

Wm. Erickson Is Discharged

Wm. Erickson was arrested at his ranch on Thompson creek eight miles from Alzada, Mont., Thursday of last week by Sheriff Jones of Fallon county, Montana, and Deputy Sheriff Atwood of Butte county, charged with the murder of his brother-in-law, August Kesketalo, on January 14, 1911. The crime was alleged to have been committed on the Kesketalo ranch, seven miles east of Belle Fourche.

The information on which the arrest was made was furnished by Nester Daniels, one of the well known young ranchers of the Fruitdale country, who claimed he saw the crime committed. After placing Erickson under arrest, States Attorney Malvin and Sheriff True made investigations that convinced them it would be practically impossible for Daniels to have seen what he claimed to have observed on the day Kesketalo met his death, and on Tuesday of this week the case against Erickson was dismissed and Daniels was placed under arrest charged with perjury. His hearing is set for Tuesday of next week.

On January 14, 1911, the badly shattered body of August Kesketalo, a brother-in-law of Wm. Erickson, was found by the lat-

ter near the bank of the Belle Fourche river on the Kesketalo ranch, where the dead man had been clearing some land of trees and underbrush, using dynamite to remove the stumps. The weather was cold, and a small camp fire had evidently been started to thaw the dynamite. The theory of the officers at that time was that the explosive had become too hot, resulting in its exploding while Kesketalo was near it, the force of the explosion almost completely beheading the victim, as well as breaking his collar bone, several ribs, and other bones about the body. The indications pointed so strongly to accidental death that Coroner Chassell deemed an inquest unnecessary, and none was held. William Erickson was working in his own field about two hundred yards from where the explosion occurred, and was the first man to reach the dead man. Mr. Erickson then informed some of the near-by neighbors, and sent a man for Coroner Chassell.

This apparently ended the case until the fore part of December, when Nester Daniels appeared at the states attorney's office in Belle Fourche and made a signed statement to the effect that he had seen Wm. Erickson kill Kes-

ketalo and then place the dynamite under the body and touch it off. Daniels claimed that on the day in question he was assisting Henry Sammel haul hay to a feed rack in the vicinity of where Kesketalo's body was found, and while he was on the load pitching to the rack where Mr. Sammel was stacking the hay, he noticed Wm. Erickson, carrying a gun and sneaking along the tall weeds following a line fence that led to near where Kesketalo was working. When within about sixty yards of the latter Erickson fired at him and in the next few minutes fired two more shots at the man, at the same time running toward the place where the man and fire were. Reaching the fire where Kesketalo was lying on the ground, Erickson struck him over the head a few times with the gun, then took a knife from his pocket and cut Kesketalo's throat, then wiping the knife with a handkerchief he took from his pocket. Daniels then stated that he saw Erickson pick up a sack and shake something, supposed it was dynamite, from the sack, and make twenty paces from the dynamite to Kesketalo's body, as though placing the sticks under the dead man. As soon as he completed this he ran away a short distance, and there was an explosion. Erickson then ran back to where the body was, according to Daniels' statement, and then went away, and in a

short time returned with several of the neighbors.

Daniels said he watched these proceedings from twenty to thirty minutes, and that when Mr. Samel asked him what he was doing he said he was watching a man, but did not state what the man was doing.

On Monday of this week Sheriff True, States Attorney Malvin, and Attorney Dan McCutcheon, who had been retained by Mr. Erickson, went to Fruitdale, where they met Mr. Daniels, and the party, accompanied by Melvin Stearns and Cashier Fred Clary of the Fruitdale bank, went out to the Kesketalo ranch. When nearing the ranch, the states attorney asked Daniels to point out the place where Kesketalo was working when he was killed, and Daniels did point out a spot; when asked if he could be mistaken regarding the location, he said he could not, as he distinctly remembered the events of that day.

This location was disputed by Charley LaVezzi and others who were present shortly after Kesketalo was killed, and they located the spot about a quarter of a mile north and from where Daniels said he saw Kesketalo and the fire, this latter location being around the point of a hill and beyond a clump of high trees from where the complaining witness made his location. To further test out the probability of Daniels' statement, a fur overcoat was placed about twenty feet in the in a cottonwood tree' and then the party went to the place where the feed rack was located, a distance of between a mile and a quarter and a mile and a half from where the man was killed. Arriving at the spot it was discovered that a man standing at the rack could not see the spot where the body of Kesketalo was found, as there was a high hill and a grove of trees that obstructed the view. A tree was located near the rack, and in direct line, and to further ascertain whether a man could see the place where Kesketalo was working, Daniels climbed this tree, and at a height of twenty feet from the ground could not see the overcoat which had been placed in the tree near where the fire was built. He was then handed the states attorney's field glasses and with these could see the overcoat in the tree.

Sheriff True also climbed the tree, and could not see the coat with his naked eye or with the glasses, as did also Melvin Stearns. It was estimated by those present that on account of the hill the line of vision was at least seventy-five feet above where Kesketalo was sitting when the explosion occurred. In view of the above investigation, the fact that it was an impossibility for a man standing where Daniels claimed he was to have seen within several hundred feet of where Kesketalo's body was found, and the further fact that at a distance of a mile and a quarter to a mile and half it would be impossible for a man to see another take a handkerchief from his pocket and wipe a knife, count the number of paces a man would make with his hands when sitting or stopping on the ground, the states attorney deemed it advisable to dismiss the action against Erickson.

Daniels was then arrested on a charge of perjury, as he had made two statements regarding the matter. It is strongly intimated that some one else is mixed up in framing the statement, and if this be the case, and evidence be procured, the case will be interesting one before it is completed. — Belle Fourche.

Some Interesting Local Happenings

Meal tickets, \$5.00—at Ramme House.

Mrs. Price Todd and son who have been spending the winter in Oregon returned last week.

For cleaning and pressing see F. E. Downer at Williams' Barber Shop. Also clothes made to order.

Breakfast short-order— .35c at the Ramme House.

If you want to borrow money on your farm see Archie G. Parker at Grant & Fuqua's office.

Regular dinner and supper— .35c at the Ramme House.

For sale— One one-year-old sow; will have pigs in March. \$5.00, cash.— C. E. Stanton, City.

Miss Stella Olsen was over from Baker last week looking after her "honyocking" interests remaining here several days.

Lost—A brown fur coat southwest of Ekalaka. Finder please return to W. H. Peck's store and receive suitable reward.

Harry Holman was over from Camp Crook the fore part of the week on business and incidentally shaking mits with old timers.

Dry land alfalfa seed. Clean, bright and fine quality. 100 lbs. at 15c, 50 lbs. at 17c, lesser quantities at 19c. D. U. Surface, Ekalaka.

The county commissioners meet in regular session next Monday at Baker and several from this section are contemplating attending.

For Sale—11 spring calves at \$26 a head, 9 yearling steers, 4 2 year old steers, 7 cows. W. L. Surface, Pine View Ranch, Ekalaka.

If you wish to have any papers in connection with your Homestead or Desert Land Entry prepared, see S. J. Emswiler, U. S. Commissioner.

County Superintendent of Schools Miss Leonard came over from Baker last week and is now on a tour of inspection of the rural schools in the southern part of the county.

A good many of the residents of Ekalaka have asked us to announce a mass meeting which will be held on the evening of March 5th at 8 o'clock P.M.

The purpose of the meeting will be the selection of candidates for alderman to be voted on at the town election on April 5th. All voters should be interested and attend this meeting.

J. W. Ewalt has returned to Ekalaka for a visit with friends. Mr. Ewalt is now located at Alhambra, California and expects to return their within a short time.

A basket social is being advertised to take place Friday evening, March 5th at the Ekalaka Church. A short program has been arranged and everyone is invited. Hot coffee and lunch will be served.

Frank Thompson has returned from Virginia, where himself and family have been spending the winter. Frank is glad to get back home among his friends and says times are a good deal better here than at other places where he has been.

Senator John Oliver has written this office that he expects to return home the fore part of March. On the 10th, Mr. Oliver will speak at the I. O. O. F. Hall in the afternoon, taking up subjects that will be of interest to the people of this section. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting.

It is reported in this city that F. L. Funkenbusch, a civil engineer of Graham has been prevailed upon by his friends to circulate a petition and announce his candidacy for the office of county surveyor. F. L. is said to be a competent surveyor and a life-long democrat both of which attainment should prove valuable assets in the campaign.— Powder River Time.

Eddie Flasted brought to town the fore part of the week a two headed calf that brought the attention of the many curious inhabitants. The animal was sent to a taxidermist for mounting, after which it will be exhibited. Those who examined the "freak" pronounce it real, without any deformity other than the two heads.

The Big Day Monday turned out gloriously, the weather making country folks and all others responding. The tug-of-war between the town and country teams resulted in favor of the former. Throughout the day many other sports were indulged in. In the evening a big dance was held in the hall when the Booster car was raffled off. No. 163 with Al. Olsen and C. G. Rickards as claimants pulled down the prize. After all expenses had been paid, the balance sheet should up in favor of the club.

S N A K E S

Not taking the hint and getting the kick were driven out of Ireland years ago, but

St. Patrick

This year is going to be remember by a Big Dance in Ekalaka the date of which comes in the week of March 14th. The preliminary arrangements have been made, the music secured and you know what kind of a time is coming off. Nothing but a capital "B" will be excepted on the "Big"

Watch Next Week's Eagle For The
Particulars

For Rheumatic Pains

We highly recommend Nyal's Rheumatic Remedy for those affected with rheumatism. You will find it relieves you. Two sizes, 50c and \$1.00.

Ekalaka Drug Co.