

The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

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ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1921.

No. 9

CHECK ARTIST CAME TO GRIEF THRU ROMANCE

DEWEY L. RUSSELL'S AN ENTERTAINING

Strange Will Left by Millions. and the Want-ad Bride Who Flivvered Out on Him.

Dewey L. Russell, recently of Green River, Wyo., is a Romeo come to grief. Young Russell, who is a personable young chap of twenty-two summers, arrived in Alliance Thursday evening of last week and late Saturday afternoon was in the city jail, following his arrest on a charge of writing three checks on the First National bank of this city in which, unfortunately, he carried no account.

Saturday Russell left an unmounted diamond with the Thiele Drug company, and desired a new setting for it. He wrote a check for \$25 in payment for the work, and received \$10 in change. Later he cashed a second check for \$10 at the Thiele establishment. He then proceeded to the W. R. Harper store, where he made a purchase, and tendered a \$35 check, which the clerk refused to cash, because of its size. The young man then went to the Thiele store, and during his absence it was ascertained that he had no account at the First National. Night Officer Stilwell was called and took him into custody.

At the drug store, it was noted that he had given the name of G. A. Rasmuson to the jeweler, but had signed the checks with the name of D. L. Russell. He told the Thiele employees that he was a railway dispatcher, and no dispatcher in Alliance bears that name. Mr. Russell also got confidential with the clerk and unfolded to them the story of what had brought him to Alliance, and it was as entertaining a yarn as they had listened to in years.

A Want-ad Romance. Russell, at the city jail, was perfectly willing to tell the story of his adventures to a Herald reporter. He did so with a wealth of detail which qualifies him either as a young man gifted with splendid imagination, or else the victim of a want-ad romance which will cost him somewhere in the neighborhood of ten thousand dollars.

Russell says that he has been employed since 1917 in the Union Pacific offices at Green River, Wyo. He has a sweetheart there, and has planned in the past to marry her. Even now, that is his plan. But there was an interlude when he thought differently. And this is the way of it, according to the man behind the bars.

On August 25 of this year his uncle, H. L. Campbell of Tulsa, Okla., a wealthy oil operator, died, leaving an estate of around a million dollars, which was willed to some twenty-three heirs. The bequest to Russell, his nephew, was ten thousand dollars, but there was a condition. This condition was the sort one reads about in the movies and the dime novels—the nephew was to be married by December 23. This gave him less than two months in which to find a bride.

"It wasn't simply a question of getting married," Russell said. "I could have got plenty of girls to marry me for the ten thousand dollars, but I want to be loved for myself, and not for what cash I've got. I liked the Green River girl, but I thought I'd look about a bit."

And so he inserted a want-ad in the Denver Post. The advertisement, he said, stated that a young man, twenty-two years of age, with a good, steady job, wanted to marry, and that he preferred a girl weighing not more than 110 pounds. "I'd—these big women," he declared emphatically.

Fourteen Prospective Brides. Russell received an object lesson as to the value of advertising, as well as the scarcity of young men with jobs, for he received fourteen replies. He sorted these over carefully, and shooked out the ones that didn't appeal to him. He wrote to about six of the applicants. "I'm a working man," he explained, "and there simply wasn't time to keep up a correspondence with fourteen girls."

One by one, Russell diminished the list of his correspondents. There was one prospective bride, he confesses, who wrote a beautiful letter, and he was greatly attracted to her. She was employed in the Denver mint, he declares, and she wrote that she owned a Dort automobile. "Along about the fourth or fifth letter," he said, "she told me that she was forty-two years of age. That let her out. I was honest with her and told my age in the ad, but she thought she could put something over. I don't want to marry my grandmother."

Russell had considerable pleasure out of selecting his bride. But there were risks to this method, too. "There was one of the girls," he said, "a Denver girl, who brought her mother out to Green River and they were going to marry me to that girl whether I wanted to or not. I looked the girl over, and she wasn't so worse, but when I went up to the hotel to see the two of them, I found they were both smoking cigarettes. That settled me. I simply

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Forecast for Alliance and vicinity: Generally fair tonight and Wednesday. Rising temperature Wednesday.

refused. The pair were still in Green River, working at a cafe, when I left."

Choice Falls on Alliance Girl. Finally, after a considerable amount of correspondence with the girls who wanted to marry him, and a number of disappointments as he discovered that this one or that one couldn't qualify and were not able to reach his goal. Russell decided in favor of a candidate. This girl, he says, lives near—quite near—to Alliance. He refused to give her name. "It isn't quite fair to her or to her father," he said. "The old man treated me pretty well, even if he did refuse to cash a check on my father for me, and got me into all this trouble."

"Russell says he was laid off at Green River a few days ago, and immediately headed for Alliance. He had only a few days in which to fulfill the terms of his uncle's will. The Alliance girl had promised to marry him. "I've got dozens of letters from her in the two months I've corresponded with her," he says. "Sometimes she wrote as many as three in one day. She promised to marry me, and I thought that everything was all set. She and her father met me at the train Thursday night and I went out there. I thought she meant business," he said sadly.

The bride, however, in the course of the next twenty-four hours, got a case of cold feet. Russell is a bit lame, and it may be that this influenced her decision. At any rate, she didn't meet him in Alliance Friday afternoon, as she had promised, and instead sent her father with his ring. Everything was off between them.

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REQUIRE RETURNS ON ALL INCOMES EXCEEDING \$1000

TAXPAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO ANSWER MANY QUESTIONS

Income Tax Returns Must Be Filed by March 15—Important Changes in the Revenue Law.

Along with the usual grist of Christmas bills, the approaching income tax payments are helping to take the joy out of life. A whole lot of people who haven't had to make out schedules are going to get into the game this year. A new and important provision of the revenue act of 1921 is that every person whose gross income for 1921 was \$5,000 or over shall file a return, regardless of the amount of net income upon which the tax is assessed. Returns are required of every single person whose net income was \$1,000 or over and every married person living with husband or wife whose net income was \$2,000 or over. Widows and widowers and persons separated or divorced from husband or wife, are regarded as single persons.

Net income is gross income, less certain deductions for business expenses, losses, taxes, etc. Gross income includes practically all income received by the taxpayer during the year; in the case of the wage earner; salaries, wages, bonuses and commissions; in the case of the professional man, all amounts received for professional services; in the case of farmers all profits from the sale of farm products and rental or sale of land.

With the approach of the period for filing income tax returns, January 1 to March 15, taxpayers are advised to lose no time in the compilation of their accounts for the year 1921. In the making of an income tax return, every taxpayer must consider the following questions:

Many Questions to Answer. What were your profits from your business, trade, profession or vocation? Did you receive any interest on bank deposits? Have you any property from which you receive rent? Did you receive any income in the form of dividend or interest from stocks or bonds? Did you receive any bonuses during the year? Did you make any profit on the sale of stocks, bonds, or other property, real or personal? Did you act as a broker in any transaction from which you received commissions? Are you interested in any partnership or other firm from which you received an income? Have you any income from royalties or patents? Have you any minor children who are working? Do you appropriate, or have the right to appropriate, the earnings of such children? If so, the amount must be included in your return or reported in a separate return of income. Did you receive any directors' fees or trustees' fees in the course of the year? Do you hold any office in a benefit society from which you receive income?

GOVERNMENT MAY SOME DAY PAY FOR PAVING

BUT CITY MUST WAIT TILL CONGRESS HAS ACTED

Bill Now Pending to Authorize Cities to Assess Government With Its Share of Improvement Costs

Uncle Mose Kinkaid, congressman from the Sixth Nebraska district, although not utterly without hope, does not hold out much encouragement for Alliance city officials, who a short time ago, through City Manager Kemmish, wrote to him to discover whether there were any way to collect from the federal government the cost of paving the streets and making other improvements around the federal building in this city. Mr. Kinkaid, in a reply to Mr. Kemmish, says that once on a time the treasury department was in favor of the government bearing its fair share of the expense of these improvements, but congress has never seen fit to authorize it.

There is now a bill pending in the senate, the object of which is to provide for the payment by the United States of the proportionate cost of paving of streets upon which property of the United States abuts. A copy of the bill is forwarded by Congressman Kinkaid, who points out that there is little hope that it will become a law.

The taxpayers of Alliance will, according to the present regulations of the treasury department, have to pay the bill for paving on two sides of the federal building here. The total cost amounts to \$4,041.46, with \$404.14 interest to date.

Mr. Kinkaid's letter follows: "WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 29.—N. A. Kemmish, Alliance, Neb. My dear Mr. Kemmish: Referring further to the contents of your esteemed favor of the 9th inst., written in behalf of the government bearing its share of the cost of paving the streets and making other improvements by your city around the federal building at Alliance, will say, I have had the matter up with the proper official of the Treasury Department, and find they are yet adhering to the practice adopted years ago, not to in any way sanction such a proposal. However, the treasury officials did at one time, for a while recommend to the congress favorable action by the enactment of appropriate legislation and the making of appropriations for the payment of taxes, the same as if the property of the government belonged to individuals, but the congress itself declined to pass appropriate legislation or make any such appropriations, and yet adhere to the stand so taken.

"However, a bill is pending in the Senate, which authorizes the cities to make all assessments and levy all taxes for the government's share of the cost of street improvements, etc., and I have introduced a like bill in the House, a copy of which I enclose herewith. But there is only a remote possibility that favorable action can be secured on such a bill.

"The Supervising Architect of the Treasury has mailed to the custodian of your public building at Alliance, a copy of a printed circular, used for the purpose of answering such inquiries as that contained in your letter, and I suggest that you call upon the custodian and ask to be permitted to read that circular.

"Believing the above fully responds to the counts of your letter, I remain, "M. P. KINKAID"

Rehearsals for Legion Play to Start Tonight

Rehearsals for "The Jollies of 1922", which will be staged by the members of the Alliance post of the American Legion will start at 7:30 tonight at the parish house of St. Matthew's Episcopal church. The production will be directed by Chris Ming of the staff of the Joe Bren Production company, of Chicago, which put on the Elks minstrel show here last year, one of the most successful performances of the kind ever given in the city. The cast includes some fifty young men and women and there will be two performances, Thursday and Friday evenings, January 5 and 6.

DEATHS AND FUNERALS.

The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Mullenber, Anita Nadine, died this morning at the home in Duncan's addition, aged twenty-one days. Brief services will be held from the home at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning, conducted by Rev. Stephen J. Epler. Interment will be in the Evergreen cemetery, fourteen miles southwest of Alliance.

Word was received by Alliance Masons yesterday of the death of C. J. Carlson in an Omaha hospital early Monday morning. Mr. Carlson was employed in one of the potash plants at Antioch at the time he affiliated with Alliance lodge, A. F. & A. M. Funeral services will be held at Fremont, in charge of the Masonic order.

ALLIANCE TO BE GIVEN CHANCE TO MAKE A PROTEST

PROMISE OF SPECIAL HEARING BY RAILWAY COMMISSION.

Northwestern Bell Telephone Company to Be Forced to Live Up to Its Franchise Agreements.

Alliance is to be given an opportunity to present arguments before the state railway commission against the application for an increase in rates at the Alliance exchange of the Northwestern Bell Telephone company. Assurances to this effect are contained in a letter received by City Manager N. A. Kemmish Monday from John E. Curtiss, secretary of the commission.

The commission's action allowed a protest sent by City Manager Kemmish, who wrote his opinions in the matter in very plain words. The commission had set Wednesday of this week for a hearing on the company's petition for authority to increase rates. No notice of the proposed hearing was received by the city authorities, although a section in the franchise recently granted the company by the city of Alliance specifically sets forth that this shall be done, and that, in addition to this, the city shall be furnished with a detailed, sworn statement of the investments and gross receipts and operating expenditures of the company covering the year preceding the request.

Mr. Kemmish makes it plain that the city expects to fight the proposed increase, and he takes occasion to make a few arguments in his letter to the commission. The city authorities, he said, had but six days in which to present their case, and he considers that this time is insufficient to make any kind of a showing.

The city manager's letter, which resulted in the promise of a special hearing for Alliance rates, follows:

Letter to Railway Commission "ALLIANCE, Neb., Dec. 21, 1921. State Railway Commission, Lincoln, Neb., Gentlemen: We heard yesterday that the Northwestern Bell Telephone company had made application to your body for an increase in telephone rates. We have also heard that you have set December 28 as the day for the hearing on this application. So far we have not received an official notice of this but suppose the same is true.

"On September 22, 1921, the city council of Alliance granted a franchise to the Northwestern Bell Telephone company containing section six as follows:

"That should the Northwestern Bell Telephone company or its successors or assigns or the city of Alliance at any time during the life of this franchise request a revision of rates which if granted would affect the rates for service within the city of Alliance, the Northwestern Bell Telephone or its successors or assigns will then furnish to the city of Alliance a detailed, sworn statement of the investments and gross receipts and operating expenses of the Alliance exchange for the year preceding such request, together with a true and certified copy of such application or request."

"This franchise was accepted by the telephone company on a later date.

"We took this matter up with them this morning resulting in a long distance call to Omaha and Grand Island in which Mr. Haldeman stated that the telephone company would not be able to get out the data required in section six in time for your hearing on December 28. This leaves us absolutely without any data upon which to work. Perhaps we are a little slow out here but it seems to us that seven days' notice on a proposition of so much importance is all together too short, especially is this true since the telephone company are unable to get the data to us as required in our franchise. We don't see how your body can expect us to prepare our case in this short time. Perhaps your intentions are that we should not. Please understand us. We want the telephone company to have a fair deal but all we ask is the same consideration. It does seem to us however that this is not an opportune time to ask for increases when nearly every line of business in the state outside of perhaps the railways and telephone companies, are and have been nearly on the verge of bankruptcy. It seems to us that the stockholders of the Northwestern Bell Telephone company should also share in this readjustment process. In comparison to other lines of business they have apparently fared pretty well.

"We therefore ask that you delay the hearing on this matter until we can get our data together and present our case and ask for a word from you along this line. Yours very truly, CITY OF ALLIANCE, N. A. KEMMISH, City Manager.

Can't Postpone Hearing

In its reply, the railway commission declares that notice was sent to this city, a copy of the petition having been forwarded to one newspaper and the chamber of commerce. Inasmuch as the hearing set for tomorrow concerns all the exchanges of the Northwestern Bell Telephone com-

pany in the state, it is impossible, the commission says, to postpone the hearing, but because it feels that the company should be required to comply with the terms of its Alliance franchise, offers to grant the city of Alliance a special hearing.

Just what this special hearing means is not made plain in the commission's letter, but it is presumed that no order will be entered in the case of Alliance until after the city officials have been heard. A certified copy of the company's application was received by Mr. Kemmish Monday, together with assurances that the figures contemplated by section six of the franchise will be forthcoming without delay. Mr. Kemmish, who has had plenty of experience in analyzing figures, expects to go over them thoroughly and prepare the case for Alliance.

In the meantime, Alliance will be represented at the hearing tomorrow by Attorney Penrose E. Romig, who will attend as the representative of the chamber of commerce, which forwarded a resolution of protest against any increase in rates. The Lions club of this city also took a similar action.

The following letter from Secretary Curtiss of the railway commission gives definite assurances that Alliance will not be deprived of an opportunity to make an effective protest:

The Commission's Letter

"LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 24, Mr. N. A. Kemmish, City Manager, Alliance, Neb., Dear Sir: Your favor of the 21st instant at hand relative to the Northwestern Bell Telephone company for authority to publish and collect certain definite and specific schedule of rates, in lieu of the present basic rate plus the ten per cent surcharge. "I notice you offer certain criticism of the action of the Commission (Continued on Page 8.)

POTASH PLANTS NOW LISTED ON TAX SCHEDULES

SHERIDAN COUNTY OFFICIALS ENTIRELY OVERLOOK THEM.

State Tax Commissioner Will File Claims With Referee in Bankruptcy for Money.

Following the discovery that five large potash reduction plants at Antioch and Hoffland had not been formally entered on the assessment lists for taxation in Sheridan county, State Tax Commissioner Osborn is taking steps to see that these properties are placed upon the tax roll and made to bear their share of the expenses of state and local government, says the Lincoln Star.

Complaint regarding the omission of these plants from assessment came to the state tax commissioner from an attorney who ascertained that they hadn't been listed. Osborn wired to the county clerk at Rushville and got an answer confirming this report. It was explained that assessment returns had actually been obtained from the owners of the plants, but the assessor was not satisfied with the figures and did not include them on the books. He claimed that he expected to make an examination into the value of the properties later, but forgot.

Almost Escaped Taxation. Had the matter gone a week longer until the end of the calendar year, it would have been too late to add the omitted property, which would thereby have escaped taxation for 1921.

All of the plants have been idle the past year, due to the slump in the potash industry following the war. One or two other potash plants in the same district were destroyed by fire within the past year or so.

W. E. Sharp of Lincoln is president of the American Potash company of Delaware, now in the hands of a trustee, and also of the Nebraska corporation of the same name, which owns potash properties at Antioch. Tax Commissioner Osborn will confer with Sharp and ask him to furnish information regarding the properties. Osborn will have to get a claim for the taxes due into the hands of Dan H. McClenahan, referee in bankruptcy, by Wednesday, that being the time limit set for the filing of claims.

Instructions have been wired to county officials at Rushville to see that all of the potash plants are added to the tax lists. The American plant was valued for assessment in 1920 at \$120,000.

Kansas Man Is Seeking Traces of His Sister

The Herald is in receipt of a letter from Charles Sturma of Holyrod, Kas., who is seeking to discover the present address of his sister, Anna Sturma, sometimes called Ella Storm. He last heard from her in 1898, and at that time she was employed in the B. & M. eating house in this city. From there she went to the McCook county hospital, taking a position as a nurse. Anyone knowing of the woman's present address will confer a favor on the brother by writing The Herald.

FIVE THOUSAND ATTEND PUBLIC XMAS PROGRAM

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE A MARKED SUCCESS.

Twenty-one Hundred Kiddies Made Happy by Gifts From Santa Claus Sunday Afternoon.

Over two thousand children were made happy in Alliance Sunday evening and a crowd estimated at over five thousand people attended the first Community Christmas tree for this city. Hundreds of people came in from the surrounding country through the deep snow.

Huge bonfires at street intersections warmed the evening air and the radiant monster "Welcome" sign at Third and Box Butte avenue cast its beams on the thousands of people who took part in the program which lasted over an hour. The entire city and adjacent territory furnished participants and it was easily the biggest event of the kind ever staged in western Nebraska.

Hundreds of Alliance school children, grouped in mass formation, sang Christmas carols under the direction of Mrs. Inice Dunning. Music was furnished by the Alliance band under the direction of J. P. Mann. The entire crowd joined in singing "America" as a large American flag slowly unfolded his above the brilliantly lighted Christmas tree, while just above the flag was hung a beautiful star, "the Star of Bethlehem." Flag and star stood out in bold relief during the program, for a huge spotlight had been placed on the fire truck nearby.

The beautiful Christmas tree had been placed in position in time to catch the heavy snow of last week. With its scores of multi-colored lights and the streamers of lights which led to the street corners, it was pronounced much prettier by visitors from out-of-town than the Denver tree.

Santa Claus, who was represented on the program by Lloyd C. Thomas, arrived in a sleigh with jingling bells and a sack of presents, promptly at five o'clock, behind a team of prancing horses, while behind them came two huge auto trucks, loaded to the guards with boxes filled with sacks of presents, candy and nuts.

Mayor R. M. Hampton said a few words of greeting and Rev. Stephen J. Epler, pastor of the Christian church, spoke for a few minutes, after which the children filed past in single file, boys on one side and girls on the other. As they mounted the platform they were greeted by Santa Claus and handed their cards to assistants directly behind him. They then filed on past the tree and were each given a sack, filled with presents and candy. The distribution took over half an hour.

City Manager N. A. Kemmish, who was the originator of the plan, was much pleased with the way it was carried out. The preparation of the Christmas sacks was carried out at the Elks club, where the Campfire girls worked early and late for several days. Other members of the committee who took an active part were: C. M. Looney, general chairman, S. W. Thompson, Mrs. S. H. Cole, Mrs. N. A. Kemmish, Mrs. Charles Fuller, H. E. Gantz, P. E. Romig, B. J. Sallwey, A. V. Gavin, E. L. Meyer, Elliott Strand, Supt. W. R. Pate, Roy Strong and John W. Guthrie.

Several hundred sacks of candy and nuts were left over from the celebration. If people living in the country who were unable to attend and who have children will call at the office of the Chamber of Commerce they will be given a sack for each child as long as the supply lasts.

Christmas Spirit Encompasses Even the County Jail

The Christmas spirit this year was a most powerful influence. It brought hundreds of farmers into Alliance for the community Christmas program, and cemented more firmly hundreds of friendships. It even penetrated the county jail, where Tom Gray, bootlegger, is slowly serving out a fine that will keep him in durance vile for a full year, unless friends come to his rescue.

Christmas morning, however, the costs in the case of the state vs. Evelyn McElhaney were paid in. Tom was a witness at this trial and as such was entitled to a couple of dollars from the county court and seven or eight more from district court. If it hadn't been for the Christmas spirit, this money would have been applied toward the payment of his fines, but Judge Tash couldn't do it. The money was taken up to Tom in his cell and he was permitted to blow it in any old way that he desired.

Francis Carroll, eighteen-year-old youth, drew a fine of \$10 and costs from Police Judge L. A. Berry this morning, on a charge of intoxication. He was arrested Saturday night by Officers Jeffers and Stilwell.