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WHERE IS MISS FERN MARR?

**MYSTERY SURROUNDS PRETTY
STENOGRAPHER WANTED
AS WITNESS**

CHADRON BLACKMAIL CASE

**Seventy Talesmen Examined and
Sixty More Called For—Great
Interest Manifested.**

Wanted: As a witness by both state and defense—Miss Fern Marr, pretty stenographer, formerly employed by the Omaha Detective Association.

This was the cry yesterday afternoon which went up from both camps in the district court here where Allen G. Fisher of Chadron, Steve Maloney of Omaha and other defendants in the Chadron case are on trial on the charge of blackmail.

Holds Center of Stage
While the grind of examination of talesmen proceeded in court with prospects that a jury may not be obtained before Friday or early Saturday, Miss Marr, a slender girl of twenty, of attractive appearance, held the center of the stage.

Both state and defense have subpoenaed her and were yesterday awaiting her arrival with interest. Miss Marr's mother arrived Wednesday and is occupying a suite at the Alliance Hotel with Mrs. Harvey Wolf, wife of one of the defendants, and Mrs. Wolf's sister, Miss Grace Curtis.

A report was given out this morning to the effect that Miss Marr had arrived in Alliance, but efforts to locate her have been of no avail. At one time it was believed that Miss Marr had been located, but when reporters for The Alliance Herald and an Omaha daily attempted to interview her, it was found that the lady in question was not Miss Marr, but rather a lady said to be representing her. It is believed Miss Marr is in Alliance today, possibly registered under some other name. The importance attached to the pretty stenographer by both the defense and the state would indicate that she will be a material witness in the case.

Recently, it is said, Miss Marr signified through another person a willingness to confer with state's attorneys with a view to giving testimony in the trial here. This conference may be held before the starting of the trial proper.

In the preliminary hearing at Chadron Miss Marr testified for the defense, contradicting Elsie Phelps, star witness for the state.

She is no longer in the employ of the Omaha Detective Association.

Opposing attorneys were asked whether they expected Miss Marr to testify as their witness.

"I don't know," said Ben Baker of Chadron.

"I don't know," said Harry C. Brome of the prosecution.

Cox After More Talesmen
Sheriff Cal Cox went into the county in an automobile in search of a second special venire of talesmen late Wednesday, after court had been compelled to take an early recess on account of lack of jury material. Thirty-one men of the first special venire appeared and were examined Wednesday. State and defense each had exercised eleven of fifty-four peremptory challenges at the end of the day. All others, except eleven unchallenged men, sitting in the jury box, had been excused for cause.

Several of the eleven, it is believed, will not be made objects of peremptory challenge by either side.

One talesman, answering a question whether he knew any of the defendants, answered: "Only Mr. Crites," referring to the county attorney of Dawes county, prosecuting the case.

Judge Grimes issued a court order this morning for sixty additional talesmen and Sheriff Cox has been out all day attempting to round them up. Court was to have convened again at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon but was delayed owing to the fact that but one talesman had appeared. Court adjourned at 3:30 this afternoon to re-convene again on Friday morning. Including the original jury panel and talesmen already called some seventy prospective jurors have been examined. With sixty more talesmen to be brought in it is hoped that a jury of twelve men can be secured and that the trial will then proceed.

At the opening of court Tuesday morning, Judge Grimes sustained the demurrer made by the defendants Monday afternoon on one count of the indictment against the several defendants wherein they are charged, among other things, of attempting to prevent C. D. Crites from running for public office and from conducting certain cases in court and with an attempt to influence Mrs. Hood in a suit for divorce. The other count charges the defendants with conspiracy to obtain money under false pretense by inducing Crites and Mrs. Hood to meet in the former's office in Chadron. The demurrer was overruled as to the latter count and the case is being tried on that count

and will go to trial on the latter indictment.

Charles I. Day hotelkeeper of Chadron, and one of the defendants, will, according to a remark made by Attorney H. C. Brome for the prosecution, appear as a state witness. This sudden shift to the defense will give no time to state witnesses and will injure their case. It is generally conceded that a sudden change of this nature cannot work to any advantage for the defense.

WHO'S WHO AND WHY

Defendants, attorneys for both state and defense, and witnesses participating in the alleged Chadron blackmail case which is being heard in the Box Butte county district court here with Judge Grimes of North Platte on the bench in place of Judge Westover of Rushville, arrived in Alliance Monday. The defendants made a demurrer on both counts in the indictment and on Tuesday morning Judge Grimes passed on the demurrer. The time since Tuesday morning has been spent in trying to get a jury.

Following is the cast of characters in the Chadron case being tried here, which promises to be one of the hardest fought criminal cases ever tried in a Nebraska court:

ELSIE PHELPS, pretty woman detective, star witness, who was employed by the Omaha Detective Association, and deceived its members.

STEVE MALONEY, former captain of Omaha police detectives, as one of the defendants, alleged to be "the man higher up."

ROBERT HOOD, aged millionaire miller of Chadron, who hired the Omaha Detective Association to watch his wife, one of the prospective victims of the alleged blackmail plot.

MRS. ROBERT HOOD, pretty young wife, ex-school teacher, who assisted in entrapping several of the defendants.

EDWIN CRITES, county attorney of Chadron, member of an old and wealthy Nebraska family, object of an alleged attempt to compromise him with Mrs. Hood.

PAUL SUTTON, former morals squad detective of Omaha, whose activities uncovered the alleged plot and caused the dismissal of Maloney by the Omaha city council.

HARRY WOLF, **GUS TYLER**, **W. S. DOLAN** and **PAUL WINKLER** of Omaha, members of the Omaha Detective Association, alleged to have participated in a plot to gain money from Mr. and Mrs. Hood and control over County Attorney Crites.

CHARLES PIPKIN, former member of the Omaha Detective Association.

ALLAN G. FISHER, prominent attorney of Chadron, former captain of militia, one of the defendants.

CHARLES I. DAY, hotelkeeper of Chadron, one of the defendants, who, it is said, will turn state's evidence.

LOUIS K. MOTE, of Chadron, one of the defendants.

MISS FERN MARR, pretty stenographer, former employee of the Omaha Detective Association, subpoenaed by both defense and state as witness.

State's witnesses, defendants' witnesses and spectators.

Filing of a criminal information by County Attorney Crites followed on one night last May, when, according to testimony in the preliminary hearing, Winkler and two Chadron men suddenly appeared at the office.

Crites and Mrs. Hood and Elsie Phelps were there, which, according to Mrs. Phelps' testimony was in accordance with previous plans.

But the testimony showed, in an adjoining office, were Sutton, Mayor Donohue of Chadron and other friends of Crites and Mrs. Hood.

They broke into the room after Winkler had presented his card, drawn a revolver and said: "Witnesses, see what we have here."

The scene closed with a hasty exodus from the building with the accused pursuing the defendants.

It was revealed that Elsie Phelps was in the confidence of Sutton to learn plans of the Omaha Detective Association.

Mrs. Phelps testified in the preliminary hearing at Chadron that she had been instructed by the defendants to induce Mr. Crites and Mrs. Hood to go to the same office for the purpose of permitting witnesses to see them there.

Mrs. Phelps said she told Sutton, County Attorney Crites and Mrs. Hood of the plan in advance, and that they consented to assist in entrapping the defendants.

The state principally relies on Mrs. Phelps' testimony to connect the various defendants with the alleged plot.

The defendants were bound over for trial by County Judge Slattery of Chadron following a preliminary hearing.

Judge Westover of Rushville asked Judge Grimes of North Platte to preside over the case at the hearing in the Dawes county district court. Judge Grimes later granted a change of venue asked by the defendants and not opposed by the state.

Judge Grimes transferred the case to the Box Butte county district court here in Alliance. He is presiding at the trial.

The defendants will allege the prosecution is part of an Omaha political fight and will attempt to impeach state witnesses, it is said.

POTASH PLANT AND REFINERY

HOFFLAND MEN PRESENT PROPOSITION TO CITY TO BUILD HERE

LONG DREAM REALIZED?

Believed City Can Meet Requirements of Company—In Operation by May, 1918

At last the possibility of a potash plant and a refinery for Alliance seems about to be realized. While there is sometimes a "slip between the tongue and the lip," the indications see every favorable for the securing of a great unit of the Potash Reduction Company's plants for this city.

T. E. Evans, president of the Potash Reduction Company, together with Clark Denny, Carl Modisett, J. H. Show and Vic Jeep of the company, were in the city the first of the week and outlined a proposition to the Alliance Community Club and city officials whereby it will be possible to get this great enterprise for Alliance by meeting certain stipulated conditions, not at all unreasonable.

Whether or not the plant would be operated under the name of the Potash Reduction Company or some other name was not definitely stated, but that is immaterial as the same men are behind both enterprises and it is a well known fact that they have the cash to do things with whenever they take the notion.

The Stipulations
These men ask no bonus of Alliance to build here. Of their own accord they will pay the additional cost of the pipe line from their first proposed site at Birdsell siding to Alliance. It is business with them. They are not giving anything away. They know that certain more or less unsatisfactory conditions in connection with labor and house problem, siding and switching, etc., will be eliminated by building in Alliance. They do ask, however, that the city provide a five-acre site for the big plant, extend the water mains to the site afford fire protection to their large investment, and sell them electric energy to the extent of fifty horsepower at a two cent an hour rate per k.w.

The city is prepared to meet practically every condition, it is stated. Just east of the corporation is the city farm, alongside of the Burlington tracks. The city farm solves the site problem. It is estimated that the water mains can be extended to the plant for about \$3,000. This would prove a paying proposition in the long run for it would develop that portion of the city and it is almost a certainty that with the coming of the plant would come more homes and a greater demand for water.

It is possible that with the present equipment at the municipal plant, fifty horsepower could be delivered for a twenty-four hour period daily, but the capacity of the plant would be taxed. According to both the superintendent and the mayor, it is but a matter of a short time before the city will have to install new equipment regardless of whether the new plant locates here or not. In view of this condition the city has secured estimates on costs for new machinery and equipment. The only condition that may be hard to meet is the delivering of electric power at two cents per k.w. Both the superintendent and the mayor are favorable to the plan, but are of the opinion that the city cannot deliver electricity at that price. The city, however, will undoubtedly be willing to deliver the juice at cost.

Own Option at Birdsell
The company has purchased an option on a site at Birdsell and fully intended to build there until the Alliance plan was suggested. The company is ready and willing to come here on the conditions named. It is probable that the city will satisfy the conditions. This is not a time for idle talk. It is the time to act. The plant would employ about 100 men at the start and more after that. If action is taken now the plant can be in operation by May, due to the fact that the company now has much machinery and equipment on hand.

The proposition of a refinery will be considered later, but is a logical result of the erection of the potash plant. The plant and the refinery would represent a \$500,000 investment within the course of twelve months or such a matter.

Mayor Rousey stated this morning that if he received telegraphic replies to his messages asking for prices on equipment for the municipal plant he would call a special meeting of the council for tonight to consider the proposition. If a meeting is called every resident of Alliance is expected to turn out.

Amsterdam—A German Socialist paper says the Socialists have decided to vote against the new war credit of 10,000,000,000 marks which is to be submitted to the reichstag in December, unless Chancellor Michaelis resigns.

FIRST CASUALTY LIST REPORTED

AMERICAN SAILOR KILLED, FIVE WOUNDED IN COMBAT WITH ENEMY

DESTROYER HIT BY U-BOAT

New Plans For U. S. Draft Will Call Man With No Dependent Family First—Other News

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Navy Daniels has made public a statement containing the first list of Americans killed and wounded in combat with the enemy. The list is contained in the account of an encounter between a German submarine and an American destroyer in European waters. One American sailor was killed when the submarine torpedoed the destroyer and five sailors were wounded. The casualty list and the only details made public by the navy department were made known in the following statement by Secretary Daniels:

"The navy department has received a message from Vice Admiral Sims, stating that on October 16 an American destroyer was torpedoed by a submarine while on patrol duty in European waters. The vessel was not sunk and has since arrived in port.

List of Casualties

"Killed: Osmond Ingram, gunner's mate; next of kin (mother) Betty Ingram, 504 Third street, Pratt City, Ala. Ingram was blown overboard and his body was not recovered.

"The wounded, none of whom were seriously injured, are:

"Herman Henry Pankratz, gunner's mate, second class; next of kin (brother) Robert William Pankratz, 4318 Lee avenue, St. Louis, Mo.

"William Edward Merritt, seaman; next of kin (mother) Ellen Merritt, 264 East Fifty-fourth street, New York.

"Frank William Kruse, fireman, first class; next of kin (wife) Margaret Kruse, 724 Indiana avenue, Toledo, Ohio.

"Patrick Rutledge, oiler; next of kin (wife) Nona Rutledge, 431 West Thirty-first street, New York.

"William Selmer, fireman, second class; next of kin (father) Henry Selmer, Dundas, Minn."

Indications are not lacking that the German submarines are beginning to show fight toward the British and American destroyers.

Washington, D. C.—The new plans for the U. S. draft will call the men with no dependent families first. A new comprehensive plan for applying the army selective draft which would take first only men without dependents and of no particular value to war industries, and establish various grades of dependency and industrial value from which future drafts would be made strictly on the selective basis has been worked out by the provost marshal general's office and discussed with the president.

HOTEL PROPOSITION PRESENTED TO CITY

Lincoln Hotel Company Would Build \$100,000.00 Modern, Fire-Proof Hotel Here

A tentative proposition has been tendered the Alliance Community Club whereby, if the club can meet certain conditions specified, the Nebraska Hotel Company of Lincoln will build a \$100,000.00 fire-proof hotel building here.

The proposition submitted to the club carries with it the provision that citizens of Alliance must subscribe to stock of the Nebraska Hotel Company to the amount of \$50,000.00, or one-half the cost of the hotel building.

It is stated that the stock offered is not in the hotel to be built in Alliance alone, but in all the hotels owned by this company, which at this time includes the Lincoln Hotel at Lincoln, the Evans Hotel at Columbus, and the three now in course of construction by this company at Franklin, Table Rock and Scottsbluff.

It is pointed out that stock in the company ought to be a good investment by reason of the fact that it will be guaranteed by the six hotels—the two now operating, the three under construction, and the proposed hotel in Alliance.

No definite action has as yet been taken by the club. It is probable that a mass meeting will be called to consider the proposition and if the citizens of Alliance really want a big, modern hotel that will accommodate visitors to this city, and want it to the extent that they are willing to subscribe for the necessary amount of stock, which will produce a guaranteed revenue of 7 per cent, then the hotel will be built and the long dream of many at last realized.

Secretary Fisher took the matter up with the Lincoln Hotel Company

while in Lincoln on his way to this city to start his duties as secretary of the Alliance club. The hotel now under construction at Scottsbluff is a six-story, modern, fire-proof structure.

A number of Alliance citizens have expressed themselves as being willing to lend their influence and their financial assistance to the building of a new, large hotel, providing local people who have had the experience and who are making a success of the hotel business on a smaller scale be given the opportunity to invest in the proposition and to make use of their experience locally in having a vote in the management of the new hotel. It seems but fair that those who have their money invested here and who have established lines of business which will be affected by a new hotel be given the opportunity of becoming interested both financially and in the management of the hotel to be built.

VETERINARIANS HERE FOR A CONFERENCE

Conference of Government, State and Private Veterinarians Shows Optimistic Feeling Over Scabies

Government, state and private veterinarians held a conference in Alliance on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, considering the scab eradication work in this section of the state. Among those who attended the conference were Dr. W. E. Howe, federal inspector in charge of Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska; Dr. J. B. Anderson, state veterinarian of Lincoln; Dr. W. E. Spencer and Dr. Lynn Cantwell, federal inspectors of Alliance; Dr. Harry Cline of Chadron; Dr. E. J. Baker of Mitchell; Dr. G. A. Mikesell of Seneca; Dr. C. E. Brewer of Gordon; Alexander Burr of Pullman, member of the Nebraska Live Stock Sanitary Board, and Robert Graham of Alliance, president of the Nebraska Stockgrowers Association.

The main reason for the conference was the consideration of contemplated changes in scab eradication methods. The amount of scab now prevalent in the range district is less than ever before and the men are very optimistic over the conditions found. There are now ten complete counties and parts of three others under quarantine for scab. Further news on the subjects under consideration may be looked forward to.

WANTED-200 ROOMS FOR NOV. 15 AND 16

Telephone 74 if You Can Take Care of Visitors to Nebraska State Potato Show

W. D. Fisher, secretary of the Alliance Community Club, is wondering where he can secure accommodations for the three hundred or more visitors Alliance will entertain on Thursday and Friday, November 15th and 16th, when the Nebraska State Potato Show and convention is staged in Alliance.

Secretary Fisher is anxious to have all arrangements of this nature made long in advance. He states that Alliance residents will have to provide accommodations for 200 or more guests at this time. If you can accommodate guests at the show—prominent farmers, government officials, representatives of manufacturers of potato machinery, etc., telephone immediately to the office of the Alliance Community Club, Phone No. 74, and advise how many you can take care of.

It is absolutely necessary that Alliance provide for the comfort of the guests while here, if Alliance is to maintain its place as a convention city. The visitors will pay their way. If you have a spare room or two advise Mr. Fisher at once. Don't delay. It is important that this feature of the work be taken care of immediately so as to leave time for other important arrangements to be made.

WARRANTS OUT FOR PROMINENT VISITORS

Defendant in Chadron Case, His Law Partner and O'Neil Attorney Caught in Raid

Sheriff Cox and deputies successfully carried out a well planned raid on the Drake Hotel early Monday night which resulted in the confiscation of several bottles of whiskey from the suite of room in which were Allen G. Fisher, William Rooney and Mike Harrington. Fisher is one of the defendants in the alleged Chadron blackmail case now being tried in the district court here. Rooney is Fisher's law partner at Chadron and Harrington is one of the attorneys for the defense in the trial and lives at O'Neil.

As a result of the raid on the hotel and suite occupied by these men warrants have been issued for the arrest of Fisher, Rooney and Harrington, charging them with the illegal possession of intoxicating liquor. C. L. Drake, proprietor of the hotel, was held on a charge of bootlegging and having liquor in his place. Mr.

LIVE STOCK COMMITTEE

WELL KNOWN MEN SELECTED BY STATE FOOD ADMINISTRATOR AS ASSISTANTS

A SPLENDID SELECTION

All Parts of Nebraska Represented in Important Administrative Work by Men of Ability

There were many men in Nebraska possessed of ability and patriotism sufficient to have filled the important office of state food administrator well in these crucial times, but it is doubtful whether National Food Administrator Hoover could have found a man better adapted in every way to the responsible position than his appointee, Hon. Gurdon W. Wattles of Omaha.

Not only is Mr. Wattles a man of large affairs, successful in his own business and in the administration of corporate interests with which he is entrusted, but he has an executive ability that is shown to great advantage in the organization of other men for team work in public affairs. Coupled with this ability is a knowledge of leading men throughout the state that has been put to good use in making up the personnel of the committee named below.

Conservation of food supplies and increased production probably mean more to the United States just now than at any other time since the Revolutionary fathers established the government. Every person who prevents waste to any extent and helps in any degree in increasing production does a bit in hastening the end of the awful war and making "the world a safe place for democracies." Those who have larger opportunities show their patriotism by making use of them to the extent of their ability.

Gurdon W. Wattles, who was appointed by Herbert Hoover as state food administrator for Nebraska has, in accordance with the plans of the National Food Administration, selected a number of men representative of the live stock and agricultural interests of the state as members of the State Live Stock Committee.

It is through these state live stock committees that the program of the national committee will be carried out, and Mr. Wattles wants to have the Nebraska committee completely organized by the time the Food Administration announces its plans. The committee will co-operate with the national committee in its program for the conservation and increased production of live stock. It will also help to work out other problems such as the redistribution of live stock from districts which, owing to shortage of feed or other causes, are overstocked, to sections having ample facilities to care for the surplus. As was announced some time ago, E. L. Burke, one of the Nebraska members of the National Live Stock Industry committee is chairman of the state committee. The complete list of appointments follows:

E. L. Burke, chairman, Live Stock committee, Omaha.

Charles Graft, president Nebraska Live Stock Breeders' Association, Bancroft.

Homer McKelvie, Fairfield.

Robt. Graham, president Nebraska Stock Growers Association, Alliance.

Heber Hord, Central City.

W. G. Tagg, Live Stock Exchange, South Omaha.

E. Z. Russell, associate Editor, Twentieth Century Farmer, Omaha.

Jess Whitmore, Grand Island.

O. G. Smith, Kearney.

A. W. Lamb, Albion.

G. D. Butterfield, Norfolk.

E. M. Searle, Jr., Ogallala.

E. W. Burdick, Herman.

Frank G. Kellogg, Stock Yards, South Omaha.

John Bachelor, Valentine.

Robert Faddis, 3261 Farnam St., Omaha.

Tom Mortimer, Leigh.

E. W. Crossgrove, Farnam.

Z. T. Leftwich, St. Paul.

C. M. McCarthy, York.

Prof. C. W. Pugsley, Director of Extension Service, Lincoln.

A. F. Stryker, secretary Live Stock Exchange, South Omaha.

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Drake appeared in county court Tuesday morning. His case was continued until Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. It is stated the others will not be arrested until after the completion of the case now at trial in the district court, so as not to influence the jury any more than possible.

The complaint was made by County Attorney Lee Basye and the search warrant issued by County Judge Ira E. Tash.

The raiding of the hotel and the issuing of warrants against Fisher, Rooney and Harrington was one of the sensations in the Chadron case early this week.

Petrograd.—One German dreadnaught ran into a Russian mine field defending Oesel Island and struck a mine. After the explosion the warship made for the coast and its ultimate fate is unknown.