

The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

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Official Paper of the City of Alliance

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ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1922.

No. 25

STATE ENGINEER MAKES REPLY TO GEORGE CAPRELL

SAYS HEMINGFORD COMMISSIONER MISQUOTED

Denies Accuracy of Figures on Maintenance Costs—Says State Built the Chadron Road.

In a letter to the editor of The Herald, State Engineer George E. Johnson takes exception to certain points in a statement from County Commissioner George Carrell of Hemingford, recently published in this newspaper. Mr. Carrell attacked the state highway department for its wasteful expenditure of money in Box Butte county, and told of the excessive cost of maintenance on the Potash highway and the Chadron road, as well as the exceedingly high construction cost on the former. Mr. Carrell declared that money expended under county supervision goes many times as far as when the state authorities do the spending.

Mr. Johnson takes issue with Mr. Carrell. He declares that the figures given out for maintenance on the seven miles of Potash highway include the services of a patrolman for part time on "the road north of Alliance." This is, presumably, the Chadron road, although Mr. Carrell gives figures for maintenance cost on the full twenty-five miles of this road, amounting to \$4,914.31. Mr. Johnson intimates that this maintenance charge is duplicated in order to make the case for the state as bad as possible.

According to the state engineer, the Chadron road was constructed by "a trained crew of men and equipment" from the state.

The state engineer also reminds Mr. Carrell that there is to be a statewide hearing on the comparative cost of building roads and bridges under state and county supervision, and that the Box Butte commissioners should take their complaints direct to the investigating committee. If an investigation is desired, Mr. Johnson says, it can be secured. "The matter cannot be settled by misquoting facts through the newspapers," is the parting shot from the state engineer.

Mr. Johnson's letter follows:

No Roads Till State Acted.
LINCOLN, February 16, 1922.—To the Editor of The Herald, Alliance, Neb.—A clipping was sent me from a recent issue of your paper, containing an article written by George Carrell, county commissioner.

"In answer to this article, I wish to state that it is useless to discuss all of the different paragraphs of Mr. Carrell's article, for the reason the majority of people in Box Butte county know that, regardless of the amount of money expended for roads and bridges since the county was organized they did not have any roads in that county until after this department began constructing roads for them.

"However, some of the figures that Mr. Carrell quoted might be taken as facts and for this reason I wish to state that in the comparison of costs of maintenance, where Mr. Carrell states that it cost \$2,279.40 to maintain the seven miles of state and federal aid road, our records show that a portion of this amount was spent on the road running north from Alliance, the exact amount spent on the road east being \$1,928.89.

"In discussing the Chadron road, Mr. Carrell states that 'The Chadron road as a state highway was maintained during 1921 under the direction of the Department of Public Works,' also stating that 'the county records show this road was constructed by the county during the same period the Potash highway was being constructed and was practically the same soil and surface characteristics, at a construction cost of \$104 per mile.'

I am at a loss to know what the county did in the way of constructing this highway, for the reason that records of this department show that we sent in a trained crew of men and equipment and constructed this road for the county. None of this road was surfaced or gravelled as the Potash highway.

County Did the Maintenance.

"These state highways have all been maintained under the law by the county, according to the law and regulations laid down by this department; however, the employing of men and handling of work has been entirely under the jurisdiction of the county board and they have been free to do as they please in regard to maintenance, the only restrictions being they maintain a proper surface on the road.

"The special session of the legislature appointed a state board of inquiry, to hear all complaints in regard to road and bridge construction and maintenance, and make comparisons as to the cost of building roads by the state and the counties. Mr. Carrell and other members of the county board of Box Butte county have been notified by this state board that a hearing would start February 21, and any complaints they have to make would be considered at that time.

"If the county board cares to have an investigation made in Box Butte county and a comparison made as to

THE WEATHER

Forecast for Alliance and vicinity: Rain tonight, probably turning to snow Wednesday. Colder Wednesday, strong shifting winds. Notify stockmen.

the cost of handling work by the state and county, there is nothing to prevent them from having an investigation made and this department will be pleased to assist them in every way possible. This is a matter that cannot be settled by misquoting facts through the newspapers. Very truly yours,

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
GEORGE E. JOHNSON
Secretary.

County Attorney Hears From Friends of Hooch Venders

Charles Peltz, fined three weeks ago by County Judge Tash on two violations of the liquor laws, and who was committed to the county jail when he was unable to pay fines and costs amounting to \$220, was Saturday released after seventeen days of duration while he paid one of the \$100 fines and costs of \$22.50. He was paroled to his cousin, Joe Peltz, and the remaining \$100 fines was suspended during good behavior.

County Attorney Basye has received anonymous letters apparently from friends of Peltz, and at least friends of the hooch vending fraternity. These letters contain threats against John Watson and Thomas R. Manion, the two men whose testimony was largely responsible for Peltz' conviction. The letters say that there will be a tar and feather party if there is a good opportunity, as well as a number of other things.

Mr. Basye announces that if any attempts are made to carry out these threats, the offenders will be vigorously prosecuted.

G. OF C. MAKING PLANS FOR THE ANNUAL DINNER

DATE IS TENTATIVELY SET FOR
FOR MARCH 5

Committees Appointed by President
Miller Monday—New M. E.
Church Probable Location.

At the Monday dinner of the Alliance chamber of commerce plans were made for the annual meeting, which will include a dinner, to which the public will be admitted, be followed by annual reports of officers and election of officers and election of officers. President Glen Miller announced the appointment of the following committees in connection with the event:

Entertainment—Earl D. Mallory, J. S. Rhein and Charles Brittan.
Tickets—E. T. Kibble, general chairman; who, with three sub-chairmen, who will appoint their own committees: Howard Reddish, Floyd Lucas and H. P. Coursey.

Banquet and location—John W. Guthrie, chairman.

The date for the annual meeting falls on the first Monday in March, which will be March 6 this year. The location has not yet been selected, but it is probable that the gymnasium of the new Methodist church will be used, provided it is in shape to be used by that time. It is possible that the meeting may be postponed a few days if the building can be made ready for the dinner with only slight delay.

Ed Wegner of Central City, Ed Patterson of Central City and R. W. DeVoe of Lincoln were guests at the Monday luncheon, and each of the visitors made brief talks. It was brought out that Alliance is receiving valuable publicity in state publications and is better known over Nebraska than many cities of considerably larger size.

Efforts of Expert Railway Operator Not Appreciated

James Burns, an employe on the Burlington brick gang here, furnished a little variety to the usual routine at the Burlington offices Saturday when he made the rounds of the entire station endeavoring to explain how a railroad should be run. His efforts did not seem to be appreciated, however, as Chief Jeffers was called and took the erstwhile operating expert in charge and escorted him to the city bastille, where he was released on a \$30 cash bond with his hearing set for Monday morning.

Monday morning arrived, but James did not, so Judge L. A. Berry decided that the \$30 was the property of the city. Nothing has been seen of Mr. Burns since his arrest, and the supposition is that he has departed from our fair city to seek other fields where his efforts to save the railroad system will be more appreciated.

Raymond Mundt, son of Sam Mundt, had his arm broken while attempting to ride a calf on their farm ten miles west of Alliance.

OFFICIALS FOR G-P-C ARE HERE FOR MEETING

BOOSTERS FROM BROADWATER ARRIVED THIS NOON.

Hope to Stir Up Sentiment So That Highway Can Be Completed Thru Nebraska This Year.

Another road meeting is being held in Alliance today, following the arrival of three automobile loads of G-P-C highway boosters from Broadwater, Oshkosh and other points between this city and the Colorado line. The delegation came for the purpose of completing the organization of the highway and to stir up sentiment that will result in the completion of this route as soon as possible.

There has been little doing in highway matters since last fall, but the Oshkosh boosters recently stirred up a bit. A meeting was held at Broadwater last Wednesday, at which the enthusiasm was more than revived. Alliance and Chadron had no delegates at the meeting, and it was decided to make a special trip here to awaken the local road boosters to the need for action.

Heretofore the G-P-C bunch has been pretty strong for Alliance, and local business men have reciprocated to the best of their ability. Of course it is but natural that with two roads in prospect, and Alliance road boosters rooting for both of them, there should be an attempt to maintain neutrality until Morrill county should settle its own problem in its own way. The fact that the Alliance chamber of commerce refused to violently champion either the North Star road or the G-P-C as an organization, has had a tendency to vex partisans of both highways. Individual business men have rooted for the North Star, and other individuals in Alliance have contributed to a fund to buy gasoline to help build the Broadwater-Alliance road. An evidence that there is a tendency to doubt Alliance's support is shown by some of the discussions at the Broadwater meeting. It was suggested there that the road could be routed up the valley and miss Alliance and Chadron; and in another place there is mention of a suspected lack of interest here. A third reference had to do with demanding the resignation of county vice presidents and advisory board members who are supposedly lukewarm in their loyalty to the G-P-C. Of course, all this ill feeling should be ironed out at today's meeting.

Report of Broadwater Meeting.
The Garden County News in its last issue had the following report of the Broadwater meeting:
"Having read the complaints of inaction that were registered by this paper some time ago and also the complaints of some of the organizations north for the same reason, several communications were read which tended to show that the president and secretary had not been inactive, among the letters were those which were published through the News and the Alliance Herald. This has been our impression at all times but nothing could be learned of the work and as the successful putting across of the highway seemed to us to depend upon the organized efforts rather than individual efforts, we made our so-called check. It was also shown that about \$700 or \$800 worth of work had been done through popular subscription and donated work on the road north of Broadwater, and that the road was in good passable condition right now. The work will be continued as soon as the weather is favorable and the frost is out of the ground, arrangements having already been made.

Much Work Already Done.

"The first gentleman called upon was H. J. Curtis, president of the Oshkosh Public Service club, who had gone up on the trip that he might look over the road situation before the meeting. He told of having been driven over the road to the Box Butte county line and said that there wasn't over a quarter mile of the road that it was necessary to grade up to make a passable road that hadn't already been done. He said that he was much surprised to see how much real work had been accomplished on the route and that the same amount of work done under the state aid system (he had figured it out closely) would have cost in the neighborhood of \$48,000.

"Commissioner Draper was called upon to tell of the road problems of Morrill county and he assured the gathering that the big road grading outfit of the county would be pulled into his district early in the spring and the east end of Morrill county would sure get their good roads, so long promised, and that every dollar of his district's money would be put into the roads in his district. This news brought out considerable applause, for it sure seemed to fall on welcome ears. Mr. Draper also stated that Mr. Gaddis, who has always seemed intent on passing judgment on the Broadwater-Alliance road without viewing it, had met with the commissioners a few days ago and just as soon as the weather is right he has agreed to come up the valley and go

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NEW DOPE ON TROUBLES OF NORTH STAR

MORRILL COMMISSIONERS TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS.

Ask Hall & Graham to File Petition for Damages Resulting From the 'Missing Link' Route.

The Bayard Transcript, which has never taken any side heretofore in the matter of the North Star route, scheduled to connect Sidney, Bridgeport and Alliance, is authority for the statement that the Morrill county commissioners are going ahead with their plan to run the road straight north from Bonner and leave it alone in the middle of the sandhills, despite the fact that the Box Butte commissioners have indicated that they will fight such a route. In a letter, which has never been favored with a reply, the Box Butte commissioners informed the Morrill county rulers that the road had been planned to follow the Burlington tracks from Angola to Alliance, and that if the route were changed as contemplated they would attempt to have the state highway authorities intervene.

The Transcript gives the following account of late developments in regard to this route, and comes out openly in support of the road desired by Alliance. The article says:

"Hall & Graham, owners of a large tract of land in this county, have been served with a notice by the county commissioners asking them to file a petition setting out their probable damage which would be caused by building the proposed 'Missing Link' road which is laid out north from Bonner, through their pastures.

"It is understood that Hall & Graham offered to donate the right-of-way along the track, but since the railroad cuts their ranch in two and the road would make another division, they do not propose to accede in the plan for the road north from Bonner.

"Men who are familiar with the situation and who have traveled over both routes many times, claim that the track road can be built with less expense than the north road and it is their belief that the commissioners would be exercising better judgment to accept the free right-of-way rather than to start proceedings to condemn the land and go to all the expense and delay of having it appraised through the courts, especially so when it would impose a big expense on the ranch owners without giving a better road than the one along the track would be."

**Police and Merchants
Warned to Look Out
for Charles S. Scott**

The chamber of commerce has received a circular letter warning police and merchants to look out for one Charles S. Scott, who, it is said, is working in this territory soliciting advertising from the merchants for a so-called railroad time and seniority book. Mr. Scott, it is charged, represents that he is connected with the railroad brotherhoods and the Big 4 Railroad Record, an independent railroad publication. All authorized representatives of that organization carry up-to-date credentials bearing the signature of E. J. Elbury.

Mr. Scott, the letter states, as formerly employed as a representative, but left after misappropriating several hundred dollars. He is in possession of credentials and literature, for the return of which a reward of \$100 is offered.

Scott is described as aged 36, weight 160, height 5 feet 7 inches, heavy set, dark complexion, mole on left cheek, two upper front teeth gold crowned, fast talker, bow-legged, inveterate cigar smoker, claims to be a member of brotherhoods of railway clerks. He usually has his wife with him.

Alliance merchants should not confuse this bird, whoever he may be with T. J. Flynn, who has just completed a canvass of the city for a railway men's time book. Mr. Flynn has been in Alliance before, and has been strictly honorable in all his dealings here. The Herald is printing the time books, has been paid for the work and will see that they go to the railroad men for whom they are intended.

Colonel L. E. Bliss Plans Public Sale at the Benjamin Barn

Colonel L. E. Bliss has arranged for a series of Saturday afternoon auctions to be held at the Charles Benjamin barn in this city, the first of the series being scheduled for next Saturday at 2 p. m. Anyone wishing to list stuff for the sale, in any quantity, is asked to communicate with Mr. Bliss.

The United States Civil Service commission announces an examination for clerk-carried positions for Alliance, to be held March 18, 1922. All who desire to take the examinations notify F. W. Hicks, chairman local board, Alliance, Neb.

A Last Chance to Vote on Location of New High School

A number of votes have been cast on the matter of locating the new high school building in Alliance, but the returns do not show a decided preference for either location. To date, the objectors seem to be about holding their own, friends of the proposed site in the center of Box Butte avenue apparently having the idea that there is no need of expressing their sentiments, as it will go through anyway. The school board and the city council have reached an agreement to make the change, provided public sentiment favors it, and if there are no serious objections. If you haven't cast a vote yet, and are at all interested in the proposition look up the coupon on this page and bring or mail it to The Herald office. A digest of the replies will be published in the Friday issue. Rush your vote in if you want it to count.

Miller vs. Baker Is Being Heard in District Court

The lawsuit of Miller vs. Baker, et al, in which Miller is suing to collect a note of \$15,000 from Baker and sixteen other defendants, was decided by Judge Westover in district court in favor of the defendants, today.

The defense which closed at noon today, alleges fraud in the delivery of the note to the American State bank of Hemingford by the plaintiff and associate, Fred Melick, of that city.

Boyd, Metz and Meyer of Alliance and Fred Wright of Omaha, are appearing for the plaintiff. The defendants are represented by Peterson and Devore of Lincoln, Patterson and Patterson of Central City and Mitchell and Gantz of Alliance.

A RADIOPHONE DEMONSTRATION AND CONCERT

BOY SCOUTS TO STAGE TWO PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS.

Roof Garden Donated for Wednesday and Thursday Nights for Benefit for Scouts.

The people of Alliance and surrounding territory will have the opportunity, on Wednesday and Thursday evenings of this week, to see and hear a demonstration of the wonders of the wireless telephone. The Alliance Boy Scouts, under the leadership of Scoutmaster B. W. Keach, installed a radiophone some weeks ago and have been having good success in receiving messages and hearing concerts from the air. They have recently secured some new apparatus, and have arranged for two public demonstrations at the Roof Garden this week, to which the public will be admitted at a slight admission fee.

The object of these demonstrations, aside from introducing the public to the wonders of wireless, is to build up a fund for the Scouts. The money realized from the demonstration will be devoted to improvements at the Broncho lake club house, the financing of the Boy Scout band and other worthy enterprises.

The first program, on Wednesday evening, will start at 8:15. It will include news reports, weather reports, markets, etc., and a musical entertainment will follow, which will be played by Denver performers at some place in the Colorado capital. There will be a bowery dance following the radiophone demonstration, for the benefit of the Scouts. The Roof Garden management has donated the hall for the two evenings.

Thursday evening the program will be a little more elaborate. There will be a complete demonstration of sending and receiving by wireless, two instruments being placed at opposite ends of the hall. There will also be a concert and news and market reports similar to the Wednesday evening program.

It is announced that the two entertainments will be given subject to weather conditions, which, if too unfavorable, will make the demonstration impracticable. The public is also warned not to expect too much. The radiophone is not yet in as perfected a condition as the telephone or the phonograph, and it is likely there will be some delays during the program. It is necessary that the machine be "put in tune" with the sending instrument in Denver, and there will probably, during the evening, be some waits of five or ten minutes, or even longer if things do not go just right. There may also be interruptions of one sort and another, caused by crossed wireless currents, but the entertainment will be a marvel to all who hear it and will be well worth taking in, despite this sort of thing. The admission fee has been placed at 25 cents, and the Scouts should have crowded houses at both demonstrations.

8-YEAR-OLD BOY IS ACCIDENTALLY SHOT BY FATHER

RODGER WILFORD LARKIN AL- MOST INSTANTLY KILLED.

Cleaning Friend's Pistol, Which Still Contained a Shell—Lad Buried Monday.

Roger Wilford Larkin, eight-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Larkin, Second and Platte streets, was almost instantly killed about 9 o'clock Saturday night when a .45 caliber Colt's automatic revolver, which the father was cleaning for Harve Shepard, a neighbor, was accidentally discharged. Mrs. Larkin had just given the lad his bath, and had told him to sit on the cot and look over the comic papers until she had made his bed ready for him. After looking over the papers, the boy moved to the table to play with his top. He was playing with the toy and talking with his father when the fatal accident happened.

Mr. Larkin had picked up the gun and was looking it over. He was seated a few feet away from his son. In some manner, the weapon was accidentally discharged and the large caliber bullet sped straight for the child's heart, going entirely through the body, entering between the fourth and fifth ribs on the right side, and passing out on the left side, after going through the heart. The bullet shattered a rung of the chair on which the child was seated, went through a double wall and into a work basket that was placed on top of a dresser across another room.

The father did not realize, for a time, that his son was injured, until he noticed the lad falling from his chair and heard him crying in a feeble voice, "Papa, papa." The child was dead before aid could be summoned. Dr. Charles E. Slagle and another physician were in the neighborhood and were at once called to the scene of the tragedy. The physicians said that in their opinion the boy was killed almost immediately when the bullet struck his heart. Rev. B. J. Minort was called and arrived a few seconds later, to find that nothing could be done, as the lad had passed away.

For a time it was feared that the father, who was crazed with grief over the tragedy, would lose his mind. Roger was his idol and the two were almost inseparable. Both mother and father are overcome with grief.

Funeral services were held Monday at 2:30 from the First Baptist church, Rev. B. J. Minort officiating. Interment was made in Greenwood cemetery.

According to Sheriff Miller, the father, who is a railroad brakeman, several years ago accidentally shot and killed his brother while handling a revolver.

Dr. J. P. Weyrens Is Chosen Burlington Surgeon at Alliance

Word was received yesterday from Chicago that Dr. J. P. Weyrens of the Slagle-Weyrens Clinic had been appointed railroad surgeon at Alliance. For years there had been two authorized surgeons at this point, so that at all times the services of a duly authorized surgeon might be available. However, since Dr. Bellwood left California and the death of Dr. Hershman there had been but one appointment made, that of Dr. Charles E. Slagle, who represented the railroad company and it was not until yesterday that the second appointment was made.

Alliance Elks to Entertain Inspector on Friday Evening

C. A. Bessie of Kearney, district deputy grand exalted ruler, has announced his official visit to Alliance lodge No. 961, B. P. O. Elks, for Friday, February 4. There will be an effort made to get an extra large number of the antlered brethren out for the meeting. The initiatory ceremony will be exemplified, and other features are planned for the occasion.

Farmers and Union Men to Hold a Political Meeting

A general meeting of union men and farmers will be held at the Baptist church next Wednesday afternoon, at which a permanent organization will be formed to keep the voters informed as to the political lineup in the coming campaign. It is desired that The people of Alliance and Box Butte county know that this is not an effort to shut out any. All who are in for better government and who want to throw their influence upon the side of right in office are asked to come. Farmers who are members of unions, and those who are not members of unions, are wanted in these meetings. Business and professional men are welcome.