

MRS. E. S. GORDON IS SHOT AND FATALLY WOUNDED BY HOLLAND ANDERSON HERE

Coos Bay's "Woman of Mystery" Lies Dying at General Hospital While Assailant Is In City Jail Pending Action Of Grand Jury

E. S. GORDON ARRIVED TODAY

Woman Has Had Meteoric Career and Been Involved in Sensational Escapades—Very Little Known Here of Early Career or History.

At the General hospital this afternoon, it was stated that Mrs. Gordon was resting easier. Little hope is held out for her recovery. She is conscious and rational.

Mrs. E. S. Gordon of North Bend, "The woman of mystery on Coos Bay," was shot and thought to be fatally wounded on the launch Bonita, at its moorings at the O'Kelly offices, by Holland Anderson, a bartender, at midnight Saturday. Mrs. Gordon is now at the General hospital hovering between life and death and Anderson is in the city jail.

The entire affair is clouded in mystery, mystery almost as deep as that which clothes the past of the woman in the case. Widely different tales of the shooting and the causes that lead up to it are told by Anderson and Mrs. Gordon and to the wild rumors that have been circulated by those who were on the ground soon after the affray there is no end.

The strange career of Mrs. Gordon, Bertha E. Leach or whatever her name may be, for she has borne several, adds to the interest that naturally centers in the tragedy. An adventuress of a strange type, her mode of living, her connection with E. S. Gordon, the sensations attached to her arrest on the charge of counterfeiting in Portland a few years ago, the denouement of a mock marriage at Vancouver in which she was alleged to have been a figure and escapades in Marshfield and North Bend, have served to make her an extraordinary character. All this has occurred in the brief space of four or five years during which she has been known to Coos Bay. What marked the thirty odd years of her life previous to that, no one here knows and on it her lips are sealed even though she has been apprised that death will probably soon close them forever. Rumor has it that she is the daughter of a once prominent and wealthy Spanish family of or near Oakland, Cal., but that is mere rumor.

Who is E. S. Gates? When told that the injuries she had received would probably prove fatal within the course of a comparatively few hours, she said that she supposed that she might just as well die now as at any other time. The only wish she expressed was that she might live to see E. S. Gordon—she insists that he is her husband and had a telegram sent to E. S. Gates of San Francisco, appraising him of her fate. Who E. S. Gates is, she did not say.

Story of Shooting. But all these things are but side-lights on the shooting of Saturday night. About midnight, she and Anderson, who is known to most of his associates and friends as "Mazook" boarded the Bonita. Although together, it was plain to the few who saw them board the little craft that was soon to part for North Bend, that they were estranged. Loud and angry words confirmed the only interpretation that could be placed upon the actions of the two. Suddenly a shot was fired by Anderson when about ten feet from the woman and she fell screaming on the deck. Anderson sprang from the boat and ran back to the Pullman saloon where he had been employed.

Anderson says that he shot in self-defense, firing only when he saw that the woman was about to fire upon him. Mrs. Gordon says that she had made no move to shoot, had merely threatened Anderson and that the shooting came as a surprise to her.

But one shot was fired. 38-calibre revolver was taken from Anderson.

A 32-calibre revolver, belonging to Mrs. Gordon, was picked up on the deck near where she fell immediately after the shooting. Whether she had the weapon in her hand or whether it fell from her clothes is not known. Anderson claiming she had in her hand and Mrs. Gordon that it was in her pocket.

Wound is Severe. Mrs. Gordon was taken at once to the General hospital where Dr. E. Mingus and several others worked over her for several hours. She soon regained consciousness, but as the bullet had passed through the kidney, liver and buried itself in her body, the physicians felt that the end must be near at hand and sent for Prosecuting Attorney L. A. Liljeqvist to take her ante-mortem statement or dying declaration. No tears, no expressions of remorse or regret passed over the woman's lips when told what her fate would probably be. Displaying a nerve and cool stoicism, except as to a willingness to tell of the affray, she was marvelled at by those present.

Mrs. Gordon's Statement. As near as can be gathered from those present, the gist of her ante-mortem statement was as follows: "I came to Marshfield from North Bend this evening to meet Holland Anderson who was to accompany me to North Bend. He had 'rolled' (robbed) me of \$75 and I wanted the money back. I sent word to the Pullman Bar and told him that he had to pay back the \$75 he had stolen from me and must come to North Bend. We went to the boat together. I made threats against him in order to make him do the right thing, but I did not make any move to injure or kill him. When on the deck of the Bonita and about ten feet from me, he suddenly pulled out a revolver and shot. I don't know what made him do it as at the time I did not make move towards him."

In addition to this, she told of her acquaintance with Anderson and some details of how she alleged he had robbed and beaten her but the details of her statements in this connection are not obtainable.

Grand Jury Acts. Her declarations concerning the shooting were taken by a stenographer with Deputy District Attorney Liljeqvist questioning her, but Mr. Liljeqvist would not give any information concerning it until after it has been presented to the grand jury or courts. The grand jury will take it up today at Coquille.

Very shortly after the shooting, Marshal J. W. Carter and Night Watchman Walter Condon found Anderson at the Pullman bar and placed him under arrest. He was taken to the city jail where he remains pending the preliminary hearing.

The full moment of the situation had scarcely dawned upon Anderson late yesterday when seen by a Times reporter. He appeared sort of dazed by what had happened and told the story as follows:

Anderson's Story. "I don't know just how it happened—the only clear recollection I have of the shooting is that I thought she was going to kill me and I pulled the revolver which I always carry and shot. I turned and fled, fearing my shot went astray and that she might still get me.

"I had been told by several that Mrs. Gordon had threatened to kill me, but I did not believe it as I did not know of any reason why she should want to harm me. I barely knew her and knew practically nothing about her. My acquaintance dates from about a week ago when an order came in from the dock for two lemonades with 'sticks' in them. I made the drinks took them out

E. S. GORDON REACHES WOMAN'S BEDSIDE.

E. S. Gordon, whom Mrs. Gordon claims to be her husband, unexpectedly arrived in Marshfield on the steamship Alliance from Portland this morning. He was not aware of the shooting of Saturday night until apprised of it at North Bend when Tom James, who knew him, told him of it.

He immediately went to the General hospital where he was long in conference with the dying woman. What transpired is not known. She had expressed a hope to live to see him.

Mr. Gordon could not be reached by a Times representative today and whether he could shed any light on the unusual affair or wished to make any statement concerning the matter could not be ascertained.

Two women took them. One was Mrs. Gordon to whom I was introduced. The next time I saw her was when on May 6th, another fellow and myself happened down around the city hall and saw her in jail. She wanted to get out and go home. The jailer told her that she probably would be allowed to go in the afternoon, I later learned that she had been arrested for intoxication. That afternoon, I got on a boat for North Bend. Mrs. Gordon came out and got aboard. She was still under the influence of liquor. She owed me \$5 for drinks and Francis Gatens, who runs one of the O'Kelly boats, \$5 for boat hire. She announced that she was going to pay us and after a search of her person found only a \$10 bill. We took it, Gatens and I dividing the money. When we got to North Bend, she seemed more under the influence of liquor than when we started. I thought she might get into trouble and offered to see that she got home all right. She agreed and we started for her home. En route, she kept insisting that we go to a restaurant and get something to eat or that I take her to a telephone office so that she could telephone to Portland. On account of her condition, I wouldn't permit her to do either. On reaching her home, we went around to the back door and she opened it. Then I left her, she just stepping inside when I turned away.

"I didn't see her again until last night. I was called to the back door of the Pullman saloon. As I reached it, a woman pushed a gun in my face and said, 'I am going to kill you.' I was surprised but began to parley for time. 'Come with me or I'll kill you here, she said. 'Let me change my clothes and I'll go with you, said I. 'No come as you are.' She still held the gun in my face and there was nothing for me to do but go. We went over to the boat and got aboard, she constantly holding the gun on me. Aboard the boat, she stepped over to speak to someone. She suddenly stopped talking and made a movement as though she was going to shoot. I grabbed my gun and shot and fled.

"I nearly always carry a gun and have had this one for sometime. I regret it very much and realize the awful position it puts me in, but I couldn't help it."

Anderson is about twenty-eight or thirty years old. He has been in and around Marshfield for a year or two, coming from Coquille where he has a couple of brothers.

Defendant in Suit. Marshal J. W. Carter Saturday served notice on Mrs. Gordon of a civil action begun at San Francisco for \$600.

The action was begun on an old claim. Mrs. Gordon laughed when the notice was read to her.

E. S. Gordon. E. S. Gordon's connection with the woman in the case is naturally brought up again by the developments.

Gordon who is about sixty years old now came to Coos Bay in 1890 or 1891. He appeared to be a man of considerable money and was a contractor. He bought some property here and soon afterwards erected the building on Front street, near 'C,' now known as the Garfield hotel block. Soon afterwards, he left. Nothing was heard of him for years but suddenly in 1903, he appeared

here again. The woman who was shot Saturday night was with him and the public understood that they were man and wife. After a short stay here, he began to invest in North Bend property and soon afterwards had the block on Sherman avenue in North Bend, now partly occupied by the North Bend club, erected. Again he and the woman went away. Soon afterwards, the San Francisco papers contained sensational stories of E. S. Gordon having charged a woman there with forging his name to checks or notes. Following the charge, came the declaration from Gordon that he had never married her and that she was not his wife. She maintained that she was.

The Mysterious Wedding. The hearing dragged and soon afterwards came the announcement that E. S. Gordon and Bertha E. Leach were married by a minister in Vancouver. It came as a surprise and Gordon's declaration that he was not the E. S. Gordon who had married Bertha E. Leach at Vancouver caused a sensation, but was not a surprise. Finally the minister who had married the couple at Vancouver was called in as a witness. He testified that the E. S. Gordon he had married was not the E. S. Gordon of Coos Bay and San Francisco.

Time sped on and again E. S. Gordon and the woman in the case appeared on Coos Bay. Their career here was rather stormy and when the announcement came that Bertha Leach-Gordon had obtained a divorce from E. S. Gordon at Oregon City, it was no surprise. About the same time, Gordon became involved in trouble with North Bend men and left this section.

Along about this time, came news from Portland that Mrs. E. S. Gordon or Bertha Leach had been arrested there on the charge of forgery, United States secret service men finding plates and paraphernalia for making bogus coins in her possession. Sensational stories of her connection with bad money men followed but at the trial, she was acquitted.

Afterwards, she returned to North Bend and has been residing there practically continuously.

GUN WAS FERRY'S.

According to authentic statements today, the gun used by "Mazook" Anderson in shooting Mrs. Gordon Saturday night belongs to Mr. Ferry of Herron and Ferry, proprietors of the Pullman Bar. Owing to the state officials, who will prosecute Anderson for the offense, having instructed all who are in any way in connected with the affair to keep silent until they tell their stories to the grand jury, which will probably take up the case today at Coquille, the details of it cannot be learned. It is understood, however, that Mr. Ferry states that he took the gun to the Pullman Bar Saturday, it to be kept there as a safeguard against trouble or holdups.

As Anderson stated that the gun he used was his own and that he always carried, the story about the gun being Ferry's varies with it. It was a 38-calibre weapon.

While the grand jury will hear the evidence in the case today, it is not likely that an indictment will be returned for a few days until Mrs. Gordon's condition is known. The charge in the indictment will naturally be different if she dies than if she should recover.

Owing to the likelihood of an early action by the grand jury, Anderson will probably not be arraigned before a justice of the peace.

TOM COOK DIES AT NORTH BEND TODAY.

Well-Known Man Succumbs Suddenly at Mercy Hospital to Pneumonia.

—Came From Napa, Cal. Tom Cook, a well-known North Bend man and proprietor of Cook's saloon, died at Mercy hospital this morning of pneumonia. He had been ill about ten days. First it was thought that his illness was but a severe case of the grip but pneumonia developed and his condition became critical two days ago.

Mr. Cook came to Coos Bay from Napa, Cal., about four years ago. He was unmarried and about 33 years old. His relatives at Napa have been telegraphed concerning his death and no funeral arrangements will be made until they are heard from.

Men's Rehearsal.—The men of the Messiah Chorus will meet at 8 o'clock this evening at the studio of Elmer A. Todd for a rehearsal.

SERIES OF TORNADOES WIPE OUT SEVERAL OKLAHOMA TOWNS

GOVERNMENT MEN ON CASE

United States Deputy Marshal Said to Have Visited Mrs. Gordon Saturday.

Coupled with the Gordon-Anderson shooting affair of Saturday night, other matters have developed which may have considerable bearing on the case, but which are likewise shrouded in mystery. The latter story all hinges around the fact that United States secret service men have had Mrs. Gordon under surveillance for sometime and that Saturday, a deputy United States marshal visited her and had a long conference with the woman.

Who the deputy marshal is, what his mission was, and what was developed cannot be discovered, authorities, who know, refusing to discuss the matter other than admitting that there has been a deputy United States marshal on Coos Bay within the last few days and that he did have a conference with Mrs. Gordon. Naturally, many conjectures have been made on the possible interest United States secret service men have in the case.

Investigate Counterfeiting. According to unsubstantiated statements, there have been many counterfeit \$5 gold pieces placed in circulation around Coos Bay during recent months. No arrests have been made here for such an offense, and it is naturally presumed that, if bogus coins were in circulation here, that government men have been working on the case.

Whether or not Mrs. Gordon's acquittal in Portland on the counterfeiting charge was satisfactory to the government official is not known and this perhaps may explain the visit of the deputy United States marshal.

SMITH MAKES STATEMENT

Owner of Building That Collapsed Explains His Connection With It.

Marshfield, Ore., May 9, 08.

Editor Coos Bay Times: I regret that it becomes necessary for me to refer to the unfortunate collapse of the building that was being built for me at the corner of Broadway and Washington streets, but feel it my duty in answer to a report that has been circulated to the effect that I changed the specifications in a way that had a tendency to weaken the structure. This report is absolutely untrue. I let the contract for the building to be completed according to certain specifications furnished by the contractor and had no power to change the building in any particular.

There was absolutely no changes made in the plan or specifications that would in any way affect the building. I know nothing myself about the construction of a building but have to depend entirely on the judgment and honesty of the contractor. I considered Mr. Cayou an honest and capable man and paid but little attention to the work, being out of town the most of the time during construction of the building. I have no opinion to express publicly at this time as to the cause of the collapse of the building. I know absolutely that I am not to blame in any particular as I am prepared to prove, when the proper time comes, that every foot of material provided for in this building was approved not only by the contractor but by other architects and contractors who are experts of wide experience. I think one is almost destitute of fairness or charity who will form and express an opinion on the basis of rumors and street-talk without first getting the facts from some reliable source.

I. B. SMITH.

Severe Storms Sweep Over Southwestern Counties Near Woodard.

SEVERAL KILLED AND MANY HURT.

Villages Struck are Off Railroad and Details of Disaster Are Not Obtainable.

(By Associated Press.) WOODWARD, Okla., May 11.—A succession of tornadoes swept over a district lying twenty-five miles southwest, south and southeast of Woodward last night. Seven small isolated villages off the railroad, and without telegraphic communication, are reported to have been destroyed. Many were injured and several are reported killed.

The tornado covered four counties and traversed 75 miles.

The towns damaged include Grand, Arnett, Vici, Mutual, Collis, Little Robe, Cestos, Nashville. Some of the towns mentioned are reported practically wiped out and the others greatly damaged.

DEFEAT NORTH BEND 6 TO 3

Marshfield Victor in Good Game Sunday—May Play Here Next Week.

Marshfield won from North Bend yesterday afternoon on the North Bend grounds by a score of 6 to 3. The game was one of the best that has been seen on the North Bend grounds in a long time, both teams playing good, snappy ball. The weather was a little chilly but a good work out previous to the regular game got the players in good condition.

Gaffney pitched for Marshfield with Lyons and Bryan playing behind the bat. Wilson and Fielder, was North Bend's battery. Gaffney held down North Bend to about three clean hits while the Marshfield aggregation found Wilson for seven clean hits. There were a few errors but none of them were very expensive.

There was a fairly good turnout despite the Bandon excursion.

HOLD WILCOX ON CHARGES

GRAND JURY RETURNS TWO MORE INDICTMENTS AGAINST NORTH BEND MAN—OTHER DOINGS IN COURT AT COQUILLE.

COQUILLE, Ore., May 11.—The grand jury made another report to Judge Hamilton in the circuit court Saturday night. Two more bills were returned against J. C. Wilcox, the North Bend dance hall proprietor. Permitting gambling and selling liquor to a minor are the new charges. Other true bills were also returned but as the parties are not in custody, the indictments are not given out.

Judge Hamilton reversed the decision of the lower court in the case of Chas. H. Bruschoke vs. Eugene O'Connell for a real estate commission. The lower court decided in Bruschoke's favor.

The jury in the case of Contractor Small vs. the Coos Bay, Roseburg and Eastern Railway decided in favor of the defendant. The suit was the outgrowth of alleged breach of contract covering payment for grading and altering the railway line.

NEWS, see Goodrum's ad.

We are now prepared to store your goods. Bay Side Paint Co., North Bend.