

Modern Crime Detection Methods Turn Up Clues to Identity of Polk Mystery Corpse

By Lester Cour
Staff Writer, The Statesman

Modern crime detection methods and medical science are pitted against time as Polk county authorities seek to solve the murder of an unidentified man whose wire-trussed, rock-weighted body was found in a well on a farm west of Salem Tuesday night.

The body decomposed body—almost a skeleton—was discovered about 7 p.m. Tuesday by Carl Williams and Clyde Edminster, both of Salem, route 4.

The 32-foot well is located on a farm in the Eola hills district and was sold to Edminster by Williams recently. Williams, who lives one block away, was helping Edminster clean the well when the gruesome discovery was made. Authorities were unable to determine the sex of the body at the time.

The first clue, which authorities hope may lead to a solution of the mystery, came Friday. Dr. Howard L. Richardson, director of the state police crime detection laboratory at the University of Oregon medical school in Portland, informed Tony Neufeldt, Polk county deputy sheriff in charge of the case, the body was that of a man. Dr. Richardson told Neufeldt

who camped near the well since 1935.

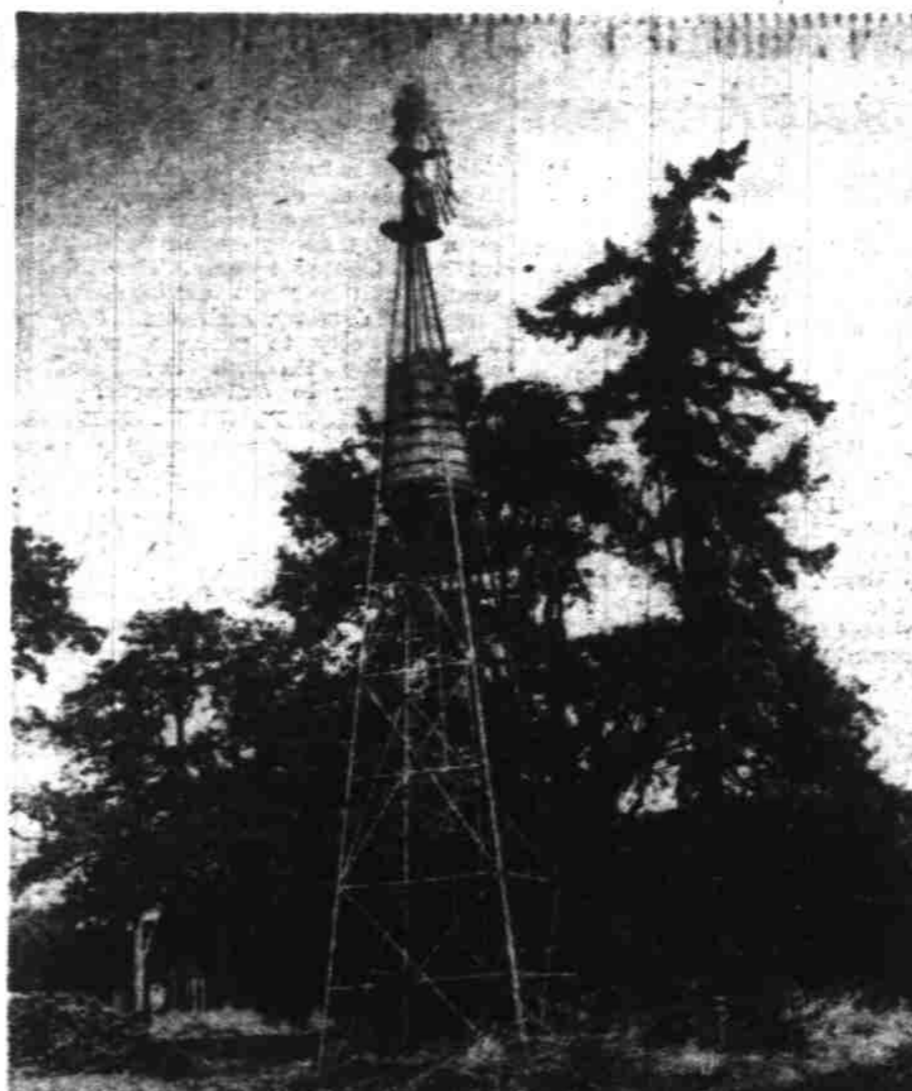
The preliminary laboratory report Friday indicated the body may have been submerged for a period ranging from 2 to 10 years. The chemical makeup of the water and soil, the varying depths of the well at different seasons and other factors will all be considered when the final calculation is made.

The property on which the well is located was originally part of the "Dan Fry estate." Fry, a pioneer Salem druggist, died many years ago leaving it to his widow.

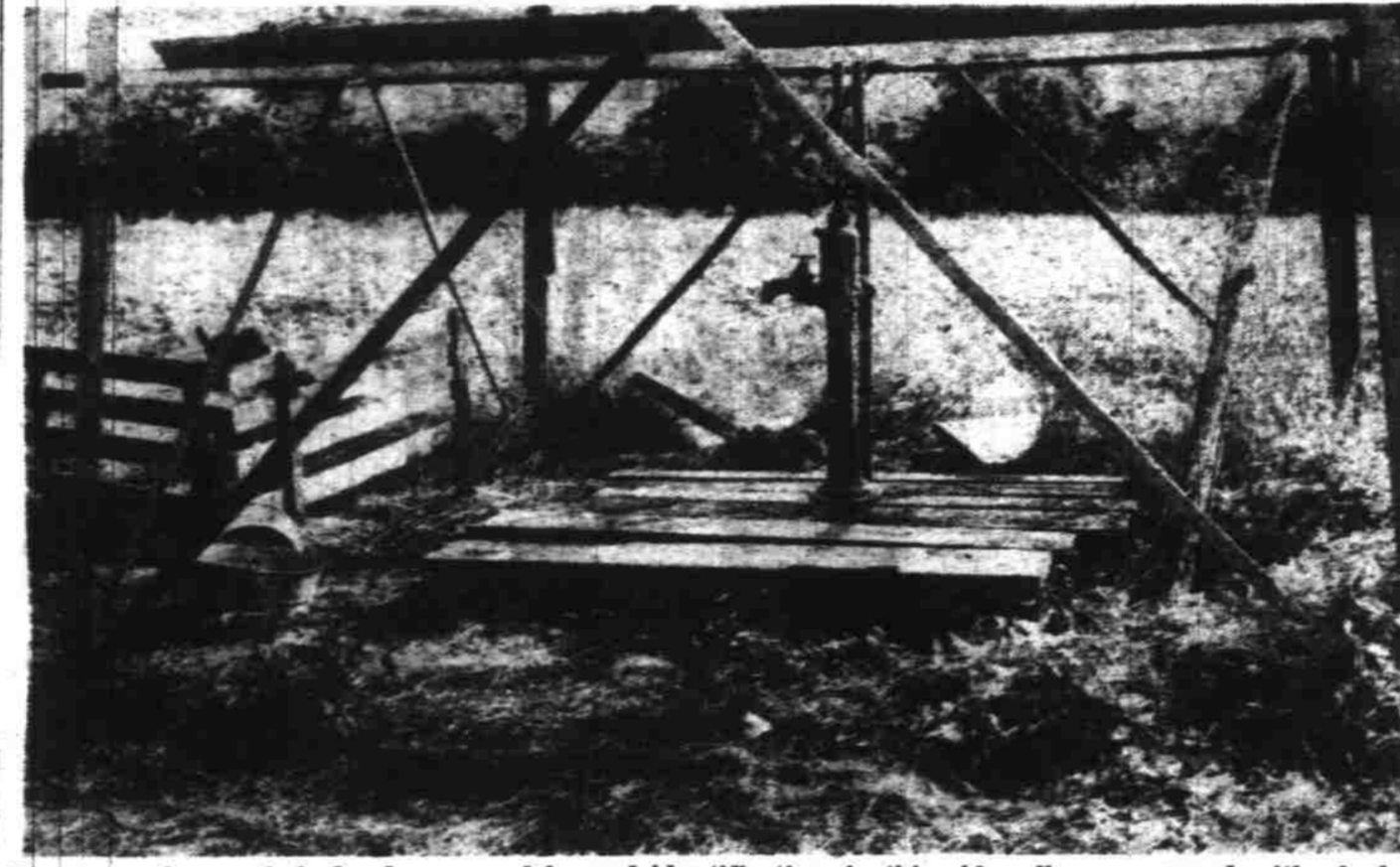
Later the orchards were taken over by the Ladd and Bush bank which leased the property to the Allen Fruit company. The company operated the orchards for 11 years until Williams purchased it in 1944.

Under ownership of the company and Williams hundreds of persons, including several house tenants, have occupied the site. Several Mexican fruit workers have lived in the house during the past four years, and authorities indicated the victim's body answered the description of at least two of these.

When the time of the crime has been determined, authorities will start their long search among lists of tenants who occupied the property. Deputy Neufeldt pointed out Saturday that no one answering the victim's description has ever been reported missing in Polk county.



An old well and itinerant workers' shacks in the background mark the location for a Polk county mystery. The weighted body of a man was found in the well below the windmill. Preliminary reports by Polk county officials indicate that the body may have been in the well from 2 to 10 years. Site is about four miles west of West Salem off the Orchard Heights road. (Photos by Don Dill, Statesman staff photographer.)



Discovery of a man's body, decomposed beyond identification, in this old well now covered with planks brought Polk county officials last week to the home recently purchased by Clyde Edminster, Salem route 4. The remains were discovered Tuesday night when Edminster and Carl M. Williams, who had sold the old house and property to Edminster, were cleaning out the old well before using it. The property had been partially abandoned for about 16 years.

Wedding Bells Pose Difficult Draft Problem

By Rowland Evans, Jr.
WASHINGTON, Sept. 25 (AP)—Thousands of altar-bound draft registrants are desperately searching for the answer to this question:

"When do I have to be married in order to rate marriage-deferment under the draft?"

Asked to give an answer, selective service officials here point to the executive order of Aug. 20, outlining standards for deferments of all kinds. They say the language in the order is clear enough.

What is that language?

It says: "In Class III-A shall be placed (1) a registrant who has a wife with whom he maintains a bona fide family relationship."

That's all. It makes several things perfectly clear, it is true, but it leaves others as confusing as a jig-saw puzzle with several missing pieces.

Two Things Clear

It makes clear that: 1. Any registrant who was married at the time he registered is deferred—provided he maintains "bona fide family relationship."

2. Any registrant who gets married before he is actually classified by his local board is also deferred.

It leaves unanswered this vital question: "If I am single when I register and single when I am classified (the time lapse between registration and classification is only a couple of weeks) but get married before I am drafted, what chance do I have for deferment?"

Apparently there is no answer to that question today. Unless one is forthcoming, single registrants who are engaged to be married, and who get married after classification but before induction, will take their chances on deferment.

Will Be Left in Doubt

It depends entirely on the local board whether a I-A registrant who gets married can have his classification changed to III-A. What probably will happen is this:

A local board, asked by a I-A newly-wed for re-classification to III-A, will look at all the facts and decide one of two things—

1. That the registrant got married in good faith and with honest intentions, and not to avoid being drafted. It will probably reclassify him.

2. Or that the registrant got married in a deliberate effort to remove himself from the pool of

draftable men. It will probably not re-classify him.

In fairness to selective service, it should be pointed out that the marriage puzzle has some dynamite in it.

For instance, if selective service were to announce on the basis of the executive order that all registrants who are married at the time they receive their notice of acceptance for military service will be deferred, a record marriage boom might make it impossible to meet draft needs without changing other deferment regulations.

But still thousands of single, non-deferrable, draftable men would like a clear-cut announcement on exactly how the draft and marriage mix together.

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New City Hall Offices Filled

Salem city hall's third floor was being rapidly occupied Saturday by three departments, in order to be ready for business Monday morning.

ing in the newly remodeled quarters. The city council will hold its second meeting in the new top floor chambers Monday evening.

The engineer's department, aided by the new elevator, spent most of Saturday moving desks, records and other equipment to the north side of the third floor. The city

attorney and municipal judge also readied their quarters. Readjustments on the second floor will be made later.

Open house slated by the council for Monday evening has been postponed until the first October meeting, since finishing work has not yet been completed.

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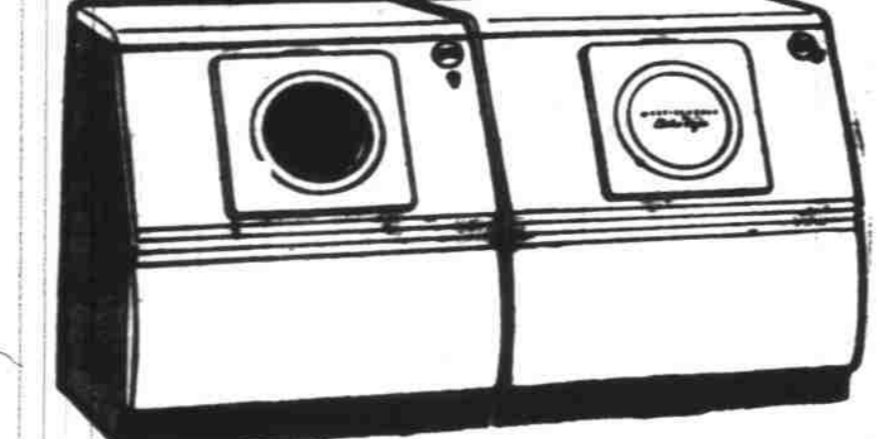
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