

THREE TIMBER SEEKERS HAVE NOT RETURNED

Youthful Locator Confesses to the Murder of One Man, and Sheriff Stevens Finds Watch and Pocketbook of Victim Where They Were Thrown in the Bushes in Marquam Gulch.

Early in July Walter M. Johnson, a 22-year-old timber locator took a party of six men into Washington county to show them timber land. J. J. Fisher, a curio dealer at 52 1/2 Sixth street returned within a few days. Fisher, H. K. Park, an old soldier of Ionia, Kan., showed up. Last night Johnson signed a confession admitting that he had murdered Elmer Perdue, one of the party. The other three have disappeared completely.

Whether an investigation will reveal that the missing members of Johnson's party met with Perdue's fate or not nobody can tell but it is the belief of both Fisher and Park that the others were murdered by Johnson for their money. One of them, a prosperous pearling sawmill man, is known to have had a considerable amount of money on his person at the time he was last seen. The two others were Sades and their names are unknown.

Johnson was arrested by Sheriff George C. Hancock of Washington county while eating dinner in the London restaurant at Grand and Hawthorne avenues last night. He was taken to the county jail and after a three-hour cross-examination by Sheriff Stevens and Deputies Leonard and Wood made a confession in which he said that he had shot Perdue in self-defense, and dragged the body several hundred feet through the brush and hidden it by heaping it with brush and rolling a log upon it.

Gifted Body of Victim. Before taking the body from the house he said he rifled the pockets, taking \$128 in money and a watch and pocketbook with a few little things in the pockets. He told Sheriff Stevens where he could find these things last night and led the sheriff to Marquam gulch, near the crossing of First street. It was too dark to find them last night but Sheriff Stevens and Deputy Sheriff Leonard searched the gulch this morning and located the pocketbook and knife in a clump of blackberry bushes. He also found the rifle which Johnson used to shoot Perdue and which had been returned to its owner in Portland. Johnson's only motive for the murder appears to have been robbery, although he stated in his confession that he and Perdue quarreled and that Perdue reached for his revolver, circumstances point strongly to the young timberman having attacked his client while he was asleep, stunned him with a blunt weapon and then shot him. When the body of Perdue was found several weeks ago the

MUSICIANS DEAF TO BAKER'S APPEAL

Union Declines to Reconsider Orpheum Scale—Managers Will Stand.

If the Orpheum opens tonight without an orchestra, every theatre and dime show in the city will have nothing better to offer in the musical line all winter than a piano. This was agreed upon this afternoon at a meeting of the various theatrical managers of the city.

The union members had no fixed plan for the theatre, but they were asked to put in an orchestra of 10 men the board of directors got together and fixed salaries for the week for the musicians, the leaders salary to be fixed by the management and himself.

The Grand Star and other houses playing two performances a day are paying \$2 a week for side men, and the Orpheum managers declare they will pay no more than that. This decision was announced at a meeting which was held this morning for the purpose of requesting the Orpheum price list. But it was not reconsidered, and unless a meeting is arranged for this afternoon by the theatre managers, the Orpheum artists will have to appear minus the accompaniment of the strings, reeds, drums and brass.

The theatre managers, according to a statement given out this afternoon, will stand united to the last ditch in saving the Orpheum from the strike. They are higher than the cheaper houses. They trust that the public will bear with them and be satisfied with the runs and the Orpheum managers promise, will have to be nonunion. Under the union plan they will be allowed to play the piano players to retain their positions.

At the meeting of the musicians this morning George H. Baker, president of the Orpheum musicians' association, explained that it would be a losing proposition for the Orpheum circuit to include Portland and for that reason he thought the musicians should be as lenient as possible. The musicians, however, contend that they are not likely to get a better proposition from the start and they can see no better reason why they should reduce the rate of their services since they would quote the Orpheum special rates because of Portland being now on the circuit.

Essentially a meeting will be held this afternoon by the contesting parties and a trade deal is being sought. Further negotiations, although the theatrical managers declare that they will not arbitrate or mediate, will be held already announced. So far as they are concerned they seem to be willing to try the piano for a month and fix the rate of the musicians.

About 50 musicians will be thrown out of employment unless the contesting their engagements are abrogated.

He followed her across the Madison bridge to the London coffee house, where Johnson was waiting for her. Here Hancock arrested Johnson and took him over to the county jail.

For three hours Sheriff Stevens cross-examined Johnson, trying to trap him. Johnson told a perfectly straight story, said he had gone out with the party, had shot Perdue, and had taken the body and gone back as far as Forest Grove with Perdue, where he had left him. Then the sheriff compared notes with Deputies Leonard and Wood, and the suspect up and got a confession within a few minutes.

Murdered in Cabin. Johnson stated that he and Perdue spent the night of July 3 in the little cabin near where Perdue's body was afterward discovered by a farmer's boy. He said that before Perdue got up in the morning they had a quarrel over money matters. Perdue alleged that Johnson had tried to get him to give up the wrong claim, and that Perdue reached behind his bed to secure his rifle and shot Perdue dead. He rifled the pockets, dragged the body by the feet to a little creek, secreted it in the bushes and went back to Portland by a roundabout route.

There was no reference in Johnson's confession to making love to Perdue, and he seemed relieved to have it off his mind. He was taken to Hillsboro this morning on the 7:15 train by Sheriff Hancock.

Very little is known of Perdue. Johnson's victim. It is said that he was a young man who had come to Portland from Spokane, but that his home was in North Carolina. The sheriff is trying to locate his relatives. Perdue is the son of James M. Johnson who kept a saloon in Corvallis for some years. He has been a successful engineer, builder and throng leader with no fixed home. His wife is a daughter of Hiler Thomas of Nohalem. She expects to go back to her parents.

TAIING MAN HAVE SHOT MILKMAN (Special Dispatch to the Journal) Forest Grove, Aug. 17.—Lying in a pool of his life's blood, Robert Woods was found at the barn door of H. J. Johnson, eight miles south of Forest Grove, this morning, with one bullet in the man's back.

The man was in a dazed condition when he was found. He was taken to the second main street hospital in Washington county, but he died there. It is believed that Johnson shot Woods because of a quarrel over a piece of land. Johnson is a well-known farmer in the neighborhood.

KENTUCKY NEGRO SAVED BY JAILER (Special Press Leased Wire) Louisville, Aug. 17.—A negro who was arrested for a crime in Kentucky was saved by a jailer who refused to let him go. The jailer was praised for his bravery.

Marriage Licenses. Otha A. Thum, Oak Grove, 25 and Clara L. Bargar, 1142 Belmont street, 24, and Virginia Lee Mackay, 24.

SECTY BENSON IN GOOD HEALTH

Exaggerated Story that the Official Is in Critical Condition Denied.

Exaggerated reports became current today that Secretary of State Frank Benson is in a critical condition, his life depending upon the result of an operation to be performed at San Francisco for cancer of the stomach, but these reports appear to be utterly unfounded.

At the office of the secretary of state in Salem it is stated in the most emphatic terms that Mr. Benson is in his usual health, that he is in San Francisco for a brief vacation, and that there is not the slightest cause for the sensational story that is in circulation.

S. A. Koser, deputy in Mr. Benson's office, said this afternoon: "Mr. Benson went to an Francisco partly for a vacation and partly to consult a physician there in regard to a slight affection of his nose which has been troubling him for some months. His family are at Gardner, Or., and there is not the least foundation for any report that he is undergoing a serious operation or that his life is in any danger."

Some time ago he underwent the X-ray treatment for the trouble with his nose and received benefit from it, but when the treatment was suspended he decided to consult a San Francisco physician while on this vacation trip to San Francisco, and no doubt that has given rise to the story that he is suffering from cancer.

The story is not true, Mr. Benson is in the best of health and spirits, and such false reports about him are unwarranted.

Inquiry in other quarters elicited similar statements from friends who are familiar with Mr. Benson's condition of health.

DISSENSION ON GWENDOLYN

Member of Crew Charges Captain Redford With Swellhead.

San Francisco, Aug. 17.—According to William B. Jack, one of the members of the amateur crew that sailed the yawl Gwendolyn II from San Pedro to Honolulu on the trans-Pacific yacht race and later from Honolulu to Hilo, the little yawl will have some rough weather before she gets to Puget sound on the return voyage. Jack, who arrived here today on the Pacific Mail liner Manchuria, says Captain Redford is responsible for a condition of mutiny that exists on the yawl and he doubts if the vessel will get across the ocean without much trouble.

Jack arrived on board the Gwendolyn at the last minute on the day she sailed from Hilo and was attacked by Redford. After the fight, Jack left the yawl and Captain Redford started back to San Francisco. Redford is a member of the crew who is a cripple, and he is the only one who is allowed to steer the yawl. Redford is a member of the crew who is a cripple, and he is the only one who is allowed to steer the yawl.

DAUGHTER TO CONTEST PRINCE DAVID'S WILL (United Press Leased Wire) Honolulu, Aug. 17.—Much interest is centered here about the contest of the will of the late Prince David Kawananakoa, who died about three months ago leaving a large estate. The great bulk of the property was left in the hands of John F. Colburn, an attorney who is now the executor of the will.

PETITIONS FILED FOR MOUNT SCOTT FRANCHISE (United Press Leased Wire) Constantine, Aug. 17.—Goran Nizami Pasha was today appointed by the sultan as minister of war to succeed En Paşa, who died yesterday. The new minister is a member of the Young Turk party. The leaders of the party announced that the change in the cabinet would not interfere with the reforms, as was stated yesterday.

GOVERNMENT TO BUY BALDWIN'S BALLOON (United Press Leased Wire) Washington, Aug. 17.—It was announced here today that Captain Baldwin's dirigible balloon will be purchased by the war department for \$200,000 with which to build other airships of similar design.

Bad Man Caught With Lasso. (United Press Leased Wire) Los Angeles, Aug. 17.—M. Ruiz, a Mexican, is in prison here today, having been lassoed by a fellow countryman after shooting and probably fatally wounding Robert Garcia, the bootlegger which took place at a grading camp near Sherman late last night, was the report.

Architect Sues Client. Richard Martin Jr. has begun suit in the circuit court against Gay Lombard for \$2,712.48, alleged to be due for plans and specifications for buildings for which it is alleged Lombard agreed to pay the sum asserted.

Treasury Statement. (United Press Leased Wire) Washington, Aug. 17.—The treasury statement today shows: Receipts, \$2,814,815; disbursements, \$2,110,000.

Oil Dividend SIX PER SHARE (United Press Leased Wire) New York, Aug. 17.—The Standard Oil company of New Jersey today declared a dividend of \$6 per share for the quarter ending at preceding quarterly dividend was \$5.

Stung by Standard. From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Once a year Standard Oil serves a benign purpose, when petroleum is used for stung by Standard Oil.

DEPUTY NORTH SAYS TALE OF TRAGEDY

Explanation Given for Enormous Increase of Cost of Assessors' Office.

Unusual growth of population in Multnomah county, the increase of building and the number of personal taxpayers are given by Deputy County Assessor North as chief factors for the great increase in the cost of conducting the assessor's office for the last few years.

He expresses the opinion that the assessor's work is growing in greater proportion than that of other county offices, with which comparison was made in the Sunday Journal.

In explanation of the \$4,700 jump in the cost of the office for the first six months over the last six months of 1907, Deputy North says that a greater proportion of the work has been done during the first half of the year than usual. The record of cost for five years past shows that the expense has always been greatest in the second half, but Mr. North has hopes that the last six months of 1908 will be no heavier as the first six. A big force of field deputies on personal tax work was put in at the time of the assessor's office.

Mr. North also explains that the cost of checking up improvements has greatly increased. He says that plans for the assessor's office, because that is the hardest place to charge it. This apparently does not affect the comparison of the cost of the assessor's office as the cost of equalization has been charged to the assessor since 1905.

Exemption on personal property the cost of the office is increased about threefold while the work is being done. Every man has to be assessed, if he has only \$5 worth. This also has little application to the criticism now being made in other quarters that the assessor's office has been too expensive.

As shown by the figures given in the Sunday Journal, the cost of the office of the assessor shows 193 per cent increase for the first six months of the present year over the first six months of 1907, while in the offices of the sheriff, county clerk and tax collector the increase has been about 50 per cent.

County Assessor Sigler is out of the city on vacation and Deputy North spoke for the office today for this reason. Mr. North said that he had just been congratulating himself on getting the work in the office so far along, and he figures that the assessor has done unusually well this year. He says that he had many of the deputies have worked nights on extra time, free of cost to the county, and he is informed that the assessor has done unusually well for the last six months, instead of \$16,474.22.

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DECLINES TO PAY FOR CHILD'S KEEP (Special Press Leased Wire) Denton D. Coffey, former county assessor of Marion county, was before Judge Webster in the county court this morning on a charge of non-support of his little daughter. The child is living with her mother, who is cashier in a downtown hotel. Mrs. Coffey was granted a divorce from Coffey in February, 1907, and she then ordered Coffey to pay \$10 per month for the support of the child. He married again within a short time and has never paid anything for the child's support.

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CONFERENCE ON RATE INCREASE

Officials of Eight Eastern Railways to Meet at Saranac Lake Tomorrow.

(United Press Leased Wire) Saranac Lake, N. Y., Aug. 17.—Officials of eight railways, including the president and vice-president of the most important lines in the United States, are reported to be en route here today to attend a conference to be held tomorrow at the cottage of W. C. Brown, managing vice-president of the Illinois Central. The conference was called for the purpose of solving the problem of a general advance in freight rates.

At first it was thought the girl had committed suicide, but a careful search revealed the footprints of a man, accompanied by her, along an unfrequented road leading to the pond. In the footprints the man followed the girl to accompany him and several times they apparently engaged in a struggle. Careful impressions are being taken of the man's tracks. The girl probably was mistreated and then drowned.

CENTURY AND A HALF FOR NOVA SCOTIA (Special Dispatch to the Journal) Halifax, N. S., Aug. 17.—Today ushered in a week of celebration of great interest to Nova Scotia in particular and to the Dominion in general. The celebration is to mark the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of parliamentary government in Nova Scotia, and is at the same time an observance of the establishment of the first like government in the British empire. Persons prominent in the official life of nearly all of the Canadian provinces are arriving here to take part in the celebration.

The celebration proper will begin Wednesday and continue through the remainder of the week. The unveiling of a monument commemorating the event will be one of the features and there will be interesting historical exercises held in the Provincial building.

BANK CHANGES ITS PLACE OF BUSINESS (Special Press Leased Wire) The Mount Scott bank has filed a certificate of change of place of business from Union, in Union county, to Lents. August Franke is president of the bank and J. C. Law is secretary. The Union County bank, also of Union, has filed articles of incorporation with a capital stock of \$5,000. The incorporators are H. S. F. N. and M. S. Myers.

YOUTH DIES OF WOUND FROM AN OLD PISTOL (Special Press Leased Wire) Martin Schoonover, the 17-year-old boy who was shot by his brother near Springbrook Thursday morning, died in St. Vincent's hospital today of his wound. The bullet had entered young Schoonover's chest, injuring him so that the surgeons were unable to save his life. Young Schoonover was shot while he and his brother were playing with an old revolver which was supposed to be unloaded. It was rusty and had not been discharged for years.

NEW EILERS MUSIC BUILDING



Magnificent new building for the Eilers music business to be formally opened in San Francisco next month. The next largest concern of its kind in the Bay City could be comfortably contained below the second floor of this building.

The third floor is taken up by a large concert hall, and by a small recital hall. The large concert hall is furnished with a stage and permanent seats, and is equipped with a self-playing Tubular Piano, a Kimmel Pipe Organ, a concert Grand Piano, Wells self-playing home Organ, and the Mignon Artistic reproducing piano. The smaller recital hall is arranged so that it will serve as a piano display room when not otherwise occupied. A hall is also provided for the display of Orchestrons and Pipe Organs.

The fourth floor is devoted to the wholesale Piano and Organ department, and the fifth floor is for storage. The remaining floors in the building have been subject to various commercial interests. The entire Market street frontage of the building was arranged into suites of magnificent private offices.

The building is supplied with a modern passenger elevator on the Market street frontage, and a very large freight elevator on the rear, or Stephenson street side, has been installed. All delivery and receiving is handled from the Stephenson street frontage, where also a sidewalk elevator is connected with the basement, which is ten feet in the clear and its large size makes it an important adjunct for the establishment. Here are located the various repair departments, varnishing rooms, packing rooms and general storage quarters.

Everything that is up to date is contained in this building, and it is hoped and hoped by the Portland establishment that very shortly now the sales of the San Francisco institution will exceed the enormous record that Portland has made and is making. For many years the Portland establishment has been far in the lead of all the other Eilers Houses in point of sales. This was indicated by the shipping records recently obtained, which showed that out of all the carload shipments into Oregon last year the Eilers Piano House handled over 75 per cent. A very significant indication of the public recognition of the position of the firm to furnish it as advertised. The most interesting feature of the building is the fact that it is the largest music store in the West.

MRS. KYLE RETURNS TO CAPITAL



Mrs. Raymond Kyle, who recently returned to her home in Washington, D. C., after being in New York with Edward M. Hobson, who claims to be her cousin. Congressman Richmond P. Hobson, Mrs. Kyle's husband, and Mr. Hobson's wife plan a suit for divorce.