

NOTED BANDIT GIVEN FREEDOM

Chris. Evans, Bandit and Train Robber is Free Man—Wager for Years an Unequal Battle Against "The Octopus" in California.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., April 15.—Chris Evans, the noted bandit and train robber, is a free man today. His order for parole from Folsom penitentiary, where he has been serving about 12 years of a life sentence, was made last night by the state board of prison directors.

Evans' falling health prompted the parole. How Chris Evans, John Sontag and their band first took up outlawry which ended in Sontag's death and landed Evans in a prison cell is well known to the old settlers of Tulare and Kings counties, California. War with the Southern Pacific, on which is based Frank Norris' story of "The Octopus," was the occasion of their first conflict with the law.

Were Settlers. On lands granted to the Southern Pacific, Chris Evans, John Sontag and their friends were settlers near Maudslough. They had with their hands reclaimed the lands, drained it, cropped it. Fields of alfalfa and wheat waved under the sun, their homes were there, but the Southern Pacific wanted the lands, so the big railroad served notice on the little band of settlers that they must leave. But the settlers were staunch and served notice on their part that they would defend their homes with their lives. The railroad took up the challenge, and a posse of 15 men was sent from Fresno to clear the valley. When they tried it, the rifles of the settlers spoke and not a man of the railroad posse ever went back to Fresno.

Head Too Strong. But the railroad, backed by its millions and the lawyers it could hire, was too strong. Some of the settlers were tried for murder, many were evicted and others forced to pay the company for their lands. Evans and John and George Sontag were in the latter class.

"Stealing from the Southern Pacific is not stealing." That was the feeling then in Tulare and the neighboring counties. So then Chris Evans and the Sontags started heading up Southern Pacific trains. George Sontag usually rode on the trains, while Chris Evans and John Sontag boarded the engine and dynamited the express car. They stole only from the express company and the railroad. They never molested the passengers.

Finally after years of effort and the expenditure of many thousands by the railroad, George Sontag's boldness led to the bandits' downfall. After a hold-up near Visalia George Sontag remained with the train and rode into town, where somebody tipped the sheriff and the arrest was made.

Bandit Opens Fire. When a deputy sheriff went to arrest Evans at the bandits' home both opened fire. The deputy was severely wounded and Evans took to the mountains, where he was joined by John Sontag. For nine months the posse pursued them through the Sierras and thence again the bandits fought their way through to freedom. Finally they were located in a cabin near Dunlap, and when the posse arrived Evans and Sontag threw open the door and opened fire. Two noted Arizona trappers were killed at the first volley and a deputy sheriff was wounded and a fourth man was pinned under his dead horse.

Caught in Haystack. Then, still under fire, the outlaws started up the mountain and escaped. They camped that night in a cabin three miles away. Foreseeing that the outlaws would eventually have to pass a place known as the "stone corral" in the Tulare foothills, a strong ambush was placed there. When the battle came Evans and Sontag took refuge in a haystack. All night long their rifles backed defiance to the trappers. In the morning the posse drew off and went for reinforcements, but Sontag was dying and Evans had one eye shot out and one arm and a leg broken. Then Evans crawled to a neighboring house and told the occupant to give him up and get the reward.

Evans Sentenced to Life. Evans was sentenced to life, but after a few years he and a prisoner named Morrell obtained weapons and made a break for liberty. One shot was killed and another wounded and the two convicts escaped the mountains. For several months they defied all pursuit. Finally Evans was captured after being led into a trap by a report that his daughter was dying and that his presence was imperative if he wished to see her alive.

From the day of his final capture, the daughter has never ceased to ask for her father's pardon; governor after governor was asked, and each refused to free the outlaw.

Health Failed. Of late years Evans' health has failed rapidly. Only the granting by Governor Johnson of the daughter's plea has it is believed, saved him from death before the bars. But the old bandit's health is shattered, his partners in the war against the railroad might as well be dead or scattered, and all he asks is a chance to admit final defeat in the unequal struggle and to end his days in peace somewhere near the land his rifle once spoke to keep from the grip of "The Octopus."

COLD WEATHER SLAUGHTERS KLAMATH MARSH CATTLE

KLAMATH FALLS, April 15.—Alex Davis, the cattle man from the Klamath marsh, is in town looking after business interests. Davis says that for nearly three months straight on the marsh zero weather prevailed, and this was the main reason that stock suffered so much in that region, and so many of those who were not amply supplied with food lost portions of their bands. Because of the continued extreme cold, he says it required much more feed to keep stock up and animals would have had the weather not been so severe. He says the winter was the worst he has seen since he has been in the country. While he had ample hay to carry him through in pretty good shape, he says many of his neighbors ran short.

MINE INSTALLS NEW MACHINERY

Operations on Property of Sterling Gold Quartz Mining and Milling Company Have Been Greatly Facilitated—Many Improvements.

Mining operations on the property of the Sterling Gold Quartz Mining and Milling company have been greatly facilitated by the addition of new mining machinery of the latest type. An engine of the most powerful kind has been set up as well as a new boiler of great capacity. An air compressor fitted with all the latest devices known to the mining world has been set in place and the work will hereafter be done by pneumatic drills instead of by hand, as has been the case up to the present time.

The new outfit underwent a thorough test Friday under the supervision of R. L. Ray, general manager of the company. In addition to the new mining machinery, a gasoline pump has been set up and will be used to pump water from Sallor creek to the mouth of the mine, which lies 750 feet above the water at that point.

In an interview R. L. Ray, manager of the company, said that operations on an extensive scale would begin as soon as the plant could be gotten into shape. The mine is situated nine miles southwest of Medford on Sallor creek, from which over a million and a half dollars have already been taken. The ledge has never been mined thoroughly, however, and after careful investigation the owners have concluded that they possess the mother lode to which the placer gold originally belonged.

A tunnel 30 feet wide had already been driven before the present syndicate took possession and another tunnel is being driven at right angles to connect with it. A wall of rock nearly 50 feet thick still remains to be drilled through before the connection can be made.

Previous to the installing of the new drills four inches a day was the progress made in breaking down this wall, but at the test Friday six and one-half were drilled through in one and three-quarters minutes.

The drilling is being done through a form known as dyorite, the same as is found in the rich mines of Nevada. Gold in paying quantities is being taken out, as is some silver, nickel and copper. The two veins now being worked contain rich ore, and when the tunnels are completed a veritable bonanza is expected to be uncovered.

Ore to the value of \$100,000 is said to be lying on the dumps ready to be milled, and tests show it to run from \$5 to \$15.00 per ton. "In my estimation," said Mr. Ray, "the mining in this region has been child's play in comparison to the modern method of mining. Panning and placer mining have been used and only the surface gold taken out."

Medford is the center of the richest mining district left untouched, and I believe that in a few years we will be living in the midst of one of the greatest gold mining rushes of history."

Nurse Killed. LOS ANGELES, April 15.—Miss Grace Nealey, nurse, was almost instantly killed when she lost her balance and was hurled from a rapidly moving automobile early today as it skidded in rounding a corner on a wet pavement. She struck on her head. Three other occupants of the machine kept their seats.

TRUTH CENTER. 132 North Ivy street, Medford, Or. A primary course of twelve lessons in Truth will be given by Annie Sprague Smith every Thursday afternoon at 3 p. m. Teaching and divine healing by appointment. Metaphysical library, literature for sale. Subscriptions taken for Unity Power, Nautilus and other publications. Enquiries received by mail will receive prompt attention. All are welcome. Love offerings.

TALENT Real Estate FOR SALE

Good business opportunities and locations, all paying. TEDDY'S DAMSITE isn't in it with our LANDSITE. For instance, a 1000-acre tract containing over 200 acres of the famous Bear creek bottom land, in alfalfa, and extending to the higher land, which is set to orchards in part, all the land being good fruit land. Some of the land is now in bearing trees and may be purchased at reasonable figures, the alfalfa land with a good stand of alfalfa for \$270 to \$350 per acre; young orchards, good stand, \$250 per acre, and grain land at \$175 per acre. This is an "ideal" tract for a colony, as it would cut up into small or large places to an advantage, or may be purchased in 10, 12, 20, 40, 50 and 60-acre or any size tracts. Easy terms given at low interest. Located three miles from Ashland and one mile from Talent, Or. A 74-acre tract 2 1/2 miles West Talent, good 8-room house and large barn; 8 acres under ditch and in alfalfa and garden land; 34 acres under plow, and trees; 20 acres of orchard, of which 5 acres are in bearing; telephone and R. F. D.; half cash, balance good terms and easy payments. For plenty of other bargains call or address

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This place has probably the most beautiful building site, from a scenic standpoint, in the Rogue River Valley. A splendid view of the Rogue river, Mount Pitt and the surrounding valley can be obtained from it. There are two houses in good condition, a large barn and several other outbuildings on the place.

A county road has been petitioned for, viewed and will be opened this summer running within 100 yards of building site, to connect with steel bridge across river, for which bids have been advertised by county court. This when completed will be one of the most extensive travel roads in the county.

Its proximity to the river, where the best fishing in the world is to be had, and also its nearness to the best hunting grounds in this state, make this place a very desirable one for a splendid orchard home.

This property is probably the best investment in the valley today. Lands adjacent and abutting are not to be had for twice the money. There are less than 30 acres of waste land on the whole tract, and 40 acres of it are worth price asked. The owner is in poor health and in order to make a quick sale is willing to sacrifice it for \$16,000. The terms are: Half cash, balance in one and two years at 6 per cent.

Now, Mr. Homeseeker, if you are interested in this proposition, I will be pleased to put you in touch with the OWNER, with whom you may deal direct. For any further information, write

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Removal Notice

L. N. JUDD has removed to Main street, opposite Talent Hotel. Now is your time to come and purchase a good alfalfa or fruit farm or a commercial orchard and secure a fine home. He has tracts of 4, 10, 15, 20, 40, 80, 160 and 280 acres of land for sale. Improved and some unimproved, besides city residences. April 11, 1911.



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