

MURDERER LEASIA BAFFLES OFFICERS

Fate of Slayer's Captive Wife Is Uncertain---With Scant Clothing and Without Food She Is Forced to Accompany Father's Murderer in His Flight to Escape Vengeance of the Law---She Was Alive at 7:30 Last Night but the Belief Grows That She Has Been Done to Death.

Fred and Arthur Drews, Going to Help Their Father, Find Him Dead in Their Path.

Approaching his victim, it is supposed, in the guise of a friend, M. V. Leasia, early yesterday shot and killed his father-in-law, Ferdinand H. Drews. With the brand of Cain upon his brow and on his hands the blood of one who had been father, benefactor and friend; with a helpless woman, almost an invalid, compelled to accompany him under threat of instant death; with arms in his possession and with the resolve in his heart to make a new record in the criminal history of the Pacific Northwest, M. V. Leasia is either fleeing before officers of the law or in hiding near the spot.

Police, detectives, posses of citizens and the Sheriff's officers have for 30 hours pursued the fleeing murderer or searched the tangled undergrowth in the vicinity of the place where he committed his terrible crime. Thus far he seems to have made good his escape, although all roads are guarded at both banks of the Columbia River under patrol by parties of armed men, there is no direct clue. But the search for the manslayer still goes on, and those who are directing the pursuit expect momentarily to hear news that will lead either to the capture or death of a man who is recognized as one of the most daring criminals who has ever marked his trail by the blood of his innocent victim.

The shot which killed Ferdinand H. Drews was fired from behind, the devilish purpose of the assassin being made doubly plain by a second bullet, sent into the brain of his victim after the latter was writhing on the ground.

"They will find my brother dead," said F. W. Leasia, who resides at 693 Norton street, and with him will be the body of his wife, Leasia, who threatened that he would wipe out the whole Drews family and take his own life. You may depend upon it that this is what he has done.

"The man is desperate and terribly dangerous," said Fred C. Drews, son of the dead man and brother of the woman the murderer took with him in his flight. "He is not crazy, he is just damned mean. He will kill my sister and probably himself if cornered. He does not love me, he only took her with him as a shield."

The Cunning of a Tracy

With the cunning of a Tracy Leasia paved the way to his escape. His crime was committed at the Drews' home on the road to St. Johns, early Sunday morning, and it is evident to all that the murderer had carefully planned all details.

Revenge was his object--revenge that was caused by a brute passion which he called by the name of love.

Neighbors residing 200 yards from the Drews' home heard shots several times during the morning of Sunday, but declare hunters frequently infest that locality and they paid no attention to the shooting. There is no way of determining at what hour the murder was committed, but it is believed by the officers to have occurred about 8 o'clock.

The murdered man was father-in-law of the slayer and it was that the latter might gain possession of the woman who had nursed and honored him and in return received nothing but inhuman treatment at his hands, that Leasia entered upon his career of blood. Driven to the divorce court to obtain freedom from persecution and safety for herself and her two little children from a husband and father who first failed to provide, then stole what little they were able to secure for themselves, and finally, when crazed by drink, beat them cruelly, Pauline Leasia was on Friday, May 15, made single through an order of the District Court. At that time she testified upon the stand that she was in deadly fear of her husband who had often threatened her life. How well grounded had been that fear, developments of the past few hours have shown.

A Most Treacherous Crime.

With no more regard for life than for the law the divorced husband sought out the place where her father had

given shelter to the ill-treated woman, treacherously shot Drews down and then, with a loaded pistol in his hand, forced the defenseless former wife to accompany him on his flight to escape the vengeance which his crime so justly merits.

But one spark of humanity showed in Leasia's actions. That was when he took his two infant children to the house of a neighbor, a man named C. R. Richards, rather than strike them dead upon the floor of the home he had deserted--for he could not hope to take them with him and escape arrest.

Why he took the woman is a mystery that cannot be fathomed by the police. She is known to be in delicate health and unable to travel rapidly. Her relatives, friends and officers of the law are fearful that, when she gives out, unable to accompany her husband and tormentor farther on his journey, he will take her life as ruthlessly as he did that of her aged father. And so, as the posses strive to find the criminal and rescue from his clutches the woman he has so basely wronged, there is always the dread in their hearts that when she is found it will be only proof that another murder has been done, and that she obtained freedom only in another world.

Leasia's Devilish Plan.

To find the residing place of his wife and gain knowledge of who was caring for her and how she could be reached, Leasia employed the basest treachery. After having been separated from her for more than a year, and without having seen her within a month, Leasia appeared at the home of his father-in-law at noon of Friday and asked to talk with his former wife. To this the latter would not consent and remained sequestered while her mother, Mrs. Emma M. Drews, went out to meet the husband, who professed to be repentant and reformed.

"To find the place to take the younger child," he told her, "and place it in the orphan's home. I want to make up with Pauline, for I love her, and I love my little ones."

The elder Mrs. Drews so far heeded his pleadings that she accompanied Leasia to the orphan's home, and the story told by the daughter in whose care they had to be brought, claiming, however, that he had no money at that time, but would return Monday and pay enough to insure the child being well cared for. Mrs. Drews paid the street car fare of her son-in-law on their trip to the orphan's home, he being, as he said, "flat broke." On their way he asked Mrs. Drews many questions concerning her daughter, professing great love for his former wife and repeating constantly that he would hereafter live a clean life and be worthy of those he loved.

Using the knowledge thus gained, Leasia returned to the Drews home early yesterday, killed the father and then compelled the daughter to accompany him into the woods.

Sons Find Father Dead.

Fred C. Drews and his brother, Arthur, both workmen in the employ of the O. R. & N. Co. at Albina, started yesterday morning for their father's place, planning to help him in the work of clearing up a small tract of land, which he had recently purchased in the vicinity of the suburb of Peninsula.

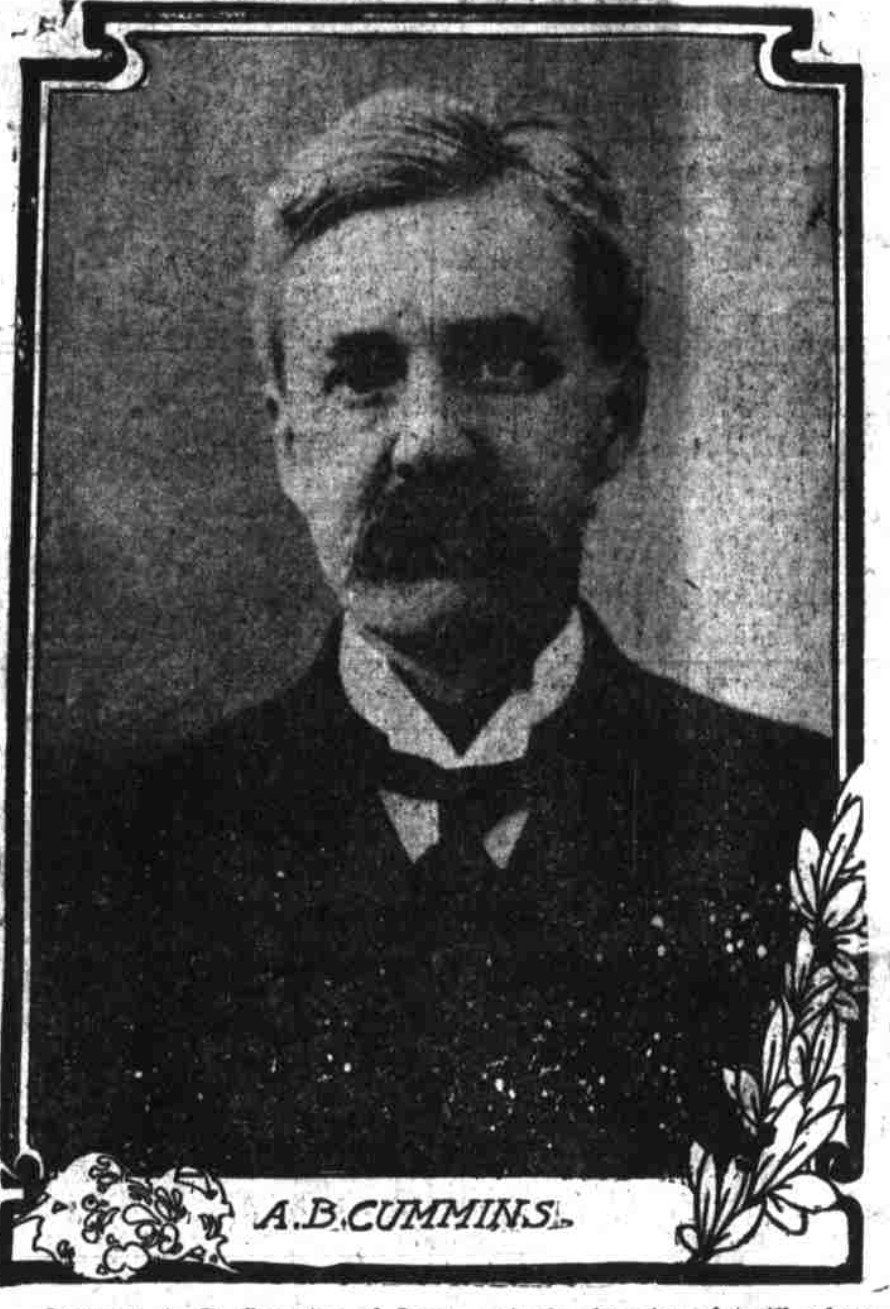
"The house is some distance from the little station where the motor line is left, and as the young men walked through the wooded lane they saw a dark object lying on the ground at the corner of their father's house. As they drew near the vague outline contracted into definite form and they suddenly realized it was the body of a man.

"Father must have fainted!" shouted Fred Drews, running forward.

His brother followed close behind him, and as the men rounded a little clump of fir before the house they saw blood gushing from the mouth of the prostrate man, while another pool of blood clotted and matted the fresh, green grass.

Blackened and stained from the marks of exploding powder, a hat was lying on

TARIFF PLANK TO BE IN THE PLATFORM



Governor A. B. Cummins of Iowa, a sturdy champion of tariff reform. His influence and indomitable energy have triumphed in securing an informal compact by which President Roosevelt and Senator Allison of Iowa are pledged to a tariff reform plank in the National Republican platform of 1904.

the ground beside the figure and similar marks were upon the grizzled hair and about the head of their father, who, when they reached him, was stone dead. The body was still warm.

A hasty search through the house failed to discover any cause for the murder. Their sister, who should have been there, was missing and the children could not be found.

"This is the work of Leasia! I'm going to give the alarm. I knew something like this would happen," said Ferdinand H. Drews, and the story told by the woman in whose care they had been left confirmed the worst fears of the pursuers.

Mrs. Richards was alone at her home, distant a quarter of a mile from the Drews' house, when, between 8 and 9 o'clock on Sunday morning, Leasia and his wife appeared, carrying their two children, neither of whom were able to walk alone.

"We want to leave the kids here for a while," the man said to Mrs. Richards. "I am Drews' son-in-law, and we have just had a fire over at our house. The old man is hurt. The partition fell on him and we have to go right back to look after him. Will you keep the kids for an hour?"

Hoping in this way to be of assistance to the stricken ones Mrs. Richards readily consented to care for the babies, Leasia and the woman who accompanied him turned and went away.

Richards' Narrow Escape.

"I was not at home when the children were brought to the house or I would have accompanied Leasia back to the supposed scene of the fire," said Mr. Richards to The Journal today. "Had I done so, I probably would have been killed also. I arrived at home a short time after the children were left at our home. I had not yet breakfasted, and after I ate my meal I went over to see what I could do toward helping about the fire. It was then that I discovered a crime had been committed.

"Neither my wife nor myself knew the Drews people, who had only lived in our neighborhood for about six weeks. We had never heard that there had been trouble between Leasia and his wife, and of course were not at all suspicious, although my wife did notice that Mrs. Leasia was very much agitated while she was in our house, and that her husband took her roughly by the arm as

they left. She, however, attributed all this to excitement resulting from the fire."

When they left the Richards home Leasia and his wife retraced their steps almost to the Drews house. This was afterward ascertained by a posse that tracked the fugitive. They are then supposed to have started in a northeasterly direction toward the Vancouver road and the Columbia River.

"I feel certain that Leasia sneaked through the bushes upon my father while the old man was at work sawing down some small trees," said Fred Drews to The Journal today. "There was a hand-saw by father's side when we found his body and some fresh stumps about 100 feet from the house showed where he had been at work. I do not know whether he saw Leasia coming and went to the house to protect Pauline, or whether he was attempting to reach the house as a means of shelter."

Where the Body Lay.

The body of the dead man was found at the southeast corner of the Drews home, the head resting against a wicker wire fence. The feet were toward the south and away from the house. There were tracks all about. The murdered man was 53 years of age, and came to Portland from The Dalles, where he owns a residence and city property valued at \$7,000. His life was insured with the Woodmen for \$2,000. The funeral will occur from the chapel at the undertaking parlors of P. J. Finley, at 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoon and burial will be in Lone Fir Cemetery.

At the time of the murder Mrs. Emma M. Drews, wife of the murdered man, was visiting in The Dalles, where she had gone to witness the graduation of a young son, who has been attending school there. She did not return to Portland until late Sunday night, and is now staying at the home of her oldest son, Fred Drews, in Albina.

The Leasia children have been taken from the Richards home and are with relatives at the home of Mrs. Goetz, in Albina.

Pauline Drews was married to Leasia at Colfax, Wash., three years ago. She was at that time an employe of the Inland Telephone Company and met Leasia while he was working for the same concern.

Until recently Leasia has been driving team for Bantfield, Vesey & Co., but he left their employ on May 18.

Fred Drews' Story.

"I know that Leasia had treated my sister very brutally in the past and that she would never have come with him had not force been exerted," said Fred Drews. "Not only had Leasia threatened her life, but he had told me to my face that he would 'do me up' some time. I would never have given him a chance to take my life for I knew just what kind of a man he was. He is a murderer at heart, has not the principle of a dog and is utterly without

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WHY THEY ARE SILENT

HERMANN AND THE PEOPLE

He Was Scored in Washington for Failure to Protect Anything but the Corporations and the Timberites.

The "Star" Said That There Were Extensive Frauds and That Oregon Suffered Most from the Perpetration of Them.

Well Known Paper Makes Statements That Should Be Damaging to Cause of Land-Grabbers of First District.

FEARFUL TORNADO RAVAGES

Missouri River Valley Visited by Death-Sweeping Cyclone--Houses Wrecked and Inhabitants Killed.

Storm Strikes Terror in Districts in Its Path--Farming Sections Devastated and Great Loss Results.

Women and Little Children Are Reported to Have Died of Fright--Storm of Destruction Out of Clear Sky.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 25--Active interest is being taken in the fight for Congress in Oregon between Binger Hermann and A. E. Reames. It is almost impossible for the correspondents to get an expression of opinion from any of the Republican party leaders here, as they are in a very queer predicament, knowing, as they do, that Hermann was not the choice of the administration for the office to which he aspires. All feel that the Oregon convention made a bad mistake in naming Hermann, for even were he elected, he would receive slight courtesy from any of the party leaders.

The article that first called attention to the delinquencies in the land office was first published in the Washington Star, on the 27th of last April. The Star is a powerful, conservative paper that wields power among Republicans and Democrats alike. Its article was prepared and written as follows:

PUBLIC LANDS STEAL

Interior Department Unearthing Extensive Conspiracy.

INDICTMENTS WILL BE SOUGHT

Disclosures as to Operations of Syndicates, Notably in Oregon, which Could Have Been Possible Only Through Collusion With Federal Officials.

The Secretary of the Interior is beginning to receive reports on the suspension of timber and stone land entries in California, Oregon and Washington, and so far as they go they confirm the wisdom of the order of suspension, which was made last fall. There is a thorough conviction on the part of the officials of the Interior Department that many, if not most, of the entries under the timber act, which were made in the Pacific Coast States during the year 1902, were made in the interest of syndicates, and the protests received since the issuance of the order strengthen this conviction. Since then, not a single entry under that law in the states covered by the order has been allowed to go to patent without thorough investigation.

Oregon the Center.

In one state alone last year there was an increase in the entries amounting to about 140,000 acres in the course of three months. It is said that Oregon is the state where this astonishing increase occurred, and that when hints of a secret investigation were given, he called upon Commissioner Hermann, of the General Land Office, for information. The results were very unsatisfactory. On Mr. Hermann's resignation his successor, Mr. Richards, entered upon an earnest investigation. As a result, land commissioners in Oregon have resigned, under circumstances which warrant the Department of Justice in bringing criminal proceedings against them.

Commissioner Richards and his inspectors believe that they have unearthed a plot whereby hundreds of thousands of acres of valuable lands in Oregon have been secured by speculators and syndicates through false entries, which could not have occurred without the collusion of government officers. It is an open secret in the General Land Office that the frauds began during the latter part of the administration of former Commissioner Hermann of Oregon.

It is also considered something of a coincidence that these frauds obtained the gravest proportions in Mr. Hermann's own state, where the most val-

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LINCOLN, Neb., May 25--Pauline, a town 15 miles south of Hastings, is reported to have been destroyed by a terrible tornado which raged last night. Six persons are said to have been killed, but as all wires are down, the details are very meagre.

Further advices state that the town of Norman was also swept by the cyclone and seven persons were killed and a number of houses at Fairfield, which was in the storm's path, were destroyed. Eight persons are missing from Fairfield, and it is believed they have been killed. Wires southwest of there are all down.

LINCOLN, Neb., May 25--Later advices from Pauline say that the town escaped serious damage, but the cyclone swept the farming section for two miles east of the place. Confirmation of the number of dead has not been made. Sections lying in the tornado's route were swept, and houses were torn and twisted into splinters.

People living in the district visited by the death dealer were terror stricken, and it is reported that several little children and women died of fright. It cannot be ascertained the actual damage done or the number of lives lost.

The storm came over the section almost out of a clear sky. There was a lull and a stillness that was almost appalling a few minutes before the tornado burst. Suddenly a crackling sound was heard, then a roar, and the panic-stricken people knew that the dreaded cyclone was upon them.

KANSAS CITY, May 25--The first details of the cyclone which almost demolished Carmen, Okla., were received today. It is said that for an hour previous to its breaking not a breath of wind was apparent. The inhabitants were alarmed and fled into storm cellars, thus accounting for the small loss of life. Only one was killed and three were injured, although the property devastation was complete. Nine stores and factories, two churches, two hotels, three lumber yards, three livery stables, and six residences were completely destroyed. A whole row of stores were smashed in.

OMAHA, Neb., May 25--Specials received here show that 21 were killed in this morning's tornado in Kenney and Adams Counties alone. A relief train has been sent from Hastings to the scene of devastation.

ROLF, May 25--The business portion of this town was visited by a fearful tornado this morning.

Journal Special Service.)

Five years' receipts of the Oregonian from county printing:

1897	.....	\$ 3,378.70
1898	.....	474.30
1899	.....	25,635.14
1900	.....	11,765.20
1901	.....	4,546.00
Total for the five years	.....	\$50,800.34
Average annual payment	.....	10,177.87

The foregoing figures are taken from the books of the County Auditor and show the sums received by the Morning Oregonian for advertising delinquent taxes during five years of the time covered by the recent investigation into the affairs of Multnomah County.

This advertising was done at the rate of 40 cents per line for four insertions, or 10 cents per line for each insertion, which is more than 11 times the rate at which the Journal is now doing the official printing for the city of Portland.

\$25,000 in One Year.

The year of largest profit to the Oregonian was 1899, the year when a large proportion of the questionable "tax settlements" shown by the recent expert investigation took place. The payments made to the Oregonian, in 1899, as shown by the books of the County Auditor, were as follows:

January 11	.....	\$4,185.60
February 9	.....	5.50
April 3	.....	6.00
June 21	.....	5,425.26
July 20	.....	4,811.96
August 17	.....	5,499.72
September 20	.....	4,900.00
Total	.....	\$25,635.14

It is estimated of course that the charges for advertising delinquent taxes were assessed upon the property concerned and therefore are of no interest to the taxpayers at large. If the county had succeeded in collecting from delinquents the sums it paid out in advertising their property, this amount might be found and the only persons who could justly complain that the rates charged by the newspaper were exorbitant would be the delinquents themselves.

County Had to Pay the Bills.

But as a matter of fact a very large proportion of the money paid out by the county in tax advertising was never subsequently recovered by it. The records of the County Board during the five years mentioned show that in a vast number of cases the county's claims for taxes, costs and advertising were scaled down to a fraction of their face value and in many instances were wiped out altogether. Hundreds of thousands of dollars due the county were thus sacrificed and the result was that for a very large part of the sums paid to the Oregonian for advertising the county was never reimbursed and the burden fell directly upon the mass of taxpayers.

It is therefore of interest to the people of Multnomah County to know the rates and amounts paid to the Oregonian, since so large a part of the money came out of their pockets. No effort is made at this time to include the sums paid to the Oregonian by the county for other printing, nor does the statement given herein cover payments to the Telegram.

Those familiar with the history of

(Continued on Second Page.)

Newspaper Trust Has Been Drawing Down Thousands From the County for Advertising, Charging Excessive Rates.

Some of the Sops That Have Been Thrown to the Builders of the Tower That Represents Nothing but "Self."

One Reason Why these People Have Had no Representation When County Tax Squanderers Wasted Public Funds.

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FORCED TO POSSIBLE DEATH BY HUSBAND

Spurred on by the fear that a frail and delicate woman is being tortured or has, maybe, been murdered by her captor-husband, whose hands are already stained with the blood of her father, the police of Portland are making extraordinary efforts to capture M. V. Leasia.

All day yesterday, from the time of the first alarm that told of the tragedy at Peninsula, all last night and all of today, armed men have been riding over the roads of the surrounding country, forcing their way on foot through tangled underbrush, threading the little streams, peering into every thicket, questioning closely all whom they encounter, in the hope of finding the man who, yesterday morning, fired two murderous bullets into the body of his wife's father and then fled to the woods, forcing his shrinking, terror-stricken wife to accompany him.

And there is another and less direct object of the search that is now spreading for a radius of 50 miles around the scene of the homicide. There is a terrible uncertainty concerning Mrs. Leasia.

Frail and sick, her nerves completely shattered by the scene of horror she was forced to witness, separated from her babes and in the power of a desperate and cruel murderer who had sworn to wreak a terrible revenge upon her--such was her pitiful condition when she vanished behind the fringe of woods with the hand of her fugitive husband on her arm. Her further fate is a matter of speculation. She was scantily clad when she left the house; she had partaken of no breakfast, and so far as known Leasia has made no attempt to secure for his unwilling companion either food or shelter.

HERMANN EXPOSED BY HIS "FRIENDS"

In the Oregonian, several months before Hermann was removed from the General Land Office, an item appeared in the telegraphic news from Washington stating that Edward Bender, a special agent of the land office, sent to investigate the matter had recommended that a forest reserve be created in Coos, Curry, Josephine, and Douglas Counties, which is the reserve that has now been set aside to those counties.

Special Agent Bender is a brother-in-law of Binger Hermann. As the effect of this reservation these enormous tracts are withdrawn from public entry of lands, otherwise they would be accessible to settlers, by giving advance information to land grabbers, speculators and large companies were able to get upon land, which was to be reserved, and locate through hired cruisers and pretended bona-fide settlers.

Hermann claims that in this campaign he is against forest reserves and this incident shows that he not only did not have Hermann's relative and appointee, recommend this reserve, but that he was in fact "approved" across the pattons for setting up a forest reserve in the Department and President.

Owned from Bohemian Hops, J. Mayer Company