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J. B. MILLER

JOHN LONGENECKER MURDERED ON HIS FARM SOUTHEAST OF LIBERAL. NO CLUE TO MURDERER. WAS SHOT THRU HEAD

Murder Probably Occurred Friday Afternoon, But Body Was Not Discovered Until Monday. Frank Cook Makes Find

John Longenecker, a bachelor living alone on his farm in Beaver county, Oklahoma, eight miles south and east of Liberal, was found dead between two stacks of feed Monday afternoon with a bullet hole through his head, every evidence pointing to murder.

Road Overseer Frank Cook made the gruesome find. He went to the Longenecker farm Monday morning to get Longenecker to work on the road. Not finding him at the house he went to the barn and noticing a team with the harness on, and the harness badly disarranged he removed them and went on his way.

About noon he returned to the place and seeing the team still in the barn decided to turn them loose to rustle for feed. A calf in the barn was bawling for feed and he went outside the barn where there were stacks of feed and noticing some loose bundles picked one up and in doing so uncovered the head of a man which proved to be Longenecker.

He called Longenecker's sister Mrs. I. Shelton who lives in the Lorena neighborhood, who phoned coroner S. A. Miller of Liberal. Miller notified the county attorney and sheriff at Beaver and they arrived at the farm about 2 o'clock. A Justice of the Peace was deputized as coroner and a hearing was held, the verdict of the jury being that Longenecker came to his death as a result of a gunshot wound inflicted by parties unknown.

Indications are that Longenecker was killed and dragged to the feed stacks. He had a bullet hole through his head, the bullet entering back of the left ear and lodging in the cheek bone on the right side of his face. There was a cut on his forehead about 2 1/2 inches long clear to the skull, but the bone was not fractured.

Longenecker probably met his death soon after noon on Friday. He was in town that day and about one o'clock stopped at the Otis Turner grocery in South Liberal and bought some groceries for a lunch. That he was killed within a few minutes after eating is attested by physicians who viewed the contents of his stomach and noted that digestion had not been started.

His car was found four or five miles southeast of the place. One tire was down, but there was plenty of gasoline in the tank. The coils had been removed, but whether the car was driven off by the murderers and the coils taken by them is a matter of conjecture.

When the body was found something like \$10 in change was found in the pockets, which does not coincide with the theory of robbery. While there are rumors afloat as to his displaying large sums of money relatives are of the opinion that they are mistakes as none of them ever knew him to practice the habit.

Longenecker was about 47 years old, and had lived by himself since the death of his mother about a year ago. Previous to that time the two occupied the farm home for many years. At the death of his mother he inherited the home place by reason of his having taken care of his mother. He had considerable live stock, but was not known as a man of means.

A search of the house revealed that nothing had been disturbed, another incident which does not bear out the idea that he was killed during a robbery.

Really, the motive of the murderer is difficult of solution. That Longenecker was murdered, no one can doubt, but the motive for the deed is beyond conjecture. He was known as a good-natured gentleman, not given to making enemies, and relatives are a loss to explain why anyone should wish him out of the way.

The body was brought to the Liberal Undertaking parlors and pre-

pared for shipment to Unionville, Iowa, where services will be held and interment made. Lester Shelton accompanied the remains, which were shipped on No. 2 Wednesday. His sister, Mrs. I. Shelton, was unable to accompany the body to Iowa.

The deceased has a brother, S. S. Longenecker, residing at DeQueen, Arkansas, and a brother-in-law at Rathburn, Iowa. He also has another brother whose address is unknown. The murder of Mr. Longenecker stirred the people of two counties, and while there is not the slightest clue to his assailant at this time, it is understood that a determined effort will be made to hunt his assailant will be made to hunt down the guilty party.

QUALITY BAKERY INSTALLED LARGE NEW OVEN

The Quality Bakery on N. Lincoln Ave., has installed a large new oven this week which will bake 344 loaves of bread at one time. The oven has a space of 109 square feet baking surface and is known as a continuous bake. It is one of the largest this side of Hutchinson.

The Quality Bakery is improving its equipment all the time and is being enlarged constantly. The bread is wrapped in a new wrapper which reads: "Morning Glory Bread. Fresh as the morning glory and covers Liberal like the morning dew."

LIBERAL WON FROM TYRONE

In the base ball game Saturday afternoon at Tyrone, Liberal won the game with a score of 5 to 3.

Jap Scott and family of Satanta were in Liberal on business Friday.

WILL ERECT A \$50,000 PLAYHOUSE IN LIBERAL

Mgr. Tucker of Photoplay to Build Magnificent Theatre

Henry V. Tucker, manager and owner of the Photoplay theatre of this city has let a contract, for a new building which will be 50 x 130 feet, with a seating capacity of 962. Here are some of the statistics: Main floor, 703; balcony, 155; loges 104; estimated cost \$50,000. Stage size 50 x 25. Will have rigging loft 45 feet high which will take care of any show that will probably come to Liberal for years. Will be complete with scenery, rigging and switchboard.

There will be four office rooms on the second floor and two small store rooms in lower floor.

Has entrances vestibule, interior lobby and main foyer.

There will be toilets on both floors. Loges located on front of balcony equipped with upholstered chairs. Main floor with good heavy veneer chairs.

The contractor J. D. Woodside of Enid, Okla., is an experienced theatre builder. The architect, Carl Bolter & Bro. of Enid Okla. This will be the 80th theatre designed by them.

Work will begin about May 16th. And will be completed in August. Very little time will be lost in shows as the new building will be erected around and over the present one.

KILLED TWO MAD DOGS ON SOUTH SIDE SAT.

Marshall Higgins killed two dogs last week on the South Side which were reported to him as having tried to bite people living there. The head of one animal has been sent for examination.

"LIGHT'S BEST" WAS HIGH UP IN THE AIR IN TEXAS

Salesman Took a Sack With Him on Ride, in a Big Army Balloon

E. E. Curtis, salesman for the Light Grain & Milling Company was in El Paso, Texas, last week, and took a flight in one of the large army balloons stationed there.

Just for advertising purposes he took a sack of Light's Best Flour with him and while up in the air a mile or more had a picture taken. Ira Salley, manager of the firm, was present at the flight and brought back several views.

The balloon carried a motion picture camera and made views of the city. One of the pictures shows the mechanic working on his motor at a great altitude and the sack of "Light's Best" standing near him.

While Salley appears in one of the pictures it is easily noticed that he kept his feet on the ground.

MRS. H. RIGGLE FELL AND BROKE HER ARM

Mrs. H. Riggle fell from the back porch of her home on N. Kansas avenue Thursday morning, and broke her left arm above the elbow. The bone was set and is healing satisfactorily.

DR. PELLETTE TO CONVENTION

Dr. E. F. Pellette, osteopath, will leave Sunday for Kansas City to attend a State Osteopathic Convention returning home Sunday, May 8th.

SEWARD CO. OIL & GAS CO. SPUD IN THE TEST

Have Contracted With Skaer to Drill Hole. Work is Started

The Seward County Oil & Gas Company well, nine miles north of Liberal was spudded in Wednesday and everything is in shape to complete the hole in record time.

The company drilled a considerable distance sometime ago, but the hole was spoiled, making it necessary to start over. Consequently, a contract was made with Mr. Skaer to take charge of the work and he has contracted to make the hole, which is pleasing news to Liberal folks as all have the greatest confidence in the ability of Mr. Skaer. He has drilled a number of wells and knows how it is done.

The starting of this well should increase interest in the Liberal field as many oil men of prominence have pronounced the location good, and there is little doubt but what oil will be found in this well. The time for doubting the possibility of the Liberal field has passed and that the Seward County Oil & Gas Company well is on such a structure as to be a good producer is conceded by the best conformed oil men in the country.

The rig is in fine shape and everything necessary to be done has been done to insure speedy work and Skaer has a good crew of drillers to make the hole.

BLUE BELL SCHOOL HAS GRADUATION EXERCISES

The Blue Bell school held graduation exercises last Friday evening, when Miss Edith Lofland received her diploma as a graduate of the common school. The Rev. Eli Walker of the Christian church gave the commencement address before a nice crowd. Mrs. Walker and Miss Emma Thompson comprised a duet which sang several pleasing selections. Miss Gertrude Mahan is teacher of this school.

FRANK FRAM IN AUTO WRECK

Frank Fram who was driving a Grant Six Monday afternoon turned the corner at 9th and Kansas when a car coming up the street struck him with such force that his car was badly damaged. It happened that Marshall Swartz witnessed the accident and arrested the Ford driver as he was on the wrong side of the street and was driving at the rate of 30 miles a hour.

U. S. LENDS BYERS' RAILROAD \$381,000

Means Present Mortgage. Will Be Paid and Work Resumed on Railroad

Granting of a loan of \$381,000 to the Wichita and Northwestern railroad was approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission according to a telegram received from Chester I. Long, Cowan and Deputy attorneys for the holders of the \$250,000 mortgage held on 80 miles of the road.

As the government does not allow a loan without taking a first mortgage, the approval according to C. I. Depuy, means the present will be paid off. Chester I. Long of the legal firm has been in Washington several days and it is understood has aided in securing the loan.

With payment of the mortgage, \$131,000 will be available to improve the road. O. P. Byers of Hutchinson is president of the railroad.

The above is taken from the Wichita Eagle and will be good news to the people of Liberal vicinity.

While it has been impossible to get authentic information regarding the future of the Kansas & Oklahoma railroad from Forgan to Liberal, we have it from a party close to the inside that the granting of this loan to the Anthony & Northern will in all probability release enough of Mr. Byers' resources that he can construct the K & O to the Kansas line, at which time it is expected the township and city funds will become available to assist in finishing the road.

CITY TO DRILL ANOTHER 500-FOOT WATER WELL

Let Contract and Machinery Now Being Taken to Location

In order that the water supply of Liberal be a sure thing, and that the volume be ample at all times, the city council has let the contract for another six inch well in all respects similar to the one recently completed.

There was some doubt in the minds of the councilmen as to the advisability of a six inch well, but since the completion of the first well these are all dispelled, for the well is giving perfect satisfaction in every way and the decision to drill another was easily reached.

The location of the well will be 300 feet north of the first one, and work will begin at once. The machinery for making the hole is here and is being taken to the location.

The well will be drilled by the same firm which made the first one, and they will use a rotary drill the same as before.

Mayor Griffith is in receipt of a letter from the company furnishing the pump that it is ready for shipment upon receipt of shipping orders. This pump is an exact duplicate of the one now working in the big well and giving the best of service.

Mr. Griffith says that he is of the opinion that the present well would be sufficient to supply the town for a year or more, but that in the event there should be trouble and it would be out of commission for a week or more the situation would be desperate, and that the council deemed it advisable to have a two-unit plant and be on the safe side.

The consumption of water is going to be materially increased on account of the paving. Since the streets have been paved there is a general movement in the direction of better yards and more trees and these are going to require a lot of water. It is for this reason that the second well was deemed necessary for a week without water during a hot season would undo all the hard work expended in beautifying the laws.

It is expected to have the well completed by the first of August, and the pump will be here by the time the well is finished.

With the additional power to be supplied by the new unit at the light plant and the two big wells the water problem is solved in Liberal for several years to come, and all that will be necessary in the future is to drill more big wells. The water question

LIBERAL LIGHT, ICE & POWER COMPANY TO INSTALL 365 H. P DIESEL ENGINE

Will Make Liberal Plant Fourth Largest in West Third of Kansas. Addition to Building Necessary to House Unit

has passed the experimental stage thanks to the judgment of the city administration, and with the funds made available by the bond issue one of the greatest drawbacks to the average town has become but a dream. The work of the present administration in regard to the water problem has been most commendable and they have the thanks of the entire city for the effort they have made and are to be congratulated upon its successful culmination.

SON OF STEVENS COUNTY SHERIFF KILLED BY AUTO

Rolland Morgan, 14-year old son of Sheriff and Mrs. Will Morgan of Hugoton was killed Sunday afternoon when an auto in which he and his friend, Harold Flower were riding, turned over near Hugoton, killing Rolland outright and injuring Flower, he having a broken leg and fractured hip. Flower was driving the car it is said.

SEWARD COUNTY MAY HAVE SOME BLOODHOUNDS

A movement is on foot which may result in Seward county having some bloodhounds—residents of the city. There should be a pair or trio of these animals in easy distance and several Liberal business men are talking of going in together and getting a set. Had we had had them here Monday and they could have been put on the trail of the murderer of John Longenecker, there might have been some clue found of the criminal. The presence of the dogs might have a tendency to avoid crime in the community.

Lena Marie, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Smith, who has been in a local hospital was able to be taken home Tuesday.

MAKING BIG ADDITION AT LIGHT MILL HERE

Installing Feed Mill to Increase Output of Mill Feeds

Another addition to the mill of the Light Grain & Milling Company is under way this week.

This is being made to the big elevator on the east of the main mill building, and when completed will house the new feed grinding machinery purchased to increase the output of mill feeds.

The company has been unable to fill all the orders they receive for mill feeds and realizing that the way to keep business was in giving service decided to put in the additional machinery necessary to handle all the business coming their way.

The equipment is of the most modern pattern and will give sufficient additional capacity that they will be able to handle all orders.

The company is gradually enlarging its territory and is doing a nice business, helping to build up Liberal while building for itself.

The commodious new office building attests the success of the firm and they are keeping their products up to the highest point of perfection that they may continue to expand.

They will manufacture a complete line of mill feeds, chicken and dairy feeds and expect to make this an important part of their business in the future.

ROBBERS BLEW SAFE IN GRAY OKLA STORE

The report came here the first of the week that the safe in the Gray mercantile store had been blown and \$30 in cash taken and \$250 in checks. The robbery took place last Saturday and had the appearance of having been done by professionals.

A new 365 H. P. Diesel oil engine is to be installed at the plant of the Liberal Light Ice & Power Company at an early date according to an announcement made public the first of the week.

The new unit will be the very latest design in Diesel engines and will be complete with an 312 K. V. A. generator.

The addition of this unit will give the plant a total combined horsepower of 830, making it the fourth largest in the western third of Kansas, the plants at St. Bend, Dodge City and Garden City being the only larger plants and these serve a considerable section of country, while the Liberal plant serves the city of Liberal only.

To house the new engine and generator a room will be built immediately north of the present Diesel room. This will be 36 x 42 with 13-inch brick walls and will be equipped with a traveling crane to facilitate installing and repairs.

A cut of the new engine shows it to be a massive affair and its weight is given as 155,000 lbs. The engine and building including installation will cost approximately \$70,000, the cubic yards of concrete in the foundation for the engine alone being greater than in any building in the city. These figures will give an idea as to the magnitude of the addition.

This is but another step in the growth of the city, and is a far step from the small steam engine which pulled the first generator in the local plant. The plant now has two large Corliss steam engines besides a Diesel and with the new machine will be able to handle the local load in a perfectly satisfactory manner.

There are two things absolutely necessary to the growth of any city—ample power and water. With the new engine installed there will be no question as to light and power for many years and the fact that there is plenty of power assures the water supply of the city, and it is pleasing to Liberal folks to know that the light plant is to be thus improved.

The light plant has been a big factor in the development of Liberal, and has labored under many difficulties since the start, but the people have for the most part been patient and overlooked the occasional inconveniences realizing that the management was putting forth its best efforts and now that these improvements are to be made they feel that their forbearance was warranted.

The following is self explanatory:

A. E. FITKIN & COMPANY Members New York Stock Exchange INVESTMENTS

N. Y. April 27th, 1921
To the Honorable W. V. Griffith, Mayor of the City of Liberal, Citizens and Customers of the Liberal Light Ice & Power Company. Gentlemen:—

The local public utility situation has been affected during the world war period and the months immediately following with the same difficulties in obtaining new capital for extensions, betterments and plant alterations as have other industries. New capital has been difficult to secure and under most favorable circumstances increasingly expensive. War conditions resulted in such abnormal increases in costs of labor, fuel and materials as to make it impossible for public utility companies to furnish attractive earning statements that could be used as the basis for new credit or financial accommodations. At no time have we failed to recognize the growing needs of the city of Liberal and we have been disappointed that it has been impossible to provide sufficient central station capacity to meet every demand that your growing city has thrust upon us. However, we have labored faithfully and conscientiously to render the most adequate service possible under prevailing conditions and have continued to exhaust every resource to affect a permanent solution of the problem.

As a result of certain financial accommodations that we have succeeded in perfecting we are pleased to announce that additional central

(Continued on last page.)