

SPANOS GUILTY IN FIRST DEGREE; JURY OUT LESS THAN ONE HOUR

Game Fight by Attorneys for the Defense Made in Vain Owing to Overwhelming Evidence Presented by State Which Included Confession of Accused Man.

There was a thumping of impatient knuckles upon a panel of the door opening into the jury room, where forty-five minutes before twelve solemn-faced, "good men and true" had retired to consider the fate of Mike Christo Spanos, charged by the great commonwealth of Oregon with the gravest of offenses—the murder, with deliberate malice and forethought, of George Dedaskalous in the city of Medford near the hour of midnight, September 22. For three days these jurymen had hung upon every word uttered in the courtroom at the county seat, painfully aware of the great duty and responsibility laid upon them. They had witnessed the state bringing in exhibit after exhibit tending to show the guilt of the defendant. They had listened to wrangles between the attorneys. They had heard witnesses who faltered and they had heard witnesses voice crisp short answers. They had listened to the pleas of the attorneys for the defense and the demands of the prosecutor. They had received their instructions from the judge, and were told that they were the sole judges of the facts. And slowly and solemnly they had retired from the courtroom. Then, forty-five minutes later, came the impatient rapping upon the door.

Few heard the alarm. The courtroom which had been jammed with interested spectators, anxious to witness a trial where a man's life was at stake, was empty save for a few. The wife of the defendant, the judge, attorneys for the defense and a couple of newspaper men only were waiting. A jury may be out five minutes or five days.

Following the alarm a bailiff came into the courtroom. Addressing the court he stated briefly:

"The jury has reached a verdict, your honor."

"You will notify the sheriff to bring the defendant into court."

Then came a short wait. The news that a verdict had been reached spread through the court house almost instantly and officials, clerks, deputies, appeared almost as if by magic.

Then came the defendant. Not sprightly as his age would naturally assure, but slowly as if fearful of what he had to learn. First degree? Second degree? Manslaughter? Acquittal? Slowly he took his place where he had sat unsmilingly through five weary days, hearing words which would save and words which would condemn.

A gavel fell.

"You may bring the jury in, Mr. Bailiff."

A door opened. Slowly down the aisle filed the twelve men. The defendant glanced but an instant at their faces as if he would read them. Then his eyes fell to the table before him.

The electric lights were without power. Dusk was rapidly approaching. The courtroom was darkened, gloomy. The jury took their places in the box.

"Have you reached a verdict, gentlemen," queried the court.

"We have," responded their foreman.

"You may pass it up by the bailiff."

A sheet of paper was handed the bailiff and he in turn handed it to the judge. He opened it—scanned it. Then he began to read.

At the first word the defendant leaned forward, his eyes intent upon the face of the judge.

"Gentlemen hear your verdict," came the words. Then slowly and solemnly, reading from the paper, he continued, "In the circuit court of the state of Oregon, in and for Jackson county. The state of Oregon vs. Mike Spanos and Frank Seymour. Separate trial of Mike Spanos. Verdict. We, your jury, find the defendant, Mike Spanos, guilty of murder in the first degree."

As the words ceased the defendant, only a boy in years, sank a little forward in his chair, his face a little whiter. No change of expression, no hysterics, no breakdown. The polling of the jury followed. Then they were discharged.

Again the judge spoke. This time more rapidly.

"The customary two days in which to enter motions on the part of the defense are granted. I will pass sentence next Saturday morning. The defendant is remanded to the custody of the sheriff."

The gavel dropped again.

When the tap came the wife of the defendant, more than twice his age, rushed to the side of her mate and threw herself in his arms. Then he freed himself and shook each of his attorneys by the hand, thanking them

for their efforts. Then he turned to the sheriff and was led away.

Mike Christo Spanos had been found guilty of one of the coldest-blooded murders in the criminal annals of southern Oregon. He had lured a friend about the city in search of mysterious "girls" until he got him into a secluded spot where he and his partner in crime, Frank Seymour, beat him to death with iron clubs, cut his throat and robbed him.

The law fixes the penalty. He must be "hanged by the neck until dead." Only one man has the power to save his life now—the governor of the state.

The attorneys for the defense, Hugh and Harvey DeArmond, made a game fight for their client. In the face of insurmountable odds they strove to save his life. He had confessed that he was guilty and that confession was admitted as evidence for it was shown that it had not been obtained in an improper manner as they tried to prove. Harvey DeArmond's plea before the jury was a masterly effort, but he had no facts upon which to hang his plea.

District Attorney Mulkey's plea before the jury, is said by court attendants to have been one of the best ever delivered in the courtroom at Jacksonville. He had the facts and the ability to plead his case and the verdict was the result.

Spanos is calm in the county jail—it is over, and his mind is at rest. His keepers say he seems in better spirits and eats heartier than at any time during his confinement, awaiting trial.

SCHOOL TAX AT ASHLAND LOW

ASHLAND, Ore., Dec. 16.—A levy of eight mills upon assessed valuation of School District Number Five was authorized at the meeting of the voters of the district held on Monday afternoon in the city hall. The estimated resources and expense of the district for the year are as follows:

Expenses	
Sinking fund	\$5,000
Interest	5,000
Lights, telephone, repairs, sidewalks, insurance	4,500
Teachers' Salaries	24,900
Janitors	2,200
Office supplies	200
Supplies for departments	2,250
Apparatus	1,000
	\$45,050
Resources	
County	\$10,400
State	1,950
High School	3,000
Eight mill tax	20,000
	\$45,350

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OUR DRAIN TILE STANDS ALL TESTS

Examine our goods and get our prices before buying Elsewhere.

DECIDUOUS FRUIT SEASON AT END IN CALIFORNIA

The California Fruit Distributors of Sacramento say:

The deciduous fruit season of California came to a close on December 5th, at which time three cars of grapes were reported as leaving the state. Since then no shipments have been reported, and the announcement made last week that the season was closed, is correct. This letter is issued for the purpose of bringing the total shipments of the season up to date, which are as follows:

Comparative statement of shipments:		
Dec. 7th	1911	1912
Cherries	216½	244½
Apples	223½	195½
Peaches	2927	1621½
Plums	1366	1775½
Pears	232½	3134½
Grapes	6374½	6357½
Sundry	16½	15½
	12,548½	13,343½

The season in some respects has been a very trying one, and the market for some varieties has been exceedingly poor. This is notably the case with peaches, and to a certain extent with grapes, although the latter portion of the season for the last named variety has been far better than usual. Prospects for the future are very encouraging as the bud development of our trees and vines is all that can be desired. With a reasonable rainfall California will produce in 1913 her usual fine output of fruits of all kinds.

CATTLE RECEIPTS LIGHT; MARKET HOLDS STEADY

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 16.—The receipts of cattle have been light this week, so the market has been holding steady and stronger than the week previous. Several loads of steers brought \$7.25 per hundred. Choice cows and heifers have found ready sale at strong prices, but the ordinary grade of the stuff went at barely steady prices.

Heavy receipts of hogs in the yards for the week. Good demand for choice hogs weighing around 200 pounds, and prices about the same as last week or \$7.75 for tops.

Receipts of sheep and lambs not extra heavy but enough to meet killers needs. Best lambs bringing \$6.25 per hundred. Best ewes \$4.00 and best wethers \$5.00.

Receipts for the week were: Cattle, 996; calves, 9; hogs, 3520; sheep, 5030; horses, 44.

Medford Printing company carry a full line of legal blanks.

REGISTER NOW IF YOU WANT TO VOTE; FEW WOMEN OUT

If you want to vote at the approaching city election, register now. Soon it will be too late.

Every citizen of the city, male or female, who wishes to vote on January 14, at the city election, must register.

It makes no difference if you registered for the state election or not. The city has its own registration law and to vote at a city election, all must register.

The board of registration began its sessions Saturday. They will sit in the council chambers at the city hall from 1 to 4 o'clock each day this week. Be sure and register and do it now.

Opening day was not a very great success only a few appearing to register. The number of women was small.

The members of the registration board are Mrs. A. B. Schuster, James Stewart and J. A. Texter.

CAUSE OF THE GRIPPE

How to Escape Its Dangerous After Effects

With so much grippe prevalent this winter a few words of advice regarding its cause and treatment will not be out of place.

Grippe is an infectious disease easily taken when the system is in a tired or run-down condition.

The best means of prevention are to keep the blood in good healthy condition, and if the system gets into a weak, run-down condition, take Vinol, our delicious cod liver and iron tonic.

A lady from Long Branch, N. J., says: "Grippe left me in a nervous, weakened, run-down condition. After taking three bottles of Vinol I am better and stronger than I have been for years, and I cheerfully recommend Vinol to all who have suffered from the grippe and need strength." (Name furnished on request.)

We have never sold in our store such a valuable strength creator and health restorer for the convalescent, the weak and run-down as Vinol, and your money will be returned if it does not do all we claim for it. Medford Pharmacy.

HOUSEFUL OF GOOD STOMACHS

No More Stomach Misery or Indigestion in the Home Where MI-O-NA Stomach Tablet Are Always Handy

Gas, heaviness, sourness, belching and misery from undigested food vanish in a few minutes when one or two MI-O-NA Stomach Tablets are taken.

Keep a box in your home. Carry a few with you wherever you go, and you are mighty certain to conquer indigestion the minute it begins to start a disturbance in your stomach.

MI-O-NA saves lots of misery and many lives every year because if taken regularly it will make the stomach so strong and energetic that you can eat anything you want with fear of distress. Druggists everywhere, 50 cents. Chas. Strang will refund your money if dissatisfied. Free trial treatment of MI-O-NA from Booth's MI-O-NA, Buffalo, New York.

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Everything that is good in the jewelry line.

Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry, Toilet Sets, Silver Service, Vanity Set, Mesh Bag, Coin Holder, Cigarette Case, Match Safe, Card Case, Gold or Silver; Knife or Pencil, Umbrella, Cut Glass, Clock.

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