

POLICE RECORD OF BENNETT THOMPSON IS NOW RECALLED

Man Mentioned as Suspect in Mrs. Jennings' Murder Case Well Known to Sleuths.



Bennett Thompson.

If Bennett Thompson, "the lone highwayman," committed the murder of Mrs. Helen Jennings at her Tualatin valley home Monday night, he is far away from here by now. If he did, he will voluntarily report himself to police detectives of Portland and produce his alibi.

This was the unqualified assertion today of every officer of the Portland detective bureau who had known Thompson.

When first news of the murder came to the police at 6 o'clock last night, Detectives Howell and Goltz were assigned to assist the sheriff of Multnomah and Washington counties in the investigation. A short time later, when the full facts of the atrocity became known, every officer of the bureau was placed on the case, and some of them worked until 5 o'clock this morning.

Career Is Recalled.

The mention of Bennett Thompson as the possible murderer brings many a memory of the career of this man to the Portland police.

Detective Sergeant Frank Snow and E. J. Moloney have known him for over 15 years, and it was Detective Snow who, on June 29, 1902, arrested him on the charge that gained him the title of "the lone highwayman," and landed him in the penitentiary under a sentence of 20 years.

Since his release from the penitentiary under parole about three years ago, Thompson has been in jail several times, but on no occasion for a very serious charge.

Thompson was 21 years old when he was arrested in 1902, and that would make him 35 years old now. For three months prior to his arrest he conducted a series of bold highway robberies, holding up country people on the Slavin, Taylor Ferry and Patton roads, on Marquam hill, at East Waukie, Elk Rock, on the Oswego road, and an Oregon City streetcar. In all of these jobs until the last he was alone, and it was when he took a partner in with him that he was captured.

This partner, a man named Wright, "talked," boasted through the north end of his association with the "lone highwayman." As a result Detectives Snow and Kerrigan walked into a saloon at Third and Burnside streets on the night of June 29, 1902, and the two were captured after a chase. Each man carried a gun. Thompson later confessed to the robberies and was sent up for the long term.

About three years ago, through the efforts of the Prisoners' Aid society,

he was released, but a short time afterward got in trouble for stealing some pipe from the Linnton rock quarry, and was sent back to the penitentiary. Detectives say he remained there but a few days, and was again released.

After that he went to San Francisco and returned to Portland about two years ago. He was caught the very first day he arrived in Portland. He was in a box car with a hobo, and charged with vagrancy.

Taken to detective headquarters, he was "shown up" to all the officers and then released with a warning.

Since that time Thompson had been frequently suspected of committing crimes, and has been arrested several times. Each time, however, the police were unable to fasten anything on him, and he was released.

Of late, the detectives say, Thompson has been going "straight." For several months he has been working in a north Portland cooperage plant. Only last Thursday Detective Snow talked to him at First and Madison streets. Thompson had injured his thumb and was laying off for a couple of days. Detective Snow says that Thompson has been living for a long time in the Mt. Scott district with relatives.

On December 18, 1915, Thompson was arrested by Detectives LaSalle and Leonard in a South Portland rooming house. The charge was of vagrancy, the offense of consorting with the ex-wife of his brother. He was brought into the municipal court and the case was dismissed with a warning.

Before the 20-year sentence at Salem, Thompson had been in prison for one term and was also in the state reform school.

The pictures of Thompson at detective headquarters are excellent likenesses, and anyone could identify the man from these photographs.

TWO ARE SLAIN, SEARCH IS ON FOR ASSASSIN

(Continued From Page One)

Murdering Mrs. Jennings he encountered Ristman and murdered him in order to conceal the facts of his first murder; or that he had murdered the chauffeur before killing Mrs. Jennings. That he concealed Ristman's body in the vicinity and made his escape.

Mrs. Jennings was murdered presumably while asleep in bed in her large country home inherited from her father, the late Captain George A. Gore of this city. Her right temple was split open with a splitting wedge taken from the basement of the farm house by the murderer.

Ristman's Body Not Found.

Chaufeur Ristman's body has not yet been found, although searching parties have scoured the surrounding country since yesterday afternoon when the crime was first discovered. However, sufficient evidence has been found to warrant the conclusion that he, too, was a victim of the murderer of Mrs. Jennings.

Ristman's Panama hat, his shirt sleeve, torn off at the elbow and the green lap robe that belonged to his machine, were found this morning about 300 yards from the Gore farm, behind a fence on the road leading to Sherwood.

Officials Are at Work.

Deputy Sheriff Phillips, Ward, Beckman and Christofferson, of Multnomah county; Sheriff Reeves and his deputy, James Andrews, of Washington county, and a number of farmers in the vicinity are searching for Ristman's body, while detectives here and in neighboring cities are on the lookout for ex-convict Thompson.

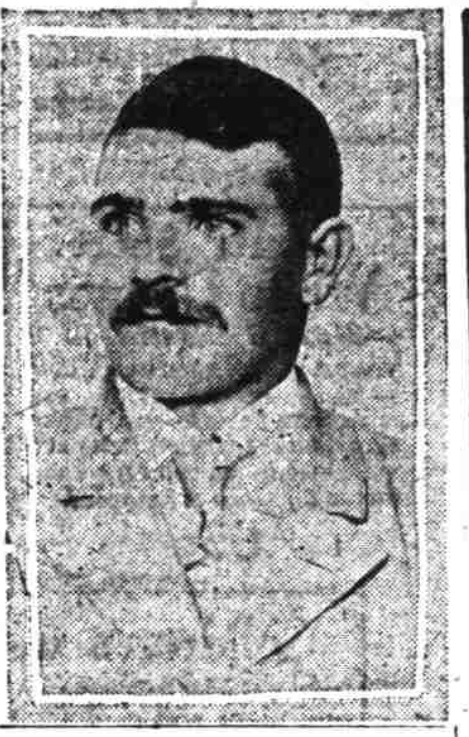
Robbery Is Believed by the investigating officers to have been the motive for the double murder; but jealousy, too, has been advanced as a possible motive. In either case, Thompson is the suspect.

Conditions in the house when it was entered yesterday afternoon by a party that had started from Portland in search of Ristman, upon request from his wife, who was uneasy because of his failure to return home, disclosed the fact that the farm house had been ransacked. Whether any money or valuables had been stolen is not known.

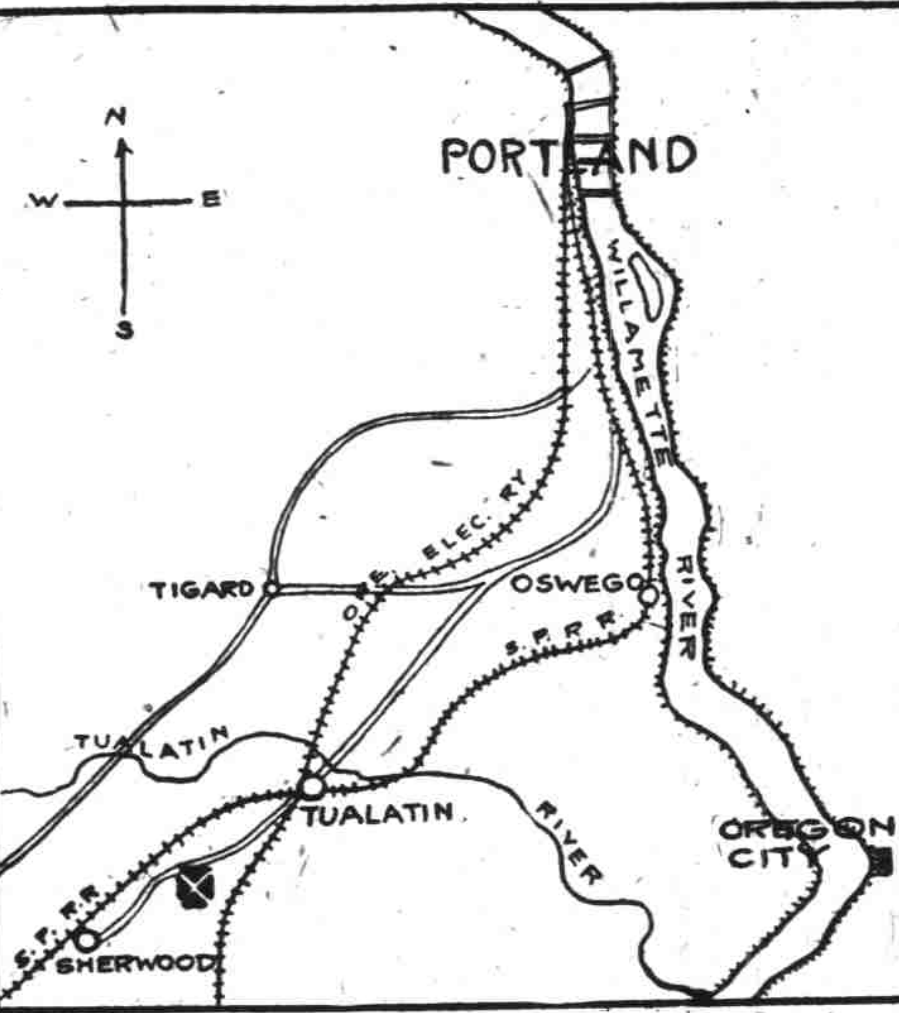
Mrs. Jennings' son, D. V. Jennings, employee of the Mahabala tinner company at Scappoose, believes his mother was murdered for her money. He scouts the jealousy theory.

"My mother was engaged to be married," he explained this morning, "to

SCENES AT FARM WHERE MYSTERY MURDER OCCURRED SHOWN



R. Housen, logging operator at Knappa, Or., and I had a letter a few days ago from Mr. Housen.



Top, left to right—Mrs. Helen Jennings, murdered woman; Ben Ristman's automobile, in which murderer was taken to Gore farm, where crime was committed; Mrs. Jennings' bungalow on the Gore farm.

Bottom, left to right—Fred Ristman, jitney driver, who is missing and supposed to be murdered by Mrs. Jennings' slayer; map showing location of house where woman was killed.

after having thrown out the body of the chauffeur.

While the country is thickly settled a number of clumps of trees dot the fields and it is supposed that unless the murderer threw Ristman's body into the Tualatin river he must have hidden it in the underbrush among these trees.

Other officials believe Ristman was killed after Mrs. Jennings had been murdered in the house.

Terrific Blow Inflicted.

Ristman's hat was covered with mud and the lap robe was saturated with blood. Brain clots and hair, too, were found on the robe showing that a terrific blow had been inflicted.

After putting the chauffeur out of the way, according to one theory, the murderer went to the house, entered the basement for the splitting wedge, which he must have known was there, and stole quietly into the woman's bedroom and struck her over the head. He then ransacked the house and escaped.

Last to See Mrs. Jennings.

Joe Galbraith, who lives at Cipole, apparently was the last person to see Mrs. Jennings alive. He had been employed at odd jobs about the Jennings home. Monday afternoon he said he was spading up her garden and helping set out shrubs. About 5 o'clock she asked him to take her to Tualatin to make some purchases, which he did, returning with her about 7 o'clock. He said he then went to his home, and did not hear of the murder until late yesterday.

Galbraith said he had seen Thompson about the neighborhood on Thursday, but inasmuch as he had formerly worked about the district, he paid little attention to him. He said that Mrs. Jennings had once warned him never to get into an argument with Thompson, "because he was a bad man."

District Attorney E. B. Tongue of Hillsboro conducted the inquest, which was held this morning at the Jennings home.

Mrs. Jennings had been divorced twice, her first husband being Oroville A. Jennings, who is a traveling engineer on the Southern Pacific between Ashland and Roseburg. Her second husband was John S. Seed, Portland contractor, from whom she was divorced three or four years ago. She was 41 years of age and was a

formerly sentenced to the penitentiary, and this pardon is desired so that he may establish his innocence.

Looks Like Thompson.

George Hense, a brother of Carl Hense, proprietor of the cigar store at 146 Second street, in front of which "Frenchy" Ristman, jitney driver, stood this morning that the rogue's gallery picture of Ben Thompson, "the Lone Highwayman," now being sought as the murderer of Mrs. Helen Jennings, resembled the man who was taken to Ristman by Du Mas, another jitney driver, when Du Mas refused to rent his car for the trip to Sherwood.

Lived at Belle Station.

Special Agent Lou Wagner of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Co. this morning received word from Belle station, on the Etanacada line, stating that Bennett Thompson, the man suspected of committing the Tualatin valley murder, had been living there for three or four weeks with a widow and her children. The complaint was made that Thompson had been stealing copper wire from the railway company.

Friends Aid Search.

Four automobile loads of friends and workers of Ristman left this morning for the scene of the murder. One was made up of members of the structural steel men, fellow workers with Ristman in his trade. Ristman drove a jitney just to cover the stretches between jobs on steel construction. The three other cars were made up of friends of the man made in his jitney business.

Coroner Holds Inquest.

Coroner Darrett of Washington county is holding an inquest this afternoon at the Gore farm over the remains of Mrs. Jennings. District Attorney E. B. Tongue and Sheriff Reeves are assisting. The jurors are men of the neighborhood, John Hedges, Walter Hess, John Roberts, Millard Johnston, Joseph Hess and Charles Schmokke.

Jury Returns Verdict.

The coroner's jury in the Jennings murder case this afternoon brought in the following verdict:

"Mrs. Jennings came to her death from blows inflicted on her head by a sledge hammer or other blunt instrument wielded by a party or parties unknown to this jury."

County Prohibition Convention Meets

Chairman Wolverton Reports on Work Accomplished; to Name Ticket This Afternoon.

The Multnomah County Prohibition convention came to order at the call of Bruce Wolverton this morning in the Y. M. C. A. auditorium. R. H. Tate was elected temporary chairman and Mrs. W. B. Swope temporary secretary.

Three committees were appointed on permanent finances, campaign and campaign and nominations. As county chairman, Bruce Wolverton made a report of the work done during the past year. This afternoon there will be addresses by A. L. Crim and D. T. Short, which will be followed by the report of the committee on nominations and the naming of a county ticket.

Maxwell Ball Is Back in School

Willamette College Editor Declares He Was Only One to Blame for Putting Cow in the Chapel.

Salem, Or., May 17.—Maxwell Ball of Portland, editor of the Collegian, the Willamette university student whose stunt in placing a cow in the chapel a few weeks ago resulted in his suspension, was reinstated this morning.

Ball voluntarily arose in chapel and said that he was the only student of the university involved in the cow affair.

His plea for reinstatement was refused a week ago because he declined to answer questions of the faculty regarding the cow incident. These questions were not for the purpose of implicating anyone else, it was explained. Ball gave in and answered questions of the faculty Tuesday. Ball was not required to make any public apology for his prank.

Hindu Laborers Are Injured During Riot

Marysville, Cal., May 17.—(P. N. S.)—Quiet has been restored on the Durst hop ranch, near Wheatland, where eight

Hindu laborers were injured last night in a riot caused by a discussion of religion.

Four of the rioters were arrested. District Attorney Maxwell and three others were killed three years ago in a riot on the Durst ranch.

Spotted Fever Fatal To Oregon Man

William Taylor of Vale Dies at Haines Hospital—Was G. A. R. Veteran and Served Government in West.

Harriman, Or., May 17.—William Taylor of Vale died at the Haines hospital at Burns, after a short illness with spotted fever.

Mr. Taylor was taken sick on his way from Riverside to Burns, and stopped over in Harriman to take treatment. After leaving Harriman and before he got half way to Burns, he was taken very sick, and had to be taken in an automobile to the hospital at Burns.

Mr. Taylor was born in New York state in 1822, and was a veteran of the Civil war. After the war he came west, still serving in the army, and was stationed both at Camp Curry and Fort Harney. Mr. Taylor is survived by one son, C. A. Taylor, and one daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Jacobs of Vale. The funeral was held under the auspices of the G. A. R. at Burns.



Every Woman's Duty

in matters pertaining to the family table is to decide not only what is best for herself, but for the husband and children as well.

Take the table drink, for instance; the housewife may like her tea or coffee. She knows that coffee and tea are harmful to many, but she uses her favorite beverage in moderation, and thinks it doesn't harm her.

But there's John. He's irritable and nervous, perhaps his irritation and sleeplessness may be due to tea or coffee.

Again, almost everybody knows that tea and coffee are specially harmful to the little folks. The next thing, then, is "what to serve as a wholesome table beverage?"

In many families the quick and happy answer is

INSTANT POSTUM

Here is a delicious, "coffee-like" beverage, as hot and savory as high-grade Java coffee, yet pure and free from the drugs, caffeine and tannin, which often disagree with health and comfort.

This pure, delicious food-drink is made instantly by using a level teaspoonful in a cup and adding hot water, also sugar and cream to taste. Everyone can drink all they desire without the slightest chance of harm.

Instant Postum, a real American discovery, is made of prime wheat and a bit of wholesome molasses, blended and roasted just like coffee. Its flavor, purity and wonderful goodness have won tremendous favor everywhere.

"There's a Reason"

Grocers everywhere sell Postum.

"Have a heart," said the Pitcher, "don't keep a fellow's mind off his game with that fragrant Presado Blend"



**TOM KEENE**  
the cigar with that Presado Blend  
J. R. SMITH COMPANY, Distributors  
Portland, Oregon.

Chaufeur Identifies Suspect.

The first chaufeur approached asked \$1.00 an hour, which the man considered exorbitant. He was then referred to Ristman, who had a lighter machine, and the latter accepted the job at the rate of \$1 an hour. Paul Langas, one of the chaufeurs, saw Ristman and his passengers start for Sherwood, and when shown the pictures of Thompson this morning, said that "he was the passenger."

Discovery of the murder of Mrs. Jennings was brought about yesterday afternoon through the search for Ristman. Leaving for Sherwood Monday night, Ristman telephoned his wife that he would be home late, but when he failed to return yesterday morning, she asked Ed Gavin, T. Dugan, Louis Travelli and George Hense to start a search for him.

This party followed the direction taken by Ristman and made inquiries all along the road till they finally found the missing car in the rear of the Gore farm.

Instead of the driver, they found in the tonneau of the car evidence of a terrible struggle, with blood covering the seat, the floor and the running board.

Hastening to Tualatin, they enlisted the aid of Deputy Sheriff Andrews and returned to the Gore farm. Entering the house, they found Mrs. Jennings' body. This was at 5:30 last night.

Word was immediately sent to Sheriff Reeves, Sheriff Hurlbut and the Portland police, and a search for Ristman and the murderer was begun. Throughout the night the deputies and residents scoured the fields and woods, but without reward.

What became of the body is one of the mysteries puzzling the searchers.

When Was Ristman Killed?

Certain officials profess to believe that the murderer killed Ristman while the latter was at the wheel bound for the farm. The theory is that the murderer struck him over the head with the gas pipe and then finished him, perhaps after a struggle.

This may have occurred on the road from Sherwood to the Gore farm some distance from the destination, or it may have been at the farm house where the "machine" was found. If some time before, then the murderer drove the car himself to the farm.

Thompson Pardoned by Governor.

Salem, Or., May 17.—Bennett Thompson was first received at the state prison January 25, 1902, charged with assault and robbery armed with a dangerous weapon, and he was pardoned in September, 1911. He was returned to prison May 3, 1915, for violating his parole, and was conditionally pardoned May 17, 1915, by Governor Withycombe, the pardon reciting that he was charged "with a new and different crime than the one upon which he was

Columbia Outfitting Co. Quits Business

Portland branch of exclusive ladies' and men's clothing house to be discontinued at once.

The Columbia Outfitting Co., which for many years has been carrying an exclusive men's and women's clothing business on the second floor of 145 Fifth street will be discontinued as a Portland branch of the larger association, just as soon as the stock can be closed, which is expected to be before the end of the month.

This means that the entire stock and fixtures of this magnificent institution will be offered to Portland buying public at such prices as have not been heard of before, considering the high grade of the merchandise which this firm has always carried.

Hotel Oregon

"On the Columbia River Highway."—When you take your friends to see the wonderful Columbia River Highway arrange to stop at Hotel Oregon. While here do not fail to show them the beautiful Hood River valley. Special attention given to tourists and auto travelers. REX SEER, Prop. TED SEER, Mgr. Auto at Hood River connects with train 15.

Rail Auto

OF MT. HOOD RAILROAD CO.  
See Hood River orchards in bloom. Rail Auto at Hood River connects with Train 15, leaving Portland at 10 a. m. Lunch at Hood River. Rail Auto leaves for Parkdale, near Hood River, at 1:30 p. m. Returning connects with Train 17, reaching Portland 7 p. m. Wonderful one-day trip. Tickets on sale O-W. R. & N. Portland City Ticket office.

The Elyrie

"ON THE BLUFFS OF THE COLUMBIA."—An ideal place for your summer's rest. 24 hours by rail from Portland. In the Garden of Eden, magnificent scenery. Excellent table. Send for illustrated booklet. C. W. J. RECKER, White Salmon, Wash.

HOTEL DALLIES

THE DALLIES, OR.—A MODERN HOTEL, European plan. Cafe first class, 50 miles from Portland, on the Columbia River Highway. Also on the rail and boat lines, many rooms to see. Plan your stay for a day or so. Reservations made. JUD S. FINE, Mgr.

TROUT LAKE

AT THE FOOT OF MT. ADAMS.—The "Mt. Adams" location is ideal for a mountain retreat. Easy walking distance of the famous lake and ice caves. Headquarters for fishing and hunting. High class amusement hall near hotel. Hotel rates \$2 a week. Address: GILLES HOTEL, Trout Lake, Wash.

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