

Herald-News Week-End Photo-Magazine Page

Laws-Calavan Case of '82 Sensational Early-day Fued

Shooting of Frank Calavan on State Line Near Present-day Grohs Ranch Touched Off Trouble in Raw Klamath Area

Editor's Note: In the history of the comparatively tranquil and peaceful Klamath county of today are many bitter feuds. This is the first of two articles relating something of the background of these early-day troubles, and giving in some detail the story of one of the most sensational of early incidents—the Laws-Calavan case.

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Writer

It was a drab February day in 1882, lowering clouds presaged a storm. The wind was high in the pine trees that topped the rim rock under which the H. C. Laws' log house huddled in Langell valley (Grohs' ranch).

Jimmy and Frank Calavan were in high spirits when they left their father's cabin in Carol valley. Even though they had work to do, that of seeing to their herd of cattle held in swales further down the country where the winter was less severe, this was to be a lark as they planned to shoot sage hens. Jimmy carried a .32 calibre, muzzle loader, (cap and ball) loaded with light shot.

The public road led past a haystack, which was on the California-Oregon line. As the stack belonged to Mr. Laws they did not think much of it when he approached them carrying a Winchester. "On his way to feed his cattle," he later told.

SHOT EXCHANGE WOUNDS FRANK

The boys claimed Laws cursed them and ordered them off the road. (This story was the version given Dr. Hall and Dave Kilgore by Frank). Standing in California Laws took a shot at the Calavan boys. Both boys returned the fire. Shot after shot was exchanged. Jimmy called, "Got to run for it, Frank; out of loads."

They wheeled their ponies and whipped them into a run. They were 200 yards away in Oregon when Laws shot Frank in the back and crippled Jimmy's horse. One hundred yards further on the horse stumbled; floundered; fell, not to rise.

By now Frank was on ahead, though wounded. Jimmy was wearing a long-tailed overcoat. The bullet that tore through the animal spattered its blood on the coat tails and they left a crimson trail, consequently Laws thought Jimmy too was seriously injured.

Now Jimmy was afoot. Snow was sitting down to add to the knee-deep whiteness already fallen. Going was slow. It was 11 a. m. before he made their cabin. There he found Frank, dying. Jimmy rebuilt the fire, made Frank as comfortable as possible, and went for help. Late that night he returned with Dr. Hall and Dave Kilgore.

The men did all they could. Near midnight Frank died. Jimmy made a sled with Dave Kilgore's help pulled his brother's remains out by attaching the sled rope to a saddle horn. Jimmy, himself a mere boy, stood stunned, during the inquest held in Bonanza by Justice of the Peace Price, over his 15 year old brother.

After the inquest a neck-tie party got together in Bonanza intending to lynch Laws but he and his two boys escaped by swimming Lost river and taking refuge with relatives, the Mr. Clellans.

Crimes such as this are cause

and effect. Mr. Hall and Dave Kilgore knew the cause. The Calavan's having lost some stock claimed one of their steers was in Laws' possession. Laws boasted he would return any critter not bearing his brand. Said Calavan, "Brands have been known to have been altered." The two older men left to inspect the brand and at the cabin Lee Laws is reputed to have attacked Jimmy Calavan. Lee had a poker. Jimmy had only his bare fists. Jimmy won.

Then Calavan reported to Stanton, McArthur, Gerig, and Jones that several of their steers were held by Laws. These men rode in to get their stock and naturally they stopped for Calavan. Laws tongue-lashed Calavan as a squealer. Later at Hall's cabin, when Calavan's back was turned, Laws struck him with a club, fracturing his shoulder and almost severing his ear; in fact the Calavan boys asserted their father failed from then on and they felt it had brought about his death.

Dr. Hall of Langell valley, who had been a surgeon in the Civil war, knew that back of all these actions was still another cause. He defined it as:

"The aftermath of a country divided and pitted against each other during the Civil war. He considered that after the Civil war some of those who witnessed and participated in guerrilla warfare, settled at Bly and Bonanza and Langell valley.

There were those who had seen Jeb Stuart at Gettysburg; those who, though on the northern side, admired the man; admired him as many southerners did the saddened and harassed Lincoln—probably men of fine calibre but still men imbued with the results of that war. Children at the log school house in Langell valley used to gibe, "Awh, your paw started running when Jeb Stuart bested the northerners at Yellow Tavern." And it is true that some of these men chased kept right on coming and their children would retort, "Well, I ain't no 'secessionist'." And hair would fly.

Some 18 years after the close of that conflict the younger generation were paying the price, were dragged into quarrels and differences of their elders. Elders warped and molded by the life of our country. And this influence was to be felt for some 20 years, as feud followed feud. They are of interest today as out of these disturbances grew a change in Klamath county boundaries—but that is another story to be told later.

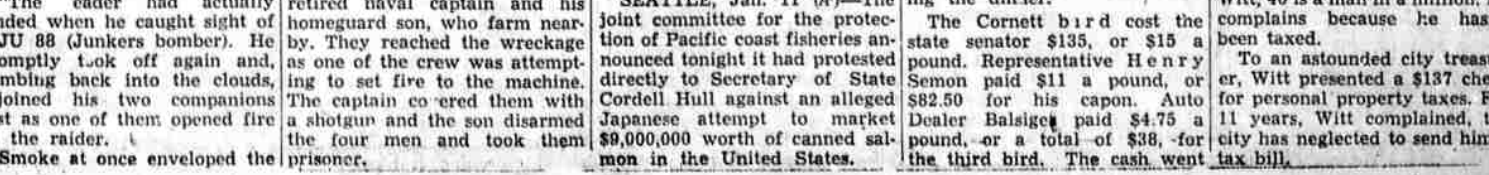
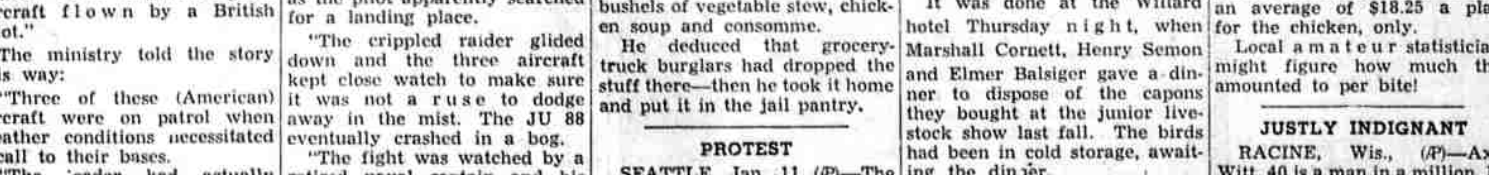
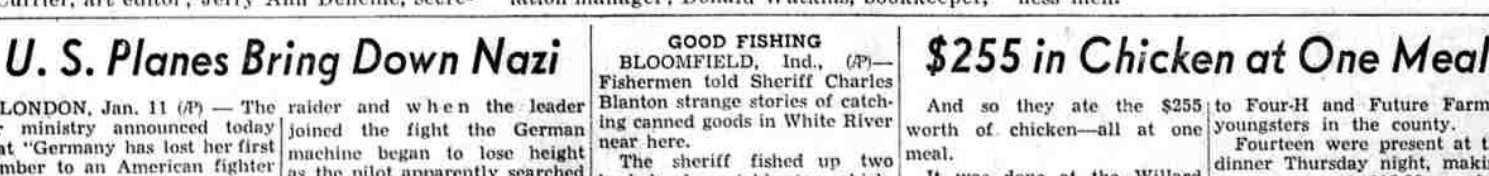
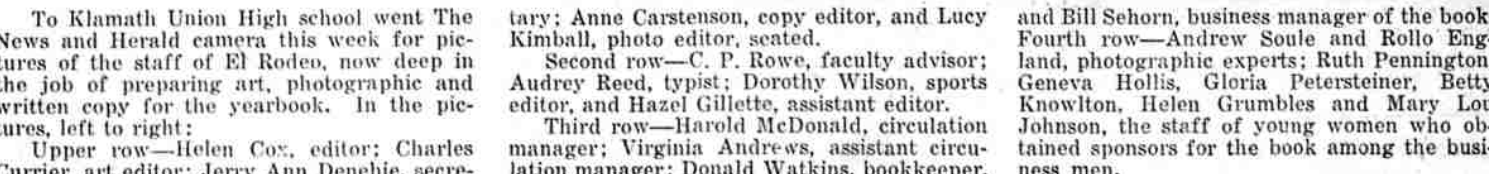
(Continued Next Week)

PERSONAL STAKE

LINCOLN, Neb., (AP) — "It would be too bad if I had to quit mooching smokes," mused State Senator Tom Lambert, studying the licensing law for tobacco dealers.

He found that the law prohibits anyone from giving away tobacco. "I'm going to have that situation corrected," said Lambert as he introduced remedial legislation.

The four-motored long range patrol bombers manufactured by Consolidated have a range of 5000 miles.



Letters from England Tell of Bombings

Superb Morale of British Indicated in Missives Received at Klamath Falls

"As I write this evening planes are overhead and guns firing—and when you receive this Christmas will be here!"

Thus comes a letter from the heart of the bombed area in England written to Mrs. Rufus Moore of Klamath Falls by her nephew and niece, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jeffries of Clevedon, Somerset, England. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jeffries were visitors in this city last year and were in the mid-Atlantic just three days before war was declared. Mrs. Moore visited the Jeffries on her last trip to England.

Following is the letter which gives an excellent picture of the devastation of England, and the superb will which the English have shown in the face of the tragic bombings:

My Dear Aunt Clara:

I am sure you are all wondering how our poor x x x though I guess you hear as much as we do without experiencing the awfulness of it all. The way the enemy are smashing up century old buildings, landmarks and lovely old bits of England that were a joy to travellers all over the world and can never be replaced, is too brutal for words, then our women and children, schools, hospitals.

It seems to me nothing they do is any help to them in winning the war but only to devastate fine old places. Fancy dropping bombs on those poor people of Coventry as they were standing around their great big grave. It is devilish, but so is war. Many people here think we ought to treat Germany as she is treating our country and not only her war industries. It is all so senseless, the awful destruction of life and homes and every thing fine in human nature.

I think Frank would have told you that we had bombs dropped x x x (censored), the houses looked so scared. We have some people in part of this house that have come from a bombed area. We have been quieter lately, though sometimes the noise of aircraft and guns is terrifying and there is always a fear a bomb may drop. All x x x (censored) x x x filled with soldiers from Dunkirk, poor fellows they did look rough some of them, now others have taken their place.

It is very wonderful how we have escaped harm so far and when we listen to America talking and telling us of her help we feel heartened. The news from Greece, too, gives us fresh hope. As I write this evening planes are overhead and guns firing and when you receive it Christmas will be here, may it be a happy and peaceful time for you all. Please give our love to all the friends we saw at Klamath Falls and I am glad to hear you are all leading this for Fred.

Dear Aunt Clara, I hope you are quite well. We have to fight for liberty, you live in the land of freedom. We thought we had permanently won it centuries ago but the Germans are giving us another run for it. We are not down hearted, nothing that Hitler has done yet has broken the English spirit or the will to win. We have not been invaded but find ourselves wishing that the Germans would try it on. Love and best wishes for Christmas. Annie and Fred.

Since beginning this letter Bristol has been bombed x x x (censored) x x x that you can recognize, though Taylores, a big draper's in Coleidge Green is still standing. Three of our very ancient churches, schools and old buildings are no more. We have not heard yet how many hundreds have been killed, it is another Coventry, only more scattered. Most of our cities and towns have been laid waste and the people just murdered. One can understand an enemy going for objectives but people's homes, children schools and hospitals; it makes one's blood boil with indignation. So far we are unharmed. Do pray for our men at the head of affairs x x x (censored) x x x That he will show his will for the nations, and that war may cease.

Carrie Atwood called one day, I am afraid she will have had an awful time during the raids, though I don't think just her street has been hit. Once more goodbye

ARITHMETIC

CANTON, N. Y., Jan. 11 (AP) Half of three is not one and a half in the Canton postoffice. Postal workers returned two unsealed letters to the woman who had mailed them with half of a three-cent stamp on each.



POSSEMAN—Ed Kilgore, shown above in an old-time picture, was one of the possemen who sought H. C. Laws in the early-day killing case that makes one of the most sensational chapters in Klamath history.

U. S. Planes Bring Down Nazi

LONDON, Jan. 11 (AP) — The air ministry announced today that "Germany has lost her first bomber to an American fighter aircraft flown by a British pilot."

The ministry told the story this way: "Three of these (American) aircraft were on patrol when weather conditions necessitated recall to their bases."

"The leader had actually landed when he caught sight of a JU 88 (Junkers bomber). He promptly took off again and, climbing back into the clouds, rejoined his two companions with just as one of them opened fire on the raider."

Smoke at once enveloped the

raider and when the leader joined the fight the German machine began to lose height as the pilot apparently searched for a landing place.

"The crippled raider glided down and the three aircraft kept close watch to make sure it was not a ruse to dodge away in the mist. The JU 88 eventually crashed in a bog."

"The fight was watched by a retired naval captain and his homeguard son, who farm nearby. They reached the wreckage as one of the crew was attempting to set fire to the machine. The captain ordered them with a shotgun and the son disarmed the four men and took them prisoner."

GOOD FISHING

BLOOMFIELD, Ind., (AP) — Fishermen told Sheriff Charles Blanton strange stories of catching canned goods in White River near here.

The sheriff fished up two bushels of vegetable stew, chicken soup and consommé. He deduced that grocery truck burglars had dropped the stuff there—then he took it home and put it in the jail pantry.

PROTEST

SEATTLE, Jan. 11 (AP) — The joint committee for the protection of Pacific coast fisheries announced tonight it had protested directly to Secretary of State Cordell Hull against an alleged Japanese attempt to market \$9,000,000 worth of canned salmon in the United States.

\$255 in Chicken at One Meal

And so they ate the \$255 worth of chicken—all at one meal.

It was done at the Willard hotel Thursday night, when Marshall Cornett, Henry Semon and Elmer Balsiger gave a dinner to dispose of the capons they bought at the junior livestock show last fall. The birds had been in cold storage, awaiting the dinner.

The Cornett bird cost the state senator \$135, or \$15 a pound. Representative Henry Semon paid \$11 a pound, or \$82.50 for his capon. Auto Dealer Balsiger paid \$4.75 a pound, or a total of \$38, for the third bird. The cash went

to Four-H and Future Farmer youngsters in the county.

Fourteen were present at the dinner Thursday night, making an average of \$18.25 a plate for the chicken, only.

Local amateur statisticians might figure how much that amounted to per bite!

JUSTLY INDIGNANT

RACINE, Wis., (AP) — Axel Witt, 40 is a man in a million. He complains because he hasn't been taxed.

To an astounded city treasurer, Witt presented a \$137 check for personal property taxes. For 11 years, Witt complained, the city has neglected to send him a tax bill.