



Oregon



Journal



VOL. II. NO. 66.

PORTLAND, OREGON, TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 26, 1903.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

LEASIA CLAIMS HIS VICTIM WAS THE AGGRESSOR

HIS OWN STORY OF CAPTURE

Although Heavily Armed the Fugitive Made no Attempt at Resistance—Divorced Wife Aided the Officers.

Captain of Detectives Simmons and Posse of Police Officers Effected the Arrest—Leasia Had Been Shot.

When Examined This Morning He Told His Story Without Hesitation and Said His Wife Went Willingly.



MRS. PAULINE LEASIA. From a photograph taken recently in Portland.

THE CAPTURE. At 4:30 o'clock this morning, after a chase of more than 40 hours, M. V. Leasia, who on Sunday morning killed his father-in-law, Ferdinand M. Drews, was captured by a posse of police two miles west of the Vancouver ferry landing, on the Columbia River road. Terribly exhausted, but unharmed, his captives and former wife was with him. The two were in a barn on the farm of O. G. Paulsen. Leasia offered no resistance when taken, although he had two revolvers in his possession and was for some time aware the officers were approaching. Scared speechless, but in spite of her fear determined to prevent harm to her rescuers, if need be at the sacrifice of her own life, Pauline Leasia grasped the right arm of her former husband and thus prevented his shooting as Captain of Detectives Simmons approached where the fugitive and his prisoner lay in the darkness upon the straw.

Leasia and his wife were at once brought to Portland and are now at the city jail. STATEMENT OF LEASIA. "My father-in-law, Ferdinand M. Drews, fired on me first. His bullet entered my side. Until that time I had no thought of doing him injury, but when I felt the hot blood spurting from the wound I lost control of my actions and shot him where he stood on the step of his house, trying to enter the door. He staggered and cried for help, clutching the fence for support. Then I jumped forward and shot him again, thrusting my pistol almost against his head. The trouble came about through his refusing me permission to see my wife and little ones before I went away. I was determined to enter the house. He cursed me and fired. Then I killed him."

That is the statement of Murderer M. V. Leasia, made at 10 o'clock this morning to District Attorney Manning. He said his wife blessed him after the murder and willingly accompanied him in his flight. STATEMENT OF MRS. LEASIA. Mrs. Leasia's story of her terrible experience of 48 hours with her fugitive husband, shows how sheer will power, aroused to abnormal strength by the hope of seeing her babes again, enabled a weak woman to endure great hardship and to live through one of the most thrilling episodes in the criminal history of the Northwest.

In her statement to The Journal, Pauline Leasia tells of how, after killing her father, her husband proposed to sacrifice the lives of their two babies to his passion for blood; how, abandoning this intention, he forced her to go with him into the woods. She tells of their dodging of the officers, of the all-night vigil in a barn and of the desperate threats her captor made to frighten her from any purpose of raising an alarm.

Her tale of the terrible hours with her husband, while she was of constant fear lest his murderous pistol be turned against herself, is a remarkable narrative, indeed.

Half fainting and in a hysterical condition, Pauline Leasia reached the city prison at an early hour this morning and was turned over to the matron of the female department. She was sadly in need of care.

Wet to the skin and shivering though

she was, the poor woman appeared to be conscious of but one feeling—that of thankfulness for her rescue from the clutches of her murderous husband.

But when the first excitement of feeling that she was once more in the hands of friends had in a measure passed, there came the reaction. Sobbing and wringing her hands, the woman who was for 48 hours the companion of a fugitive murderer and exposed to all the hardships incident to his flight from the law, commenced to recount, broken and almost incoherently, her terrible experiences.

"Hush!" said the kindly matron; "Wait until you are rested a little." Then Mrs. Leasia was given a hot bath, dry, clean clothing, and put to bed in the matron's room. Once in the clean, warm bed, with its soft pillows, tired nature claimed her tribute of rest, and Pauline Leasia slept like a little tired child.

Even the officers of the law, anxious as they were for her version of the terrible tragedy at Peninsula, refrained from breaking in on that rest. They waited until later in the day when the warmth and the food and the kindly faces around her had restored her to something like her normal condition. Then Assistant District Attorney Spencer put into operation the machinery which may place a hempen noose around the neck of the man who tortured this woman.

"Twice during the recital the little woman fainted. Mrs. Leasia's statement to the officers appears in full elsewhere. "Oh, I am so thankful that I am safe!"

A thin-faced, bright-eyed little woman, with clear complexion and dark, abundant hair, turned her head on the pillow in the matron's room at the city prison and turned grateful eyes to Captain Simmons and his wife.

Then, simply but clearly, remembering the smallest details, this little woman who had passed two days and a night of horror in the custody of a fleeing assassin, related to The Journal her startling experiences as the unwilling companion of Martin V. Leasia.

"Nothing but my will power prevented me from falling down and dying," said Pauline Leasia. "I knew that if I faltered I should be killed and—well, I wanted to see my babies, and I just couldn't give up as long as I had any hope left of seeing them alive again."

The Cold, Awful Night. "But I wonder now that I did not die

of fright, to say nothing of the cold, the awful cold, when I was wet through—that made it so much worse, you know; and I was sick, too.

"Hunger—ugh! I can understand now what it means to die of starvation. The feeling is something that can't be told. I had nothing to eat from Saturday night last, when I ate a light supper, until Monday night, about 9 o'clock, when we had something at the Paulsen house.

"By that time I was tired; oh, so tired and faint that I could eat scarcely anything.

"Yes, I shot my husband," and the little woman smiled when some one remarked that only a rib had saved him from death at her hands.

"Asked For Mamma, Too." "After the shots were fired outside, I ran to the window with a small pistol. I saw the curtain raise and a big revolver was thrust into my face. I don't remember of being afraid. I just put my pistol forward and fired. Then Van grabbed me and took the pistol away.

"Then he said, 'I'm going to kill the babies and put them out of the way.' He asked for mamma, too, and I think he wanted to kill her. I pleaded with him not to kill the children, and he finally yielded this point.

"When we went to the house where the babies were left Van told me if I uttered a word he would shoot me dead. He had a pistol in his side coat pocket, and he said he would keep this pointed at me all the time.

"I was almost paralyzed with fright, not knowing what minute he would kill me.

"He Felt No Worse." "Then this man who had been my husband forced me to go with him into the timber. He acted all the time as though we were on a picnic without much fun in it, or excitement. After he had killed papa he seemed to feel no worse than if he had killed a chicken. Once he suggested that it would be a good thing to stick a knife in the babies' throats.

"It won't hurt them," he said. "It was raining while we were in the woods, and I got wet to the skin all over. I wanted to scream; I wanted to run away; I wanted to do anything that would bring the terrible suspense to an end.

"But I thought of my babies; I thought: If I give up I shall never see them again. Then I'd grit my teeth and keep on.

"Always Van kept close to me, adding to my terror by suggestions of what he intended to do with me.

"He said he thought it would be a good scheme to take me to the Columbia, tie big stones to my feet and throw me into the river.

"We walked a long distance, in a roundabout way. Van kept telling me to hurry, and urging me to walk faster. I think some one is coming," he would say often, and then hurry me into the brush.

"We finally came to the barn where the police found us. There we remained

(Continued on Page Four.)

DO YOU VOTE WITH THE PEOPLE OR WITH THE TIMBER GRABBERS?

LIFE FOR OTHERS

Fatal Tenement House Fire in New York Results in the Death of Brave Rescuer of Terrified Inmates.

Five Police Officers at Early Morning Blaze Enter Building and Carry Shrieking People to Street.

When Firemen Arrive They Find Five Policemen on Third Floor of Burning Structure in Great Danger.

(Journal Special Service.) NEW YORK, May 26.—A four-story apartment house on Fulton street was destroyed by fire this morning. One policeman was fatally and two others seriously injured while engaged in rescue work. Fifteen inmates of the building, including many children, were rescued with the greatest difficulty. The fatal fire started in the ground floor. When first discovered five policemen broke in the doors and started to rescue the shrieking persons but were cut off by the flames. The officers had made many brave rescues before the firemen came upon the scene and when help finally arrived the five policemen were found in the third story with a woman and three children, whom they were trying to lead to windows.

Terribly Burned. At this time the smoke was dense to a blackness and the officers were almost overcome. The little children were being carried in their arms. One of the rescuers was terribly burned about the face and two others were nearly exhausted from burns they had received. As a window was reached the policeman who was the most seriously burned fell into the arms of two firemen. In his arms he held a little girl. Scolding ladders were run up and the brave men were taken to the ground below. All but one was unconscious when an ambulance reached the scene. When the fire was discovered it was very dark and no persons were about. Old followers of fires say that no braver work was ever done than that of the police officers, who alone and unaided carried bodily from the fiercely burning tenement house all the inmates except the four in whose efforts to save the officers would surely have lost their own lives.

RELIANCE OUTSAILED FORMER DEFENDERS

In a Stormy Breeze the New Defender Demonstrated Her Superiority

GLENCOVE, May 26.—The Reliance outshined the Constitution and Columbia today, finishing far in the lead of the Columbia, and beating the Constitution 2 minutes and 21 seconds, actually sailing time. The course was 15 miles, the wind being a 10-knot gale. The starting gun boomed at 12:15 and the Reliance crossed the line three seconds later, the Columbia eight, and the Constitution 28. Shortly afterwards the Constitution was broken in and a number of inmates were crushed beneath the debris. Two young girls are dead and ten others are seriously injured, but will recover. Wires are all down and additional particulars are unobtainable.

CHAPELLE TO BE CARDINAL

ROME, May 25.—The Pope, speaking today of the future cardinals, said the Americans may get two additional places in the Sacred College, and intimated that this preference be shown because of the Cuban and Philippine conditions. It is believed that Archbishop Chapelle will be one of those distinguished, because of his work in Cuba and Porto Rico.

CHALLENGER IS COMING

GLASGOW, May 25.—Sir Thomas Lipton's Shamrock will sail for America on Thursday of this week. This was announced immediately after a conference this morning over which Sir Thomas presided.



MARTIN V. LEASIA. Who Killed His Father-in-Law and Then Committed His Former Wife to Flee With Him. Captured By Detective Simmons and Officers This Morning.

HERMANN'S RECORD

ROSEBURG, Ore., May 26.—Here is Hermann's record as it is known here: Briefly Stated. He bolted the Republican party after being dismissed in 1873 by President Grant for acquiring public lands; ran as an independent candidate for State Senator in 1874, the regular Republican nominee being George Colvig and James Appleget, and the Democrats Thomas Hutchinson and Mike Dear, and supported Samuel J. Tilden, Democratic presidential nominee, against Hayes. The story of the latter incident is what has been the latest subject of comment and reminiscence by old settlers.

Hayes' Election Was in the Balance. It will be remembered that the election of Rutherford B. Hayes hung in the balance, and that the vote of the one doubtful Oregon elector in the national electoral college decided the final result.

It was this unusual situation that centered all eyes upon the decision concerning the Oregon electors, and created an issue of wide importance to the people of the entire country.

Governor L. F. Grover, Democratic, had issued a certificate of election to Crowen, as a Tilden elector, in place of Watts, who, it was alleged, was ineligible because he held another office. The election of Crowen as a presidential elector would have decided the election against Hayes.

Grover came to Roseburg during those strenuous old times in 1875, to explain why he issued the certificate to Crowen instead of to Watts. He was taken from the stage to a carriage, driven to the hotel, where he was to be introduced to the people by some citizen.

Hermann Was Angry. It was arranged that Mr. Hermann should introduce Grover, he having been openly working as a supporter of Tilden during the entire campaign. As such an earnest supporter of Tilden, some of his newly found political associates desired to force him to the front, and secured the honor of having the young man selected to introduce Grover.

Too rapidly, and uttered exactly the same arguments as were uttered last spring by the Republican associates of W. J. Furnish, who had only four years previously been absent from active participation in Democratic party politics.

This protest won over the insistence of the Hermann Democrats' demand for recognition of their recent convert, and Herrmann was not permitted to introduce Grover.

Hermann was indignant, and voiced his resentment in the presence of many who yet live here, and who remember the incident.

ASTONISHMENT IS MARKED ON THE FACES OF MANY PERSONS WHO LISTEN TO PROFESSIONS OF HOSTILITY ON HERMANN'S PART AGAINST FOREST RESERVES. WHEN IT IS KNOWN THAT EDWARD BENDER, HERMANN'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, AS A SPECIAL AGENT OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE, REPORTED FAVORABLY UPON THE RESERVE THAT HAS NOW BEEN SET ASIDE IN COOS, CURRY, JOSEPHINE AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES, AND THAT HERMANN APPROVED THE PETITIONS THEREFOR THAT WERE SENT TO WASHINGTON.

TERRIBLE WORK OF NEBRASKA CYCLONE

(Journal Special Service.) DES MOINES, Iowa, May 26.—The cyclone struck the Home of the Feeble-Minded at Glenwood last night. The roof of the girls' dormitory was broken in and a number of inmates were crushed beneath the debris. Two young girls are dead and ten others are seriously injured, but will recover. Wires are all down and additional particulars are unobtainable.

OMAHA, Neb., May 26.—A cyclone struck Buxton, Ia., last night, destroying two dwellings and several light buildings. Two were killed, and thirty more or less injured.

OMAHA, Neb., May 26.—Reports from various portions of the state, especially the eastern sections, show that all day yesterday small twisters and heavy rains marked the phenomenal atmospheric conditions of Nebraska. The total loss of life, so far reported from the cyclones, are two. At Springfield the rain was so heavy that Turtle Creek overflowed in two hours and until the houses were flooded in four feet of water. An icehouse was washed away and the Fair Grounds destroyed.

The main storm was divided into five cyclones, which traveled simultaneously. Funnel-shaped twisters of terrific force were the result. Many persons were crushed to a pulp. The Mumma farmhouse, near Padine, was carried three miles where it was scattered. The largest piece picked up was the bottom of a chair. Of six persons who were at the supper table at the time, all were horribly mangled. Mrs. Mumma's body, nude and disemboweled, was found. A string of beads about the neck and a pair of shoes were the only articles left on the body.

The path of the storm was so narrow at Padine that eye-witnesses say had he handled his subject very well but awoke no enthusiasm.

OMAHA, Neb., May 26.—A terrific hurricane swept over Lincoln at 6:30 o'clock this morning. No lives were lost, but \$250,000 damage was done. Broken, twisted trees, telegraph poles and other debris makes the streets in many places impassable. The trolley system is completely stopped. Many buildings are unroofed and smoke stacks are down. The wholesale district suffered the most, and railways are almost at a standstill, communication with the outside world is practically cut off.

HURRICANE SWEEP LINCOLN. LINCOLN, Neb., May 26.—A terrific hurricane swept over Lincoln at 6:30 o'clock this morning. No lives were lost, but \$250,000 damage was done. Broken, twisted trees, telegraph poles and other debris makes the streets in many places impassable. The trolley system is completely stopped. Many buildings are unroofed and smoke stacks are down. The wholesale district suffered the most, and railways are almost at a standstill, communication with the outside world is practically cut off.

FULTON AT GRANTS PASS. (Journal Special Service.) GRANTS PASS, May 25.—Senator Fulton spoke to a small and select audience of Republicans at the opera house. He handled his subject very well but awoke no enthusiasm.

TRUSTS VERSUS OREGON

The Issue That the Citizens of the First District Feel That They Are Confronted With at the Present Time.

Hermann's Corporation Campaign Committee Struggles to Overcome Difficulties That Stand In Binger's Way.

Democrats and Republicans Make Inquiry Regarding the Fitness of Reames and Find He is Not Wanting.

EUGENE, Ore., May 26.—Advice is pouring into the Democratic headquarters here from many directions that Hermann speakers are taking a new tack in the last few days. Hofer, of Salem, wisely incorporated in his speech the assertion that if elected, Hermann would go to Washington to confer with the other Oregon delegation and make it warm for Hitchcock.

Before Hofer could be pulled off the stump, Reames took up the gauntlet and challenged the Herman people, all over the district to stand upon that ground. If they dared, and the result was shown in one important respect, that Roosevelt refused to speak words from the rear end of the train at Salem, even after Mitchell and others had brought pressure through the national Republican organization.

Now the Hermann people, worried on all matters pertaining to record, are unable to refuse the charges against the Roseburg Land Office. The Hermann backers say their man is a friend of the people. This claim is made in the face of the fact.

HERMANN'S NOMINATION MANAGER WAS DENATOR E. A. BOOTE, HEAD OF THE BOOTE-KELLY LUMBER COMPANY, WHO IS ALSO OREGON MEMBER OF THE HARRISON RAILROAD RESERVE BY REASON OF DEFENDING HIS INTERESTS IN BUSINESS AND TRAFFIC CONCESSIONS.

Mitchell has been known for many years as friendly to the Southern Pacific, and Fulton is quite persona grata to the same concern. All are backing Hermann, and as is well known every person controlled by the railroad company is supporting Hermann.

SOME HISTORY NOT REPEATING ITSELF

(Journal Special Service.) EUGENE, Ore., May 26.—Recent allegations by persons and reports that opposed Hermann's nomination at the Eugene convention of April 9 have recalled statements that were made openly here at that convention. The fight against Hermann made by the supporters of Percy R. Kelley of Albany, W. L. Vawter of Medford, Claud Gatch of Salem, and B. L. Eddy of Tillamook was based upon the positive assertions that Hermann was in bad odor in Washington, and that only by sunderance would he be tolerated if elected.

The allegations were made upon the floor of the convention hall, and circulated in the lobby of the Smeede Hotel, where the various delegations had their headquarters.

Just as the delegates left the hotel to proceed to the convention hall, to answer the call to order by Chairman T. W. Harris, the report was spread broadcast that certain very serious charges would come to light and in the event Hermann was nominated, they would be made part and parcel of the campaign of the opposition.

The argument was used by the anti-Hermann people that it might be impossible to defer action by the authorities in Washington, even for party reasons.

THEIR WARNING—BROWELL TO RESCUE. "Nominate Hermann," said they, "and you invite the issuance of statements indisputable that cannot be met excepting by mere denial. We will have to fight a defensive campaign. We will be embarrassed by having to explain and vindicate, and that is a weak position for any candidate."

"Tell the delegates that it's all right," replied the Hermann people, "they'll have to believe it."

"Who can be found to make such assertions?" asked the other fellows.

"None other than the Honorable George C. Brownell of Clackamas County." So that, "according to program," Senator Brownell arose before the convention and assured them of the warm admiration entertained in Washington for the Honorable Binger Hermann, whom they awaited anxiously to be sent back.

TRIED TO MAKE HITCHCOCK TALK. It is known that the Hermann people then began a persistent campaign to secure expressions from Washington to rescue Mr. Hermann's standing. It was good even though he had been compelled to resign after delaying it several

(Continued on Second Page.)

NEW IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE JOURNAL

Today The Journal adds another improvement to those that will gradually be shown in the paper during the next three months. One of the new linotype machines has been provided with matrices for the very latest style of headlines, and a better typographical effect is produced. Within a short time The Journal will give its readers the benefit of several of the best features of one of the largest newspapers of the Atlantic Coast, the matter to appear simultaneously with its publication in the newspaper mentioned.