



FIGHTING OREGON SHERIFFS ARE FEARED BY CRIMINALS

Lawful West Owe Its Unpopularity Among Desperadoes to Two-Handed Types of Battling Characters Who Enforce Laws.



Oregon's typical western sheriffs: 1—Tilman D. Taylor of Pendleton. 2—John W. Orr of Dallas. 3—Levi Christman of The Dalles. 4—W. G. Henderson of McMinnville. 5—W. A. Gellatly of Corvallis. 6—W. W. Gage of Coquille. 7—Sheriff T. H. Taylor, king of Pendleton Roundup. 8—Lee Warnick of La Grande. 9—George K. Quine of Roseburg.

BY DEWITT HARRY. (Copyright by Emma Hyatt Morton.)

HERE is the crime of yesterday? Where the bandit, the cattle rustler, the stage-coach robber, the masked highwayman and all the other characters so vividly portrayed in romance favored by the messenger boy of yore? Where is the wild and woolly west, the gold robbers, the hot-blooded cowboy, the painted and feathered Indian, the vigilance committee, the fearless sheriff and all the pioneer personalities who craved action and would risk their all to satisfy that desire? On with the roll-call. Bandit, robber, highwayman, in the west all fall to answer, they are where they belong, behind the bars or in more genteel lines of endeavor. Vigilance committees disbanded, nothing to do. Cowboy tamed, ranges fenced and no more bad whiskey. Indian now super-educated, wearing store clothes and bad manners. Remains but the sheriff, yet on the job.

The East Is Lawless. In the matter of crime it is now accepted that the correct parlance is to speak of the lawless east. There is yet found the prototype of the western bad man in the gangster, the dope fiend, the red agitator. But the west is not suffering as in pioneer days. Criminally speaking this section of the United States is as clean as a hound's tooth. All that remains to rambled residents of this most peaceful part of the country of what once existed is the old-time sheriff, and in Oregon there are a number of these men who have an active remembrance of conditions as they once were.

Among the old-time sheriffs in Oregon eight personalities stand out prominently. They are Sheriffs Tilman D. Taylor of Pendleton, W. G. Henderson of McMinnville, Levi Christman of The Dalles, W. W. Gage of Coquille, Lee Warnick of La Grande, John W. Orr of Dallas, W. A. Gellatly of Corvallis and George K. Quine of Roseburg. Each of these men might truly be said to be of the old regime, two-fisted tested fighters not dismayed by any situation. All have been residents of the state for almost their entire lives, and they have been in office long enough that they are familiar with changing conditions.

Major Crimes Scare. Thanks mainly to their efforts the west of today, so far as Oregon is concerned, is exceptionally clear of crime of almost any description. Indeed deeds of violence are almost unknown. The main misdeeds that occur are at the present confined to the activities of bootleggers, and their course is daily becoming more beset with difficulties. The holdups and acts of similar stamp are rare. The wild and uninhabited countryside is no longer the favored haunt of the criminal, he has found that his pernicious activities find better chance of success when confined to the crowded city.

In Eastern Oregon are immense stretches of nearly wild countryside with ideal hiding places, but the efficiency, daring and ability of the sheriffs of that region has discouraged the activities of those hardy spirits who formerly haunted the region. With T. H. Taylor, dean of the state sheriffs, sitting tightly in the

saddle at Pendleton, Lee Warnick at La Grande and Levi Christman at The Dalles the way of the transgressor is indeed hard. This does not mean that the other incumbents of the office throughout the state are not efficient, but the purpose of this article is mainly to show, in their proper light, what has been accomplished by the real deans of the profession in Oregon.

Possibly as an example of a typical fearless western sheriff there can be no peer to T. H. Taylor of Pendleton, king of the roundup since its inception and a real terror to evil doers. His work is not to the grandstand, but is thorough and efficient. Taylor has been in office as sheriff for 18 years and his election is foreordained at the close of each term. He is a democrat but politics fail to count when efficiency is weighed in the Umatilla county scales. He is a native of Oregon, and was born in Marion county in 1870. He was educated in the common schools of the state, was reared to farm life and started in the business world as an employe of a hardware store at Athena. T. H. Taylor is a master horseman and has extensive stock interests in Grant county. He has also served as city treasurer of Athena.

Some of the episodes of T. H. Taylor's career as sheriff supply a few of the real high lights in the criminal history of the state. It has never been Taylor's policy to delegate his authority in time of need and he has uniformly led his deputies in person when a chase was necessary. He generally gets them before they have gone far, with the result that he has not much to do, the adventurous spirits of the underworld preferring to give his bailiwick a wide berth.

Oregon Soil Not Liked. For instance: Mike Anderson, who was arrested in Portland last month with some odd \$25,000 in securities in possession, was an old acquaintance of Taylor's. Taylor got him in 1914 for robbing a merchandise store at Hermiston, and secured his conviction, as is generally the case. Anderson drew from two to five years at Salem for this crime, and he had sense enough to not try and put over another stunt in Umatilla county, going to Asotin, Wash., for his last effort, which netted him the large sum when he looted the bank there.

Taylor caught so many of the stellar performers of outside-the-law deeds that he has little to contend with at the present day. The mere mention of his name is enough to make the lawless extra wary. He broke up all of the organized rustling bands that operated in his county at the time when he first took office, and most of the later comers in the same line of endeavor left either on account of being discouraged at the slim opportunities that they had there or in irons. Once in a while an outsider or gang of them will try and pull an act there, uniformly with dire consequences. So usual has this been the case that a real holdup is a rarity.

Bandits Rob Express Train. In 1914 came one of the last of these romance-tinged efforts when the Union Pacific train was held up by three men between Kamela and Meacham. Deputy Sheriff George McDuffee of Heppner was a passenger and he opened fire and killed Charles Manning, one of the bandit trio. In the battle McDuffee was badly wounded himself and spent some months in hospital. Taylor and Special Agent E. B. Wood of the railway

company took to the brush after the remaining couple of outlaws, and within four days the men were caught when they ventured near the La Grande yards. Albert Meaders, who was recently caught again in Astoria as a suspect in a safe-cracking job, was one of the men; Clarence Stoner was the other. They each received a maximum sentence of 12 years. Bloodhounds were used in this chase and Taylor and Woods took the trail from Meacham. The robbers only managed to get some \$200 from the train, overlooking a large sum in the express safe.

Again in 1917 Sheriff Taylor took up a hot trail after a duo of safe blowers who broke into the safe of the Hermiston postoffice. He caught up with the men at the entrance to the Columbia river, and caught one of them under a bridge there after a spirited revolver duel. After exchanging a number of shots with the companion bandit the chase was abandoned on account of darkness, and the man was later caught and is now serving time at McNeill's Island. Taylor has cleaned up numerous murder cases, and there is hardly an unsolved crime on the calendar in his county. His life has been in danger many times, and he has heard the whine of numberless leaden messengers dispatched his way in a spirit far from friendly, but he is always on the jump and first in the field when a fresh crime is committed, and his name alone, and the knowledge that he is yet holding down the job as sheriff, is one of the best crime deterrents in the state. Sheriff Taylor married Miss Clara Nossu in 1905.

Sheriff Levi Christman of Wasco county is another Oregon product, born at Dufur in 1869. He has been in office since 1906, when Multnomah county extended way up the Columbia river. He is a thorn in the side of the evildoer and they religiously avoid The Dalles as much as possible when practicing their nefarious profession. Once in a while one of them makes an error and if he is captured alive regrets it.

Christman Captures Murderer. On New Year's day, 1915, Clarence Pettit, killed his employer, Ralph Brown, at Kasekela. Brown was returning from a New Year's party at Madras when he was shot down. Pettit also fired three times at Mrs. Brown. Pettit then ran amuck and took several potshots at some hunters. By this time the entire countryside was aroused and some 50 armed men were scouring the hills in search of Pettit. Sheriff Christman started hotfoot for the scene and located the heavily armed murderer in a cabin about three miles east of Kasekela. Christman wasted no time, but slipped up to the cabin, forced the door and covered the astonished desperado before he had time to fire his gun, which he had in his hands. The arrest took place single-handed and at 4 A. M.

Sheriff Christman escorted the murderer to The Dalles and had a great deal of difficulty in keeping him from being lynched. He was tried and convicted and is now serving a life sentence at Salem. During the trip from Kasekela to The Dalles Sheriff Christman had several times to defend his prisoner at the point of his revolver.

Bold, Bad Man Arrested. Again the same year Sheriff Christman obtained his usual results when he arrested J. Austin Hooper, wanted throughout the Pacific coast. Hooper was recognized from circulars and after his arrest a search of his room revealed a cache of merchandise and assorted firearms. He was taken to Grants Pass for trial, but broke jail there and afterward wrote a pal that he would certainly keep clear of The Dalles. Hooper finally met his end when he was killed by a deputy sheriff in Missouri. He was wanted for a number of crimes, including murder.

In November last year Sheriff Christman made another notable capture when he rounded up Frank Sullivan, Edward Miller and C. W. Darcy, said to be three of the boldest burglars in the northwest. They had escaped from the Shoshone, Idaho jail, where they were being held to answer charges of grand larceny. They were arrested in the Idaho city only involved in numerous crimes, having been a number of months previous. Their list of crimes was said to embrace notorious escapades in Montana, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming.

During Sheriff Christman's entire term in office there has not been a murder committed in Wasco county but that the guilty person has been apprehended, and there have been a number of such crimes. Of late every automobile thief has been cleared up. Sheriff Christman's father came to Oregon from Missouri in 1844 and the sheriff was first a railroad man and then ran a butcher shop in The Dalles, and has held the office of sheriff for seven consecutive terms and seems as fixed as Gibraltar in the position. His mother was the daughter of a minister, and the sheriff's wife died 11 years ago. He has two children, three daughters and five sons.

Gunmen Easily Caught. Contrary to the usual experience of the sheriffs in the eastern part of the state, the tenure of office of the men in the Willamette valley is not as hazardous in the ordinary run, it appearing as if the major portion of their activities consist of late years in handling runners of contraband wet goods. However, there is plenty of action at times, and it is generally found to be of the fast and furious type when it does happen. Sheriff W. A. Gellatly of Corvallis has had some very exciting times. One of these came in 1915 when he started out after a man who had stolen a revolver and some money from a farmer. The thief, armed with the gun, had about a seven-hour start out of Corvallis and was headed for the coast. The first definite report

showed the man as 25 miles from town, and when the sheriff arrived at Summit he was reported as about three hours ahead. Riding on a handcar from then on, the thief was reported an hour in the lead at Nashvillo, and a short distance out of that town Sheriff Gellatly found him eating supper at a farmhouse. While the sheriff was trying to handcuff the man the woman of the house became excited and opened a door immediately in the rear of the criminal, through which he made a leap and escaped, followed by a fusillade of bullets from the sheriff's revolver. Taking up the chase, the man was found in hiding on a pile of drift logs in the center of the Yaquina river, and after he was arrested Sheriff Gellatly forced him to pump the handcar back to Summit.

Express Office Is Robbed. In the fall of 1918 Tom Drew and Ed White entered the store and Wells Fargo Express office conducted by N. Lorenz in Coquille and held up Henry and Ed Lorenz. They tied and gagged Ed and forced Henry to open the safe at the point of a revolver and secured about \$300 in cash and a number of odd coins and nuggets. They were arrested, but at the preliminary trial they had an indisputable alibi and were turned loose. They left Coquille and on the road to Portland separated, and Drew stopped at Albany and started a jam, spending some \$2.50 gold pieces obtained in the robbery and nuggets. This aroused Chief of Police Lee's suspicions and Drew was thrown in jail for being drunk, and on his person was found a bill showing a balance due for services of \$78 from T. S. Minot, an attorney of Marshfield. Drew was held and Sheriff Gage managed to locate almost all of the stolen gold pieces and nuggets by visiting the various resorts.

Sheriff Gage then proceeded to Portland in search of White and with the assistance of city police arrested White in Erickson's place. The two men were returned to Coquille and Drew was held for having stolen property in his possession. White again came clear, but when word passed about that he intended to go to Mexico Drew confessed, implicating White. After the confession was properly signed and witnessed Sheriff Gage started in pursuit of White, who was at Riverton, but he escaped when being returned and jumped overboard. A posse of thirteen men was organized and hunted the places where White had hidden, but failed to discard his clothing in order to make a quick getaway. That night Sheriff Gage's son, W. A. Gage, who has been his father's chief deputy ever since 1896, and Jack Reese and Joseph Collier again arrested White, and later he confessed, implicating White. White made his escape from the state penitentiary soon after being confined there and was later killed by a deputy sheriff near Yaquina Bay.

Single-Handed He Gets Murderer. A bad murder case in Sheriff Gage's experience was that of Roy Perkins at the Eastside slip in Marshfield. Frank Garrison was arrested on suspicion after a few days' investigation and this arrest shows clearly what manner of man is the sheriff of Coos

county, for he slipped up to a window of a cabin where the armed man lay sleeping with five dogs on guard relieved Garrison of his gun and then arrested him in the early hours of the morning. Garrison was held in the Marshfield jail for about a week and mainly through the efforts of Chief of Police J. W. Carter a partial confession was obtained. He was indicted and convicted and sent to the penitentiary to be hanged, but a second trial was secured with the same result and he was then hanged.

Sheriff Gage married Lorena Alice Kent in Jackson county in 1873 and they have six children living. Sheriff George E. Quine of Roseburg made a reputation all his own when he ran to earth the notorious Poole gang in Cow creek canyon after they had robbed a Southern Pacific train. In the Farnum case he had a difficult time to secure a conviction and only accomplished this after three trials, but his work has mainly been in enforcing the dry laws as Douglas case was one of the first local option spots in the state. Sheriff Quine first took office in 1910.

Lee Warnick, sheriff of Union county, was born 43 years ago in the Warnick homestead cottage in La Grande, which was built by his pioneer father and which he occupied until this fall. In 1871 the present sheriff's father held the same office. Though Union is an unquestioned republican county Sheriff Warnick continues to party as a democrat. Sheriff Warnick married Miss Ola Jeanette Tuttle of Union, Oregon, in 1907 and they have three children.

Booze Runners Catch Sheriff. Imagine having been held up when sheriff of a county. But this experience has happened to Sheriff Warnick. This all happened when trying to break up the activities of a gang of bootleggers. Sheriff Warnick and Sheriff Anderson of Baker county arranged for a party with the booze runners in the guise of prospective purchasers. Sheriff Warnick was the chauffeur for the booze purchasing crew, and as soon as the gang was ready to deliver some \$2500 worth of contraband liquor he ordered "hands up." However the leader of the gang had protected himself against such a contingency and showed the sheriff that he and his deputies were covered plentifully by a crew of men posted in the brush. The sheriff's posse were disarmed, but when they arrived at North Powder they made a hurried set of telephone calls with the result that the leader of the gang and his men were arrested. Sheriff Warnick owns two splendid bloodhounds. He finds them expensive to feed but is more than repaid when they are used at certain times.

Sheriff John W. Orr of Dallas is 41 years of age and first took office in 1915. He was born in Rickreall, Oregon, and married Miss Wilma E. Dalton in 1904 and they have one daughter. Sheriff Orr's mother resides in Portland. Since his taking office Sheriff Orr has been bad news to the bootleggers and gambler and lays claim to having one of the cleanest counties in the state in this respect.

Sheriff W. G. Henderson of McMinnville drove a four-mule team across the plains with Captain Cox's company and arrived in Yamhill county in 1866. In 1877 he came to McMinnville and has since made his home there. He was first elected sheriff in 1894, then in 1898, and again in 1910, since which time he has held office continuously. Mr. Henderson has four children and is a citizen with an exceptionally large number of friends in the state. His conduct of the sheriff's office has been exceptional, as is attested by his frequent re-election.

Sheriff W. A. Gage of Coquille was born in 1850 on E. D. creek near Dallas in Polk county and has resided in the state for his entire life. His parents crossed the plains in 1844 in one of the largest trains to reach the Oregon country, 1300 souls in all being in the company. These included the Gilliams, Jenkins, Johnsons, Shaws, Howells and others. Sheriff Gage is a democrat and came to Coos county in 1883, when he drove a bull team in the woods. He has held office as sheriff

for 19 years in all, though he first took office in 1894, having missed two short periods since then. Colonel Cornelius Gilliam, after whom Gilliam county is named, was his grandfather. Action started in Gage's office soon after he first took office, in August, 1894, when a case of burglary and arson cropped up. Suspicion pointed to John C. Manning tried to escape by going up the beach from Coos Bay to the mouth of the Umpqua river. Assisted by a stage driver named Bay, Sheriff Gage made the arrest on August 20, but on October 2 at 11:30 P. M. the two escaped by sawing their way out of the old wooden jail at Empire City, then the county seat. The latter part of that month Sheriff was apprehended in Sacramento and in February of the following year Manning was recaptured in San Francisco. Sheriff Gage received a reward of \$500 for his work in this case and paid out \$150 for the recapture. Owen was acquitted, but Manning received five years in the penitentiary, which he served.