

NEW CLUES HELD TO BE AGAINST SIERKS

George A. Thacher, Criminologist, Says Hair Found Is Similar to Idiot's.

TRIAL EVIDENCE ATTACKED

Date of Wehrman Murder and Testimony About Mail and Forced Cabin Declared to Err. Governor Has Report.

Following continued study of the Wehrman murders, which he contends John A. Pender was convicted unjustly, George A. Thacher, criminologist, supports the John G. Sierks confession with added details that have since come to light. Chief among these is a microscopic examination of the two samples of hair clutched in the hands of Mrs. Wehrman when her husband was found in her lonely cabin in the mountains near Seaside.

"Exhibit No. 1, hair found clutched in the fingers of Mrs. Wehrman, is precisely like that of John Sierks in texture and color," said Mr. Thacher. "Exhibit No. 2 is finer in texture than the other and lighter in color, but it exhibits precisely the same peculiarity of structure as exhibit No. 1."

"In all probability hair in exhibit No. 2 was pulled from the back of Sierks' neck. Its character indicates this, and Sierks has an unusual growth of hair on his neck."

Pistol-Taking Theory Assailed.

Mr. Thacher says the theory of the prosecution that he had used the revolver stolen from the Riley and Hasen cabin in committing the double murder is untenable, for the reason that the cabin was not broken open and the weapon was not taken until some time after the murder was discovered, or until September 17, 1911, whereas the bodies of Mrs. Wehrman and her child were found September 6.

Mr. Thacher has affidavits setting forth that Joseph Hasen told Pender in the Multnomah County Jail last July that his cabin and trunk containing the revolver in question were not broken open before the murder. Affidavits of Ed Miller and Deputy Sheriff Fred J. Phelan support this conversation, which both say they heard. They also say that Pender told Pender that the reason he did not return at the second trial and correct the dates in his testimony at the former trial was that Detective L. L. Levington met him in San Francisco before the second trial and told him if he came to Oregon to testify it would be worse for him and warned him against it.

Mail Clew Also Attacked.

Mr. Thacher argues that the contention of Detective Levington that Pender carried to Mrs. Wehrman the mail that was found after her death is unsupported. The evidence, he says, shows that the clerk in the Seaside Postoffice was not certain at any time that he gave the mail to Pender, while a mail package, which Pender was suspected of having delivered there, was shown by the postmaster to Mrs. Wehrman, having been in the house before he left the place Sunday afternoon, September 3.

That the Wehrman murders were committed Sunday, September 3, and not on the following day, is said to be supported by evidence Mr. Thacher has brought to light. This upsets the theory of the prosecution. Pender said Mr. Thacher, as the Riley and Hasen cabin was occupied Sunday by the owners and the revolver could not have been taken on that day, although it was alleged at the trial that the revolver was taken Sunday.

Hunters Discover Bodies.

"I have been told by Mrs. Schmitzer," said Mr. Thacher, "that John Sierks told her that his mother went to the Wehrman cabin Monday and found the dead bodies. He fixed the event by shaking of stage hands and making about the Wehrman cabin Monday."

"Mrs. Schmitzer said she remarked to John, 'It must have made your mother and sister feel very bad to see Mrs. Wehrman's dead body,' and John said, 'Yes, they went home and cried all night about it.' And yet John's father said he and he said, in repudiating his confession, that he was at the Schmidt place, near Hillsboro, and did not go home until November."

Another important point to the fact that the murder was discovered by two hunters in the middle of the day, Monday, September 4, but that they agreed in the hearing of the jury that they did not mention it. The only person who heard this conversation was concealed from the hunters. He did not hear them speak of the murder, but he did hear one remind the other that he was not to mention what he had seen and heard to mention the name Wehrman."

Mr. Thacher has placed in the hands of the Governor all the new evidence he has collected.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Dr. H. C. Epley, of Salem, is at the Seward.

H. R. Crawford, of Turner, is at the Seward.

W. A. Orr, of Aberdeen, is at the Seward.

J. W. Robinson, of Madras, is at the Perkins.

Joseph Cratley, of Chicago, is at the Norton.

A. F. Coats, of Seattle, is at the Multnomah.

B. A. Parish, of Castle Rock, is at the Oregon.

A. P. Johnson, of Corvallis, is at the Seward.

Ralph O'Connor, of Roseburg, is at the Norton.

W. E. Craven, of Independence, is at the Imperial.

J. W. McCulloch, of Ontario, is at the Imperial.

W. A. Johnston, of The Dalles, is at the Imperial.

George H. Baker, of Dufur, is at the Cornelius.

Professor H. S. Pernot, of Corvallis, is at the Seward.

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F. W. Harris, president of the Tobacco Company of California, is at the Carlton, registered from San Francisco.

F. H. Ragan, of St. Helena, and E. P. Staples, of Haines, are at the Perkins to attend the hardware men's convention.

R. Gruley and Mrs. Gruley and Howard Ramp and Mrs. Ramp, of Brooks, motored to Portland yesterday and are at the Oregon.

Ernest G. Hopson, supervising engineer of the Pacific department, United States Reclamation Service, returned Saturday from Northern California, where he went to inspect a proposed project.

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CEILLO FETE PLANNED

Cello Committee Discusses Celebration of Opening.

PROJECT DISTRICT TO AID

All-Water Excursion From Lewiston to Portland With Celebrations. En Route Gains Pledges of Co-operation From All.

Plans were discussed yesterday by the Cello committee of the Portland Chamber of Commerce for the celebration of the opening of the Cello Canal to traffic. Joseph N. Teal, chairman, emphasized the importance of this engineering enterprise to the development of water transportation in the Columbia basin.

"Aside from the great commercial value of the enterprise, it has a sentimental aspect that appeals to thousands of people throughout the Columbia, Snake and Willamette valleys. We can well afford to take the time and expend a reasonable amount of money for the proper observance of the canal's opening," said Mr. Teal. "I have every reason to feel that this committee will have the full co-operation of every city and community of the Columbia waterway in the plans for celebration."

President O. M. Clark, of the Chamber of Commerce, declared that he felt the Cello Canal locally was of comparative importance with the Panama Canal Nationally.

Committee Elects Secretary. The organization of the committee was effected by the election of Wallace R. Struble, of Astoria, secretary, with instructions to formulate immediately an outline of plans for the committee's consideration with a view to the financial cost. With this data before them, measures at once will be taken to enlist the official co-operation of the Northwestern states and the various cities and communities of the Columbia waterway, from Lewiston and Eugene to Astoria.

A unique feature suggested is an all-water excursion from Lewiston, via Pasco, Kennewick, Umatilla, Celilo, The Dalles, Vancouver and way points to Portland and Astoria, the final destination. J. N. Teal as the flagship of the expedition and Captain W. P. Gray, of Pasco, as Admiral of the fleet. All old-time steamboat captains will be invited to participate. Prominent among these will be Captain E. W. Baughman, of Moscow, Idaho, one of the pioneers of upper-river navigation.

Local celebrations at each stop will be held at different points, including side-trips to Walla Walla and Pendleton. A special celebration will be staged at Portland and the final activities at Astoria in connection with the sixth annual convention of the Columbia and Snake River Waterway Association.

Plans Are Favored in General.

Prominent citizens of Lewiston, Pasco, The Dalles and Portland have declared themselves favorable to the plans outlined, and Captain T. H. Dillon, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, in charge of the district, yesterday announced to the committee the entire willingness of Major J. J. Morrow and staff to cooperate. Captain Dillon said the first will be completed between March 15 and April 1, and suggested the first week of May as the most fitting time for the formal opening in order to avoid excessive high water.

At the suggestion of L. A. Lewis, Joseph T. Peters, an open river advocate of long experience and an official of the Oregon State Portage Railway, was added to the committee. The entire committee now is Joseph N. Teal, Wallace R. Struble, secretary and publicity agent; L. A. Lewis, H. Devers, Harry L. Corbett, Joseph T. Peters, Henry Hahn and Thomas Honeyman.

PORTLAND MEN TAKE NOTES

Issue for Union High School at Gresham Bought Here.

Morris Brothers, of Portland, have purchased \$20,000 of coupon notes on the Union High School District, composed of Gresham, Hillsview, Terry, Lynch and Powell Valley. These notes bear 6 per cent interest, payable semi-annually, and were bid in at the meeting of the directors of the union district in Gresham Saturday. The money, with \$5000 to be raised by taxation, will be used in the erection of the high school building.

Plans for the new building were submitted by several Portland architects at the meeting, and a selection will probably be made tomorrow night. The building will be a two-story brick.

The union high school will be formally opened next Monday in the Gresham High School building. The faculty will be made up of Principal J. E. Stubbs, P. A. Anderson, Mrs. Coy Woodward and Miss Eva Struggles. One more teacher will be added.

CHURCHES TAXED AS HEIRS

Unincorporated Bodies Must Pay Inheritance Levy on Bequests.

Because they are not incorporated in this state, and further because their bequests are taxable under the wills of the testators, the churches of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of the Pacific Northwest and the Domestic Mission of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of the Pacific Northwest, each have to pay \$15 inheritance tax on money left them in the will of the late William S. McCready, according to an order by County Judge Cleaton yesterday.

Under the inheritance tax law, benevolent, charitable and educational institutions regularly incorporated are exempt from taxes entirely. Not incorporated, they are not allowed an exemption, but do not have to pay a tax on any amount under \$5000. Bequests of \$5000 or over, to this sort of an institution, the tax accrues on the full amount.

FARM EXPERT IS ASKED

Grange Committee Today to Seek Appointment of Adviser.

Application will be made to the County Commissioners for the appointment of an agricultural expert for Multnomah County this morning by the committee from the Multnomah County Grange, H. A. Lewis, H. E. Davis and J. J. Johnson.

Members of the committee obtained endorsements of the Grange, the Oregon Fruitgrowers' Association and the Multnomah County Fair Association. If appointed the county will pay half the expense and the state the other half. The Oregon Agricultural College furnishes the expert. Multnomah County desires to procure Professor Bouquet, of the college, who is the instructor at that institution in vegetable cultivation, as about \$500 acres of new land is to be devoted this year to

Red Letter Day—Today—In Premium Parlors 4th Floor—10 Free Stamps Given to All Visitors Charge Purchases Made Today and Rest of Month Will Go on February Bill Payable March 1

Tea Room

4th Floor

A quiet, restful place to take down-town luncheon with your friends. Prompt, efficient service and unexcelled cuisine.

Olds, Wortman & King

Reliable Merchandise—Reliable Methods

Pacific Phone Marshall 4800

Home Phone A 6231

Rest Room

2d Floor

Public Phones, Writing Rooms, Retiring Rooms—in fact every modern convenience here for your comfort. Make use of them.