

ROBERTS' MOTHER TRIES TO SAVE SON

Woman Bares Own Weakness and Other Family Skeletons in Murder Case.

OLD SUPERSTITIONS TOLD

Parent Gains Sympathy in Court-room as She Unfolds Story of Wayward Boy and Peculiarities of Prisoner's Relatives.

Anxious to be of assistance in supporting the contentions of his attorneys that her son is insane, Mrs. Mary Ellen Pfeiffer, mother of Jack Roberts, on trial in Judge Morrow's court for the murder of Donald M. Stewart and George Hastings in an attempted automobile kidnapping March 25, last, yesterday afternoon took the witness stand and ruthlessly dragged the family skeleton from the closet, divulging, among other things, that she never had been married to Jack's father, although she bore him three children.

Mrs. Pfeiffer, now the wife of a small rancher living in the hills of Clackamas county, nearly 29 miles southeast of the city, traces the family history on both sides of the house as far back as the defendant's grandparents.

According to her story, every ancestor and relative of the young man on trial for his life has either been insane or peculiarly eccentric.

Mother Gains Sympathy. So lacking in stature is Mrs. Pfeiffer that when she sits in the witness chair her feet dangle a foot or more from the floor. She has the stoutness of middle age. A wave of sympathy swept through the courtroom for the diminutive figure in the witness box.

Mrs. Pfeiffer referred to Jack's paternal grandmother as "tricky." She testified that her own father, Josiah Johnson, had died in the insane asylum at Salem and that her mother, Sarah Johnson, was subject to unreasonable hallucinations, among which was one that her father was in love with several other women and had them hid in the woods and canyons of Washington county, where she lived as a girl.

Religious Quarrels Recalled. She related that when clergymen came to their home to remain over night her father constantly quarreled with them on religious subjects; that through sheer perverseness in refusing to tolerate any ideas other than his own he had broken up the community Sunday school, and that once in a fit of temper he had nearly choked his wife to death.

Mrs. Pfeiffer, continuing her story in chronological order, testified that one of the defendant's paternal aunts had deliberately contracted a severe cold, which resulted in her death, her fixed purpose, as announced in advance, being to end her life by this means; that a second paternal aunt was weak-minded and had such a poor memory and was subject to such fits of absent-mindedness that the witness believed her mentally incompetent; and that a third sister of Jack's father had attempted suicide by drinking chloroform. It was brought out that this aunt was jealous of the man she afterwards married. Mrs. Pfeiffer related a laugh to replace the sober attention which had greeted her story when she said of this aunt:

"After she recovered from the effects of the chloroform the wedding date was advanced a month and she said that she would willingly take it again if the date could be still further advanced."

Jack's Peculiarities Related. After expressing the belief that Charles D. Roberts, brother of the defendant's father, also had been insane, Mrs. Pfeiffer came down to the time of the defendant's birth. She stated that when the child was born, in January, 1883, she was 17 years of age, and that Jack was four years of age before his skull had grown. Three physicians had given her up to die just previous to the baby's birth, she testified that she was unconscious for three weeks about that time. For two months after Jack's birth he showed such slight signs of life that the mother was unable to tell whether he was asleep or awake.

The mother then skipped to the time when the baby was two years old, telling of his intense reaction to a peculiar squash which grew in the backyard. Every day, precisely at 3 o'clock, she said, the child would serenade the neighbors with a song made up of sounds unintelligible to her ears, or those of neighbors and relatives, and would fondle it affectionately. He was brokenhearted, she said, when the squash was cut. Jack next centered his attention on a saucer. So persistent did he become in his attention to the saucer that the mother hid it. Jack learned of the hiding place and day after day, precisely at 3 o'clock, he made a demonstration before the box that contained the saucer until the mother was forced to deliver the piece of crockery.

Theft Father's Mania. Changing to a discussion of the defendant's father, H. H. Roberts, she declared that he often stole, for the sheer love of stealing, articles for which he had no use and which he threw away. She declared that she eloped to marry him, but that the marriage ceremony was not performed and that thereafter she was afraid to leave her home because he threatened to kill her if she deserted. She was barely 17 when she went to live with him, she testified, and not until he was sent to the penitentiary in 1884 did she secure her release from his influence. She had met Jack's father at the home of the latter's mother, for whom she had gone to work as a domestic when between 15 and 18 years of age. She related many incidents in the life of Jack's father tending to show that he was a confirmed criminal.

Getting down further towards the present day, the witness said that George Roberts, brother of the man on trial, is in the insane asylum at Blackfoot, Idaho. She testified that when Jack was between 5 and 3 years of age she caught him just in time to prevent him splitting the head of his grandfather with an ax.

Old Superstitions Brought Out. She declared that "during the full of the moon"—the murder occurred during the full of the moon—the defendant is not responsible for his actions and, in her opinion, cannot at such times distinguish the difference between right and wrong. During the

ELKS TO PROVIDE AMPLY FOR WOMEN

Two Buildings Are Connected to Give Quarters for "Open House."

REGISTRATION ON JULY 3

Roundup on Multnomah Field Is Not Sanctioned by Commission—Local Lodge Prepares "Party" for New York "Newlyweds."

PHILOMATH AND DALLAS INSTITUTIONS MAY JOIN

COLLEGE UNION PLANNED

PHILOMATH AND DALLAS INSTITUTIONS MAY JOIN

United Brethren Favor Merger of Two Schools Into One Strong Educational Body.

Portland Photographer Weds Teacher in Irvington School.

MR. AND MRS. ELBRIDGE W. MOORE.

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Family Physician Testifies.

Registration Begins July 3.

Roundup Not Sanctioned.

REALTY PARTNERS FIGHT

G. H. Durham Seeks to Have Phillip V. W. Fry Denied License.

Charging that Phillip V. W. Fry had cheated G. H. Durham, his former partner, out of his share of commission on sale of the Bowers Hotel properties last winter, Durham, represented by R. W. Montague, yesterday afternoon put up a fight to have the license of the City Council refuse Fry a license to conduct a real estate office.

Notice was received yesterday by the general passenger department of the O.-W. R. & N. Co. that arrangements have been completed for the handling over to the Elks from several special trains of Elks. These trains are all from the Northwest and, according to the reports, will be heavily loaded. They will be from Aberdeen, Wash.; Pendleton, Or.; Walla Walla, Wash.; North Yakima, Wash., and Spokane, Wash., and will bring to Portland not only the Elks from those cities, but from surrounding territory to the number of probably 2000.

The North Yakima train will leave there at 2 P. M. July 8, arriving in Portland at 7:05 A. M. the following day. It will include seven cars. The Aberdeen train will include seven sleepers and will leave Aberdeen at 10:30 P. M. July 10, arriving in Port-

land at 6 o'clock the following morning.

The Walla Walla train will include eight sleepers. It will leave Walla Walla at 11:30 P. M. July 8, and arrive here at 7:30 the next morning. The train from Pendleton will be one of the largest, an order having been placed for ten sleepers, a steel coach, an observation car and a dining and baggage car. This will leave Pendleton at 9:30 A. M. July 10, arriving here at 7:30 A. M. the following morning. It will leave Plummer at 6:30 P. M. July 1, and arrive in Portland at 11 A. M. the following morning. It will consist of seven cars.

In the orders issued for the specials a request is made that as many of the train crew as possible be Elks.

The special from Spokane will be filled with Montana Elks. The train will be run from Butte to Spokane over the Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound line and be transferred to the O.-W. R. & N. at Plummer. It will leave Plummer at 6:30 P. M. July 1, and arrive in Portland at 11 A. M. the following morning. It will consist of seven cars.

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EXAMINE "THE OWL"

Examine its policy, its methods of doing business; its every-day regular prices, its special offerings, its service and the quality of its drugs and other drug store merchandise. Examine "The Owl's" record of 20 years in the drug business. Fair consideration and comparison of these will result in the decision that "The Owl" is a store of satisfaction—giving all

that it is possible to give in quality, in service and in low prices.

"OWL" 25c TOOTH BRUSHES. Much is said about tooth brushes—their quality, the bristles, etc. "The Owl" guarantees its brushes.

17c SALE OF STATIONERY. Choice of five brands of Linen Stationery in fancy lithographed boxes—24 sheets and 24 envelopes—unusually good value at the regular price of 25c a box. Friday and Saturday at 17c.

\$25 ARNOLD VIBRATORS, SP'L \$17.50. There's nothing so important in life as a vigorous, healthy, sound and well-kept body, full of life and strength and ambition. The regular daily usage of an Arnold Massage Vibrator will do more for restoring and maintaining vigor and energy than any other method. You can use one right in your own home, without any assistance, and at a trifling expense. Complete outfit, consisting of six applicators, securely packed in handsome carrying case. Just a few offered at this special \$17.50.

AT THE TOP STANDS. "The Owl's" Kodak Finishing Service. Bring us your films. Quickest return, best results, lowest prices. Not a cent a frame unless you are satisfied.

25c WHISKBROOMS SPECIAL AT 15c. EXCESSIVE PERSPIRATION REMEDIES AT "OWL" PRICES.

25c BABY RATTLES FOR 13c. "THE OWL'S" IS A SUPERIOR PRESCRIPTION SERVICE.

One of these kind should keep the baby in good humor. Of fiberloid, therefore sanitary. Friday and Saturday only at 13c.

"THE OWL'S" IS A SUPERIOR PRESCRIPTION SERVICE. A model department, employing only the most competent registered pharmacists. We never substitute. Prescriptions from your physicians by telephone receive special attention.

ESTABLISHED 1892 SEVENTH AND WASHINGTON STREETS. EIGHTEEN STORES ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

C. C. Poling, of the United Evangelical Church, and Professor Metzger, of Dallas College, were introduced.

Alderman's Suggestions Asked. SALEM, Or., June 20.—(Special.)—Superintendent Alderman, as head of

the schools in Oregon, has received a request from the trustees of the estate of O. S. Johnson, of Scranton, Pa., asking that he give them assistance in mapping out a proper work of charity in establishing a manual training system for the children of that city. The Amey and the surrounding country have been in close touch with the Philippines for about 300 years.

the entire income of this with the exception of \$25,000 a year will be used for the purpose, this additional income to also be used at the time of the widow's death.

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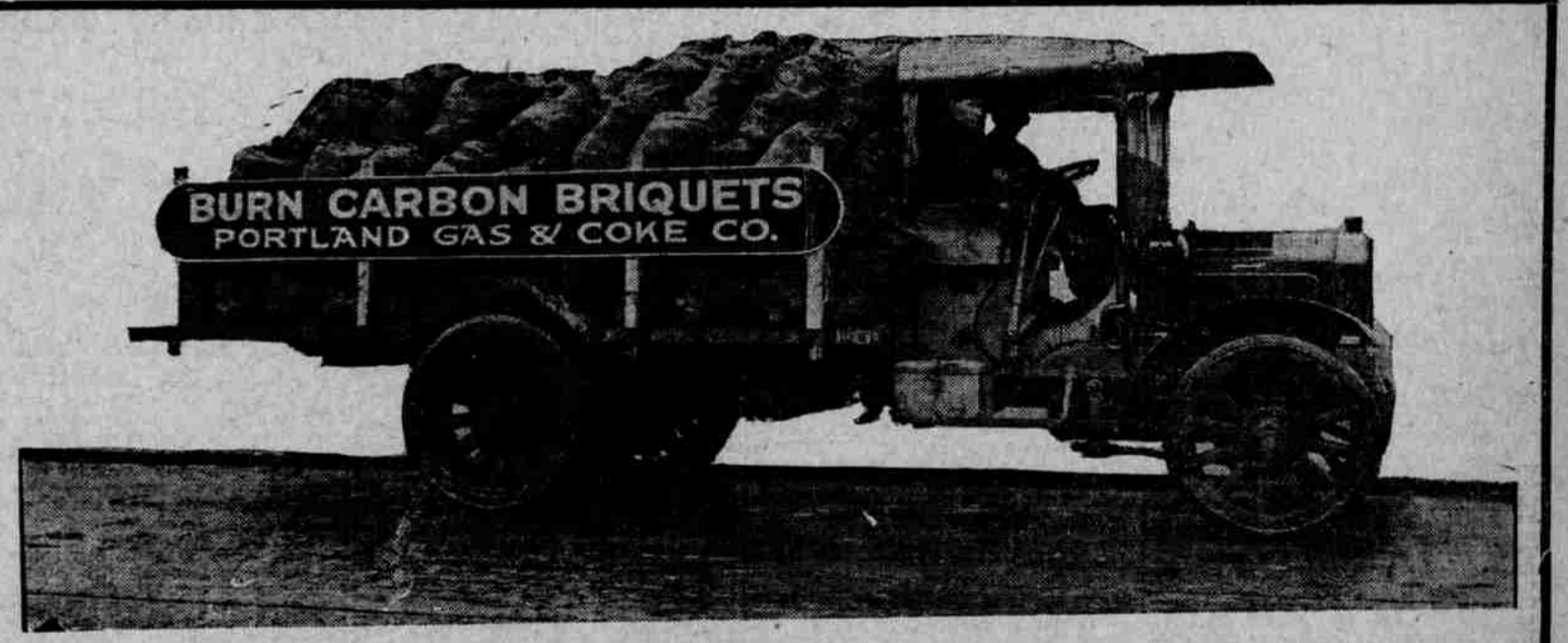
Advertisement for 'The Owl' drug store, featuring an illustration of an owl and text describing its products and services.

Advertisement for 'Owl' tooth brushes, highlighting their quality and value.

Advertisement for Arnold Massage Vibrators, emphasizing their benefits for health and vitality.

Advertisement for 'The Owl' drug store, listing various products and their prices.

Advertisement for 'The Owl' drug store, featuring the owl logo and text about their prescription service.



SPECIAL SUMMER PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY ON CARBON BRIQUETS

The ideal fuel, ideal for furnace, boiler and grate. Can be used wherever wood or coal is used. ALL HEAT—NO ASH. Delivered in sacks and left in sacks if customer so desires.

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