

Rogue River Courier

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GRANTS PASS JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON.

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LIGHTNING KILLS TWO AT LELAND

VICTIMS WERE WIVES OF MINING MEN FROM OHIO.

RECENTLY FROM THE EAST

Women Were Removing Washing From Wire Clothes Line When Bolt Felled Them.

Mrs. August Kausek, wife of the manager of the Ohio-Oregon Land and Power Co., and Mrs. G. H. Eddy, wife of another officer of the same company, were killed by lightning during an electrical storm that raged in northern Josephine county late Monday afternoon, the accident occurring at the old Lewis place, now headquarters for the company, a mile above Leland on Grace creek.

Seeing the approaching storm, the two women went into the yard to bring in the washing which had been hung on the line to dry. While engaged in removing the clothing from the line, a bolt of lightning struck one of the trees to which the line was attached, and running along the line, killed Mrs. Kausek instantly, and so burned Mrs. Eddy that she died a few minutes later.

A number of people were within the house when the lightning struck the tree outside, one young lady being thrown to the floor by the shock, and others being more or less stunned, but none of them receiving serious injury.

The Kausek and Eddy families had but recently come to Oregon from Cleveland, O. Messrs. Kausek and Eddy having come to take charge of the affairs of the company when it was found that they were becoming involved through the management of C. E. Colber, by whose efforts the company was originally organized.

The bodies of the two women were brought to this city on the afternoon train today, accompanied by their husbands, and will be shipped from here to Cleveland Wednesday morning. Mrs. Kausek was a native of Austria, aged 23 years and ten months, and Mrs. Eddy, who was born in Ohio, was aged 23 years, nine months and five days.

The flash of lightning that killed the two women was said to have been terrific, and the doctor's certificate shows that the death of Mrs. Kausek was instantaneous, and that of Mrs. Eddy nearly instantaneous. The clothes line from which the women were removing the clothes, was of wire, and was fastened to three trees in the form of a triangle. The lightning followed it completely around, tearing all three trees, and burning the wire in two. The women were not disfigured by the deadly fluid, their hair being somewhat scorched and singed, but the features were not destroyed.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

The bodies of Mrs. August Kausek and Mrs. G. H. Eddy will be started this evening for Cleveland, Ohio, the home of the unfortunate women, for burial, the bodies having been prepared for shipment at Hall's undertaking establishment in this city. The bereaved husbands will accompany them, as will also the three small children of Mrs. Kausek. Mrs. Eddy leaves no children.

Examination of the bodies of the two women after their death showed that the lightning bolt had struck with the greatest force on the left side of Mrs. Kausek's head and neck, burning that side, and going down the body and breaking the bones of both feet. It is also said that the metal tacks in her shoes were melted out by the electric fluid. Mrs. Eddy was struck on the left side, below the shoulder.

Frank Ramer and James J. Collins came down from the Bohemia district near Cottage Grove to investigate the gold tracts in this section.

WINSTON CHURCHILL, NOVELIST, VISITS HERE.

Winston Churchill, foremost among the novelists of the United States, writer of "The Crisis," "Richard Carvel," and a dozen more of the popular works of fiction that have entertained the readers of the "best sellers" during the past ten years, was a visitor in Grants Pass Monday afternoon, stopping here while enroute to Portland after a trip to Crater Lake. The novelist was accompanied by his wife, and by Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Ledbetter of Portland, in whose automobile they had made the trip from Klamath Falls to the Crater National park, and they came to Grants Pass expecting to visit the Josephine caves, but a change in plans caused Mr. Churchill to forego this trip till some later date. The auto was sent on to Eugene, and the party left on the evening train to overtake it at that point.

The man whose imagination has held the interest of millions through the tales that have been evolved from it, had words of praise and expressions of wonderment for the scenic beauty of southern Oregon, saying of Crater lake that it was worthy a visit from any man no matter what sacrifices he must make to reach it.

The man of letters is an enthusiast regarding out-door sports, carrying an assortment of rods and other fishing tackle as a part of his personal baggage, and in lieu of the cave trip, had concluded to make a side trip up the MacKenzie river after trout. He was charmed with the picturesque beauty of the Rogue, and went after steelheads on the upper river, and promised to return to Grants Pass later and make a canoe trip down that tumbling stream to the sea. On his inquiry for a competent riverman to pilot him through, he was given the address of A. Aubrey by the Courier editor, and the details of the trip will be later arranged. Churchill says that he is going to put in some time "seeing America," and hunting out its wonder places and its play grounds, his home at Cornish, New Hampshire, now being occupied by President Wilson and family as the "summer capital" of the United States.

Winston Churchill, whose works of fiction have placed him in the list of the best of the modern writers, came to Grants Pass Monday on a trip which had been planned to include a visit to the Marble Caves of Josephine county, with the thermometer registering up above ninety "in the shade," and no assurance that proper facilities were available for the transportation of himself and the members of his party from the end of the wagon road to the caves in comfort and with the expediency that was necessary from the time at his command, Churchill gave up this portion of the trip for the present. An investigation of the caves at this time by Mr. Churchill would have been of incalculable value in spreading the fame of this great natural wonder, for Churchill is constantly using local settings and interesting natural colorings to embellish his stories.

This but demonstrates the necessity for making the caves more accessible. The building of a road through that eight or ten miles will be an easy matter, the present trail being on an easy grade that an auto could travel without trouble. It should be made possible for autos to drive from Grants Pass directly to the caves, thus making the round trip in one or two days.

SUPREME COURT SAYS MURDERERS MUST HANG.

Salem, July 22.—The supreme court today affirmed the lower court for Jackson county in imposing the death penalty on Mike Spanos and Frank Seymour, convicted of murder in the first degree. An effort was made to have the sentences overturned on the ground that the confessions were extorted from the men by "third degree" methods.

The supreme court opinion says that as the court admitted the confessions, no error was shown in the appeal.

CITY CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING FIRST UNIT OF COAST RAILROAD

California Financiers to Have Line to Kerby Within 15 Months, and to the Coast Within Three Years

After years of striving after and hoping for the railroad to the sea, Grants Pass will see the commencement of the realization of her dream Monday when actual construction work upon the first unit will be commenced.

This action was assured Saturday when the city council in special session authorized the execution of the contract with Franklin Helm and the Interstate Construction Co. for the building of the line to Wilderville, the construction company to accept the bonds of the city of Grants Pass at par in the prosecution of the work.

Gives Option for Purchase. Contract was also entered into between the city and the California parties providing for the sale of the municipally-owned portion of the road to the California, Oregon & Eastern railroad company by the end of three years from date, at which time the latter company contracts to have the line completed through to the coast at Crescent City.

Under the terms of the agreement, the construction company is to prosecute the work of building with diligence, and as directed by the city of Grants Pass, the engineer employed by the city to have charge of the engineering work. Funds have already been made available by the California people, and Monday teams and men will be put on the job, Mr. Helm stating it will require from ninety to 120 days for the completion of the line to Wilderville, the time being determined by the expediency with which the rails can be obtained. He is now negotiating with the steel mills for the rails, and will have the road bed graded and the ties ready as soon as the rails can arrive.

May Purchase Riggs Roads.

Negotiations are also pending for the purchase of the "Riggs" road, which includes what there was constructed of the proposed Williams Valley line two years ago. Four thousand feet of rails are already laid on this, connection made with the Southern Pacific main line, and a temporary bridge built across the Rogue. The right-of-way of this line parallels the right-of-way owned by the city from the S. P. track to the river, and no change would be necessary in the course of the line. Plans are already drawn by which the old bridge could be reconstructed into a span bridge in much less time and with less expense than would be necessary for the building of an entirely new bridge, thus greatly expediting the road building. The locomotive is also included in the negotiations, and the council by resolution authorized the railroad commission to investigate the property, and to purchase it if it saw fit at a price not to exceed \$7,500.

To Kerby in Fifteen Months.

That the line shall be built to Kerby within 15 months is a provision of the contract, the builders to prosecute the work continuously till the interior at Grants Pass and the sea at Crescent City are united by the twin bands of steel. A three-year limit is set upon the time when the road shall be completed to the coast, though Mr. Helm states that he expects it will be finished and in operation long before that date, this being determined by the length of time necessary for the driving of the longest tunnel on the route. The building of the road from the end of that portion constructed by the

Interstate Construction Co., this company having been organized for the building of the California, Oregon & Eastern road. The officers of this company are Wm. Loftus, the millionaire oil operator, president; G. C. Beckman, mine operator, vice president; and John Sheperd, of Boston, treasurer. This company represents unlimited capital, and its members are men who have been interested in big building operations in other projects. This company has engaged ample office rooms on the ground floor of the Conklin building, and from now on will figure largely in the commercial life of the community.

Teams Are Engaged.

As soon as the details of the contracts between the California people and the city had been arranged, and the council by unanimous vote had approved the terms, all available local teams were sought to commence the work of grading Monday. On the first unit local teams and men will be employed as far as they are obtainable, there being no hard construction work on this portion. Heavier equipment will be sent in by the construction company for the building on the main portion of the road, though Mr. Helm says that at all times the local people will be given preference in employment whenever they can be obtained. When the work is in full swing it is estimated that from 1200 to 1500 men will be required.

Opening Rich Territory.

Volumes have been written about the wealth of resources that will be developed by the building of this road, but even the most optimistic can hardly appreciate what the connection with the coast and the obtaining of water rates of transportation on the products of the valley will mean. Without the road the Rogue valley is under the heaviest handicap of any of the producing districts of the west. In fact, there is not in all the United States another locality which is so burdened with discriminative freight rates as this, and that it has progressed even as well as it has is evidence of its substantial quality.

It is because the people of Grants Pass have appreciated the handicap under which they were laboring, and saw the benefits that must accrue to the valley with the building of the coast line, that they have voted, almost unanimously, for bonds for financing the first unit, and that they now rejoice at the near approach of their triumph.

Dirt is now lying on the right-of-way of the new railroad, the first unit of which is to be constructed to Wilderville before winter. Such teams as could be engaged for Monday morning were put on the job by Engineer Harmon, the first work being done where the clearing was commenced, and where the grading for the "Riggs" road was discontinued. Other teams are engaged to go on the job Tuesday morning, and within the next two or three days a large crew will be at work.

The right-of-way as far as the Applegate river has been cleared of all timber and brush and is ready for the grading outfit. The only cut of consequence on the first unit will be the one on Jerome Prairie, the balance of the route being of the lightest kind of work. At the Applegate a bridge will have to be constructed, but this can be built by the time the graders reach the river, the bridge plans being pre-

RICH GOLD STRIKE REPORTED ON ALTHOUSE.

There are rumors from the Holland country of one of the biggest strikes of gold ore made in the west, a strike that if it is one half as good as these reports have it will mean as much to this section as the building of the new railroad to the sea. It is said that a vein of quartz that assays hundreds of dollars to the ton has been struck on Althouse creek, above Holland eight or nine miles, and that a group of six claims that have been located are now under option to a company that will at once proceed with their development.

The location of the reputed strike is about fifty miles from Grants Pass, a few miles above the little town of Holland, and those who claim to have knowledge of the matter, while refusing to make positive statements regarding the extent of the vein of ore, say that the facts will bear out the most exaggerated guess. From Holland it is learned that a group of claims, including those of Sowell and Tantler and four others, have been bonded for \$1,000,000.

Edw. F. Dawe, an ex-California newspaper man who has been in the Holland district for several months past, gives the Courier further information concerning the late strike of telluride ore in the Holland district. He says that the original strike was on property which Hank Conner located two years ago and upon which he has been working since. Dan Ponsler is also interested in uncovering the big vein, he having located next to Conner. The find is on the southeast fork of Althouse creek, under French peak, about ten miles from Holland. The six claims of the group are held under option by local people, represented it is said, by Messrs. Mattison and Doane. Mr. Dawe says that on the original claim there has been 140 feet of tunneling and a 60 foot shaft. He verifies the claims for the magnitude and the richness of the vein, the assays of which run from \$100 to \$1200 to the ton.

The Anderson claim on the upper Sucker creek above Holland is an entirely different matter from the one mentioned above. Anderson's ore being free milling, Anderson is not interested in the big strike of telluride on the Althouse.

DAY DRIFT MADE BY THE SALMON FLEET.

The heavy rainfall along Rogue river, amounting to cloudbursts on the upper river, has caused a raise in the river, and has clouded the water of the stream with mud. The raise and the cooling of the water has started the salmon up the river again in greater numbers, and the catch made Wednesday night was the best of the season, there being 5,200 pounds turned in at the fish house. The heaviest catch for a single boat was 619 pounds, but all the fishermen had good catches with no accidents. The river being so muddy the day fishing is practically as good as the night fishing, and as soon as the boats had reported at the union warehouse and left the night's catch and the fishermen had breakfasted, they started on another trip down, the first day drift of the season, and as there is but one week left of the open season, the fleet will make the best of the limited time. The present price for salmon is eight cents per pound.

H. A. Tucker went to Portland Wednesday night.

pared and ready for the ordering of the timbers.

Mr. Helm has stated that the completion of this unit will be timed entirely by the date of the arrival of the rails, as these can be put down within a few days after their arrival, and the grade will be rushed to be ready for them at the earliest possible date. Haste in the building of this unit is necessary as the material for the balance of the line will have to be hauled over it.

Dr. Stone, of the Interstate Construction Co., arrived from San Francisco Sunday, and is now giving his time and his energy to the project. Other members of the construction company will arrive later in the week.

MRS. KNEUTZEN IS HELD FOR ASSAULT

JACKSON COUNTY JUSTICE HEARS THOMPSON CREEK CASE.

MRS. BLIVENS ATTACKED

Evidence Shows That Deadly Assault Was Made on Older Woman, Breaking Arm.

Mrs. Owen Kneutzen, wife of Jake Kneutzen, and a resident of Thompson creek, was held to the grand jury in Justice Taylor's court at Medford on a charge of assault with intent to kill, committed on the person of Mrs. Philo Blivens. On account of five small children Mrs. Kneutzen's bond was fixed at the nominal sum of \$500, although the evidence submitted by the state made out a very grave case against the defendant. The defendant's bond was given by Lee Harrington and Oscar Knox.

Mrs. Blivens, a frail and aged woman was on the witness stand nearly two hours and told the story of the assault in detail and in a manner that carried conviction. According to Mrs. Blivens, Mrs. Kneutzen, who lives just across the road from the Blivens' place, had been quarrelsome and threatening for some days prior to July 13th.

On July 13th when Mrs. Blivens was returning from a place in the timber where her husband was engaged in slashing poles, she suddenly heard a voice behind her, which she recognized as Mrs. Kneutzen's saying "I have waited a week to get you and now you'll kill me." At the same time she felt a stinging blow on the back. Before losing consciousness she saw Mrs. Kneutzen seize her by the left hand and felt the crunching of the bones that bereft her of consciousness. When she recovered, she saw Mrs. Kneutzen at some distance hurrying through the gate into the Kneutzen place.

Realizing that she had been seriously injured, she started for Elmore's a nearby neighbor, to telephone for a doctor. Holding her broken arm upright, with the blood oozing through the fingers that held it, and with the bone protruding through the flesh. She was again accosted by Mrs. Kneutzen, this time accompanied by her husband, and again Mrs. Kneutzen threatened to kill her. Kneutzen tried to pacify his wife, but the frenzied woman threatened to knock him down. Both followed her to Elmore's gate, where Mrs. Kneutzen would not permit her husband to open the gate for the injured woman, saying that she might lay in the road and rot before she would permit him to render her any assistance.

Mrs. Blivens was corroborated by Joe Elmore who heard Mrs. Kneutzen threaten to kill Mrs. Blivens on July 13th and by two young ladies who heard part of the obscene, abusive language and threats directed at Mrs. Blivens after the assault had been committed.

Mrs. Kneutzen, a strong and husky appearing young woman, seemed inclined to regard the proceedings with some levity at the outset, but as the state's case against her unfolded this was dissipated and at the conclusion of the trial she broke down in tears. She was represented by Gus Newbury.

BIXBY TRIAL POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 11TH.

Los Angeles, July 24.—Because he is suffering from an operation on his nose, made necessary as the result of an injury sustained in an automobile accident, George H. Bixby, Long Beach millionaire, rested at his home today instead of going to court to face trial on charges of contributing to the delinquency of Marie Brown-Levey, 18 years old, and Cleg Helen Barker, 19, who are minors under the California law.