

# PROMINENT COOS BAY CITIZEN ONCE METED OUT STERN FEARLESS JUSTICE TO OKLAHOMA'S LAWLESS DESPERADOS

William Grimes Accepted the Office of United States Marshall of What Was Then a Territory After Others Had Found It Too Strenuous---  
Now the Capture of the Daltons and Their Lawless Gang Was Effected  
Forms a Rugged Story Replete With Deeds of Reckless Daring

Any matter of the nature of this Dalton stripe is always of more or less interest to the public, and doubly so if there is something about it which lends a local color. Mr. William Grimes, who has lately become a Coos Bay citizen, was United States marshal in Oklahoma during the most exciting part of the Daltons' career. When he took office, the territory over which he presided as marshal was surrounded on every side by lands unsettled, or only partially settled, and which provided rendezvous for every class of criminals from the east and west who had been forced from their usual haunts by officers of the law. With the surroundings, as explained, the Cherokee Strip, Indian Territory, and other Indian reservations, peopled by outlaws, murderers and petty thieves, it is easy to understand what sort of undertaking Mr. Grimes essayed when he accepted the appointment after an eastern man had looked the field over and concluded he was not pining for such strenuous and dangerous officialdom.

Mr. Grimes was inducted into office in 1890, and before he had become well settled in the same, his troubles commenced.

But before relating this part of the story, it is best to give the early history of the Dalton family, as told by him.

"The Dalton family resided at Coffeyville, Kansas, until the time Oklahoma was opened, when they moved to Kingfisher, my home at that time, and here they settled upon a parcel of land a mile and a half from my farm, being therefore, neighbors. And for a time there was no fault to be found in the conduct of the boys who afterwards became famous as outlaws.

"The family consisted of the mother and father and twelve children. Mr. Dalton, I never knew, as he died before getting his family located at Kingfisher. There were nine boys and three girls; in order of age, they were as follows, as near as I can remember: Charles, Cole, Ben, Gratton, Will, Bob, Lit, Emmett, and 'Kid'; the girls' names I do not remember, but the eldest was between Cole and Ben, while the other two were between Lit and Emmett. The father was in the ministry and was considered a man of excellent qualities. Mrs. Dalton, who is a relative of the Younger family, is a refined woman and always felt keenly the disgrace which her boys brought upon her. Yet she was always loyal to her children, and with her mother's love, held her peace and tried to turn the boys from their career of crime. She has often talked with me about the boys and even since I came to Coos Bay, I have received a letter from her requesting me to use my influence with Governor Frantz in securing the parole for Emmett, which was lately granted.

"The first of the boys who came into public notice was Charles, who was appointed deputy marshal, and who was killed in discharge of his duties. His career closed about 25 years ago. He was a very efficient officer, but, like many others who were fearless in tracking and bringing criminals to justice, he was disliked by them, and was eventually killed. During his term as deputy, two of the brothers, Bob and Gratton, were drafted as possemen and worked with him for several years, when they received promotion, and together with Emmett, were appointed deputy U. S. marshals by Dick Walker, who was marshal prior to my term. Their duties were performed in the Indian Territory which was under the jurisdiction of the Kansas, as was Oklahoma, these being added for judicial purposes, before the opening of Oklahoma, in 1899. At this time Oklahoma became a separate district, and the neighboring territory and Oklahoma were under my jurisdiction.

"Upon taking up the duties I learned very shortly that Bob, Grat and Emmett, who was in his seventeenth year, were commencing a career of crime. It came to me that they were using their official standing to hold up 'Bootleggers' in the surrounding country. These 'Bootleggers' were men who sold liquor to the Indians and others who could not secure it by reason of its sale being forbidden in the Indian reservations. They afterwards took to selling liquor themselves. The first crime

directly charged to these three in which I held warrants was for horse stealing, late in the fall of 1900. I sent a warrant to a deputy marshal in their vicinity, who, knowing the boys and thinking some mistake had been made, told them of what he was informed and suggested that they come in and learn more about it, supposing they were innocent. At this, they took alarm and left the country immediately going to Fresno, California, where Cole and Will had located. I heard nothing of them for a time, and supposed they had gone away to some other locality to begin over again. But I soon learned my mistake, for word came from California that a Southern Pacific passenger train had been held up in the vicinity of Fresno, and a messenger had been killed. Will, Bob, Grat and Emmett Dalton were charged with the crime, and Will and Grat were arrested, while Bob and Emmett made good their escape. Will proved an alibi, and Grat escaped from jail while awaiting trial.

"For some time nothing was heard from Bob and Emmett, but suddenly it was tipped off to me that they were back at home, within a mile and a half of my place. Deputies were stationed to watch for them, but they had only remained at home a day or so, and then repaired to more unfrequented and safer localities. It was learned subsequently that they rode through from California, through Arizona, New Mexico and the Pan Handle, or No Man's Land, to Oklahoma. Shortly after they returned, the Santa Fe express was held up at Wharton, in my territory, and several thousand dollars were secured from the express safe and passengers. Deputies scoured the country, but could find no trace of the Daltons. It was learned afterwards that Charles Bryant, a notorious character of those days, was implicated with the Dalton's in this robbery. This was in the Cherokee Strip, the place now being Perry, a city of ten thousand. Six weeks later, the same train was held up at the same place at the same hour, and the robbers escaped, securing more plunder.

"Shortly after this time, I was given a tip as to where I could find Charles Bryant. A cowboy came to me and told me the search was being conducted in territory far from the real hiding place of the desperate men. Ed Short was the name of the deputy I sent after Bryant, and he had the reputation of being fearless, a dead shot, and cunning enough to circumvent any desperado who ever trod Oklahoma soil. I told him of the desperate nature of the business he had on hand and warned him of its exceeding danger. But he refused to call in any aid, and took Bryant without firing a shot. Bryant was in a hotel suffering from an attack of malaria. He was alert, but with his revolver in hand was lying in bed. Short came to his room when he was in a doze, and had a gun at his heart before he could realize the situation.

"Under my orders, Short started for Wichita with his prisoner to turn him over to the prison authorities. Short made a fatal mistake in being too sure of himself, and lost his life through sheer carelessness. I advised him to take a tried and faithful deputy with him, but he thought he could land Bryant without any aid. The Daltons had been seen riding towards Wichita and it was supposed they were going to stop the train somewhere on the line and take Bryant from Short's custody. Conductor Collins, on whose train the twain started for Wichita, heard rumors of there being trouble and requested Short to take the train into the baggage car so that in case of a shooting affray coming off, the passengers would not be harmed. Short did as requested and with his prisoner handcuffed, turned him over to the merces of the express messenger upon approaching Waukegan, where Short got outside to look for the trouble apprehended. Before going outside, he gave the messenger a revolver he had taken from Bryant. The messenger left the revolver lying on his table and went for a drink. Bryant had it in his possession when the conductor came in and ordered him to jump from the car. Collins got outside and stood on the iron supports, Bryant immediately looked for Short, who was looking ahead from the steps, expecting signs of the

LETTER FROM MRS. DALTON.

Kingfisher, Oklahoma, June 17, 1907.

Mr. William Grimes,  
Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Friend:—Do please write me something that may make a favorable impression on the governor concerning Emmett's case. He cares not so much for the past as he does for the present sentiment of prominent people and you having been in a position to have formed a just conclusion of Emmett's nature, character and possibilities in the future, as well as the injustice of so much suffering as he has already endured, would go a long way in convincing the governor that he would do right in paroling Emmett. I saw Capt. Admire this morning and he told me that you had promised him to help in the matter and that now he is ready to commence in earnest. He wanted me to ask you. He knew you could and would send me something that will help my boy. He furthermore said there are a great many people who would be glad to know that somebody had helped me, who were reticent in the matter for fear of public opinion.

These, he said, would endorse gladly, what some one else had done. I know this is asking much, but what else can I do but ask those whom I think possess sterling qualities which will prompt them to help their fellowman to a freedom which everybody thinks is justly their own. Governor Frantz is going to help, so he told Capt. Admire.

ADELIN L. DALTON.

THE LAST CHAPTER.

Kansas City, Mo.—Bewildered by the busy scenes and new sights confronting his eyes, Emmett Dalton, the ex-train robber, is enjoying the first bit of freedom he has spent outside of prison walls in nearly 15 years. A week ago he was granted a four months' parole by Governor Hoch and released from the Kansas penitentiary at Lansing in order that he might come to the city to receive treatment for a wound in the shoulder, received in the famous skirmish at Coffeyville, Kansas. It is believed that a pardon is in sight for the ex-bandit and it is probable that he will not be obliged to stay in prison long after the expiration of his present parole. His aged mother, who is now with him, has been working for his freedom for years and recently her efforts have received the endorsement of many prominent Kansans.

(Continued on page 11.)

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to give away TODAY

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Cream will contain a -

TWENTY-FIVE CENT PIECE

The Bricks will sell at

### 15 Cents Apiece

The sale will last until the Hundred Bricks are sold

WE WILL BE CLOSED TODAY  
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## LE BON VIVANT CAFE and GRILL

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Croustaux aux Sardelles.            | Bisque De Homard.                 |
| Consomme Royal.                     | Salted Peanuts.                   |
| Olives.                             | Boiled Red Snapper Anchovy Sauce. |
|                                     | Hollandaise Potatoes.             |
| Cucumbers.                          | Young Onions.                     |
|                                     | Leg of Oregon Mutton Caper Sauce. |
| Broiled Chicken ala Morengo.        |                                   |
| New Beets au Beurre.                |                                   |
| Oyster Patties Baltimore Style.     |                                   |
| Fresh Garden Peas.                  |                                   |
|                                     | Winter Green Punch, Nabisco.      |
| Prime Ribs of Beef Brown Gravy.     |                                   |
| Part Leg of Pork with Quince Jelly. |                                   |
| Mashed or Steamed Potatoes.         |                                   |
| Spinach with Egg.                   |                                   |
| Crab Salad.                         | Tomato Mayonnaise.                |
| Apple Pie.                          | Vanilla Pie.                      |
| Charlotte Russ.                     |                                   |
|                                     | Boston Cooler Assorted Cake.      |
|                                     | Mixed Nuts and Raisins, Candies.  |
|                                     | Fruits in Season.                 |
|                                     | American and Roquefort Cheese.    |
|                                     | Water.                            |
|                                     | Crackers.                         |
|                                     | Demi Tasse.                       |
|                                     | Any Kind of Wine to be had.       |
|                                     | Wines Served on Request.          |
|                                     | Dinner at 5:30 p. m.              |