

Old John Harding's Money

(Copyright, 1903, by C. B. Lewis.)
There was a buzz of excitement throughout almost a whole county because old John Harding was dead and a search of the house had failed to reveal his money. He was an old bachelor, living on a farm with his brother Henry and his sister Hannah, and it was known that he had been hoarding for forty years. He died in his bed without giving an alarm and without leaving any message as to where he had hidden his wealth.

I was interested in the case as a distant relative, while scores became interested through curiosity. We had to hire men and arm them with guns to keep the searchers off the farm, and there were many among them who would have kept every dollar of the treasure had they stumbled upon it. Where to search after the house had been fruitlessly gone over was the question, and it was a puzzling one.

Put yourself in old Mr. Harding's place and tell me where you would hide that money. Not in the house, for fear of robbers first and a search later on; not in the barn, because the building was liable to be struck by lightning and burned. He wanted to keep it away from his relatives, and yet he wouldn't want it lost for good and all, nor would he wish it to fall into the hands of strangers. That is simply human nature. It is a paradox, but it is human nature as well. You wouldn't throw it down the well, because the well would be searched. There would be the same objection to sheds and stacks as to the barn.

Both Hannah and Henry felt sure the old man had buried the money. I felt just as certain to the contrary. He had brought it home in installments, and he would not run the risk of opening and closing a cache seven or eight different times. Much of the lost money was drawn out of bank two weeks previous to his death.

Whenever he went to town, he wore a pair of boots. On all other days he wore a pair of old shoes, which were soft and easy on his feet. He did not change back to his boots as soon as he reached home, but only after he had returned from walking about the farm; hence it might be inferred that he had to pass over bad ground.

The woman brought me his boots just as he had pulled them off for the last time. There was dried mud on them. It could not be mud from the highway, because when he went to town last the roads were dusty. The sole of the right boot was considerably worn, and in a crevice I found a little sand. Again, on that same boot, sticking to the mud, were several blades of grass. She brought me the suit of clothes he had worn that day and for three or four days subsequently, and I found cockles and burrs on the trousers and bits of rotten wood in one of the coat pockets.

To the west of the house and half a mile away was the forest. To reach it he had to pass through the orchard. Between the orchard and the forest was a creek. On the east side of it, where, I judged, he would naturally cross, was a bed of sand. On the other side was a muddy spot, but with a log to walk on. The forest covered eighty acres of ground, and but little of it had ever been cleared of underbrush.

In going from the house through the orchard and across the creek and back I got plenty of cockles and burrs on my clothes, and had I made a misstep at the log I should have fallen into the mud and water. Granted that the old man had hidden his money in the woods, what particular spot should I look for? The brother had not happened to see him go beyond the orchard, but on one occasion, when he had need of a certain tool and went to the shed to find it, it was missing. Two hours later it had been restored. It was a mallet that he wanted.

Going on the theory that the old man had used the mallet, I went to the shed and looked at all the tools. Most of them were rusty with the dampness. There was rust on a certain auger and on a certain chisel, but it was fresh rust. The point of the auger also retained some bits of the last wood it had been bored into. These bits I was assured by several persons had a beechy taste. Therefore I reasoned that the auger had been bored into a beech tree. I had no doubt that he had used mallet, chisel and auger to make a hiding place for his money.

The first move was to go through the forest in search of what might be called eligible beech trees. I marked off twenty within ten minutes' walk of the creek and then began a close inspection of each one. I did not look at tops or trunks, but on the ground. There were plenty of brush and limbs and dead leaves, but at the end of two days' steady search I found chips and splinters in piling around and then knew that the quest was ended.

Never did a man hide his money in a safer place or with more skillful hands. The tree was a double one for the first four feet from the ground. Where the two came together was a decayed spot. It wasn't larger than a man's fist when Harding discovered it, and funguses had taken root and were thriving. Everything looked so perfectly natural that I was a good hour getting at the keyhole of the treasure box. Had I not found sure evidences of his work in a few chips and splinters the tree would have been put down on the list of failures. He did not intend to leave those evidences behind him. As fast as he cut out the wood he placed it aside, and as he crossed the creek on his way home he threw the chips into the water, as I afterward ascertained.

Well, I have nothing more to tell. The money was found and divided according to law.
M. QUAD.



Judge McBride held court until Tuesday of this week, when the court was adjourned until Friday. The following cases have been disposed of since the 23d inst.:

Friday, July 24, 1903.

Edgar A. Milner vs. Margaret Milner. Demurrer to plaintiff's petition to modify decree, sustained and petition dismissed.

Christian Rosenthal vs. Mary A. Jackson et al. Decree of confirmation rendered.

Annie M. Seaman vs. Jas. A. Seaman. Decree of default entered against defendant. Cause referred to Chas. E. Runyon to take and report the court.

Sarah E. Crow vs. Samuel T. Crow. Decree of divorce rendered.

Christian A. McMillan vs. Ernest Grandgenge. Dismissed without costs to either party.

Herman Boehme vs. Maria Boehme. Decree of divorce granted.

Saturday, July 25, 1903.—Fifth Judicial Day.

David Fisk vs. J. S. Hare. Set for trial Tuesday morning, Nov. 24th, 1903.

Oliver C. Hiatt vs. Thomas Brown. Set for trial Friday morning, Nov. 27, 1903.

Elizabeth Shute vs. E. L. Thomas et al. Set for trial Saturday morning, Nov. 28th, 1903.

Sylvester Vaughn vs. L. J. Gishwiller. The use and occupancy of the property in question fixed at the sum of \$7.00 per month, pending appeal to Supreme Court.

In the matter of the estate of Wm. Porter, insolvent. Assignee authorized to sell his interest in real estate for \$35.00.

A. E. Maxson vs. J. N. Hoffman et ux. Plaintiff allowed \$200; Pete West, \$125 in full for all services performed for plaintiff. Said \$200 to be paid to plaintiff within 90 days from this date, and to be lien on the premises until paid. Sale of the premises to be confirmed, the purchase price of said premises having been wrongfully paid, the \$125 to be deducted from the purchase price of the premises, and that neither party recover costs.

Rothchild Bros., a corporation, vs. R. and C. Nellie E. Smith. Confirmation.

Tuesday Morning, July 28, 1903.—Sixth Judicial Day.

Jessie Niles Burness vs. James Burness. Default allowed against defendant.

B. Schofield, assignee, vs. Alex. Chalmers. Judgment for plaintiff.

J. A. Abbot vs. Albert Friday. Demurrer overruled by consent of defendant's counsel and defendant allowed until first day of the next term of this court to file his answer.

Michael Rahn vs. Henry Dick. Decree for plaintiff, each to pay one-half of reporter's fees.

PROBATE COURT.

Guardianship of Guy F. and Cora May Wilson, minors. Report and resignation of the guardian filed, and approved. Resignation accepted. Guardian allowed \$30 for his services, and that he turn over \$250 balance on hand to the County Clerk. Guardianship closed.

Estate of Asa Williams, deceased. Petition filed for order to sell real estate. Citations ordered issued to persons interested, requiring them to appear at court house on Monday, Aug. 21, 1903, and show cause why order should not be granted.

Guardianship of Wm. H. Lee. Sale of real estate confirmed. Guardian authorized and directed to execute a conveyance for said premises.

Guardianship of Bessie Woodham et als. Inventory and appraisal filed and approved. Valuation \$600. Report of guardian filed showing that Bessie Woodham is of legal age, and that her share has been paid to her as per receipt. Report approved. Guardian discharged from liability as to Bessie Woodham.

Estate of W. E. Smith, deceased. Final account filed and approved. Executor required to pay clerk of court \$1 each for Sharin Turner, Alva Turner and Edmund Maxin. That she pay to Mrs. T. R. Cornelius \$166.20. Residue to be turned over to widow, and estate closed of record.

Estate of Leopold Fuchs, deceased. Final account approved. Property on hand ordered turned over to legatees according to will. Executrix discharged and estate closed of record.

Guardianship of W. L. Curtis, incompetent. Guardian authorized to sell real estate at public auction, and required to give bond for \$1600.
Estate of Mary J. Wilkes, deceased. Final account and report filed. Monday, August 27, 1903, at 10 o'clock A. M., set for hearing objections to final settlement.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

A. W. Ocuback et ux to H. E. Noble, S. E. ¼ sec. 20, W. ½ of S. E. ¼ Sec. 26, T. 1 S., R. 6 W. M.; \$5.

Christian F. Kempin et ux to August H. Kempin et al., 60 acres in T. 1 N., R. 2 W. of W. M.; \$2,700.

B. F. Purdy et ux to Nellie B. Storey. Lots 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10, in block 2, in Purdy's Add. to town of Dilley; \$250.

Lavina A. Nelson et al. to J. M. Coffee. Lots 3 and 4, in block 1, Wehring's Add. to Hillsboro; \$575.

M. Bisbee et ux to Riley Boyd, lots 7 and 8, block 20, in S. P. Add. to Forest Grove; \$250.

William W. Beardsley to Helen Beardsley, S. half of S. W. quarter of S. W. quarter of Sec. 8, T. 2 S., R. 2 W., W. M.; 20 acres; \$1.

Carl Schmid to David and John Tschabold. 38,175 acres in E. half of S. half of S. E. quarter of Sec. 33, T. 2 N., R. 2 W.; \$2,000.

W. N. Barrett et ux to Philip Masters. Lots 4 and 5, block 1, North Side Add. to Hillsboro; \$175.

Phillip Beal et ux to Eva Beal, 50x 200 feet in lot 4, block 8, Forest Grove; \$1.00.

Phillip Beal et ux to Eva Beal. Part of lot 1, block 8, Forest Grove.

Mary Wilson et al., to Jennie Chapman, acreage in Fairview Add. to Hillsboro; \$150.

John Zois to Carl Schmid, E. half of S. half of S. E. quarter, Sec. 33, T. 2 N., R. 2 W.; 40 acres; \$200.

For fine work in enlarging, Pacific Gallery.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly, lawfully and regularly appointed executrix, with will attached, of the estate of Phillip Beal, deceased, by the County Court of Washington county, and State of Oregon, that all persons holding claims against said estate will present them to me, legally certified to, at the office of W. M. Langley & Son, my attorneys, at the City of Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon, within six months from the first publication of this notice.

Witness my hand, this 14th day of July, 1903.

CLARINDA BEAL,
Executrix of the Estate of Phillip Beal, Deceased.

J. B. MATTHEWS,

Artistic Paperhanger and Painter. Varnishing. Sign work a specialty. Forest Grove

M. F. Nixon. R. P. Nixon.
NIXON FOREST GROVE LAND COMPANY
Large and Small Farms, City Property and Timber Lands for Sale. Loans Negotiated. Main Street, Forest Grove, Oregon.

J. J. WIRTZ,

Confectionery, Cigars and Tobacco. Fancy Soft Drinks, Ice Cold Soda Water. Fine New Ice Cream Parlor. Forest Grove

DR. V. L. DIMICK,

Dentist. Upstairs, Wagner Building. Forest Grove, Oregon.

MAYNE ABBOTT

Graduate of Parson's Horological Institute. EXPERT OPTICIAN. Eyes tested and fitted. Forest Grove, Ore.

BALDWIN & KING,

Real Estate Exchange. Choice Homes and Lands in every part of the County. Pacific Ave., off Church Square. Forest Grove

DR. S. T. LINKLATER,

Physician and Surgeon. Hillsboro, Oregon

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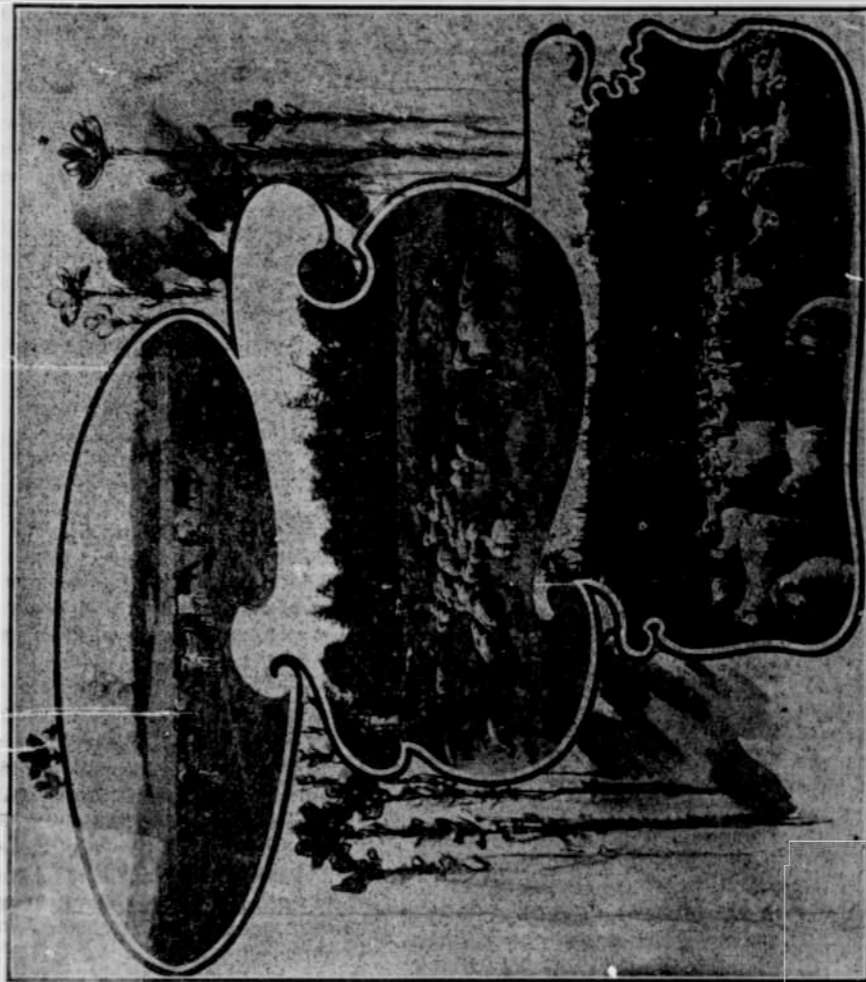
Headquarters For LUMBES IN ROUGH R. F. D Route 1. Forest Grove, Ore.



FOR THE MOST POPULAR LODGE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

This beautiful gavel, bearing the emblem of the order and appropriately engraved, will be presented by The News on September 1 to the lodge receiving the largest number of votes from its paid subscribers as their choice of the most popular lodge in Washington County. The word lodge is intended to include granges, courts of Catholic Foresters, camps of the Woodmen, posts of the G. A. R., and every local branch of any secret, fraternal, benevolent or insurance order represented in the county.

The gavel is of ebony, of finest workmanship, and costs \$30.00, so that it will be worthy to be used by the presiding officer of so distinguished a lodge. Every subscriber who has paid, old subscriber who pays up or new paying subscriber, is entitled to vote for the lodge he designates as follows: Five votes for a yearly subscription; two for six months; one for three months. These may be divided among different lodges if preferred. Send your name and postoffice address with your votes, so that it can be seen that you are entitled to vote. The News has passed the thousand mark in actual Washington County subscribers, and takes this means of hastening the time when it shall have 2,000.



CATTLE IN THOUSANDS ON THE HILLS.

Ten thousand cows, fifteen thousand sheep and six thousand goats have their home in Washington county. Assessor Wilcox has recently stated to the Immigration Bureau at Portland that the average prices are cattle \$30 and sheep \$5. The manufacturers of Carnation cream at Forest Grove are making preparations to largely increase the number of dairy cattle, as their condenser wants milk from 3000 cows while it has but 1000 now contributing.



BIG "SMALL FRUIT" — OREGON GOOSEBERRIES.

Though they are classed among "small fruits," three gooseberries, by no means exceptional, which are on the editor's desk as he writes, measure 2 3/4, 2 1/4 and 2 1/2 inches respectively. Five acres in the county produced 10,000 quarts this year.



SURF BATHING AT YAQUINA.