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## MRS. R. A. BATES, Publisher

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# **Bullets and Law Write Finis** to Crime Record of Infamous Purple Gang in Detroit Area

'Tough Guy' Youngsters Began Their Lawless said. Activity in 1919 and Flourished Until End of Prohibition

DETROIT (UP)-Eighteen years pursuits, others to retire on their ago, when the war was still more riches.

than a memory, a group of Detroit | Most of them are dead now. Irving Shapero, who tired of his youngsters, only one past 18, decided job as a tailor's helper and joined they were "tough guys."

They stole fruit, "rolled drunks." the mob as a "gorilla" when he was waylaid pedestrians late at night, 15, was taken for a ride in 1929. Frank Klayman died in the Ohio and broke into stores.

"They're tainted." a bearded, old state penitentiary in 1930. He was Jewish fruit peddler once said. "Those an expert hijacker. Jack Selbin was shot to death in boys are discolored. They are purple." The name stuck. a saloon in 1929.

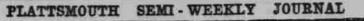
Ten years later in 1929 the group. One Convicted of Murder Phil Keywell began a life senthen known throughout the middle west as the Purple gang, had a tence in Southern Michigan prison lature made \$528,000 available for death-grip on Detroit's underworld, in 1930. He was convicted for mur- that purpose. It will be left with and maintained lucrative crime con- dering a Negro boy he caught snooping around one of the gang's disnections all over the country. Last month police picked off a tilleries.

tavern floor the bullet-ridden body Maurice Raider is in the same Nebraska will have 2,475 miles of of the last known member still oper- prison, serving a life sentence for ating, Harry Millman, 28, had big murder, fists, a ready trigger-finger and a Earl Pasnam was "rubbed out" in thorough criminal education begun a gang gun fight in 1931. in 1919 when he trailed the "big Henry Shorr, oldest member of the boys" of his neighborhood as they Purples and the group's financial ex-

annoyed the merchants. pert, disappeared two years ago. Gang Once Numbered 50 Odd With his slaying, the last of the ster in a Detroit restaurant, but as follows; 50 odd hoodlums was accounted for. after the two left together, he was Lee Phillips

All were either dead, in prison or never seen again. The other man Mrs. W. H. Puls \_\_\_\_\_ 5650 missing so long that they were for- had an ironclad alibi. gotten.

The gang took solid form in 1926 naturally, with his "boots off." funds in return for protection from Stein ran afoul federal authorities Frank Kvapil \_.



#### MERCERVILLE SCHOOL NEWS

The Mercerville school has been quite active this year and are carrying on a number of very interesting Highway Aid projects. Their attendance record has been unusually good with several children with perfect attend-

State Engineer Tells County Officers ance. They have the room beautifully decorated for Christmas and Only \$3,284,000 Federal Funds invite the parents to come to their program next Tuesday afternoon.

OMAHA, Dec. 16 (UP) - State The following pupils have attend-Engineer A. C. Tilley informed Ne- ed every day since school started: braska county commissioners and Grade 1, Gordon Hanika; Grade 2, supervisors today that only \$3,284.- Dwight Hes; Grade 3, Eunice Baum-000 in federal aid funds will be gart; Grade 4, Kathleen Snyder. available to Nebraska between now Our room looks very pretty with and June 30, 1939, if President all its Christmas decorations. We Roosevelt's recommendations for cur- have a Christmas tree at school too. tailment of United States government

We have been staying store in highway expenditures are accepted arithmetic class. Here are some new by congress. words we learned: cash register, bill, In 1940, Nebraska's share of fedreceipt, counter, credit. It is fun

eral aid would be only \$2,500,000 learning how to make change and under the president's proposal, he write out the bills.

We are having a good behavior "If Nebraska's unfinished highway contest at school. The room is divided system is to be adequately completed, into two sides, the Reds and the we should be vitally interested in re. Blues. The Reds are ahead.

taining the national policy of federal Each day we save all our papers, aid for highway construction," Tilley At the end of six weeks we make a said in an address before the annual cover for them and fasten them toconvention of county commissioners! gether so they will form a book. We

and supervisors. take them home and show them to The high point in federal highway our parents. aid in Nebraska was reached in 1931

The Mercerville school wishes when allotments aggregated \$11,everyone a very Merry Christmas! \$84,000. The total in 1936 was nearly as much, \$11,003,000, he said.

#### SOCIAL WORKERS FLOWER CLUE He estimated total expenditures for

construction in 1937 at \$6,125,000. The Social Workers Flower club Tilley said he had instructed disheld their annual Christmas party at trict highway engineers to consult the pretty home of Mrs. Julius Pitz with county boards about the location The Pitz home was a scene of beautiful and artistically decorated rooms. Christmas colors and spirit having been carried out, which was very attractive and an ideal setting

The state engineer said that when for this happy occasion.

After the regular business meeting a clever play, "Reading the News paper" was given by Mrs. Ernest

> Hutchison, Mrs. James E. Warga and Mrs. J. L. Stamp. For this playlet. Mrs. John Schutz sang several num-

"Trimming the Christmas Tree" another short playlet was given by Mrs. Albert Wheeler and Mrs. Mike Kaffenberger.

Little Marilyn Irene Warga gave Mrs. F. G. Konfrst \_\_\_\_\_ 5560 a Christmas poem. Christmas carols Charlie (professor) Auerbach died A. J. Koubek \_\_\_\_\_ 4970 were sung by the club members. After M. W. Harmon \_\_\_\_\_ 4820 the interesting program, gifts were A delicious lunch was served, pre-4700

Schlaphoff and sister, Miss Doretta, port them.

Lacey McDonald and family went for the winter. They report a spiento Lincoln last Thursday, where they did visit and say they were much imlid some Christmas shopping. Merideth Weddell, who resides in there.

incoln, where he has a position, will be at home with his father and sister on Christmas day.

were in Lincoln Thursday of last time, her condition becoming so were loud in their praise of Donald's week, where they looked after busi- serious that the children were all ability as an entertainer.

ness and did some shopping. While Mrs. Zabel was looking af- George, of Oakland; Louis of near ter the store Friday of last week, Walton; Mrs. John Amgwert, of Mr. Zaebel made a trip to Lincoln Lincoln and Floyd Hite of Weepafter a truck load of goods for the ing Water.

William Eisele last Thursday. The pressed for her recovery. regular meeting was followed by a

most enjoyable Christmas party. August Bornemeier and wife departed last Thursday for the northern part of the state, where they went to look after business matters. They made the trip in their car.

delivering corn to the Murdock ele- If it is possible Richard Tool and Harold and Louis Luetchens were vator, having shelled their 1937 crop, and although the volume was not so

large, they are well pleased with roads and weather. what they received.

Carl Buck and Bobbie Miller were hauling baled straw for Paul Socks who has been busy of late baling the ed Thursday for the west, with Los same, delivering it to a number of Angeles as their destination. They

mmediate vicinity. Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Tool are look- points where they have friends and daughter born December 14 at the

ing forward to a very pleasant relatives residing. Christmas day, which they will spend at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George Work and family, in Omaha,

where he visited with the family of visit.

Louis Schmidt for a short time. Mr. and Mrs. Eddle Craig and Miss

Orland Parriott were in Lincoln on Thursday of last week where they

secured some supplies for the barber shop and beauty parlor and also did some of their Christmas shopping.

Mrs Albert Straich, daughter Miss Lydia were in Lincoln last Thursday, where they did some trading. fine day to make the trip Thursday. charge of the arrangements and in Charles Campbell, a former resi- addition to the program there will

# who are making their home there pressed with the country and climate

Mrs. Bessie Hite Very Ill

called to her bedside. They are:

Will Entertain Christmas Day

ford and their daughter of Beatrice cessful in every way. and Kenneth Tool and wife of Wahoo.

Departed for West Coast John Bornemeier and wife depart-

customers about town and in the expect to visit there over the holi-

Returns from the West

ited at the home of her daughter, has been named Margaret. Herman R. Schmdit was called to Mrs. Harry Eastman and family, of Plattsmouth to look after business Sterling, Colorado, for two weeks matters at the court house. On his or more, returned home late last return home, he came via Wabash, week. She reports a most enjoyable

Afflicted with Lumbago W. O. Gillespie and son Merle have children near Knox City, Mo. oth been troubled with attacks of

tumbaro, which have kent them from their work, but at latest reports they are said to be improving.

Christmas Program at Callahan A Christmas eve program will be The weather had been bad before given at the Callahan church Friday that and they took advantage of the night at 7:30. The Bible school has

# weeks, returned home last Saturday. of being drowned by venturing on

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1937.

While there they visited with Elmer ice that might be too thin to sup-

### Enjoyed Class Meeting

Donald Rikli, who is a member of the Freshmen class of the Murdock high school, was host at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Rikli, to the members of the class on last Mrs. Bessie Hite has been very ill Tuesday evening. A most pleasant Mr. and Mrs. Henry Heinemann at her home in Murdock for some time was enjoyed and his classmates

#### VISITS IN CITY

Thomas Thomsen of Nebraska City, who is preparing to establish the They have been doing all possible new credit bureau here for the The Extension club of Murdock for her care and comfort, when we Plattsmouth Business Men's Ad club, and vicinity met at the home of Mrs. visited Murdock grave fear was ex- was in the city Friday to look after some matters in connection with the the work.

Mr. Thomsen has a very highly Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Tool will perfected system of checking and inentertain at their home in Murdock formation on the residents of the on Christmas day, when they will be communities where his bureau is opjoined by Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Brad- erating and has found them most suc-

He states that he has secured prospective workers for the Plattsmouth wife also expect to be here, but that office and who will be taken to Newill depend on the condition of the braska City to receive instruction and become familiar with the work of

operating the office and the handling of information that may be required.

#### HAVE NEW DAUGHTER

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Read are days, and will also visit at nearby rejoicing over the arrival of a baby

University hospital in Omaha. The little one weighed 6 pounds and 13 ounces at birth. Both mother and Mrs. Hannah McDonald, who vis- daughter are doing fine. The baby

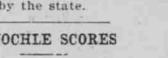
### GRIEF KILLS ENGINEER

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UP)-J. C. Milliken, railroad engineer, suffered asstroke and died here a week after his locomotive struck and killed five



a way to ease the

pains of





roads and 310 miles of earth roads maintained by the state.

He had been with another gang- play at the Recreation Center was

6010

C. M. Manners \_\_\_\_\_ 4820when gamblers supplied them with The Fleisher brothers and Joseph C. M. Manners \_\_\_\_\_\_ 4820 presented to everyone by Santa.

of federal feeder roads. The legisfederal funds.

will Cut State

Will Be Available.

work now contracted is completed

paved highways, 5,809 miles of gravel

bers.

store

a St. Louis extortion ring.

ings in earnest, Abe Axler and his is in Alcatraz prison. pal. Eddie Fletcher, machine-gunned three rivals to death in a street before their apartment. Axler and Fletcher were inseparable pals-even in death. Their bodies, hands joined, were found by police in 1933 after a battle for the mob's leadership.

Late in 1928, when the gang was at its greatest period of power, two charges. situations arose which greatly affected its strength and its future.

First, a cleaners and dvers war broke out, marked by daily acts of violence. Murders, bombings, thefts, sluggings, all the crimes in the books combined to hurt their prestige. Thirteen "Purples" finally beat a conspiracy charge in court.

#### Sought More Territory Secondly, and more important

they branched out from Detroit. The Oakland Sugar company be

came their financial stronghold. From pierced by nine bullets. Four other it, they supplied corn sugar to local moonshiners. With the money they opened speakeasies and night clubs. Then they began shipping liquor to Chicago and New York.

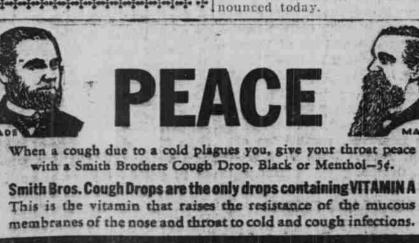
Law finally succeeded where rival gangs had failed. In 1933 the Little Navy gang from Chicago tried to "muscle in" here. Its leaders-Izzy Sutker, "Nigger Joe" Lebkowitz and Hymie Paul-all were slain in an apartment one September night.

But within two months three Purples had been sentenced to life terms in the Marquette branch prizon for the killings.

In 1933 the gang's power was on the wane and the repeal of prohibition struck the death knell for it. Profits shrunk and the smart members drew away, some into legitimate

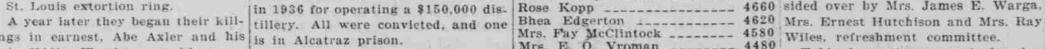
Thomas Walling Company Abstracts of Title Phone 324 - Plattsmouth

and a



boxes.

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man who went to get the car for him

his time in a neighborhood tavern.

.45 revolvers and began shooting.

JAPS RAISE NAVAL FUND

sailors are raising a fund of 500 yen,

Thus ended the Purple gang.

men were wounded.

Mrs. E. O. Vroman \_\_\_\_\_ 4480 C. O. Carlburg \_\_\_\_\_ 4410 End to Millman at Last Frank Rebal \_\_\_\_\_ to grow in stature. A small-timer. Mrs. Frank Rebal 11 4320 trees.

formerly he gained notoriety from Gus Kopp \_\_\_\_\_ 4220 his fistic ability. In 10 years he was W. H. Puls \_\_\_\_\_ 4200 arrested 28 times, but was sentenced Tommy Mendenhall \_\_\_\_\_ 4130 day quilting party at the home of only twice-both times on traffic Mrs. Lee Phillips \_\_\_\_\_ 4110 Mrs. James E. Warga, Jan. 12, 1938 Donald Wall 4100

Edna Carlburg \_\_\_\_\_ 4040 His number went up in August. Mrs. C. O. Carlburg \_\_\_\_\_ 3990 A bomb was planted in his car. Mill- Mrs. H. Walters \_\_\_\_\_ 3980 man escaped, though a Negro door- Mrs. J. F. Kvapil \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. O. Sandin ------Harry Walters \_\_\_\_\_ 3640 was killed. After that Millman avoid- Glen Carlburg \_\_\_\_\_ 3540 ed public places and spent most of Esther Whitely \_\_\_\_\_ 3530

Early Thanksgiving morning he overtaxed the capacity of the Re- cember 5. was there, chatting idly with friends. creation Center and it is necessary to Justice Parsons was elected to the members of the class at her home on Two strangers walked in, ordered suspend pinochle night on Wednes- supreme court in 1934. He had plan- Friday evening of last week. Games, to command attention in every town. drinks. A moment later they walked day, December 22, to be resumed ned to retire when his term expired music and refreshments made the oc-

toward Millman, flashed a pair of again Wednesday, December 29.

More than 300 farmers and stock- State Bankers' association.

men obtained loans during the first 10 months of the year from the South and most of his professional time was

SECTION HAND ROBBED OF \$1,580 Omaha Production Credit association, spent in court. He was a democrat according to records in the office of and twice was a delegate to demothe credit "co-op?"

KEARNEY, Neb., Dec. 17 (UP)-John Kainz, a section hand who lives Everett Spangler, secretary-treasin a box car bunkhouse at Alfalfa urer of the association, reported

Center, reported to Ciner of Police that during the period loans were Lloyd Frank today that he had been made to 323 farm operators in Burt. robbed of \$1,580 which he kept in Dodge, Washington, Saunders, Doug- J. Campbell, president of the Neboxes. Kainz said the loss consisted las, Sarpy and Cass counties.

of \$1,080 in cash and \$500 in post A good share of the credit was his support to the movement for esoffice checks, the savings of 11 years. advanced to farmers who plan to use tablishing a judicial council in Ne-Kainz said that when he lost \$700 the money for feeding livestock, Mr. braska.

in the failure of the City National Spangler said, while others applied The proposal probably will be disbank here in 1926 he thought it the funds to expanding or improving cussed at the annual meeting of the would be safer to save his money in their operations. association in Omaha December 28

Plans will soon be completed, he and 29, Campbell said. A judicial said, for the association's annual council, a fact-finding body usually meeting of stockholder- members, to composed of practicing attorneys and be held shortly after the first of the judges to study faults in the judi-TOKYO, Dec. 16 (UP)-Japanese year.

cial system and to make recommendations to the legislature and su

approximately \$1500 which will be See the goods you buy. Catalog preme court for their correction. contributed to the United States navy descriptions are alluring enough, Campbell said a counsel can be fund as a gesture in connection with but how about the goods when formed either by the legislators of the Panay incident the navy an- you get them? by court rule.

> GIVE AN Ingersoll, There's an Ingersoll for every member of the family -

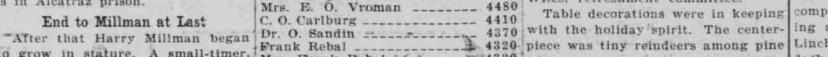
watches for pocket, wrist or handbag at prices from \$1.25. You can buy them

at stores right here

in town. RIST-ARCH-\$3.95

wester glassific and

4660 sided over by Mrs. James E. Wargs Wiles, refreshment committee,



ing old friends of this vicinity. The next meeting will be an all

### JUDGE PARSONS DIES

DES MOINES, Ia., Dec. 16 (UP)-3820 Justice James M. Parsons of the Iowa delayed by not being able to secure at the Gorthey home over the holisupreme court died here today after help and the necessary equipment. Miss Sara McCrorey, who is a mema long illness. He was 79 years old. The holiday rush of activities has He had undergone an operation Deber of the Senior class of the Murdock high school, entertained the

> casion a most enjoyable one. January 1, 1941.

An Iowa farm boy, he was admitted The Purple gaugster's body was FARMERS BENEFIT BY "CO-OP" to the bar in 1880 and served for 25 years as general counsel for the Iowa

> A. A. McReynolds of Nehawka were He was primarily a trial lawyer in Murdock Thursday arranging for a meeting of the Cass County His-

torical society to be held here in the cratic national conventions.

### SUPPORT JUDICIAL COUNCIL

LINCOLN, Dec. 18 (UP)-Clinton braska Bar association today lent

> days before this generation came upon the scene. Visited in Southwest Messrs and Mesdames Carl and

Herman Schlaphoff, who visited at Oatman. Arizona, for a-couple of

Arranging for Historical Meeting

**State Tested and** Certified

We have for sale Iowa Hi-Bred No. 939 Yellow Dent Corn. This corn has been certified by both the states of Iowa and Nebraska. If you want to grow more corn on less acreage, see us and we will tell you all about it and guarantee seed corn true to all our claims.

The Farmers Elevator Company 

be a Christmas tree with presents dent of Cass county, when he resided between Murdock and Greenwood, ac- and a treat for all the kiddies. On Christmas day there will be a companied Ed Leach Lincoln traveling salesman and brother of P. J. special Christmas service held at 10 Linch of Alvo, on his trip to Mur- o'clock to which all members and the public are invited. dock this past week, enjoying meet-

Will Spend Christmas at Home Residents of this vicinity seemed Miss Dorothy Gorthey, who is ato have contracted an epidemic of tending the Normal school at Peru. wood sawing last Thursday. Many will be home for the Christmas holiwere thus engaged and others who were desirious of getting their wood days and will be accompanied here by a schoolgirl chum, who will visit out of the way for the winter were

> Shall We Have Skating Court The matter of providing amuse ment for the young people is one

With the winter weather that has prevailed, thoughts turn naturally to skating, and numerous towns are taking steps to provide suitable skating courts by selecting a level piece Dr. G. H. Gilmore of Murray and of ground and flooding it. Elmwood. Alvo and Nehawka have provided excellent places of this kind. In Nehawka the fire department sponsored the movement, while the city pro-

near future. They were interested vided the water. in securing further data and infor-The question of furnishing such a uation on what was known as the place of amusement for the children Mullen ranch, located at the edge and grown-ups of Murdock is being of where Murdock now stands, which raised and as the Christmas season cas a stopping place for overland approaches when the children will be trains as they crossed the prairies out of school and looking for a place in the early sixties and seventies. to skate, sentiment seems to increase These gentlemen have been doing a for doing the same here. Certainly great deal of research work and are we do not want to send the boys and engaged in writing a history of the girls to dangerous sand pit lakes to skate, where they run a great chance

in a remarkably short time. For quick relief from such pain Bayer Aspirin. C FOR 12 TABLETS

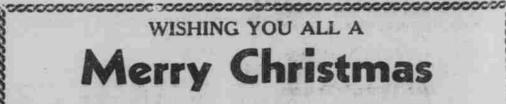


You can pay as high as you want for remedies claimed to relieve the pain of Rheumatism, Neuritis, Sciatica, etc. But the medicine so many doctors generally approvethe one used by thousands of families daily — is Bayer Aspirin - 15¢ a dozen tablets - about 1¢ apiece.

Simply take 2 Bayer Aspirin tablets with a half glass of water. Repeat, if necessary, according to directions Usually this will ease such pain

which exhausts you and keeps you awake at night - ask for genuine





We are extending to our customers and to everyone our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year

Our purpose is to have you look your best at all times. and for that purpose we are here at your service at the Barber Shop and Beauty Parlor. Remember, our earnest desire is for your best appearance. Again wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from

Eddie Craig, The Barber Miss Orland Parriott, Beautician Murdock, Nebraska



