

HOW JOHN ARTHUR PENDER OF OGDEN WAS SAVED FROM A TERRIBLE FATE

Confession of an Inmate of the Oregon Asylum, Giving the Details of the Murder of a Woman and a Child, Which Had Been Charged Against a Former Resident of This City—Release of Pender Is Now Promised by the Authorities

Confessing to the murder of Mrs. Daisy Wehrman on the night of September 4, 1911, John G. H. Siers, an inmate of the homicidal ward of the Oregon insane asylum at Salem, has saved John Arthur Pender of Ogden from a life's imprisonment in the Oregon penitentiary. The history of the famous murder case, with the confession of Siers, appears in the Oregonian of Portland, Monday, January 4, under large headlines on the front page, and is as follows:

Salem, Oregon—Special to the Portland Morning Oregonian says:

A lock of his own hair, taken from the hand of one of his victims, who had fought desperately for her life, and that of her child, held before his eyes, caused John G. H. Siers, a feeble-minded inmate of the State Insane Asylum, to confess tonight to the killing of Mrs. Daisy Wehrman and her little boy in their cabin, near Scappoose, the night of September 4, 1911.

Thus, the authorities say, is John Arthur Pender, convicted of the crime and sentenced to be hanged, proved guiltless. He will, it is believed, be freed by executive order in a few days.

Mr. Thacher Solves Case.

Credit for solving this most heinous and most mysterious of Oregon crimes belongs to George A. Thacher, a criminologist of Portland. Once convinced that Pender was innocent he worked almost unceasingly in putting the threads of his evidence together. Finding in the insane asylum a man, who answered the mental description of the one he believed capable of committing the crime, he had little difficulty in bringing about its complete solution.

There seems to be no doubt of the truth of Siers' confession. While feeble-minded, he is capable of reasoning and seemed to understand thoroughly what was meant when he was asked to stand and take an oath to what he said. He signed the confession with a bold hand and seemed much relieved therewith.

Chaplain Gets Confession.

The first confession was wrung from the man, who is 25 years old, by Rev. W. G. MacLaren, chaplain of the State penitentiary, who had been working with Mr. Thacher and Superintendent Steiner of the asylum, upon the young man for several days. With a cunning developed highly in most criminals, Siers evaded answers. Sometimes he appeared upon the verge of confessing and a second later would declare he had nothing to do with the crime.

Mr. MacLaren, at the request of Mr. Thacher, had an interview with the man last Wednesday. He partially admitted his guilt and then, to some extent, retracted what he had said. The minister, however, was certain he was on the right track and another interview was arranged for tonight.

Sight of Hair Startles.

Siers was taken to the office of Superintendent Steiner. There were present besides Dr. Steiner, Mr. Thacher, Mr. MacLaren and Dr. L. F. Griffith, of the hospital staff. Asked about the crime, Siers refused to talk. Then it was decided that all leave the room but the minister and the suspect. What occurred between the two is told as follows by Mr. MacLaren.

"I told John it was not right for him to keep silent when the freedom of another man was at stake. I explained that he had been the cause of another man's life almost being forfeited. He was cunning, he said he did not do it. I told him it would be better to tell all for it would come out before his maker some day. He began to cry. Then he said they would hang him. He didn't want to go to prison.

Confession Is Signed.

"Then I took the lock of hair from my pocket and said to him: 'This is your hair. It was found in Mrs. Wehrman's hand!' Then he sobbed like a baby and in a moment started with his confession. When he finished I called in the other men and the confession was repeated virtually as it had been made to me to a stenographer."

Siers tells in detail of his movements on the afternoon and night of the crime. He had been drinking on a farm near Hillsboro. He went to bed about 7 o'clock in the evening. He got up half an hour later and rode to Valle Vista station and boarded an electric car for Burlington.

There he stole a "speeder" and went on the Northern Pacific road to Scappoose. He "ditched" the car at Parsons station, stole a revolver from a cabin, threw the clawhammer with which he opened the trunk which contained the revolver in Pender's tent and proceeded to Mrs. Wehrman's cabin. He made an insulting proposal to her and she got a gun and shot at him. He fired three shots at her. The last one was fired with the pistol point pressing on her

MANUFACTURERS AT MEETING IN THE WEBER CLUB

George W. Goddard was re-elected last night as Ogden's representative on the board of directors of the Utah Manufacturers association, at a meeting of the Ogden members of that organization held in the Weber club. The meeting was primarily called for the purpose of electing a representative to serve on the board. Some excellent addresses were made and discussions held.

H. L. Herrington was chairman of the meeting and the visiting officers of the state association were George S. McAllister, president; Roscoe W. Eardley, secretary, and Guy Wilson, chairman of the publicity committee. The Ogden members present were H. L. Herrington, George W. Goddard, James Stevens, Joseph Scowcroft, Jr., W. J. Parker, James Wotherspoon, J. G. Read, John Allen, Fred E. Taylor, Fred W. Redfield and Martin Daley.

President McAllister gave a brief address reviewing the work of the association during the year, laying particular stress on the publicity work that had been done and of favorable legislation secured.

George W. Goddard discussed the question, "How Members May Help One Another," and Frank Stevens gave a report of the work done by the membership committee during 1914. After concluding the report, he spoke optimistically of the future, predicting that the state association would be increased by at least 100 new members, 25 to be from Ogden, during 1915.

W. J. Parker, who is president of the Utah Canners' association, spoke of the need of lower freight rates to develop the canning industry of Utah, as the great distance from the big markets makes it extremely difficult for the Utah canners to compete with those of the eastern and middle western states, with the freight rates at their present high base.

In the course of his remarks, he cited that Maryland marketed its crop for 26.5 and Wisconsin for 23 cents per hundredweight, while Utah paid 52 cents.

James Wotherspoon spoke on the question of proposed legislation. He mentioned several radical measures that are being considered, saying that the manufacturers' approved progressive, but not extremely drastic, laws.

In connection with this, he said that the association would not oppose the minimum wage law as it now stands on the statute books, and would not seek to have it amended.

Roscoe W. Eardley, in a brief address, spoke of plans that are being made for a membership campaign, which he believed would accomplish their purpose.

The closing remarks were made by H. L. Herrington, an important thought expressed being that the development of the canning industry in Utah did not necessarily mean the establishments of more factories, but the heavier patronage of the present plans, which are not being run at their full capacity.

Madison, Wis., Jan. 1, 1915.

M. D. Reynolds says:

"This is to certify, that I have been a great sufferer from Rheumatism since 1894. Contracted the disease while working with a snow plow on the railroad. For several years I have been obliged to use crutches a great part of the time. Having used three boxes of the Meritol Rheumatism Powders, I have thrown away the crutches and am now almost fully recovered. It certainly has done wonders for me and I heartily recommend it. M. D. Reynolds. Prices 50c and \$1.00. Culley Drug Co., Ogden, Utah. Exclusive Agents.—Advertisement.

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Stolen Gun Returned.

"Then I took the gun back to Riley and Hansen's and put it in the trunk.

The gun I took from Mrs. Wehrman I buried in the edge of the garden.

Then I went down where my car was,

put it on the track and rode to Burlington.

Then I took the midnight car from Burlington to Valle Vista station.

I got home about 4 o'clock in the morning. I went to bed. I got up about 6 o'clock that morning and went to work shocking grain.

My mother and I talked this over, but I refused to say anything. She believed that I did it."

After making the confession Siers puffed vigorously upon a cigar and declared he felt better than he had a long time.

The records at the asylum show that the man was adjudged of unsound mind at St. Helens September 23, 1912, and was received at the asylum the next day, a little more than a year after the crime was committed.

Steiner says the man is possessed of homicidal mania, and had threatened to kill his mother and father. He has been kept in the homicidal ward at the asylum. Because of his mental condition there is little likelihood that he will be removed from the asylum.

Pender Not Available.

Pender, who was convicted of killing Mrs. Wehrman and her son, has not yet been informed of Siers' confession, which clears him and which will release him from a life sentence to the penitentiary. The warden, after hearing of the confession, went to Pender's cell to convey the cheerful news to him, but, finding Pender was sound asleep, he decided to notify him the first thing in the morning.

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Editor Standard: Your issue of December 28 contains the report of a sermon delivered by Pastor Russell, part of which would give your readers a wrong impression regarding Christian Science, which I desire to correct.

Pastor Russell says: "For nearly

years the Church has been undergoing severe trials and testings.

During this period theosophy, Christian Science, spiritualism, higher criticism, evolutionism, and various other confusing teachings, have come forward.

Each contains fragments of truth and masses of error. According to scripture they are brought forward by the adversary, with a view to leading people away from the truth."

As far as Christian Science is concerned, these statements are not only misleading, but altogether false.

There is nothing "confusing" in the teachings of Christian Science, any more than there is in the teachings of Jesus, the Christ, for they are identically the same.

A Christian Scientist is continually praying and striving for that mind to be in him which was also in Christ Jesus.

I think our good brother will agree with me that Jesus' teachings do not contain "masses of error and only fragments of truth." Jesus said,

"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Christian Science is founded on truth and is freeing humanity from error of every kind and leading him to the truth; therefore it cannot be "brought forward by the adversary to lead people away from the truth."

Thank you, I am, Yours very

truly (Signed), Henry A. Teasell,

Christian Science Committee on Public

tion for Utah.

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See Alice Brady in a great

5-part World Feature at the

lis tonight.

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Advertiser.

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NOTICE, O. E. S.

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All members of Queen Esther Chapter No. 4 are specially requested to attend the funeral of our late Sister, Mrs. Annie Jenkins, at the Episcopal church, Friday, Jan. 8, at 2 p. m. By order of W. M. (Advertisement).

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NOTICE

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The regular annual meeting of the

shareholders of the First National

Bank of Ogden, Utah, will be held at

their banking room, at 2434 Wash-

ington avenue, Ogden, Utah, on Tues-

day, January 12, at 11 o'clock a. m., for

the purpose of electing directors to

serve for the ensuing year and the

transaction of such other business as

may properly come before said meet-

ing.

Dated: Ogden, Utah, December 19,

1914.

WALTER J. BEATIE,

Cashier

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Advertiser.

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Read the Classified Ads.



SCENE IN THE GREAT PLAY THE "WHIP" Coming to the Orpheum Theater for Two Nights, Jan. 10-11th. Seats Now Selling.

JAPANESE RED CROSS PARTY OF OGDENITES NURSES AND DOCTORS EN ROUTE TO WAR

Ogden was visited early this morning by seventeen pretty Japanese Red Cross nurses, two surgeons and two civilians. The surgeons are Dr. Jiro Suzuki, medical chief of the Japanese Red Cross, and Dr. T. S. Uenoyoshi. The other two men are M. K. Kuwayara, who is in charge of the party, and M. Otsuka, the interpreter. The head nurses are Miss Shige Kyo Oka and Miss Tao Yamamoto. The former has medals from the Russian, French, Japanese and Chinese governments, for service on the field of battle.

Mrs. Abe Kuhn and Miss Ruth Douglass departed this morning on the Overland Limited for San Francisco, where they will board the steamer Mongolia on January 9, for a trip to Honolulu, Hawaii. Miss Douglass is a daughter of James H. Douglass and will visit for three months in Hawaii, with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Q. Cannon. Mrs. Kuhn will pass her time on the tropical islands at the home of her son, Jack Kuhn.

R. E. Bristol and Chapin A. Day and Master Chapin Bristol were also passengers on the Overland this morning. They will join Mrs. Bristol and Mrs. Day at San Francisco for a trip to Honolulu on the same boat with Mrs. Kuhn and Miss Douglass.

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"THE MASTER KEY"

The greatest mining camp picture ever shown. Lyceum to-day and tomorrow.

5c—ALWAYS—5c.

Advertisement.

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ACADEMY TEAM WINS

IN BASKETBALL

CONTEST

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In a practice game last night at the State School for the Deaf and Blind, the Weber academy basketball team defeated the team from the state school by the score of 54 to 15. The vanquished were no match physically for the Weber players, but gave the latter a good workout.

Coach Watson of Weber worked nine of his regulars in the contest, and six of them scored baskets. Nixon, on the promising Weber center, secured eleven baskets, with Critchlow second, with seven; Belnap secured three, Brewer and Herbert, two each, and Wilkinson one. Belnap recorded two scores from the foul line out of four chances. For the state school, Lewis and Olsen scored two baskets each and Wilde successfully essayed seven baskets from the foul line, out of thirteen chances.

The lineup was as follows:

Weber Academy: State School: Belnap-Critchlow, L. F. Wilde

Wilkinson R. F. Olsen

Nixon C. Jones

Herbert-Jensen, R. G. F. Miller

Belnap-Wilde L. G. Lewis

The Weber academy team will go to Morgan tomorrow for a practice game with the Morgan high school team and will play the opening of the league schedule one week from tomorrow night, with the Wellsville high school at Wellsville.

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ATTENTION, MACCABEES

The regular meeting of Silver Hive No. 1 will be held Friday, Jan. 8, at 2:30 p. m., at the W. O. W. hall.

ANNA HOLDEN, L. C.