

SAYS COOLEY WILL BE FREED

Judge Childs Tells History of Coolidge-Van Pelt Feud in Curry County

PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 5.—"No jury in Curry County will ever find Riley Cooley guilty of the murder of Thomas Van Pelt."

John L. Childs, Judge of the Superior Court of Del Norte County, California, who is to be chief counsel for the man who has been brought back to Gold Beach charged with a crime committed sixteen years ago, stated his belief in Cooley's innocence in these words at the Imperial Hotel.

"I am quite familiar with the whole case," reminded the judge. "I knew all the principals in it, inasmuch as for several years I taught school at Gold Beach. I acted as counsel for the Van Pelts at the time of the original shooting, which started the famous Coolidge-Van Pelt feud.

"The whole affair started as a result of a disagreement between Al Coolidge, on one hand, and the Van Pelt family, on the other, over some property rights in which they were jointly interested. A sawmill was the direct cause of the dispute, the Van Pelts picking the machinery up bodily one night and moving it to a piece of woods across the California line.

Mill Afterwards Found
Coolidge afterward found it, but it was never moved and was finally sold for junk for about \$40. This incident culminated in the shooting of both Al Coolidge, generally called Curley, and Thomas Van Pelt. Riley Cooley, as a friend of the Cooley family, is now accused of murdering Van Pelt."

The Coolidge-Van Pelt feud was one of the most sensational ever staged in Oregon. It had all the picturesque quality of an Italian vendetta, enacted in a lonely and thinly populated section of Oregon some sixteen years ago when the means of communication were far more crude than they are today, even though at present it is necessary to pack 40 miles muleback into Gold Beach. In a land of sandy hills and timber near the California line and in a day when men were quicker to act on impulse than they are today, the forthcoming Cooley trial receives all the interest in the original trouble.

Coolidge First Shot.
Al Coolidge, accompanied by another man, was driving a team toward the hamlet of Harbor, five miles north of the California line, when both men were shot from ambush. Curley Coolidge fell dead in the wagon, the team galloping into town with his dead body, while the other man, painfully wounded, fell from the vehicle and crawled through the brush to seek aid.

The Van Pelt family were immediately accused of the killing and warrants issued for their arrest—seven of them. They escaped to the hills, however, and there seemed to be no chance of getting them, although every available citizen was made a Deputy Sheriff. Judge Childs, who is now to defend Cooley, was held up by the angry townspeople and prevented from communicating with the Van Pelts. He finally made his way to them, however, and persuaded them to come in from the hills and give themselves up.

Seven in number, they came into town and surrendered. The calumny of those primitive days was far too small to house such a family and they were lodged in the local hotel. Some were given employment splitting wood and one was even permitted to carry the United States mail.

Van Pelt Killed Next.
Finally, through the kindness of the local judge, they were allowed to return to their homes on their own recognizance. Shortly thereafter Thomas Van Pelt was killed while working near his own home. The others were never brought to trial. With the heads of the two warring houses both dead, the back of the feud was broken. The families have lived on during this period side by side with apparent good feeling and an intention to call it "quits."

CHAS. T. SMITH IS STRICKEN

Pioneer Rancher of Kentuck Inlet Succumbs to Paralysis—Daughter Here

Chas. T. Smith, a resident of Kentuck Inlet, and one of the best known pioneer ranchers of the Coos Bay district, died Saturday night at his home, after several years' illness of paralysis. His death was not unexpected, as he had been failing slowly and for some years had been helpless.

Mr. Smith settled on his ranch in 1859 and developed the property into one of the best in that section. He was one of the first to introduce the power boat on Coos Bay, having secured one of the earliest power boats put out. It was not a great success, but soon afterward Dr. McCormac got a more improved one and it was only a few years until the gasoline launch replaced the rowboats in this section, nearly every rancher having a power boat of his own.

Mr. Smith was seventy-five years old and was born in Finland. In his early years he followed the sea and later engaged in mining in California, and came to Coos Bay first in 1867. In 1869 he took up a homestead on Kentuck Inlet.

October 10, 1884, he and Miss Mary Anderson were married in San Francisco and came to Coos Bay to make their home. They are survived by four children, Mrs. Jas. E. Parker, of Loon Lake; Sherman and Elfrida Smith, who reside at home, and Miss Annie Smith, who is employed in the offices of W. U. Douglas in Marshfield.

Mr. Smith was most highly respected by all who knew him and his death will be greatly regretted. The funeral will be held at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon from the Marshfield Swedish Lutheran Church.

GRADING DONE NEAR MAPLETON

Last Camp Closed Near Acme—Bad Weather Stops Work on Railroad Tunnels

FLORENCE, Or., Jan. 5.—The West says: Scarpelli Bros., who have a contract for grading on the railroad near Point Terrace have finished their work and paid off their men.

This is the last of the camps to close down between Acme and Mapleton. With the exception of a little filling after the bridges are built, there remains only two short pieces to grade between Eugene and Acme. One piece is at Mapleton and the other is at Point Terrace mill.

Suspend Tunnel Work.
Work at Tunnel No. 3 on the railroad between South Slough and Maple Creek was suspended Wednesday evening. We have not learned when operations will start again. Camp 4 at the north end of the tunnel was closed a week or two ago, but work was continued at Camp 5 till the end of December.

Part of the supplies were taken to Camp 4 and left in charge of a watchman. The rest were taken to Gardiner by teams yesterday and will be used by the crews in that vicinity. On account of bad roads the contractors have found it almost impossible to get timbers to the tunnel as fast as they are needed. The ground at the entrance has moved some and this made it necessary to use more timber than was expected at first.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
Bids will be received for repairing plastered walls and retinting all rooms on two upper floors of Coos Building. Call at once on Geo. H. Rotnor at Woolen Mill St.

FISH STRANDED BY HUGE WAVES

Stage From Umpqua Meets Heavy Seas—Sheriff Gage Loses Hat in Heavy Gale

Passengers coming in by way of Drain and Gardiner Friday reported that the trip down the beach from the Umpqua was one of the most exciting they ever experienced. Several times the stage was compelled to make a dash up to the hills back of the beach to avoid being swamped by the huge rollers breaking at high tide.

Sheriff Gage, who was returning from Salem after taking J. W. Leaton to the penitentiary to serve his sentence for embezzling the funds at Eastside, lost his well-known black hat in the gust of wind and it could not be located. He reports that the waves were running higher up on the beach than he has ever seen them.

Thousands of salmon are reported being driven ashore in the gale of Friday and the people arriving on the stage state that one wave which went high on the shore left over a hundred big salmon, surrounding high and dry after the breaker receded.

Sheriff Gage arrived in the city hatless last night, and the stores being closed, he was presented with a Steason sombrero by Dr. E. E. Straw in remembrance of his lively trip down the coast. Sheriff Gage left on the morning train for Coquille.

FINISH OF ANDERSON

More Details of Fight Show He Was Tricked by Cross.
A Los Angeles dispatch gives the following particulars of the New Year's bout of Bud Anderson and Leach Cross, which ended in the seventh round instead of the seventeenth round, the Western Union evidently having balled up the messages about the fight coming here:

"That Bud Anderson is through as a lightweight is the unanimous opinion of fans who saw him fall before Leach Cross in the seventh round of their scheduled 20-round battle New Year's. The lad has lost none of his popularity, but his friends think he is foolish to try to remain among the little fellows.

"For hours Anderson lay in steaming hot blankets undergoing the 'drying-out' process, but even then was unable to make the weight. When he entered the ring he was sodden, pasty-faced and painfully slow. His future plans are indefinite.

Cross leaves for a mountain trip, returning here in time to meet either Joe Rivers or Jack Britton on February 22.

After studying Anderson's methods for two rounds, Cross let the Medford lad fight himself out for four more rounds. Then in the seventh, after a period of infighting, Cross feigned grogginess. Anderson walked into the trap, plunging after Cross with his guard wide open. The dentist came to life suddenly and put his opponent down three times. The referee stopped the fight, but Anderson was out."

MAN, "FIRED," REWARDED.

Tugboat Captain Discharged, Then Re-engaged With Raise in Pay.
NEWPORT, Or., Jan. 5.—To be discharged and re-hired at an increase of \$25 a month in one day was the experience of Captain A. Erickson, master of the tugboat L. Roscoe, owned by Porter Brothers, Portland contractors, following a number of mishaps in which the Roscoe figured heroically.

Captain Johansen, master of the bark Sausalito, now at Florence, arrived in Newport to relieve Captain Erickson of the command of the Roscoe. The entire crew of the Roscoe quit in sympathy with Erickson, who had saved the barge Frederick recently, after it drifted on a jetty in a wild sea. Captain Johansen visited the lifesaving station and heard about the hard conditions and then talked to various Newport citizens and decided that he had not the nerve to take command of the Roscoe.

Erickson then received a telegram ordering him to resume command of the Roscoe. This he refused to do without an increase in salary, which was granted.

DR. W. A. TOYE has moved his dental office from the ELDORADO BUILDING to ROOMS 204 and 205 IRVING BUILDING, Broadway, Central.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC.
I will be absent from Coos Bay until about January 20, but will then be prepared to rush any kind of roofing.
J. L. BRICE.

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