

ROSEBURG ARCH-MURDERER COMMITS SUICIDE IN SALEM PRISON WITH STRIP OF HIS MATTRESS

DR. BRUMFIELD TAKES HIS LIFE BY HANGING HIMSELF IN HIS CELL

Man Sentenced to Be Executed for Murder of Dennis Russell, Near Roseburg, Cheats Gallows by Use of Strip Torn from Blanket on Prison Cot; Attendants Misled by Dummy Put in Bed; Leaves Note to Warden and Wife; Protests Innocence.

Salem, Sept. 13.—Dr. Richard M. Brumfield, convicted slayer of Dennis Russell, Melrose hermit, cheated the gallows today about noon by hanging himself in his cell in murderers' row in the state penitentiary here.

Brumfield used a strip torn from his mattress, tying it to a heating plant pipe near the ceiling of the cell and jumping from two rods on top of his bunk, placed there to support an upper bunk, but not in use in Brumfield's cell. He tied one hand with a hard knot and the other with a slip knot behind him, pulling them together before he leaped so that he could not save himself. The hands were tied with a strip torn from his sheet.

BODY HIDDEN FROM VIEW

The body hung in a corner of the cell, visible only from the inside, accounting for failure of the guard to discover the suicide.

Two notes were left by Brumfield, one addressed to Warden J. W. Lewis of the penitentiary and the other to Mrs. Brumfield. In the letter to the warden, he pleaded his innocence of the crime charged and spoke of his suffering from neuritis, with which he had been ill for several days, saying no relief was promised, and that he had decided to end his pain.

HIS INSTRUCTIONS

In his letter to the warden Brumfield enclosed the following, which he requested Lewis to forward by wire to Mrs. Alfonso C. Spencer, No. 392 E. Sixth street, Portland, his niece:

"Notify Merle (Mrs. Brumfield), Melvin (Dr. Brumfield) dead. Don't come here. Everything arranged."

He also made disposition of his belongings here, leaving word that his pictures, kodak album and other personal effects be sent to Mrs. Spencer for Mrs. Brumfield, who has been living here, but who is said to have moved recently to Portland. He also asked that a letter to his wife, in addition to the note left behind, be sent to Mrs. Brumfield, General Delivery, Portland.

LETTER TO WIFE

Brumfield's letter to his wife follows:

Wednesday, 9-14-1922.—My Tiddie I hope you are not terribly shocked at my determination to go on over. When Dr. Smith told me that my neuritis might last several weeks I found it easy to make up my mind. I have suffered a great deal these last days.

"There is no chance of me ever having you again anyway, and life is worthless without you. You have been a wonderful wife and I have loved you to be a good husband. There has never been any other woman in my life—you have filled it completely. I have learned what it is to worship a good woman. You have been an angel to me.

"You know what I want you to do soon. Be a happy girl. I am glad you are too intelligent to grieve over me. I do not need to say to you to take good care of the boys—you are a fine mother.

"Keep young—play, sing, swimming is the best exercise to preserve your youth and beauty. Spend your

'SHAME' OF PUBLIC HANGING AVOIDED

Games Today

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE
San Francisco at Portland, 2:45 p. m.
Los Angeles at Seattle, 3:45 p. m.
Salt Lake at Oakland, 3 p. m.
Sacramento at Vernon, 2:45 p. m.

NATIONAL
At Philadelphia—First game: R. H. E. 4-3-2
At Philadelphia—Second game: R. H. E. 2-1-2
At Boston—First game: R. H. E. 3-2-1
At Boston—Second game: R. H. E. 2-1-2
At New York—First game: R. H. E. 2-1-2
At New York—Second game: R. H. E. 3-2-1

AMERICAN
At Chicago, first game: R. H. E. 4-3-2
At Chicago, second game: R. H. E. 3-2-1
At Cleveland—First game: R. H. E. 3-2-1
At Cleveland—Second game: R. H. E. 2-1-2
At Detroit—First game: R. H. E. 3-2-1
At Detroit—Second game: R. H. E. 2-1-2
At St. Louis—First game: R. H. E. 3-2-1
At St. Louis—Second game: R. H. E. 2-1-2

Cheats State's Gallows

DR. RICHARD M. BRUMFIELD, Roseburg dentist who committed suicide today in the Oregon penitentiary at Salem, where he was awaiting execution for the murder of Dennis Russell.



Roseburg Was Shocked By Murder of Russell

Dr. Richard M. Brumfield, not many months ago an envied leader in Roseburg society, went through swift gradations from his beautiful country home—the only one in the country with French windows—down to the strongest cell in murderers' row in the "big gray house."

Affairs were going quietly in Roseburg until—

In their lovely suburban home, not many miles from Roseburg, Dr. Brumfield's wrecked automobile—a classy car—over the bank of the Melrose road. A little stream prevented the body from being charred beyond possibility of recognition. But there spread the story that Dr. Brumfield, the young recluse, was missing, and soon friends of Russell identified the body as his.

Roseburg is divided. The town was divided over the question. Brumfield had disappeared. If indeed, the body was that of Russell, as all the evidence seemed to indicate upon investigation. The town was shocked. The respectable element hesitated to believe it possible. It overthrew their idea of the correctness of things. On the other hand, the cynical were only too glad to believe it. In the harness shop, where judges and lawyers and business men gathered to discuss the topic of the day, it was thrashed back and forth. Finally, the decision was against the doctor.

HATED PUBLIC SHAME

"For that reason he could not endure the public shame of a legal execution. It was not because he was afraid of death—he very much enjoyed it—he was not—but it was the outworking of that supercilious intolerance of others that would not reconcile him to being punished by law."

BRUMFIELD CAPTURED

Then the Northwest mounted police at Calgary, Canada, captured Brumfield at work on a farm. He submitted quietly and returned, though he was haughty and bitter. He said that he had suffered a lapse of memory and did not remember anything that had happened to him from the day before the murder until he was on the train returning to Portland with the deputies from Roseburg.

THEORY OF CASE

The theory of George Neuner, district attorney of Roseburg, and Chief Deputy District Attorney Hammersley of Multnomah county, who assisted him, was that Brumfield, in debt, started out to be a "master criminal." He wanted to collect his heavy insurance—or, rather, let his wife collect it, while he conveniently disappeared. He was not a commonplace man. He couldn't simply disappear. He must leave a body.

The doctor knew Russell, had had dinner with him, in fact, and knew that he lived by himself.

On July 13, the doctor left his wife

STRIKERS TO RETURN ON SOME ROADS

Chicago Meeting Said to Have Resulted in Individual Settlement Policy; Move Likely to Put End to Entire Strike.

Chicago, Sept. 13.—(U. P.)—The policy committee of the shopmen's union has accepted "the Baltimore peace plan," by which about 15 per cent of the 400,000 men who struck on July 1 will return to work on certain roads, the United Press was reliably informed today.

Announcement of the action by the policy committee will be made at union headquarters at 6 p. m.

MANY OPPOSED PLAN

The majority of the best orators in the policy committee were reported to have been obstinately opposed to the settlement.

They represent workers on roads such as the Pennsylvania and the Illinois Central, which are not included in the separate peace agreement at this time.

OLYMPIA MAN TO SUCCEED PADDOCK

The Rt. Rev. Frederic William Keator, bishop of Olympia, Wash., has been temporarily appointed head of the missionary district of Eastern Oregon to succeed the Rt. Rev. Robert L. Paddock, whose resignation was accepted Tuesday. This announcement was made this morning to the house of bishops at the Episcopal General Convention by the Most Rev. Daniel Sylvester Tuttle, presiding bishop.

Maria I, Queen of Flowers

MISS MARIA PERENNO, who was voted the most beautiful girl in the recent contest at Bordighera, famous summer resort and city of gorgeous flowers, on the Riviera, is to become a resident of Portland soon.



FAMOUS BEAUTY TO LIVE HERE

Miss Maria Perenno, Queen of the Flowers at Bordighera, pronounced the most beautiful girl of the famous Riviera, is coming to Portland to live.

Each year the distinguished European city that nestles amid flowers and seductive verdure on the sun-kissed shores of the Gulf of Genoa, elects a queen of the flowers, and on August 5, according to word just received here, she was accepted Tuesday. This Italian newspaper published in Portland.

LODGE, GASTON ARE NOMINATED

Boston, Mass., Sept. 13.—(U. P.)—Massachusetts voters renominated Senator Henry Cabot Lodge in the primaries yesterday by a plurality of 72,000.

Colonel William A. Gaston, who contested with Sherman L. Whipple for the Democratic nomination for the senate, won handily.

Refrigerator Cars Asked by Fruit Men

Washington, Sept. 13.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL.)—Urgent appeal for refrigerator cars is made in telegrams received by members of the Oregon delegation from the Grange, Gr. Commercial club, Peach and prune crops depend upon prompt action, it is said. Senator McNary is asking the interstate commerce commission to supply relief.

Denies Greek King Plans to Abdicate

London, Sept. 13.—(U. P.)—King Constantine of Greece does not intend to abdicate and rumors to that effect are absolutely false, the king's secretary telegraphed to the United Press this afternoon.

POINDEXTER CARRIES ALL BUT SEATTLE

Senator Wins State by 30,000 Plurality Over Col. Lamping, Nearest Opponent, Who Won in King County; Vote Light.

Seattle, Sept. 13.—(U. P.)—Miss Poindexter won the renomination for the United States senate at yesterday's primary on the Republican ticket by a plurality of between 25,000 and 30,000, according to the latest returns.

Returns from 107 out of the 2448 precincts give Poindexter, 48,234; George B. Lamping, port commissioner of Seattle, his nearest opponent, 18,217.

DEMOCRATS NAME BILL

On the Democratic ticket former Congressman C. C. Dill of Spokane, was far ahead of his opposition, political experts are now predicting an exciting race between the two Spokane men.

Congressman John P. Miller has nosed out Phil Tindall for the Republican congressional nomination in the first district. His final lead is expected to be something over 5,000.

COUNTY TENET

Prosecuting Attorney Malcolm Douglas and Sheriff Matt Starbuck lead the field in the county election.

The present incumbent congressmen appear to have been renominated on the Republican ticket.

HERESY CHARGED AGAINST BISHOP

Heresy charges were formally filed with the house of bishops of the Episcopal General Convention today against the Rt. Rev. William W. Brown, retired bishop of Arkansas.

Bishop James E. Winchester, who is now active bishop of the Southern state, presided at the convention in the form of a report of a special investigatory committee. The report recommended that Bishop Brown be given a church trial and deposed from the ministry and that a denial of his teachings be formally issued.

Peaches Reduced in Price by Local War

Conflict between rival fruit dealers in the central portion of the city has resulted in cuts of 10 to 15 cents a box in the price of peaches within a single day. Best peaches sold down to 70 cents a box and consumers who happened along profited by the fight. The Grange, Convention today against the Yamhill street firms cutting the price 5 cents to 80 cents. Then another cut to 75 cents. A nearby dealer saw the scrap coming and put out a large sign quoting 70 cents a box. This is 5 to 10 cents below the actual wholesale cost.