

Deweys faced federal indictments for enclosing land

By Evelyn Ward

Sherman County Historical Society
March 27, 1904: More Trouble For Deweys — Federal Indictments at Wichita for Enclosing Government Land — The federal grand jury sitting in Wichita last Thursday found three bills against Chauncey Dewey, C.P. Dewey, W.J. McBride and W.J. Ratcliff for enclosing government land.

McBride and Ratcliff are employees of the Deweys. The trial of the Deweys for fencing government land in Cheyenne county will take place before the federal court in Topeka on April 11. Assistant United States Attorney McKeever says that all of the cases will be pushed at the earliest possible date.

In October 1903, the federal grand jury sitting in Leavenworth indicted C.P. Dewey, Chauncey Dewey, William McBride, Louis McBride and W.J. Ratcliff on seven counts, charging them with of-

today in history

fenses which contemplate fines and imprisonment.

The case to come up in the federal court in November, but as no newspaper report of it having been seen by the editor of this paper, it may have been continued. The defendants that could be found by Frank McGrath, deputy United States marshal, were arrested and each put under bond for \$1,000.

Mr. Hitchcock, secretary of the interior, in his annual report, said about the Dewey Cattle company in northwest Kansas: "One of the most celebrated cases of this character brought to the attention of the department during the past year was that of the West End ranch in Cheyenne county, Kansas, owned by the Dewey Cattle company, and managed by Chauncey Dewey, the latter being the son of C.P. Dewey, said

to be the principal stockholder in the Dewey Cattle company.

"Within the last three years, 62 miles of fence have been erected by said company in townships four and five south, ranges 35, 36, and 37 west, which, connecting 18 miles of fence owned by others, makes a total of 80 miles.

"This fence enclosed an area all told of 51,040 acres of which 3,240 acres are state lands, 1,200 are embraced in eight homestead entries and 7,440 acres are vacant public lands subject to entry under public land laws.

"It appears to have been the policy of Dewey and his agents and employees to gain complete and exclusive control of all the lands enclosed by their fences and to adopt whatever measures were found necessary to accomplish that

purpose, sparing neither life nor property.

"Their attitude toward settlers and homesteaders without, as well as within, their enclosure is shown by reports of agents of this department and by individual complaints to have been extremely hostile and oppressive.

"Not only have the crops of these bona fide homesteaders and settlers been destroyed by this company's cattle, but the people themselves have been harassed and intimidated by threats of violence made by its agents and their dwellings deliberately moved off their homesteads, and a number of them have been compelled by outlawry to abandon their entries and seek residence elsewhere."

Upon information of this character reaching the government officials, action was begun against the Deweys, and the end is not yet. They have been in constant violation of

the laws of the state and nation, and the settlers of northwest Kansas hope to see the penalty so vigorously enforced that the offenders may have the consciousness that other people have rights which must be respected.

The Deweys have been a curse to western Kansas.

March 28, 1904: Dewey Actions in Sherman County — The methods of the Deweys in northwest Kansas have been given to the public through official government reports, but scarcely the half has been told.

"Many farmers in Sherman county have been annoyed by the overrunning of their lands by the Dewey herds. Their stacks and feed have been eaten and the grass on their land devoured.

"They protested to Dewey but in vain. It is not too much to say that the tactics of Chauncey Dewey, as manager of the Dewey ranches in

northwest Kansas, have been a record of shameless abuses of the laws and customs of civilized life.

"His cowboys treated the protest of the settlers with insolence, wore big revolvers strapped to their sides, and in some instances, forced their illegal rights by the appearance of armament and outlawry.

March 29, 1904: The calico dance at the opera house on St. Patrick's Day was well attended, and many of the ladies were dressed in pretty calico costumes.

More than 40 couples participated in the dance, and the music by the Goodland orchestra was pronounced as exceptionally good. Dr. Patterson of Rexford played the cornet in the orchestra.

From weekly issues of The Goodland News, provided by the Sherman County Historical Society. Since the paper was published weekly, some items were arbitrarily assigned a date.

Program on author who wrote about Cedar Bluffs planned in Oberlin

A program on author Ralph Moody is planned for Sunday, April 25, at The Gateway in Oberlin.

Moody is the author of several books on his life, including "The Dry Divide" which includes memo-

ries at a young man living at Cedar Bluffs, north of Oberlin.

The day's activities, geared for families, will begin with a chuck wagon lunch of barbecued brisket, chips, beverages and peach cobbler at

11:15 a.m. Mountain Time. The meal will be cooked and served by Larry Hannon of Garden City at the concrete slab east of The Gateway. Golf carts will be used for transportation if needed. In case of bad weather, the

meal will be served inside.

Children (and maybe adults) will have the opportunity to try to rope "Woody" the steer. Prizes will be awarded and wagon rides will be available.

John Stansfield, a storyteller, writer, teacher and Ralph Moody historian, will present a program at 2 p.m. in Morgan Theater, which

will feature Moody's early years.

Following his presentation, Sharleen Wurm of the Decatur County Museum, will present early Oberlin photos. Those attending will include relatives of people featured in Moody's books about the area. Tickets will include both the meal and the program.

Reservations are encouraged.

For details or reservations, call Connie at (785) 475-2400; Mary at (785) 475-3329; or Ella at (785) 475-3557.

This is the second Ralph Moody program presented by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission, Oberlin Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Decatur County Museum.

Goodland man selected as student of the year

Abel Ontiveroz, son of Abel and Ruth Ontiveroz of Goodland, has been selected by his peers in the automotive technology department at the Northwest Kansas Technical College as their 2004 Student of the Year.

Ontiveroz, a 2002

graduate of Goodland High School, will receive his auto tech diploma in April. He has participated in campus activities, including being a member of the student senate and serving as secretary/treasurer for the Auto Tech Club. After graduation, he plans to seek work

in the Denver area.

Each of the college's 14 departments selects a Student of the Year, and those students become candidates for the all-college Student of the Year, who will be announced during graduation on Friday, May 21.

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 Cheyenne Wells, Co 80810
 719-342-1187
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 email:
 mahenry@cynmarcares.com

Farm Machinery Sale for the Late Charles Pearce

Thursday, April 1, 2004 Time: 1:00 p.m. MST

Auction Location: From Highway 27 & 40 Interchange in Sharon Springs - West 2.5 miles on Highway 40, South .5 mile, 1 mile back West, 2 miles South. **Signs will be posted.**

FARM EQUIPMENT & MISCELLANEOUS

MM 16' horse trailer; 714 John Deere 15' mulch tiller with pickers; 120 John Deere 20' shredder; 235 John Deere disk harrow; 544 John Deere dozer blade; 2 - 9300 John Deere 10' drills, 12" spacing; John Deere tool bar; Power Rivwe Chute; NH 144 windrow inverter; 15' 1518 John Deere flex mower; 390 John Deere trail mower; 115 John Deere 9' rear blade w/hydraulic cylinder; John Deere loader bucket w/grapple forks; Quinstar Follow Master - 35'; Blue Jet ripper 7 standard, 7 shank; Hesston 60A stackmover; Hesston 3060 stackfork; Haybuster C10 tub grinder; Danuser post hole digger; Hutchinson 6 x 27 grain auger; 6 - 1000 gallon diesel tanks with pump - 110 electric; 500 gallon fuel tank with 100v electric; 110 gallon fuel tank - 12 volt; 2 - Bale forks for loader; 100 gallon trailer sprayer; Small grinder; Small cement mixer.

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT

60 - 10" gated 30' joints; 30 - 8" main line 30' joints; 60 - 8" gated 30' joints; 35 - 8" plastic main; 75 - 10" gated; 25 - 8" miscellaneous; 500 plus irrigation socks.

TRACTORS

1985 4650 John Deere tractor; 1988 4450 John Deere tractor; 1980 4640 John Deere tractor; 1978 4640 John Deere tractor; 280 John Deere loader; M110 GB loader; TW25 Ford tractor MFWD; 3600 Ford tractor; IHC M; Oswalt Ensiloader on IHC Tractor.

VEHICLES

1979 Ford Thunderbird, white, 87,603 miles; 1970 Ford Thunderbird, blue, 75,285 miles; Lincoln Mark VII, brown, 44,082 miles; 1984 Ford F 150 pickup, 4x4, brown, 4 speed; 1985 Ford pickup, white, automatic; Ford F600 truck with 16' bed; Ford L600 truck with feedbox; Ford F150 pickup, 5.4 engine, 4x4, 53,862 miles.

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