

MURDEROUS CONVICTS PURSUED AT GERVAIS

Tracy and Merrill, After Stealing Horses in Salem, Rode to French Prairie Where Bloodhounds Struck Their Trail, Pressing Them.

The fugitives, fleeing from officers, entered the streets of Gervais at 9 o'clock last night, boldly seized a team and fleec. They were cornered and again took to the fields. Reinforcements going down this morning to relieve Sheriff Durbin's posse if necessary.

FROM WEDNESDAY'S STATESMAN
 The pursuit of Tracy and Merrill, the escaped convicts became intensely exciting last night. The men had, by means of stolen horses, gone to the Gervais neighborhood, and there a posse under command of Sheriff F. W. Durbin, took up the trail, at 6 o'clock last night, tracking the murderers by means of the Walla Walla bloodhounds. The pursuing party, numbering a score of armed men, was hard on the track of the two fugitives for several hours last evening, and were pressing them close when the men made a bold stroke, by making straight for the town of Gervais, and about 9 o'clock suddenly appeared on the streets, where they met Dr. C. S. White and Ed Dupuis, riding into town in the doctor's buggy, and driving a fine mare belonging to Dr. White. Aiming their rifles at the two gentlemen, the convicts compelled their victims to dismount, entered the buggy themselves, and started out of town in the direction of Butteville. This bold move was made evidently in a spirit of desperation, when Sheriff Durbin and his posse were less than a quarter of a mile behind the fugitives, following the scent of the dogs, but on the trail. But the fugitives made a mistake in driving out of Gervais, they missed the main road, driving into an old highway for a quarter of a mile when they found themselves in a trap, the road being fenced in, and as they were unable to escape in that direction they abandoned the horse and buggy, and climbing the fence entered a large field to the west of Gervais.

Sheriff Durbin and party were close on their trail, and when Dr. White's mare and buggy came out of the lane, after being abandoned by the fugitives, the plight of the latter was discovered, and the pursuers entered upon a search of the field. At last accounts the fugitives were in this field, along the fence, and the indications were that the convicts would be cut off from escape. The officers were determined to secure their men and in all likelihood the convicts will be caught soon after this is printed, if they are not already prisoners—or dead. This is in substance the report received from down there just before telephone connection was interrupted for the night—about 11 p. m., when the Gervais office closed.

At 10 o'clock last night Sheriff Durbin telephoned the Statesman office that he and his posse would keep at work all night, giving the fugitives no rest, and unless he captured them before morning, would want reinforcements. He asked that a new posse of 25 or more men be sent down on the morning train to relieve the men then in the field. The Governor's office was communicated with, as was the Penitentiary, and it was suggested that the Governor would call out the militia to assist in the capture of the criminals. In view of this proposed action by the Governor, Deputy Sheriff B. B. Colbath, who had started to raise a fresh posse, abandoned his efforts expecting the militia to go down but after midnight, he was decided that the militia would be called out, but the men could go down as individuals. It was then too late for Mr. Colbath to raise a posse, and a dozen of the militia men who own rifles, decided to go down on the early train and tender their services to Sheriff Durbin.

Clothing and Horses.
 The trail of the two murderous ex-convicts grew hotter yesterday morning when it became evident that the fellows had been in the city, and had supplied themselves with citizens' clothing and were eager to strike the trail. The first definite news of the appearance in the city of the two murderers was brought down town by J. W. Roberts, of South Salem, who told a story of a sensational hold-up. Mr. Roberts stated that he was held up at 10 o'clock on Monday evening, when on his way home from down town where he had discussed the prison delivery and the murder of the guards. Roberts was about to enter the gate of his home on South Liberty street, when two men approached him from the corner, spoke to him, Roberts, thinking the men belonged to a posse returning from the search, stopped when he suddenly saw a flash of light covered by two rifles, and heard the stern command: "Stick up your hands." He promptly obeyed, and on the order of their captors walked to a big tree near by, where the men, after ascertaining that Roberts was not an officer, made him take off his clothes and put on their garments. These clothes the men appropriated to their own use, allowing Roberts to retain a portion of their striped clothing. The men boasted of the prowess, and finally, before leaving him, asked as to the nearest point on the river where a boat could be secured with which to go to Portland, where, they said, they had friends. They warned Roberts to go home and not report their presence in the city, shook hands with him, and started toward the river, and Roberts went home in his underclothes. This was at 10 o'clock. He did not leave home until daylight, at which time he came down and reported to the officers his experience with the convicts.

After leaving Roberts' house the two men evidently went to the home of

pushed open the door and stuck his rifle in. He asked me for something to eat. I told him to wait outside and I would get it ready. In fifteen minutes I called them in. One dressed in a duster or light Mackintosh ate very little. He was evidently very much exhausted for he had no appetite for anything. He tasted the mush and took a cup of coffee and then rolled a cigarette but threw it away without smoking but a little of it. He inquired the way to the Dalles and wanted to know if the timber went all the way there; also the distance to the foot hills. They asked first how far they were from Salem.

Mr. King gave it as his opinion that one of the two would not go far owing to his apparently exhausted condition. The horses were turned loose in the pasture and the halter and bridle hid in the fence corner. The dogs found these but refused to follow the trail of the prisoners.

On the Trail.
 When the bloodhounds first took the trail of the fugitives near Gervais, they followed it unerringly for a time until a cake of soap, such as is made and used in the Penitentiary, was found. Beyond that point the animals did not care to work, and it was supposed that the convicts, evidently informed of the presence of bloodhounds, had thoroughly covered their shoes with that soap, thereby destroying the scent followed by the dogs. Later, however, the bloodhounds again took the trail, and followed it rapidly. They led the pursuers to where the bridles, taken off the stolen horses, were secreted, and finally led the posse into Gervais close on the heels of the escapes.

A Possible Accomplice
 A stranger has been hanging around the LeBranch stable since Saturday, familiarizing himself with the place, under the pretext of wanting to swap horses, was yesterday arrested by Sheriff F. W. Durbin. When LeBranch told the horses stolen yesterday morning at 6 o'clock, he reported to Sheriff Durbin that he had a stranger and the latter was arrested. Property stolen from a lodging house, consisting of soap and towels, was found in his pockets. He gives the name of Louie Butler, and is an ex-convict, and it is believed that he is implicated in the conspiracy to break out of the prison.

Tracy's Colorado Record.
 Denver, Colo., June 10.—Harry Tracy, who with Dave Merrill, killed three guards and then escaped from the Oregon Penitentiary, is wanted in Colorado to answer the charges of murder, robbery and horse stealing. He was about to be tried for the murder of Valentine Hoye, a wealthy cattleman, of Routt county, when he bound and gagged his sheriff at Aspen, Colo., obtained his liberty, and left for Oregon.

Tracy was a leader in the once notorious "hole-in-the-wall" or "escaping" northwestern corner of Routt county near the Utah and Wyoming lines. The murder of William Strong, a boy, caused the citizens of Western Colorado to demand the extermination of the gang. A posse of sheriffs was formed and war was declared on the desperadoes. When the posse encountered the outlaws, a desperate battle was fought. Several were wounded on each side. Hoye, a member of the posse, was killed. Four outlaws were afterward captured by the posse, Tracy was convicted at Aspen; but subsequently escaped.

Tracy in Utah.
 Salt Lake City, Utah, June 10.—Harry Tracy, who with David Merrill, shot and killed three men while escaping from the state prison at Salem, Or., Sunday, has served time in the Utah Penitentiary, but escaped from custody with four other desperate criminals, none of whom has ever been recaptured. Tracy drew a revolver from his convict's jacket and covered the guard with the weapon. Commanding the guard to remove his clothing and taking his gun, Tracy donned the uniform of the guard and with three other prisoners walked boldly away.

(FROM THURSDAY'S STATESMAN.)
 Yesterday was a day of excitement throughout Marion county, and in fact in the Willamette valley, all eyes being turned to Gervais, near which place the murderous convicts, Tracy and Merrill, were in hiding, with large posses searching every nook and cranny for the criminals.

Late on Tuesday night, the criminals eluded their pursuers near the town of Gervais, and although every road and trail was patrolled by armed men searching for them, Tracy and Merrill, kept out of the reach of the posse, and at 4 o'clock yesterday morning suddenly reappeared at the August King cabin, where they secured breakfast on Tuesday morning, and again asked for food. They were supplied by King with what they demanded—a loaf of bread, a pocket knife and some articles of clothing—and again took to the woods. King notified the authorities at Gervais, and the men, scattered over the country, were called in and soon surrounded the wood in which the men were located. The bloodhounds tracked the scent at King's cabin and traced the men into the jungle—a tract of timber covering about 100 acres and adjoining a wheat field.

During the day Sheriff F. W. Durbin telegraphed Governor T. T. Geer an urgent request for reinforcements as he had not enough men to completely surround the timber in which the murderers were located, and the Governor at once called out Company F, Fourth Regiment, O. N. G., of Salem, and Company D, of Woodburn, and both organizations reached the scene of operations during the afternoon, and went on duty at once. Major Reas H. Leabo, of the Fourth Regiment, was ordered to take command of the men.

During the afternoon, the men were sighted several times. Between 4 and 5 o'clock they attempted to crawl through the wheat field adjoining the timber, when Oscar Gaitle, one of Sheriff Durbin's posse, caught sight of them crawling through the ferns in the edge of the timber. Instantly Gaitle began pumping lead at them out of his Winchester, firing five shots in rapid succession, but the distance was so great—175 yards, and the men dropped down in the ferns out of sight, that none of the shots took effect, and the fugitives slipped away back into the timber. The cordon around the timber was at once drawn closer, and more men were sent out from Gervais to reinforce the posse. The officers making preparations for a long siege. It was proposed to keep the wood surrounded all night, and should the men break out to either capture or kill them. After the firing by Gaitle, the two fugitives

fired a couple of shots, but no one heard a bullet whistle, and it was supposed their firing was done in a spirit of defiance.

A company of thirty men at Oregon City, composed of veterans of the Spanish war and Oregon volunteers, offered to join the forces last night, but were requested to wait till this morning. Should more men be required and the criminals be still at large, the Oregon City volunteers will be sent for.

Plan Did Not Work.
 Some time before dark last night Sheriff F. W. Durbin planned a sort of ruse with the hope of drawing the convicts out from their concealment and open to fire. Sheriff Durbin quietly made the rounds, visiting all the sentries and advised them of his plans and gave them each explicit instructions which conformed with the plan agreed upon. When he returned to the starting point Dr. H. L. Olinger, of this city, got into a buggy and started to drive down the county road which follows the clump of timber, in which the fugitives have taken refuge, the entire length. The object of this move was to tempt the convicts to hold the rig up and attempt to escape with it, whereupon, at a certain understood signal, the sentinels were to open fire. The ruse did not work, however, as Dr. Olinger drove the entire length of the clump and back without the convicts ever revealing themselves.

Provisions were provided for the men standing on guard, in the way of sandwiches, coffee, etc., from the hotel at Gervais and these were distributed around the entire line by several who volunteered their services by the aid of a vehicle.

Kerrigan and Snow and Ford and Cordans, the 4 Portland detectives, are with the pursuing party, and officers from all sections of the Willamette valley have gathered at Gervais to assist in running down the bandits.

A report was received from Gervais yesterday, that the coat stolen from Dr. White on Tuesday morning, has not been recovered, but a quantity of ammunition taken in the doctor's buggy has been found. The ragged overcoat Tracy wore was found. The articles were in a field near the heart of the city.

Dr. White states that when he was accosted on the street and robbed Merrill said but few words and that Tracy did all the talking. Tracy was very pale and gave his commands so indistinctly that the doctor had to ask the outlaws to repeat his words. Tracy wanted all of the doctor's clothing, and Dr. White consented to take off his trousers when Merrill insisted on opening and pushed him into the rig on the lap of Ed Dupuis, who was then thrown out. L. Briggs, a resident of Gervais, states Tracy entered his house, saying he had walked from town, was footsore and weary. He asked for bread and meat, but Briggs had nothing but a loaf of bread. For this Tracy offered 25 cents, saying he was willing to pay for the loaf and some milk. Briggs had no milk and refused the money. Tracy took the articles and left.

Governor T. T. Geer, Hon. S. T. Richardson, C. H. Jones, A. M. Southwick, Roland Southwick, L. R. Stinson, Charles Tillson, E. C. Patton, N. J. Damon, John A. Byrne, James Walton, S. E. Purvine, and several others went to Gervais yesterday afternoon, the Governor to view the situation and make what provisions which were necessary for those participating in the manhunt, while some of the others went down to lend their assistance and still others through curiosity. Those who went down to assist remained while the others returned last night.

They Secured Breakfast.
 GERVAIS, Or., June 12.—Dr. C. S. White's horse and buggy were taken right in town but owing to a road being closed up recently and the near approach of the posse, the buggy was abandoned. A Winchester rifle was taken from it with 12 rounds of ammunition. Dr. White's coat was also taken from him. Before taking the buggy the men entered a house and got a loaf of bread; they then passed through the town spreading terror among the inhabitants who recognized them.

After leaving the buggy they went back to the strip of timber where they spent Tuesday. This morning at 4 o'clock they appeared at King's cabin again for breakfast. They got a loaf of bread and a piece of cheese and left going into the timber. King says they told him that they presumed he knew who they were; he told them he did and that men were after them and they should keep away from his place. They offered to pay for the bread intimating that they would pay any sum he might ask. They told him not to go to town today and promised to write him a month from now as to the success of their efforts to escape.

King came to Gervais and reported before 6 o'clock and the posse was soon in pursuit. The hounds struck the trail near the cabin and followed it into the timber. The dogs were then called back and a line of men was placed around the tract of timber which lies between roads. It is about 1½ miles long and a mile wide. There are now about fifty men on guard and it will be hard for them to escape. There will be more men tonight and it is quite possible they will be taken if they attempt to break through the line.

They were seen at 5 o'clock by Mrs. Adam Blannard as they were entering the timber. They will probably make another break tonight.

Tracy is evidently in a bad condition; he is said to be lame and is described as being as white as a ghost.

(FROM FRIDAY'S STATESMAN.)
 The scene of the efforts to capture Tracy and Merrill, the escaped convicts, was again shifted yesterday. It was transferred from the woods a mile outside of Gervais, to the woods and jungle in the gulch of the Needy and Molalla country, in the southeastern portion of Clackamas county, where a large tract of timbered country, in which the fugitives are believed to be, was last evening surrounded by three companies of militia and the posses of Sheriff F. W. Durbin, of Marion county, and Sheriff J. J. Cooke, of Clackamas county. The men were posted on the roads surrounding that section, in the hope of securing the bandits, if they should again try to break through the cordon as they did on the preceding night near Gervais.

Should the fugitives try to go through the lines, it is likely that one of them will be killed or captured, as the men under command of Sheriff Durbin are readying the seriousness of

the situation, and are determined to bring to the murderers of the three prison guards. It is feared, however, that the heavy timber and thick underbrush, where they are supposed to be, will give the escapes an opportunity to slip through the lines again, and that the men will ultimately make their way into the fastnesses of the Cascade range, where it would be difficult to secure them, unless attacked from the east side, especially if they should take the Barlow route for Eastern Oregon, which many now believe to be their destination. This belief is based on the fact that everywhere the men have made cautious inquiry regarding the character of the country lying between this section and The Dalles, coupled with the further fact that they are gradually working toward the pass in question, having been seen only eight miles west of Whitlow Springs as late as yesterday noon.

Yesterday's Movements.
 On Wednesday night about 200 men were posted around the timber in which the two escapes were known to be. During the night the men attempted to pass the lines at several points, but were driven back until finally, at about 10 o'clock yesterday morning they made good their escape. Charles Pugh, on guard in the line, had temporarily moved a little distance from the line, when one of the men suddenly appeared, climbed over the fence, and though Mr. Pugh fired two shots at him in the uncertain light, the fugitive escaped through the lines. At the same time, a hundred yards further away, the second convict broke through the lines.

The shots fired at the escaping convicts met with responses from all along the line, and for some unaccountable reason a general fire resulted, directed at the wood, in which the convicts had been hidden. They had escaped, however, and this fact was at daylight reported to the sheriff, when the forces were called off.

Immediately the bloodhounds were brought into requisition, and they took the scent of the one convict at the point he was seen by Mr. Pugh climbing the fence. And here proof of Mr. Pugh's marksmanship was discovered in that the fence rails were filled with buckshot at a distance of a few feet for a short distance, when the men returned to Gervais for breakfast.

About this time a telephone message from Monitor announced the fact that the two escapes had taken breakfast at the farm of Barney Aker, near Dunsmuir, about seven miles from Gervais, and Sheriff Durbin and a small party, with the bloodhounds, quickly started for that point, the militia following more leisurely.

At Monitor it was found the men had entered the Aker home and demanded breakfast of Mrs. Aker. While one guarded the children, the other accompanied the woman to the cellar after provisions. They sat down and ate, but at that moment the whistle of a nearby saw mill sounded, and the men, hastily gathering up the provisions on the table, made their escape to the woods. Here the bloodhounds were put on the track, but they did not work well, and the men were placed on the trail. It has been reported that the clothes used to give the dogs a scent of the fugitives were not as effective as earlier in the campaign, so word was sent to the prison to send a new supply, and this will reach Sheriff Durbin this morning.

The two companies of militia—Salem and Woodburn, and the posses, followed the convicts, to the Clackamas county line—Butte Creek—where dinner was served. Meanwhile Sheriff Durbin and a small posse went on into Clackamas county, and learning that Merrill had a sister residing there, the house of the family was surrounded, and a search made, but no trace of the men found. Returning to Monitor, another attempt was made to start the bloodhounds at the Aker home when a young woman came riding in hastily, and notified the sheriff that at noon the fugitives had entered the home of Edward Graves, near the Needy road and had secured a frying-pan and six pounds of bacon, having immediately after gone into the heavy timber.

The entire force was moved forward to beyond the Graves ranch, and there the woods, entered by the convicts, was picketed. Sheriff Durbin then left for Needy, and there met Sheriff J. J. Cooke, of Clackamas county, with a posse, ready to take up the pursuit of the fugitives. Sheriff Cooke had once after learning of the convicts, asked Governor T. T. Geer for the Oregon City militia, and these, and a posse of deputy sheriffs, were sent out from Oregon City last evening, on the Molalla road, picketing that highway into the mountains, while the Salem and Woodburn posses and Sheriff Durbin's men occupied the Needy road paralleling the Molalla road, the ends being closed by the posses. It was thought the men were in this section, and today the dogs will again be used in finding the trail, when the Salem and Woodburn troops are expected to come home, probably this evening, the Clackamas county officials taking up the chase.

The work of the pursuing forces yesterday was most arduous. The roads as the pursuit was carried into Clackamas county, were rough, the country sparsely settled, the timber and undergrowth thick and movements, especially for organized troops, exceedingly difficult. And the rapid pace set by the fearless convicts put the mettle of the pursuers to a severe test, especially was this the case with the men who had been in the pursuit since Tuesday. The commissary department was well organized as well as some would have liked it, though all was done in the power of the officials to make the discomforts as few as possible.

Sheriff F. W. Durbin, who has been tireless in his work, was constantly in the forefront, and did the work of two men, while directing the movements of the entire force. Major H. H. Leabo in direct command of the troops did all in his power for the men, and Surgeon General A. B. Gillis was on hand to render what assistance might be required, and taking his turn in any of

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WOOL POOL

Marion county wool growers have pooled their wool. They have 1900 or more fleeces. The lots will remain open for growers until June 14th. The following committee will receive sealed bids for this wool at the Willamette hotel, Salem, Oregon, at 1 o'clock, Saturday, June 11th. The committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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