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Coos Bay Times

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MYRTLE POINT BANK ROBBERS ESCAPE WITH ABOUT \$12,000

Dig Through Brick Vault, Dynamite Safe and Escape With Big Loot.

HAPPENED SATURDAY OR SUNDAY NIGHT

Entrance Gained From Second Story—Loss Will Not Impair Bank.

(Special to the Times).

MYRTLE POINT, Or., Dec. 1.—Bank robbers looted the bank of Myrtle Point and made a safe getaway with about \$12,000 in gold and currency. The robbery was not discovered until this morning and whether it occurred last night or Saturday night is uncertain, but it is believed to have occurred Sunday night.

There is no clue as to the identity of the robbers or how many participated in the daring theft. President Benson and Cashier Rackleff have sent outside for detectives to come here and take up the case. Pending their arrival, nothing is being disturbed so that any fingerprints or other evidence that may have been left behind will not be disturbed until the detectives have an opportunity to examine it.

Worked from Top.

Entrance was gained through the second story. The burglars made their way into the law offices of Louis Roberts and moved the bookcase and cut a hole through the floor. The hole was about a foot and a half square, just large enough for a man to get through. Then a hole was cut through the brick wall that formed the roof of the vault. The wall was comparatively thin and easily cut through. Then the burglars must have lowered themselves into the vault.

The safe was an old fashioned one, but had been equipped with a fine time lock. It is presumed that the combination was knocked off with a heavy sledge and the dynamite or nitro-glycerine used on the inner doors. A fuse twelve or fourteen inches long was used in setting off the charge.

Two Explosions.

Cashier Ed Rackleff said that he thought there must have been two charges used in blowing open the safe. There was no indication of the safe having been drilled. As to whether dynamite or nitro-glycerine was used he was not certain, but when he opened the vault door this morning there was an awful stench of powder.

Was Well Done.

The safe blowers must have been experts in their line and timed the charges closely. It was necessary for them to lower themselves into the vault and arrange the charge and light it and then get out through the top, back into Roberts' law offices or elsewhere while the explosion occurred. They could not remain in the vault or they would have been killed by the explosion.

Amount Not Certain.

Cashier Rackleff said today that he were not certain just how much had been taken as they had not molested the vault after the robbery was discovered. They decided to leave it just as it was so that any fingerprints or other marks that might aid in identifying the robbers could be secured by the detectives as soon as they arrive.

He said that the interior of the vault was covered with debris and some silver was in evidence on the floor. Until the vault is gone through and everything is checked up, it will be impossible to ascertain the exact amount.

Carried Much Cash.

Mr. Rackleff said that the bank carried about \$12,000 cash, keeping on hand a larger amount recently on account of the railroad work and other demands for it in that section. Most of this was in gold, in fact, a large percentage of it. There was some currency in bills of various denominations and considerable small change.

Most of the gold was in sacks but some was loose in the money drawers of the safe.

No Burglar Insurance.

The bank did not carry any burglar insurance and so the loss will fall on the institution. However, the bank's stock is held by about twenty-four of the leading men of the upper Coquille valley, so that the institution will not be impaired in the slightest degree by the loss. The bank had a surplus of \$5000, which can be applied on the loss and the balance will be immediately made up by the stockholders.

Away on Sunday.

Neither Cashier Rackleff nor President Benson visited the bank yesterday, no one having entered it since the closing hour Saturday night. Even if they had there were no outward appearances outside the vault that would have indicated the robbery. The bank room is kept lighted during the night and the burglars evidently thought it safer not to attempt to work from the bank room on the door of the vault, but did

DYNAMITE IS SECURED HERE

Explosive Stolen Last Week May Have Been Used by Myrtle Point Robbers.

That the robbers who broke into the Myrtle Point bank and carried off \$12,000 may have secured their explosives in Marshfield within the last ten days, is a possibility which is being considered by Chief of Police Carter, who states that several sticks of dynamite were stolen from Perham and Gidley's warehouse a short time ago.

The Chief's attention was drawn to the presence of a box of dynamite being found on the street at the intersection of Ninth and Fingersoll, where it was found by some small boys. It was thought to have been left there by contractors following a heavy rain, which prevented them from continuing work at that point.

On interviewing the contractors as to the danger from the explosives, Chief Carter was informed that the dynamite had not been used at that point by the contractors and that the box had been stolen by unknown parties. The fact that about twenty-five sticks of the dynamite was missing indicated that it might be put to no good purpose.

Provided the bank was blown by dynamite, and not nitro-glycerine, it is altogether probable that the missing explosive was used by the robbers at Myrtle Point, being secured by them on passing through this city. A close watch will be kept on all outgoing vessels along Coos Bay for suspicious-looking characters in the hope that the bank robbers may be headed off.

through the hole into the second story. Louis Roberts did not go to his office yesterday and so there is no absolute evidence as to when the robbery occurred.

Open for Business.

Discovery of the robbery caused quite a flurry this morning, but after sizing the situation up, arrangements were made not to molest anything in the vault or around, but to continue business without disturbing anything there. The vault has been closed.

Sufficient cash to handle the business was secured from other nearby banks and business is being carried on as usual.

Many Are Interested.

The bank's stock is held by about twenty-four men, all of whom are prominent in Myrtle Point and "ello-to-do. Among them are President Benson, Ed Rackleff, Cecil Carter, E. O. Carter, Geo. W. Shelly, H. L. Carl, J. D. Carl, R. L. Morris, Frank Morris, W. F. Slingsby, A. R. Davenport, M. O. Stemmler, C. M. Smith, F. Smith (W. E. Hartle, J. D. Clinton, L. A. Roberts, E. C. Roberts and Ben McMullen.

Was Brick Vault.

The vault of the bank was of brick, there being no steel lining as is put in the present burglar proof vaults. The absence of this steel lining made it comparatively easy for the burglars to dig through the brick roof.

Many Strangers There.

During the past few months there have been many strangers in and around Myrtle Point, owing to the railroad construction. In consequence of the laborers coming and going constantly, no particular attention has been paid to strange characters seen about town. In consequence no one here is able to volunteer even a suspicion as to who the thieves might have been.

Discovered Today.

The robbery was discovered about 8 o'clock this morning when Cashier Ed Rackleff was getting ready to open for the day's business. The vault had been closed since the bank closed Saturday afternoon and there were no outward appearances of the robbery.

As soon as he opened the door of the vault, Mr. Rackleff saw the evidences of the explosion and robbery and quickly summoned others.

Took Gold and Currency.

A hurried examination showed that the robbers had taken the gold and currency from the safe. In round figures, about \$12,000 was carried and all this was gone.

Went Through Floor.

The robbers gained entrance from the second story. They opened the door of Louis Roberts' law office, cut a hole through the floor and then dug through the brick top of the vault and lowered themselves into it.

Evidently nitro-glycerine was used (Continued on Page Two.)

JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE

THE ELEMENT that has always sought to selfishly and greedily dominate city politics in Marshfield is making a determined fight to defeat J. Wright Wilson and elect "Mickey" McKeown, son-in-law of J. W. Bennett, principal owner of the Coos Bay Water Company a member of the City Council. The Times heard some time ago that the saloons were being lined up back of McKeown's candidacy. This fact was further proven Saturday when Mr. Bennett's personal organ made the statement that Wilson should be defeated because he is a prohibitionist.

MR. WILSON IS NOT A PROHIBITIONIST. HE HAS STATED SO PUBLICLY.

The Times wishes to state, however, that if the saloons desire to back McKeown and elect him, they will find it the costliest victory that they ever achieved. The people of Marshfield have treated the saloons tolerantly, fairly and even liberally, but if they attempt to inject themselves into city politics to the detriment of decency, they will arouse a resentment that will be certain to find expression. Mr. McKeown's supporters are busy stating that the water question is settled. In this they are making a statement that they know is false. The city water question is still a very live question and one of the most important problems that this city must face in the next few years. No question is settled until it is settled right. The city water question has not been so settled and it is an imposition on the people of this community to ask the son-in-law of the man who is most largely and personally interested in this question to sit as a member of the City Council. It should be rebuked by the vote of every loyal citizen being cast for J. Wright Wilson in tomorrow's election. A simple sense of justice and fair play demands it. Mr. Wilson did not seek the nomination. He was urged and solicited by business men who resented the trick and subterfuge by which McKeown was to be the only candidate for the one-year term. Every lover of fair play and civic pride should vote for Wilson.

F. E. Allen, candidate for Mayor, and Duncan Ferguson and R. A. Copple for the City Council, have records in the public service that are well known. All these men stand for a clean, conservative business administration and should be elected. If you mark your ticket like this tomorrow you will make no mistake:

Table with 3 columns: Candidate Name, Vote Count, Party/Status. Includes F. E. Allen, R. A. Copple, Duncan Ferguson, J. Wright Wilson, and John W. Butler.

TO RETURN ON ADELINE SMITH BE SHOT DOWN

C. A. SMITH, ARNO MEREN AND W. S. CHANDLER WILL ARRIVE HERE TOMORROW NIGHT—TERMINAL DEAL PRACTICALLY CLOSED.

C. A. Smith, Arno Meren and W. S. Chandler left San Francisco this morning on the Adeline Smith for Coos Bay and will arrive here tomorrow night. The understanding is that the sale of the steam franchises of the Terminal Railway to the Southern Pacific and some matters connected with it were agreed upon before they left, but whether the papers definitely closing the deal were signed is not known.

The basis for closing the deal is not known for a certainty. The C. A. Smith company, before closing the deal for the right of way through the Alliance warehouse and retail yards, insisted on the controversy between the company and the Southern Pacific over "Fire Pit Acre" and the interest in the Railroad Reserve being adjusted.

Keep Off Broadway. However, it is understood that the deal provides for a right of way for the Southern Pacific for the steam line on a direct continuation of Front street so that it will not swing around through the Alliance warehouse in Broadway as was proposed. The plan is said to be to leave about 100 feet between the right of way through the retail yards and Alliance warehouse and Broadway, which will furnish good space for business buildings. At the same time, this will leave ample space east of the tracks, it is said, for ordinary docks and warehouses.

BRIDAL COUPLE LEAVES. Francis Sayre and Bride Take Steamer for Europe.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The elusive White House bridal couple, Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Sayre, avoiding the gaily decorated gangway and bunting, bedecked pathway arranged for them, slipped quietly aboard the liner George Washington through the second cabin today and sailed away for Europe.

FIGHT HIGH COST. Piedmont Millionaires Organize Co-operative Grocery.

OAKLAND, Cal., Dec. 1.—Millionaires, professional men and social leaders of Piedmont, the exclusive residence district of this city, have combined to combat the high cost of living, and a syndicate has been formed to conduct a co-operative grocery store to be known as the Piedmont Commercial Center. The list of directors contains some of the wealthiest and best known men of the bay cities.

FIGHTING FOR LIFE. ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 1.—The attorneys for former Police Lieutenant Charles Becker of New York, under sentence of death for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, the gambler, are here to make what may be the last fight for his life in the Supreme Court.

U. S. INTERVENTION URGED AS NECESSARY BY FRENCH PAPER

Publication Declares Civilization Demands End of Lawlessness in Mexico. PRESIDENT DECLARES ACTION UNNECESSARY

Believes Constitutionalists Will be Able to Eliminate Huerta And His Followers. (By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

PARIS, France, Dec. 1.—The Paris Temps published today a vigorous editorial on "Anarchy in Mexico." The newspaper, in concluding the article, said: "In the presence of death, destruction and ruin, the moment appears to have arrived when humanity and general interest commands all the powers to take concerted action with the United States to compel all parties in Mexico to lay down their arms and bring an end to the intolerable situation."

REBEL ARMY ADVANCES. (By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

JUAREZ, Dec. 1.—Villa's advance army of 3500 rebels which is moving to attack Chihuahua City, 225 miles south of Juarez, reached a point 63 miles from the border today. They were forced to detrain there because of the destruction of the railroad. Preparations were made to march overland. Another train was made ready for the journey south, with 1000 rebels aboard. Villa said that before reaching Chihuahua he expects to be reinforced by troops advancing from Torreon. Unless these are interrupted he said he hoped to rally 7000 to attack the 5000 federalists garrisoned in the capital. The last reports from Chihuahua, which has been under siege for two weeks, were that the cathedral had been converted into a fort.

ARMY ELEVEN DEFEATS NAVY

Annapolis Weakens After the Third Period and Final Score is 29 to 9. (By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—(Polo Grounds)—President Wilson and his party arrived a few minutes late for the decisive football game between the crack teams of the army and navy Saturday afternoon, and they had no sooner taken their places than the game began, with the Navy taking the ball back to the thirty-five yard line.

After half a dozen plays, including one run of forty yards, the Navy put the ball on the Army fifteen yard line. Nichols made ten yards, McKeay added two and then West Point held for downs. Jonett took Hodgson's place and punted back from Army goal. The kick went only to the twenty yard line, and after a fake play had failed, Brown kicked a goal from placement.

At the end of the second period the score stood 3 to 0 in favor of the Navy. The score was tied at nine points in the third period, but after that Annapolis began to weaken and the cadets scored seven more in that period and six more in the fourth. The final score was as follows: Army, 22; Navy, 9.

AGREEMENT IS REACHED. Electrical Workers' Strike May End After Conference.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., Dec. 1.—The conferees reached an agreement for the settlement of the strike at the General Electric company plant today. A copy of the agreement was sent to the Trades Alliance for approval. The agreement contemplates the reopening of the shops next Monday on either part or full time, as the company sees fit.

SENTENCED TO HANG. Murderer of Mrs. Mildred Rexroat to Die on the Gallows.

AURORA, Ill., Dec. 1.—Harry Spencer, murderer of Mrs. Mildred Allison Rexroat, was sentenced today to be hanged at Wheaton on December 19. Spencer repudiated his confession and argued for a new trial for himself, but was overruled.

AFTER TIN CAN TRUST. Suit Filed in U. S. Court to Dissolve Big Combine.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 1.—Suit was filed today in United States District Court to dissolve the American Tin Can company, or so-called tin-can trust, which the Department of Justice alleges controls a large percent of the business of the United States in tin cans and packages of tin. The American Sheet and Tin Plate company was made defendant because of an agreement it is alleged to have with the American company to sell it tin for cans at a preferential rate.

REAR ADMIRAL DIES. (By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

AMHERST, Dec. 1.—Rear Admiral John Howe Clark, former medical director of the Navy, died today of paralysis. He was seventy-six years of age.

(Continued on Page Two.)