

The Holt County Sentinel.

50TH YEAR.

OREGON, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1914.

NUMBER 16.

MURDERED.

The Body of Mrs. D. B. Fancher Found in Door Yard at Her Home in Savannah, Thursday Morning, August 13, About 5 o'clock.

We take the following in regard to the murder of Mrs. D. B. Fancher from the Democrat of Savannah, dated August 14, 1914. Both Mr. Fancher and wife are well-known in this county, having lived in Forbes township for many years.

"The dead body of Mrs. D. B. Fancher was found in the yard at the family home on West Chestnut street yesterday morning about five o'clock by her husband. The night before she had been in St. Joseph accompanied by Mrs. Jane Mann, Mr. W. S. Summers and Mr. R. B. Coffey, in the latter's automobile. The party returned to Savannah about midnight and Mrs. Fancher left the car at the Crane corner and went on home alone, and this was the last time she was seen alive.

When Mr. Fancher got up yesterday morning he looked out of his bedroom window, which was on the east side of the house and saw the body of his wife lying in the yard. He notified the two sisters of his wife who were visiting there; that his wife was in the yard either asleep or dead. He went out and laid his hand on the face of the dead woman and finding the body cold went back into the house and called the Terhune undertaking establishment. Mr. Terhune, who answered the call told him to call the coroner. Mr. Fancher requested Mr. Terhune to do so for him and he immediately called Dr. Jeffries.

There were several bruises on the head and body, and black marks on her throat. A bruise was also found on the right hip. There was no evidence of a struggle where the body was found.

A jury composed of the following gentlemen, E. S. Cook, J. E. Schnitzler, Guy Ensor, E. M. Crane, Fred Hartly and E. E. May, were empaneled and after they had viewed the remains, a recess until nine o'clock was taken.

At nine o'clock the inquest was again resumed at the court house and the following is practically the evidence taken.

Mr. Fancher was first called to the stand, and testified that he was married to this wife five years ago and that they had lived in Savannah about four years. He told how he saw the body of his wife in the yard on getting up yesterday and of calling Mr. Terhune. He last saw his wife about ten o'clock Wednesday morning. At that time he was going to the country to work. His wife was talking to some one over the telephone. Mr. Fancher returned to his home about eight o'clock Wednesday night, and found no one there. He also testified that two sisters of his wife, Mrs. Maud Merrill and Miss Kate Elliott, were at his home visiting, but that they were not at home when he returned.

Mr. Fancher said that his wife's sisters got home about ten o'clock. He also testified that two automobiles passed the house about an hour later, but neither one of them stopped. He said that his wife had been in the habit of going out at night with Mrs. Jane Mann. That he had no special trouble with his wife and did not care about her being out at night. On the night before he said she was brought home about nine o'clock in an automobile, and two other parties were in the car and one he recognized to be Mrs. Mann.

Kate Elliott, sister of Mrs. Fancher, was next called and testified that she and her sister Mrs. Maud Merrill left home about seven o'clock Wednesday night and went to the picture show and Mrs. Fancher left at the same time to go to St. Joseph, and told them she was going with Mrs. Mann and Mr. Summers. Miss Elliott testified that Mrs. Fancher had went out before with Mrs. Mann and Mr. Summers. She did not know what time her sister came home Wednesday night. She was called by Mr. Fancher a little after five yesterday morning and told that his wife was lying out in the yard either dead or asleep. She heard Fancher call the undertaker, but did not hear his conversation. She testified that Mr. and Mrs. Fancher had quarreled at times.

Mrs. Maude Merrill was next called and testified that Mrs. Fancher left home at 7:12 to go to St. Joseph. She knew the time because her sister asked her. She told them at the home she was going with Mrs. Mann and Mr. Summers. Mrs. Merrill testified

that she and her sister, Kate, sleep together in a room adjoining that of Mr. Fancher's. She said she heard someone scream late in the night but did not get up, the scream sounded like a woman and she thought it was her sister calling to be let in. She said that the noise immediately stopped and she went back to sleep. Mrs. Merrill testified that Mr. and Mrs. Fancher frequently quarreled about her going out with other men, and that people were talking about her and Mrs. Mann. She testified that Fancher said that he did not wish Myrtle (Mrs. Fancher) any harm but wished all in the automobile would be killed. She did not know whether or not any one was in Fancher's room when she heard the scream. In the morning when Mr. Fancher called her he said that his wife was out in the yard either dead or drunk. She said that Fancher went out to where the body was before he called the undertaker.

Mrs. Jane Mann was next called and stated that she was at present boarding at the Cottage hotel. That she had been working at the Nichol's Sanatorium until about two weeks ago. She was acquainted with Mrs. Fancher and last saw her when she got out of the automobile at Crane's corner and went to her home. She said that they had been to St. Joseph in company with Mr. Summers and Mr. Coffey. Early in the evening she and Mr. Summers met Mrs. Fancher at C. H. Allen's, west of the Fancher home, and took her in the car with them. The car belonged to Mr. Coffey. She testified that Mr. Coffey got in the car just below town, below the residence of W. B. Limerick. That after reaching St. Joseph the women went to the Airdome. On the way down Mrs. Mann testified that the party stopped at Vey's and drank some beer.

Mr. Summers was next called and said that he was an automobile mechanic, and that he last saw Mrs. Fancher at 12:15 yesterday morning when she left him and others at the Crane corner to go to her home. He first heard of the contemplated trip to St. Joseph when he went to his supper at the Cottage hotel, when he was informed of it by Mrs. Mann. He had known Mrs. Mann about two months and had met Mrs. Fancher a couple of times. He testified that in company with Mrs. Mann and Mrs. Fancher he had driven to Amazonia the night before to get some water-melons. When asked as to why the car was stopped at Crane's corner to let Mrs. Fancher out he replied that no reason was given. He testified as did Mrs. Mann, about going to St. Joseph, but differed from her testimony as to where Mr. Coffey joined the party. He said that it was at Hooster station, three miles below this city, and that Mr. Coffey got off the Interurban car there, and joined them. He said that when in St. Joseph the women visited the Airdome and that he and Mr. Coffey went to a restaurant and got some cigars and smoked and afterwards went to the show. He stated that Mrs. Fancher had asked to go on this trip, that she was talking of buying a car and wanted to ride in Mr. Coffey's. On the way down he said that they stopped at Vey's place.

Mr. Fancher was recalled and asked if the automobile at his home was his or his wife's and if she had any authority to make a trade with it. He said she did not and that the car was his own.

Mr. Coffey was next called to the stand and he said that he had never met Mrs. Fancher until the night of the trip, to St. Joseph, he may of seen her prior to that time, he said but he had had no introduction to her. She told him that she had traded some in his store.

The trip to St. Joseph had been mentioned to him about six o'clock, and he said it was intimated to him that Mrs. Fancher was in the market for a car. Mr. Coffey said he left Savannah on the interurban at seven o'clock, and got off at Hooster Station and that he only paid fare to that point. After they had completed their visit to St. Joseph and had started home, he testified that they stopped at a saloon in the west part of the city and purchased four small bottles of beer and some lunch. Stopped along the road about four miles out of St. Joseph and ate the lunch. He said he did not know where Mrs. Fancher lived, and he was driving the car on the return trip. She told him to stop at the Crane corner and she would get out. He did not know why she wanted to get out at that point. He did not know Mrs. Fancher was a married woman until on their way to St. Joseph. He testified that he had known Mrs. Mann since spring.

Chas. Mitchell, undertaker, was next called and he gave evidence as to the position of the body when he reached the Fancher home. He was asked to give his opinion as to the marks on the head and throat of Mrs. Fancher, and he replied that he took the marks on the throat to mean that some one had grabbed her. Aside from the bruises on her head, she also had a bruised place on her right hip, he said. He said that the body was rigid and that he was of the opinion that she had been dead about five hours.

Mrs. J. F. Terhune, who assisted Mr. Mitchell, testified as did Mr. Mitchell as to the position of the body.

The evidence at the inquest was taken in shorthand by C. A. Leedy, Jr., court stenographer, and the inquest was adjourned until 1 o'clock today to give him time to typewrite the testimony.

During the afternoon Mrs. Mann was taken to the office of Prosecuting Attorney Sparks, and with Mr. Sparks and Sheriff Carter present was questioned and she changed her testimony as given before the coroner's inquest in the morning. She stated that when the party returned from St. Joseph she and Mr. Summers got out of the car at the Cottage hotel and that Mr. Coffey took Mrs. Fancher to her home.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, she was taken before an adjourned session of the inquest and there testified to the same evidence.

Mr. Coffey was also placed on the stand at the session of the inquest in the afternoon and asked if he desired to change his testimony, but he replied he did not.

No evidence sufficient to warrant the arrest of anyone for the crime has been brought to light.

There is a case on trial at a special term of the circuit court, which is being held this week. It is a change of venue case from Holt county and most of the witnesses passed through St. Joseph Wednesday night. One of these men claims to have seen a fight in a saloon there in which a woman was struck over the head by a man with a bottle. He thought one of these men resembled one of the Savannah party, but there was but one woman in the party in the saloon with two men. The man also said the woman wore a hat. Mrs. Fancher wore an automobile cap. The authorities do not at this time place much credence in the story.

This case is a parallel almost of the famous Richardson murder of some years ago. The officers are working incessantly on it and other evidence may be brought to light at the session of the inquest to be held this afternoon.

The following we take from Saturday morning's Gazette, August 15, and is by a staff correspondent:

Savannah, Mo., Aug. 14.—All of the developments today, sensational as some of them were, served only to deepen the mystery surrounding the death of Mrs. Myrtle Fancher, wife of Boone Fancher, a wealthy landowner here, who was found dead yesterday morning in her own yard. That death was due to strangling was substantiated by an autopsy performed this morning.

That her testimony and that of W. S. Summers, an employe of an automobile garage, and R. B. Coffey, a dry goods merchant, was framed up by them after they had heard that Mrs. Fancher was dead, was the startling statement of Mrs. Jane Mann at the adjourned session of the coroner's inquest this afternoon.

Mrs. Mann told the jury, in reply to questions put by G. C. Sparks, prosecuting attorney, that she had been told to say, if questioned, that the three of them had accompanied Mrs. Fancher to within a block of her home and there left her to walk the rest of the way.

COFFEY TOOK WOMAN HOME.

She said that this was not true, and that she and Summers left the automobile at the Cottage hotel, where both live, and that Coffey took Mrs. Fancher home.

Mrs. Mann was in tears during all of her examination this afternoon and seemed on the verge of a breakdown. She came into the room moaning. She was nervous, and staggered slightly as she walked to the chair. It was with difficulty that she composed herself sufficiently to answer in a trembling voice the questions put to her by Prosecutor Sparks.

Mrs. Mann's testimony yesterday was to the effect that, after leaving Mrs. Fancher and Coffey, she went to bed and was awakened at about 5:30 by W. E. Price, the proprietor of the hotel, who told her she was wanted on the telephone. She says a tele-

phone call came to her at that time and she answered it. She said she was talking to some one over the telephone. Mr. Fancher returned to his home about eight o'clock Wednesday night, and found no one there. He also testified that two sisters of his wife, Mrs. Maud Merrill and Miss Kate Elliott, were at his home visiting, but that they were not at home when he returned.

Mr. Fancher said that his wife's sisters got home about ten o'clock. He also testified that two automobiles passed the house about an hour later, but neither one of them stopped. He said that his wife had been in the habit of going out at night with Mrs. Jane Mann. That he had no special trouble with his wife and did not care about her being out at night. On the night before he said she was brought home about nine o'clock in an automobile, and two other parties were in the car and one he recognized to be Mrs. Mann.

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PROBATE COURT.

Much Business Transacted at the Regular August Session Last Week.

While Probate Court was only in session two days, last week, Monday and Tuesday, Judge Porter, as is his custom, disposed of many cases:

Eleanor Boring, executrix of Barzilla Boring, files final settlement of estate. Balance, \$12,970.75.

In the matter of the estate of Elizabeth VanDusen, demand of August Waegle, allowed, \$105.75; also demand of Geo. E. Gelvin, \$217.18, and demand of J. M. Hibbard, \$198.

Order of appropriation of \$1300 to George E. Anderson and Alice Anderson-Watson, and G. W. Cummins, guardian, directed to pay same.

Mattison B. Thomas, guardian of Jepeta D. Claybrook, files fifth settlement. Balance, \$47.57.

Demand allowed J. T. Roseberry vs. estate of Jonas Whitmer. Amount, \$38.

Final settlement of Harry Smith estate was made. Balance, \$1738.58.

The ninth settlement of Bailey M. Beasley filed by W. H. Richards, guardian. Balance due guardian, \$20.29.

Demand of Octavia Steffy in sum of \$3288 allowed against estate of Isaac N. Nauman, deceased.

Amos Prussman, guardian of Prussman heirs, files second annual settlement. Balance, \$117.04.

W. H. Richards and C. J. Hunt, executors of estate of T. S. Hinde, file final settlement. Balance, \$3729.26.

G. W. Cummins files first settlement of Callie M. Dean et al. Balance, \$618.69.

Fred Markt, guardian of Jesse Markt, et al, files eleventh annual settlement. Balance due Jesse, \$463.41; Lillie, \$424.32; Maysell, \$373.67.

Demand allowed Bertram & Hines vs. Isaac N. Nauman estate, \$102.25.

Ova Flaten appointed administrator of estate of John O. Grythin, deceased. Bond, \$4000.

T. F. Pebley, administrator of estate of Buena V. Bradbury, deceased, files final settlement. Balance, \$1281.96—ordered to be distributed equally to four heirs.

Emra Davis, guardian of W. E. Drake, files third settlement. Balance, \$73.78.

Earl Karner, guardian of Bryan Oyerly, files annual settlement. Balance, \$134.29.

Nancy A. Lacey files first settlement of estate of Frances L. Lacey. Balance, \$599.

O. P. Light, administrator of the estate of A. P. Hathorn, files first settlement. Balance, \$782.01. Partial distribution ordered.

M. E. Wilson, executrix of estate of J. B. Heltman, files first settlement. Balance, \$397.11.

Geo. L. Penny, administrator, files first settlement of estate of Thos. A. Fitzmaurice, deceased. Balance, \$2,653.19.

R. C. Benton, guardian of Stegmater heirs, files fourth settlement. Balance, \$1098.15.

Mary A. Fitzmaurice, guardian of Emmett Fitzmaurice, files settlement. Balance, \$1389.11.

Wm. C. Stevenson, executor of estate of James Callow, files first settlement. Balance, \$1777.25.

Distribution of \$400 each ordered to legatees of Joseph Hodgkin, deceased.

A Fatal Accident.

Harry Donald Morgan, the 11-year-old son of Richard Morgan, of Cass county, Missouri, near Garden City, met with an accident Wednesday, August 12, 1914, dying from the injuries received about three hours afterwards. He was born in Henry county, Missouri, November 5, 1903.

He, in company with his father and another man were hauling a load of baled straw, when the hayrack broke, causing the load to tilt, Mr. Morgan and the other man jumped, but Harry went off with the bales, one of them striking him on the breast, causing internal injuries from which he died in about three hours.

The body was at once prepared for burial and shipment, and accompanied by the bereaved parents, was brought to Oregon, the next day, Thursday, August 13, and taken to the residence of Judge B. F. Morgan and wife, grandparents of the deceased, where the body was kept until Friday, August 14, at 2:30 in the afternoon, when the body was taken to the Christian church, where the funeral was held, conducted by the pastor, Elder B. H. Dawson, a large crowd of relatives and sympathizing friends being present to attest their high regard for young Harry, and also to express their heartfelt sym-

pathy to the grief-stricken parents. The remains were laid away to await the Resurrection Morn in Maple Grove cemetery.

Left to mourn his departure to the other shore, are his parents, one sister, Nellie, aged nine years; grandparents, other relatives and a host of friends.

The following from abroad were here in attendance at the funeral: Mrs. Roy and Sam Morgan, of Skidmore, uncles; Mrs. Robert Russell and daughter, Mrs. Blaine Buetzer, aunt and cousin.

Death of Judge Norton.

Judge E. H. Norton died at his home in Platte City, Platte county, Mo., Wednesday evening, August 5, 1914.

He was born at Russellville, Ky., November 21, 1821. He arrived in Platte City in his 24th year, and on January 8, 1845.

In 1859 he was appointed county attorney at a salary of \$1000 per year.

He was elected judge of the court in 1857, and in 1860 was sent to congress by an overwhelming majority.

His career in congress was one of hearty support by a well pleased constituency and he was almost unanimously chosen a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1861.

He distinguished himself by his able argument against secession, while his sympathies were to a great extent with the South, he did not advocate the termination of their position with the union and fearlessly fought its adoption.

January, 1875, he was for the second time a member of the convention assembled for the same purpose and succeeded in having incorporated many reforms, beneficial to the people of the whole state.

In 1876 he was appointed a member of the supreme court to fill a vacancy occasioned by Judge Vories, and in 1878 was elected to the same position by a vote of the people. He served with honor and distinction, demonstrating his great ability as a learned and just jurist.

He received the degree of L. D. D. from William Jewell college. At various times he was mentioned for the office of governor of the state or for a place in the United States senate. But in the very height of his ambition and political fame, he was compelled to retire because of ill health. Judge Norton has always endeared himself to the people as a man wise in counsel, conservative in victory and magnanimous in defeat. He was a good neighbor and citizen, entitled to the respect of all.

Great Editorial Reunion.

The annual meeting of the Missouri Press Association at St. Louis, September 19, 17, 18, promises to be a great family reunion of newspaper people. The wives of publishers and other members of their immediate families will be eligible to all the courtesies St. Louis is preparing to extend on this occasion. From present indications every county and nearly every town of any size in the state will be represented. Many publishers will issue their papers a day or two ahead of the usual time in order to be present at the great banquet the Business Men's League is to give in honor of the Association at the Planters Hotel the evening of the 16. Governor Major, Mayor Kiel and others will speak. A grand military review is being planned at Jefferson Barracks, the Government military post, on Thursday evening. It will be a novel and inspiring spectacle. The trip to the barracks will be made on a big Mississippi River steamer which will be placed at the disposal of the visiting editors and their families by several St. Louis supply houses. Supper will be served on board. A feature of the return trip will be a very funny play, "The Trail of the Lonesome Steak," by leading members of the St. Louis Press Club. Half a dozen other good things, including two noon day lunches at the Planters, will be on the program.

The newspaper men of the State hope to make this meeting of vast importance to their fraternity. Lack of organization has been a costly proposition to the publishers in the past and this condition, it is hoped, will in a measure be remedied at the St. Louis meeting. Doctors, lawyers, barbers, dentists, veterinary surgeons, osteopaths and professional men of other sorts have secured legislation and public recognition of real or imaginary rights by organizing and going after it. The newspaper men have not been able to get a pleasant look because two-thirds of them held aloof from the Missouri Press Association and gave it no aid when it attempted anything. The officers hope to double the present membership before the St. Louis meeting. Even though they should get nothing more than the fine list of entertainments and courtesies incident to this big event, new members would be richly paid for the small outlay of time and money required. Interested parties should write Secretary H. J. Blanton at Paris, Mo., for application blanks.

All these losses are sustained along the outside of a bend in the river. At the Fuhler place the current comes directly from the west and strikes with great force that is sustained for a long distance down the river, gradually lessening in severity until, opposite the Beal and Adams places, it takes off across the river.

Opposite where erosion is in progress on this side of the river, accretion is going on on the Nebraska side.

—Craig Leader, August 14.

—D. C. Stallard, of Forest City, left last week for a visit with his mother, Mrs. Sarah Potter, of Misoula, Mont., and also his brother, H. E. Stallard, at the same place. He will be absent until about the middle of September, and will probably return by the way of Portland, Ore., and Denver, Colo.

RIVER EROSION WEST OF CRAIG

Progress is Constant and Considerable—Accretion on the Nebraska Side.

In the order in which lands are being taken by the river west and southwest of Craig, from the most northerly point and following the river to the most southerly point at which erosion is in progress, is a matter of three miles by the section lines, but of course much farther by the water front.

Hein Fuhler is losing land from a point about a quarter of a mile below the mouth of the big Tarkio ditch. Erosion began from his farm last spring.

Fritz Ernsting, next below Fuhler, has lost about forty acres during the past year. The erosion has not been rapid, but it has been steady, and is still in progress, with prospect of losing all that he has there. He has sold his dwelling and outbuildings to William Wellman, and moved to another farm in that vicinity which he owns.

William Wellman, on the next farm below Ernsting, moved his dwelling and other buildings forty rods from the river front last fall, and expects to be compelled to move them again. He has lost twenty acres of land and has twenty left. We are told that he contemplates leaving the vicinity of the river altogether.

Arthur Haer has lost thirty-five or forty acres, and the river is cutting steadily from his land. Upon the lands he has lost was considerable large timber, and much more timber is threatened. Through the Hare lands runs for a considerable distance the course that the river followed seventy years ago, when settlements along the river first began to be made. This old river bed, which was deserted by the river in 1844, is now grown to large timber, mostly cottonwood, though there are other varieties. The river has been heading directly for that old channel ever since last fall, and so far as anybody knows, it will reach it before present operations are suspended. That is mere speculation, however, because the erosion is just as likely to quit on this side any day and be transferred to the Nebraska side, as not. The river is as variable and little understood as the whims of the weather itself, and guessing upon what it will do a year, a month, a week, or even a day in advance, is useless.

J. C. Pickering, on what is frequently called "the old Asendorf place," has lost "all the way" from 200 to 300 acres during the past two years, and more is being taken every day.

Oliver Beauchamp, next below the Pickering place, estimated the acreage of the Beauchamp bar six years ago at 1,000. Just about one half of the bar is gone.

L. H. Moore, next below Beauchamp, has lost not more than two and a half acres, some estimating his loss at not more than an acre.

Erosion began upon L. M. Gibson's farm next below the Moore place, about two years ago. Mr. Gibson owned ninety acres, of which but ten acres is left. Forty acres has been taken since last fall.

Byers brothers (St. Joseph commission men) owned forty acres next down the river from the Gibson place two years ago. Just about one-half an acre was left a week ago, and it may be in the river by this time.

The Byers brothers' place seems to mark the limit of considerable erosion, as but one estimated acre has been taken from the W. M. Adams place next below them, since last fall.

Beal of Hamburg, who owns the farm next below Adams, has lost an estimated one-half acre by erosion, and apparently the river's aggressions stop at this point, and the current whips directly across to the Nebraska side.

All these losses are sustained along the outside of a bend in the river. At the Fuhler place the current comes directly from the west and strikes with great force that is sustained for a long distance down the river, gradually lessening in severity until, opposite the Beal and Adams places, it takes off across the river.

Opposite where erosion is in progress on this side of the river, accretion is going on on the Nebraska side.

—Craig Leader, August 14.

—D. C. Stallard, of Forest City, left last week for a visit with his mother, Mrs. Sarah Potter, of Misoula, Mont., and also his brother, H. E. Stallard, at the same place. He will be absent until about the middle of September, and will probably return by the way of Portland, Ore., and Denver, Colo.