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SITUATION AT CONDON TOLD BY TELEGRAM MAN

ONCE PEACEFUL COMMUNITY NOW TORN BY DISCORD

Supposed Preacher Who Organized Klan Said to Lack Ordination Papers

Oregon newspaper readers do not need to follow the news stories from Oklahoma to get plenty of thrills regarding Ku Klux activities according to the following story written by a member of the Portland Telegram staff who was sent to Condon recently to get the facts about the reported trouble in that town. Oregon seems to have a few pretty good thrills of its own. The story is reproduced here because Heppner and Condon are next door neighbors and we are all more or less interested in each other's activities:

The simple cell of a yeast plant is about one three-thousandth of an inch in diameter, but in the form of a Ku Klux germ, given a little time to ferment, it is sufficient to make a peaceful community rise up and divide into armed camps. That is the situation here today, where I undertook to delve into motives underlying the so-called "shooting up of the Klan hall" and the abduction of Frank Smith by persons, some of whose identities are as yet a mystery.

The first and most interesting fact I panned was that the alleged Klan hall is not a Klan hall at all, but the Congregational church parsonage, a modest but comfortable dwelling owned by the church organization, for many years the home of peace loving and God fearing ministers, and now again about to be occupied by the church's newly appointed pastor, the Rev. James N. Pendleton, who comes from Idaho.

The former preacher, Chaney, has been discharged by a vote of the congregation. The trustees do not believe he was an ordained minister.

All Once Peaceful

It is a tortuous story and the church angle will be given in this installment. Prior to a year ago in Condon no ripple was seen on the surface of local religious harmony. The few Catholics in the town maintained a little hospital, the Protestants contributed to its support, as the Catholic citizens also contributed to Protestant and nonsectarian projects. Protestant business men contributed to purchase an operating chair for the little hospital and the American Legion took up a collection to buy an X-ray machine. It was the only hospital in town and was sufficient to the need.

There was no Catholic school in town, but the sisters at the hospital would, if applied to, give evening lessons in a few special courses. I found a leading business man who had learned bookkeeping in that way. Neither in politics nor religion was there any sign of ferment. There is harmony at the Court house. The offices have no Catholic incumbents.

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UNUSUAL STORM HITS COUNTY ON WEDNESDAY

APPROACHES CLOUDBURST IN SOME SECTIONS

Big Hail Fell North of Lexington; Damage Not Heavy in Any Section

An unusual storm visited Morrow county last Wednesday evening sweeping over many sections of the county in a terrific downpour of rain which did minor damage to roads and fences in a widespread area.

At the Carty ranch in Juniper canyon it is said that no such downpour of rain had been witnessed since that section was first settled more than 40 years ago. On the ridge west of Carty's a heavy hail storm accompanied the rain and W. B. Barratt, who spent the night at Carty's and was forced to leave the canyon road and take to the ridges to reach Lexington the next morning, says that hail was still piled against buildings and fences many inches deep as he drove through late in the forenoon Thursday.

At Lexington a flood from Blackhorse canyon swept through the town but aside from leaving mud and debris on the streets and partially flooding the Barnard filling station but little serious damage resulted.

Mrs. Harrison of Boardman, an agent for the New York Life Insurance Co., was spending the night at the Duran home in Lexington when a telephone call from the Duran ranch in Blackhorse warned them of the coming water and Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Duran hastily donned their clothes and gave the alarm to neighbors on the lower grounds. Mrs. Harrison says they waded water knee deep before they finished their mission.

Ranches along Willow creek between Lexington and Ione perhaps suffered most, some fields being flooded and hay damaged. Some damage was also done to the highway in a number of places where water from the gulches swept across the macadam leaving much mud and debris. The railroad track was also flooded in a few places.

Some damage was also done to roads and ranches on Rhea creek and heavy rains were reported from all sections of the county.

Heavy thunder and lightning accompanied the storm in Heppner, which is an unusual occurrence in this section for mid-October.

MRS. ELLA B. YOUNG ENDS HER LIFE BY OWN ACT

Mrs. Ella B. Young, 60 years old and a well known resident of Heppner for several years, ended her life last Tuesday afternoon while suffering from despondency by drowning in Willow creek near the Gale creek bridge.

Mrs. Young who was the mother

Planning to Get Out the Woman Vote



The women political leaders are coming to the fore and are canvassing the country from coast to coast to get a line on the political views of the women voters. Mrs. Elliot Cheatham of Atlanta, Ga., director of nine southern states and the District of Columbia, visited headquarters in Washington with the exhibit which she will use at county fairs in the various states this fall to interest women in voting.

GOT DEER ON LONG SHOT WHILE ON HUNT FOR GILLIAM

Orve Rasmuss, Lou Blisbee and Dr. Farrow made up one of the searching parties that went out last Monday morning to search for Len Gilliam, who was lost in a dense fog on Black mountain Sunday evening. As it turned out, Len didn't need anybody to find him, for as soon as daylight came he smelled coffee and bacon odors drifting through the fog and he made a bee line for the spot, which happened to be the Joe Hays ranch on Butter creek about 15 miles away. Orve and Lou and Doc therefore failed to find their man but they did find a fine big four-point buck, which they brought home with them after Lou's trusty rifle had laid his buckskin low. Orve says the buck was all of 1000 yards away when Lou sighted it and going like an army airplane, but all that was a mere bagatelle to Lou. Doc had remarked on the way up the creek that morning that he had heard many such stories from deer hunters but he'd be doggone if he believed them but after Lou's demonstration he was forced to revise his opinion. Any reader who doesn't believe this story can ask Orve.

Mrs. A. J. Westhoff, had been subject to spells of despondency for some time and about two weeks ago made an attempt on her life in her room in the Ayers apartments on Chase street by taking chloroform and a few days prior to that she had tried to buy a revolver at a local hardware store.

Tuesday morning Mr. Westhoff took her to the Westhoff home where she could be looked after. She left the house in the afternoon and was last seen at the postoffice, probably going from there direct to the creek where she threw herself into a shallow dam a short distance below the old foot bridge at the Harry Cummings property. As soon as she was missed from the house Mr. Westhoff started a search for her, and it was he that found the body. Coroner Case was at once notified and assisted in removing the body from the water.

Mrs. Young is survived by two children—a daughter, Mrs. A. J. Westhoff of Heppner, and a son who resides at Palm Beach, Florida.

The funeral was held Friday afternoon from the Methodist church, Rev. F. R. Spaulding conducting the services.

Thrown From Wagon by Team
Joe Hayes was thrown from a wagon last Wednesday when the Wightman farm team ran away and was somewhat bruised but not seriously injured. Teams are becoming so scarce on Heppner streets that the equines perhaps feel that they need to create some excitement occasionally just to let the buzz wagons know they are still on the job.

G.M. BLAKELY WILL RUN SHEEP ON ISLAND OF UNALASKA

G. M. (Mart) Blakely is one of the directors of a new Oregon corporation called the Western Pacific Livestock company, which has been organized for the purpose of stocking Unalaska, one of the Aleutian group, with breeding ewes. It made its first shipment of selected stock on the steamer Oduna, which sailed from Seattle the other day. The trip will take about eight days. The ewes, which were selected by Mr. Blakely, are halfbloods, Lincoln and Merino cross. The rams were selected by Peter L. Jensen, and are full blood Romneys.

The company expects to become one of the greatest producers of wool and mutton in the world. It holds a concession on the Island of Unalaska from United States government to exceed half a million acres of perpetually green grass, which is free from predatory animals and all other pests which are detrimental to the growth of sheep. This concession is free for three years, thereafter the fee is not to exceed that charged on the government reserve.

Peter L. Jensen, an experienced and successful sheep man of Toppenish, Wash., accompanied by Mrs. Jensen, will reside permanently on the island. Mr. and Mrs. Jensen are heavy investors in the company.

Mr. Blakely, who is a well known successful sheep man, is making the trip to render any assistance that may be necessary to get this project under way. Mr. Blakely will return in about 30 days.

Contrary to the general opinion, the climatic conditions are moderate. The island lies 1700 miles westerly from the mouth of the Columbia river, in the same latitude as Middle England, and is tempered by the Japan current.

The company will continue to ship as conditions permit, until its foundation flock of 10,000 ewes are placed.—Fossil Journal.

FORMER HEPPNER MAN KILLED IN GUN FIGHT

JAP GRIFFITH KILLS SHERIFF IS HIMSELF SLAIN

Baker Scene of Double Tragedy Last Thursday Morning; Moonshine Cause

A dispatch from Baker to the Oregonian under date of October 10th says:

J. E. (Dad) Griffith, 65, crazed with drink, swore he would "get the police force" for the arrest late yesterday of his son, E. M. Griffith and the latter's wife, on a liquor charge; and today Al Huggins, deputy sheriff of Baker county, 23, lies dead as a result of that threat. Griffith, shot twice by Waldo Vaughan, police chief, died at 4:55 A. M., three and one-half hours after Huggins.

Although the coroner's jury at noon today found that Huggins met his death at Griffith's hands and that Vaughan was justified in killing the latter, liquor was silently indicted as responsible for the flash of guns that took the life of Ex-Convict Griffith, and left a bride of little more than a year to mourn the loss of her husband, killed in the performance of his duty.

Whole District Terrorized

The affair occurred at 1:30 this morning, after officers, attracted by the noise of Griffith, believed drunk, who from the lobby of the Central hotel, which he operated, cursed, challenged and threatened to kill the entire police force, had terrorized the district. Griffith fired more than a score of shots from his position of vantage. At what they believed an opportune moment Huggins and Vaughan rushed the door of the hotel. Huggins dropped inside the door with a bullet through his heart, and an instant later bullets from Vaughan's gun bored Griffith's abdomen and forehead and all but finished him.

County authorities are holding Lang Carleton, who, drunk with Griffith during the night, it is claimed, had persistently urged and incited Griffith to kill. "Get good aim, Dad. Don't let them put anything over on you," are statements credited to him by officers.

Mining Days Recalled

Not since the day's of the old mining camp has Baker witnessed such a clash between officers and their citizens.

It is generally believed here that

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVORS HOLD ANNUAL BANQUET

Members of the Christian endeavor society of the Methodist church held their annual banquet in the church parlors last Friday evening when about 30 covers were laid and a most tempting dinner was served. Preceding the dinner a short program was given, which consisted of a vocal solo by Dorothy Pattison, violin solo by Stanley Peterson, musical reading by Bernice Woodson and a musical stunt by Stanley Peterson and Charles Notson. Games followed dinner and the young people present all report having had a fine time.

BIG WHEELER CO. RANCH SOLD TO PORTLAND MAN

GILMAN-FRENCH PROPERTY CHANGES HANDS

One of Finest Stock Plants in This Section and Contains 34,500 Acres

The Gilman-French company's ranches have been sold at last. These 34,500 acres—the cream of all Wheeler county's magnificent stock-raising land—changed hands October 1st for a consideration of about a half million dollars.

By the terms of the transfer S. F. Wilson, Portland capitalist, becomes owner of the land. At the same time the land was leased by the Oregon-California Livestock company whose headquarters are at Klamath Falls. C. L. Jamison, livestock superintendent of the company, is now superintendent of the Gilman-French ranches. J. B. Younce is to remain with the new company as general ranch manager. All ranch foremen and employes have been asked to remain with the new company and no change is expected. The new company assumed control October 1.

The Oregon-California Livestock company will commence shipping stock to their new leasing immediately and the ranch will be stocked to its utmost capacity this fall.

It is understood that the sale of the Gilman-French company's ranches will greatly assist the liquidation of that company's bank assets at The Dalles. Rumor states that the bank, which is in the hands of a receiver, will now be able to pay all depositors in full and about three-fourths to stockholders.

Something like \$25,000 delinquent taxes on the Gilman-French land will likely be paid at once. Another deal for the Gilman-French timber that was reported pending was thus interrupted by the sale of the complete holdings to Mr. Wilson.—Fossil Journal.

Huggins' fearlessness was responsible for the ill-timed rush.

Griffith is believed by local officers to have killed three other men, and it is said he served 14 years at Salem for murder in Morrow county.

Griffiths was raised on what is now known as the Guy Boyer ranch on Hinton creek a few miles east from Heppner on the highway and spent his early life here. He married a Heppner girl of good family but because of dissolute ways she divorced him after a few years and he went to Malheur county, where he got into trouble and was sent to the penitentiary at Salem for one year on an assault and robbery charge. After serving 11 months he was released and went to Idaho where he engaged in the sheep business and for a few years made good but again got into trouble and shot a man for which he is said to have served a long term.

Reports reaching here several years ago were that he was also once charged with murdering a sheep herder who had worked for him but that was never proven. Old timers who knew him well say that the report that he served time for killing a man in this county is not true.

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