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BIRD IS FLOWN— CAGE IS EMPTY.

Bogus Check Man Artist in Other Lines.

Walter Conlin, the bogus check artist, being held in limbo at the county jail awaiting the meeting of the grand jury this fall, has proven to the satisfaction of the sheriff and his deputy that he is an artist in other lines as well.

Evidently not having a liking for close confinement, he conceived the idea of seeking freedom and the pleasures of the open air life, and sometime during the shades of night on Saturday he broke his bonds, and is now serving a self-imposed parole and putting himself outside the jurisdiction of the Morrow county peace officers.

Conlin had been an exemplary prisoner, and as such was allowed considerable liberty during the jail. He was not locked in his cell on Saturday evening. In fact he had not been locked up in this manner much of the time, but was allowed the use of the jail corridor where he could exercise himself more freely, the officers of course having no suspicion that he would try to escape.

The prisoner was figuring differently. He had been used to do odd jobs around the court house, and had in his rounds picked up a piece of file, about four inches in length, and at some other time to the jailer unknown, he had with-held from the lunch basket one of the steel forks. Using the fork and a piece of flat iron about an inch square and a little more than a sixteenth of an inch thick, which he shaped up to fit the lock in the outside door, he fashioned a key that he unlocked the door with and quietly walked away.

In the Sheriff's office he went through some drawers but took nothing. There was a loaded revolver in one of the drawers, but Conlin seems to have decided that he had no use for this, so left it. After getting into the office it was an easy matter to get on the outside, for all he had to do was to shove up a window and scot.

So far no trace has been found of him, and it is not even clear to the sheriff just what direction the fellow took, tho it is surmised that he hit for the mountains. He was cautious enough to leave no distinct tracks behind.

As stated before, Conlin was in jail awaiting the action of the grand jury on a charge of uttering false checks. At his preliminary about two months ago he waived examination and confessed that he was guilty, so there is no doubt but he would have been indicted, tried and sent over the road for the crime. The neatness with which he executed this job proves that he is an old offender.

Sheriff Hayes has the key in his possession, as well as the file with which it was made, and he will retain the instrument as a souvenir. It can be seen at the court house, and it will be recognized at once that Conlin is surely a mechanical genius. He is no slouch of a locksmith, to say the least.

In Trouble Again.

Bill Ridings, known throughout the county as "Slim", a cow-boy who figured prominently in the trying out of horses for the Round Up bucking contest last year, is in jail at Vancouver and will be brought to Pendleton on the night train, according to a message received from Portland. He is accused of stealing a horse from Umapine, chief of the Cayuse tribe, which larceny was committed about two months ago.

Ridings has been in hiding for the past two months but Sheriff Taylor has been on his track and knew that it would be only a matter of time before he was landed. He stole the horse on the reservation, delivered it into the hands of a confederate who rode it to Echo where "Slim" was to meet him. The latter got on the train for that point but noticing Deputy Sheriff Blasev on the same train, did not get off until Hermiston was reached when he made his get-away. The horse, which was a fine blooded animal, was recovered.

Ridings is an ex-convict, having served a term from Morrow county for the same offense.—E. O.

Sheriff Hayes is sending out notices to delinquent taxpayers notifying them that he will be compelled to add the costs of advertising to the penalty already accumulated, unless they pay up before August 5th. There are some 300 delinquents, and if possible they should come forward and settle up, to save further costs and expenses.

Mass Meeting.

To consider matters of adequate fire protection, street sprinkling, etc., a mass meeting was called by Mayor Woodson on last Saturday evening, and it was well attended by our citizens. The recent fire has been the means of stirring up our people to the recognition of the fact that something must be done to lessen the dangers of a more serious conflagration in the future.

Editor Shutt was called to preside over the meeting, and there was much discussion over matters of fire protection and street sprinkling.

Concerning the latter proposition, several schemes for getting water were proposed, and it was finally decided to appoint a committee to look up this matter and make some experiments of getting water from wells already bored but not being used. One of these is located in the basement of the Fair building, and the committee installed a pump in this to test its ability to furnish water sufficient to sprinkle the streets. This committee met last night to bring in its report.

There was much talk, also over the proposition of forming a volunteer fire company, and this was left in the hands of Frank Hale, who is working up a company of twenty five or thirty young men to take charge of the fire apparatus and to drill in its proper handling, under the direction of a captain or superintendent, which it is suggested be appointed and given authority to act by the city council. It looks very much like this part of the program will be successfully carried out, and if it is there will be much less confusion in the future in handling fires. Every good citizen of the town certainly favors this move, even though it should cost some money to properly carry it out, as all fully realize the hazard that is taken in having no organized fire department. The young men are willing and enthusiastic, and they can soon have a good volunteer fire department.

As to the different danger points in the town among the public gathering places, it was clearly shown that the I. O. O. F. hall and the opera house owned by Frank Roberts were each so situated as to be a menace to life, and it is strongly urged that if there is no law on the books of the city to enforce the construction of proper rear exits from these buildings, that such an ordinance be passed and its requirements put into immediate enforcement.

A committee was also appointed to act with the marshal in the burning of the accumulated dry grass about the different streets, and also the cleaning up and burning of other rubbish that might be fired by the dropping of a lighted match or a cigar stub. This work is now going on.

While there was much talk and many suggestions offered that may not mature yet the meeting was a good one and the agitation is along the right lines. Our citizens must wake up to some of these matters and take hold of conditions as they exist with the determination to have a number of things bettered. A good work has been commenced; it should be carried through.

Part of Skeleton Found.

Some pieces of thigh bones, several of the vertebra and a perfectly preserved skull of a human skeleton was picked up on the Cass Matlock place on Butter creek one day this week by Mrs. Mary E. Hirl, who resides with her husband on the place. The bones had been embedded in an alkali bank, and were uncovered by some logs running about the place. While the skull is in a splendid state of preservation, the other bones are not so well preserved. The find was brought to town by Dock Matlock and Will Morgan and given to Deputy Sheriff Rasmus, who will use them as the nucleus around which to build a museum of strange and rare relics. In the meantime the skull graces the sheriff's office, a silent reminder of the state we all will reach sooner or later. From their appearance the bones have been buried a long number of years, and are those of some white man well toward the age of 60 or 70, judging from the worn condition of the teeth, a large number of which remain fixed in the upper and lower jaws. It is no doubt the remains of some emigrant who died while passing through the country.

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School Notes.

By S. E. Nelson, Co. School Supt.

On the 20th inst., I visited the school in District No. 42. This is a small school, under the direction of Mrs. Blanche Watkins. The pupils are making rapid advancement, as they receive much individual instruction. More pupils will be enrolled soon.

The annual report of the superintendent, just filed with the State Superintendent, shows the following facts: The average number of days of school in each district was 130, which is three more than the year previous. The percentage of attendance was 93.25. For the previous year it was 93.42, but when we take into account the epidemic of measles which interfered with the schools of all the towns and several of the country schools, the percentage is very satisfactory. Three new districts have been formed since the last annual report. The superintendent visited every school which has been in session during the year and nineteen a second time. In connection with the work of the office, he traveled 2476 miles. The average length of time spent in visiting each school was three hours. The number of library books in the school libraries is 3420, of which 326 were added during the past year. The total cost of the schools for the year was \$46,327.88. The average monthly salary paid male teachers was \$79.89; females, \$59.45. Seventy-six teachers were employed in the county. Of this number, 69 took one or more educational papers, which shows a good interest in professional lines. The books loaned by the Library Commission were read by a large number of the teachers.

ADVERTISED LETTERS.

The following letters remain uncalled for in the Postoffice at Heppner, Oregon.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| E J Andia | Opal Hall |
| Minnie A Brown | E L Isaacson |
| (foreign) | Lawrence Hopper |
| Mrs B O Brown | Leonard Long |
| Jim Cunningham | Patrick McAvey |
| James C Doherty | Thomas McNamere |
| Geo Deneen | James McRoberts |
| James Edwards | Otto A Sumner |
| Walter Garner | Eddie Sheridan |
| Tom Harris | Carl Williams |

When calling for these please say advertised.

At the Churches.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The Bible School will meet as usual at 9:45. After the Lords Supper at eleven, a short conference will be held in regard to the coming Evangelistic campaign. This building will be closed in the evening, that we may all attend the union meetings in the M. E. Church. Pastor Thompson's subject there will be, "Lifting up Jesus Christ."

M. E. CHURCH SOUTH.

The Woman's Home Mission Society of the South Methodist church will meet at the parsonage Tuesday 2:30 p. m. Aug. 1.

Union Services.

The union service will be held at the Methodist Episcopal church Sunday evening. Young people's meeting at 7 p. m. and preaching at 8 p. m. by Rev. Maynard R. Thompson.

The losses caused by last week's fire have been properly adjusted by the insurance companies, and the owners of the damaged property will begin at once the work of repairing. Geo. Swaggart was allowed \$600 for the damage to the restaurant building, and George Noble gets \$100 to fix up the front of the bakery. The loss on the Borchers building has not been fully adjusted, but it is understood that the company holding the insurance will pay the full amount which is \$2500. Just what the owners of this building will do toward repairing it, has not yet been made known.

The Misses Grace, Ruth and Mary VanVoctor departed last Friday morning for South Bend, Wash., where they will spend the heated term visiting with their grandmother, Mrs. Ames.

Mutton to Portland.

Messrs. Emmet Cochran, J. J. Simas and John Marcus, of Monument, came in Sunday evening in charge of 1700 head of mutton sheep which they shipped from the Heppner yards Monday morning direct to the Union Stock Yards at Portland. Geo. Perry also took out two car loads of mutton for the same market for C. A. Minor. This was all good mutton stuff, and should bring the best prices in the Portland market. Large numbers of sheep have been going into the yards, and as a consequence the market tendency is downward, lambs being quoted at \$5.75, wethers at \$3.75, and ewes at \$3.00.

There is a fair prospect that Heppner will be greatly depopulated the next few weeks. The annual exodus for the tall timber and refreshing waters of the mountains is on, and a very large number of our people will hike for the higher altitudes. The poor printer however, will have to be content to remain at home and enjoy himself the best way possible, being consoled with the thought that it is not so hot for him as it might be, and that it was not intended that he should have all of the best things of life. His reward comes later.

Pete Brenner who has been here for several days has suspicious connections Harry Creighton and Harry McDonald who are confined in the county jail with the murder of the Hill family which occurred several weeks ago near Portland. He has communicated with Sheriff Stevens of Multnomah county, and although the facts set out in the letter are not regarded with much concern by local authorities they are sufficient to convince Mr. Brenner that some inquiry and investigation should be set on foot.—Blue Mountain Eagle.

Percy Jarman was in from Butter Creek on Saturday and states that the fruit crop is almost an entire failure with him this season owing to winter killing. As a usual thing the Butter creek section can be counted on for a fruit crop, but it gets hit with winter killing once in a while, and this is one of those seasons. Cold and backward weather in the spring also shortened up the alfalfa crop to a considerable extent.

After facing a succession of bad crops, W. E. Roysse has decided to give up his place at the head of Jackrabbit canyon, and has turned the same over to the mortgagee. Ed is a good farmer, but has certainly met with a streak of bad luck so far as farming goes and the past three years have been too much for him. Heavy indebtedness, interest and crop failures is a hard mountain of difficulty to get over, but Ed has certainly tried to do his best.

Willard Herren is now rapidly recovering from a very bad case of blood poisoning, which for a time looked as though it would cause him the loss of his right hand, if not his life. The hand became infected about two weeks ago from a small scratch and rapidly developed into a very serious case. It was promptly and properly treated by Mrs. Herren who is a professional nurse, and no serious results are now apprehended.

An unlimited market for poultry. The Portland market is yours. We have arranged with Portland connections to handle all the chickens we can get. Minor & Co.