

SUSPECTED OF MURDER

Roy Vestal Who Disappeared Over a Month Ago Believed to Have Met Foul Play

Sheff Hester went to Dairy and Bonanza yesterday in search of evidence that might help in clearing up the mystery surrounding the disappearance of Roy Vestal, who has been missing since November 22. The sheriff will return this evening.

It is believed that Vestal has met with foul play and there is also a strong belief that two men now in the county jail have something to do with putting him out of the way. These men are Charles and Al Wallis. There were arrested on a complaint charging them with cattle stealing. Laska was arrested in this city and a warrant was secured on Wallis at his ranch between Dairy and Bonanza. The two men have been placed in separate cells and neither has any knowledge of the other's arrest.

The wife of the disappearance of Vestal is to the effect that he left the stable place where he had been working on the 22nd day of last month with the intention of going to his home in Eagle Point to spend Christmas and that the last seen of him was going towards Laska's place that evening. About two o'clock the following morning some one came to the Exchange Stable and wanted to get a horse in the barn. The man in charge, who was in bed, told the party that the barn was full without making the trouble of getting up. The horse was turned loose in the corral without saddle or bridle. The horse is still at the stable and has been identified as that of Vestal's.

There was a rumour some time ago to the effect that Vestal confessed to a rancher near Dairy that he had helped Laska and Wallis drive the two horses from his field, at the time the stable was stolen. This was the reason given for the belief that the two men in jail had something to do with putting Vestal out of the way.

There is positively no knowledge of Vestal having left this city, and his name is not on the passenger list of the outgoing boat. Of course it is admitted that if he had any desire to get away without it being known, he could have done so. There is very little chance of clearing up the mystery unless the body or whereabouts of Vestal is discovered or unless some one makes a confession.

Arthur Vestal, a brother of the missing man, is here from Eagle Point trying to find some trace of his brother. He is now at Dairy.

CELEBRATE LINCOLN'S BIRTH.

The County Superintendent Advises Schools to Hold Appropriate Exercises—Suggests Holiday for Cities.

To the Schools of Klamath County: Friday, February 12, 1909, will be the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. A recent writer accounting for the backward condition of South America as compared with our continent remarks that South America has no Pilgrimage Fathers, no Plymouth Rock, no great unselfish patriots like our Franklin, Washington and Lincoln. These men exemplify the highest type of American citizenship. Their lives, thoughts and deeds are and should be much before our school children—the boys and girls who are to become the citizens of tomorrow.

Therefore, I wish to suggest that the Centennial of Abraham Lincoln be celebrated in every school of Klamath County; that the regular work of that afternoon be set aside; that appropriate exercises be prepared and that the citizens of the community be invited to participate in paying tribute to the memory of our great National hero. I suggest that the schools ask the city governments of their respective towns to declare a half holiday, that business be suspended and that the public assist in the celebration. The exercises may consist of an address by some citizen, patriotic songs, declamations, and essays emphasizing phases of Lincoln's character and work. Let the American flag be conspicuous and let a salute to the flag be a part of the exercises.

During the coming month the life of Lincoln should be emphasized by morning readings, in the composition and language work and wherever the teacher can use such material.

J. G. SWAN,
Co. School Supt.

NEWS FROM MERRILL.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus visited the Christian Science children in a

big white boat, laden with toys, presents, oranges, nuts, candy and popcorn. After the presents were given out and enjoyed, refreshments of cake, ice cream and coffee were served. It was just a private affair, given by C. A. Bunting and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoskins and children enjoyed a nice Christmas dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Fitch.

The pupils of the lower rooms of this school had a Christmas tree and program on Thursday. The upper rooms had a program.

Little Erin Carlock just Josephine Lee enjoyed a nice little Christmas tree at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carlock.

Frank Gray had filled his ice house Monday. Also A. B. Meserley and Geo. Wilson.

The Presbyterian Church had two Christmas trees and a big robin and program. Kvostate had a fine time.

The Methodists enjoyed a Christmas tree given in Carlock Hall.

A farewell party was given to Clifford Baxter Friday evening. Those present were: The Misses Garrison, Herbert, Pearl, Claude, Ruby and Fay Demorest, and Rev. Johnson and family. Everyone had a nice time.

NEARLY A SHOOTING SCRAPE.

Four Young Men at Bonanza Get Into a How-Serious Results Are Feared.

(Special to The Herald.)
BONANZA, Dec. 28.—Very STRIVE anxiety is felt here over the possible outcome of a feud existing between Olan and Jay Walker, and Will and Oscar Campbell, which very nearly came to a climax here Friday morning. As Dan Brisson was going to the Opera House after his family who were attending one Christmas dance, he met the two Walkers and the two Campbell brothers coming down the street. As he was acquainted with the bad feeling existing between the four men he suspected that there was trouble brewing.

He waited until they got around the corner and then thought he would watch the fight. As he poked his head around the corner of the building he heard a gun go off in the hands of Chas. Walker and he jumped out and caught Walker by the hand and held him back, at the same time pushing Will Campbell back and telling him to hold on.

Will wanted Dan to take the gun away from Walker and let them fight. Will was unarmed. Dan is better than a lawyer in an argument and he told them that if they kept it up it would break up the dance and would not look well for one of them to get killed. He kept on talking until they agreed to quit and all hands went back to the dance. During the trouble Oscar Campbell and Jay Walker stood at one side with their hands in their pockets ready to take a hand if much shooting was to be indulged in.

Things appeared all right next day but it is expected that word will be brought in any time of one of them being killed.

LAND OWNERS FAVOR ROAD.

Believe That Construction Would Advance Price of Land More Than Any Other Enterprise.

The following letters have been received by John Ellis, one of the directors of the Klamath Falls Chamber of Commerce and one of the men who is taking an active part in circulating the petitions asking the County Court to make an appropriation for the Crater Lake road. Both of the writers are large land owners in the county and their opinion on the importance should have considerable weight in view of the fact that they are familiar with the benefits derived in other sections from good roads. The letters are as follows:

Pendleton, Oregon.

Dear Sir:—Your letter and petition in hand. I am heartily in favor of the levy for the Medford, Crater Lake, Klamath Falls state highway within Klamath County. I believe the construction of this road would advance the price of land in Klamath County more than any other enterprise at the present time.

Yours very respect.,
J. A. BEST.

The second letter is from Col. W. H. Holabird, dated at Los Angeles, and says: "I have signed the copy of petition re road making in Klamath County. No public improvement is more essential to the growth of the county than good roads. Before building the roads send your committee to Southern California that they may see what a really good road means. Los Angeles county voted \$3,500,000 for good roads, the bonds are sold and the work is going on. We think it will increase the wealth of the county one hundred fold. The very worst folly is waste of money in poorly built roads like the road leading out of Klamath Falls toward Merrill."

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GIVES WIFE EQUAL SHARE.

Proposed Law Would Make Woman Partner With Husband and Would Save Litigation.

Among the proposed legislation which will be of vital interest to the state, providing it is adopted, is a measure defining the property rights of husband and wife and of community property in general. A cursory attempt was made to present a bill at the session two years ago, but it met with opposition from a few lawyers at the time and was smothered. This time the bill has been drafted and is now ready for introduction. The author of the measure has devoted several months in its preparation and says it covers the subject as completely as he can devise.

By the terms of this proposed law, litigation will be in a large measure diminished and the many lawsuits which develop involving estates and based on wills alleged to have been made when the testator was not of sound mind, will be reduced at least one-half.

Under the provisions of the bill, the wife and husband are considered as partners and the wife is entitled to one-half of all the property accumulated during the marriage. As the law stands at present, when a man and woman marry they start equal; what property the wife has is her own and what the husband has is his, but the later acquisitions are in the name of the husband, and the wife is dependent on the justice of the husband to receive her half. There are many cases to illustrate the unsatisfactory results of the present system. A husband may in anger, or while of unsound mind, will away practically the entire property, leaving the wife little or practically nothing.

According to the proposed law, the wife will have her half of the property without question and without the necessity of depending on her husband to do her justice. The bill, as drafted, is as follows, and the author is desirous of hearing what criticism, if any, there is to the measure:

"Section 1.—Property and pecuniary rights owned by the husband before marriage, and that acquired by him afterwards by gift, bequest, devise or descent, with the rents, issues and profits thereof, shall not be subject to the debts or contracts of her wife, and she may manage, lease, sell, convey, encumber or devise by will, such property without the wife joining in such management, alienation or incumbrance, as fully and to the same effect as though he were unmarried. (Separate property of husband.)

"Sec. 2. The property and pecuniary rights of every married woman at the time of her marriage or afterwards acquired by gift, devise or inheritance, with the rents, issues and profits thereof, shall not be subject to the debts or contracts of her husband, and she may manage, lease, sell, convey, encumber or devise by will such property to the same extent and in the same manner that her husband can property belonging to him. (Separate property of wife.)

"Sec. 3. Property not acquired or owned as prescribed in the next two preceding sections, acquired after marriage by either husband or wife, or both, is community property. The husband shall have the management and control of community personal property, with a like power of disposition as he has of his separate personal property, except he shall not devise by will more than one-half thereof. (Community property defined—husband's control of personality.)

"Sec. 4. The husband has the management and control of the community property, but he shall not sell, convey or encumber the community real estate unless the wife join with him in executing the deed or other instrument of conveyance by which the real estate is sold, conveyed or encumbered, and such deed or other instrument of conveyance must be acknowledged by him and his wife. Provided, however, that all such community real estate shall be subject to the liens of mechanics and others for labor and materials furnished in erecting structures and improvements thereon as provided by law in other cases, to liens of judgments recovered for community debts, and to sale on execution issued thereon. (Community realty, conveyances, etc.)

"Sec. 5. Nothing contained in any of the provisions of this chapter, or

ASHES CAUSE OF BAD FIRE

John Faught's House With Contents Destroyed Sunday Night Near Bonanza

Sunday morning about two o'clock the house and contents belonging to John H. Faught about three miles west of Bonanza, near Alkali lake in Yonka Valley, was burned. Mr. Faught was all alone at the time as his daughters were in Klamath Falls visiting. The night before he had taken the ashes from the stove and put them in a box which he set out of doors. It is supposed that the ashes contained some live coals. During the evening in going outside he stumbled over the box. He then picked it up and set it against the house.

About two o'clock in the morning he was awakened by the explosion of a number of cartridges and jumping from the bed he discovered the house in flames. Hastily putting on some clothes he began to remove the bedding and some of the furniture. He succeeded in removing a quantity of the bedding, a sewing machine, bureau, and a few other pieces, besides some of his daughters' clothes. Most of this was later damaged as it was left too close to the burning building.

The store room was also burned containing about \$100 worth of provisions he had brought from the Falls a couple of days before, and all of his feed and grain which he intended to sow the coming spring, were destroyed.

After the fire was about over Mr. Faught went to Bonanza where he arrived early in the morning. His clothes were all destroyed except what he had on and those were badly burned while removing the goods from the burning building. He had slipped on a pair of German socks and those were burned from his ankles and his other garments were so badly burned that it was necessary to borrow some clothes from friends before he was able to present himself in public.

Mr. Faught has a house in Bonanza which he will have moved to his ranch at once which will save him the expense and inconvenience of building in the winter. There was no insurance. Mr. Faught is a brother of Prof. W. E. Faught, of the High School of this city.

MERRILL NEWS.

The Merrill Valley was visited by another large snow storm last week.

The Ladies' Club met at the home of Mrs. E. E. Fitch Saturday.

The house belonging to O. E. Irvine and occupied by Malvin Mitchell was destroyed by fire Wednesday.

During the excitement Dr. Alex. Patterson slipped from the roof into the well. Mr. Rhodes helped him out. Rather a cool bath, wasn't it, Doctor?

Mont Robinson and Miss Robinson enjoyed a Christmas tree out at the Gale school house, given by Robt. Anderson.

C. A. Bunting spent part of this week at his upper ranch. He returned in time for Christmas.

Jesse Cristle died at the Carr ranch Friday, December 25. His remains will be kept at the ranch until his folks come.

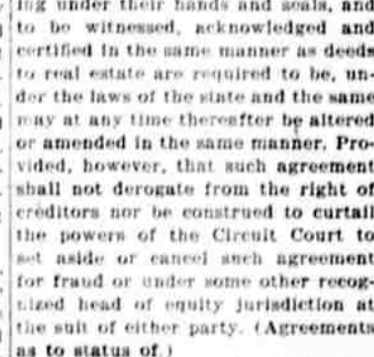
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