

The Alliance Herald

Twice a Week—Tuesday and Friday

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ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1920.

NO. 77

ALFRED VAUGHN TRIES SUICIDE

Forty-Year-Old Farmer, Unbalanced, Slashes Throat With Knife

Alfred Vaughn, forty years old and unmarried, made an unsuccessful attempt to end his life about 8 o'clock Monday morning on the farm where he lived, four miles west of Bera, Mr. Vaughn was better known by his nickname of "Pete". He has been farming on a place belonging to his father, Edworth Vaughn, for some time. It is believed that his mind was unbalanced, possibly due to the heat. He had been working hard in the fields for several days previous.

A brother, Elmer, and a brother-in-law, A. H. Mabon, had stopped at the farm shortly after breakfast. Vaughn talked with them, seemingly in his right mind, but led them to the rear of the barn and there suddenly drew out a knife and slashed at his throat. According to one report, the two men took the knife away from him, whereupon he attacked them, knocking his brother to the ground and driving the brother-in-law off the place. One of the men had a narrow escape by getting hold of an iron bar before the crazed man could secure it.

Elmer Vaughn and Mabon then struck out to get assistance. Among others called was Berney Shepard. When the men reached the house, they found Pete Vaughn stretched out on the kitchen floor, a huge gash cut in his throat. Though weak from loss of blood, he was able to walk to the car which was called to take him to the city, and also made a demonstration against the physician who was called. The physician was unable to sew up the wound, and this was done later at the city hospital where he is reported to be out of danger. It is probable that he will be sent to a private hospital.

"TOUGH" MCCLURE AGAIN IN TROUBLE

Walter McClure, better known as "Tough", is in trouble again. He has been in juvenile court on several occasions in the past. A year or so ago he was paroled to the Rev. Stephen J. Epler and for a while had a very commendable record. Of late, he seems to have broken over the traces and fallen into his old habits.

Tuesday afternoon of this week, Rex Thompson lent a bicycle to a small friend to ride around the block a couple of times. One condition of the loan was that the bicycle should be returned in as good condition as when it left the owners hands. The borrower mounted the bike and rode merrily away. Down by the Alliance hotel annex he encountered disaster in the form of Toughy McClure.

Toughy informed the boy that he wanted to ride. He went further than that and pushed him off the bicycle and rode away. The borrower waited a long time, and Toughy didn't return. The owner of the bicycle made no particular outcry, but the boy who was responsible for it went to Chief of Police Reed and Sheriff Miller. Mr. Reed saw Toughy the next morning and told him to bring back the wheel. Toughy promised faithfully, but didn't do it. Thursday morning Sheriff Miller collected the boy and took him to his office. There Toughy told him where he had hidden the bicycle, near the Baptist church, and finally went and showed him the place.

A hearing was held in juvenile court before Judge Tash at 10 o'clock Saturday morning. The court found young McClure guilty as charged in the complaint, first, with being a neglected and dependent child growing up under such circumstances as would tend to cause such a child to lead a vicious and immoral life; and second, of the theft of the bicycle, as charged. The boy was represented by Harry Gantz.

Young McClure took the stand, and told a tale of a still small voice that whispered to him, "Don't do it, don't do it," but said that a chum, Buster Dunbar, who told him to "grab the wheel and come along," made a louder noise and drowned out the voice of conscience.

Reuben C. McClure, the boy's father, said that he had planned to put the lad in charge of a boys' convent at Denver. The judge, in passing sentence, said that he would postpone it for ten days, and if during that time the boy was put in charge of the convent, it would be satisfactory to the court; if not, he would be sent to the boys' industrial school at Kearney.

THE WEATHER

For Alliance and vicinity: Generally fair tonight and Wednesday; somewhat warmer southeast portion tonight.

ARRANGE PLANS FOR LABOR DAY

Representatives of the various unions of the city met at Reddish hall at 8 o'clock Monday evening to perfect plans for the labor day celebration, which takes place on September 6. The following committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements: R. E. Ives, chairman; V. I. Hiles, Charles Jeffers, George Davis, Arthur Ralls, L. E. Herbaugh, Judge Bullock and C. E. Roberts.

Among the features of the program will be a doubleheader baseball game and other contests, such as foot races, watermelon eating contest, potato race and other athletic events. There will be a dance in the evening at the roof garden. The Burlington shops will, so far as possible, be closed all day.

The celebration will be financed by a pro-rata assessment on members of the various unions.

WILLIE SNEED IS SENTENCED

Pleads Guilty to Burglary Charge and Draws from One to Ten Years

Willie Sneed, colored, entered a plea of guilty in district court Monday morning and was given a sentence of from one to ten years in the state penitentiary and a fine of \$100 and costs, amounting to \$18.75. The session was adjourned from the May 3 term, and was presided over by Judge W. H. Westover.

Sneed was charged with breaking into and entering the home of Heubert Adams in Alliance at 11 o'clock in the evening of July 12, and the theft of one gold watch and chain and one coin purse of the value of \$40. He has been confined in the county jail since shortly after the theft awaiting a court session so he could plead guilty and begin serving out his sentence.

Sneed will have two ways in which to pay the \$100 fine which is a part of his sentence. Penitentiary inmates are allowed to work extra time and are paid for their labors during such overtime. In the event Sneed doesn't care to work any more than the law requires, his sentence will be automatically extended until he has served enough extra days to satisfy the judgment.

A TOM MIX PICTURE AT THE IMPERIAL TONIGHT

"The Cyclone," starring Tom Mix is the attraction at the Imperial tonight. Mix is the idol of the kids and the wonder of the grownups. He is known as the most daring of all the screen heroes. It's a picture of the Canadian Northwest, and is just filled to the brim with thrills.

The homeliest screen star in captivity, Will Rodgers, comes to the Imperial Wednesday in "Jes' Call Me Jim."

Jim Fenton is in love with Miss Butterworth, a milliner, and he believes her to be in love with an insane inventor, Paul Benedict, languishing in a filthy workhouse. He promises to rescue Paul and incidentally discovers that Belcher, the most influential man in town, has robbed the poor inventor of a machine from which he has made his fortune. With the help of Mike Conlin, a friend and trapper, Jim determines to force a confession from Belcher. They get him to Mike's house and arouse his fears until he is all too eager to make the confession they demand.

Thursday and Friday comes "Why Change Your Wife?" a Cecil B. DeMille production with Thomas Meighan, Gloria Swanson and Bebe Daniels.

Mr. DeMille has risen to great heights in his depiction of the wife, who in her overwhelming love for her husband tries him to the degree that he finds solace in the companionship of a pretty divorcee. The wife who forgets to make a playmate of her husband, and who has changed remarkably since their marriage ten years previously, obtains a divorce and he marries the other woman. It then develops that his second wife grows to be the very opposite to what she was when he married her, and trouble ensues.

FIVE GALLONS OF HOOGH CAPTURED

Chief of Police Reed Later Captures Bootleggers at Hemingford—Now Awaiting Trial

The biggest capture of bootleg booze that has been made in Box Butte county for months was made by Chief of Police Oscar Reed shortly after noon Monday, when a Studebaker Six car containing a keg of laughing water was taken in tow. The car has been in Alliance for several days, undergoing repairs at the Lowry & Henry garage, and at the time of discovery was standing in front of the Bald & Rust offices.

The chief has been making a practice of inspecting automobiles bearing strange license tags. The car in question carried a Colorado license number, and whether it was something odd about the looks of the car or whether the keg has sprung a leak will probably never be known. The booze, however, is now resting under lock and key at the office of Sheriff Miller and the car is being held.

A combination of unfortuitous circumstances led to the capture of the two bootleggers, who gave their names as Fred Thompson and Albert Corwin. The men in some manner were tipped off to the fact that the booze car had been discovered, and Monday afternoon made their getaway in an auto livery car driven by Ray Thompson. Had it not been for an unfortunate chain of events, they would even now be in greener pastures and faced only with the loss of their Studebaker. Now they face trial on the charge of selling intoxicating liquor, as well as having it in their possession, and transporting it from one state to another.

To begin with, the two bootleggers sampled their own product all too frequently, and at the time they made their getaway, were feeling tolerably well. Thompson, who engaged to drive them to Hemingford, happened to look around, and saw his two passengers brandishing revolvers. He immediately became alarmed, thinking that perhaps he had a couple of automobile bandits with him, and he mentally pictured their ordering him to throw up his hands, and afterward riding away in his car, leaving him to languish by the roadside.

Therefore, at Bera, the driver stopped and in some way conveyed the idea to the men that he would take them no farther. They didn't argue at all, but got James Kennedy to take them to Hemingford. Thompson communicated with Chief Reed at Alliance, and Reed, after trying to get hold of Hemingford city marshal, finally got in touch with Constable W. L. Clark, who kept the two men under surveillance until Chief Reed arrived.

The arrest was made by Reed and Edward F. Pfingst, a policeman from Maywood, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, who has been visiting in the city. One of the men was arrested at a barber shop and the other at a lumber yard. When the two men were brought face to face, each denied any acquaintance with his fellow, but before they reached Alliance, they became quite chummy with the officers.

The men were confined in the county jail, and formal complaint will be made sometime today. The hearing will be held tomorrow or Thursday. The men were searched at the jail and from one of them was taken a notebook in which were recorded a number of names of those who had purchased liquor from them, together with the amounts. One of the interesting things found in this notebook was the chart of a code, with which it is possible that these men sent messages to other confederates. The code reads as follows:

GOD WITH US X
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

In some places the record is fragmentary, and only first names are given. In other places the amounts are not given.

The booze car contained, among other things, an extraordinarily complete line of tools. The men evidently had a regular line of customers, judging from inquiries they made at the garage, and were here to deliver as well as make chance sales. Stories have reached the police where these men came into business offices in the city and attempted to sell the stuff.

Under the law, automobiles captured containing bootleggers' supplies may be confiscated and sold, the money going to the school fund, the same place where bootleggers' fines go. It is probable that a court order to this effect will be issued sooner or later.

KEEGAN MAKES GOOD SHOWING

Expense of Appraising Boards Less Than If Regular Plan Was Followed

Despite the ruling of the attorney general's department, it is probable, according to County Assessor J. A. Keegan, that the board of county commissioners will allow the claims for members of various appraising boards, which were held up at the meeting of the county board last week. These claims amount to but \$144.50 in all, Mr. Keegan says, instead of the estimate of \$1,600 given by one of the county officers and printed in The Herald's last issue. It is probable that the figure given referred to the total cost of assessing the county, and not to the claims put in by the precinct assessing boards.

While no authority can be found in the statutes for the appointment of appraising boards to appraise real estate, Mr. Keegan has in his possession a pamphlet, "Uniform Instructions to County and Precinct Assessors," approved by Philip F. Bross, secretary of the department of finance, and W. H. Osborne, Jr., secretary of the state board of equalization, which contains, among other things, the following paragraph:

"Your county assessor will provide the means for classifying and unless otherwise provided for, you will be expected to comply with the law to actually view, value and return such property. Some counties may provide you with assistance in the shape of an appraising board; others expect to have the county assessor assist you, but if such assistance is not provided, it becomes your duty to properly value such real estate."

Mr. Keegan also has a letter from W. H. Osborne, Jr., secretary of the state board of equalization, in response to one from himself explaining the system used in Box Butte county. The letter, in part, says:

"I have your letter under date of the 29th relative to the method used by you in the gathering of the necessary data for the proper assessment of your real estate this year.

"Realizing, as I do that with the limited time that is given for the completion of this work, I feel that the plan used by you to be far better than to rely altogether upon the precinct assessor doing the whole job. The fact is that he has about all that he can attend to, when he gets all the personal property listed for taxation, without tackling the real estate. The fact that you have taken the precaution to appoint two disinterested land owners to assist in this work, ought to convince the most skeptical that you desired to be more than fair.

This plan or similar plan is being used in several of the counties in this state, and so far as I know it has been giving good satisfaction. I think that Scotts Bluff county has a committee of three who are working with the county assessor.

"Your method therefore has the sanction of this department, and you are to be commended for your efforts to obtain an assessment that will be uniform all over the county."

In order to make his position still more clear, Mr. Keegan points out that the total cost of assessing real estate in Box Butte county for 1920 is lower than it has been for years. Ordinarily, the cost of assessing real estate is equal to that for assessing personal property. In 1919, it cost the county \$958 to assess personal property. This year, the total cost of assessing real estate in the county in the ten precincts outside of Alliance, is \$315.50, less than half the total. This figure includes the cost of the appraising boards. Under the circumstances, Mr. Keegan cannot see why the commissioners should object to allowing the bills, inasmuch as they represent a saving of considerably money. One of the commissioners has stated that it is quite likely that when the board next meet, the claims will be approved.

An impromptu "Frontier days" celebration was staged in Alliance yesterday, when a cowboy, clad in the regulation chaps and filled with enthusiasm and possibly something stronger, attempted to ride his horse into a near-beer refreshment parlor on Eox Butte. He got but halfway through the door, however, and then dismounted to buy cigarettes.

Earnest Block, of Edgemont, who has been visiting his mother, Mrs. Emma Block, of Alliance returned to his home.

Miss Kathrine Baker has accepted a position with the Fashion Shop in the millinery department.

HAS A MANIA FOR KILLING PEOPLE

The local Red Cross home service secretary has received a warning from Chicago headquarters concerning one David J. Landrigan, a mentally unbalanced soldier who escaped June 27, 1920, from the state hospital for the insane at Massillon, O., and has since been wandering about the country. He is reported to have been seen in the western states.

Landrigan's special mania is the murder of prominent citizens in the cities he visits, for fancied wrongs which they have committed. He first came to the attention of the Red Cross by writing a letter to the Lorain, O., home service section, in which he stated that he was unable to trace his mother from whom he is supposed to have been snatched by his father in Toledo, O. His excuse for visiting the various parts of the country is to find the mother from whom he was stolen as a child.

Landrigan is described as follows: Weight, 150 pounds; height, 5 1/2 feet; age 31; dark brown hair and eyes; white even teeth, neat appearance and apparently calm and pleasant while talking, but grows suspicious and acts strangely when talking of his mother.

RURAL ROUTE IS ESTABLISHED

Tri-Weekly Trips to Be Made by Regular Carrier Beginning October 16

The postoffice department has given its approval to the proposed rural route out of Alliance, according to instructions received by Postmaster Robert Graham Monday of this week, and service will begin on October 16. Date for the carriers' examination has not been set, but announcement will probably be made soon.

The route as approved covers 29.6 miles, and will be served by one carrier, who will make the trip on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday of each week. He is expected to be on duty between the hours of 7:30 a. m. and 4 p. m., and the salary set is \$1,170 per year. It will be known as route No. 1.

The route covers the roads named in the original petition, which was presented some weeks ago. Starting from the Alliance postoffice, it runs, roughly speaking, five miles east, one mile south, one mile west, four miles north, thence west and southwest crossing the railroad tracks a mile and a half west of Happy Hollow, then following the railroad south into Alliance.

Patrons will be required to erect regulation mailboxes before the service begins, and can secure information concerning this point at the hardware stores.

HABEAS CORPUS WRIT IS DENIED

And Judge Westover Likewise Declines to Reduce Bond of Urban Zediker

Judge W. H. Westover Monday morning denied the application for a writ of habeas corpus, brought by Attorney Burton for Urban Zediker, who is being held in the county jail in default of bail of \$2,500. The judge also declined to reduce the amount of bail.

A transcript of the evidence submitted in county court was read by the court, who listened to the plea of Attorney Burton to the effect that, in the face of the evidence submitted the county judge was not warranted in holding Zediker for trial.

In refusing to grant the application Judge Westover said that Judge Tash, being on the ground, knowing the witnesses and observing their demeanor on the witness stand, was in a better position to judge of their credibility than was he from simply reading the transcript of evidence. He pointed out that in a case of this kind, the county judge was not required to pass on the facts—this being left to the jury in district court and that all that was necessary was for the judge to find cause for probable guilt.

Following the denial of the writ of habeas corpus, Attorney Burton requested that the amount of bail be decreased, but Judge Westover, after due consideration, refused to make any reduction.

Robert Ais, of Edgemont, spent Sunday visiting friends in Alliance.

KIMBALL-ALLIANCE ROAD REMARKED

Part of the Work Done and Alliance and Minatare Clubs to Be Asked to Finish

The road between Kimball and Alliance is now receiving attention. Two of the towns along the route, Minatare and Melbeta, have interested themselves in marking the road, and in calling the attention of other cities along the way to the importance of marking the highway. These towns have not been content to talk about improving the road, but are willing to do some of the work, as the following article from the Minatare Free Press shows:

Several years ago the Minatare Commercial club marked the road from Minatare to Kimball but with the rapid development of the dry land wheat country between the Lodgepole Valley and the Platte River Valley much of the lay of the road as marked several years ago has been changed and it is now impossible to follow the marks placed at that time.

Several weeks ago, members of the Commercial club at Melbeta noticed that many tourists who attempted to go from Kimball by way of the Harrisburg road were forced to change their route and come through Wright's Gap. By the time that most of these tourists had found the route they were in no frame of mind to appreciate the good things they see when they have reached the valley. As a result, that live bunch at Melbeta had markers made and yesterday afternoon started out with ten cars to measure and mark the road to Kimball. As laid out the new route of the road will be as follows: beginning at Melbeta, thence south a little over 1/2 mile, then west to Huffman lake, then south through Wright's Gap and over the Hendickson hill to the corner two miles south of the Hendickson farm, then six miles west and then straight south into Kimball.

The intention is to have the Commercial clubs of Minatare and Alliance to take up the marking of the route at the north end of the Melbeta bridge and mark the route on to Alliance where it will join the Black Hills Trail. Not only is the road as above laid out, the shortest route from Kimball to Alliance, but it is the easiest maintained and is invariably in the best condition for travel.

For scenic beauty no road in Western Nebraska will excel this route as laid out from Kimball through Melbeta and Minatare to Alliance. The table land north of Kimball, crossed at almost regular intervals by beautiful little valleys, all spotted with great fields of wheat and grain, the pine clad hills of the south edge of the Pumpkin Creek valley and the beauty of the scenery and view obtained from the Hendrickson hill, then the very invitation to stop and camp which the air of the canyons of Wright's Gap seems to breathe, these and the beauty of the cascades of the irrigated section of the North Platte Valley as found on both sides of the river, with a magnificent view of the irrigated lands as afforded by the hill above the Farmers Canal five miles north of Minatare and the awe inspiring sight of the waters as they pour out of Lake Minatare into the Low Line Canal make a drive worth two days of any tourist's time.

Not content with their work on the north and south road, the Melbeta live wires have been working on a plan to secure the laying out of a new state highway following as near as possible the route of the old Oregon Trail. They now have it mapped through Morrill and Scottsbluff counties and have arranged to have a delegation appear before the board of County Commissioners next Monday to secure its designation.

W. C. Grubbs, recently from Alliance, a great friend of the Burr boys out there, has moved his headquarters, following the death of his wife and will have a district in Hamilton, York, Seward, Saunders, Polk, Butler and Lancaster counties. He has been a resident of York county about ten days, and will represent Marsh & Marsh of Omaha in the sale of groceries to the trade.—Aurora Register.

ATTENTION ALLIANCE RIFLES

All members of the Alliance Rifles will meet at the High School gymnasium, Wednesday, Aug. 25th at 8 p. m. for the purpose of checking in all equipment and being discharged. All guns should be thoroughly oiled with "3-in-1" oil when returned. (Signed) W. R. PATE, Captain.

Miss Grace Spacht spent Sunday with Miss Lois Wiley in Scottsbluff.