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36TH YEAR.

SALEM, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1912

PRICE TWO CENTS

Crippled Blind and Helpless

And Old Beyond His Years Man Who Set the World Talking of His Criminal Deeds, Pleads for Pardon

Hoping that with the coming of the new year he will be a free man, and pleading with Governor West to help him to procure from the governor of California a complete pardon, Chris Evans, aged, palsied and blind in one eye as a result of numerous gun fights with officers, one of the notorious Sontag and Evans trio that terrorized San Joaquin county for years, conferred personally with the governor yesterday.

Convicted of engaging in gun fights with officers, with dire results to the officers, Evans was sentenced to the penitentiary at Folsom, and was liberated from that prison about a year ago, after doing time for 17 years. Coming to Portland he took up his abode with relatives, and procured employment with a lumber company. Evans brought to Governor West a letter from his employer saying that his conduct since his release has been of the best, asking that the governor give him favorable consideration, if possible.

Is All Shot Up.

Chris Evans is 60 years old. In many gun fights in which he has been engaged he has been perforated with bullets. One arm is gone, caused by wounds, and one eye has been destroyed by buckshot.

Telling his own story, the old desperado said:

"I first had a gun battle with the deputies at Mussel Slough, but this was never laid up against me by the authorities. After John Sontag had taken the leading part in the hold-up of the Southern Pacific he came to my home. I knew that he was hiding, but didn't know why. The officers came and asked my daughter if Sontag was there. She did not know who Sontag was, and told her that he was not there. They told her that she lied. I was on my back porch washing, after returning to my home, when my daughter came rushing to me, and told me what the stranger had told her. I rushed through the house, grabbing a six-shooter as I ran, and appearing at the front door saw one of the men draw a gun. I shot him. But he was not the man who had insulted my daughter.

Takes to Mountains.

"The deputies left the premises, and Sontag and I took to the hills. It was not until we were in the mountains that Sontag told me he was wanted for holding up the S. P. train. I was in the hills for 14 months, and managed to visit my home about once a month, and keep myself well supplied with food.

"My brother-in-law betrayed me. He sent word to me at my hiding place that his wife was sick. I went down from the mountains to help him, and fell into the hands of the posse that was awaiting me in ambush. They fired, and I dropped behind my horse for protection. The horse was riddled with bullets. They fired again and I had one eye knocked out, and was hit in the spine and arm. An officer attempted to come and take me, but I raised my wounded arm and shot and killed him. Another deputy wounded me in the wrist of the other arm, and I was helpless. I crawled through the grass a distance of seven miles to the house of a friend of mine, where I was captured. Sontag kept in hiding for a time in a hole, but was later shot and died of blood poisoning."

Governor Sympathizes.

Governor West made the old gun fighter no promises, but has taken up his case with Governor Johnson.

"While I know nothing of the merits of the case," said the governor, "I know that Evans' behavior since he has been in Oregon has been of the best. The letter from the Portland lumber company shows that he has given no trouble, and that he is trustworthy."

Evans has returned to his home in Portland, where he will await anxiously the outcome of the negotiations between the executives of Oregon and California.

A Happy Christmas.
James L. Rellly, who killed Louis Long, a prize-fighter, at Prineville in Crook county, because of Long's attentions to Rellly's wife, and who has been serving in the pen, was yesterday evening granted a parole by the governor. Rellly was found guilty of murder in the third degree. Clemency was also extended Frank Nash, serving for larceny committed in Grant county. The two men are spending Christmas outside the walls of the prison.

To Present a Bill for Pensions

Sometime early in the coming session of the Oregon legislature, petitions signed by thousands of names from every nook and cranny of Oregon will be presented to the members of the senate and the house, praying for the passage of what is known as the dependent widow's pension bill, prepared by the Oregon Congress of Mothers. These petitions are now being circulated, together with copies of the proposed bill, in every county in the state by women in sympathy with the measure. Letters are being sent to every member of the legislature, together with copies of the bill, so that when it is presented the full text will be known to all.

Pensions Are Provided.

Under the provisions of the bill every woman who has one or more children under the age of 16 years, and whose husband is either dead or an inmate of any Oregon institution, or is totally unable to perform physical labor, and whose support and the support of whose child or children is dependent wholly or partly on her labor, shall be entitled to assistance. This assistance is to consist of \$10 a month for one child and \$7.50 for each additional child, provided that the child or children live with the mother, the purpose of the proposed law being to keep the children together under the guidance and control of the mother, and to assist her in making a home for them.

Money paid to mothers under this act is to be paid from a county fund in each county, which is to be raised by a levy of not less than one-tenth and not more than two-tenths of a mill upon all taxable property.

The Proposal to Include Men Whose Wives are Dead in the Provisions of the Act Will Not be Considered by the Congress of Mothers, whose members maintain that men are not likely to remain at home with the children and make a home for them, but that, if they are able to work at all, they will intrust the care of the children to others, while they devote practically all of their time to their work at remuneration which will enable them to pay for the care of the children.

Saving Is Anticipated.

"We maintain," said Mrs. Bonduant yesterday, "that the law we propose will be an actual saving to the state, for none of our institutions can maintain a child on \$7.50 a month, as we anticipate mothers will be able to do, together with their own labor, and give it decent clothing, sufficient food and proper training. The average cost for maintaining children at various state and industrial institutions is \$11.25 a month, and we do not believe, aside from the saving in cost, that there is a child in Oregon or any other state, that will not be the better off with its mother. It will pay, not only in dollars and cents, but higher ideals and better citizenship."

At Approaching Legislative Sessions in 17 States, Bills Providing for Dependent Widows' Pensions Will be Submitted. Four states, Colorado, Massachusetts, Illinois and Wisconsin, already have such laws in operation.

False Fire Alarms.

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 25.—J. McVillie, Carl Erickson and James Wilson are held by the police today, following a false fire alarm, turned in from a down-town box. Many recent false alarms have caused the firemen and alarm men to declare war on those responsible.

Is Under Blanket of Snow

Eastern States From Maine to South Carolina Have a White Christmas--Thousands of Poor Cared for

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.]
New York, Dec. 25.—The eastern section of the United States, from Maine to South Carolina, is wrapped in a mantle of snow, ranging from two inches at Columbia, South Carolina, to 12 inches here.

Christmas day in New York dawned cloudy and extremely cold. By 10 o'clock, however, it cleared, and the streets were packed with revelers. A feature of the day's celebration was the huge Christmas tree installed in Madison Square Garden, for the benefit of the poor, by the city. It will be kept lighted nightly for a week.

Charity organizations are feeding thousands of persons. It is estimated that the Salvation Army gave out 10,000 baskets up to noon, each containing sufficient food for five persons.

Logger Killed by Train.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.]
Eugene, Or., Dec. 25.—Bill Lealle Briggs, a logger, was killed under the wheels of a switch engine in the outskirts of Eugene yesterday, when he stepped directly in front of the engine, apparently with suicidal intent. The engine was backing at the time. Briggs was about 42 years of age and unmarried, and had no near relatives. He had been drinking.

New Books for Salem Library

The following new books have been received by the Salem public library:

- Non-Fiction.
Upton, Standard Operas.
McKeever, Farm Boys and Girls.
Clark, Model Dialogues.
Frith, Practical Palmistry.
Alein, Civics and Health.
Anlin, Promised Land.
The Recitation.
Cooley, Domestic Art in Woman's Education.
Carlson, One Way Out.
Lusson, Adds and Sales.
Focht, American Rural School.
Sherwood, Manners and Social Usages.
Palmer, Cultivation of English.
Reed, Every Day Dinners.
Scott, Increasing Human Efficiency in Business.
Scott, Theory of Advertising.
Tabor, Landscape Gardening.
White, The Cabin.
Zangwill, The Melting Pot.
Hoar, Autobiography of Seventy Years.
Drummond, Ideal Life.
Landon, Opening of Tibet.
Morley, Life of Gladstone.
Fiction.
Burnham, Inner Flame.
Gordon, Corporal Cameron.
Martin, Fighting Doctor.
Lee, Mr. Achilles.
Williams, Heather Moon.
Little, Lady of Sada San.
Walsh, Cry in the Wilderness.
London, White Fang.
Smith, Evolution of Dora.
Children.
Altshuler, Riflemen of the Ohio.
Barbour, Fur Honor of the School.
Beally, Canada (Peeps in Many Lands).
Bincham, Mother Goose Villains.
Brown, The Two Colliers.
Clemens, Prince and the Princess.
Crest, Little Lame Prince.
Crest, Adventures of a Grouse.
It Was Some Cake.
Washington, D. C., Dec. 25.—Vinson Bonvinton Edward Melson, the "11,000,000 baby," gave a Christmas reception today to 49 of his young friends, at which they partook of an immense Christmas cake. It took two days to bake the cake, which cost \$250.

Suffragettes have been a terror to even braver men than Rockefeller.

Have Clue to Murder.
San Diego, Dec. 25.—Local police today have a clue in the recent Beckman murder mystery. A letter received from Gustav Beckman, brother of Carl Beckman, the upholsterer whose mutilated body was found floating in the bay, states that Beckman brought heavily laden baggage with him, when he came to San Diego. The police endeavoring to learn the contents of the baggage. They believe the bay victim was murdered for money.

Beautiful Services at St Joseph's

What was generally conceded to be the most impressive and beautiful Christmas services held in the history of St. Joseph's church, of Salem, took place this morning, beginning at 8 o'clock. The services were of great solemnity, and interspersed with beautiful music and singing.

Solemn high mass was held at 6 o'clock with Rev. Father Moore, pastor; Rev. Father Maher, deacon; Rev. Father Lawrence Caricot, of Mt. Angel college, sub-deacon. Father Moore delivered the sermon introductory to the holding of the services. Pope Leo's mass was then rendered by the St. Joseph choir, under the direction of Mr. Dan Lanenburg. Mr. Lanenburg can well claim credit for the efficient manner in which he directed the choir, as the beautiful piece rendered was in finished form. Miss Mary Shuttie and Carl Poppa assisted the choir.

Low mass followed at 7, 8:30 and 9 o'clock, and high mass was held again with Rev. Father Caricot, deacon, Rev. Father, sub-deacon.

Rev. Father Caricot then delivered a beautiful and inspiring sermon on this great festive day, which was enjoyed greatly by all.

Miss Olive McGee thrilled the attendance with the selection, "Adeso Fideles."

St. Joseph's church has never been so beautifully decorated. The furnishings were of the most original character. A tiny crib bearing the Christ child was located at one side of the pulpit with the lights so arranged as to cast sun rays over the little miniature figure lying in the crib. It was very beautiful. Other tasteful decorations adorned the spacious pews, and, with the entire end of the church containing hundreds of electric lights, a prettier Christmas display could not be imagined.

Declined to Discuss It Today

Asked for an interview today regarding his hope for the abolition of capital punishment in Oregon before next Christmas, Governor West said that he strongly desired to let the subject of capital punishment rest for a time, and refused to say anything about his hopes for its abolition in 1913.

VISITS GRAVE YEARLY AT MIDNIGHT

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.]
Frederick, Md., Dec. 25.—Last night, known to every student of St. Mary's college here, journeyed to the grave every Christmas eve at midnight. His annual visit is now considered a regular event, and the students here prepare for it and follow him to the grave.

Waifs Sing as in Old Time Days

Bands Sing Christmas Carols in Los Angeles Streets in Early Morning--Newsies Scramble for Coins

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.]
Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 25.—Shivering in the cold of early morning, a band of waifs, two of them coatless and one carrying a tiny baby, impeded traffic in Broadway today, singing Christmas carols, while automobiles and street cars were held up without a word of interference from traffic officers.

When the songs were finished, coins thrown from pedestrians, windows and motors showered on the pavement. The little band then moved down Broadway, followed by a throng of onlookers, and interspersed with public place was invaded by wandering squads of Christmas carolers during the morning, and in their wake were scores of newsboys waiting to scramble for the coins that fell. Many of the parties included women, while several bands of singing children tramped through the wealthy residence districts.

To Him That Hath.

Princeton, N. J., Dec. 25.—Hundreds of Christmas presents from all parts of the country poured in on President-elect Woodrow Wilson here today.

Wilson spent the day quietly with the members of his family.

Elks Make Quarters Handsome

An expenditure that will aggregate \$10,000 has been made by the Elks lodge of Elks in remodeling the interior of its quarters on Liberty street.

The improvement embraces new furniture, new wall painting, better lighting system and heating and ventilating apparatus.

The lodge has installed in the billiard room four tables which are said to be as good as any on the Pacific coast. They are of Cremonese walnut finished with inlaid maple. The chairs and other furniture of the room are made to match the tables.

The furniture in the reception hall is the best that money can buy. The chairs are of Spanish leather and mahogany and are luxuriously upholstered. Several of the chairs cost as high as \$90 each.

Elks Had Christmas Tree.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.]
Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 25.—The Elks of the dramatic company's trial weeks this morning, they spent a Christmas tree that had been in the federal building. Each of the party received a gift and treated to a turkey, cranberry, beefsteak, and other specialties. The tree was decorated with 24 candles.

Auto Thief Escapes.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.]
San Francisco, Dec. 25.—The police here were notified today of the escape of a man from the city jail. The man, who was charged with the murder of a woman, had been in the jail since his arrest on Dec. 10. He was seen leaving the jail at about 10 o'clock today, and was followed by a patrolman. The man was seen to get into a car and drive away. The police are searching for the car and driver.

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Robbers Hold up a Rich Train

Fail in Attempt to Dynamite Safe and Are Closely Pursued by Officers and an Armed Posse

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.]
Springfield, Ill., Dec. 24.—Pursued by a posse of deputy sheriffs, four robbers, who late Monday night held up and unsuccessfully attempted to rob the "Alton Hummer," on the Chicago & Alton, near the station, five miles southwest of here, this morning were engaged in a desperate battle with the officers. Details of the fight now in progress are meagre, but it is said that two of the desperados, all of whom were unarmed, have left their companions and fled, with a squad of officers in close pursuit. The others of the gang are reported to be surrounded near the Washburn tracks close to the scene of the hold-up. Blood-bounds and more men have been rushed to the scene, and officials believe their capture is assured.

After having the locomotive and express cars uncoupled from the rest of the train, the robbers forced the engineer to drive several miles down the track, where the robbers exploded four charges of dynamite in unsuccessful attempts to open the express car safe.

Men Flee to Woods.

Closely pursued by a posse of 15 deputy sheriffs and railroad detectives from Springfield aboard a switch locomotive, the robbers left the badly damaged safe and escaped into the thick woods along the right of way.

The Springfield posse, joined by a force of railroad detectives and employees from Jacksonville, continued the hunt for the robbers, exchanging several volleys.

The engineer of the train then backed to the station, where the coaches and sleeping cars were picked up, and the train continued on its way to Kansas City.

None of the passengers were disturbed, the robbers confining their operations to the express car.

When the switch locomotive returned to the city this morning it was learned that the robbers had been riding on the "rubbish" baggage. When near the city they crept over the tender and covered Engineer McLaughlin, of Bloomington, with revolvers, ordering him to stop. Freeman Sullivan, of Bloomington, was ordered to get down and unescape. He complied.

Smith Gives Alarm.

Flughen Smith came running from the rear of the train and the robbers opened fire on him, but he was unhurt. Smith ran back to the fire station and had the operator telegraph for the switch locomotive with the sheriff and deputies.

J. P. Farrell, division train master, in his report to C. W. Miller, division superintendent of the Alton, says the robbers obtained little loot, that they fired four shots of dynamite at the safe, but failed to open it, and fled when the officers arrived.

The express messenger is said to have put up a game fight with the robbers that entered his car.

The train was one of the heaviest that left Chicago for the West last night.

In addition to smoking car, day coach, chair car, parlor car, diner, buffet, library car, the train carried a number of sleeping cars, all of which were filled.

The train carried a large amount of valuable freight, including a number of automobile bodies, in addition to a consignment of mail.

The robbery started with them two days ago, according to the report of the Alton, Ill., police.

Continued on page 1.