

MAN KILLS WOMEN THEN SLAYS SELF

Divorced Wife and Sister-in-Law Victims of W. E. Stout, Who Also Fires Home.

SHOTS FIRED AT MARSHAL

Visit to Get Belongings Made at Invitation of ex-Husband, Who Locks Friends Outside After Admitting Relatives.

ST. HELENS, Or., Oct. 14.—(Special.)—William Stout, aged 50, shot and killed his divorced wife, aged 45 years, and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Todd, who was 50 years old, at the noon hour today.

Stout and his wife had been separated for about a year, she having obtained a divorce on the grounds of drunkenness. This morning he requested his wife and sister-in-law to come to his place to take their personal belongings. They requested Marshal Chittin and his wife, who were near neighbors, to accompany them.

Marshal Is Threatened. When they reached the residence, Stout invited Mrs. Stout and Mrs. Todd to come in, but requested Mr. and Mrs. Chittin to take seats on the porch, as he wanted a private conversation with Mrs. Stout and Mrs. Todd.

As soon as they entered, Stout closed and locked the door. The Marshal commanded him to open, but he refused and cautioned the Marshal to go about his business or it would be the worse for him. Shortly thereafter a shot was heard and Mrs. Chittin rushed to a neighbor's telephone to notify the Sheriff. The Marshal endeavored to gain entrance, but Stout ordered him off the premises, and as he left fired two shots at him.

Shot Fired as Entrance Gained. Sheriff Stanwood, in company with Deputy Sheriff Brown and ex-Sheriff Martin White, commandeered an auto and made haste to reach the premises. They were unable to gain entrance until a pass key was procured, and then they heard a shot in the second story.

It was with difficulty that anything could be distinguished as the officers made their way through the premises on account of smoke. Mrs. Stout was found on the floor dead. Evidently she attempted to make her escape through the door, as she was shot through the back, the bullet passing through the body and lodging in the wall.

Murderer Presumably Drunk. The body of Mrs. Todd was found in an adjoining room near a door, where she had made an effort to escape. She was shot through the head and died instantly. The officers proceeded cautiously upstairs with their guns ready for action. They groped their way through the smoke and finally found the body of Stout lying on the floor dead with the top of his head blown off.

The shooting was done with a Winchester. Stout was a hard drinker, and was supposed to have been drunk when he committed the deeds. The only relative he has here is a nephew, Mrs. Todd has a daughter living at Turner and a son in the vicinity of Garibaldi.

CHAIN IS BEING FORGED

(Continued From First Page) Nelson whipped up his horse and drove on. He went up the road at good speed, but according to his testimony at the hearing, he did not pass either Mrs. Booth or Branson and thought no more about them until after the murder.

Mr. Booth Appeared in Pursuit. Shortly after he left, Mrs. Eggen testified at the hearing, she was surprised to see Mr. Booth appear. He was not on the road, but was going at a pace that she described as "half walk and half run" in the same direction taken by Branson and Mrs. Booth. He was crossing through a grain field. He was evidently taking a short cut through the field, for he was going at an angle that would meet the road farther on. In addition to the "half walk and half run," or Mr. Booth's stride, Mrs. Eggen also noticed that he was in his shirt sleeves, as if he had come in a great hurry. He wore a blue shirt. About 10 minutes after Mr. Booth had passed Mrs. Eggen heard the sound of a gun from up the road. She said that this was about 1:30 o'clock. All the witnesses here agreed on this detail. Mrs. Anna B. Yates lives in the house next beyond that of Mrs. Eggen on the plank road.

Fleeing Man Discovered. Her house is about a mile and a half from the town of Willamina. She was in the house when her attention was attracted to the vigorous barking of her dog. As she went on the porch to see what was the matter, she heard a crashing as of someone running in the brush that lined the bank of the little Willamina River. She saw a man running about 150 feet behind her house. As she looked, she saw a man running through the clearing, and she saw him in the direction of town, and parallel to the brush. He ran until he came to where the river curves beside the road at the lower end of the plank road, and he suddenly jumped over the fence into the brush.

He pressed so heavily on the fence as he did so that it made a half testified at the hearing that she could not identify the man, but she said that he was in his shirt sleeves and that he wore a blue shirt. Just as he vaulted the fence and disappeared in the brush she heard a single shot, then silence. There now seems no doubt that this man was Mr. Booth and that the shot was the one that killed him, for his body was found several hours later just over the fence at the edge of the brush.

Crashing Thought of Animal. Curiously, Mrs. Yates paid no attention to the shot, but she gave a very plausible reason for this at the hearing. She said that a wild bull belonging to a neighbor had been running loose for several days and terrifying the neighborhood. When she heard the crashing in the brush, she thought it was the bull, and after she had seen the man and heard the shot, she testified she thought he had shot at the bull.

It is the theory of the state that Branson and Mrs. Booth had pre-arranged a meeting at this spot in the brush and that the reason Mr. Nelson did not pass either Mrs. Booth or Branson was that they had left the road and were at the time in the brush. Based on the evidence it is also the theory of the state's attorney that Mr. Booth had in some manner learned of this supposed tryst and had determined to break it up.

Detour to Surprise Purpose. The evidence taken by the state to show that Mr. Booth perceived his wife and Branson in the brush and that he made a detour by way of Mrs. Yates' clearing to come down on them unexpectedly. It was while he was making this maneuver that he attracted the attention of the dog whose barking was noticed by Mrs. Yates, according to the state.

And it is the belief of the District Attorney that Branson and Mrs. Booth had seen him and that they caused the crashing in the brush heard by Mrs. Yates as they attempted to flee.

Whoever the murderer, "Billy" Booth was shot down as he was leaping the fence or just afterward. His body was later found just outside the edge of the brush. He was shot either while he was looking in another direction, or perhaps, as he raised his arm to fend off the fatal bullet. At any rate, the bullet was fired at him from the left. The leaden pellet struck him first in the upper forearm of his left arm as it was stretched out straight, sideways. Glancing from the ulna bone it ranged through the flesh outward below the elbow and then plowed its way, the soft lead mushrooming as it went between the fourth and fifth ribs and through the heart.

Discovery Made by Constable. His body lay there behind the fence for five and one-half hours before it was removed. It was two hours before it was found, and it was left on the spot then until the coroner arrived from McMinnville, impaled a jury and took them to view the corpse. One fact that has not yet been explained is that it was found by G. D. Carter, another cousin of Branson. Carter walked out from Willamina, shortly after Branson was seen to return, went to the exact spot in the road where the shooting occurred, climbed the fence and discovered the body.

Questioned by the District Attorney, he has been unable to give any reason for having climbed the fence at this spot other than to say that he wanted to wash his feet in the river. Further testimony tending to connect Branson and Mrs. Booth with the murder was also given at the hearing.

Branson Seen on Return. Mrs. Eggen, who, with Mr. Nelson, saw both pass her house going out the road, saw Branson pass by on his bicycle on the way back to town about an hour later, although Mr. Nelson did not pass either of the two when he followed with his team in their direction. Mrs. Booth was seen by two persons.

Not long after the shooting, Mrs. Yates saw Mrs. Booth in the road at the same place which Mr. Booth was killed, coming past her house. She testified positively that this was after the shooting, which all witnesses have agreed was about 1:30 o'clock. Mrs. Booth has declared since her arrest that she was going out the plank road to visit her mother, Mrs. Harrington, and that she arrived there at 1:30 o'clock. These witnesses all dispute the time.

H. Speaker, a creamery agent, has established another link in the prosecution's case by testifying that he saw Branson return to town on his bicycle on the way back to town about an hour later, although Mr. Nelson did not pass either of the two when he followed with his team in their direction. Mrs. Booth was seen by two persons.

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CONFERENCE ENDS AT OREGON CITY

Congregationalists Decide to Hold Next Year's Session at The Dalles.

OFFICERS ARE ELECTED

Rev. A. S. Roberts Is New Moderator. Women and Young People Are Prominent on Last Day's Closing Programme.

OREGON CITY, Or., Oct. 14.—(Special.)—After a three days' session that was replete with many splendid, interesting and inspiring addresses and reports, the 6th annual meeting of the Congregational Conference of Oregon came to a close in the First Congregational Church in Oregon City tonight.

The Dalles was unanimously chosen as the place of meeting for the 68th conference in 1916, and Rev. A. M. Sangler of The Dalles, was elected moderator, and Rev. A. C. Moses, of the Waverly Heights Church, was named assistant moderator.

Nearly 100 delegates, comprising ministers, their wives, and laymen of the Congregational Church in Oregon, have been the guests of Oregon City nearly three days, being entertained by the members of the local federated churches, and they are returning to their homes enthusiastic and uplifted as a result of the annual meeting.

Among the business matters attended to today was the election of the following: Home missionary board, term expiring, 1915—Rev. L. R. Dyott and D. Staver, C. Pier, C. H. Dye. To fill vacancy on board, term expiring 1917, H. G. Colton.

Foreign missions—Rev. Frank Maples, Rev. A. S. Donat, Rev. C. S. Johnson, Feltsham, Rev. James Ivin, Rev. O. H. Holmes, Rev. E. T. Sherman.

Temperance—Rev. J. Butler, A. E. Wheeler, Rev. H. N. Smith. Sunday school—Rev. G. N. Edwards, W. B. Beahm, Rev. J. M. Barber.

Publication of minutes—Rev. Daniel Staver, Thomas Roberts, Rev. A. C. Moses. Local Federation of Churches—Rev. H. N. Smith, Rev. O. H. Holmes, Rev. F. C. Butler.

Christian Endeavor—Lloyd Carrick, C. H. Sprague, Miss Nellie Feeding. Appointments—Rev. D. Staver, Rev. E. B. Bollinger, Rev. G. E. Paddock, Rev. L. R. Dyott, Mrs. Belle Hope.

Church property—Rev. G. E. Paddock, R. S. Huntington, Rev. E. S. Bollinger. Pacific University—Rev. A. M. Spangler, Rev. F. J. Meyer, Rev. R. A. Harris.

Adopting—Rev. W. L. Ushaw, Rev. B. M. Jones. Evangelism—Rev. A. C. Moses, R. E. Millard, Rev. H. C. Stover.

Committee—Rev. J. Staub, Rev. W. Farquhar, Rev. W. H. Meyer. Anti-saloon trustees—E. T. Wilson, M. E. Thompson, Rev. F. P. Murphy. Place and preacher—Rev. J. G. Tate, Rev. John Foster, W. H. Dean.

Programme—Pastor of entertaining church, Rev. W. C. Kantner, Mrs. Belle Hope. Committee to raise \$5000 to build Corvallis church—Dr. L. R. Dyott, A. S. Roberts, R. S. Huntington, Lealitt, Butler, S. G. Pier.

Women Take Charge. Mrs. Philip Bauer, wife the former chaplain of the State Penitentiary at Salem, spoke of "The Far North," pertaining to the work of herself and husband in Nome, Alaska, and Dr. Mary F. Farnham reported on the meeting of the woman's board of missions for the Pacific, held recently at San Francisco.

At the noon luncheon the toasts were responded to by the women delegates, the men being entirely relegated to the rear, and the toastmaster was a woman, Dr. Mary Frances Farnham.

Among the very interesting addresses of the day was that on "Training in Church Music," by Dr. A. S. Donat, Hood River, who told of the remarkable success with which his efforts had met to have a girls' and boys' choir, as well as a large choir. The concluding address of the afternoon was by Rev. John K. Browne, of the American board of missions of the Congregational Church, on "War, Missions and the Kingdom."

At the Christian Endeavor supper, held at 6 o'clock, Rev. E. T. Sherman, of Corvallis, was toastmaster, and the toasts were by the Christian Endeavor delegates.

Young People Give Programme. Tonight the young people had charge of the chief portion of the closing programme. It opened with a 15-minute song service, in which a young people's chorus and orchestra took part.

Alva Patten, of Portland, presided at the meeting that followed, the addresses being of ten minutes' duration, and those taking part and their subjects were: "The Challenge to Our Societies," Lloyd R. Carrick, president of the Portland Christian Endeavor Union.

"The Message to Oregon From the World's Christian Endeavor Convention," E. Earl Felke, state president of the Christian Endeavor.

Irvine Howerter, of Salem, favored the congregation with a vocal solo, after which an offering was taken for expenses, which met with hearty response.

The various societies represented then rendered reports. The closing address of the conference was given by Rev. Otis H. Holmes, of Forest Grove.

Among the last matters of business disposed of was the passing of the resolutions, as offered by the committee, of which Dr. L. R. Dyott, of Portland, was chairman, they being as follows: First—Be it resolved, That we, the Congregational Conference of Oregon, do hereby record our conviction that the Congregational churches in the United States should have daily Bible readings in the homes of their members, and that, accordingly, we petition our present National Council immediately to make provision for such readings with suitable comments.

Second—Be it resolved, That it is the sense of this conference that two of our National societies, the Education Society and the Church Building Society, should specialize in and render extra assistance to our common work at the educational centers in Oregon and other states where necessary suggests.

Third—Be it resolved, That we renew our pledge of co-operation to the Anti-Saloon League of Oregon and all similar organizations.

Fourth—Be it resolved, That being unalterably opposed to that wholesale murder called war, we do all in our power to cause its end, and forever to prevent its renewal on earth.

Fifth—Be it resolved, That we co-operate with Pacific University in its efforts to raise an additional endowment fund of \$200,000.

FEDERAL HUNTERS GIVE AID

Fight Against Ravages of Wolves on Umpqua and Cascade Stock Begins.

SALEM, Or., Oct. 14.—(Special.)—Ravages of wolves among the stock in the Umpqua and Cascade National Forests are declared by E. F. Averill, of Pendleton, to be severe.

To aid stockmen in their extermination of the stock ravishers, Mr. Averill said today that he had just established hunters in the reserves. Mr. Averill is in charge of the Government's campaign in Oregon and Washington to exterminate beasts of prey.

In 1906 the first law was passed giving the several states a share in the National forest income. The first allotment made Oregon under this law was \$758; the last year gave Oregon \$674 as its share of this income. Washington's first allotment under this law in 1904 was \$1925, while the state's share at the end of the last fiscal year, was \$52,424.

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TENT LIFE PROVES FATAL

Prospective Mother Contracts Pneumonia at Pendleton.

PENDELTON, Or., Oct. 14.—(Special.)—Moving to this city a few days ago from the country, where her husband had been working during the summer, Mrs. Anna Grubb, 35 years old, found it impossible to obtain a vacant house. The only available accommodations for the family were provided in a large tent, and in occupying this, Mrs. Grubb contracted pneumonia. She was removed yesterday morning to St. Anthony's hospital, where she died last night. A daughter was born to her. This morning the mother died. The hospital physicians are hopeful that the child, a sturdy youngster, will live.

Mrs. Grubb leaves, besides her husband and the day-old daughter, three other children, aged 4, 3 and 2 years.



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