

# The Plattsmouth Journal

Nebraska State Historical Society

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NO. 6

## Missouri Pacific Suffers from Box Car Robberies

Railroad Detectives and Local Officials Seek to Locate Gang That Loot Cars.

From Monday's Daily—

The Missouri Pacific railroad company has in the past few weeks been suffering from the ravages of a gang of box car robbers that have stolen a large amount of goods from freight trains en route out of Omaha.

A great deal of the stuff has been taken while the trains were out of Omaha from ten to fifteen miles and a favorite spot for the robbers has been along the line from La Platte north to above Fort Crook. Recently a large consignment of automobile tires was taken and large shipments of all classes of merchandise has been thrown from the trains and hauled away apparently in trucks.

The railroad agents as well as county officers of Cass, Sarpy and Douglas counties have been engaged in checking over the work of the robbers in the hope of locating the parties that might be responsible for the thieving, but so far the robbers have eluded the efforts to apprehend them. The activities of the officers however, has had a tendency to cut down the number of robberies as there have been no reports for the past several days at least.

Sheriff Bert Reed of Cass county with Special Agent Kirk of the Missouri Pacific was out Saturday and Sunday to try and locate the robbers in the act of making a haul, but the robbers evidently were laying low as there were no clues found of the robbers. Reports have reached the officers that cars and trucks have been seen along the less extensively traveled roads near the railroad right of way at several times at night and on which occasions there has been goods reported taken from the cars.

The favorite mode of operation seems to be to have some of the gang board the freights as they pull out of Omaha and work their way into the cars that are marked for looting and at a designated spot the merchandise is thrown out of the train to be picked up by the other members of the gang and made away with.

## GIVES FRIENDS SURPRISE

On Saturday evening Mr. and Mrs. William H. Meisinger, residing west of this city, were given a very fine surprise at their home when a group of the friends from this city motored out and proceeded to give their friends a pleasant farewell, Mr. and Mrs. Meisinger moving soon to the Guthman farm where they are to make their home this year.

The members of the party came with well laden baskets of the good things to eat and which served to make the basis of a very fine luncheon served at a suitable hour in the evening.

The time was spent most pleasantly in visiting, cards and dancing and the regular old time dance music was furnished by Con Lynch and Fred Askew, making a real old time orchestra.

As the homegoing hour drew near the ladies prepared the luncheon that added to the enjoyment of the occasion for all of the members of the party. Those who attended the event were Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Iske, Mr. and Mrs. Allie Meisinger, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Baumelster, Mr. and Mrs. John Stander, Mr. and Mrs. Con Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Newburn, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Stander, Mr. and Mrs. George Wever, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Whiteman, Nehawka; George Stander, Mrs. Ralph Johnson, Fred Askew.

## TRAVELING NOT POPULAR

The night police force have found that in the past few weeks of bad weather that has prevailed since the first of the year, there is not a great deal of traveling among the wanderers who seem to have hit for the southland or are "holed up" for the winter. At the time of the first cold weather early in the winter, the police had their jail quarters filled every night with the unfortunate seeking a place of shelter, but in the last few weeks the most cozy fire that the police could build wants to waste as the old time boarders came not. The plan of rounding up the floaters each night and keeping them in the jail is not only a measure of mercy, but one of safety as well, for it checks up on the wanderers who, if left loose, might commit some act of depredation.

## RECEIVES FINE PRESENT

From Tuesday's Daily—  
Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Allen of this city yesterday received a very fine present from California in the form of a box of oranges that were sent to them by some friends in that state of their son, Don Allen. While stationed at the naval training station at San Diego, Don became acquainted with a family owning a large orange grove and who, recalling this friendship, sent the box of oranges here to the parents of the young sailor.

## SUFFERS INJURED HAND

From Monday's Daily—  
This morning a young motorist from Omaha was brought to the office of Dr. R. P. Westover suffering from a very deep cut sustained on the right hand as the result of a small auto accident this morning on Lincoln avenue. The Omaha young man was driving a sedan and as the car was going at a very good rate of speed a truck load of cattle was seen coming from the opposite direction and instead of giving the auto any room, the Omaha parties stated they were forced to turn out as far as possible and at that failed to entirely clear the truck and with the result that the rear of the auto was hit. The impact threw the young man, giving the name of James Jones, against a window of the car and his hand was forced through the glass to be lacerated very severely.

## Old Time Resident Here Dies at Ashland

Peter Halmes, Well Known Farmer and Member of Prominent Family Passed Away Sunday

From Monday's Daily—  
The many friends throughout Cass county who have known and loved Peter Halmes, one of the long time residents of this county.

The death of Mr. Halmes occurred at his home near Greenwood where he has resided for the past four years and followed an illness of a week's duration, the patient suffering a sudden heart attack that brought death. The deceased was a son of Nicholas Halmes, an early settler in this county and Mr. Halmes was reared to manhood in this community and some of a very pleasant family gathering yesterday when some thirty of the relatives were invited in to enjoy the occasion in honor of W. K. Shepherdson of Spokane, Washington, who was here for a few days visit with the relatives here.

Mr. Shepherdson, sales manager for Frigidair in the north Pacific territory with his headquarters at Spokane, and has been in Kansas City at the great meeting and demonstration staged by his company, stopping here while enroute home to visit the relatives and old time friends. Mr. Shepherdson was for some years a resident of near Myrard.

The afternoon was spent in visiting and having a fine time and at 6 o'clock a most delicious dinner was served by Mrs. Valery assisted by her daughters, Misses Marie, Helen and Gertrude.

Out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. Lem Parrish and sons, Martin and Tyler of Elmwood, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Valery of Council Bluffs.

## HAVE FAREWELL ON FRIENDS

Friday evening a number of friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Meisinger, residing west of this city, giving them a very pleasant surprise. The occasion being a farewell on these estimable people, who are to reside on a farm near Cedar Creek in the future. The evening was spent in playing cards which was very much enjoyed by all.

At a suitable hour dainty and delicious refreshments were served. Those who enjoyed the occasion were: Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gates, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Becker, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Koke, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hennings and son, Harland, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Tschirren, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Stander and son, Elmer Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Tschirren, Mrs. Herman Wiess and children, Ella, Albert, Gustaf, Raymond, Arthur and Walter, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Meisinger and son, Merril, Louis Schiesal, Mr. and Mrs. C. Koke, Everett Parriott, Marie Horn, Elmer Stoehr.

## GOES TO MOTOR CO.

From Monday's Daily—  
Rudolph Iverson, who has been engaged with the firm of C. E. West's Sons for the past few years since, graduating from the high school, has forsaken the selling of suits and furnishings, for the more alluring pastime of selling "Lizzie" to the public. Mr. Iverson is now with the Plattsmouth Motor Co. in their selling force and with his experience as a salesman and his pleasing personality should make a very valuable addition to the selling force of the local Ford agency.

## Platters Lose Game to the Ashland Five

Neither Team Has Aggressive Work and Final Score is 7 to 6 For the Visitors.

From Monday's Daily—

By a score that reads more like that of a baseball game than a basketball contest, the Ashland high school five Saturday evening laid away the Platters by the score of 7 to 6 and which for a time looked good for a shutout for the locals.

Both teams were away off in their shooting, the Platters being the worst and with many chances to score, the ball just simply would not lodge in the hoop for the Plattsmouth quintet. Altho Hadraha and McClanahan as well as Hartford had many shots that looked to be good, but simply were not there when they reached the basket.

In the opening quarter of the game Hadraha missed two free tosses and Galloway one, while for Ashland Olson and Barger, captain also failed in a free throw but was able to loop one field goal.

In the second quarter Olson for Ashland made a free toss good while the Platters failed to scratch on the score sheet and at the half the score stood 3 to 0 for the visitors.

The hectic time behind the closed doors of the dressing room brought a renewed pep among the players of both teams, but the boys still lacked the old shooting eye and while there were many chances taken, Woodward Ashland guard was the only scorer, dropping in a field goal that allowed a one point margin for the visitors.

The final quarter saw a belated rally on the part of the home boys that put us in the scoring class and by an eyelash from victory, Hadraha placing in two field goals and then a free throw, while Joe Hartford also made good a free toss and for the first time the Platters were in striking distance of the victory. H. Hoffman, elusive guard and who in the football season was a feature man, dropped in a field goal that allowed a one point margin for the visitors.

The bad news:  
Plattsmouth—  
Hadraha, rf ----- 2 1 0 5  
Galloway, lf ----- 0 0 0 0  
Turner, lf ----- 0 0 1 0  
McClanahan, c ----- 0 0 1 0  
Hartford, rg ----- 0 1 0 1  
Wiles, lg ----- 0 0 0 0  
Ashland—  
Olson, rf ----- 0 1 3 1  
C. Hoffman, lf ----- 0 0 0 0  
Barger, c ----- 1 0 1 2  
H. Hoffman, rg ----- 1 0 0 2  
Kelsor, lg ----- 0 0 0 0  
Woodward, lg ----- 1 0 0 2  
3 1 4 7

In the preliminary game between the Plattsmouth Reserves and the team of the Physical Education section the contest was finally decided 18 to 16 for the Reserves, but to decide the struggle it was necessary to play three extra periods. The Physics led in the earlier portion of the game but the Reserves were able to tie the contest up at the close of the regular period and made necessary the extra time.

## DEATH OF JOHN W. THOMASON

John W. Thomason, who for many years was a resident of this county, died at 9:15 Sunday at his home in Bethany, Neb., at the age of 84 years. His health had been failing the past few years, several months ago he suffered a paralytic stroke from which he could not recover. Relatives here received news of his death Sunday, but at that time the funeral date was not known.

Mr. Thomason was a native of Virginia, and came to Cass county while a young man, locating in the vicinity of Rock Bluffs, where he engaged in farming and where he was married to Miss Mary Churchill, a daughter of the late Levi Churchill. About fourteen years he and his family located in the village of Bethany, near Lincoln in order to give their children the benefit of college education. Mr. Thomason was well known in this part of the state, especially among the older citizens, and was always known to be an honorable, Christian man. He is survived by the wife and five children, the latter being Mrs. Martha Adams, Mrs. Ruth Superman, Mrs. Carrie Fullerton, Erritt Thomason and Miss Ella Thomason.

## DOING VERY NICELY

From Monday's Daily—  
The reports from the St. Joseph hospital at Omaha state that James Holy, of this city, who is there recuperating from the effects of an operation for appendicitis, is now doing very nicely and his condition is all that could be desired at this time and gives every hope of his speedy recovery and being able to return home in a short time.

Phone your news to the Journal.

## COLD CHECKS ACTIVITIES

The renewal of winter, which opened Sunday andayed a return engagement all day yesterday and last night, was a feature that the residents of the community could well have passed up and served to keep the greater part of the residents confined to their homes last evening.

To give some feeling of relief from the protracted cold that has hovered over this locality since the first of the year, Phil Harrison, one of our old time residents who arrived here as a young man in the early sixties, states that he recalls one winter, that of 1871, when the mercury stood at 25 to 35 below zero over a period of six or seven weeks, and after hearing that statement, the two below zero seemed like a mere summer day.

## Mrs. Hallie Perry Severely Burned at Home Today

Heated Stove Causes Gown to Burst Into Flame and Severe Very Severe Burns Suffered.

From Tuesday's Daily—

This morning Mrs. Hallie B. Perry had a very close call from receiving fatal injuries when her gown catching fire from an overheated stove, wrapped the victim of the accident in flames and which were extinguished, but leaving a number of very severe burns on the body as well as the hands.

Mrs. Perry on arising had gone to the living room of the home where a large heating stove was located and was at the time of the accident standing near the stove, when without warning, the gown she was wearing broke into flame and being of a very inflammable nature the blaze soon covered the lady.

The cries of Mrs. Perry brought her husband who was in the kitchen at the time and who, rushing to the scene, grabbed the flaming gown and tore it from the body of the wife. The flames had burned very rapidly on the back of the gown and left a large area of severe burns on the shoulders and the palms of the hands were quite severely burned, when Mrs. Perry, trying to throw off the blazing gown had brought her hands in contact with the flames.

Medical aid was called and Dr. F. P. Westover arriving gave the patient emergency aid, but she was suffering very much from the burns as well as the shock of the accident.

This afternoon Mrs. Perry was reported as resting as easily as possible altho she is still in a great deal of pain from the effects of the burns.

## W. C. T. U. MEETING

From Tuesday's Daily—  
The members of the W. C. T. U. met yesterday at the home of Mrs. John F. Gorder and with a very pleasing number in attendance to enjoy the occasion and to participate in the program of discussion of the use of tobacco and also the narcotic problem.

The meeting was under the leadership of Mrs. A. L. Tidd and who read a short article on narcotics and their uses.

Mrs. Fred G. Morgan in her pleasing manner read an interesting article on the use of the use of tobacco and the various offenses and penalties which the law provided in such cases.

Miss Olive Gass gave a special George Washington message in a sketch of the life of the first president from his birth until his death and which was a very thorough discussion of the outstanding incidents of the life of the leader of the revolutionary days.

At the conclusion of the afternoon Mrs. Gorder served very dainty and delicious refreshments that were very much enjoyed by all of the members of the party and brought to the close a most pleasant and interesting occasion.

## GETS INTO SPOTLIGHT

The opening of the new bus depot in Omaha on Monday was a notable occasion for the various companies and drivers operating busses to and from this depot and in the festivities incident to the opening, Clarence Cotner, owner of the Cotner bus line operating from this city to Omaha, had a little more of the show than others. Mr. Cotner was just preparing to start on his return trip to this city at 10:30 yesterday morning when the press photographers arrived to take the view of the interior of the new station and Clarence was the only bus man present and was made the big moment of the grand opening, having his picture sent down in the history of the station and broadcast through the medium of the press.

## George W. Young Dies at Home in Alva, Oklahoma

Former Cass County Commissioner Passes Away After an Illness of Some Duration

From Wednesday's Daily—

Plattsmouth radio fans are hearing a familiar voice these days from radio station WOW at Omaha, as Joe Eaton, one time resident of this city and brother of Mrs. Herman L. Thomas, is now doing a part of the announcing from the popular Nebraska station. Mr. Eaton makes a clever announcer as he does entertainer and gives the WOW force added interest to the radio fans. This Woodmen station has had a number of able announcers among them Gene Rouse, the first and original voice of "WOW" who was later "sold down the river" and Lester Palmer, "L. P." who talked himself into the hearts of Omaha so well that he was elected as municipal judge. Mr. Eaton with his cleverness should go far in the land of the radio and be numbered among the popular announcers of the nation.

John Cory Will Case Holds Time of County Court

Last Will and Testament of Deceased Contested on Charge of Mental Irresponsibility.

From Wednesday's Daily—

The county court this morning was the high spot in the activities of the court house when the hearing of the matter of the probate of the will of John Cory, deceased, was brought before the court.

The will which was made in August, 1925, shortly after the death of Alice Cory, wife of the deceased, left the property of Mr. Cory largely to his eldest daughter, Mrs. Sybel Brantner, with whom he made his home at the Hotel Perkins with the other heirs being given only small amounts.

The will is contested by the three other daughters, Mrs. Garnet Obichslager, Mrs. Francis Schultz and Mrs. Florence Coleman, on the grounds that the father and maker of the will was affected by illness to the extent that he was mentally incapable of making a will or understanding the proper disposition of his property.

The morning session of the court was largely taken up in the testimony of Dr. T. P. Livingston, one of the witnesses to the will and the deposition of B. A. McElwain, now living in California, also a witness to the last will and testament.

There were some thirty-five witnesses called on both the proponents side of the case and which made an all day affair of the hearing.

## UNEARTH OLD CULVERT

In the excavation that is going on at Fifth and Main street by the force of the Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Co., the drilling into the pavement has unearthed an old time relic of Plattsmouth.

A large section of heavy three inch board was brought forth, a part of the heavy wooden culvert or bridge that once spanned a creek at Fifth and Main streets. The old timers state that in the late sixties and early seventies the creek which flowed from the north side of Main street where the Bates building now stands and one south across where the Geisse building is now erected, commenced to take toll of the land on both sides of the creek and threatened the corner where the present Wescott store is located and where a lumber yard was occupying.

There was several attempts made to check the caving in of the land but to no avail until at last the residents of the city called in John Fitzgerald and his force of Irish railroad builders, in 1872 proceeded to put in a bridge that lasted until the paving came in the nineties. The railroaders drove heavy piling and back of this three inch plank coated with tar while the top of the culvert was of the treated plan and on this good old yellow clay and which served as a part of the Main street for many years.

It is related that during the construction work two of the workmen were caught in the ditch in a cave in and forced to remain several hours until they could be dug out by their companions and with their heads protruding they calmly awaited the rescue. The veteran railroad builder hearing of the plight of his men hastened to the scene and addressed the foreman in charge of the rescue: "Give them some whisky." "We have," was the reply of the foreman. "Give them some more" and asking the men how they felt the command was given, "Give them more whisky." The relief work and the stimulants continued for some time and it was with real regret that one at least of the imprisoned workmen was released and deprived of the free drinks.

## MARRIED AT COURT HOUSE

From Wednesday's Daily—  
Yesterday afternoon at the office of County Judge A. H. Duxbury occurred the marriage of Edward C. Wright and Miss Hazel Groom, both of Council Bluffs. The newlyweds returned to their Iowa home immediately after the wedding here.

## A FAMILIAR VOICE

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## Iowa Commission to Aid Road to the New Auto Bridge

Approval Made of Plans That Will Provide for Hard Surfaced Road to the River Span.

From Wednesday's Daily—

The Iowa state highway commission which is meeting at Ames this week to handle matters pertaining to the great highway system of our neighboring state, took a forward step toward co-operating with the erection of the traffic bridge over the Missouri river at this point.

The representatives of the Plattsmouth Bridge Co., comprising H. A. Schneider of this city, R. A. Loessler and Carl E. Vogel of Omaha, were at Ames and laid the bridge matter before the distinguished members of the Iowa board, stating the purposes of the building of the bridge to remove the barriers from the states of Iowa and Nebraska, the purpose of the bridge company to place their structure at the disposal of the two states when desired and legislation permitted the states to make purchase of the structure.

The Iowa commission were impressed with the usefulness of the bridge in the joining of the two states and the possibilities of the bridge situated as it is on one of the most heavily traveled highways between Chicago and the great west and adopted a resolution that they would do all possible to see that a hard surfaced road would be placed to the bridge on the east side of the river and made a part of the state highway primary system as soon as the bridge was completed and ready for service.

The location and plans for the roadway will be left entirely to the Iowa commission on the east side of the Missouri as the bridge company feels that the Iowa commissioners and the Mills county authorities are best suited to make any suggestions and plans as to this road which will lead to the great connecting link between central and south Iowa and Nebraska over the Missouri river bridge at this point.

The bad weather has served to keep the city council committee from being able to do much with getting over the scene of the suggested highways from the bridge to this city and selecting that which seems most adapted and commendable to travel. The highway certainly must be laid through the most attractive part of the city and serve to give the visitors an appreciation of the charm of this river city and this fact will be weighed and considered no doubt in the selection of the highway by the city as well as the small portion of the road that will be designated by the county commissioners on the petition of the residents and city.

## DECIDE CASS COUNTY CASES

The supreme court commission has announced decisions in two cases carried up from the district court of Cass county and in which the judgment of the jury and Judge James T. Bealey have been affirmed by the commission.

In the case of Fred L. Nutmann vs. The Cromwell Land Co., a suit in equity to foreclose mortgage the court found for the plaintiff and the recovery at \$40,912.51. The commission overruled the contention of the defendants that the manner of advertising had not given the full value of the property, citing that the sale price was \$44,700. The defendant was given leave to redeem before the filing of mandate of decree.

In the case of Pacific Insurance Co. vs. C. Lawrence Stull, a suit for damages for conversion of a part of corn crop, the trial in the district court resulted in a verdict for \$559 for the plaintiff and which was appealed to the supreme court and where the verdict was affirmed by the state court. This is the second time that this cause of action has been heard in the state supreme court, the first trial resulting in the case being remanded back for re-trial.

## SUFFERS BROKEN WRIST

From Tuesday's Daily—  
Mrs. W. A. Stok is confined to her home on high school hill by the effects of an injury sustained Sunday while enroute to the Holy Rosary church. In ascending the steep walk on South 16th street leading to the church she fell on the icy walk and at first thought had sustained merely a sprained wrist but a later examination of the wrist developed a fracture of the member and making it necessary to have the injured wrist placed in splints.

## WIN FROM NEBRASKA CITY

From Wednesday's Daily—  
Last evening the members of the Ford Motor Co. bowling team of this city, loading into the Ford proceeded to Nebraska City where they bowled against the Nebraska City Fords with the result that the Plattsmouth defenders of "Lizzie" won by a margin of 158 pins over their opponents. William G. Meisinger was the high point man of the locals with an average of 197 in the contest.