

Lake County Examiner

VOL. XXVII.

LAKEVIEW, LAKE COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1906.

NO. 29.

ESTHER MITCHELL SLAYS BROTHER. George Mitchell Acquitted and is Killed next Day HOLY ROLLERS PLOT MURDER. Took advantage of Brother's Love To Get Opportunity to Shoot Her Protector.

(Oregonian, July 12)

Esther Mitchell shot and killed her brother George, the slayer of Franz Edmund Creffield, in the Union depot, at 4:20 o'clock this afternoon, as George and his brother Perry were on their way to take a Northern Pacific train for Portland.

Both Esther Mitchell and Mrs. Creffield, who was arrested at 7 o'clock tonight, while on her way back from the cemetery, where "Joshua" Creffield is buried, acknowledged in statements taken before Chief Wappenstein that they had conspired to kill George. Had it been necessary Esther Mitchell was prepared to follow her brother to Portland. It was this insane demand for vengeance that prompted her to refuse to accompany her father on his return to Illinois.

"I killed George because he had killed an innocent man, and because he had ruined my reputation by saying that Creffield seduced me," Esther Mitchell declared, but both her statement and that of Mrs. Creffield indicate that the two had conspired to assassinate.

Mrs. Creffield prompted the shooting, and she bought the gun with which it was done. It had been agreed between them that the first one seeing George should slay him.

George and Perry Mitchell were to have gone to Portland last night. In fact, George had made all arrangements to meet certain newspapermen upon his arrival. At the last moment, however, L. T. Sandel, who testified in George's behalf at the trial, asked George and Perry to spend the night as his guests at Southeast Seattle, where a small group of Holy Rollers, including Frank Hurt and wife, reside. They did so.

Esther made the following statement immediately after she killed her brother:

"I am George Mitchell's sister and I shot him."

"Why did you do it?" asked Mason.

"I will make my statement later on."

"Mrs. Creffield and I had talked over the matter of killing George. The one that had the best chance was to do it. Mrs. Creffield bought the gun at Second avenue and Union street. We were at the room about 4 o'clock this afternoon and I thought that I would have a better chance to do it than Mrs. Creffield, as my brother George wanted to see me and I believed that he would think nothing about me going to the depot. Then Mrs. Creffield gave me the gun and I was to do it. We agreed that it was to be done as soon as possible.

"Mrs. Creffield had been out once or twice looking for George, and if she had got the chance she would have done it and I would have done the same. The first one that got the chance was to do it.

"I would have done it before if I had got a chance. I took the gun yesterday and my brother Fred walked with me down to the depot, when my father went away. They wanted me to see George then and I didn't want to, because I couldn't get the gun unwrapped. I had the gun wrapped up and concealed and I refused to see George.

"When I went home I took the gun and placed it under the mattress. Then I took it out about noon today and kept it with me. My brother Fred was up to my room today and said that Perry and George were going to Portland today at 4 o'clock. I went to the depot and saw Perry get his ticket and I followed him.

"At last I saw George and I shook hands with him and I was walking to the door with him. He and Perry were walking in front and Fred and I were walking behind. At that time I had the gun in my coat. I removed it from my bosom where I had it concealed. Fred offered to carry my coat and I told him all right. Then I was

walking to the door. George was in front of me.

"It was just the chance I wanted and I then shot him. My brother Fred grabbed me and I sat down on his lap and put my arms around his neck. I sat there and the officer came.

"I do not regret doing it. I am glad I did it. I fired once and tried to fire another, but there was such a loud noise made by the crowd I don't know whether I fired again or not. I shot him in the head, and I knew if I hit where I intended to it was sure death. I intended to follow him to Portland if I did not shoot him here."

Mrs. Creffield was arrested shortly after the tragedy, and made statements corroborating Esther's statements, saying that the two had planned to kill young Mitchell, and that she had bought the revolver for that purpose. She had been unsuccessful in her hunt for Mitchell, and had concluded that Esther would have the best chance to shoot him, so gave her the gun, and waited at her room for a telephone message from the depot as to the success of the plot.

Burgess Starr and his wife, Mrs. Starr being a sister of Mitchell, were in Portland.

Mr. Starr was expecting George Mitchell on the afternoon train that arrives in Portland at 4:30 o'clock. He was keeping a lookout for him, when he heard the news of the tragedy. It was a severe blow to him, and he feared it would unnerve his wife completely to learn of the dire tragedy of brother and sister. For this reason, he saw to it that she did not receive copies of special editions containing accounts of the killing.

After supper he concluded she had better be told of the tragedy.

"Can you stand to hear some terrible news?" he asked her.

"I think I can. What is it?" she replied.

"Prepare for the worst," he said.

"I am ready to hear anything you have to tell," she said.

"Then, Esther killed George this afternoon."

Her lips tightened and a strange look appeared on her face, Starr said. It was the natural emotion of a sister at hearing of a brother's death. But it passed in a flash. In another moment she was smiling happily and playing with her little girls, two red-faced, healthy little tots of 6 and 8, in plaid calico dresses and bare feet.

Mr. Starr, who attended the Mitchell trial at Seattle as a witness from beginning to end, is satisfied the plot to kill George Mitchell was hatched some days ago. He also believes its originator was Maud Hurt Creffield widow of the Holy Roller prophet, and that it was originally intended she should kill Mitchell. The result of the trial, however, determined the plotters as to their course of action.

Mitchell, having been acquitted of murder on the grounds of insanity and mental aberration having been shown as a family trait, Mr. Starr believes they figured Esther would be entitled to the same plea and consideration in the event of a trial for murdering her brother.

Those who know the facts of the case best say it was Creffield's selection of her to become the mother of a second Christ who, Creffield declared, was soon to visit the earth, that served more than anything else to take away her reason. Because Esther was kept away from the Holy Roller and his followers she became embittered towards all her relatives excepting Mrs. Starr, who shared her beliefs.

In Case of Fire.

It is believed expedient that a general understanding be had all over town among users of water from the water system, that in case of fire everyone shut off their hydrants at once. There seems to be plenty of water, but owing to so many hydrants in use, if any great number of them are open at a time, so little pressure can be had on the fire hose that a fire could not be extinguished. The instant the hydrants are shut off the pressure is thrown on the fire hose and with the supply of water now available most any fire could be put out in a short time. Users of water should remember this and at the first tap of the fire bell shut their hydrants and give the property owners the full benefit of all the service the system affords. It would be the best service one could render in case of a fire in any portion of town.

There is nothing in the report that Geo. Chamberlain is dead.

BUSINESS COLLEGE AN ASSURED THING.

Institution to Start up in August—Founder in San Francisco Completing Plans.

and immediately upon his return to Alturas he would come to Lakeview, which will be the first week in August.

It will be seen by his advertisement in this issue that he intends to open the school on Monday, August 27th. He has assurance of a building here, and will likely occupy the building just south of the Thornton Drug store.

The benefits of a Business College are too well known to need recommendation, every man knows what education will do for him.

McDonald--Schlagel.

Another one of those happy events that bind together two lives and cause two hearts to beat as one, occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dick J. Wilcox last Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. Miss Anna Schlagel and Mr. Rolla McDonald were the contracting parties. Judge Daly officiating.

The bride was raised in Lakeview, being the eldest daughter of Hermann Schlagel, formerly a blacksmith of this place. She is one of Lakeview's most respected young ladies, and has a host of friends who wish her much joy and happiness.

Mr. McDonald was raised at Paisley, or at least, spent the greater portion of his life there. He used to ride the ranges, and about three years ago went to Albany where he began to learn the barber's trade, which occupation he is following now. Mr. McDonald has also worked at the printing business, and in every avocation has been found to be a worthy young man. Mr. McDonald has the congratulations of a wide circle of friends.

The Examiner joins the many friends of the happy young couple in wishing them a long life of prosperity.

Struck by Lightning.

Rev. S. Snyder and wife and daughter were out on Cottonwood creek last Thursday when the thunder storm came up and had a narrow escape from death by lightning. They were preparing to start home when a bolt of lightning struck so near them that Miss Snyder was knocked senseless for a short time and Mr. Snyder was dazed. The young lady described the effect of the shock as being similar to being struck squarely on top of the head with some heavy, solid body, in fact, it was her first thought that a limb had fallen from a tree and struck her. Rev. Snyder said he was dazed and all in a whirl, and for an instant thought he was killed, but soon gathered himself together and realizing that he was still alive, his first thought was to look after his wife and daughter, who were a few rods away. Mrs. Snyder had not been effected by the shock and was holding her daughter when Mr. Snyder found them. They soon recovered from the shock, however, and were all right.

Horse Thieves in Crook.

Sheriff Elkins and party when in the Green Mountains were surprised at the number of horses that were found in different parts of the mountains. Some were hobbled, some were staked out and some were in two cunningly contrived corrals found in different parts of the mountains. The corrals had wings built of logs and brush from a quarter to a half mile in length. All of the horses found showed the effects of lack of feed and a scarcity of water. One horse was in very bad shape. He was suffering from a bad sore where the brand had been cut out. The wound was about nine inches one way by four the other. This animal was brought to town and will be made use of as evidence later on.—Prineville Journal.

Mike Moore, a newcomer at Klamath Falls, was found dead in a bath house at that place a few days ago. Moore was known to have been drinking pretty heavy the evening before his dead body was found and the belief prevails that he was drowned while in bathing under the influence of liquor.

The Examiner last week informed the public that the opening of a Business College in Lakeview was under serious consideration. This week we have some definite information on the subject for our readers. We are in receipt of a letter from Prof. G. F. Bigley stating that he had decided since leaving Lakeview to return here and establish a Business College.

This decision, he says, is largely due to the encouragement he received while here. He would start for San Francisco last Sunday to complete arrangements for opening the college,

The Whittemore Estate.

The Estate of W. B. Whittemore, deceased, occupied the attention of the Superior Court during the greater part of last Friday. The amount of property left by Mr. Whittemore in this County amounts to \$87,000, besides property in Lake County, Oregon, which makes his estate quite a large one.

S. O. Cressler and W. H. Shirk, of Lakeview, had filed a petition asking that Mr. Whittemore's will be admitted to probate, and that they be appointed executors of the estate. They were represented by attorneys James Wylie and J. H. Stewart of this place and L. F. Conn of Lakeview.

Mr. Cressler was personally present at the hearing, and also a large number of witnesses, among them being: W. T. Cressler, of Cedarville, A. F. Spicer of Steel Swamp, S. E. Baty, of Centerville, Chas. M. Oliver of New Pine Creek, and B. Reynolds and Edmund Lake, of Lakeview, and E. C. Bonner of this place.

After the evidence was conducted, the matter was argued by respective counsel, and taken under advisement by the court, but has not yet been decided. The question of residence seemed to be the mooted one, and a great deal of testimony was introduced upon that point.—New Era.

Innes Buys Farm.

Dr. R. E. Bauske has sold his beautiful farm near St. Helena, to J. E. Mitchell Innes, of southern Oregon. This farm contains 210 acres, sixty acres of which are in resistant vines in full bearing. There is a large acreage of fine rolling pasture land, abundantly watered by numerous springs. The improvements are first-class. The residence occupies a slightly position on the hillside and has a background of firs, pines and redwoods. It is a large, roomy house modern in every respect and has been entirely renovated recently by Dr. Bauske. Mr. Innes and family will take possession of their newly acquired property very soon, and will make their permanent home in Napa valley. It is Mr. Innes' intention to utilize the pasture land by stocking it with thirty or forty fine dairy cows.—St. Helena Star.

Pleased With Conditions.

E. Burke, promoter of the steamboat line for Goose Lake, completed his investigations and soundings of the water last week, and started for San Francisco, where he will purchase a boat and run it up the Sacramento river to Red Bluff, where he will be met by a freight team from here, possibly J. F. Snyder's team, to haul the boat to the lower end of the lake. Mr. Burke expects to be absent several weeks. He was highly pleased with conditions as he found them on the lake, and believes that his venture will be highly successful. He will put on a first-class river boat, and be prepared to handle a large amount of traffic.

Local Mention.

Mrs. Wm. Schmidt was down from Clover flat Tuesday.
Wm. Metzker returned from Surprise Valley Tuesday.
Dave Cleland came down from Burnt creek Tuesday.
T. F. Calderwood came over from Warner Monday on business.
Dent Hughes, who lives on Slash

street, has been quite sick for several days.

Born. In Lakeview, Oregon, July 11, 1906, to the wife of C. A. Rehart, a boy.

Thos Cloud has just received a fresh lot of oranges and lemons at the Soda Works.

Bert Lee has resigned his position at the Loveless stable and gone to the Camas mill.

We understand that Mrs. Ruby Harvey, wife of the late Wm. Harvey, will be here today.

Born. Near Lakeview, Oregon, July 11, 1906, to the wife of Clyde Clippinger, a girl.

J. L. Morrow was over from Warner this week on business in connection with the Sloan estate.

Tom Lynch and Dick Quinlin started for Ireland last Monday morning, where they expect to sojourn several months.

Mrs. C. U. Snider and daughter Mae, left Ashland Monday for home, and are expected here this (Thursday) morning.

Mr. A. G. Duhme returned to Lakeview first of the week after an extended business trip to San Francisco and other points.

The relatives of A. L. Thornton, who have been here from Roseburg for a couple of weeks, departed for their homes yesterday.

S. V. Rehart writes The Examiner that he will be in Lakeview in a short time. He will make a short stay before going East on business.

Capt. E. Follett and John O'Neil came up from Pine Creek yesterday, and were in The Examiner office to see the typesetting machine work.

Born. At Paisley, Oregon, July 15, 1906, to the wife of W. S. Hartlerode, a boy. Mother and child are getting along nicely, but it is doubtful if Bill recovers.

Miss Mabel Boyd, grand daughter of Register J. N. Watson, arrived here last week from San Francisco to remain several months with Mr. and Mrs. Watson.

Hon. W. T. Cressler of Cedarville, and son-in-law, B. B. Robinson of Berkeley, came over from Big valley Monday, where they have been camping out with their families.

Although it is well known that Geo. Cooley is of a histrionic nature, no one ever thought he would take to the stage, but such is the fact: he drove the Paisley stage down Monday.

Mr. Edward Detrick a first class tinsmith and plumber of San Francisco arrived here last Friday and accepted a position with J. E. Bernard & Son, the hardware merchants.

Lakeview had a taste of the recent reform movement on the Pogeama railroad Tuesday morning when the Western mail sacks came in empty. There were some pretty sour faces.

C. E. McCleary, the Pine Creek mining man was in our city Tuesday. He says every shovel full of dirt turned over in the mining district serves to substantiate what has been said of the mines.

Dr. F. N. Fuller and J. C. Johnson of Sisson, Calif., arrived here a few days ago on an outing trip and to look at the country. The gentlemen are cousins of J. S. Fuller of this place. In company with Joe they went out in the mountains yesterday prospecting and hunting.

F. P. Light and family and Joe Lane and wife hid themselves to the mountains last week for a month's vacation in the vicinity of Big valley. The first day on the stream Frank lured 100 of the finny beauties to the banks, and Joe 80. The guests of Hotel Lakeview partook of the results of the day's angling on Monday morning.

Wm. Holder and the construction crew that have been working on the Bunting telephone line, came in from Drews valley last Sunday, having run out of posts about half way to Bly. They went to work Monday morning on the Farmers' Mutual line, stretching the wire." The first two days were put in bringing the line into town on the street running north and south on a line with the west line of the cemetery, thence along the west line of Wm. Metzker's lot on slash street, to George Wright's residence, thence east to the back end of the First National Bank building, then north to Reynolds' store. Wednesday morning they commenced stringing the wire on the poles north of town. It will take them about ten days to put up the wire on the main line and the several short branch lines between here and S. P. Moss' ranch.

RESERVE SAID TO BE VOID OF TIMBER.

Surveyors Run Lines with That Object in View.

STOCK MEN BACK OF THE FRAUD

Alturas Charges Fraud in Making the Permanent Forest Reserve in Modoc.

The Modoc Republican gave its readers a long write-up last week on the Modoc Reserve question, detailing the character of the land withdrawn and hinting at some very crooked work on the part of the government surveyors who run out the lines, also singling out those parties who put up the money to bring about the crooked work. If the matter is really as bad as the Republican pictures it, certainly the government has been duped and there will, no doubt be more use for the "muck rake." The Republican says:

"By some very peculiar work nearly all of the timber lands of this section have been excluded from the reserve. It looks as if the plan of throwing out all of the good timber land and of including all of the rock piles and sagebrush ridges, had been well carried into effect.

As the reserve first stood, it possibly contained thirty sections of good timber land. But some pruning and trimming must be done.

This trimming was so systematic and so well performed that while it threw out only about 2-5 of the land of the temporary reserve, it threw out at least 5-6 of all the marketable timber land that was included within the lines of the temporary reserve.

At one point the line of the reserve can be traced for two miles where it follows the timber line so well that there is good timber all the way just immediately outside of the reserve line while on the inside there is only the rag end of the forest, containing a few runty, scrawny, gnarled, twisted and worthless dwarfed pines.

It is claimed the rivalry of two large cattle corporations, caused this particular incident. Dr. Kober is largely interested in the Lake Shore Cattle Co., and it is reported that he with other members of the firm, believed it would be a splendid thing to have their grazing lands included in the forest reserve and at the same time to have the grazing lands of one of their large competitors, the Whittemore Land and Live Stock Co., excluded therefrom. Accordingly it is believed that the Doctor used his best offices in Washington to this end.

At any rate this result was in some way accomplished. But pursuit was better than possession. The forest reserve regulations do not at all suit the Lake Shore Cattle Co. Dr. Kober is sorry of his intervention, if any he made, while the Whittemore Land and Live Stock Co. is now smiling to think its range lands were left out of the reserve."

Another case wherein fraud is sighted is the lines in the vicinity of Fairchild Swamp and Bowles Meadows, where the survey followed the edge of Fairchild swamp which is owned by Reese, Derevan and O'Brien, all the swamp lands were left out, in the case at Bowles Meadows, three miles further north, owned by Cox & Clark, the Republican says, the lines lose their marked precision and cut out right across Bowles Meadows, leaving about half the same within the reserve.

The article goes on to explain the cause for this in the following manner:

"Mr. C. W. Clark, of the firm of Cox & Clark, owns Bowles Meadows, and it is believed by parties here that he conceived the idea that it would be an advantage to get a lot of this land in the reserve and then get scrip for it from the Government so that he could place it on more valuable land at some other point. In this enterprise Mr. Clark, it would seem, got Mr. F. A. Hyde (of land fame), to assist him."

However, the repeal of the scrip law is alleged to have robbed the manipulators of the scheme of their gain. The Republican further says:

"While these matters possibly rob the Modoc Reserve of its intended good qualities, we are glad to say that the Warner Mountain Reserve seems to have been fairly and squarely established."