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Polk County Observer

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W. H. TOTTEN.

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HELP FOR THE HUMPHREYS.

A movement is now on foot looking to executive clemency for the Humphrey brothers, former residents of Polk county, doomed to death by the noose at Salem for the murder of an aged woman near Philomath in the summer of 1911. Petitions are being circulated in localities where the men have formerly lived and it is probable that the people of Dallas and vicinity, who know the men, will be asked to sign such appeals. The Observer is of the opinion that these men should not be hanged for the crime, and this belief is not based wholly upon our disapproval of capital punishment, but because, from what we can learn, there is grave doubt that the men are guilty. Those who knew the men, while residents of this county, are practically united in the opinion that they are guiltless of the crime charged against them. They declare that the men do not possess enough nerve, or sense to commit such a crime and to cover all traces so completely and so cunningly as the murderer did in this case. While living here they were known as harmless, ignorant, uneducated individuals, and the worst that could be said of them was that they were shiftless and ambitious. When the first news of their alleged "confession" was received here, it

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was discredited by those who knew the men best and it has never been accepted as truthful even to this day. It is said that the Humphreys could have been made to say anything under proper conditions and few have believed their story of the Philomath murder, or the many other crimes which they were said to have "confessed." At any rate there is a large element of doubt in the whole affair and therein lies the principal reason for the present move for clemency.

All of which serves to once more emphasize and bring close to home, the unjustness and the paganism of legalized murder. Here are two utterly ambitious individuals, harmless, unassuming men who might almost be placed in the feeble minded class, men whom those who know them best are believed to be absolutely incapable of committing such a crime as that of which they have been convicted, yet they stand today in the shadow of the gallows and, unless the efforts for clemency shall prevail, their lifeless bodies will soon be swinging at the end of a rope. Their conviction was largely the result of a "confession" that might have been no confession at all. Men of the class of mind possessed by the accused men, under the clever manipulations of the reward-hunting "detective," schooled in such methods, he made to say almost anything without realizing the consequences of their acts or the truth of what they are saying. This is a slender thread upon which to drive two men to the gallows yet it is the heritage of the legalized murder system. How much more humane, how much more enlightened and satisfying to all concerned, would be a life sentence in the penitentiary. They may be guilty, but the probabilities are that they are not, and it is hoped that the efforts which will be made to save them from the noose will be successful.

Editorials of the People.

Signed communications will be printed under this head from responsible parties but their publication does not necessarily imply that they express the sentiments of the editor.

We fear "There is something rotten in the state of Denmark." We read in The Observer that "The county assessment is some \$11,000, more or less, than last year--while we taxpayers find that our taxes are about proportionally higher. Perhaps these extra taxes are for road work, but we don't seem to get it. We did have some fairly good roads here, but the county didn't make them. One man donated gravel and work, and the rest donated work. And now since the mill company has cut the roads up hauling donkey engines over them all winter, and the county allowed it, our taxes go up, presumably to fix the roads. Dallas seems to simulate the Roman policy: "All roads lead to Rome." We are still in Polk county, even if we are away over here in a corner by ourselves, and if we don't get our money's worth on our roads this year there's liable to be something doing.

—W. S. Skelton, a merchant at Stanley, Ind., says he would not take \$100.00 for the relief a single box of Foley's Kidney Pills gave him. "I had a severe attack of kidney trouble with sharp pains through my back and could hardly straighten up. A single box of Foley Kidney Pills entirely relieved me." Sold by Conrad Stafrin.

POLK COUNTY NEWS
(Continued from Page One.)

that they spend fighting the governor, they could do more. We did not send them there to fight West, but to make laws that would do the people some good. What's the matter with them, anyway?

James Tedrow, of Corvallis, made Monmouth a visit Tuesday. He formerly lived near Monmouth.

Ralph Dodson, one of our leading dairymen and hop raisers, was in town Tuesday and reported everything all O. K. in the Luckiamute valley.

A. N. Poole made a business trip to Salem Tuesday.

The outside work on the Normal dormitory is about done and now the rains will not hinder the work.

The city dads have had one of the old town wind mills torn down. They will pump water by gasoline power.

Mrs. C. A. Nott is on the sick list, but will be about in a few days, it is thought.

C. E. Herren is busy these times, working his hopyard. He never lets it get ahead of him.

The Polan boys have rented about 50 acres of land of J. B. Stump, and expect to put in about 10 acres of potatoes.

G. Bonn is dragging the road, to throw the gravel in the center. Let the good work go on.

C. G. Griffs and son are kept busy these times repairing the old water pipes and putting in new pipe, for the waterworks.

Warren Guilliams went to Kings Valley Monday.

Monmouth now has two barber shops, and they will soon be offering a premium on men to get shaved and their hair cut. We are waiting for an offer.

The city council is still having cement walks put in.

Everybody in town is having their fruit trees sprayed. Mr. Harvey is doing the work. Let the good work go on.

—When Burton Holmes recently gave his celebrated travelogue on "Panama" at Orchestra hall, Chicago, he was seriously interrupted by continual coughing of the audience. No one annoys willingly and if people with coughs, colds, hoarseness and tickling in throat would use Foley's Honev and Tar Compound, they could quickly cure their coughs and colds and avoid this annoyance.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

C. A. Clarke is improving, after a hard case of lagrippe.

Jennie Best leaves for Long Beach, California, for her health.

Howard Norwood, Victor Lynch Ammon Grier and Bob Adams spent Sunday afternoon with Sam Chapman.

Marian Fox, of Perrydale, spent the week-end with Rose Bodayla.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stocker and family spent Saturday night and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Miller, of Greenwood.

A large crowd was present at the school to hear the play which was given by the Brush College people.

Grandma Ruble died at her home last Friday, about 1 o'clock in the morning. The funeral was held on Saturday, at her home, and interment was in the City View cemetery in Salem.

—Mrs. S. S. S. Van Buren St., Kingston, N. Y., (full name furnished on application) had such decided benefit from using Foley's Honev and Tar Compound that she shares her good fortune with others. She writes: "Foley's Honev and Tar Compound brought my voice back to me during a severe case of bronchitis and laryngitis. Oh how many people I have

recommended it to." At Stafrin's.

PERRYDALE

Mrs. D. Enes and Mrs. Elmer Enes were Dallas callers Monday.

Miss Fannie Key visited last week at the home of her sister, Mrs. Scorgins, in Sheridan.

Work has begun on the remodeling of the hall here by the band boys, at which place they will give their first band concert some time next month.

Misses Elsie and Ola Key were Portland visitors Saturday.

The Salter Trio closed their engagement at Perrydale on the evening of February 21, after two very successful appearances. It is seldom that the people outside of large cities have the opportunity of attending an entertainment such as this proved to be. It was an exhibition which appealed to all music lovers, as well as furnishing unlimited amusement. Everyone was delighted with the entertainment.

OAK DALE

James Wilson and daughter, Beth, have been visiting relatives in the Eola hills.

Mrs. M. E. Hallock, of Portland, writes that she is in very poor health. Her many friends here and in Dallas will be sorry to hear it.

Joe Murphy bought a full-blooded Jersey cow and calf of O. E. Dennis this week.

A small boy of Oak Dale was limping around a few days ago and seemed

(Continued on Page Four)

Petition For Incorporation, Town of West Salem.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Polk County.

Notice is hereby given that the following petition for the incorporation of West Salem, Polk County, Oregon, will be presented to the County Court of said county and state, at its regular term in April, 1913, which date is April 2nd, 1913:

Petition for the incorporation of the Town of West Salem, in the County of Polk and State of Oregon: To the Honorable County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Polk:

We, the undersigned citizens and qualified electors of the County of Polk and State of Oregon, residing within the limits and boundaries of the District hereinafter described, respectfully demand that there shall be submitted to the legal voters of the State of Oregon, for Polk County, described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at the intersection of the South line of the Wallace road in Polk County, Oregon, with the West line of school district number thirty-two (32); thence South Westerly down the West line extended of said school district number thirty-two (32) in a South Westerly direction to the intersection of said line with Frank Gibson's North property line, the same being the South line of Kingwood Park Addition; thence East-erly along said Gibson's line extended to the West line of the Willamette River; thence Northerly following the meanderings of said River to the intersection thereof with the South line of said Wallace road extended easterly to said Willamette river.

At a special election to be called by said County Court, the question whether or not that portion of Polk County, State of Oregon, hereinbefore described shall be incorporated as a municipal corporation to be named, named and designated as "West Salem," in accordance with the provisions of that said Act of the Legislative Assembly entitled "An Act for a general law for the incorporation of cities and towns in the State of Oregon," and each for himself or herself says: I have personally signed the petition; I am a qualified elector of the State of Oregon, and of the County of Polk, and reside

- within that portion of said County above described; I believe that there are 300 inhabitants within the limits of the said district above described which purposes to incorporate; my residence and post office address are correctly written after my name.
- Geo. W. Gosser, West Salem; Salem, R. No. 2.
- John Simon, West Salem; Salem, R. No. 2.
- Lawrence N. Simon, West Salem; 371 Court St.
- Frank M. Simon, West Salem; 120 N. Com'l St.
- Geo. L. Frazure, West Salem; R. D. 2, Box 94.
- Mrs. Geo. L. Frazure, West Salem; R. F. D. No. 2, Box 94.
- C. O. White, West Salem; R. F. D. 2, Box 91.
- Geo. W. Tobin, West Salem; R. F. D. 2.
- J. B. Jacobs, West Salem; R. F. D. 2.
- A. Meekenheim, West Salem; R. F. D. 2.
- J. R. Walker, West Salem; R.F.W.
- Myrtle B. Walker, West Salem; R. F. W.
- F. L. Wood, West Salem; Salem, Box 67.
- Mrs. F. L. Wood, West Salem; Salem, Box 67.
- Gust Carlson, West Salem; Salem, R. 2.
- D. R. Brannan, West Salem; Salem, R. 2.
- E. E. Woods, West Salem; Salem, R. 2.
- C. E. Brinkman, West Salem; Salem, R. 2.
- Mrs. May Brinkman, West Salem; Salem, R. 2.
- M. Gaubert, West Salem; Salem, R. 2.
- Mrs. F. W. Gaubert, West Salem; Salem, R. 2.
- A. F. Lamb, West Salem; Salem, R. F. D. 2.
- Mrs. A. F. Lamb, West Salem; Salem, R. 2.
- Arthur Thomas, West Salem; Salem, R. F. D. 2.
- Mrs. Arthur Thomas, West Salem; Salem, No. 2.
- J. W. Fredrickson, West Salem; Salem, No. 2.
- Nancy E. Fredrickson, West Salem; Salem, No. 2.
- Joseph Fennell, West Salem; Salem, No. 2.
- Lavinia Fennell, West Salem; Salem, No. 2.
- H. Fennell, West Salem; Salem, No. 2.
- W. W. Bales, Salem, Ore., R. 2.
- Rebecca Bales, Salem, Ore., R. 2.
- E. W. Edwards, Salem, Gen'l Del.
- E. W. Bragdon, Salem, Ore., R.F.D. No. 2.
- W. B. Frakes, Salem, R.F.D. 2, box 103.
- Mrs. D. M. Frakes, Salem, R. R. 2, box 103.
- Mrs. W. B. Frakes, Salem, R. R. 2, box 103.
- Thomas Gilham, Salem, R.F.D. 2, box 101.
- Mrs. Ella Gilham, Salem.
- Mrs. Kate Balduch, Salem.
- H. R. Winslow, West Salem, R.F.D. No. 2.
- Mrs. H. R. Winslow, West Salem, R.F.D. No. 2.
- L. Mann, West Salem; Box 34, Salem.
- Mrs. L. I. Mann, West Salem; Box 34, Salem.

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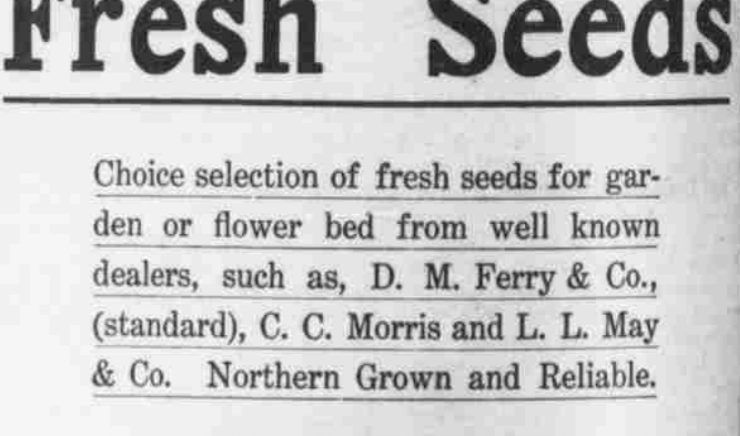
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