

DOUBLE KILLING

Part Clinton Shoots Girl and Self Last Monday Night

Part Clinton, aged 24, shot and killed Mrs. Wagner, aged 12, and then shot himself at 1 o'clock Tuesday morning following the dance which closed the Fourth of July celebration in Myrtle Point.

Both were members of prominent and pioneer families of Coos county. A former youthful love affair, a divorce on the part of the girl to replace the attention and affection which she had lost in the history of the events which led up to the tragedy.

The girl was instantly killed but the young man lived until 4 o'clock that morning.

Young Clinton was the son of J. DeWitt Clinton, of Myrtle Point, and was well known. The girl, the daughter of J. M. Wagner, of Bandon, where she resided, was the granddaughter of T. M. Harman, late of the latter's residence was visited during the celebration.

At the dance that night Clinton danced the first and last dance with Mrs. Wagner. At the close he asked to be allowed to accompany her home but she refused.

She started home with Mrs. DeWitt, Mrs. Oscar Grant and Mrs. Susan Bennett. Clinton hurried ahead and at the Harman home was standing on the corner when they arrived. He stepped up to the party and asked Mrs. Wagner to have a few words with her. She replied, "Not tonight."

Clinton then pulled a .25 caliber revolver from his pocket and shot Mrs. DeWitt in the chest and then turned and shot Mrs. Wagner in the chest and then walked a few feet away.

Clinton was still alive and was hurried to the hospital. It was found that the bullet had entered the right side of his head and had lodged on the left side, cracking the skull. His brain had been penetrated. Nothing could be done to save his life and he died at 4 o'clock Tuesday morning.

Young Clinton is said by his friends to have always been a well behaved young fellow. He was of the quiet sort and the same to said of the girl. For a time they went together and later the girl seemed to want to break of the love affair but Clinton did not want to give her up. It is said that at the dance they had an unpleasant words. When Clinton wanted to take the girl home she refused, but in a kindly manner. The young man had lately been working on the dredge in the river and was said to be industrious.

As a number were going home from the dance persons gathered at the scene of the shooting at once and assisting in taking Clinton to the hospital. Sheriff Ellingsen was at Myrtle Point and the deputy coroner was called from Marshfield, but it was decided that an inquest was not necessary in either case. The deputy coroner after making an investigation of the case and talking with acquaintances of the young man said that he was satisfied Clinton committed the tragedy in a fit of insane jealousy and that he had probably been mentally unbalanced for some time past brooding over the affair. Clinton was a member of the American Legion and stood high in the Myrtle Point organization, as he was one of the first young men of the place to offer his services and volunteer during the war and served in the navy. On being discharged he returned to Myrtle Point to make his home.—Coos Bay Times.

Many Attend Funeral

One of the largest funerals ever held at Myrtle Point was that of Mrs. Emma Wagner, the victim of Monday night's tragedy. The services were conducted by Rev. Thomas Barlow, an old friend of the family, and Hon. Binger Hermann and Cass Hermann, uncles of the deceased, were among the hundreds in attendance. Floral decorations were in the utmost profusion. The pallbearers were schoolmates of the deceased.

118 Labor Laws

This morning J. J. Stanley filed the complaint in the foreclosure of labor laws against the Coquille Lumber Mill with 118 separate laws, which he says he knows include every labor law that has a statutory effect against the company and its two logging camps. In point of number of pages it is the largest ever filed in Coos county, including the typewritten pages to cover the ground. Quite an array of legal talent is lined up to the complaint, there being the firm of Glass, Demart & Bain, of Portland, Ben S. Fisher, of Marshfield, and J. J. Stanley and E. D. Palford, of Coquille.

George F. Glass, head of the above Portland firm, and formerly a justice of the Supreme court, was down here for three days the latter part of last month conferring with Mr. Stanley and Mr. Fisher and assisting in getting the form of the complaint outlined.

Must Go to Work

Under the state law when prisoners refuse to work on the highways they are put on a bread and water diet. How are they allowed any time credit while on such a diet for that matter than no one has to go to jail unless they choose to take the risk of violating the law.

In the county court Wednesday bids were opened for three jobs of road work. The first was the overhaul and grading of the Southern Pacific for the new North Bank road not far from the Youkman place. This work was awarded to A. B. Gidley, who is now building the river bridge at this city. The bids were as follows:

A. B. Gidley—\$125.00
C. E. Flanagan—\$100.00
M. W. Payne—\$75.00
Youngquist & Lovas—\$40.00

RED CROSS WORK HERE

The following is a report of the Home Service Section Coos-Curry Chapter, American Red Cross from May 19th to July 1st, 1931:

By-service men and families assisted, 71.
Compassion and insurance claims filed, and assistance given by handling to 41.
Hospital care secured for 5. Financial relief given to 5. Home applications filed, 3. Services given to men now in camp, 1.

Vocational training secured, 1. Lost belongings applications filed, 3. Material delivered to 2. Material delivered to 2.

Office interviews, 120. Visits made, 120. Letters, forms, affidavits written, 120.

Weekly office hours held in four towns, Coquille and Myrtle Point on Friday of each week. Headquarters, Marshfield.

Coos county has been covered completely. Curry county is to be covered in August.

Mary Fabe, Ex. Secretary, Home Service Section, A. E. C.

Change in Records

A new plan in the recording of documents of all kinds at the County Clerk's office has been devised by Deputy Roy C. Aaga, which was put in effect July 1. Under this plan all instruments filed for record are being numbered consecutively from Number one up. Heretofore there have been eight different sets of numbers for as many different sorts of records, leading to a great deal of uncertainty and confusion, which will be obviated by the consecutive numbering of every instrument filed for record. In matters relating to procedure in the Circuit Court, however, this rule cannot be applied as each proceeding in every case must bear the case number on the court docket.

Johnson's Planing Mill Burns

Thursday the Roadport Planing Mill was destroyed by fire at an estimated loss of \$50,000, with only \$11,000 insurance. The principal stockholders of the Planing Mill company are H. C. Morris, Warren P. Reed and G. McC. Johnson. Other mills were threatened, including the Johnson mill and for a time it was feared the entire town might be laid in ashes. The Mill company had sufficient orders to keep it running for a year, including one order for sixty carloads of garage doors. It is probable that the mill will be rebuilt.

Battay's Hand Hurt

M. J. Hartson and family and Geo. N. Battay and wife went up to the headwaters of the North Fork last Saturday to fish and camp over the Fourth. They had no more than got there until George started to crank his car which resulted and some of the bones in his hand were knocked out of joint. He called them back into place himself and did not return to Coquille until Monday evening, but the injury has been very painful.

MUST GO TO WORK

Court Orders Men In Jail Take an Oath to Labor on Highways

Yesterday the county court made an order directing that the able bodied prisoners in the jail be placed at work on the county roads. This applies not only to all prisoners now in the custody of the sheriff, but also to all who may hereafter be taken into custody. The Roadmaster was directed to employ a competent supervisor to take charge of them, who will report to the sheriff for those, thus relieving the latter from responsibility should any of them escape.

The prisoners now in jail who will be affected by this order are four moonshiners who have recently received six months sentences, and one who is in for three months; also Geo. J. McDermott, who still has about a month of his sentence for contempt of court, in failing to pay the alimony allowed his wife. Edward Schroeder is also in jail on a three month term but will be released as soon as he pays his fine.

The prisoners will probably be put at work on the road to Fervor, which is now being gravelled, and brought in to the jail for safe keeping at night.

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Wrecked in Collision

Chips Gage's Vette was pretty badly damaged on the Bandon road early Wednesday morning just below the Highway plain. He and Wm. Steiner were starting for Bandon, in Curry county, and on a curve at the point mentioned met the Bandon stage, driven by Truman East, head on. Mr. Gage was going at a twelve mile speed, but the stage driver was hitting a much more rapid clip. The larger car jammed through the bumper of the lighter car, broke the radiator, wind shield, lamps, etc., so that the Curry trip had to be given up and the car was towed back to town.

Bridge Men Arrested Here

Acting on information received from Myrtle Point Tuesday morning, Marshal Holmbeck arrested Ernie Smith, of Bridge, as soon as he arrived in town for having liquor in his possession. He had a well filled bottle in his pocket and evidently had consumed considerable. An officer with him who was not mentioned and had he been, was not arrested. Smith was taken before Justice Stanley who fined him \$25. He paid \$10, all he had with him, and is to pay the balance in a few days.

Wanted in Collision

Several complaints have been filed with Justice J. J. Stanley this week, some of them for moonshiners, who have not yet been apprehended and which we are not at liberty to divulge.

Death of Capt. Edwards

Capt. C. E. Edwards, of Allegheny, one of the best known residents of Coos River, was found dead in bed Tuesday morning when his wife went to call him for breakfast. He had been ill for several months, suffering from heart trouble. He passed away while asleep, without a struggle.

Coquille vs. Myrtle Point

Next Sunday at 2:30 at Athletic Park, the Myrtle Point ball team will be the opponents of the local team and a mighty good game is anticipated. Myrtle Point has been wonderfully strengthened the last week or two and they are playing a grand game at present. Coquille is also stronger than she was at first and the local bunch of sluggers are there with the stick. If the pitching is good Sunday the visitors will have a tough job to hold Coquille over.

Broken Shaft Delays

Superintendent Parham had his crew at work on the bridge here this week making the collections for the concrete pier. This morning the shaft on the pile driver broke necessitating a delay while it was being repaired.

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DOES UP IN SMOKE

Shoreacres and All its Treasures Burned Sunday Morning

More people in Coos county have probably visited "Shoreacres," L. J. Simpson's palatial home, than any other private residence in the county, and every one who has seen that magnificent mansion heard with great regret of its destruction by fire between one and two o'clock last Sunday morning. Three years ago Mr. and Mrs. Simpson entertained the State Editorial association there at its annual meeting in August and the business sessions were held on the wide porch on the ocean side almost within reach of the billows, which dash without rest against the rocky shore below and in times of storm were accustomed to go over the residence.

It is a most romantic spot for a home with rose gardens and pastures on one side and on the other a view over a wide expanse of ocean, with ships from many climes constantly passing up and down the coast—and on every clear evening the setting sun furnishes a spectacle of rare beauty. It is told of the late Capt. A. M. Simpson, of San Francisco, the father of L. J., that he had never heard of the building of his son's residence until he saw it from the sea on one of his trips to Coos Bay, when he inquired, "What blank fool built that?"

Shoreacres was far and away the finest house in Coos county and was noted for its lavish hospitality. "Bellevue" have any distinguished visitors been allowed to depart from the county without a visit there; and many have been the noted social events staged in the brilliant setting of the Simpson home.

The value of the house is put at \$120,000, half of which is covered by insurance; but as to the matter of rebuilding, Mr. Simpson has not yet decided. Naturally the most beautiful view of Coos Bay is from the porch of Shoreacres and had an excellent view, and rendered the future uncertain.

The fire burst out with such startling suddenness that there was no opportunity to save any of the contents, some of which were almost priceless. The residence was furnished throughout in the most luxurious manner and among its contents were family linens, silver plate and other heirlooms which had been in the family for generations and which it would be impossible to replace. Then there were paintings, china and rugs of great value, as well as the contents of Mr. Simpson's library. We recall especially a striking marble wood pedestal which stood in the entrance hall.

On the lower floor were the kitchen equipment, the dining room, big living room, library, music room and adjoining natorium. The sleeping rooms were on the second floor. The house would accommodate many guests.

It was impossible, says the Times, to tell how the fire started as the flames spread rapidly. It was a pleasant night and L. J. Simpson had gone out for a walk about the grounds and was near the keeper's residence when he saw the house on fire, and hurried back but too late to save anything.

In the house were Mr. and Mrs. William Ede, the ranch keepers, and their child. When the fire was discovered the occupants had been asleep and did not know the fire had started until the lower floor was in flames. Escape by way of the stairway was cut off. It was necessary for the Ede child to be lowered from an upper porch.

Capt. Edgar Simpson, brother of the owner, was asleep and was awakened with difficulty, and only just in time to save his life. He had a narrow escape. He could not even get his purse with \$100 in gold out of a bureau drawer.

Keeps the Roads Hot

Sheriff Ellingsen says the bill of his office for auto hire in running down moonshiners and bootleggers last month was \$165, which is more than twice as much as ever before and that this work has meant many sleepless nights for himself and his men. The stiffs were running overtime in June he says, to pile up a stack of moonshine for the Fourth.

Calling Omaha, 120 for \$1.25.