

Oregon Historical Society

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MURDER OR SUICIDE?

The Portland Oregonian of June 9th contains a long article bearing upon the death of J. C. Conn and the sheep killing that took place in the northern part of Lake county about that time. A band of 2000 sheep were killed in February. Conn met death on March 4th, his body was found on April 21st, a coroner's jury returned a verdict of self destruction and then another band of sheep was killed April 28th. All these facts are reiterated in the Oregonian's article, and many others, strongly advocating the theory that Mr. Conn was murdered. New evidence was taken up and sifted to help bear out the theory.

When the coroner's jury said that J. C. Conn met death at his own hands, most people in Lake county accepted the verdict, but it seems that there were some who did not believe that such was the case, and it is evident that some one has been working constantly on the case since and occasionally a few facts leak out and are published in the Oregonian. On May 19 that paper contained a long article dated at Lakeview, but it is believed that the article was written somewhere else, in which the murder theory was advanced. The writer of these articles twists the coroner's verdict around in such a manner that to the casual reader the evidence would not justify such a verdict.

The condition of the body when found on the morning of April 21, in a reasonably good state of preservation, papers found perfectly dry in the pockets, with no sign of ever having been wet, his white shirt and cuffs perfectly smooth, never having been wet, a diary that Mr. Conn always carried with him in which he recorded his daily transactions being missing, the keys to his store found on the body, the heavy storms all through March, when snow and rain in unprecedented quantity fell, the ground being frozen hard on the morning of March 4th, the bullet that passed through the body where it lay found six inches under the surface of the ground,—all this is brought out to substantiate the writer's theory that J. C. Conn was murdered on March 4th, that the murderer searched the body, took the diary, also took the keys to the store, went to the store and got Conn's revolver, concealed the body until some time in April, when it was found, placed it on the ground and fired another shot into it with Conn's revolver and placed the gun at his side. That after the jury found a verdict of suicide, the murderer felt safe and proceeded to kill another band of sheep.

How much of this could be proven if both sides of the case were presented with their full force, we do not attempt to say, but there are some who will never be satisfied unless the case is more closely ferreted out, and if there has been a crime committed the guilty ones should be punished according to the law. The state seems to be impressed with the murder theory or the governor would not have offered a reward for the murderer of J. C. Conn. Whether or not the relatives of Mr. Conn are satisfied with the verdict of suicide we are not informed, but if they are not, the governor's reward will probably be increased.

Official Count For Lake County, Election June 6th, 1904.

Names of Candidates and Offices	S. Lakeview	Summer L.	Crooked Creek	Silver Lake	Paisley	N. Lakeview	Goose Lake	Drews Valley	Pine Creek	N. Warner	S. Warner	Thomas Cr.	Total	Majority
FOR CONGRESSMAN														
H. Gould.....Pro	3	0	1	3	5	5	0	0	2	1	0	0	20	
Binger Hermann.....Rep	97	6	24	48	63	69	32	19	32	22	36	23	471	*242
B. F. Rapp.....Soc	3	0	0	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	
R. M. Veach.....Dem	20	14	12	40	24	33	18	3	38	8	19	9	229	
FOR JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT														
C. J. Bright.....Pro	3	0	0	4	3	6	0	0	3	0	2	0	21	
C. C. Mikkelsen.....Soc	4	0	2	5	0	7	0	0	3	1	2	1	23	
F. A. Moore.....Rep	95	6	25	46	65	62	33	29	32	21	22	22	449	*214
Thos. O'Day.....Dem	24	14	11	49	22	35	16	3	36	6	19	9	235	
FOR DAIRY AND FOOD COM.														
J. W. Bailey.....Rep	91	6	27	50	63	60	32	19	35	23	23	22	451	*212
L. W. Berry.....Pro	3	0	0	5	2	6	1	1	3	0	0	2	23	
S. M. Douglas.....Dem	24	14	12	39	23	39	14	3	34	6	22	9	239	
N. Rasmussen.....Soc	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	10	
FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE														
H. L. Benson.....Rep	109	6	28	47	64	79	32	20	40	23	38	26	512	264
E. B. Dufur.....Dem	13	11	8	37	22	27	12	2	34	7	8	10	191	
H. K. Hanna.....Rep	82	6	20	42	50	54	30	17	32	17	18	20	388	140
J. R. Nell.....Dem	25	14	12	37	24	42	15	4	41	6	19	9	248	
FOR PROSECUTING ATTORNEY														
E. M. Brattain.....Rep	67	3	16	68	62	56	21	10	27	12	38	16	396	51
W. J. Moore.....Dem	63	17	21	24	31	58	27	12	53	15	10	14	345	
FOR JOINT SENATOR														
W. A. Booth.....Dem	37	16	15	55	45	45	17	4	43	5	23	10	316	
J. A. Laycock.....Rep	85	4	20	37	45	55	30	18	33	21	29	22	390	75
FOR JOINT REPRESENTATIVES														
J. B. Griffith.....Dem	25	13	9	35	25	33	14	5	46	6	16	9	236	
J. S. Shook.....Rep	72	6	24	37	55	55	31	15	27	20	29	22	384	148
R. E. L. Steiner.....Rep	101	7	31	64	65	87	34	19	37	23	36	28	532	296
J. A. Taylor.....Dem	29	12	6	31	17	29	9	5	31	5	11	5	190	
COUNTY CANDIDATES														
FOR SHERIFF														
F. M. Duke.....Dem	27	17	9	47	36	59	20	5	52	11	24	16	314	
E. E. Rhinehart.....Rep	101	4	39	50	55	64	28	18	29	20	24	20	443	129
FOR CLERK														
E. N. Jaquish.....Rep	58	15	21	31	35	44	40	19	51	11	12	24	361	
A. W. Manning.....Dem	69	6	18	66	57	73	9	4	27	20	38	11	398	37
FOR TREASURER														
F. O. Ahlstrom.....Rep	38	5	28	44	52	66	34	21	41	22	29	25	451	162
T. E. Bernard.....Dem	31	16	11	49	49	43	13	2	38	6	29	11	289	
FOR ASSESSOR														
C. Umbach.....Rep	79	1	15	0	21	77	22	19	23	17	14	22	310	*
W. D. West.....Dem	46	20	23	98	73	39	26	4	55	12	36	13	445	135
FOR SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT														
J. Q. Willis.....Rep	111	18	35	75	81	95	43	22	68	24	37	30	639	639
FOR SURVEYOR														
C. E. Moore.....Dem	87	21	27	71	75	81	36	16	66	19	34	24	557	557
FOR COMMISSIONERS														
C. W. Dent.....Rep	95	6	26	45	60	68	34	19	41	21	22	25	462	269
J. C. Dodson.....Dem	23	11	10	43	25	44	14	4	36	7	27	9	253	
Local Option.....yes	27	10	3	22	32	42	24	4	33	12	19		228	
Local Option.....no	67	2	17	45	36	51	19	14	30	13	16		301	73
Primary Nomination Law.....yes	66	15	11	53	23	64	20	5	47	18	25		347	266
Primary Nomination Law.....no	20	0	6	6	14	9	4	8	9	2	3		81	
Total number votes cast	132	21	39	98	102	119	49	23	81	33	50	36	783	

Those marked with * are pluralities.

YOUNG-HERYFORD.

Last Sunday at 1 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Heryford, in Lakeview, in the presence of a few relatives Mr. John Young of Missouri and Miss Edna Heryford were joined in holy matrimony by Rev. J. B. Stark of the M. E. church.

Mr. Young is a young minister and a bright fellow whose future is very bright with a life mate such as he has chosen. The bride is a Lakeview girl of every accomplishment possessed by her sex. Miss Heryford met Mr. Young in California while she was on a visit with relatives near Millville where Rev. Young had a charge. Miss Heryford was a very popular young lady and her departure from Lakeview will be regretted.

The happy couple left for the East on their bachelorette Monday morning. They will visit the St. Louis fair, before returning to Albany, Mo., where they will make their future home.

The Lakeview Band planned a serenade for Mr. and Mrs. Young Sunday evening, but failed to find their lodgings.

The Examiner wishes the happy couple a life of happiness.

State's Claim Rejected.

Governor Chamberlain has received the full text of the decision of the Secretary of the Interior rejecting the claim of the State of Oregon to the swamp lands within the Klamath Indian reservation. Briefly stated, the decision quotes the swamp land act of 1860, which specifically provides that the grant to the state shall "not include any lands which the Government may have reserved, sold or disposed of (in pursuance of any law heretofore enacted) prior to the confirmation of title to be made under the authority of the said act."

The treaty creating the Klamath reservation was not made until 1864 but the decision holds that the title or right of occupancy by the Indians existed prior to that time, as recognized by the act of 1848, establishing the territorial government of Oregon.—Oregonian.

Legislature Will Be Republican.

The next Oregon Legislature will consist of 73 republicans, one independent republican and 16 democrats, a gain of two republicans over the legislature of 1903. The senate will have 24 republicans and 6 democrats and the House will have 50 republicans and 10 democrats.

Local Option Sweeps the State.

Local Option has swept the state by about 2500 majority. Multnomah county polled the heaviest vote against the measure, estimated at 2,000, but other heavily populated counties have wiped away this majority. The counties in which local option carried are Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Coos, Crook, Douglas, Gilliam, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Morrow, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wheeler and Yamhill. The counties opposed to the measure are, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Malheur, Washington, Wasco, Grant, Curry, Lake, Klamath, Marion, Wallowa. The direct Primary law has received an astounding majority, which will pass 25,000.

Wadsworth is No More.

The town of Wadsworth, Nevada, is to be completely wiped off the map. Wadsworth was a thriving terminal of a Southern Pacific line, and changes have made it necessary for the company to move their work shops to a new town called Sparks. The company has donated lots to its 200 employees and will move their dwellings free of charge. The work of moving is rapidly going on and within a few weeks Wadsworth will be no more.

RETURNS OF ELECTION

The election has shown startling results for the republican party. Frank A. Moore for Supreme Judge was elected by over 22,000 plurality; J. W. Bailey for Food Commissioner by over 20,000. Hermann has been returned to Congress by over 7,000 from the first district and Williamson from the second by close to 14,000. H. L. Benson was elected Circuit Judge for this district by about 1200 and H. K. Hanna by over 800. John A. Laycock was elected Joint Senator from this district comprising Lake, Klamath, Crook and Grant by 454. R. E. Lee Steiner for Joint Representative has the largest majority of any candidate in the district of Lake, Klamath, Crook and Grant. Steiner has 675 over Taylor (Dem.) and 651 over Griffith (Dem). Steiner received 2301 votes in the district. John S. Shook's majority over Taylor is 491, and over Griffith 467 in the district. W. J. Moore (Dem) was elected District Attorney for Lake and Klamath counties over Brattain (Rep) by 80 majority.

E. E. Rhinehart (Rep) was elected Sheriff of Lake county by 129 majority; A. W. Manning (Dem) was elected Clerk by 37; F. O. Ahlstrom (Rep) was elected Treasurer by 162; W. D. West (Dem) was elected Assessor by 134; C. W. Dent (Rep) was elected Commissioner by 209. J. Q. Willis (Rep) had no opposition for School Superintendent, and C. E. Moore (Dem) had no opposition for Surveyor. J. W. Bayley (Rep) was elected Justice of the Peace in Lakeview.

Big Time on the Fourth.

The Fourth of July committees have been meeting about two to three times a week arranging for the elaborate program which will be published next week. Fire works were telegraphed for Tuesday morning. As soon as lumber can be had work will commence on the platform and seats in the court yard. F. P. Light, S. F. Ahlstrom and W. B. Spider are the committee on general arrangements, and efficient committees have been appointed to take charge and carry out the different events of the day. There will be no horse races on that day so the entire day will be devoted to special amusements for both young and old. Graham's band has been engaged to furnish music for the occasion. This is an attraction itself as the boys have been practicing on some fine music for the occasion.

Band music, speaking, singing, parades, reading of the declaration of Independence, and delivery of the oration will take up the fore part of the day. The shady grove can be used for picnic dinners. In the afternoon, foot races, children's races, and amusements of all kinds, interspersed with music by the band, will make the day one of pleasure and recreation. The fire works at night will be something worth coming a long way to see.

From all indications there will be the largest crowd visit Lakeview this Fourth that has ever attended a celebration here. People from all parts of the country are planning to come to Lakeview to spend the Fourth of July. This fact has urged the committees to their utmost to arrange for a gala day.