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ED DAVIDSON, LUMBERJACK, HELD ON SUSPICION IN THRASHER CASE EVIDENCE IS SLIGHT AGAINST FIVE SUSPECTS

By HIX.

Edward Davidson, lumber jack, boozier, and, if reports be true, wife beater, was arrested Saturday afternoon upon a complaint sworn to by Coroner A. E. Kellogg, and is lodged in the city jail in Ashland, until such time as the coroner's jury now investigating the murder of Jesse F. Thrasher at Ayers' Spur last Monday evening, reaches a verdict. The step was advised by the jury who believe they are justified in holding the man upon the evidence they have collected, but which is not strong enough to justify the return of a verdict charging Davidson with the crime. The jury has adjourned until Monday, when it will continue its investigation. The jury has been in continued session since Wednesday, while District Attorney Mulkey and Coroner Kellogg have given their best efforts to the solving of the mystery.

Wanted—A Motive.

The only baffling feature of the case, and the one which shrouds the whole affair in mystery, is the absence of a motive. In an endeavor to determine why any one should wish to murder Thrasher, who, from the testimony of a score of witnesses, was the "outup" of the camp, and who was not known to have a single enemy, the jury has devoted much of its time and has again and again been forced to abandon its premises. Five different men—to class the Greeks as one man—are suspects, but after spending some twenty-four hours on the scene, I believe all but the first two of the following list may be discarded.

The suspects are:
Ed Davidson, lumber jack.
Nickelsen Joy, the Italian helper in the kitchen.
Fred L. Putnam, the father of the girl who figures in the case.
The five Greeks, who were first arrested, but released.

A. L. Burnett, an employe at Ayers' Spur.

Davidson's Case.

A pair of shoes in which the soles are filled with heavy tacks, coupled with a general worthlessness of character, is responsible for the holding of Ed Davidson in the city jail in Ashland until the coroner's jury has more time to investigate the crime. In all probability the man will be charged by the jury with the crime at the first of the week, but unless further evidence is forthcoming it is improbable that the man will be convicted in the circuit court, for a coroner's jury is allowed to take a far greater range than one in a trial court.

Davidson is an habitual drunkard and it is this way came in contact with Thrasher, for on several occasions Thrasher had taken him from Ayers' Spur up to the mill some three miles up in the woods, while he was drunk. They were evidently friends and all attempts to show that they had quarreled has come to naught.

At Spur Monday.

Davidson was at Ayers' Spur on Monday afternoon on his way back to the mill from the valley but testifies that he did not see Thrasher. The men at the mill testify that he was in camp where he worked at 9 o'clock in the evening and that he was so drunk that one man threw him out of his cabin. To have committed the murder he would have had to walk three miles to the Spur and back again for he was in camp at breakfast time.

The man was held upon the fact that on the floor at the head of the bed, was the bunk in which the murdered man employed to help her in the kitchen, was found, is a number of deep indentations made by corks such as there the men began to talk of her those in the shoes which Davidson relations with him. Later the fore-wearers. The jury took the shoes outman discharged her as cook and sent and they fitted the indentations in her out, the Italian going with her, the floor perfectly. The feet were they went to the Spur. Thrasher in a position such as the murderer at this time was employed at the would naturally assume in striking mill. Later he was sent down to the the sleeping man. This is the one Spur, where the box factory was lo-

HALLEY'S COMET IS VIEWED BY LOCAL PEOPLE

Halley's comet has finally been sighted in Medford. For several weeks enthusiasts have been proclaiming the planet Venus the bright and shining star of the morning the comet, but it remained until R. H. Halley really got out of town before anyone got a glimpse of his planet and its fifteen million mile tail.

Dr. E. B. Pichel is the discoverer of the planet. He saw it at 3 o'clock Friday morning. It was very dim on the horizon, but the doctor's eyes were sharp, and by the aid of a pair of field glasses he located it half way between Venus and the place where the sun rises. What the doctor was doing star-gazing at 3 o'clock in the morning is subject for speculation. Whatever it was, he saw the comet.

Another discoverer of the comet at about the same hour was W. T. Beveridge, an engineer of the Pacific & Eastern, who turned his surveying instrument upon it and got a very good view. Why Mr. Beveridge was surveying at 3 o'clock in the morning is a problem. Perhaps the P. & E. is being rushed to completion so fast that it is necessary to keep engineers in the field at night as well as day.

great fact the jury has against Davidson.

Testimony shows that Davidson wore upon the night of the crime, a rain coat commonly known as a "slicker." This coat has no marks of blood upon it but it is pointed out that blood would easily wash from such a garment.

Davidson's actions after the body had been found were suspicious in the extreme. He told several people that his wife was dying and that he must leave at once. He also refused to view the remains. Thereupon he left for Medford, purchased a revolver and a jug of whiskey and returned to the spur. He since says that he received no wire from his wife and fails to explain why he told the story. Further than that, it is shown that he left his wife, after hearing her, and has had nothing to do with her since last November.

Davidson has repeatedly contradicted himself upon the stand and has been trapped in several lies. His reputation is against him, but it is still to be proven that he left the mill and came to the Spur, three miles distant, and killed a man with whom he is not known to have even quarreled and returned to his camp. The big flaw is a lack of motive but this may develop.

Joy, the Italian.

A stronger motive is found when the case of Nickolas Joy, the Italian, helper in the kitchen, is considered. The sentiment at the Spur and at the mills is against him, as well as in Ashland, where the hearing is under way, although the sentiment in the latter place may be discarded as it is based upon hearsay and rumors, which are wild in the extreme.

The connection of Joy with life in the neighborhood of the crime began early in April when Mabel Putnam, the young woman who figures in the case, went up to the mill on Neil Creek three miles above the Spur, to cook for the men. She had only a Frenchman at first to help her as her sisters were either attending school near the Spur or the boarding house there. The Frenchman she discharged, she testified, because of an indecent proposal on the floor at the head of the bed. Then the Italian, Joy, was the bunk in which the murdered man employed to help her in the kitchen, was found, is a number of deep indentations made by corks such as there the men began to talk of her those in the shoes which Davidson relations with him. Later the fore-wearers. The jury took the shoes outman discharged her as cook and sent and they fitted the indentations in her out, the Italian going with her, the floor perfectly. The feet were they went to the Spur. Thrasher in a position such as the murderer at this time was employed at the would naturally assume in striking mill. Later he was sent down to the the sleeping man. This is the one Spur, where the box factory was lo-

HANLEY WILL MAKE OFFER MONDAY

After a week's negotiations the Fish Lake company and M. F. Hanley have reached an agreement satisfactory to both parties, and Mr. Hanley will submit on Monday two propositions to the city council for a speedy settlement of the water controversy.

The nature of the proposition to be submitted is not made public, but it is understood that one of them provides for an exchange by the city of the water contracted for from the Fish Lake company for the water previously contracted for from Mr. Hanley, the flow of Wasson canyon supplemented with enough water from Little Butte to make the 300 inches.

The settlement of the city's litigation will follow a compromise between Hanley and the Fish Lake company settling their contending claims for Little Butte water.

The city's case comes up in Jacksonville next Monday morning, when Judge F. M. Calkins will convene the special term asked by the city to hear the condemnation suit. A special venire has been called.

CLERK ISSUES MANY FISHING PERMITS

County Clerk Coleman was doing his usual Saturday stunt yesterday morning—issuing permits to try and catch the elusive trout and, when the reason opens, to shoot at the doubling quail or bounding deer.

Eight hundred straight anglers' licenses have been issued, 127 combination fishing and hunting licenses and 121 straight hunters' licenses.

The hunting season has not commenced, nor will it commence for several weeks and the fishing season has barely started. The big rush will come during the present month.

YOUNG WOMAN TO DRIVE CAR ACROSS CONTINENT

NEW YORK, May 7.—Miss Blanche Scott of Rochester, will leave New York next Monday at the wheel of a fast automobile that she says she will drive across the continent to San Francisco unaided and alone. She expects to do her own repairing.

ated, to work. Thrasher told several of the boys of the stories current at the mill regarding the two. This tale-bearing is pointed out as one reason for Joy to become incensed.

Another, and a stronger reason, was the abuse Thrasher was constantly heaping upon the foreigners, and the many remarks he made about "that d—d dago, in the kitchen," which Joy evidently overlooked.

On the afternoon before the murder was committed the two girls, with Thrasher and Burnett went walking, leaving Joy at home. This again occurred Monday evening. But if Joy was jealous he had but little to say, although he did not appear at the table Monday evening.

A Mrs. Houdricks, who was acquainted with affairs at the mill, says that Joy was very jealous of Mabel, and on one occasion when she had a caller from the valley, refused to speak to any one for two days. It may be that Joy, crazed with jealousy, a trait common with his race, committed the crime, but he has so far told a straight story and all efforts to connect him with the perpetration of the murder has failed.

Joy is of powerful build, having shoulders and arms like an ox. He is very fair for an Italian, and is "dudish" in his personal appearance, his tastes running to lavender shoes, perfume, curly hair and the like. He talks a very broken English. While no evidence is forthcoming the motive in his case is by far the strongest of any advanced.

The Father of the Girl.

Some suspicion rested at first upon the father of the girl—Fred L. Putnam. However, it is not considered seriously as his personality is foreign to such a crime, as he is

(Continued on Page 4.)

1000 SLAIN IN HOLY WAR THIBET

LONDON, May 7.—A dispatch from Peking saying that the people of Thibet have risen in a holy war against the Chinese garrison in L'Hassa and slaughtered a thousand soldiers, is published today by Reuter's news agency. The news has not yet been confirmed by the foreign office.

Two thousand Chinese troops entered L'Hassa on February 23, forcing the Dalai Lama, arch priest of the Lama branch of Buddhists, to flee.

The Chinese pillaged sacred buildings and monasteries, killing many priests.

The Thibetans appealed to the Chinese emperor, who disregarded their pleas. This was taken to mean that the Chinese intend to seize Thibet.

The Thibetans thereupon appealed to Lord Minto, viceroy of India, to interfere. The British governor refused to take action.

LOUIS R. HILL AND PARTY CAPITALISTS WILL VISIT MEDFORD

John R. Allen has received word that Louis R. Hill, president of the Great Northern railway, accompanied by a party of eastern capitalists, will arrive in Medford about a week from Tuesday, or May 17. The schedule may be varied a day or two, according to the program made in the tour of eastern Oregon.

Ed Hanley has received word from his brother, Will Hanley, stating that he would see to it that Mr. Hill visited Medford, and as he is escorting the party, Medford can prepare to entertain the Great Northern magnate.

The trip from Klamath Falls will be made over the old Ashland road, and after a stop at that city, the party will proceed to Medford.

HOOD RIVER MAN BUYS ROGUE ORCHARD

The 20-acre orchard tract owned by E. H. Maddux, just west of Central Point, has been sold for \$15,000. The buyer was L. H. Smith of Hood River, who will at once proceed to improve the property by tearing down the old buildings and replacing them with modern ones, which will include barns, poultry houses and a handsome commodious house after the bungalow style.

This orchard is considered one of the most promising in this locality, 16 acres of it being in pear trees that are just now coming into bearing. After disposing of his orchard interests in Hood River, Mr. Smith went down into California with the intention of investing in orange bearing land, but after looking over the ground around Santa Ana he was not sanguine of success, and following the advice of a friend, he came back to the Rogue River valley and decided to look no further. Mr. Smith makes one of quite a number of Hood River orchardists who have disposed of their holdings in that part of the state in order to reinvest where fruit raising conditions are superior.

TOM JOHNSON SAYS HE IS NOT OUT OF POLITICS

NEW YORK, May 7.—Former Mayor of Cleveland is in New York today on his way home after a month in England. Johnson went abroad for his health, which he declared was benefited.

Johnson was questioned concerning a report that he had given up politics. "I am in politics until I die," he shot back.

ALL DANGER FROST IS PAST

Danger from frost to the fruit crop in the Rogue River valley is practically a thing of the past for the year 1910. A year ago the last frost of the season occurred on May 5. It is very rare that a frost occurs after that date, and orchardists pronounce the crop now out of danger.

According to Professor O'Gara, there will be a record yield of apples and probably also of pears. Never have the apple trees been so loaded, while the pear trees have more than the average crop. All records for the valley will probably be passed, not only by the old orchards, but by the young ones yielding their first crop.

Six and seven-year-old apples and four and five-year-old pear orchards have a remarkable yield for trees of their age. Just what the estimated total for the valley will be has not yet been computed, but it promises to be better than last year and to approximate a thousand cars.

The only frost of the year which brought any damage was that of April 13, but as orchardists had ample warning, only a few, who stubbornly refused to heat their orchards, suffered. As the cost of orchard heating runs only about \$3 per acre per night, few growers took the chances of frost, and in many of the groves the temperature was raised ten degrees by the use of smudge pots.

AUTOMOBILE OWNERS ARE ANNOYED BY SMALL BOYS

Complaints are made by automobilists concerning the practice of boys jumping upon the machines while they are in motion. Sometimes they "hitch on behind" and at other times they ride on the running board. The owner of a good machine has three horns on his dilemma—if the kid is killed by missing the sidewalk, it's the owner to the police court; if he grabs the top of the tonneau and sticks his hands against the back of the car there is a bill for damage, and if the owner stops suddenly and thrashes one of the interlopers there is doubtless a large and angry father to contend with and the stern countenance of Mayor Canon afterward.

A few arrests by the police for the violation of the law by the small boys might have a good effect.

LATE LOCAL NEWS.

Mrs. Lula Shepherd will speak to the men of Medford at the Methodist church at 4 o'clock today. All are invited.

Frank Brown of Eagle Point attended the vaudeville show at the Medford opera house Friday evening. William von der Hellen and a party of automobilists came over from Eagle Point on Friday evening to attend the show.

Mrs. Lear of South C street left Thursday for Seattle, where she will spend a month visiting with relatives and friends. She is accompanied by her two little sons.

W. G. Bell of San Francisco is in the city for a few days.

B. L. Johnson of Philadelphia, Pa., is here looking over the valley with a view of investing.

C. E. Christenson of Chicago is visiting in the city.

S. B. Jacoby of Deadwood, is a recent arrival in Medford.

Judge Pentz of Butte Falls is again in the city for a few days' stay.

Leo J. Mischke of Kenley, Cal., is sojourning in Medford at present.

B. L. Johnson of Philadelphia, Pa., is a prospective investor in the valley, being much impressed with the outlook here.

C. A. Eastwood of Rochester, N. Y., arrived in Medford a few days since and is inspecting the valley.

C. A. Cole of Seattle is a new locator in Medford, having become connected with the Mail Tribune in the capacity of linotype operator.

James S. Craig and wife of Eagle Point came over recently for a few days' stay.

GEORGE V TAKES OATH AS KING; TROUBLESOME TIMES AHEAD 1800 DEAD IN RUIN OF CITY QUAKE WRECKED

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, May 7.—Couriers' reports today indicate that the number of dead in the Cartago earthquake will reach 1800. The couriers say that several small communities were swallowed up in great crevices opened in the earth's surface by the tremor.

It is not known how many of these smaller towns were annihilated. The dead at Cartago are being buried today in the new public cemetery.

The property damage through the quake is estimated at \$25,000,000.

Martial law is still in force, but the efforts of the authorities to relieve the suffering are woefully inefficient.

Thousands of refugees from Cartago are starving and suffering from exposure to the cold night air. It is feared that many will die before effective relief measures are put in execution.

A shortage of every kind of available supplies has handicapped the authorities. Food is scarce, clothing is needed and medical supplies for hundreds of injured are lacking.

Homes have been thrown open here to the injured and hungry, but the great mass of refugees are shelterless and suffering.

BIG TIME PLANNED BY COMMISSION AT LOCAL AVIATION MEET

The Crater Lake highway commission has signed a contract for a flying machine exhibit at Medford May 27, 28 and 29. Ascensions will be made on the old Cox ranch just south of the city and an admission of 50 cents charged, half price for children.

This is the first airship exhibition ever given in southern Oregon and special rates will be given on railroads for excursions. It is the first flight ever made at a less charge than \$1 and \$1.50 for admittance, but the low price is calculated to draw an immense crowd. The proceeds are for the benefit of the Crater Lake highway.

The type of airship used will be the Curtiss biplane, the same machine that holds seven world's records, and the same aviator that made those flights will guide the ship this trip. Possibly a second airship, a monoplane, will also be used for flights.

These airships will be the main attraction at the Portland rose carnival, and southern Oregon will thus have a chance to see the airships without a trip to the metropolis.

NEW ABSTRACT COMPANY ORGANIZED INVALLEY

The Rogue River Valley is to have a new Abstract Company, articles of incorporation having been filed for the Rogue River Abstract Title Company, with a capital of \$10,000. Medford will be the main office, with branches at Ashland and Jacksonville. E. C. Hogsett is president and manager and L. C. Whittington secretary and treasurer. Both are recently from Seattle.

Mr. Hogsett said: "There is a field here for a second abstract company, the present one having more than it can do. There is plenty of work for both of us." "We will begin indexing at once, but it will be ninety days before we are ready for clients, but when we are we will give first-class service."

May Close Trial Monday.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 7.—Attorneys for the defense expect to complete the introduction Monday in the trial of Dr. B. C. Hyde charged with the murder of Col. Swope.

ENGLAND'S NEW RULER FACES GREAT CRISIS

The late King Edward's funeral probably will be held Tuesday, May 17, but it is impossible at this time because of the distraction in the palace to make definite arrangements.

The funeral probably will be held at Windsor and the body will be laid in a special mausoleum at Westminster separate from the sepulchre chamber containing his parents' remains.

LONDON, May 7.—King George V, Rex Imperator by grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British dominions beyond the seas; king, defender of the faith, emperor of India, formally took oath as king of England and Scotland this afternoon at the palace of St. James. While the oath was being administered a national salute was fired from one of the terraces of the palace of St. James.

The formal proclamation announcing King George V as king will be read from the quadrangle of the palace next Monday. The ceremonies attending the administration of the oath occupied so much time that it was too late for the reading of the proclamation.

Prior to the administration of the oath the privy council met at the palace and formally declared King Edward dead.

Then the leaders of the government at once visited King George in the adjoining room.

The lord chancellor administered the dual oath of England and Scotland. Impressive silence on the part of his hearers marked the responses of the new king.

The ruler then announced himself as George V and stepped forward and received the oath of succession.

Choked With Emotion.
King George's voice was choked with emotion as he responded to the solemn words pledging support to the English realm and church. His cheeks were wet with tears.

In his speech of acceptance he made many touching allusions to his father. His nervousness was betrayed by the frequent falterings of his voice which failed several times. With great difficulty the king avoided a complete breakdown.

"Under the guidance of God, I will endeavor to maintain the high traditions of the English court and fulfill to the best of my ability the great trust imposed upon me."

With these words King George made a wonderful impression on his hearers as he spoke with evident earnestness.

The Commercial club soliciting committee is meeting with excellent success. The extent of the booster spirit permeating Medford is shown by the fact that Ed Root, J. V. Howard, the colored bootblack, and Sam Lock, the Chinese restaurant man, all signed pledges, putting to shame the few wealthy property owners who refused.

So far only those business houses east of the track have been solicited, and not all of them. Next week the West Side will be visited.

The committee is composed of Blaine Klum, S. A. Nye, F. E. Medynski, T. E. Daniels and W. M. Colvig.

CLUB COMMITTEE IS GETTING MANY PLEDGES OF MONEY