

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

VOL. XXIV. NO. 49.

COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1928.

\$2.00 THE YEAR.

FRACTION OF INCH

Between H. E. Hess and Death When Rube Fired at Distance of 200 Feet

The most narrow escape anyone had from death in Tuesday's man hunt has not yet been told in print.

When Henry Hess picked up Geo. Taylor, Fred Lorenz and Fred McClellan and started for the hill above Knowlton Heights, Taylor and McClellan had rifles, Lorenz a revolver, but Hess was unarmed.

When the bandit waved to them to stop and yelled "go back," Henry kept going ahead with his new Studebaker, but when Rube threw up his gun and fired, at a distance of not more than 200 feet, Henry stopped and backed up.

The car was slightly down hill from Rube, but had he elevated his gun the fraction of an inch it would have drilled Henry through the body, for the angle at which it pierced his spare tire, alongside the hood on the left hand side, and where it struck an upright which holds the tire in place, and which stopped it, would have put the bullet in Mr. Hess' chest had the trajectory been a few inches higher. The bullet may still be in the tube; Henry has not yet looked to see.

As Rube fired the second time the bullet went wild for he was just aiming when struck by the bullet from Mr. Gould's gun.

Euel Plummer said it sounded as though the first shot had hit a tire, but no one thought at the time to look at the spare, and the other four were solid.

Dan Brown likewise had a close call. He was just drawing down on Rube when the latter heard a noise, turned and fired. Dan jumped back behind the stump which he was using for protection, and a later examination showed that the bullet plowed through the rotten stump and out, just over his head.

Mr. Hess would seem to be entitled to a new tire, tube and cover.

His Actions Cool and Studied

A. N. Gould's actions the morning of the attempted robbery were methodical and coolly performed. Hearing the shots from the bank while he was attempting to start his car, he realized at once what was happening. He ran into his store for his gun, but it was not there. He then ran to Oerding's, asked for and received a 30-30 rifle and shells, and running back to his car, called for a driver. Euel Plummer responded and they started.

Up Second street to Division and across to First, they picked up Dan Brown and after reaching the bandit car, turned and went around to the Willey home by way of the bridge.

Bert immediately climbed the hill and from its summit could see most of the valley around, but did not get his eye on the bandits, until he heard their voices from the road below him, talking to Plummer.

Not wanting to make a mistake and shoot the wrong man he watched them until Rube shot at the Hess car. He then fired once and missed him, but fired again just as Rube fired his second shot. That shot killed the desperado instantly, and he dropped. McGowan jumped into the brush and from behind a stump fired five revolver shots at Mr. Gould who was standing in plain sight. McGowan then ran down hill a short distance and got under a tree behind a log. Bert fired at him as he ran, but failed to score.

From his new hiding place McGowan either threw his revolver away or hid it in a log, for when taken by Osmond and Morgan a moment later the only weapon he had was an unused rusty revolver.

Merry Christmas

At this season of happiness, friendship and good cheer, the Sentinel unites with its advertisers in wishing its readers, one and all a very merry Christmas.

Nor should we forget those less fortunate than ourselves, and a concerted effort is being made by the Salvation Army and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks at Marshfield, in a county-wide distribution, and by the Pioneer Church and a Good Cheer committee here to see that none are overlooked and fail to receive some bounty at this season of peace on earth and good will toward men.

A. J. Mayse was a Coquille visitor yesterday from the Coast Fork.

Confesses to Lorenz Robbery

A telephone call from Portland yesterday morning by Deputy Sheriff Frank Osmond, who had gone north with his family to spend Christmas in Washington, stated that Harvey Miller had just confessed to the robbery of the Henry Lorenz store, the night of Dec. 5, when \$500 worth of merchandise was stolen.

Mr. Osmond was in the Portland jail as the suspects picked up were brought out for inspection. He recognized Miller and received permission to question him. The latter soon broke down and confessed.

Another young fellow picked up with him is being held by the police but it is not known whether he was implicated or not.

Miller has been around here for two or three months, and had made a ranch not far from town his headquarters, the people not knowing what kind of a fellow he was. He claims to be 22 but is 30 or older.

Since the robbery he has been in Powers, Hauser and elsewhere in the county and did not leave Coquille for Portland until Tuesday evening. He was picked up almost at once by the Portland police.

OLDEST COOS PIONEER PASSES

One of the oldest pioneers of Coos county, T. Mannell Hermann, died at Broadbent, last evening. The infirmities of old age, aggravated by kidney trouble, was the cause of death. It is probable that the funeral services will be held Sunday with interment in the family plot near Broadbent.

Mr. Hermann was one of the Baltimore colony which left Baltimore in April, 1859, crossed the Isthmus of Panama and arrived at San Francisco May 7, 1859. From there they took boat to Port Orford and made their own trail to the mouth of the Coquille, where Bandon is now located, and thence up the river to the land which Dr. Henry Hermann homesteaded and where the deceased passed away.

Mr. Hermann was one of six children—Binger, T. Mannell, Washington P. Cass M., Thrusenald and Franklin P. Cass M. Hermann, of Roseburg, is the sole survivor now of the original Hermann family.

Mr. Hermann who was about 84 years of age, is survived by the following children: Geo. and Forrest Hermann, Mrs. John Grant and Mrs. J. M. Wagoner, of Broadbent; Henry Hermann, of Myrtle Point; Russell Hermann, of Klamath Falls; and Mrs. Myrtle Baker, of Bakersfield, Calif.

There were about forty in the colony which left Baltimore and among its members we find such well known names as Dr. Henry Hermann and family, Henry Schroeder and family, Wm. Volkmar and family, August Bender and family, and many others.

The vicissitudes which these indomitable pioneers underwent in reaching this section, carving out a home in the wilderness and beginning the southwest Oregon empire, makes a story as interesting as any fiction. The history of their affairs is an epic of the west.

No Highway Promise Received

J. E. Norton returned yesterday morning from attending the meeting of the Roosevelt Highway and Beaches Association, which presented a strong appeal to the highway commission Wednesday for the completion of the Roosevelt Highway, north from Reedsport. Specifically, they asked that the commission issue the bonds and use the proceeds that were originally authorized for the construction of the four principal highways of the state. The amount is somewhere near \$4,000,000. It was put up to Gov. Patterson that the objection to issuing bonds for highways would not be as potent if the Roosevelt and Dalles-California highways had been completed and it was desired to finish the Pacific Highway.

Chas. Hall acted as spokesman for the 75 or 80 members of the association in attendance.

The commission did not agree to do anything but it is thought the suggestions given them will result in some action this year.

How the Death Bullet Ranged

The autopsy performed on Rube's body by Dr. G. E. Low Tuesday afternoon showed that Mr. Gould's bullet, fired from above, pierced the left shoulder blade, passed through a portion of the left lung, broke two vertebrae, cut the spinal cord, then through the right lung and into his right arm, a few inches below the shoulder. Death was instantaneous and it was the only bullet hole in his body.

BANK ROBBERS FOILED HERE

Prompt Action by O. C. Sanford, E. D. Webb, G. Russell Morgan, Bert Gould and Others Prevents Robbery and Results in Death of One Bandit and Capture of Other. It Was All Over in 30 Minutes

"Stick 'em up, stick 'em up," were the words growled at O. C. Sanford at 9:05 Tuesday morning as he started to leave the First National Bank by the rear door. They were uttered by a dark-complected stranger, who was just about to enter the door with a 25-35 carbine in his hand, and began the most exciting day Coquille has experienced in many years, if ever.

Yet 30 minutes later the dark man was lying dead on the hill, just back of the C. L. Willey residence, his companion was in jail, and the citizens had time to settle down.

At the command Mr. Sanford slammed the door shut, yelled, "It's a hold-up," and jumped to the window side of the door.

Whether the bandit thought the door had fastened with a spring lock will never be known, for instead of trying to open it he kept thrusting his gun, aimed at Mr. Sanford, against the glass and uttering threats.

At Sanford's call, E. D. Webb, who was in the vault, came out with a revolver and stepping to the rear partition door, fired at less than five feet from the robber. The bullet broke the glass of the outer door but was deflected downward and dropped harmlessly outside the door.

The bandit replied with a shot from his rifle, which tore a large hole in the heavy glass. The bullet struck an upright of the front half of the front door, where it made a deep impression in the metal. It splattered and several pieces were found imbedded in the east wall of the room.

Mr. Webb attempted to fire again but the hammer failed to discharge the cartridge.

L. H. Hazard, at the warning, ran into the front office and grabbed the bank's sawed-off shot gun, and waited the robber's entrance, but the latter did not come in.

Instead he backed out from the hall doorway and he and his pal ran in a stooping position to their car, a Chevrolet sedan, parked in front of the Mt. States Power Co. office.

The dark stranger was later learned to be Marion Rube, a murderer and escaped bank robber of Martin's Ferry in northern California, and his companion, Bud McGowan, also an escaped bank robber. Rube was 33 years of age, and McGowan is 24.

Rube ran to the left side of the car, but whether he got in the front or back door no one seems to know. McGowan got in on the right side, but whether he was driving or not is a mooted question.

C. C. Archibald, J. S. Barton, in their offices, and J. A. Lamb who was just at the northeast corner of the building, saw them get in and state that they had trouble getting the car started. Whether it was not going, or whether they killed the engine in their rush is not certain.

As they got in their car, G. Russell Morgan, who took a most prominent part in the whole affair, and displayed a vast amount of cool courage, drew his .38 revolver and fired five shots at the car as it headed west on Second. One of the bullets ricocheted and struck Geo. Miller, standing in front of the Fortier billiard parlor, but it was spent and dropped to the ground.

The bandits turned right at the Sentinel corner and headed up Second street, and at the Taylor Service Station corner were greeted by a volley from the bank's sawed-off shot gun, fired by Russell Morgan who had secured it from the bank and had run up to the corner to intercept the fleeing men.

He was hampered in getting a quick shot by Geo. W. Taylor, coming in on the highway, and others who would have been in the line of fire had he shot more quickly.

Whether any of his shots broke the glass in the rear of the car is another matter on which there is disagreement. Some say that the man with the gun inside broke it out and fired at Russell twice while others contend that the falling glass tinkled on the sidewalk immediately after Morgan's first shot.

The latter then ran into Second street and with a clear field fired twice at the speeding car, but it was too far away for the shots to carry. Mrs. Wm. Zoel, passing the Pioneer church, says that one answering shot was fired from the car as it neared her.

She also claims, as do Dan Brown and Fred McNelly, to have seen two men in the front seat and one in the rear, but on this all spectators do not agree.

The car ran up to the end of Second street and they were forced to turn around as elsewhere described. They then turned south at Maple, past the W. S. Sickler residence and down into the driveway to the Morgan home.

Mrs. G. E. Low saw but two men leave the car there. They took their guns and pack sack, changed their coats or sweaters and started across Dutch John toward the hill where the Willey home stands.

After their departure from the bank, Mr. Sanford looked down at the floor outside and received the greatest shock of his life in not seeing Rube lying there. He supposed, of course, that Webb's shot had struck.

Mr. Webb called up the sheriff's office, found Deputy Osmond in and the latter immediately jumped in his car and started down town. He was stopped by Archie Walker, who pointed out the fleeing car at the head of Second street. Picking up Mr. Morgan, Osmond started in pursuit and was not a great way behind when the robbers abandoned their car.

He and Morgan started down to Dutch John creek and across the valley.

"There's a dog or some one there," called Mr. Morgan as they neared the slope leading up to Knowlton avenue. "Come out of there with your hands up," called the deputy and McGowan obeyed. The two pursuers did not know then that Rube was lying on his back, dead, at the road's edge, and were constantly expecting gun fire.

They took McGowan's revolver, which had not been fired, manacled him and Williams and Morgan took him to jail.

In bringing McGowan out to the car on the street, they passed below the Shaver home, just north of Willey's and did not find Rube's body for several minutes.

Geo. Taylor, after Rube had fired at the Hess car and disappeared, started up the road and found Rube, with arms outstretched, face up and with his head hanging over the wooden curb, dead.

After Rube had been hit by Mr. Gould's shot, McGowan ran down to a stump, and emptied a revolver, five shots at Bert, on the hill. He then ran for a tree lower down and Mr. Gould's shot missed him.

He told Osmond, when taken, that his pal was badly hurt.

Rube's body was left there until the coroner's arrival and a large crowd quickly collected, with dozens of guns in evidence.

If there was a third man in the party he escaped, but it is probable there was not, although it is believed that two more of the gang were in town but did not participate in the attempted hold-up.

Mrs. J. A. Shaver, who walked out onto her back porch, saw McGowan behind the stump and asked what was going on. He gave her one look, then rested his gun on the stump and fired at Mr. Gould.

This flatly contradicts McGowan's story that he did not fire a shot, even though the revolver was not found upon him. He probably threw it up as he ran and it has not yet been found, although some one may have picked it up as a souvenir. The officers have searched for it, without success, and need it for evidence in McGowan's trial.

Mrs. Shaver, startled at the scene enacted before her eyes, ran into the house and soon thereafter left home on the run for quieter quarters.

The coroner's inquest found that Rube came to his death at the hands

(Continued on eighth page)

No Reward to Be Received

Mrs. Alice Lucas, former wife of the dead bandit, Marion Rube, and a half brother, Horace Downs, arrived here yesterday morning from Pepperwood Calif., to claim the body of the desperado.

District Attorney Bedingfield gave his consent about noon, but Deputy Sheriff Bohrer waited a couple of hours longer in hopes that he would hear from Gov. Young, of California, as to his wishes. No word was received and Sherman Roberts, who came up with a truck, was allowed to start for California with the body yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. Lucas has three daughters, twelve, ten and eight years of age, the daughters of Rube.

A press dispatch from Sacramento yesterday stated that no reward would be paid for Rube's body, the offer being for his "arrest and conviction." The state had offered \$800 and the county of Humboldt \$500.

Deputy Sheriff Bohrer received a telegram from Gov. Young's secretary stating that a reward could only be paid "for arrest and conviction" and that the state of California was not interested in the disposal of the body.

HE WAS IN THE LINE OF FIRE

E. W. Plummer's story of the manhunt is sensational enough and shows him to have been in a very precarious position. He offered to drive Mr. Gould's car for him and in passing Dan Brown's residence they picked him up.

Arriving at the spot where the bandits left their car, Deputy Sheriff Osmond asked them to go back to town and get a gang of men. They started but Gould remarked, "We haven't time to go to town," and they drove across the Knowlton bridge and up to the end of road where Bert got out and climbed to the top of the hill, back of Willey's and Brown started up to the south of that.

Plummer turned the car around and parked it on one side of the gravel and had just taken off his apron and thrown it in the car when two men stepped onto the road, out of the brush, a hundred feet from him.

"Have they crossed the road yet?" the older one asked.

"I don't think so," Plummer replied, not knowing whether they were bandits or posse men.

Just then the Hess car crossed the bridge and started up the hill, and the dark one asked, "Who are they?"

"I don't know," was Plummer's answer.

The fellow then motioned to the car to stop and yelled, "Go back." He did this a second time and then fired. Not more than five or six feet from the line of fire, Mr. Plummer hastily threw up his hands and got around to the south side of the car. Not until the shot was fired was he sure that the two men in the road were the bandits.

Rube Murdered Inoffensive Man

One man in Coquille expressed great satisfaction when Marion Rube was killed Tuesday. On his last trip to San Francisco in October, Geo. Unsoeld had stopped to see an old friend, the sheriff of Humboldt county, who had been out all night hunting for Rube. The latter had just killed Arthur A. Tomlinson, at Martin's Ferry, without provocation. Rube wanted to get the deputy sheriff who had arrested him for bank robbery some years ago, and knowing that the deputy was at the Tomlinson house he went to the door and knocked. Tomlinson opened the door and Rube shot him, killing him instantly, before seeing who it was. He then ran up the hill back of the house and poured a number of shots into the house, through the windows and walls, but fortunately did not hit anyone else. There were women and children in the house.

Iris Elrod, on the road at the time of the Fortuna bank robbery, was at Alton, a short distance away, when Rube was chased and caught for that affair. That was six or seven years ago.

Rube had been sentenced to 25 years in the pen but escaped from the road gang, on which he was working, in August.

Bud McGowan was serving a ten year sentence for bank robbery when he escaped on the fifth of this month. Rube, is said to have been down there and assisted in his escape, and they then went over to Klamath Falls before coming here.

Send one of Bergen's attractive pot plant arrangements for Christmas. Gould & Gould, Agents.

EXTENSION WORK

Summary of Its Activities, Prepared by County Agent Harvey S. Hale

Agricultural Extension work which is carried on co-operatively by Coos County, Oregon Agricultural College, the state and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has concluded the fourth year of continuous service in Coos county. The County Agricultural Agent is in charge of this work in the county and is assisted by members of the Oregon Agricultural College Extension staff.

A summarized report outlined under the various projects into which the Extension services are divided is as follows:

Soil Improvement

Numerous tests and demonstrations have proven that the soils of Coos County are deficient in lime and for the maximum production of most of our cultivated crops and especially the legumes, lime is quite beneficial. With the use of lime, inoculation and proper methods of culture, alfalfa is being successfully grown on several farms in the county where before it was unsuccessful.

Two carloads of ground limestone from the State Lime plant at Salem were ordered and distributed to the farmers in the Coquille Valley section. The Coos Bay Mutual Creamery distributes lime at cost to the farmers of that section.

At a meeting of the State Lime Board the need of a plant to make the shell deposits in Coos Bay available for agricultural lime was fully explained. A petition asking for such a plant was circulated among the farmers of the county and forwarded to the State Lime Board.

Assistance was given in the formation of two drainage districts. The Haynes Inlet drainage district when completed will reclaim and materially benefit about 300 acres of land. The Fishtrap drainage district is slightly smaller but will greatly increase the number of days each year that this land will be used. Through the aid of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Oregon Agricultural College Extension Service a survey is being made of the Coquille Valley flood problems. M. R. Lewis, a drainage expert, is making the survey.

A ditch blasting demonstration was held on Catching Inlet and was attended by forty farmers. Another group of farmers at a meeting on Catching Creek were shown the best methods of blasting stumps.

Crop Improvement

A new variety of wheat, Jenkins Club, which has been giving the best yields on tests conducted at Corvallis, was planted on the Ben Moomaw farm and gives promise of being a good wheat for this section.

Five barley varietal trials were planted in different sections in the county to determine which of the varieties would give the highest yield. Hanchen did best on upper bottom soils and O. A. C. No. 7 on lower bottom soil.

A nursery of thirty varieties of oats and thirty varieties of wheat was planted on the Tway farm, Coquille, in an effort to find the varieties of these crops which are most resistant to rust. Three varieties of oats were found to be practically immune to rust and a larger planting of these resistant varieties will be tried another year. Rust is the biggest handicap in this section to the growing of oats.

The following forage crops and the best methods of growing them are being demonstrated in various sections of the County: Ladino clover, alfalfa, tangier peas, Austrian winter field peas, hairy vetch, Hungarian vetch, burr clover, bulbous blue grass, Huron timothy and Japanese Barnyard millet. The promotion of Japanese Barnyard millet as a green feed crop was severely hampered this year by seed of a California water grass being sold for Japanese Barnyard millet. The varietal trials of nine varieties of alfalfa on the DeBore place at Gravel Ford is being continued.

The five varietal trials of corn were carried on this year with the results quite similar to last year in that McKays yellow dent is the outstanding variety.

In five different sections in the county, root crop varietal trials consisting of seven varieties of mangels, two of carrots, two of rutabagas and two of turnips were planted to find out which of these give the largest production of feed at different times during the fall and early winter. For

(Continued on fourth page.)