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Joe Sewell, who lived from 1878 to 1898, was known as "an attractive rogue and an excellent horseman and athlete."

Joe Sewell

By JUSTIN DAVIS
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Born on April 11, 1878, Joe Sewell was the youngest of Columbus and Louisa Sewell's children. Joe passed at a young age so his life isn't as well documented as that of his father, Columbus, or his brother, Tom.

What is known about Joe is that he loved the horse racing, drinking and fighting that often came with life on the frontier. A well-known boxer, Joe was known as the best fighter in the area for a time.

The love of frontier life eventually caught up with Joe and led to his passing. Two separate accounts of Joe's untimely demise have been circulated, although nobody really knows for sure which is true. Joe Sewell met his end either in a shooting incident in Baker or during a brawl in a Pendleton brothel.

The date of Joe's death isn't in question, however, as he passed less than a month after his 20th birthday on May 10, 1898.

Joe Sewell in the news

Last Friday Joe Sewell and Major Magone were having a horse race

down the road, but the Major's team ran away and rolled him out into the ditch, ending the race, but the team kept right on. Damage, some.

Grant County News, Canyon City, Or., Thurs., April 7, 1887, Vol. IX, #2, p. 3, col. 1, item 11

Last Monday in Justice's court Joseph Sewell was fined \$5 and costs for using profane and obscene language in a public place.

Grant County News, Canyon City, Or., Thurs., April 28, 1887, Vol. IX, #5, p. 3, col. 1, item 8

For assaulting Jo Sewall with a billiard cue Billy Moss was fined \$10 and costs, the whole amounting to \$20. The case was prosecuted by Constable Todhunter and taken to John Day and tried before Justice Kelly. Moss plead guilty to the charge and considered himself in luck to get out of the scrape so easily.

The Grant County News, Canyon City, Or., Thurs., Nov. 24, 1887, Vol. IX, #35, p. 3, col. 2, para 19

Spring fights have already begun. Joe Sewall last Monday slapped a fellow called "Frenchy" for using insulting language towards his mother. Joe was arrested, but the case was compromised by each paying half the costs.

The Grant County News, Canyon City, Or., Thurs., Feb. 13, 1890, Vol. XI #47, p. 3, col. 1, para. 13



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Joe Sewell

FROM THE GRANT COUNTY NEWS, NOV. 12, 1898

CANYON CITY IN ASHES

Fire Totally Destroys the County Seat of Grant County, The Fire Totally Destroys Our Thriving City. The Alarm Was Sounded at 10:30 Last Night.

TOTAL LOSS WILL REACH TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND

The alarm of fire was turned in about 10:30 last night. The blaze was discovered in the Elk Horn hotel. In ten minutes from the time the alarm was turned in the hotel was a sheet of flames. The firemen worked bravely and nobly, in fact every man woman and child in the city worked as they never worked before, to save the property of our worthy citizens who by years of hard toil had accumulated a start in this world and were in a few minutes financially wrecked. The following are the principal losers:

Canyon City Brewery, F.C. Sels, proprietor, loss \$80,000.

Brown & Simpson, store building owned by M.M. Fredenberg and T.M. Britten, loss \$1000.

Dr. B.F. Butler, dentist instruments \$250.

I.J. Hagnewood, hay grain etc. \$2000.

Fred Berry, Great Northern restaurant loss \$400.

Guernsey & Clark, Red Front Saloon \$3000.

Tomy Briteen \$700 loss on Valade Hotel.

Alvo Dore and wife, clothing etc. \$200.

Hicks & cattenach, law books etc. \$800.

Col. D.I. Asbury, residence etc. 3000 dollars.

A. Hinch, stock of general merchandise, residence, and in fact everything he had, valued at twelve thousand dollars.

Cunnington & Horsley, general merchandise, loss, twenty thousand dollars.

Valade Hotel, Henry Valade proprietor, five thousand dollars.

Hinch restaurant building three hundred dollars.

R.A. Hines, residence and blacksmith shop and fixtures, value three thousand dollars.

S.E. Bollinger, residence, contents saved, value two hundred and fifty dollars.

McBean & Miller, livery stable and contents, fifteen hundred dollars no horses were burned.

Miller residence, value one thousand dollars and one hundred dollars in money.

V. Cozad, Books and law office fixtures valued at one

hundred and fifty dollars.

Safe in charge of O.P. Cresap, containing ten thousand dollars belonging to the Odd Fellows.

TOM MORRISON SUFFICATED

Mr. Tom Morrison came near meeting death in the Ashford residence. When found he was near dead he having been strangled by the smoke, while fighting fire.

Our little city puts in a miserable appearance this morning as the cold gray dawn appears. All that is left of our thriving city is the smouldering emblems of an unmerciful fire. We are homeless and if ever a people needed aid it is now. Over half of our population is homeless and we are without beds, the county court house was used as a home for a great number, others who found quarters with friends.

There have been many disasterous fires of late, but none can compare with last night's terrible fire. Of the many homeless families in our city are some of our oldest and most respected citizens, who were happily housed in comfortable homes, are today left penniless. Of all the property destroyed there was not one dollar of insurance.

Insurance companies refused the risks or made rates so high that it was impossible to carry a policy.

Grant County News Only Business House Left in Grant County's Seat

The Grant County News Office is still doing business in the same old stand, and is the only business house left in Canyon City, and can say that we feel deeply the terri-

ble disaster of last night. Oh! How hard it is to think of the many homeless families that but yesterday were happy and contented. To think of the poor homeless children who are huddled together at the few remaining homes.

NOTICE

The Court House is hereby opened to the people of Canyon City, that they might have shelter from the cold.

J.A. Laycock County

Judge The Great northern Restaurant will be opened up immediately, in the Bowling Alley.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the citizens at the Court House at 2 o'clock today. All citizens are requested to attend.

COME TO THE MEETING AT 2

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