; the man who bought the soap being tall and thin, with several days' growth of beard, and his companion of short, stocky build.

Efforts to trace the supposed robbers after leaving the store, however, have not resulted in giving the officers any information that would lead to their identification if arrested or what they did until train time.

PAPER MILL IS PROMISED

Brownsville Commercial Club Trying to Interest Capital.

ALBANY, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—A paper mill is in prospect for Brownsville and if present plans are realized Linn County will have two of these important industries. The Brownsville Commercial Club is in communication with Eastern people who are considering the establishment of a big paper mill in the city on the Calapooia. A big paper mill has been operated at Lebanon for several years and ranks as one of the county's leading enterprises.

Gets Drunk, Smashes Windows.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—For taking a big club and smashing out all of the windows of James Haffey's saloon, in Camas, during the early hours of Saturday morning, Patrick Cahill, a swamper of the place, was arrested and brought to this city last night by W. C. Warren, Marshal of Camas. Cahill is about 45 years old and has been a photographer, telegraph operator and musician. This is his second offense.

Albany Knights to Build.

ALBANY, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Leonidas Lodge, No. 36, Knights of Pythias, of Seio, will soon rank among the many lodges of that order in this state which own buildings. A deed was filed in the County Recorder's office here last evening transferring to the lodge a piece of ground 25x142 feet in Seio's business district, and the lodge will proceed at once to erect a building.

To Beautify Albany Campus.

ALBANY, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Extensive plans for beautifying the campus of Albany College are in prospect. Considerable work has been done on the campus in past years but there has never been any systematic plan for the creation of a well-rounded campus. The board of trustees of the college has appointed a committee to confer with a landscape

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ROSEBURG JOINTS RAIDED

Sheriff and Deputies Seek Violations of Local Option Law.

ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—All the Roseburg soft-drink establishments, five in number, were raided simultaneously last night by Sheriff Penton and his deputies in a search for evidence of any violation of the local option law. Three were found to be obeying the law. At one near the depot a bottle supposed to contain whiskey was found behind the bar and at another several bottles which the officers think contained beer, instead of near-beer, were confiscated. No arrests have yet been made.

ABERDEEN PUTS ON EXTRA POLICE.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Burglars entered two places of business last night, but only a small amount of money was secured. An extra force of policemen have been put on until after the holidays and a number of suspicious characters have been run out of town.

A par excellent table d'hote dinner served at the Perkins Grill Christmas, 5 to 8:30. Reserve your tables.

Elegant stock of fitted bags and suit cases at Harris' Trunk Co. Note window display.

STORE OPEN EVENINGS

LIBRARY TABLES

Our tables are beautifully designed, finely made and reasonably priced. The stock is very large and complete in both oak and mahogany. No gift is more beautiful, useful, or permanent and none so sure of a grateful welcome. Exclusive designs. PRICES \$7.50 TO \$300.00

J. G. MACK & CO. FIFTH AND STARK

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PHONOGRAPH REPLACES PASTOR IN FRONTIER CHURCH.

SCHEME PROVES SUCCESS

Deming is still something of a frontier town, and while it has a church, it is not yet provided with a minister. It is the usual custom for the occupant of some pulpit in Bellingham to go there on Sunday and hold divine services, but while volunteers for this are not lacking, their services are not regular. Members of the Deming congregation decided last week to secure a better attendance and to have two services on Sunday, and since ministers were not available, they hit upon the idea of substituting phonograph records for voices of the church choir and the preacher.

Accordingly a big, noisy phonograph was turned loose on "Rock of Ages," "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night," and various others of the old standbys. Some confusion was caused when an unidentified record commenced to grind out "Love Me and the World is Mine," but it was promptly checked off and the doxology substituted.

Now the congregation plans to have Bellingham ministers deliver their sermons into the phonograph, and Deming even proposes to reproduce the rendering of the services, and the church may be run wholly by machinery. How the phonograph is to settle a row between the deacons or a choir feud has not been decided.

NEW TELEPHONE COMPANY

Independent System to Be Installed at Milwaukie.

MILWAUKIE, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Preliminary steps have been taken toward the organization of a mutual telephone company by the citizens of Milwaukie. At a meeting held Thursday night, an organization was effected by the election of the following officers: Chairman, John R. Kelso; secretary, J. F. Duffy. Manager, C. C. of the Northwestern Telephone Company, was present and explained what was the best way to effect an organization. It was reported at the meeting that 68 residents had al-

READY AGREED TO TAKE TELEPHONES AND SINCE then others have signed, so that from the start there will be about 100 telephones. Connection will be made with the Northwest long-distance telephone lines, which will provide Milwaukie with direct communication with Portland and other cities. Cost of the plant will be about \$3000, and it is proposed to form a company with a capital stock of \$3000, much of the stock already having been subscribed. A meeting will be held in the Milwaukie City Hall Tuesday night to elect directors and complete the organization of the company.

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