

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK IN MONTANA

THE BIGGERSTAFF HANGING.

How William Biggerstaff Met His Fate at Helena.

HELENA, April 6.—William Biggerstaff, for the murder of Dick Johnson on June 9, 1895, was hanged in the jail of the Lewis and Clarke county prison this morning. The weight fell at precisely 10 minutes past 10 o'clock, and eight and one-half minutes later he was pronounced dead by Drs. N. Salvail and Dogge. His neck was broken and he did not suffer a particle. He "died game," as he said he would. There was no bravado about his demeanor, and he was perfectly sober. Apparently, there was no cooler man at the execution than himself.

Biggerstaff, after winning 11 out of 15 games of cribbage and sundry games of seven-up, played with a newspaper reporter, went to bed at 2 o'clock this morning and was soon asleep. He slept soundly, snoring so loudly as to keep the prisoners, in the tier of cells below him, awake. He arose at 6 o'clock and read the morning papers. Breakfast was taken to him at 7, and he ate heartily. Father Day, his minister, arrived before the meal was completed. He performed the last rites of the church, and remained with him to the end. At 8 o'clock the crowd began to collect about the jail. Those who had invitations were admitted to the jail yard, and a dozen or more of sheriffs and deputies were passed into the jail. The gallows were given the last test, and everything was in readiness. The jail yard began to fill and, as the hour approached, the waiting crowd showed signs of nervousness.

At 9:45 o'clock Sheriff Jurgens climbed the iron steps leading to the balcony opposite the condemned man's quarters.

"Biggerstaff, I have a paper here and I must read it to you," he said.

"All right, sir," was the reply. The sheriff then read the death warrant which closed with the words, "and you shall execute the sentence of this court between the hours of 10 o'clock a. m. and 2 o'clock p. m."

Biggerstaff drank in every word and when the sheriff finished reading, he asked if the time had been set.

"Yes," was the reply. "It will be as soon as you are ready."

"Well, I'm ready now," said Biggerstaff.

The sheriff then told Biggerstaff that he had left a glass of whisky for him and urged him to take it at once. The sheriff was about to turn away, when Biggerstaff turned to him and said:

"Whiskey's all right, but I would rather have beer." It was too late, however, and Biggerstaff turned again to his confessor. At 10 o'clock Sheriff Jurgens and Undersheriff Fred E. Hoss entered Biggerstaff's cell with the shackles.

Turning to Bill Gay, who was confined in the same quarter of the jail, Biggerstaff stretched out his hand with: "Well, Bill, I've got to say good-bye." Gay was much affected. He shook the outstretched hand earnestly, but could scarcely speak.

Then the march to the gallows commenced, the sheriff and undersheriff leading the way. Down the stairs and around to the rear of the jail went the procession. Biggerstaff never faltered. He needed some assistance in descending the stairs into the jail yard, owing to the straps around him, but he walked without a halt to the board platform under the gallows. Then he calmly gazed about on the crowd before him.

"Gentlemen, I wish to thank you all for the kindness you have shown toward me," he said, in tones that betokened not the least fear. "I will ask all

to forgive me for anything I may have done, and I have forgiven you all freely. I am going home, gentlemen."

When he concluded Undersheriff Hoss adjusted the strap around his feet. Looking down at him, Biggerstaff remarked, "What's the matter; why do you shake?" Then he asked Father Day, who stood beside him, praying, to put on the black cap, which he did. Sheriff Jurgens adjusted the noose. There was a slight pause. A shudder ran through the little audience. The signal was given to the executioner, who was screened from view by a canvas; the weight fell with a thud, and the body of the murderer bounded into the air a few inches. There was a convulsive twitching of the body for a moment and that was all. In eight and a half minutes life was extinct. In 15 minutes the body was lowered into a casket by Undertaker Flaherty and the black cap removed. The features were not distorted in the least. The body was taken to the morgue and will probably be buried to-morrow in the potter's field.

Dick Johnson, for whose murder William Biggerstaff was executed on the gallows this morning, was killed in a dirty little hovel on Water street, June 9, 1895. It was a peculiar crime, for the state was unable to prove a motive, and the defense was unable to establish an excuse. The prosecution did endeavor to prove that Biggerstaff had threatened to kill Johnson for breaking his fishing rod, but the effort was practically a failure, and the defense undertook to prove, besides self-defense, that he was under the influence of liquor when the crime was committed, but did not succeed in doing so.

The tragedy occurred early Sunday morning. Dick Johnson just one week almost to the hour before had fought Dick Case, the Yakima kid, in this city, for a purse of \$100. After three fierce rounds Johnson lost the fight on a foul. Thinking that he might arrange a fight in Butte, Johnson planned to leave the following Sunday for that city on the early morning train. His father, J. K. Johnson, lives in Butte, and he had spent several years there, being well known as a pugilist. About 4:30 Sunday morning Johnson stopped at the house of Mrs. Lottie Matthews, a disreputable colored woman, who lived at 311 Water street. He wanted to say good bye to her and her baby.

He thought much of the baby and often played with it. In bed with Mrs. Matthews and her baby was a 17-year-old white girl named Emma Bowhay, the daughter of Mrs. Hannah Bowhay, who was William Biggerstaff's mistress. Soon after Johnson reached the house, Dick Smith, another colored man who afterwards was the state's chief witness, called, and the two men spent some time chatting with the Matthews woman and the girl. About 5:30 o'clock there came a knock on the back door, and Biggerstaff and Mrs. Bowhay entered. Mrs. Bowhay told her daughter to get up and go home, which she refused to do. Then Biggerstaff told her that if she didn't obey her mother he would see that she did. Johnson told Biggerstaff to let the girl alone.

That led to an altercation that seriously amounted to a quarrel. Biggerstaff brandished a pocket knife, but seemed more in play than in any unfriendly mood. Suddenly he left the house by the back door and less than a minute started up the steps leading from the street to the front door. He had a revolver in his hand. Johnson seized an old broken shot gun that happened to be near by, and as Biggerstaff pushed the door open, struck at him. Almost at the same instant Biggerstaff fired. The bullet buried itself in the wall without doing any damage. Dick Smith

and the woman ran out of the house, and Biggerstaff entered through the door and grappled with Johnson. A desperate struggle ensued in which Johnson was shot through the heart.—Standard.

SUICIDE AND A WHIPPING.

Slander Causes a Hamilton Girl to Suicide—A Sad Affair.

One of the saddest cases of self destruction ever chronicled in the annals of the state took place Sunday morning at about 11 o'clock, at the residence of Joshua Gillman, near Woodside, says the Hamilton News. The fair young daughter of the house, Hattie May, a pure and innocent child not quite fifteen years of age, swallowed a dose of strychnine with suicidal intent, dying in a short time in the greatest agony, with her frantic, grief-stricken parents standing by, powerless to prevent the dire calamity. The cause that led up to the tragic event and the particulars of its enactment are as follows, as evidenced at the autopsy held by Coroner Reber Monday afternoon:

Chas. B. Allen, a man about 45 years of age, a drunken, disreputable sot, whose principal avocation has been fiddling at the country dances, some time since became infatuated with Miss Gillman and made advances to her, which she repelled, and subsequently avoided him. Allen then, on different occasions in Hamilton and at Victor, made remarks reflecting on her character; said he had seduced her. The girl finally heard of that talk and was greatly troubled thereat, appearing downcast, and weeping at intervals for several days. Sunday morning a neighbor met her father and repeated the gossip as he had heard it, and the father, very much agitated, went to the house and upbraided the poor girl for having been the cause of the talk. The family were preparing to visit a neighbor and, in the meantime, Miss Gillman passed into an adjoining room, remaining a few minutes. In a short time her strange appearance attracted the attention of the family; she rapidly grew worse, going into convulsions, and died in 20 minutes in great agony. Just before her death she admitted she had taken the poison. The authorities were notified and Coroner Reber held an autopsy over the remains and a verdict was returned setting forth that she had come to her death by a dose of strychnine, self administered. The funeral was held Tuesday at 2 p. m., the body being interred in the Victor cemetery. Miss Gillman would have been 15 years old in May, and was a remarkable prepossessing girl, rapidly budding into womanhood, bright and engaging, quiet and ladylike in her demeanor, and very sensitive. Her education had been somewhat neglected on account of the remoteness of a school in the neighborhood.

The feeling in the neighborhood is very strong against Allen, the scurrilous scoundrel, whose vile, slanderous tongue drove her to despair and suicide, and should he be apprehended it is very probable he will be hung to the nearest tree.

Later—Allen was captured and taken to the outskirts of the town and one hundred lashes given him on the back. He was then warned to leave the country never to return. Before her death, Miss Gillman solemnly declared that she was innocent, and the autopsy by the coroner proved that she spoke the truth.

THE ELECTIONS.

Dillon, April 6.—Leonard Elbel, Al Anderson and D. Barton were the successful aldermanic candidates here to-day.

Who'd Have Thought It.

Anaconda, April 6.—This city elected to-day four democratic aldermen, on party and personal issues. Registration was heavy, but the vote was light. The successful candidates are J. V. Collins, D. D. Walker, Peter Cox and Tom Murray.

'Twas One Sided.

Billings, April 6.—The city election held here to-day passed off quietly, there being only three aldermen to elect. A spirited but good-natured contest occurred in the First and Third wards. The aldermen elected were: First ward, J. H. Rinehart; Second ward, W. H. Donovan; Third ward, G. S. Robinson.

Sounds Like '94.

Missoula, April 6.—The republicans elected everything here today except police judge, and one short-term alderman. Kemp, republican for treasurer, received 423, to 223 for Nesmith, democrat; for police judge; Landers, democrat, received 334 votes, Nesbith, re-

publican, 356. The democrats elected one short term alderman. In the second ward, by a majority of 21.

In Helena.

Helena, April 6.—Dr. Steele, democrat was elected mayor by a plurality of 269.

Harry Tilton, republican, is elected treasurer by a plurality of 777. Ed S. Walker, republican, received a majority of 82. Three republican aldermen were elected, two democrats, one demopop and one populist.

A Standoff at Livingston.

Livingston, April 6.—In the city election to-day the populist candidates were defeated, and with the republicans and democrats it was a stand-off, each electing two aldermen.

The proposition to bond the city for \$10,000 for the purpose of erecting a city hall carried by a large majority.

The following are the successful candidates: First ward, George Gordon, republican; Second ward, G. W. Wakefield, democrat; Third ward, W. Madlan, democrat, and William Hruza, republican.

Must Have Been Raining.

Great Falls, April 6.—The democratic-populist fusion ticket carried every ward in the city to-day, after an exceedingly hot campaign. Majorities were as follows: First ward, R. J. Fitzgerald (re-elected), 91; Second, J. G. G. Thompson, 17; Third, Frank Marion, 5; Fourth, John J. McDonnell, 66. The city council will two republicans, six opposition, with a republican mayor.

The proposition to issue \$35,000 funding bonds carried by an overwhelming majority.

In Bozeman.

Bozeman, April 6.—Bozeman's city election, which for this year was simply to elect one alderman from each ward, was a wonderfully quiet affair. The Third was the only one going democratic, those elected being as follows: First ward, John Mitchell; Second ward, D. W. MacKenzie, Third ward, Thomas Lewis; Fourth ward, Horace Cleaveland. Votes were very evenly divided between the two old party tickets, with a light vote for the Citizens' ticket candidates. Cleaveland got but one vote over Robertson (democrat) in the Fourth ward, however, received 74 votes, out of a total of 101.

The Result in Butte.

Butte, April 6.—The municipal election to-day resulted in the election of four democrats, three republicans and one populist. The vote for the various aldermanic candidates was as follows: First ward, Bryne, populist, 219; Steele republican, 99. Second ward, Bryant, democrat, 242; Baker, republican, 196; Third ward, Dorais, democrat, 314; Lomas, republican, 216. Fourth ward, Bausman, republican, 170; Ferrell, democrat, 133. Fifth ward, Leggart, republican, 26; Walsh, populist, 215. Sixth ward, Davey, democrat, 180; Vivion, republican, 149; Stephens, populist, 26. Seventh ward, Knolton, democrat, 249; Hendrix, republican, 269.

In Walkerville a city election was held, the republicans electing all three aldermen.

When you want your harness repaired remember that your money will go further at George H. Cummings' than any other place in Madison county. We repair and sell at Red Rock prices. Next door to O. K. stables, 21-4

Sheriff's Sale.

NOTICE is hereby given that, under and by virtue of an order of sale and decree of foreclosure and sale, issued out of the district court of the Fifth judicial district of the state of Montana, in and for the county of Madison, duly signed and entered on the 8th day of December, A. D. 1895, attested on the twenty-sixth day of March, A. D. 1896, in an action wherein Henry Eiling was plaintiff and Chas. Church and Mrs. Chas. Church were the defendants, in which said action the plaintiff recovered a judgment and decree of foreclosure and sale, against the defendants for the sum of Twenty-two and 50-100 dollars, cost of suit and the further sum of Five Hundred thirty nine and 80-100 dollars, the amount of judgment and counsel fees, decreeing the sale of the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the above sums of money and interest thereon, I will on Saturday the second day of May, A. D. 1896 at the front door of the court house in the City of Virginia, county of Madison, state of Montana, at 2 o'clock p. m. of said day, sell all the right, title, claim and interest of the above named defendants, of, in and to the following described property situated in the county of Madison and state of Montana, to the highest bidder for cash in hand lawful money of the United States, to-wit: The west half of lot number 11, in block number 8, in the town of Pony, in the county of Madison, Montana, as shown by the official plat of said townsite now on file in the office of the clerk and recorder of said Madison county, Montana, together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining. Dated this 7th day of April, 1896.

JOS. I. HAINES, Sheriff.

By Jas. Summers, Undersheriff. First publication April 11, 1896. 25-4



A cream of tartar baking powder. Highest of all in leavening strength.—Latest U. S. Government Food Report. ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., 100 Wall Street, New York.

The Big Irrigating Ditch.

Missoula, April 5.—A big irrigating ditch has just been finished at the Spurgeon ranch, below town, which will be an innovation in irrigation in this section, although the plan to be employed is an old one in Colorado and California. The main ditch is 225 feet long, six feet deep and five feet wide. From this, other ditches will run, which will be supplied by a centrifugal pump, so that the whole ranch can be thoroughly irrigated. The pump has a capacity of 1,250 gallons a minute, about 139 miners' inches.—Standard.

ROYAL Baking Powder. Highest of all in leavening strength.—U. S. Government Report.

Sheriff's Sale.

NOTICE is hereby given that, under and by virtue of an order of sale and decree of foreclosure and sale, issued out of the district court of the Fifth judicial district of Montana, in and for the county of Madison, duly signed and entered on the 17th day of February, A. D. 1896, attested the 2nd day of April, A. D. 1896, in an action wherein Henry Eiling was the plaintiff and Alex Scott and Eltie Scott were the defendants, in which said action the plaintiff recovered a judgment and decree of foreclosure and sale against the defendants for the sum of Four thousand and eleven dollars, and the further sum of sixteen and 30-100 dollars cost of suit decreeing the sale of the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the above sums of money with interest thereon, I will on Saturday the 2nd day of May, A. D. 1896, at the front door of the court house, in the City of Virginia, county of Madison, and state of Montana, at one o'clock p. m. of said day sell all the right, title, claim, and interest of the above named defendants of, in and to the following described real estate situated in said county of Madison, and state of Montana, to the highest bidder for cash in hand lawful money of the United States, to-wit: lots number five and six in block eight; lot number seven, in block five; and lot eight and the north fifty-two feet of lot nine, and lot eleven in block six; all in the town of Sheridan, county of Madison, state of Montana, as shown by the official plat thereof as on file in the office of the clerk and recorder of Madison county, together with all structures, improvements, water-rights and ditches, and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining. Dated this 7th day of April, 1896.

JOS. I. HAINES, Sheriff.

By Jas. Summers, Undersheriff. First publication April 11, 1896. 25-4

Summons.

IN the justice court, township of Hot Springs, county of Madison and state of Montana, before W. S. Duncan, justice of the peace, John H. Barton plaintiff, versus The Puget Sound Milling and Mining Company, defendant. Summons.

The State of Montana, greeting: To the Puget Sound Milling and Mining Company, defendant. You are hereby summoned to appear before me at my office in Hot Springs township, in the county of Madison, on the 11th day of May, A. D. 1896, at one o'clock p. m. to answer the complaint of the above named plaintiff.

In a civil action to recover the sum of two hundred and ninety-five dollars; 1959 hundred and forty-two and 30-100 dollars also due by reason of an assigned account of T. B. Holt to plaintiff for labor performed by said T. B. Holt at your special instance and request between November 8th, 1895, and February 18th, 1896, and fifty two and 50-100 dollars of which are a balance due plaintiff for labor by him performed for you, the whole amount thereof being \$295.00, still due and unpaid.

If you fail to appear and answer, judgment will be taken against you according to the complaint.

Given under my hand this 8th day of April, A. D. 1896.

W. S. DUNCAN, A justice of the peace of said township of Hot Springs.

First publication April 11, 1896. 25-4

Notice for Publication of Time Appointed for Proving Will, etc.

STATE of Montana, county of Madison, in the district court. In the matter of the estate of David McCranor, deceased. Notice for publication of time appointed for proving will, etc.

Pursuant to an order of said court, made on the 21st day of March, 1896, notice is hereby given, that Monday, the 18th day of May, 1896, at 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, at the court room of said court, at the court house in the City of Virginia, county of Madison, has been appointed as the time and place for proving the will of said David McCranor deceased, and for hearing the application of Aiden J. Bennett for the issuance of letters with the will annexed when and where any person interested may appear and contest the same. Dated April 8, 1896.

THOMAS DUNCAN, Clerk.

First publication April 11, 1896. 25-4

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder

World's Fair Highest Medal and Diploma.

Table Linen Sale . .

ORDERS must be received before April 18th, or these prices will not prevail. Stage charges will not be prepaid on these goods while on sale. Order early and get choice of patterns.

Turkey Red table linen, 52 inches wide regular price 35c, at.....20c per yd	Half bleached table linen, 50 inches wide regular price 45c, at.....25c per yd
Turkey Red table damask, 56 inches wide, regular price 50c, at.....33c per yd	Half bleached table damask, 56 inches wide, regular price 55c, at.....39c per yd
Turkey Red table damask with blue checks, at.....55c per yd	Bleached table damask, 54 inches wide regular price 55c, at.....40c per yd
Renewed table damask, old gold and white, 60 inches wide, regular price 65c at.....45c per yd	Bleached table damask, 58 inches wide regular price 65c, at.....40c per yd
Bleached table damask, 60 inches wide, regular price 90 cents at.....67c per yd	

If goods are not satisfactory they can be returned at our expense and your money will be refunded.

THE C. O. D. STORE,
W. H. COCHRAN, Manager. DILLON, MONT.