

Rogue River Courier

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MAN MURDERED; THROWN IN RIVER

BODY WEIGHTED DOWN WITH
LOG CHAINS.

MAN CONFESSES TO CRIME

York and Man Suspected of Crime
Were Camped on South
Bank of River.

Mike Morgan, in jail here in Grants Pass charged with the murder of John E. York, who was killed last Thursday night and his body thrown in Rogue river, this morning made a complete confession declaring that he killed York in self defense.

York and Morgan were camped together near the city, and in his confession this morning, Morgan alleges that upon the night of the killing he went to the camp in a half drunken condition, that he and York had a row, that York started to assault him and that he struck York on the head with a club.

Morgan says he then carried the body in his arms half way to the river, and then put a rope around the dead man's neck and dragged him the remainder of the distance and placed the body on the bank. He then went back to the camp, got a heavy log chain, and this he wrapped around the neck of the corpse and threw it in the river. Morgan says he stayed in the camp that night and the next morning took York's horses and wagons and went to Glendale, where he was arrested.

John E. York, who came to Grants Pass from eastern Oregon, was murdered Thursday night in a camp a short distance above the city park and his body thrown in Rogue river, where it was found Monday evening by young Gysbert Harvey of this city. York's alleged murderer, Halley Wickes, was arrested today shortly after the noon hour at Glendale, 35 miles north from Grants Pass.

When taken into custody Wickes is alleged to have had in his possession several head of horses and two wagon, one a trailer, which were the property of York.

The two men had been working together in Grants Pass, employed by the Warren Construction company on street work. They were camped across the river east of City park. York owned six head of horses, two wagons and a camping outfit.

The charge is made by the officers that Wickes murdered York Thursday night and fled Friday morning with the horses, wagons and other property.

York's body was found near the upper end of the park where it had floated into a clump of willows and lodged. Young Harvey found the body as the result of a foot sticking out of the water. When taken from the stream the dead man was found to have been choked to death with a rope, which was still tightly drawn about his neck. In addition to the rope about his neck was wrapped a heavy log chain, placed by the murderer with a view of sinking the body. The body floated, however, head down with one foot sticking out of the water.

The alleged murderer, Wickes, is described as a man 27 or 28 years of age, a laborer and bearing the reputation of having a crabbed disposition.

The alleged murderer of John York who was killed Thursday night last, in his camp near City park and his body thrown in Rogue river, was brought to Grants Pass from Glendale Tuesday by Deputy Sheriff Eugene Coburn and landed in the county jail.

The prisoner also admits that he is a deserter from the United States army, sneaking away from Fort Douglas in Utah while attached to H company, Fifteenth regiment. Then is when he took the name of Halley Wickes, landing in Sacramento. From Sacramento the man is supposed to

have come to Oregon as his hat bears the brand of a merchant in Klamath Falls. Last night in jail here he said he had been at Klamath Falls, then denied he had been there, and told several conflicting stories of his whereabouts in this state. Regarding the murder Morgan, if such is his true name, as he now contends, declared absolute innocence. Asked what he was doing with the dead man's team and wagons, he declared that York, the victim, told him to take the six horses and two wagons to Glendale; to sell two of the horses and put the remainder in a pasture.

Morgan after selling the two horses proceeded to imbibe much liquor, and was having a good time at a merry-go-round, so say the officers at Glendale. Asked last night why he was squandering York's money, he had no coherent answer to give. Asked what York intended to do after he (Morgan), took away the team, he answered by saying that York was to join him at Glendale by train. In the next breath Morgan said he intended to come back this way and hunt York at Ashland. Asked if he could identify the rope and logging chain which was wrapped around York's neck, Morgan replied hesitatingly that "I might." Then he corrected this dangerous slip by saying that he does not remember any rope and log chain as part of the camp outfit. Then he said he had intended to come to Grants Pass "and get the gun I left at the camp."

How the officers here learned that Morgan was headed toward Glendale was through information furnished them by S. A. Hand, merchant at 312 south Sixth street, who, with his sons, was returning from a trip to Wolf creek. Mr. Hand met Morgan driving four horses to the wagon and trail wagon, and Morgan was such an awkward driver that Hand feared he would smash his rig in passing. When Hand arrived here and learned of the murder and the disappearance of the team and wagons he quickly believed that the man he met was the guilty one. He informed the sheriff's office at once, with the result that Morgan was soon in custody. Hand says he believes that two men were implicated in the murder, that a shrewder one planned the crime and took several hundred dollars that York was known to have had in his trunk, and fled, leaving Morgan to take the horses and wagons and get caught.

Hand is an old time scout in the western country and has been instrumental in running to earth many tough characters from the Mississippi river west, and his intuition in this case proved valuable to the Josephine county officers.

The body of John E. York, who was murdered last Thursday night, and his body thrown into Rogue river, was exhumed during the early hours this morning. The order to dig into the gravel came from Justice Holman, who instructed Fred Wichman, in charge at the Granite Hill cemetery, to uncover the body and take from York's neck the rope that was used by the murderer to take his victim's life by choking him to death.

Wichman, in speaking of his gruesome task said: "When I uncovered the grave and got to the body, I found that the rope had been so tightly drawn about the man's neck that it was necessary to use a knife. The rope had cut into the flesh so deeply that the neck inside the rope was of the circumference of that of a child. Then, too, the flesh had swollen to such an extent that it bulged out around the rope to the extent that it could hardly be seen. I got my knife blade under it, and whacked it in two. I then took the outer clothing from the body and with the rope brought them here to the city hall."

The clothes and rope were tied in a gunny sack, and an odor of the grave was painfully perceptible.

The heavy logging chain which had been wrapped around York's neck, which was intended to sink the body, was also taken to the justice's office, and when dumped on the floor made a noise which sent a creepy feeling stealing up and down the spines of the persons present. The clanking, gressome relic of the murder caused a setting which flashed a thought of the death chamber of some grim tower in a castle of medieval days.

SOUTHERN OREGON AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MINING CONGRESS

Most Successful Event in the History of Mining in Oregon.

The Southern Oregon and Northern California mining congress came to an end this morning, after interesting matters were closed and a vote to meet at Medford, January 17 and 18, 1912.

The matter of maintaining a separate and permanent organization of the Southern Oregon and Northern California Mining congress was determined upon, though the association will co-operate with the American Mining congress, the Northwest Mining congress and the Oregon State association.

Joseph Smith, editor Power, Mine and Factory, of Seattle, presented an appeal for co-operation of the assembled congress with the state of Washington and Alaska, thus uniting the solid west for a square deal for Alaska and all the west, and for the protection of legitimate mining.

The committee on resolutions, consisting of H. L. Herzinger, I. J. Luce and E. G. Hewes, prepared a resolution to be adopted by the congress, condemning the policy of the department at Washington arbitrarily withdrawing lands from mineral entry and the creation of mineral reserves, that the large areas not heavily timbered be taken out of the forest reserves already established.

A resolution was also adopted urging that the game laws be amended, permitting mineral prospectors to kill buck deer for actual use at all times; also a resolution that a committee be appointed to prepare articles of incorporation of the association and to report at the next session; also that the state and national government be urged to push to completion the geological survey in Oregon with respect to the mining districts; also that the shipping rates be taken up with the railroads and adjudged in aid of the mining industry; that the lease bills now before the federal congress be opposed; that congress be urged to make an increased appropriation for the national mining bureau.

The last resolution adopted was one thanking the Commercial club, the papers of the city and various citizens for their efforts to make the congress a success, particularly commending C. L. Mangum for his untiring and faithful work.

The balance of the session was devoted to talks by visiting delegates, adjourning at 3 o'clock to meet in Medford January 17 and 18 next.

Yesterday's Proceedings.
(From The Courier July 18.)

When the gavel fell this afternoon calling to order the Southern Oregon and Northern California Mining Congress in its second semi-annual meeting, there was an enthusiastic and earnest audience of bronzed men of the mines, mining investors and operators and a number of men of wide technical knowledge—all representing mining districts from Josephine county to as far south as Redding, Cal.

The delegates were welcomed to Grants Pass by attorney O. S. Blanchard in a happy address. Mr. Blanchard paid tribute to the hardy miner in the far away hills, the miner of today and the miner of other days, and not forgetting to pay high tribute to the noble pioneer women who shared the hardships of their husbands; tribute to the mining man who puts his money into the golden hills, tribute to the engineer and the geologist whose keen and analytical brains solve the difficult problems and make mines grow where none grew before.

President Young of Ashland answered briefly the address of welcome and appointed a committee of three to name the time and place of the next semi-annual meeting. President Young named on this committee H. L. Herzinger, of Grants Pass; C. B. Watson, of Ashland, and Col.

R. L. Ray, of Medford. The following program for the afternoon was then carried out:

Address—"Recent Discoveries in Our District," W. S. Bacon, of Kerby, Oregon.

"Importance of the Copper Deposits in the District," Dr. J. F. Reddy, Medford, Ore. "Do Our Mineral Deposits Go Down?" George C. Bennett, Hornbrook, Cal.

"Building Up the Mining Industry," L. D. Mahone, Portland, Oregon, secretary State Miners' association.

"Electric Power and Its Use in Treating Ores," President O. L. Young, of Ashland, Oregon.

Night Program.
The congress will resume at 8 o'clock this evening with the following program:

Address—"Development of the Gold Mining Industry," Professor Fayette A. Jones, C. E., E. M., L. L. D., of Albuquerque, New Mexico. (Engineer in charge, Oriole Mine.)

"Geological Formation of Southern Oregon," Hon. C. B. Watson, Ashland, Oregon. "Present Status of Mining in Northern California," R. S. Taylor, Judge J. M. O'Neill, of Yreka, Cal. C. Proebstel, I. J. Luce, of Etna Mills, California.

"Promotion of Legitimate Mining," Joseph Smith, M. E., Seattle, Wash. Music by Commercial Club orchestra.

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CHICAGO CAPITALIST ON VISIT TO THIS SECTION

Frank Deming Stout, Chicago capitalist, and prominent in the American industrial and financial world and whose private car arrived in Grants Pass last week, returned to this city Sunday afternoon by automobiles with his family from Crescent City, where Mr. Stout spent several days enjoying cool breezes and looking over proposed harbor improvements there. Sunday afternoon seated in the shade of his car Mr. Stout talked interestingly to a representative of The Courier of his observations at Grants Pass, the country between here and the coast town and several national questions. The Chicago man is of fine physique and his features depict a character of rugged honesty and sincerity. Both courteous and conservative the visitor is a perfect type of the American who thinks big things and does big things.

Mr. Stout was here several years ago, and he remarked that Grants Pass had made marked improvement in that time.

"We have enjoyed the past few days very much," said Mr. Stout. "The great redwood forests between here and Crescent City proved a revelation to my sons and daughters. One of my sons has just graduated from Yale, and at the end of the school term I asked my children what they proposed to do or where would they prefer to spend several weeks of vacation. They have been in many parts of the world, so I told them if they had no particular country in view that I would take them west to see their own country. So we have taken in the Rocky mountains, Yellowstone and other places of interest, but not until we rode through the great redwood forests between Grants Pass and Crescent City did the young ladies and my sons become enthused. They declare it to be one of the grandest sights in the world; and I agree with them. If you have never taken that trip by all means do so. At Crescent City I talked with young Mr. Stout regarding his father's plans to build a harbor at Woolleyport. The matter looks feasible and Mr. Woolley deserves to succeed.

"The great thing needed here now

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TO APPOINT VOLUNTEER STATE FIRE WARDENS

State Forester F. A. Elliott desires to appoint, in co-operation with Josephine county, a number of volunteer state fire wardens among county officials or others whose ordinary duties lead them to be out over the country roads and trails a large part of the time. In addition Mr. Elliott also favors the appointment of one paid fire warden, who will be expected to devote all his time to the work or fire patrol, issuing of burning permits, advising as to the best manner or practicability of safe burning of brush piles, and personally extinguishing or supervising the checking and extinguishing of any forest fires which may, through carelessness or other cause, become of an alarming nature.

The state forester will also be authorized to employ help when conditions seem to warrant and will be expected to carefully investigate and prosecute all cases of malfeasance or carelessness in the matter of setting out or handling fire, and in all other ways carry out the provisions of the new state fire law.

Siskiyou Forest Supervisor Fromme, of Grants Pass, to whom the above request was made, interviewed County Judge Jewell, with the result that names of all the road supervisors in Josephine county are being presented to the state forester for consideration. Judge Jewell stated that he believes Josephine county will willingly stand its one-third share of the cost of salary and traveling expense of a paid fire warden and the cost of fighting any fires which might chance to threaten timber or other property within the county.

The question as to who shall be recommended for appointment to the position of paid fire warden has not yet been decided, although the names of two or three likely candidates have been handed to Mr. Fromme. It is thought that the job will pay \$100 a month and traveling expenses, and will last from now until the end of the fire danger season, probably the end of September. It calls for a man well acquainted with the geography of Josephine county, and especially one who has had experience in the timber, familiar with handling men, has good, cool judgment, lots of energy and a keen interest in the welfare of Josephine county's property and resources.

"A number of other counties in the state have volunteer and paid fire wardens, as well as patrolmen, employed by timbermen's associations, and there is no reason why Josephine county should not have equally as good protection as the best of them," said supervisor Fromme yesterday. Nearly all of the Siskiyou national forest officers, of which there are now 25, have state appointments as volunteer fire wardens.

H. C. Bateham, who was indicted about 10 days ago by the grand jury on a serious charge, is confined in the county jail as a result of one of his bondsmen withdrawing. When Bateham was arrested he was allowed bail in the sum of \$1,000, and Mrs. Bateham and G. A. Hamilton went on the bond. Hamilton two days ago withdrew, hence Bateham was remanded to the "cheek" until another bondsman comes forward.

The auto which caused the death of the little Kelly girl, and the serious wounding of the other members of the family arrived in Grants Pass today from the country, being drawn by a team of horses with the driver and a companion seated in the auto. The novel scene of two horses trotting up the street hitched to an auto caused much interest. The machine was taken to the Jack Williams residence.

Dr. James Loughridge of Lincoln, Neb., has been spending several days with his brother, Dr. S. Loughridge, of this city. The doctor had been attending the American Medical association in Los Angeles and stopped here on his return home. He was accompanied by his 5-year-old son Jack, and they left Wednesday evening for Portland, where they will visit with Mrs. Kittle Loughridge Day before going to their home.

MERCURY SOARS ABOVE HUNDRED

SUNDAY WAS HOTTEST DAY
SINCE 1865.

BUT NO PROSTRATIONS HERE

Churches Had Small Congregations,
and Thirst Parlors
Rushed.

With the mercury in Grants Pass Friday dancing opposite the figure 105, Saturday 108 and Sunday 110, the people of this city Sunday were willing to cry enough. Sunday was one of the record days for heat in years, and suffering was intense, one consolation as expressed by many of the merciful was that it was Sunday, hence the horse population was not compelled to toll in drawing heavy loads under such a burning sun. What few horses were so unfortunate as to have to work had the sympathy of many.

At night the heat was intense, the going down of the sun not relieving the red hot city to any great extent until about the hour of 10 o'clock. One minister dismissed his congregation after only a brier service, a thermometer in the church reading 97 degrees.

At the Presbyterian church Rev. Robert McLean told his friends that they could now realize a little of what it meant to conduct a church service in Porto Rico, where that minister was once located. Such heat as prevailed that night was a regular condition in the island possession, stated the minister, and it reminded him of the "good old days" among the Porto Ricans.

Thirst parlors in the city were popular places all day and until late at night. Hundreds of gallons of this or that "ade" and fizzing stuff were quaffed. The ice man wore a broad smile and the wood man sat glum. The cheerful idiot was early abroad asking "is it hot enough for you?" He got swatted several times, but this did not seem to affect him.

"Good pear weather," said one optimist. "Glad it is good for something," said the cynic as he slapped at a fly and made a wry face.

NORTHWESTERN COMING IS AGAIN STATED

That Grants Pass will get the Northwestern Pacific railroad in its extension from Eureka, Cal., to Portland is a statement given out at San Francisco some weeks ago and printed at that time in The Courier. The San Francisco Chronicle in a recent issue gives publicity to the matter again. The Chronicle says:

"W. S. Palmer, general manager of the Northwestern Pacific, which is owned jointly by the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific, has returned from Eureka where he has been inspecting the Oregon and Eureka line, which has been taken over by the Northwestern."

"The Oregon and Eureka extends from Eureka to Aridad. The Northwestern Pacific acquired the Oregon and Eureka line six years ago, but the line has been under lease to the Hammond Lumber company, which has used it to transport to tidewater timber from its heavy holdings in Humboldt.

"The extension of service north by the Northwestern Pacific is said to mark the beginning of a project to link San Francisco and Portland by one more railroad. The proposed road will, it is said, be extended gradually to meet the demands of traffic. It will follow the coast of California to the Oregon, whence it will head in a northerly direction to Grants Pass, Ore. It will be a scenic route."

Geo. Aiken went to Roseburg Tuesday evening to spend several days on business.