

OUTLAW KILLED AND DEPUTY IS WOUNDED

(By Robt. Ballou, Coast Daily Press correspondent.)

The desperate hand-to-hand encounter and gun fight near Potato Hill in the Simcoe Mountains about twenty miles northwest of Goldendale Monday, between Chester T. Davidson, a Yakima county deputy sheriff, George Swazey, a Yakima, cattleman from Toppenish, in company with a number of Klickitat stockmen, and two horse thieves whose identity was not known at the time and the battle took place, is believed by Klickitat stockmen to be the first effective blow struck at an organized band of outlaws who have been stealing calves, cattle, horses, and plundering camps in the cattle ranges of the Simcoe Mountains for several years. The rough country at the head of Satus Creek and Butler Canyon on the Yakima Indian reservation has afforded the thieves an excellent chance for keeping their operations undercover and enabled them to baffle the efforts of the officers and stockmen in attempting to catch them heretofore. The men today were caught red-handed after plundering the cattle camp of Geo. Swazey on Satus Creek last Friday night and stealing a riding saddle, two pack saddles, provisions, ammunition, and were also riding the two horses stolen at Ellensburg last week that all northwest officers have been looking for. In the fight that took place one outlaw was killed, the other captured, and Deputy Sheriff Davidson was wounded.

The men were trailed up Satus Creek on the Yakima slope of the Simcoe Mountains by Davidson and Swazey, who at once doubled back to Goldendale in an automobile and went to the cattle camp of Frank Garner, where they secured saddle horses and were joined by Geo. Garner, Joe Yeakel, Charles Yeakle and Henry Klein in the man hunt. The officer and posse came upon the man they were looking for in a cabin on the Garner pasture. Deputy Sheriff Davidson went into the cabin to look the men over and see if they tallied with the description of the men wanted for stealing the horses at Ellensburg, and being satisfied that they were the men, drew his gun on the "dark" man who was standing by the door and told him to throw up his hands. The outlaw responded by jerking his gun out of a pistol pocket in his chaparejos and firing blank in the officer's face, and then turned and made a run for the brush on a creek near the cabin. The shot brought the deputy to his knees, but he returned the fire and managed to hit the outlaw once before he got around the corner of the cabin. The posse then opened fire with their winchesters and the man was killed instantly with a 30-30 bullet at 100 yards. When the shooting started, George Swazey, the Yakima cattleman in the party, and who was not armed, promptly knocked the other outlaw down and held him until the affair was over.

Deputy Davidson received an ugly flesh wound in the right cheek which bled profusely, but he was able to bring the prisoner to Goldendale and lodge him in jail before having his wound dressed. The affair happened just before noon, and the captured men, the dead man and the stolen horses were brought into Goldendale at once and caused great excitement here. Neither of the men was known to the Yakima officer or locally, but Geo. Garner thought that the dead man had worked as a farm hand in the Centerville country three years ago under the name of Harry Baker and had forged some checks on his employer before leaving.

The man in jail said his name was W.L. Johnston and gave his age as 19 years. He said that he formerly lived in Seattle but had been roaming around Washington and Oregon for the past four years, working as a cowboy and automobile mechanic. He had an Army identification tag in his pocket, and local authorities think possibly he is a deserter from the Army, but do not believe he gave his right name. He said that his dead pal's name was George Davis and that he formerly lived in Portland, and that he first

met him in the Yakima country three months ago. Johnston admitting stealing the horses at Ellensburg and plundering the cattle camp on Satus Creek. He said that they cached the stuff stolen from the camp on Satus Creek on the Yakima road from Goldendale to Toppenish, intending to get it later, and that he would show Mr. Swazey where the stuff was hidden, on the way back to Yakima. Johnston was taken back to Yakima Monday night by Deputy Davidson in company with Mr. Swazey.

Late Monday J.W. Miller, a farmer in the Centerville country, came to Goldendale and positively identified the dead outlaw as Earl Charlton, who worked for him as a farm hand in 1915 and later was arrested in Clarke county in company with his brother for holding up a brakeman on the S.P. & S. Ry. and was sent to the Monroe reformatory from Vancouver. The dead man is about 35 years old, six feet tall, very dark complexion, and heavy raven black hair. His father lives at Yacolt, Wash.

Later developments are that the dead outlaw and his partner were escaped convicts from the Washington State Reformatory at Monroe, and that Earl Charlton has a long criminal record, given in a dispatch in the Evening Telegram of Tuesday, from Vancouver, as follows:

Earl Charlton, killed by a sheriff's posse near Goldendale yesterday, has a long criminal record in Vancouver, according to information compiled by the local police department. The police records show that he was first arrested here on June 16, 1908, charged with box car burglary, and served four months in the county jail for the offense. On January 11, 1912, the records show that he was arrested for an attempted burglary of the Woodland, Wash., bank. On November 21, 1915, in company with his brother Arthur, he held up John Taylor, a brakemen on the S.P. & S. railway bridge near Prindle, Wash. The two brothers were captured the following evening by L.E. McCurdy, now chief of police of Vancouver, and W. Gassaway, then special agent for the S.P. & S., a short time after they had held up and robbed three employees of the S.P. & S. shops here, who were going home from work. At that time the two boys drew firearms, but did not use them.

From information reaching local officers, the man captured by the Goldendale posse was Warren L. Johnson, who escaped from the Monroe reformatory with Charlton on June 11, 1918. Charlton was sentenced to serve from five to ten years at Monroe the last time he was arrested here.

MAN HUNT ENDS IN DEATH OF OUTLAW

One outlaw was killed and C.L. Davidson, a deputy sheriff from Yakima, was wounded in a battle at noon Monday near the Garner cattle camp in the Simcoe mountains, 20 miles northwest of Goldendale, between two horse thieves, Deputy Davidson and a posse of Klickitat stockmen.

One of the outlaws was captured and is now in the Goldendale jail. The body of the other one was placed in the morgue for identification. The men were trailed from Satus creek, on the Yakima Indian reservation, by the Yakima deputy and George Swazey, a well-known Yakima cattleman, residing at Toppenish. Swazey's camp on Satus creek had been plundered, and a riding saddle, pack saddles, provisions, and other articles stole.

Deputy Sheriff Davidson, and Swazey went to the Garner camp Monday morning where they were joined by George Garner, Joe Yeackle, Charles Yeackle, and Henry Klein, in a search for the men. Noticing smoke issuing from a chimney of a cabin in the Garner pasture, the party went there. When the party reached the cabin one of the men was standing beside the door. The deputy went into the cabin to question the other man, and found that he had a large scar on his face, filling the description of one of the men wanted at Ellensburg for stealing two horses. He then went back to the door, drew his revolver, and told the outlaw to throw up his hands. Quick as a flash, the man whipped out a pistol and fired point-blank in the officer's face. The deputy returned the fire, the bullet hitting the outlaw in the left breast.

The outlaw then turned and ran towards the brush, not far from the cabin. The members of the posse opened fire on him, and he was killed by a bullet with which passed through his body.

The deputy sheriff, Davidson, suffered a flesh wound of the right cheek, but was able to bring the captured outlaw to Goldendale and lodged him in jail. After the fight it was found that the outlaws were in possession of the horses stolen from Ellensburg and the saddle taken from these Swazey camp.

The man now in the Goldendale jail gives his name as W.L. Johnson, and says he formerly lived in Seattle, where his mother now resides.

He admits that he was involved in the theft of the horses at Ellensburg, and plundered these Swazey camp. He said they were headed for Oregon, intending to ferry their outfit across the Columbia River at Cliffs.

The man in jail does not appear to be 21 years old, and says that he is an automobile mechanic and a cowboy. The dead outlaw was first thought to be Harry Baker, who worked as a farmhand for John W. Miller, a farmer near Centerville, some three years ago, was positively identified by Mr. Miller Monday night. He is Earl Charlton, who worked for Miller at the time Baker was employed. Baker is now in the Monroe reformatory. It is believed the dead outlaw's father resides at Yacolt.

Up to Thursday the body of the dead outlaw had not been disposed of. The officials are awaiting some word from his former home in Clark county. Information from that county show Charlton to have had a bad record, and that he and Johnson had escaped from the Monroe reformatory on June 11th last. Johnson was taken to Yakima on Thursday afternoon.