

# Cottage Grove Leader

OL. XVII

COTTAGE GROVE, OREGON, SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1905.

of 0

## SALEM THE CAPITAL

Through the Eyes of Our Special Correspondent.

The week opens with a bustle that was not promised last Saturday. It has been for the past month, a little quiet, attributed to the fact that the Lewis and Clark is making both in money and people.

A further evidence of activity is the fact that the Spaulding Logging company is operating its large saw mill plant, the Capital saw mill 24 hours per day and seven days in the week. The big saws are not turned during the night, but the planers are whirling by the light of electric lamps. The company is shipping lumber and are preparing to export. It is the general opinion here that when Russia and Japan conclude a peace, a demand for lumber will spring up in the Orient that will gladden the lumber manufacturers in all parts of the state.

The appropriation made last winter by the legislature for buildings on the state fair grounds is being completed. There will be no fair this fall, but the improvements will improve the facilities for holding a great meeting of state agriculturists in 1906.

The county is repainting the court house this year, a work of no small amount considering the size of the building. The greatest change is the removal of the alleged face of the Goddess of Justice, that thirty years has held the scales blindfolded and guard on the pedestal. I have not heard what ornament is to replace the figure, certainly not the old image since it is so rotten that it crumbled at a first touch.

The county is having made a new record of 600 pages where all the names of the court house may find their names and the names of friends who may be interested in buying more of Marion county, "Eden of Oregon." The Gault Logging Company is doing the logging and Geo. F. Rodgers & Co. the ruling and binding.

The last legislature created a commission of three to write and report to the next legislature a new government and taxation law. The commission was appointed by the Governor, Secretary of State and Treasurer. Some sharp criticism has been made relative to the formation of the commission. Every member is a lawyer. Neither the agricultural, manufacturing or mining classes was recognized. Ob-

jection is made because all visible wealth that is readily seen and reached is not represented on the commission, while bonds, notes, secured by mortgage, things that can be pocketed and this easily concealed have their particular friends who are to frame the new law. Further and worst is the selection of a clerk who doubtless will have the writing of the details of the bill. He, too, is a lawyer and taken from the office of a big mortgage and securities company in Portland.

An automobile line has been established between Salem and Independence, a town in Polk county, ten or twelve miles distant. Trips were made last week, but the company did not advertise for business till this week. Two round trips are made each day, to be increased to three a little later. The machine carries ten passengers. I have talked with one who rode over. His experience is that on a smooth road there is entire satisfaction, but on uneven ground the ride is that of Horace Greely down the western slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains. This land line is put on and bids fair to be maintained by the liberal patronage of the public notwithstanding the navigable Willamette river passes both cities. Last year a party built a boat to fly on the river, but he installed propelling machinery that was a failure, therefore the venture was abandoned.

The warm dry weather of the past few days is the farmers' delight. It is reported that the wheat aphid is burning and the hop louse is not multiplying.

Old Scout, one of the racing automobiles that is racing across the continent from New York was driven into the city last evening. The night was spent here, the machine being stabled in John Maure's machine shop. Two young men are the pilots and they started for Portland this morning at 7:15 o'clock and will without doubt reach the metropolis before noon today. The dust of travel is on the rig, and if it was ever the bright varnished thing we are accustomed to seeing it does not look it now. The vehicle is smaller than one would expect for a race across the continent, there being but seats for two, and room behind for a liberal sized tool box. No cow boy of the plains ever looked greasier, dirtier or rougher than the two men with the machine. The route through Oregon was west from Ontario on Snake river through Prineville across the Cascades by the Lebanon road, thence to Salem and north to Portland. The competitor was not along, and is understood that it has taken a more northern route and will come in by way of the Columbia River.

## JOHN BRANTON FOUND GUILTY

Jury Decides that Fletcher Was Shot by Branton on the 9th of March.

The trial of John Branton in the circuit court at Eugene this week for the alleged shooting of John Fletcher with the intent to kill has been of absorbing interest to the people of Lane County and especially the residents of Cottage Grove where both of the parties are well known and where the shooting occurred on the 9th of last March. The conflicting stories told by the parties who were alone at the time of the shooting, Fletcher accusing Branton of an attempt to take his life and Branton as strongly asserting that it was an attempt to commit suicide upon the part of Fletcher and the reputation for a lack of truth and veracity upon the part of the parties has created doubts in the minds of the people and each side have their strong partisans.

The jury, however, empaneled to try the case arrived at a verdict and have said that Branton is guilty of the crime as charged. A great many witnesses were called from Cottage Grove and some very conflicting testimony was rendered in the trial.

There has been a belief that Branton has disposed of his three wives by poison and his brother Claude was convicted and hung some years ago for killing a man in the mountains, which has caused the people to believe him guilty of this crime and may have had weight with the jury.

The jury was made up of the following residents of Lane County, W. W. Buoy, Mike Schneider, Alex Lamb, C. B. Blanton, S. Stickles, A. L. Koney, Wm. Stucke, J. E. Bay, C. S. Calef, Warren Nichols, Harry Boyle, Wm. Hazleton.

### THE TESTIMONY.

Immediately after the jury was completed the case was stated by the attorneys, Geo. M. Brown and J. M. Williams, for the state and L. Bilyeu and Medley & Johnson for the defendant. The taking of the testimony was then begun.

John Fletcher, the principal witness for the prosecution, was called. He told how on the night of March 9, 1905, he and Branton started from Cottage Grove after 11 o'clock for Branton's farm, nearly two miles from town. While on a trail Branton said he saw a dog or coyote and told Fletcher to shoot at it. Fletcher shot at something and soon afterwards Branton said he saw a cougar following them and asked for the revolver. Not seeing anything, Branton put the gun in his pocket. They then drank some beer out of a bottle. Branton claimed to grow sick and tried to vomit. They sat down, built a fire and remained there an hour, when Fletcher asked Branton if he was feeling better. Receiving a negative reply, Fletcher went to sleep and was awakened by being shot in the head. He half arose and exclaimed, "Oh, my God! I'm shot." He said a second shot was fired. Branton stated that he was shooting at a cougar, and said, "Oh, my God, John! Did that ball hit you?" Branton then went on to the house to get the boys, and Fletcher followed.

When he and Branton were alone Branton said: "If any one asks you how this happened, say you done it yourself. If you don't, they will jerk me up and raise thunder with me. When we sell I'll give you half of the money. If we don't sell I'll give you a half interest." Fletcher stated that his life was insured in the Woodmen of the World in favor of Branton for \$3000.

The testimony was resumed this morning as follows:

Roy Branton testified that Branton had said when he came home that Fletcher had shot himself, also gave details of Branton's home coming, Fletcher coming to the house and the care taken of him by witness. He told of people coming to the house and John Fletcher greeting them; of Fletcher's crying when he recounted the deeds; of Fletcher telling witness that John Branton had done the deed and would have to pay for it. He said that John Branton, when he returned to the house, hung the revolver on a nail. It was taken by Roy Branton to the granary. Later it

was delivered to the city marshal of Cottage Grove.

Fred Myers testified that Branton had sent for him to talk over the good shots made by the men. He went to the house where Branton was and heard what he had to say, of what a d—n good shot he had made.

Lincoln Taylor, a civil engineer, testified as to making a diagram of the place and surroundings, of measurements made, which were 240 feet nearer McFarland's house to Branton's house, where the shooting occurred. Explained to the jury how the map was drawn and all the particulars concerned with it.

Harry Brown, deputy sheriff, produced a letter written by Branton to Louis Nessler, who is serving time in the county jail. Produced a letter written by the district attorney to A. T. Underwood, which was produced as a comparison. Identified letter written by Nessler.

A. T. Underwood, city marshal of Cottage Grove, produced the revolver delivered by Roy Branton. Stated that revolver had two loaded shells. Identified letter which district attorney produced as the one secured by him in Cottage Grove. Defense objected to letter, but it was sustained.

Louis A. Nessler told of acquaintance with Branton in the county jail. Examined letter delivered to him by Harry Brown, written by John Fletcher, whom he saw write it. Fletcher requested that it be sent from Astoria to J. M. Williams. Letter offered by the state as evidence. Defense objected as did not bear on case. Testimony, was however, admitted. The letter told that Fletcher said he was the guilty one could not face the charge; Branton wanted Nessler to go to Cottage Grove to see Fletcher and try to get him to leave the country. Stated that the matter of his release was not suggested by himself to Branton until Branton brought the matter up.

M. S. Walls, Chas. H. Burkholder, Charles Scott, R. W. Veatch, Deputy Sheriff Harry Brown, D. A. Linebaugh and P. E. Snodgrass testified as to letters and handwriting.

The case was given to the jury in the afternoon and shortly after 5 o'clock they returned the following verdict.

### STATE VS. JOHN BRANTON.

In the circuit court of the state of Oregon for the county of Lane. State of Oregon plaintiff vs. John Branton, defendant.

We, the jury in the above entitled cause find the defendant guilty of an assault with intent to kill as charged in the complaint.

WM. STUCKE, Foreman.

The sentence will be pronounced this morning at 10 o'clock.

### Silk Creek Items

Neal McCoy has a sore foot from a cut.

Gus Hienrich is at work in the rock pit.

There was preaching Sunday at the school house.

Baker Slagle and wife went to the Grove Monday.

School meeting was very poorly attended Monday.

Forest Tompkins cut his foot badly with an ax lately.

Clyde Babcock and W. N. Wheeler are hauling ties this week.

Walter Ribble of Cottage Grove is at work for Eugene Miller.

Mr. Robert Carey and wife visited at Mrs. Medley's one day this week.

Mr. James Bracey from Washington, is visiting his cousins here, Mr. Geo. Miller's family.

All the Silk Creek people that attended the Portland Fair last week have returned home.

Mr. John Damewood and wife and Mrs. Shade Burcham went to Cottage Grove Wednesday.

W. F. Gray and Henry Damewood have gone to Indian Creek to help O. D. Wheeler drive his cattle and sheep to his new ranch.

John Traylor, the Denver Mining Machinery man, arrived in the city Friday morning. He will visit Bohemia before returning to his home.

Mrs. Frank Wheeler arrived home Friday from Portland where she has been in the hospital for some weeks. She is very much improved in health and her many friends are glad to have her return to them.

## HIS SEVENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY

An elegant Supper and Farewell Party Given in Honor of "Uncle" Robt. Carey.

(Communicated)

On the evening of May 25th at Masonic hall, one of the chief social events of the season was held in honor of the seventy-fifth birthday of Robert Carey, one of the early pioneers of Cottage Grove and older members of Cottage Grove Lodge No. 51 A. F. and A. M.

Early in the evening a sumptuous table, loaded with all the good things that wholesomely tickle the palate was spread in the lower hall. Some sixty or seventy plates were laid and not until a second and third table was filled by the invited guests were all the visitors satisfied.

In the meantime the upper hall was elegantly lighted up and all, who were not below refreshing the inner man, were enjoying a pleasant social time and at intervals were amused by some of the choice musical selections of the Columbia Phonograph Company. "Uncle" Robert Carey, assisted by the deacons and stewards, acted as host and all present wished him many a return of the anniversary of his nativity and a prosperous journey together with his excellent better half.

Robert Carey was born May 25th 1830 in Clay County, Missouri. Here he lived until 1861 when he moved into the northern part of the state. In 1861 was enlisted into the First Missouri Cavalry in Company E, and served until May 1863 when he was honorably discharged. In 1871 moved to Kansas where he lived about three years when he pulled out for Oregon, locating at Cottage Grove and established himself in his trade, that of blacksmith.

He was made a mason in Athens Lodge, No. 127 in 1860 at Albany, Missouri, was afterwards demitted and helped organize Lone Star Lodge of that state in which he has held nearly every office except that of Worshipful Master.

Being twice made a widower by the hand of death, he married the good lady now his wife, Mary C. Mangus at Mt. Vernon, Illinois, in November 1903, where he soon expects to return and make his home.

His children by his first wife are Mrs. Ellen Gough—Markley, Mrs. Mattie Medley, and Mrs. Minnie Underwood of this city and one son, Frank Carey, deceased.

Ever a hospitable neighbor, an industrious citizen, and a faithful friend, this community's loss is his moving away will be but the gain of the community in which he chooses to locate.

### STAR ITEMS

Mrs. Miles Pitcher went to town Tuesday.

Mary Vaughn went to the Grove Tuesday.

Jim Spahr returned home from

Bohemia Sunday.

Ernest Nelson is visiting at Mr. Stewart's this week.

Blain Jackson passed through this vicinity Monday.

Mrs. Stewart and daughter Pearl went to town last week.

Mrs. Lyang and children visited at Mrs. Stewart's last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Martin visited at Mrs. Miles Pitcher this week.

Miss Myrtle and Mabel Wicks went to Lebanon on a few weeks visit.

Hugh Curn passed through this vicinity Tuesday on his way to Wildwood.

Joe Wicks, Mr. Kizer, John Wicks and Jim Vaughn went to the Grove Tuesday.

A number of the people from this vicinity attended church at Wildwood Sunday night.

Mack Stewart and some of his friends drove a large band of cattle up to the meadows Monday.

Ben Hall, Mr. McKabe, Mr. Clark, Mr. Kizer and Jim Spahr went to the Grove Monday.

Miss Mary Vaughn who has been away the past month, returned to her home at this place last Monday.

There was a basket and ice cream social at the Wildwood school house Tuesday night. A very nice program was rendered after which the baskets were sold to the highest bidder, the highest basket sold went for \$9.75, it being little Veta Pitcher's. After selling the baskets they served ice cream and lemonade. A large crowd attended and enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

A crowd of young people from this vicinity took their dinners and went up the river Saturday and spent the day fishing. It was a nice day and the fish were biting fine. They returned home with about 150 fish. Those who went were Misses Olive Owens, Iva Wicks, Vinnie Stocks, Lulu Harlow, Nora Vaughn and Messrs. Vern and Jewel Wicks, Miles Pitcher and Rollin and Leslie Wicks. They returned home in the evening after spending a very pleasant day.

There will be a union picnic at Stewart's Grove at this place the Fourth of July. Following officers were elected for the day: President of the day, C. A. Harlow; vice president, C. H. Burkholder of Cottage Grove; Secretary, W. T. Hankins; committee on program at Wildwood, Mrs. Ben Pitcher, Star, Mrs. Jim Spahr, Iva Wicks of Dorena, Mrs. Huston; Finance Committee, Dave Smith, Mrs. A. Ross of Wildwood, Sid Vaughn, Joe Oaks of Star, John Kirk, Mrs. Roberts of Dorena. It was moved and carried the stand privilege be \$10; committee on sports at Dorena, Jim Redford Shelby Teeters; Star, Rollin Wicks and Mack Stewart; Wildwood, Loren Hunt, Arthur Vanschoick; Bob Martin of Cottage Grove, marshal of the day.

W. C. Conner of Roseburg, visited his family over Sunday in this city.

## A Summer Change

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has arrived

AT LURCH'S

Call for our Summer Dry Goods and be comfortable during the "Hot Spell."

Now is the Time

## SPRING LINE

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