

# Rogue River Courier

DAILY EDITION

VOL. VI, No. 187.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1916.

WHOLE NUMBER 1681.

No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

## L. B. AKERS AND WIFE, OF WILDERVILLE, SLAIN IN COLD BLOOD BY NEIGHBOR

### Feud of Long Standing Comes to a Tragic Close When Worthy Couple Are Ambushed by M. D. Bousman, Sr. and Are Shot to Death When on Way to Sunday School, the Slayer Being Arrested and Making Full Confession

The victims of a cold-blooded murder as was ever perpetrated in the Rogue valley, the bodies of the Rev. Luther Bryant Akers and his wife, Elsie, lie in the morgue today, while their slayer, M. D. Bousman, Sr., is held in the county jail to answer for the crime.

The double murder was committed Sunday morning, at about 9 o'clock, near the farm home of the Akers on Bull creek, a small tributary of the Applegate four miles above Wilderville, though the bodies were not found till 5 o'clock Sunday evening. At that hour, J. H. Brinigar, going up the road to the sawmill where he was employed, came upon the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Akers lying about 20 feet apart by the roadside, while a short distance away was the team that the Akers had been driving, one horse already dead and the other near to death, having been shot by the murderer.

#### Neighbor Is Suspected

Lying near the scene of the tragedy was found the cause that it was known M. D. Bousman, who owned an adjoining farm to that of the Akers, had been in the habit of carrying, and suspicion at once pointed to Bousman. It was also known that there had been trouble between the Akers and Bousman for a number of years, and that the latter had threatened violence to both Mr. and Mrs. Akers on various occasions. Bousman had, in fact, been placed under bonds at one time to observe the peace. The trouble between the neighbors had been caused by disputes over fences and by the allowing of the Bousman hogs to run at large.

#### Bousman Arrested

When Sheriff Smith was notified of the tragedy, he left at once with Deputy Dennison for the scene, going to the home of Mr. Bousman. When they rapped upon the door, Bousman answered, asking who was there. When told that it was the sheriff, he asked if there was a mob outside, and when told there was not, he opened the door and admitted the officers. When the sheriff asked Bousman if he knew anything about the murder down the road he replied that he knew all about it, and at no time made an attempt to deny that he was the perpetrator. Inside the house Bousman's .35-caliber Winchester carbine, fully loaded, was found lying upon the bed, but the old man offered no resistance when placed under arrest by the officers, showing much relief that there was no mob present to do summary vengeance.

#### Prisoner Confesses the Crime

The prisoner, who gave his age to the Courier representative after he had been lodged in the county jail late at night as 63 years, looks to be fully 70, his hair being gray and his long beard nearly white. As he sat upon the edge of the cot within the steel cage he talked freely of the murder and of the causes that led up to it. He showed no remorse at his act, but seemed rather to wish to justify himself for the killing. He recounted the differences that had grown up between himself and the Akers during a period of four or five years, the chief contention, according to him, having been over his having allowed his stock to run at large. He said that first he had raised goats, but because these troubled his neighbors he had sold them and gone into the hog business. The precinct voted not to allow hogs to run at large, and the Akers made

complaint when his hogs broke through their fences and destroyed their crops. The matter was taken up with the county officials, and County Attorney Miller wrote Bousman a number of times, and finally Bousman was placed under bonds to keep the peace because of his numerous threats against Mr. and Mrs. Akers. This was nearly a year ago.

#### Trouble Is Renewed

Recently it had become necessary for the Akers to appeal to the county attorney again, and on the 23rd of February he had written Bousman stating that Mr. Akers had again entered complaint. It was the receipt of this letter, Bousman said, that had so enraged him that he concluded to take the lives of his neighbors. And the aged man's eyes gleamed as he recounted the story of the morning of the crime. He was cool and satisfied, rather than sorry that he had the blood of a worthy couple upon his hands.

"I put seven shells in my rifle and went down the road to within about a hundred yards of the Akers house," he told the Courier man. "There I hid in the brush by the roadside, knowing that Akers and his wife would soon come along on their way to Sunday school. I lay in the brush for some time, and I knew when the team was hitched up and when the Akers were ready to start. Then my heart seemed to fail me, and I thought to myself, 'I can't take the lives of those old people,' and I started down the road. Then the Akers came driving toward me, and the first thing I knew I was shooting.

#### Shoots a Horse First

"First I fired a shot at one of the horses. Then I shot the woman. At that Akers got out of the wagon, though I had wounded him before he got out, and came at me with a piece of board to fight me. I kept shooting, and the first thing I knew I had fired all seven shots. Then I went home."

When informed that both horses were dead, Bousman claimed not to remember having shot the second one, and said that when he left the scene neither horse had fallen. The evidence of those first on the ground would indicate that the horses lived for some time after the shooting. They had gone a short distance from the road where they had been stopped, and where Mr. and Mrs. Akers were killed, and there one horse had died. The second horse was not yet dead, but died soon after being unharnessed from its dead mate. One

(Continued on page 3)

## ADMITS VIOLATION INTERNATIONAL LAW

Washington, Feb. 28.—Germany has admitted for the first time that her proposal to war on armed enemy merchant ships technically violates international law. This was the interpretation drawn here today from United Press Staff Correspondent Ackerman's dispatch, quoting a German official as charging that England "first" violated international law.

If Germany takes this view, she is contending that the decree is a reprisal, though previous Berlin reports indicated Germany took the position that neutrals could not expect to bind Germany by an obsolete law adopted when privateers and pirates infested the seas. The horse had been shot through the

## KAISER SEEKS TO STRIKE GREAT BLOW AND END THE WAR

London, Feb. 28.—With all his resources the kaiser is striking for an immediate, overwhelming victory, intended to end the war.

The past week's battling for the fortress city of Verdun is but the prelude to a grand assault along the western front—the most tremendous offensive the world ever has seen. Simultaneously with the land operations, the German submarine campaign against armed enemy ships is due to start at midnight Tuesday.

Prince Henry of Prussia has taken over a high navy command preliminary to this.

London is tense. She awaits news that the German fleet is coming out into the North sea, or that Zeppelins are approaching.

"It is the real thing at last," said the Times critic today. "While Europe and the world are on edge, perhaps the greatest artillery and infantry battle ever known rages over the ruins of Douaumont, not far from Verdun. The position has changed hands repeatedly during the past few days."

Two miles west of Douaumont the French are projecting the flame of artillery across the Tala ridge and the approach to the "Pepper heights," barring the advance to Verdun.

Austro-German guns are shooting tons of explosives into the armored slopes of the "Pepper" position in an attempt to blast the ridge away, thus opening the road through Bras to Verdun.

#### MARSHFIELD-EUGENE R. R. SERVICE BEFORE APRIL 15

Portland, Feb. 28.—Railroad service between Eugene and Marshfield will be an actual fact before April 15, said John M. Scott, general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific, returning today from an inspection trip.

A bridge across the Umpqua river is not yet constructed, but until it is built passengers and baggage will be ferried across.

## 171 PERISHED WHEN LINER MALOJA STRUCK MINE AND SUNK OFF DOVER

London, Feb. 28.—That the Peninsula & Oriental liner Maloja carried 429 persons, including 119 passengers and that only 260 had been saved when she was mined off Dover yesterday, was the revised report of the admiralty today. Its statement, however, expressed the hope that further rescues would be made.

Previous figures indicated 409 aboard, with 55 passengers and 96 crew lost. The new figures indicate that 171, instead of 151, perished.

London, Feb. 28.—Fifty-five passengers and 96 members of the crew of the P. & O. liner Maloja perished when a mine exploded under the ship off Dover, according to the latest available figures today. The company reported 260 persons of her 119 passengers and 292 crew had been saved.

The Russian liner Petshenga was sunk today, the seventh victim of mines in two days. Fifteen of her crew were landed.

Other destroyed ships were: The British liner Empress, of Fort William, mined in going to the

## TO ENFORCE SUBMARINE ORDER

### Germany's Note Reiterating Intention of Torpedoing Armed Merchant Vessels, Handed Sec. Lansing Today

Washington, Feb. 28.—Germany's reiteration of intent to torpedo armed enemy merchant ships beginning Wednesday was handed Secretary of State Lansing today by German Ambassador von Bernstorff.

Lansing's only announcement was, "Ambassador von Bernstorff left his government's memorandum. That is all I can say."

The German envoy was equally uncommunicative. Later, however, it was learned the memorandum contained the report of submarine commanders on a score of cases in which, it is alleged, British merchant men used their armaments offensively. It also gave further references to alleged secret British admiralty orders to destroy submarines.

The original copy of the alleged order, found on the seized British liner Appam, was recently given to Lansing by von Bernstorff.

The Austrian charge d'affaires visited the secretary after von Bernstorff and declared Austria's views were identical with Germany's.

#### HAWAIIAN COLLEGE CAN NOT SHARE APPROPRIATION

Washington, Feb. 28.—The Hawaii college can not share in the congressional appropriation for agricultural experiments, unless congress specifically includes that college, said a treasury ruling today.

#### DECREE NOT A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Berlin, via Sayville, Feb. 28.—Commenting upon President Wilson's letter to Senator Stone, the semi-official North German Gazette declared today that the German proclamation of war against armed enemy merchant ships is not a violation of international law.

## LIEUT.-GOVERNOR J. M. ESHELMAN OF CALIFORNIA DEAD

Sacramento, Feb. 28.—John M. Eshelman, lieutenant-governor of California, died this morning at 5:30 at Indio, Cal. The first news was received at the governor's office at the capitol.

Eshelman died in the Southern Pacific club house in the town of Indio. His death was due to tuberculosis. Eshelman left San Francisco Friday night for his home in Imperial, Cal. He was taken ill en route and stopped off at Indio.

Eshelman's most recent residence was in Los Angeles. He also had a home in El Centro and was en route there when stricken with his last illness. The lieutenant-governor had been in ill health for a number of years. In 1915 he removed temporarily to Arizona and returned to California in an apparently improved condition. He presided at the special legislative session this year, and said he was feeling better than in some years.

## REPRIEVE QUINTET FROM CRESCENT CITY

San Quentin, Cal., Feb. 28.—Warden Johnston of the state penitentiary here will soon release Mrs. Ruby Bartol, Mrs. Jessie Horn, Otto Greitzer, Orville Taggart and Fred Hoeler, serving from four to 40 year terms, and reprieved by the state prison board.

The quintet, the board held, had been sentenced through a miscarriage of justice on misconduct charges involving Mrs. Bartol's daughter.

Judge Childs of Del Norte county presided in their case and afterward was acquitted under impeachment charges arising partially from this case.

The warden's office announced today that the parties would be freed as soon as they get satisfactory employment—a condition of their parole. This may take several days.

## NAVAL BASE NEEDED COMMITTEE IS TOLD

Washington, Feb. 28.—Naval bases in the Pacific and Caribbean are needed, Admiral Knight, president of the navy war college, told the house naval committee today.

"If we are to hold the Philippines or to agree to protect them from outside interference, a naval base in the Pacific is necessary," he said. "At present we can not defend the Philippines and the future of trade lies in the Pacific."

He asked \$2,000,000 for the Caribbean base, as an immediate necessity. He criticized the lack of men and fast cruisers as meaning that the navy is unable to put forth more than half of its strength. He suggested dreadnaughts ought not to be built this year, but said he would have six 35-knot battle cruisers and eight scout cruisers building within six months.

Other needs, he said, are floating docks for the Pacific and Atlantic, 30 submarines of the 800-ton type and 20 destroyers.

He declared American battleships the equal of any in the world, and the officers and men efficient.

#### COMMITTEE FAVORS REPEAL OF SUGAR TARIFF

Washington, Feb. 28.—The house ways and means committee today voted unanimously in favor of reporting Chairman Kitchin's bill repealing the free sugar clause of the tariff law.

## HALT TROOPS OF KAISER AT VERDUN

### French Bring Up Reinforcements and Check German Drive, But Paris Admits Loss of Ground in South

London, Feb. 28.—Checked at Verdun by French reinforcements, the German crown prince's drive is spreading to the Champagne, 40 miles west of the Verdun woods.

The Berlin official statement today virtually confirmed the French claims that the Verdun offensive is halted, temporarily at least.

At the same time, Berlin reported the capture of over 1,600 yards of trenches and the Navarin farm, the scene of desperate conflict in last September's offensive.

Efficient artillery preparation preceded this assault, indicating that the big German howitzers battered the Champagne defenses as they did the French lines at the beginning of the Verdun drive.

More than 1,000 French prisoners were taken by the Germans. Paris admitted the Champagne loss, attributing it to a "surprise attack."

For the first time since the opening of the Verdun campaign, though, Berlin claimed no important gains in that region. The Meuse "peninsula," a strip of land five miles from Verdun, said Berlin, has been cleared of the French, who have exhausted themselves in their efforts against Douaumont and Hardsaumont.

The Germans claimed to have progressed farther in the direction of Vacheraville and Bras, four miles north of Verdun, and to have gained the foot of Cote Lorraine in the Woivre.

Before Bras can be taken the Teutons must storm the "Pepper heights." Berlin mentioned no fighting there.

As for Douaumont, Paris reported the repulse of attacks, while Berlin said the French had worn themselves out there.

Attacks northwest of Fresnes have been repulsed, Paris declared.

#### HOUSES LOSE SCENT OF JONES' MURDERER

San Jose, Cal., Feb. 28.—The chief hope of the police of capturing the murderer of George Jones, College Park banker, lies today in the fact that the slayer who stabbed himself in the arm when he attacked Jones will be compelled by infection or loss of blood to seek medical aid.

The bloodhounds, after trailing the slayer across the marshes into Alameda county by the scent left on the top of Tules water, two feet deep, lost the trail completely.

## FELIX DIAZ HAS LEFT UNITED STATES

Washington, Feb. 28.—Included in a notable exodus of Mexican exiles from the United States recently has been Felix Diaz, according to the justice department today. Agents lost track of him during the past week, and assume he went to Mexico.

Vera Cruz, Feb. 28.—Official denial that Felix Diaz had landed here to head an Indian revolt in Oaxaca was made today.

Government troops defeated the Indians attempting to enter Vera Cruz in a clash near San Andreas Tuxtla.