

# The Plattsmouth Journal

VOL. No. XLVI

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, MONDAY, JAN. 26, 1931.

NO. 103

## Jury Finds Inas Wever Guilty of Murder

### Verdict Returned at 8:45 This Morning After Night Deliberation—Life Imprisonment

From Thursday's Daily—  
The jury that has tried the case of the State of Nebraska vs. Mrs. Inas Wever since Monday was given the issues of the case last evening at 7 o'clock and this morning at 8:45 they returned a verdict finding Mrs. Wever guilty as charged and which carried with it the sentence of imprisonment in the state penitentiary at Lancaster, Nebraska, for the remainder of her natural life.

The case has been followed with the greatest of interest by the residents of this section of Cass county and the district court room where the trial was staged has been filled each day to its capacity and the result of the case awaited eagerly by the spectators, many of whom remained at the court house until after 11 o'clock last evening in the possibility that the jury might return a verdict.

The final arguments were made for the state by Assistant Attorney General Clifford Rein and for the defense by Attorney William N. Jamieson of Omaha while the state's case was presented in the opening arguments by County Attorney W. G. Kieck, who has arranged the evidence and conducted the greater part of the trial, and Attorney Ray Lones of Omaha.

The jury retired last night after 11 and resumed their deliberations this morning at 6 o'clock, reaching a verdict shortly after 8 o'clock. For the first time since the 9th of December when her husband had died, Mrs. Wever lost her calm attitude with which she had carried with her during the trial of the case, when the verdict of the jury was read that carried with it the sentence for life, and tears gathered in her eyes as she was supported by her sisters from the court room.

The state had in its opening statement to the jury waived the supreme penalty of death and County Attorney Kieck had asked only for the life sentence in the event of the verdict of guilty.

Mrs. Wever was taken back to Omaha this morning and lodged in the Douglas county jail where she will remain for the present until arrangements can be made to care for her here pending an appeal of her case which will undoubtedly be taken by her attorneys in the event that the customary motion for a new trial is not allowed.

At the close of the testimony of Mrs. Inas Wever, Mr. Dewey Hobson, Plattsmouth, was called to the witness stand. Mr. Hobson is a well cleaner and he testified that at the request of Mrs. C. L. Wever, owner of the property in which the Wevers lived, he had cleaned the well at the Wever home, because of rats, and had built a cement well curb and installed a pump.

Mr. Hobson was the last witness to be called in the case, in addition to two rebuttal witnesses, Deputy Sheriff Rex Young and Mr. Ralph Wever. Mr. Young was not present and his testimony was sworn to by the attorneys before Judge Begley and Mr. Wever's questions were recalled by the State's Attorney. Mr. Young's testimony was given in effect by the attorney who had taken George Wever into custody at the time he attempted suicide down at the Missouri river.

It was 4:30 in the afternoon when County Attorney Kieck began his testimony and he testified that at the request of Mrs. C. L. Wever, owner of the property in which the Wevers lived, he had cleaned the well at the Wever home, because of rats, and had built a cement well curb and installed a pump.

knew of no better method of determining the kind and amount of poison, which killed Mr. Wever, than to employ the expert minds of such men as Dr. Meyers and Dr. Eggers, state chemists. He pointed out the facts that even though Wever was a moderate drinking man and Mrs. Inas Wever might be considered an unfaithful wife, that that was not what the State was interested in nor trying to prove. They were only interested in the fact that George Wever was murdered with strychnine poisoning and circumstances evolved around Inas Wever as the person who administered the fatal dose. Mr. Rein proved himself to be an able and convincing orator, who held the spell-bound interest of a vast audience for one hour and a half.

The attorneys concluded their pleas at 7:30 in the evening and the jury retired to its room to decide the fate of Mrs. Inas Wever, charged by the State of Nebraska for having murdered her husband, George Wever, by strychnine poisoning.

## Eastern Star Holds Installation of Officers

### Grand Worthy Matron Mrs. Nan Martin of Omaha Present at Session of Home Chapter

From Thursday's Daily—  
Last evening home chapter No. 189 of the Order of the Eastern Star held their installation of the newly elected and appointed officers at their lodge rooms in the Masonic building and which was quite largely attended by the members and many visitors from other chapters over the state.

The officers were installed by Mrs. Nan Martin, grand worthy matron of the grand chapter of Nebraska with Mrs. Grace Annis of Dunbar, past grand worthy matron, as the marshal.

The officers installed were as follows: Worthy Matron—Mrs. Rea McMaken. Worthy Patron—H. F. Nolting. Associate Matron—Mrs. Ralph M. Wiles. Associate Patron—A. H. Duxbury. Secretary—Miss Clara Weyrich. Treasurer—Miss Mary Peterson. Marshal—Mrs. Richard Beverage. Chaplain—Mrs. Martha Peterson. Adah—Mrs. L. W. Niel. Ruth—Mrs. W. G. Kieck. Esther—Mrs. R. C. Cook. Martha—Mrs. J. A. Capwell. Electa—Mrs. C. L. Wiles. Warder—Mrs. Carl Groff. Organist—Mrs. R. W. Knorr. Sentinel—Harrison L. Gayer.

The members of the chapter enjoyed a short and very delightful program that comprised short talks by Mrs. Martin and Mr. Annis that were much enjoyed while two very fine vocal numbers were given by Mrs. E. H. Westcott and Raymond C. Cook, both being two of the city's most accomplished musicians.

## HAVE AUTO SMASHUP

From Thursday's Daily—  
Last evening while C. A. Rosencrans, sister Mrs. W. C. Soenichsen were driving out Chicago avenue they were victims of an auto accident which occurred just south of the Charles Troop residence and resulted in the car of Mr. Rosencrans being quite badly damaged. They were driving south and a car was coming from that direction and Mr. Rosencrans swung over to the right hand side of the road to give ample room for the other car to pass and at that time a large truck of the Watson truck company of Nebraska City was seen parked along the roadway. There were no lights on the truck and Mr. Rosencrans did not see it until the car was right on the truck and it was impossible to avoid the collision.

The radiator and front part of the car of Mr. Rosencrans was smashed by the impact and the glass in the windshield shattered by the force of the collision, the car striking the left rear side of the truck as it was parked diagonally along the curb line.

Fortunately neither Mrs. Soenichsen or her brother injured themselves and were able to extricate themselves from the wreckage of the car. Deputy Sheriff Rex Young was called and visited the scene of the wreck and found that the truck was in the right of way and that the car was in the right of way and that her mistakes were of a trivial nature and had no bearing whatever on the death of her husband, George Wever. He asked that the jury "do unto others as they would be done by" and begged that our Creator would so guide their minds that they arrive at a decision of acquittal. Mr. Jamieson's plea was of a very stirring and touching nature as he placed Mrs. Wever's fate into the hands of the jury.

The last, but by no means least, was the plea of the State's attorney, Mr. Rein. Mr. Rein's reasoning with the jury was that the State was doing all in its power to solve and vindicate the crime of the murder of George Wever. He said the state

## Church Wedding of Popular Omaha Young People

### Miss Marie Silhacek and Mr. Joseph Novotny Wed at St. Wenceslaus Church, South Side

A pretty church wedding occurred on Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock at St. Wenceslaus church, Omaha, when Mr. Joseph Novotny, Jr., and Miss Marie Silhacek were joined in the holy bonds of matrimony. Rev. Ed Cepuran officiating, the ring service being used after which the high mass solemnized.

The bride looked beautiful in a white satin gown with bodice effect, long tulle veil in crown shape caught with orange blossoms, carrying an arm bouquet of bride's roses, baby's breath and lilies of the valley.

The bridesmaids, Miss Lillian Silhacek, sister of the bride, Margaret Vetersneck, niece of the groom, wore Alice blue satin modish style with shoulder trim, hose and shoes to match. Miss Alice Silhacek, sister of the bride, being maid of honor, wore peach color satin in modish style and shoulder trim, hose and shoes to match. All had wreath of silver leaves in hair carrying an arm bouquet of pink roses.

Promptly at 9 o'clock the Lohensprung wedding march was played by Miss Anna Bendekovic. The bride entered on the arm of her father, Mr. James Silhacek. At the altar they were met by the groom and his best men, Mr. James Silhacek, Jr., and Mr. Emil Sevcik, of St. Paul, Minnesota.

The groom and his attendants wore the conventional black suits and white ties. Dean Stanek, nephew of the groom, served as altar boy. After the ceremony the reception was held at the bride's parents.

This popular young couple have the best wishes of a host of friends in Plattsmouth and Omaha, wishing Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Novotny, Jr. long life and prosperity. They will reside on 1410 So. 14th St., where the groom has a cozy home waiting the bride.

## HANDLES CASE WELL

County Attorney W. G. Kieck who conducted the prosecution of the Wever murder case has had his first experience in the line of a murder case and his handling of the intricate phases of the case was one that would do credit to a veteran criminal lawyer. Mr. Kieck has had minor criminal cases in his office but in a community such as ours here in Cass county, where the new force that is being sent here by the company will have charge of the work of bringing the pipeline into this city.

The extension of the pipeline mains has been underway for some time in the south part of the state and the line is now reaching almost to Cass county and when it enters this county the workmen will be largely quartered here and in this immediate vicinity.

The Continental company will have as large a force as that used in the construction of the Missouri Valley Pipeline Co. mains here last summer and will be a very large force of men.

The pipeline work in this locality the past summer and fall has brought a great deal of money into the community as the large payrolls of the companies engaged in the work have been distributed here over a period of several months and represented a monthly distribution of from \$20,000 to \$25,000 to the men, most of whom have made their home here for the greater part of the time and where all of the force engaged in the construction of the line across the river have made their homes.

The local debating team to engage in dist. contests. Cass, Sarpy, Washington and Dodge Counties Comprise the Local District.

## MARRIED AT OMAHA

The wedding of Floyd Kline, well known former Plattsmouth young man, and Miss Lillian Manous of Omaha, occurred at that city on Wednesday, being a very quiet and simple wedding ceremony.

The groom is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl R. Kline of this city and has for the past year been engaged as a baker in that city with one of the large wholesale baking concerns of the metropolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Kline will continue to make their home in Omaha for the present at least.

## Pipeline Forces to be Enlarged in Short Time

### Movement of Workmen Engage in the Laying of Large Mains to This Vicinity Soon

Renewed activity in the work of the laying of the natural gas line mains in this section of the county is soon to be on in full operation, as the large twenty-four inch mains that the Continental Construction Co. is laying is extended here to connect with the elaborate system of smaller mains that will convey the gas through a pipe line under the waters of the Missouri river and then on to Chicago, the goal of the new line now under construction.

There has been a large force engaged here for the fall and early winter in the laying of the lines on the river bed and there are still a considerable force so engaged in this line of work, while the new force that is being sent here by the company will have charge of the work of bringing the pipeline into this city.

The extension of the pipeline mains has been underway for some time in the south part of the state and the line is now reaching almost to Cass county and when it enters this county the workmen will be largely quartered here and in this immediate vicinity.

The Continental company will have as large a force as that used in the construction of the Missouri Valley Pipeline Co. mains here last summer and will be a very large force of men.

## Local Debating Team to Engage in Dist. Contests

### Cass, Sarpy, Washington and Dodge Counties Comprise the Local District

The debate season in which the local high school has been very active in the past reaches its full schedule during the months of February and March. This year, the state has been divided into sixteen permanent districts. A champion will be determined in each district and these winners will participate in the state tournament held annually at Lincoln, Plattsmouth is in District 2 comprising Cass, Sarpy, Washington and Dodge counties. To date, four schools have signified their intention of contesting for the championship. They are Blair, Valley, Snyder and Plattsmouth. The district director has not been appointed as yet.

The local debaters, under the direction of Mr. Gerald Kvasnicka have already had contests with Central and North of Omaha, and Nebraska City. Mr. Kvasnicka has had a squad of a dozen during the year this some promising speakers have been found although none of them had any previous debate experience, since the veterans of the past two years were graduated last year. Plattsmouth will meet Blair there on February 9th and will take part in the district College Invitational tournament at Fremont on February 12th to 14th. This experience should amply prepare them for the district tournament which will be planned in the near future. The members of the local squad are: Madge Garnett, James Begley, Paul Peterson, Stuart Porter, Edward Wehrlein, John Becker, George Lepert, George Luschinsky, Robert Bestor, Irene Simons, Helen Wurga and Agnes Brink.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hoffman departed this morning for Weeping Water where they will visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Washington. Mrs. Hoffman having been injured on Wednesday at Omaha in an auto accident.

## Mrs. Wever Tearfully Denounces State's Evidence

### At Omaha Jail Local Woman Convicted of Poisoning Husband Protests Innocence

From Friday's Daily—  
Mrs. Inas Wever, who was yesterday morning found guilty of the charge of first degree murder and a sentence of life imprisonment recommended by the jury, was taken to Omaha immediately after the rendering of the verdict and on her arrival at the jail was in a fearful mood, the first emotion that she has shown since she was first arrested and charged with murder. In the long weeks she had maintained a calm and unshaken poise that lasted until she received the blow that the verdict gave to her Thursday.

In an interview at the Omaha jail Mrs. Wever was particularly emphatic in the denunciation of the testimony that had alluded to other men and the alleged possession of a diamond ring which it was alleged in the testimony was the gift of a man friend.

"There was nothing fair about it," she said, in discussing the evidence and the verdict.

"I Am Innocent."  
"We are not through yet," she added. "My attorneys said they would appeal to the supreme court. I am innocent, and if justice is done I will be cleared yet."

Mrs. Wever was particularly bitter in mentioning testimony tending to show that there was "another man" and a "diamond ring," and intimations that she desired separation from her husband because of the other man.

"No truth to it," she said. "There never was a diamond ring."  
Hits at Witnesses.  
Asked if she knew the men mentioned in the testimony, she was silent.

"Some of the people who testified they saw me with him couldn't identify me, and didn't even know how I was dressed," she countered.

Mrs. Wever wept anew when she was asked about her adopted son, Billy, and about his custody.

"He still is with my relatives, and my hope is that he will be permitted to remain with them," she said.

As for the prospect of a life prison term, or possibly worse, Mrs. Wever refused to discuss it, or "entertain any such idea."

"I am innocent," she said, "and such things ought not to happen to innocent people."

Several of the women inmates at the county jail here greeted Mrs. Wever on her arrival, having made her acquaintance when she was in the jail before her trial.

## DEATH OF AGED MAN

Robert Jones, one of the residents at the Nebraska Masonic Home in this city, passed away at the Home on Tuesday and the body was taken yesterday to Lincoln where the funeral services were held. Mr. Jones was born in Wales on October 14, 1859, and has been a resident of the United States for the greater part of his lifetime and has lived in Lincoln over a period of a great many years. The deceased was a member of George Washington lodge No. 250 A. F. & A. M., of Havelock and which lodge had charge of the funeral services.

## SUFFERS FROM ILLNESS

From Friday's Daily—  
R. W. Knorr of the Popular Variety store, has been confined to his home today as the result of a very severe attack of the flu and cold which has made it necessary for him to give up his usual activities at the store and remain confined to the home and taking treatment.

## Dramatic Club of High School Entertains Today

### Furnished the Features of the Convocation at the High School This Morning

The convocation program at the high school this morning was sponsored by the Dramatic club. The program was presented as a presentation of a chain broadcasting company in behalf of well known radio advertised commodities. Paul Iverson was the chief announcer. The first number was an imitation of the famous Amos and Andy radio period with Ed Ogenberger playing the part of Andrew Brown and Ed Wehrlein as Amos Jones. With the theme song, dialect and usual troubles of this dusky pair, the imitation was a good one.

A cast of four then presented a one act comedy entitled "Rubber Boots" of which Maxine Clodt was director. The members of the cast were Alberta Parrott, Helen Gilmore and Mary Ann Rosencrans with Geo. Adam as the villain. It was well presented and thoroughly enjoyed.

Margaret Shellenbarger, Madge Garnet and Martha Gorder were introduced as the Three Harmonies and gave two very pleasing numbers. The character of the parts which were played by Robert Bestor, Helen Price, Anna May Sandin and Stuart Porter.

The concluding act was a fitting climax to the program in which a high school chorus was presented in a characteristic presentation called "The Bowery Act." James Begley and Helen Schulz sang the leading roles with Martha Gorder as accompanist. The chorus, appropriately attired, was composed of Lucille Albert, Robt. Warren, Eleanor Swatek, Merle McCrary, Jean Hayes and Jack Troop. The act was so roundly applauded that an encore was necessary.

## HOLD PLEASANT MEETING

The Catholic Daughters of America had a very delightful meeting on Wednesday evening at the pleasant home of Mrs. E. A. Lorenz and with whom was associated Mrs. E. J. Richey, Mrs. Floyd Gerbeling and Miss May Murphy as hostesses of the occasion.

The social portion of the evening was devoted to cards and in the pin-ocle contests Mrs. Len Henry won the prize winner while in the bridge contests Mrs. Frank Bestor was awarded the first prize.

At a suitable hour dainty and delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses which added very much to the enjoyment of the occasion.

There were present as the guests of the court Mrs. G. L. Taylor and Miss Rose Prohaska.

RECEIVES APPOINTMENT  
County Superintendent Miss Alpha Peterson has received the amount due the public schools of Cass county from the state funds, this being \$5,522.27, and which the county superintendent will divide among the eighty-six districts of the county. In this county there are no ineligible districts due to the watchfulness of the county superintendent who has kept in close touch with the various boards and has the satisfaction of seeing all of the districts get in on the apportionment. There are a great many districts in the state which have not complied with all requirements and will therefore not be able to secure their share.

ELECTED SECRETARY  
Miss Helen Warner, who has for several years been one of the active members of the Philathes class of the Methodist church, was re-elected on Tuesday evening to the position of attendance secretary, in which office she has given such splendid service in the past.

## Local Red Cross in Appeal for Drouth Aid

### Cass County Quota \$400 and Chapter Here Will Need \$150 for Part in Aid of Suffering

The American Red Cross is making a national appeal for funds amounting to the sum of \$10,000,000, to be used in giving food, clothing and other necessities to the sections which were hit by the great drouth of 1930, one of the greatest calamities that the nation has suffered in years and in which over 1,000,000 will be destitute in the next week. This appeal has been sent forth by President Hoover, former President Calvin Coolidge and former Governor Alfred E. Smith, democratic candidate for president at the last election, to support this call for aid of the needy.

The quota that will be called for from Cass county will be \$400 and in which each chapter of the county will be asked to raise a part, the Plattsmouth chapter being expected to raise at least \$150 for the fund.

Those who wish to aid this cause which means the feeding and caring for people of our own land, may leave their donations at the Plattsmouth State bank, at the Farmers State bank or with W. G. Kieck, chapter chairman, or Mrs. C. A. Rosencrans, chapter secretary.

Persons who have visited Arkansas, Tennessee, southern Missouri, Ohio, Kentucky, Oklahoma and other sections have returned with direful stories of the scenes that they have witnessed. While in this state there were some areas that suffered to some extent from lack of moisture and the crops were shortened to some extent, there are wide areas where there were no crops at all and where the lack of food is such that starvation faces thousands unless some relief is given and that at once.

In some areas in the summer the trees and grass were browned and desolated as the crops were destroyed in the fields and this has deprived the people of their supply of food-stuffs and has caused the suffering and privation to extend not only to the farming areas but to the many cities that were in the drouth swept areas. These people are without food or money to secure clothing or other necessities and their only hope of escaping death by starvation is in the response that is made by the people in the more favored areas to their cry of distress.

Our people have responded nobly to the call of other distress or calamities that have visited sections of our land but never before has there been such a widespread distress in our country and for which relief is so necessary at once.

## CARS HAVE SMASHUP

Friday afternoon shortly after 4 o'clock considerable excitement was created on Main street between Fourth and Fifth street when the autos of John M. Kaffenberger and Carl Ofe collided in front of the Hinky-Dinky grocery. The car of Mr. Kaffenberger had been parked along the curb and the driver was starting his car out when the gas throttle stuck for a moment and suddenly released and with the result that the car suddenly shot out of the parking and into the line of traffic. Mr. Ofe was coming east on Main street and just reached the vicinity of the Kaffenberger car when it shot out and crashed into the car of Mr. Ofe, doing more or less damage to both cars and making it necessary to secure a wrecker to remove the Ofe car from the scene. The accident attracted a large number of spectators and for a few moments the excitement in that part of the business section was quite marked.

## RETAILERS ELECT OFFICERS

The retail section of the Chamber of Commerce held their regular meeting on Thursday, the event being in the nature of a noonday luncheon at the Majestic cafe and the gathering was unusually large.

The chief matter that demanded the attention of the members was the election of the officers for the ensuing year. The chairman, E. A. Wurl, was named by the president of the Chamber of Commerce and the other officers were Carl Ofe, secretary, W. H. Puls, treasurer and Frank M. Bestor, director for the ensuing term.

The members had a great deal of business to take up their time in the discussion of the problems of the retail merchants and various plans for the coming year's business.

## HAS HEAD INJURED

From Saturday's Daily—  
Frank Yelick, popular and well known senior at the high school and member of the basketball squad, had a very painful injury this noon at his home and which might have had a very serious consequence for the young man. Frank was cranking a Tuesday evening to the position of attendance secretary, in which office she has given such splendid service in the past.