

ALLEGED VICTIMS SAY DAVID LEWIS WORKED SWINDLE

Accused Man, Who Deals in Real Estate, Arrested on Charge of Larceny—Forrest C. Smithson a Complainant.

Provisional hearing in the case of David Lewis, a local real estate dealer, arrested Wednesday afternoon on complaint made in the district attorney's office by H. F. Smick, of Woodlawn, charging larceny by bailee in refusing to deliver a deed to certain property in Spokane, is likely to develop some interesting features of real estate fraud when the examination of Lewis takes place before Justice Bell, December 29, if current report is any criterion.

According to transactions thus far brought to light through a chorus of displeasure by some of Lewis' alleged victims, he has for some time been engaged in manipulating various deals hereabouts in a manner suggestive of get-rich-quick enterprises. Among those said to have met financial loss by reason of misplaced confidence in the real estate man, Forrest C. Smithson, the well known Oregon athlete, and Joseph R. Fletcher, a dealer in automobile supplies, figure as the most prominent, although it is hinted that a careful canvass of the situation will demonstrate that others have suffered in silence.

Believe Me In Hypnotism. Those loudest in their denunciations declare that Lewis is possessed of hypnotic power, and that when it comes to a practical exhibition of force in this connection, he has a professional manner resembling a cheap selling planter in a stock market. Those who are far from his mystic spell admit candidly that his influence over them has been so great in this respect that they were unable to overcome it, and gave up their coin with such avidity that it had an apologetic ring because they could not give up more.

Smick, who swears to the complaint against Lewis, alleges that the latter represented to him that he owned lots 10 and 13, block 8, Snyder's addition to Spokane, which he offered to exchange for lot 3, Parkhurst addition, at Courtney station, Clackamas county, owned by Smick, and assume an \$1120 mortgage on this property, which was valued at \$3500. Lewis is said to have fixed the value of his Spokane lots at \$1000, and upon this basis the trade was made.

"Before you record the deed," Lewis is alleged to have told Smick, "I would like to offer you six lots in Hyde Park in lieu of the Spokane lots. They are worth \$300 each, and you can go to the Jacobs-Stine company and ascertain if this is not a fact." Therupon Smick says he did as advised, and being told that the Hyde Park lots were easily worth the amount suggested, accepted the proposition. He took the abstract to John Cahalen for examination, and was informed that the lots were located in the Hyde Park of Oregon City instead of the addition to Portland, and were not worth more than \$15 apiece.

Smick at this stage of the game, Lewis is alleged to have been equal to the occasion by telling Smick that if he would accept the lots in the Oregon City Hyde Park, he would throw in two other lots at East Twenty-fifth and Division streets as full measure of the bargain, and to this proposition Smick says he consented. While this transaction was in process of being consummated, according to Smick's version of the deal, his brother, Smick, Jr., and his wife, who for some time been ill and out of work, and his confidence in human nature has been considerably shaken by the transaction. He came here a short time ago from Roseburg in the hope of bettering his physical and financial condition, but according to recent experience, he is a loser by the operation. Walter G. Hayes, a local attorney, has been retained by him as special prosecutor in this case. Hayes claims the records show that Lewis transferred the Courtney station property to a man named Johnson for \$3500 within two

DEAF CHILDREN ENJOY CHRISTMAS EXERCISES



Bright-eyed boys and girls enjoyed Christmas trees yesterday.

Visitors taking a peep in room 11 of the Buckman, or old North Central school, yesterday would have witnessed a strange scene, the Christmas exercises of the deaf pupils, with a Christmas tree and the regulation speaking of pieces and ensemble exercises.

The first exercise was called a "December Spelling Lesson," in which 10 of the children took part. One of the boys spoke the verse, and each of the other nine children lined up with large letters making the sound of the letter and spelling the word Christmas.

Next they gave the "Stocking Brigade." Each of the children came forward with a pair of different sort of stockings, said a little verse and hung the stockings on the line. One of the days after he got the deed from Smick.

Forrest C. Smithson's regret at meeting Lewis exists in the fact that he is minus a motor boat and houseboat by the acquaintance, according to his view of the situation. Smithson valued his motor boat and houseboat at \$2200, having purchased them last spring, and they have been moored at the Oregon Boat House club ever since.

Smithson claims that Lewis represented that W. G. Thompson, a merchant of Oregon City, owned a five acre tract at Gates Crossing, on the Oregon Water Power & Railway, worth \$2500, which he was willing to trade to Smithson for his motor boat and houseboat on the basis of \$2000 for the latter. Smithson gave a mortgage to Thompson for \$1250 on the Gates Crossing property, and pay Lewis \$175 commission for making the sale. This was agreed to, and the deed closed accordingly, when Smithson, who had become weary of the transaction, had no hesitancy in telling him that he had been bunked.

In company with W. L. Murray, Smithson called upon Thompson in Oregon City, the merchant expressing considerable surprise when given the details, as he declared that he knew nothing about the motor boat and houseboat transaction, but had \$1500 property for sale with Lewis at \$1500, and pay Lewis \$175 commission, and that all he had received from Lewis was the \$1250 mortgage given by Smithson and \$175 cash.

Attorneys Hayes, who is also acting for Smithson in the matter, summoned Lewis to his office when informed of the transaction, and after calling the real estate man to account for his alleged duplicity, was given no further satisfaction other than being coolly informed by Lewis that while it was true the Thompson property was only worth \$1500, and had been so listed with other agents, if Smithson was fool enough to give more it was nobody's business. It is indefinite as yet whether Smithson will take criminal action against Lewis, but in view of the fact that the house boat and motor boat have disappeared from their accustomed haunts, it is probable that the real estate dealer will feel the heavy weight of the law on account of this transaction.

Joseph R. Fletcher also claims to have been bunked by Lewis along similar lines as those pursued in the Smick and Smithson cases, and that he is out about \$200 by reason of his abiding faith in human nature, as personified by the local real estate dealer.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR MANY EMPLOYEES

Employees of the Portland woolen mills near St. Johns are to be entertained this afternoon by the management with a big Christmas tree, on which will hang a present for every one of them. M. E. Thompson, manager of the mills, is to be the Santa Claus, while the retailers in this instance will be represented by a big touring car.

This is the first time that the employees of such a large plant in this city have been entertained in this manner. Nuts, candy and pop corn are to be served to the employees in abundance, besides the presents. The whole afternoon is to be taken by the entertainment.

Wood Hauler Robbed. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Eugene, Or., Dec. 24.—A wood hauler of Springfield, was held up by three men on the road between Springfield and Eugene early last evening as he was returning from the latter city. His pockets were rifled and \$2 in cash taken. Officers have no clue to the robbers.

New Hotel at Kennewick. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Kennewick, Wash., Dec. 24.—Hotel Kennewick, Kennewick's new \$10,000 concrete hotel, will be formally opened to the public January 3. Mrs. N. E. Koonen, the proprietor, arrived here yesterday from Walla Walla to superintend the furnishing of the new building.

Bridge Workmen Killed. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Kennewick, Wash., Dec. 24.—Fred Smith, a workman on the North Coast bridge across the Columbia there, was killed here yesterday by a heavy timber falling on his head. He was about 21 years old.

most interesting numbers was the reciting of "Little Jack Horner," by one of the older boys, while Jack was impersonated by one of the Little Fellows who sat in the corner and busily ate the raisins out of his pie to get them all devoured before the recitation was finished.

The closing number was "What We Would Like to Be," and was also given in the assembly hall before the other pupils of the school. The Christmas tree was the gift of the two instructors, Miss Anna Sullivan and Mrs. F. C. McCall. Each of the children was given one present, candy and nuts. Many of them had exchanged presents, all of their own work. There were some really wonderful specimens of sewing and

DELIGHTFUL PLAY AT THE BUNGALOW

W. H. Crane Has Excellent Support in Ade's "Father and the Boys."

Such a thoroughly delightful entertainment as Mr. Crane in George Ade's "Father and the Boys," at the Bungalow last night is seldom granted Portland. Charles Frohman has provided scenic accompaniments that are most pleasing to the eye, and a cast of unusual ability for the "road." George Ade reveals in his happiest vein in a four act comedy, fairly bristling with clever and crisp dialogue, and a merry touch. It is a shining example of clean, fresh and wholesome fun. There is nothing like laughter, and there is an abundance of it in this deftly written and breezy comedy. The general ensemble is perfected by the presence of William H. Crane, who has never done anything better than Lemuel Morewood. He is an actor worth knowing and a player worth seeing. The Crane personality is original and unique, and that with his fine comedy, instantly won his audience.

The story is that of an indulgent and fond parent, who has worked all his life in order to give his two boys advantages and a few luxuries. But when the boys calmly live off the old man, while they pursue their individual fancies for athletics and society, and pursue them recklessly, the old man employs desperate means to bring them back to the family fold. With an address from Nevada as a peace maker the old man strikes a golf that quickly brings him into the spot light, with the result that in their effort to save their father from apparent ruin, the boys come to live off the old man as "policie," and all is well.

After the star, comes pliant and magnetic Margaret Dale, always faultlessly garbed, and who plays with an abandon and fine dramatic instinct that disarms criticism. The brightness and optimism of her characterization of the Nevada "stunt" girl, are most engaging. Perry Brooke, as the lawyer, is convincing. Sidney Blair as one of the boys, though lacking smoothness in spots, is satisfactory, while Forrest Orr, as the young man with the society idea, is ideal. Louis Masson, Edwin Donnelly, Scott Dalley and Adele Clarke are worthy members of the nice, well balanced cast. The two girls are agreeably played by Vivian Martin, very like the exquisite and charmingly naive Billie Burke, and Elsie Payne, an attractive girl of athletic propensities.

MYSTERIOUS DISEASE APPEARS AT ROSEBURG

Oregon physicians are attempting to learn the real nature of a mysterious disease among infants which they have been contending with. Inflammation of and vomiting from the digestive tract is followed by temporary, total or partial paralysis, finally leaving the child with one limb drawn up and shortened. Dr. Robert C. Tenney, state health officer, was called upon to give attention to 15 cases of the disease at Roseburg some time ago. It is at the Roseburg

ag has affected children in Berlin and has been epidemic in other sections. It will be called anterior poliomyelitis. To say that all cases of this kind are ascribable to the mysterious disease, local specialists say, is guess work. Few cases have been reported in Portland, none at the hospitals.

ST. LOUIS FIRM BUYS 960 ACRES Timberland in Deal in Whatcom County, Washington—\$160,000 Paid for it.

The following building permits were issued: St. James Lutheran Church—Repair two story frame church, West Park street between Jefferson and Columbia; builder, Royal & Wickline; \$85.

F. M. Kilgore—Erect one story frame dwelling, Hassalo street between Sixty-third and Sixty-fourth; builder, same; \$600.

Mrs. Goode—Repair two story frame store, Sixth street corner Hoyt; builder, E. E. Angel; \$50.

A. J. Lee—Erect one story frame dwelling, East Fifteenth street between Alberta and Sumner; builder, same; \$1800.

H. F. Kimball—Erect one story frame barn, Rodney street between Maegley and Goring; builder, same; \$250.

E. W. Strahan—Repair one story frame store, Oregon street between East Twenty-second and Twenty-third; builder, same; \$100.

Mrs. L. Goldberg—Erect one story frame dwelling, East Thirty-first street between Emerson and Killingsworth; builder, E. Radding; \$2000.

Abdominal surgery first was attempted in France in the fourteenth century, the patients being given an anesthetic composed of opium and mandragora.

CASINO DANCING OPEN EVERY EVENING EXCEPT SUNDAY. SPECIAL TONIGHT Free Turkey Ready to Cook Given Away SPECIAL DECORATIONS Unexcelled Music Introducing

A MERRY CHRISTMAS RAINCOATS For Men, Women and Children Make Practical Holiday Gifts. Bargains Extraordinary for Today Only. Girls' Rubber Storm Capes, with storm hoods, for today only at \$2.40. 1700 Men's and Youths' Cravenetted Overcoats, with or without military collars; values range from \$20.00, \$25 to \$35; till 10 o'clock tonight only at \$15.50, \$13.50. 700 Ladies' Silk Rubberized, Mohairs, Kenyons and Rose Berry Fabrics; make ideal all weather coats; values up to \$18 and \$20, till 10 o'clock tonight at \$8.75.

Meet Me Tonight At Gill's RAINCOAT COMPANY 223 MORRISON ST., BET. FIRST AND SECOND. OPEN TILL 10 O'CLOCK TONIGHT. The Ideal Gift Store.

COLD WEATHER MAKES SKATING

Local Hardware Dealers Report That Supply of Skates is Almost Exhausted.

The cold spell has given eastern Oregon sections in the upper Willamette valley better skating than they have enjoyed for many years. The result is that Portland dealers are running very short on ice skates. This morning the stocks in several stores had run so low that in a day or two, if the weather remains unchanged, it will likely be impossible to buy a pair of skates for any price.

"The cold weather has brought good skating," said a dealer, "and as a result telephone calls and telegraph orders have come in from all directions until now it is with difficulty we can fill an order, the popular sizes having been exhausted." "Last summer we stocked up pretty strong on skates, foreseeing just such a thing as this, but even so the demand is beyond our expectations and another two days of freezing weather will undoubtedly clean up the entire stock. Yesterday afternoon a large order came in from Union and they said they had to have the skates. And there must be good skating up the valley, too, because we have had several orders."

"Our high grade goods are practically sold out, but we still have some of the cheaper grades and they are going fast, too. The sloughs around Portland, too, are attracting skaters, and it is almost safe to predict that by the end of the week there will be few skates if any in stock." Jobbers report a very heavy run on ice skates from all parts of the Pacific northwest and say that if the retailers are already running low there must have been a good demand this year. Journal want ads bring results.

Swindlers at Roseburg. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Roseburg, Or., Dec. 24.—Four Roseburg business houses were swindled out of sums aggregating about \$70 by two bad check artists, a man and a woman, Saturday. The fact did not become known until yesterday, when two of the checks were returned from Portland bearing information that the bank carried no account with "Mrs. F. D. Hart," the name in which all the drafts were executed and indorsed.

The drafts were upon the Security Saving & Trust company of Portland. One was for \$10, two were for \$25 and one was for \$10.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS To All Our Patrons. MOYER 3rd and Oak 1st and Yamhill 1st and Morrison. A Valuable Present. Will be given every patron of The Exposition Bink on Christmas night, Saturday, December 25. Large tree, beautifully decorated. Come up and be one of us. Learn to skate. Good music by the band. Courteous instruction. Fine floor. Hundreds are here daily. Exposition Bink.

"THE" Route to Kansas City, St. Louis and the Southeast is via O. R. & N.—Union Pacific—Wabash "The Safe Road to Travel" Leave Portland on "The Chicago-Portland Special" via Cheyenne and "The St. Louis-Colorado Limited" A new electric-lighted observation train to St. Louis via Denver and Kansas City. Dining cars—meals a la carte. Service "Best in the World." Electric Block Signals. Perfect Track. For further information address C. W. STINGER, C. T. A., O. R. & N. CO. Third and Washington Sts., Portland, Or.