NEWS OF THE WEST.

Mexican War Veteran and California Pioneer Accidentally Killed.

TAX FOR A BICYCLIST TRACK.

Found the Body of a Murdered Man—Crushed to Death in a Water Wheel—Saved From Road Agents.

A home dramatic company has been organized at Pocatello, Idaho.

Steps are being taken at Chico to raise a public high school establishment without the use now being maintained by private subscription.

The Eugene, Or., Guard says that industrious ants are infesting numerous in Lane county. Hereafter they will only be found in eastern and southern Oregon.

Dan Carroll, a miner, recently from Independence, Cal., was asphyxiated by coal gas at San Francisco Tuesday or under circumstances that lead to a suspicion of foul play.

Tacoma, Wash., bicyclists have petitioned the city council to impose a yearly license tax on bicycles and devote the funds to the construction and maintenance of a bicycle path on a suitable street.

The Anaconda, Mont., Standard makes the statement that between 1,500 and 2,000 more men are employed in all mining districts now than ever before, even when the silver mines were booming. The mines of that district pay out $1,000,000 a month for wages.

Joe Tunc, Arizona, Sun says the territorial prison is going to experiment in the bee business and produce the honey necessary for home consumption. An apiary of twenty-five stands of bees has been received at the prison and placed in a shelter already provided for them. A single hive at the prison produced over 200 pounds of honey last summer.

George Berg, driver of the Fortuna-town stage which left Greenville, Cal., Wednesday morning at 4 o'clock, had an exciting experience with road agents. As the stage, drawn by four horses and carrying Wells, Fargo's express, was passing the Garden ranch, about three miles from town, a man stepped out in front of the leaders and ordered the driver to halt. The horses were restless and ran away. The robber shot several times at the stage and pursued it for quite a distance, looking as one was hurt.

Miss Rena Strouse, who lives about ten miles south of Hopland, Cal., was painfully and perhaps fatally burned at an early hour Wednesday morning. The young woman, who is aged about 19 years, was standing in front of a Sterling, when her garments were ignited, and both hands and her clothes were burned. Miss Strouse was enveloped in flames. The fire was not extinguished until the lower extremities of the unfortunate girl were almost burned to a cinder. It is not expected that she will survive.

Wm. Massie, a baggage master on the Los Angeles division of the Southern Pacific railroad, was shot and seriously wounded Friday night by his wife, Nellie. The ball entered the left side of the lower jaw, passed downward and lodged in the spinal column, immediately after the shooting Mrs. Massie was arrested by Officer Hurley and locked up at the central station on a charge of an assault to commit murder. Massie had been in the habit of abusing his wife, and attempted to shoot her, when she arrested the weapon from his hand fired at him.

The City Christian Endeavor union of Oakland, Cal., does not enjoy the practice of alleged Christians attending theaters and dances. The union has taken the matter under discussion, and, it is said, will inaugurate a campaign against various resorts in the city that are considered of questionable reputation. Some of the church pastors fear that members of their flocks may be led astray through indulgence in pastimes that are forbidden in the church canons. Members of the Endeavor union, it is stated, have been devoting time to watching the course of some of their brethren.

Christopher Huntley was instantly killed near Silver City, Lyon county, Nevada, Tuesday. He was employed at French's stamp mill, operated by an overshot water wheel. The wheel was clogged with ice, preventing it from moving. Huntley was freeing it from the ice with a pick, when the wheel began revolving. Huntley's head and the upper portion of his body were caught by an arm of the wheel and whirled around with great velocity until his body caught between the flange of the wheel and one of the posts supporting it, crushing him to death. The deceased was a native of Illinois, aged 35.

D. M. Geiger left his cabin a few miles east of Bishop, Cal., last Friday, to visit a neighbor. That afternoon his riderless horse came back and search was begun for him, but was unsuccessful until Saturday morning, when his body was found in the road. The horse had slipped and thrown him, dragging him to death. Mr. Geiger was a California pioneer and a Mexican War veteran, and the builder of the famous Geiger grade between Virginia and Reno, Nev. He was wealthy in earlier years, but was in very reduced circumstances at the time of his death. His age was 74 years.

Wednesday morning N. O. Knight, a farmer who lives near the Mokelumne river, north of Lodi, reported that he found a handle Monday which indicated that some one had been murdered. The find consisted of some blankets, a low tucks and a hat, the blankets and hat being covered with blood as if the owner had been attacked while he was lying asleep on the ground with blankets wrapped around him. The body could not be found by the farmer, having evidently been hid out. The books showed that the owner's name was Peter A. Sauerbody, and that he had been sent out by some emigration bureau. He had a certificate of deposit at $70 on a bank in Wisconsin. Knight told the story of the ghastly discovery to Constable Coleman, and the latter immediately set out to investigate. His search resulted in finding the body of the murdered man. The corpse was found about 300 yards from the spot where the blankets lay. From the appearance of the body the murder must have been committed a month ago, the flesh being almost gone from the bones.

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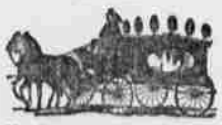

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