

THE HILLSBORO ARGUS.

VOL. XXI

HILLSBORO, OREGON, JANUARY 7, 1915

NO. 42

JOHN SIERKS, INSANE MAKES A CONFESSION

Says He Killed Daisy Wehrman
And Child Near Scappoose,
Sept. 4, 1911

IF TRUE, CLEARS CONVICTED PENDER

Sierks Worked in This County, in That
Month, for Louis Schmidt, Graveland

John G. A. Sierks, an insane patient at the Salem asylum, has made a written confession that he killed Mrs. Daisy Wehrman and child, near Scappoose, on the night of September 4, 1911 and if his confession is true it will clear John Arthur Pender, convicted at St. Helens for the murder.

Sierks's confession was made Sunday as follows:

"I, John G. H. Sierks, say that on Labor Day, September 4, 1911, I had been drinking with some men on the farm of J. L. Smith, about five miles from Hillsboro, and went to bed about 7 o'clock; then got up about 7:30 and walked over to Valle Vista, a station on the United Railway, and took the electric car for Burlington. There I got off and stole a speeder from the Burlington carshop section boss and went down to Scappoose on the Northern Pacific line, there crossed over and went on the electric train, which crossed over to this woman's place—crossed at Parsons station. There I ditched it and went and stole a revolver out of a trunk in Hanson and Riley's cabin, broke it open with a clawhammer in Hanson and Riley's cabin. This clawhammer had only one claw. I took the clawhammer and threw it into Pender's tent, then went up to this woman's cabin. I found Mrs. Wehrman coming from the cabin with a lantern. This was about 10 o'clock. I saw her go in the house. She objected and spoke to me harshly. She went into the house and got a gun and shot at me. The bullet went into the cabin at the right. As I went in I pulled my revolver from my hip pocket and fired three shots at her. I fired one shot at her at a distance and she fell and then I placed the gun close to her forehead and fired; I then placed it on her chest and fired again. The boy was lying in bed with his clothes on. I thought he would wake up and 'squeal' on me, so I fired at him. I placed the gun close to his forehead and fired two shots.

"I found a hatchet in the wood-box and chopped and split her skull. . . I was afraid someone would catch me. I ran out and washed my hands in a basin on the porch. The towel was hanging by the door and I wiped my hands on it. I took the key and threw it away. Then I took the gun back to Riley and Hansen's and put it in the trunk. The gun I took from Mrs. Wehrman I buried in the edge of the garden. Then I went down where my car was, put it on the track and rode to Burlington. Then I took the midnight car from Burlington to Valle Vista station. I got home about 4 o'clock in the morning and went to bed. I got up about 6 o'clock that morning and went to work shocking grain. My mother and I talked this over, but I refused to say anything. She believed that I did it."

Pender was tried two times, the first time the result being disagreement. E. B. Tongue, district attorney, prosecuted the case, and it is understood that he instructed the grand jury when the indictment was found, that while there was strong circumstantial evidence, he did not think the testimony warranted a conviction. The case was again tried, and Mr. Tongue was called to assist in the prosecution, although he was then not the district attorney for that county. Pender was convicted and sentenced to be hanged. Gov. West reprieved Pender for further developments in the case, and then the state voted abolition of capital punishment. The confession, whether true or not—and it most likely is genuine—will no doubt mean the release of Pender, and Sierks will remain in the asylum, as he has homicidal mania. Sierks has the name "Smith" wrong. He worked for Louis Schmidt, on the Scoggin place, in September, 1911, and Louis remembers him well. He says that Sierks has a mother living near Scappoose, and that he

thinks the parents had trouble and are divorced, or, at least, are separated.

Schmidt says that he does not know of Sierks's absence, for if he went in the night, and returned before morning, he would have no means of knowing it. He also states that Sierks was a good, willing worker, and that he was of rather a good disposition, and made no trouble. It was noted, however, that he was a little queer. Mr. Schmidt says that Sierks had nothing to drink on his place, nor anywhere else in the neighborhood, so far as he knows. The confession of Sierks came as a surprise to Mr. Schmidt, as he had never connected him with the case in any manner.

At a meeting of the delegates of the Farmers of Equity, Saturday, it was resolved that the Equity Society merge into the Farmers' Union, an organization that has a much larger membership, and which works to the same end. The matter has been sent back to the locals, and if they endorse the resolution the merger will take effect. The Farmers' Union is a strong organization in Eastern Oregon, and last season saved the Eastern Oregon ranchers \$40,000 in the purchase of grain sacks alone. The report of the action of the locals will be in some time during the month, and if favorable, immediate steps will be taken to surrender the Equity charter and then the entire membership will be transferred.

I represent Spirella corsets—not sold in stores. Will call at homes on request, and do the fitting, and teach how to adjust and wear the corset. Our tailored-made-to-measure corsets, including the latest front lace, with an experienced corsetier service, cost no more than high class corsets purchased in stores.—Mrs. M. E. Caudle, Hillsboro, Fifth and Jackson Streets, Phone No. Main 384. 28-45

A report in the daily press, sent from Salem, gives a list of life terrors for murder, and their final disposition. In it is found the fact that Sydney Brugger, convicted for killing Boothe, in Hillsboro, was pardoned last Spring. H. Wintzegeerde, convicted of killing Jacob Swanger, 1881, and pardoned in 1907, is also in the list. Bert Oakman, who killed Frank Bennett in 1904, was pardoned in 1910. The list was lacking in giving the name of the Italian who killed his partner at Cornelius, some years ago.

Prices that save you money—10c outing flannel, now 8c per yard; 12c outing flannel, now 10c; 12c flannel, now 9c; 25c satteens, now 21c and 23c; 50c serges, now 42c; \$1 serges, now 75c; 25c soisette and poplins, now 19c. These prices are good until every yard has been sold.—Greens, Main St.

Tomorrow is the anniversary of the date that General Jackson won his big fight against the British at New Orleans. The day will be celebrated in every big city where there is a Jackson Club. It doesn't appear to matter that the battle was fought after the war had closed—but neither Jackson nor Packenham, however, knew it, and the fight was bona fide, to say the least.

New Fall and Winter lines of men's clothes as well as ladies' suits, coats, dresses and skirts, consisting of 60 different styles, latest fabrics, are now on display at our new location south of the K. P. Hall, Second Street. Call and look at our samples.—Christ Wuest, the Tailor. Phone Main 863.

Hunting and fishing licenses are now in vogue for 1915. H. L. Flint, of Scholla, was the first to get a hunting license, and F. J. Sewell, of Hillsboro, was the initial payor for a combination hunting and fishing license. By Monday the clerk's office had issued about 32 of both kinds—a good start for the new year.

I am handling the Watson Remedies in the Northern portion of Washington County, and will visit patrons every three months. Territory is North of Baseline. All persons wishing orders can mail same to me at Forest Grove.—R. F. Lepschat, Forest Grove, Ore.

F. M. Hill, one of the pioneers of the Gaston section, having lived there since his birth, was down Monday, on probate business connected with the estate of his mother, the late Sarah Jane Hill. Mr. Hill is a son of the late Almorant Hill, one of the first pioneers of Washington County.

BOWLERS START THE NEW YEAR WITH GUSTO

Second and Third Street Tie for
Honors With Scores of 2448 Each

BANKERS BEAT THE BARBERS BADLY

Bentley Alleys See Interesting Games on
First of the Year

Hillsboro bowlers celebrated New Year's Day with two games at the Bentley alleys, last Friday. The bowlers of Third Street and the rollers from Second Street met in combat with honors even, each bowling 2448 pins. This was a remarkable game, for a tie is seldom seen in this game. A. C. Shute bowled the biggest score of the game, his total being 578, with an average of 192. The bankers beat the barbers, and this event Shute made his 192 of an average.

Second and Third Streets, playing to a tie, it will be necessary for two more games before a decision can be reached.

The scores for the two games: Third Streeters—Shute, 207, 170, 201; total, 578; average, 192. Harges, 200, 137, 136; total, 473; average, 158. Williams, 125, 180, 153; total, 458; average, 153. Sorenson, 160, 114; Mahon, 171; total, 445; average, 148. Jack, 156, 156, 182; total, 494; average, 165. Grand total, 2448.

Second Streeters—Hundley, 167, 194, 133; total, 494; average, 165. Lang, 187, 166, 157; total, 510; average, 170. Smith, 149, 167, 198; total, 514; average, 171. Freeman, 167, 162, 147; total, 476; average, 159. Dahlheim, 135, 150, 169; total, 454; average, 151. Grand total, 2448.

Bankers—Jack, 154, 135, 151; total, 440; average, 147. Mahon, 152, 148, 160; total, 460; average, 153. Bergen, 112, 101, 151; total, 363; average, 121. Hare, 113, 116, 117; total, 347; average, 116. Shute, 190, 199, 188; total, 577; average, 192. Grand total, 2185.

Barbers—Sorenson, 111, 167, 159; total, 437; average, 146. Adams, 123, 119, 125; total, 367; average, 122. Simpson, 87, 59, 69; total, 215; average, 72. Moyes, 157, 167, 144; total, 468; average, 156. Anderson, 173, 197, 115; total, 485; average, 162. Grand total, 1906.

PUBLIC SALE

I will sell at the M. McDonald farm, at Oreno, beginning at 10:30 o'clock a. m., on

TUESDAY, JAN. 12, 1915.
Eleven head of cattle, as follows, to-wit: Cow, 5 years old, Guernsey, fresh in January; cow, 4 years old, Jersey, fresh in 2 months; Jersey cow, 6 years old, fresh in May; cow, 4 years, fresh in June; 2-year-old heifer, fresh in Feb.; 2 heifers, lately bred; yearling heifer; 8 months heifer. Lunch at Noon

Terms of Sale: \$25 and under, cash; over \$25, six months' time on approved notes, at 8 per cent. interest.

M. McDonald, Owner.
B. P. Cornelius, Auctioneer.

S. P. AND P. E. & E.

All, except the P. R. & N., trains are electric, and stop at the depot on Main street.

To Portland
Forest Grove Train.....6:50 a. m.
McMinnville Train.....7:36 a. m.
Sheridan Train.....9:58 p. m.
Forest Grove Train.....12:50 p. m.
McMinnville Train.....2:15 p. m.
Forest Grove Train.....4:10 p. m.
Eugene Train.....4:33 p. m.
McMinnville Train.....6:37 p. m.
Forest Grove Train.....9:50 p. m.
From Portland
Eugene Train arrives.....8:15 a. m.
McMinnville.....9:42 a. m.
Forest Grove.....11:59 a. m.
Forest Grove.....3:15 p. m.
Sheridan.....4:30 p. m.
McMinnville.....6:37 p. m.
Forest Grove.....7:15 p. m.
Forest Grove.....9:00 p. m.
McMinnville.....12:15 a. m.

All trains, except Eugene trains, stop on flag at North Range and Fir streets and at Sixth and Fir streets and at Tenth street.

Steam Service.....Old Depot
To Portland
P. R. & N. Train.....1:37 P. M.
From Portland
P. R. & N. Train.....10:24 a. m.

W. B. Taylor and wife, of near Scholla, were in the city Monday.

H. H. Boge, of Farmington, was in town Saturday.

L. J. Francis, of Tualatin, was in town Saturday.

Jos. Sax, of below Tigard, was in the county seat the first of the week.

Clarence Young, superintendent of the county farm, was in town Saturday.

J. C. Smith, the Forest Grove liveryman, was in town the last of the week.

J. Schmitke, of above Mountaine, was in town Saturday, attending the Equity meeting at the court house.

Best slawwood in the market—get prices for Fall or Summer delivery. See me first. All kinds cordwood.—H. D. Schmitzer.

Chas. Hieckthier, of Cedar Mill, was a city caller Saturday. He and his wife had the pleasure of entertaining all of their children this Holiday season, the first time for a number of years.

See our new non-breakable range—the Arcadian. The best range made and at a price that is inside of economy. A splendid baker and one that pleases every housewife.—Corwin.

Th. Nissen, of Scholla, was in town Saturday, accompanied by his daughter, Miss Christine, who returned to Portland after spending the holidays with home folks.

W. E. Boucsein, of Murtaugh Creek, above Mountaine, was a city caller Saturday. He says three Portland families moved into his section, this Fall, and it helps to make it less lonesome up that way.

Mrs. G. W. Foot died in Portland the first of the week. She was the wife of the man who was well known in this county a few years ago, through the sale of several hundred fanning mills to the farmers. The husband and two little children survive.

The Uniform Rank, Knights of Pythias, has been drilling continuously for several weeks, at odd times, and the company intends to have new uniforms here in about four weeks. Capt. F. J. Williams is putting the boys through the tactics, assisted by F. J. Sewell, who is the 1st lieutenant.

All outstanding tickets on Johnson's Photo Studio will be good till March 1. Bring them in for sittings before remodeling of the building commences, or you may not find the Studio in its present location. 41-2

New Year's Day was "moving day" at the court house, and Judge Reasoner and Commissioners Nyberg and Hanley assisted Clerk Luce to get the archives into the new office. The new quarters give plenty of room, and yet, there is not too much, after all.

B. P. Cornelius went to North Plains, Thursday night, to be present at the watch meeting at the Knights of Pythias Hall. He states that about 150 people were present, and that after refreshments were served, the visitors enjoyed a good, old-fashioned dance. Lester Cypher, the Chancellor Commander, presided at the ceremonies.

The Oregonian's annual number, published Jan. 1, 1915, was a credit to Portland, to the Northwest, and the publishers. It has carried the message of Oregon, Washington and Idaho to the East, and that message will be one of interest to all who have their eyes turned toward the Pacific coast. It was finely illustrated, and the art work is as good as anything ever turned out in the effete East—and, if anything, a little better.

The old gentleman from Forest Grove—but he knew a thing or two about human nature. The other evening, while the passengers were embarking the train at Yamhill street, and the vestibule was crowded with going people, a coin was heard to drop on the floor. The old gentleman stopped to pick it up, and said: "Who lost a five?" Three people answered, saying, "I did." "Well," said the old gentleman, "Here is a cent towards it."

OLD YEAR OUT AND THE NEW ONE IN

Commercial Club Has Open House
Last Thursday Evening

WATCH MEETINGS IN MANY PLACES

Business was Suspended in the City on
Friday Afternoon

The year 1914 was watched out Thursday evening, and the new year ushered in by Hillsboro citizens with due and proper observance of the event. The Commercial Club held open house, with refreshments, until after the twelfth hour, and a large number of members were in attendance. President John M. Wall and the Board of Governors saw to it that all were properly entertained, and the evening passed all too quickly.

Watch meetings were held in the various churches, and promptly at twelve the bells of the city churches were started pealing the welcome to 1915, which will mean so much to many and so little to some.

The fire bell joined in the tumult and many thought that perhaps the first blaze of the year was being chronicled—but the false alarm has lost its terror. Mr. Good Resolution made Hillsboro a visit, and just how long he will sojourn is not yet decided. He will probably remain some days with a few, and cut his visit very short with others.

The place which is paved with his fellows may conclude to do a little more street improvement soon, and if such is the case he will leave between now and the end of the month.

Boys and Girls Judge Cows

Do Oregon boys and girls know a good dairy cow when they see her? They will have a chance to show whether they do or not at a stock judging contest to be held at the Agricultural College during Farmers' and Conference week. Incidentally, they will also be able to make a few dollars by studying dairy cows and points to be observed in judging, so that they are able to get away with one of the attractive cash prizes of \$10, \$9, \$8, \$7, \$6 and \$5, awarded respectively for the first six placings. Additional prizes of \$3 and \$2 will be given for making the best and next best ratings respectively, in judging separately the four cows comprising the Jersey, Holstein and Ayrshire classes. The contest is open to any Oregon boy or girl between the ages of 10 and 18 years, and will be held at the stock-judging pavilion on February 6.

OREGON ELECTRIC TRAINS

To Portland—55 minutes.
6:32.....a m
7:18.....a m
8:23.....a m
9:58.....a m
12:43.....p m
3:58.....p m
6:43.....p m
8:10.....p m
9:58 (Sat. only).....p m
From Portland—55 minutes.
7:54.....a m
9:20.....a m
11:25.....a m
2:05.....p m
4:27.....p m
6:25.....p m
7:13.....p m
9:12 (Sat. only).....p m
12:25.....a m

MARSH—GRIMM

A very pretty ceremony took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Marsh, at Aurora, Ore., on Sunday, Dec. 27, when their daughter, Agnes Alma, was married to Victor Grimm, Rev. Butler, of Hubbard, officiated. The bride was attended by Mrs. Margaret Jones, of Forest Grove, and Miss Nellie Page, of Clatskanie. The best men were Pierce Wright and Daniel Marsh.

Miss Marsh is well known in Forest Grove, where she has lived for several years with her grandparents, Prof. and Mrs. J. W. Marsh, and attended school at college.

A Happy New Year

Will come to you if you buy your hardware and building supplies from us. We are located on Second Street, east of the court house.

"The Store That Satisfies"

Percy Long

HILLSBORO Second Street OREGON



HARD WORK
THE BRIDGE THAT WILL CARRY YOU OVER
The rushing flood of worry and the respite found imperative from over-work is the bank account. If adversity remains a stranger remember that the nurtured account is gradually piloting you toward that independence that all men prize so highly and few succeed in attaining.

4 Per Cent. Interest On Savings

American National Bank

Main and Third Sts., Hillsboro, Ore.

SHUTE SAVINGS BANK

American National Bank

(AFFILIATED BANKS)

Combined Capital and Surplus.....\$ 92,000.00
Combined Resources.....690,428.81

Banking in All Its Branches

Checking Accounts, Demand Certificates of Deposit, Commercial Loans, Foreign Loans, Domestic Letters of Credit, Safe Deposit Boxes, Traveler's Checks, Savings Deposit, Book Acc't., Time Certificates of Deposit, Farm Loans, Collateral Loans.

4 Per Cent. Paid on Savings Deposits.

The same dance music as used by Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Castle



When the foremost authorities on the modern dances use the Victrola to teach dancing, you can be sure the Victrola furnishes the best dance music—and you can have it right in your own home. Loud and clear, and perfectly played—the making of Victor Dance Records is supervised by the Castles.

We're glad to play any dance music for you at any time. Come in and see and hear the different styles of the Victor (\$10 to \$100) and Victrola (\$15 to \$30). Easy terms, if desired.

LAUREL M. HOYT

Hillsboro Oregon