

# LOUP CITY NORTHWESTERN

VOLUME XXXI

LOUP CITY, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1913

NUMBER 43

## HIDDEN WEALTH OF AGED WOMAN

Mrs. Nancy Owens, Who Was Killed By Train, Had Several Thousand Dollars Banked at Lithfield.

### LIVED ALMOST IN POVERTY.

(From Custer County Chief.)

The tragic death last Sunday of Mrs. Nancy Owens, an old resident of Custer county, brings to one's attention the peculiar conditions and surroundings under which the aged woman lived. It was while walking the Burlington track Sunday morning, looking for bits of coal, that Mrs. Owens was struck by No. 42 and received fatal injuries. She was placed aboard the train and taken to Grand Island, where she died a few hours later in the hospital in that place. The remains were buried in Weaver cemetery near Mason.

Many years ago, when Custer county was emerging from its infancy, John W. Owens and his wife came here from the South and homesteaded on some land located near the county line, which is now between Mason City and Lithfield. The sod house, which was built at the time, has never been replaced by any other residence and, although the land is among the best in the county, and good crops are always assured there, the couple seemed indifferent to the progressive spirit of the age and always presented the appearance of abject poverty.

There was no doubt but what the two were accumulating wealth, because they never spent a dollar for anything that was not absolutely necessary and even then, did not supply themselves with ordinary comforts of life. As they approached their eightieth year they seemed to grow more penurious than ever, and when the husband was taken ill about two years before his death, the interior of their abode when visited by outsiders, presented a scene of filth and squalor.

Owens, about this time, made a will and left everything to his wife during her lifetime; but, upon her demise, the bulk of the property was to go to a sister and her husband, Sarah and John Powers. Last April the end came and Mrs. Owens, at the age of eighty-three years was left to look out for herself. She continued to live alone however, and to all appearances, no changes had been made in the household arrangement.

The track of the Burlington runs through the Owens property and the old lady would continually patrol the right-of-way on the look-out for any stray pieces of coal that might have dropped from passing trains. She seemed

so indifferent to the approach of trains that the rail road people had to take the matter up and warn her to keep off of the tracks. Evidently the warning was not heeded, as the result shows.

It was shortly after the death of her husband that the neighbors of Mrs. Owens, feeling sure that there was hoarded money about premises, went to her and begged for safety's sake, that she bank her money at Lithfield and not run the risk of being murdered for it. The general supposition in the neighborhood was that the couple had hidden large sums about the place and, as such news travels fast and is bound in time to reach the ears of unscrupulous people, the neighbors were really fearful for the life of the eccentric old woman.

At first Mrs. Owens stonily objected to having anything to do with banks; but one night she received a fright of some sort, and soon after the neighbors were informed that she had a little money hidden away and if they would bring a banker, she promised to make a deposit. A Lithfield banker was appealed to and he, together with several witnesses, made a trip to the little sod shack.

Mrs. Owens, after asking innumerable questions of the visitors and, being finally convinced of their sincerity of purpose, went outside and shortly reappeared with a package of money which she dumped on the table and told them to count for themselves. When the last dollar had been checked off, the sum total was found to be \$7,400. This money was placed in the bank at Lithfield to Mrs. Owens' credit and is still there. It is supposed there are other sums planted about the farm, but this is all the old lady could be persuaded to give up.

A rather curious state of affairs now exists. As the death of J. W. Owens occurred within six months prior to that of his wife, the estate of the former naturally remains unsettled. Under the will Mrs. Owens was entitled to the property during her life time, but upon her death it was to go to the sister and brother-in-law mentioned. The money that Mrs. Owens deposited in the Lithfield bank she claimed as her own personal property and it was placed there in her name. Should any relatives of Mrs. Owens come forward, there is a fine chance for an interesting law suit.

## Using The Newspaper As A Protection

A man spoketo the editor of the Northwestern on the street lately complaining of gambling going on and wanting the Northwestern to get busy and give the thing away. If the aforesaid man knows about it, why does he not get busy along that line himself and give the officers the necessary information? Perhaps he is something like the man who a number of years ago, while we were publishing a paper in southern Iowa, came to us with alleged facts of the disreputable goings on of a certain widow in his neighborhood, and wished the matter aired through our columns. We got him to state his story, put the same in copy for the paper, read it to him, sympathized with him, and upon his affirmation that we had stated everything just as it was, asked him to put his name

at the close as authority. At this he went into the air, shouting his objection to doing that, saying it would get him into all kinds of trouble, at the same time condemning us bitterly for trying to get him into a scrape. The world is full of cattle that claim to be aware of "awful" things going on and are clamoring for the newspapers to give the same publicity, yet will not expose their precious hides in publicly proclaiming their alleged knowledge. If there is gambling going on in or about Loup City, let those who have knowledge of that violation of law come to the front and shoulder the responsibility of the exposure, not cowardly cringe behind a newspaper, probably getting cold feet in event they were called upon for what they know or allege to know. Too many people want to use the newspaper for a club.

## Our Public Schools Start Out Splendidly

Our city schools opened for the new year on Tuesday morning of this week with Prof. J. H. Burwell as superintendent, W. C. Mackey of Lusia as principal, Miss Lucy Hunsaker of Mulvane, Kansas, as assistant principal, Miss Leola Burt as second assistant principal, Prof. J. H. Nicoson 8th grade, Miss Nettie Southwell 7th grade, Miss Olive McCray 6th grade, Miss Lena Smith 5th grade, Miss Ada Smith 4th grade, Miss O'Meade 3d grade, Miss Flora Ohlsen 2d grade, Miss Frieda Ohlsen primary and Miss Cecelia Konklin of St. Paul as teacher of music. The school starts out with an especially strong corps of instructors and were it not for the

entirely inadequate room for work and recitations, which cannot fail to more or less handicap each teacher, and the further fact of the unfortunate circumstances which compel the use of the lower departments we might confidently expect the coming school year to prove a record breaker in the splendid achievements of our boys and girls. In spite of the known handicaps as above mentioned, we believe our especially strong complement of teachers will overcome to a large extent these disappointments and we will have a splendid educational year, reflecting credit upon the part of teacher, pupil, patron and all having our best educational interests at heart.

## Cows Afflicted With Some Mouth Disease

A disease new to this section of the country has been recently met with among the cattle. It is commonly called a mouth disease. It was first encountered near Arcadia on the farm of Aug. Volkman, August 28, and since then a good many cases have been met with in the vicinity of Loup City, among the cows owned by S. Foss, Gene Miller and others.

The true cause of the disease is not at present thoroughly understood, and further development of individual cases will be necessary for an understanding of its nature. However, from all appearances, it seems to be caused by an infection which the animal obtains from contaminated food. The parts of the body affected are the structures which form the anterior part of the oral cavity, the lips, gums, dental pad, hard palate, muzzle and sometimes the tongue, and in a good many of the cases there has been an inflammation of the skin of the limbs, causing a good deal of lameness. Probably the first thing calling the attendant's notice to the affected animal is that it does not eat well, is stiff, has fallen off considerably in yield of milk, or, it may be, entirely suppressed.

In treatment, it is a wise precaution to isolate affected animals, clean and disinfect the tanks, etc. Cows not far advanced in the stage of the disease receiving medical treatment as yet have been reported as getting along nicely.

## Campbell-Elkins

Mr. Charles E. Campbell and Miss Sarah Jane Elkins were married at the Methodist parsonage last Saturday by Rev. Leeper. Mr. Campbell is in the employ of the Ravenna Creamery Co. here, being an expert butter-maker, while the bride is a charming young lady from the state of Montana. May good fortune attend these worthy young people. They will be at home in the Gardner cottage in the northeast part of town.

## Brown-Lenox

The marriage of Miss Weir Eugenia Lenox to Mr. William Arthur Brown was solemnized at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lenox, two miles south of Friend, Nebr., at eleven o'clock Wednesday morning, September 3, 1913.

The bride's gown was of cream crepe metor trimmed with pearls and she carried a shower bouquet of bride's roses. The color scheme was white and pink. The Rev. H. C. Seidel of the Methodist Episcopal church officiated. Flora Brown and Velma Greaves acted as bridesmaids, and Mr. H. C. Andrews and Mr. Roy Bissell acted as best men. Miss Grace Stepanek played the wedding march.

Miss Lenox has been a teacher in the public schools of Saline county several years, having grown to womanhood near friend. Mr. Brown is the junior member of the firm E. A. Brown & Son, publishers of The Friend Sentinel, and although he has been in Friend but two years he has a host of friends there. Mr. and Mrs. Brown left on No. 12 Wednesday afternoon for Loup City where they will spend a week visiting his relatives. They will be at home in Friend after October 1st.

## County Fair News

The following premiums have been added to poultry: Single birds, 50 and 25 cents; trio of birds, 50 and 25 cents. We want a man to furnish feed. Want alfalfa and prairie hay, straw, corn and oats. Prefer to have hay tailed. Leave your bid with the secretary, as only one man can receive them.

Entries are coming in fast. If you want a stall, you should let the secretary know at once, so he can make arrangements for same.

A. E. Chase, secretary.

## IF BRYAN CAN'T, HOW CAN WE?

They tell me Billy Bryan's bemoaning  
The fact that his pay is too small,  
And under the burden is groaning  
With barely nuf cash to pay all:  
We clerks are also complaining  
With salaries too small, it is clear!  
If Bryan can't live on a thousand a month  
Can we on nine hundred a year?  
Of course, we're only jay hawkers,  
And must struggle and toil for our toll  
While Bryan can follow Chautauquas  
In order to fatten his roll;  
But still we must labor and suffer,  
And there's something decidedly queer;  
If Bryan can't live on a thousand a month  
Can we on nine hundred a year?  
For steaks cost the same to hard workers  
No matter the size of their pile,  
And to miss them would make us all shirkers,  
While Bryan can buy them and smile.  
'Tis tough on the bunch with slim purses,  
And congress forgets us, I fear!  
If Bryan can't live on a thousand a month  
Can we on nine hundred a year?  
And thus in the days that are pleasant,  
And thus in the time of our ills,  
To the rich and the poor, the physician  
Shows up with the same kind of bills;  
While the cost of "grape juice" may be soaring,  
We all pay the same price for beer!  
If Bryan can't live on a thousand a month  
Can we on nine hundred a year?  
All things are out of proportion  
To us all a yard is a yard;  
If the burden falls heavy on Bryan,  
On us it is equally hard.  
And thus we word our petition,  
And hope that relief may be near!  
For if Bryan can't live on a thousand a month  
We can't on nine hundred a year.

—Washington Times.

## Clear Creek News Items

Loren Hayden marketed hogs at Loup City Friday.  
Geo. Zahn was a Mason City visitor Friday.  
A dance was given at Will Corey's Saturday evening.  
Mrs. W. E. Miller has returned from a visit in Butler Co.  
School commenced Monday in the Lone Elm district.  
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Edson spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Hager.  
Miss Irma Lowry left the first of the week to attend high school at Broken Bow.  
Mr. Panek of Kearney was in this vicinity last week looking after his land.  
Chester Adams returned Saturday evening from a few days visit at Halsey Nebr.  
Miss Grace and Lewis Adams spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Zwick.  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kuhn spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Zahn.  
Prof Carrett and Aaron Eberlee of Broken Bow were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Adams last Thursday evening.

From Last Week  
The farmeas of this vicinity have commenced haying.  
Mr. Van Dyke was a Loup City visitor Saturday.  
The recent rains have caused quite a delay in threshing.  
Maude Adams, Clara and Dorothy Van Dyke spent Sunday with Edith Smith.  
Geo. H. Zahn and Loren Hayden were Mason City visitors Saturday.  
The Misses Adams' spent Sunday afternoon at the home of Frank Kuhns.  
The infant child of Will Hammond's is reported to be quite sick.  
Mrs. Sam Hill and Mrs. Ed. Bishop and two children visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Adams.  
The two year old baby of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton died Thursday morning after a short illness.  
The burial took place Friday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton have the sympathy of their many friends during their sad bereavement.

## GLORIOUS PICNIC UNIQUE PARADE

Rural Routers No. 2, to The Number of Over 400, Spend Day at Jenner's Park, Loup City.

### GALA DAY IN LOUP CITY.

Labor Day was more significant to Loup City this year than any heretofore in its history, for on that day (Monday of this week) we had with us almost every man, woman and child living on Route 2, it being the occasion of the big picnic given by Carrier J. W. Conger to his patrons on that route. In fact, it was the biggest stunt ever pulled off here by local bunch of magnificent, public spirited citizens led by a man who is a pusher who does things. The event has been so widely exploited through the columns of the Northwestern the past few weeks that it is found unnecessary to speak in detail of its inception, or preparation, hence pass that over.

But speaking of the affair, what an inspiration it was! At about 10 o'clock in the morning, with the streets lined with people came the parade of fifty-two floats and gaily decorated vehicles of all descriptions, a dozen or more automobiles, scores on horseback and large numbers afoot, most of the paraders being masked and in grotesque costumes, even one noble Arabian steed wearing pants and a hat. The procession came in on west Railroad street passed eastward to the court house park, where it divided in two, each passing once around the park in opposite directions to the bank corner, where it again formed in a solid phalanx, circled about on Railroad

street and thence to Jenner's park where the picnic was held. The parade was estimated at a mile or over in length, and probably numbered 250 people therein. It would be manifestly unfair to mention in detail any number of especially constructed floats and decorated vehicles, suffice it to say their number was only confined to the number therein. From the carrier's uniquely decorated mail wagon down to the well developed devil, with horns, hoofs, tail and pitchfork, who trailed along in the wake of the "Votes for Women" brigade, with the school room, country dance, music class, and other elegant floats and decorations in between it was one grand, howling success. At the park the procession disbanded and from that till even-tide the good time continued with basket dinners, followed by dancing in the pavillion, engaging in the various amusements the park affords, base ball matches between the upper and lower Wiggle Creek nines and the fats and leans, the whole day closing with vaudeville and other theatrical entertainments in the park theatre. All in all it was a memorable day for Loup City and reflected great credit upon the glorious community of Wigglers and Carrier Conger at whose instance, inception and indefatigable energy the day was made such a wonerful success.

## Newsy Letter from Santa Monica, Calif.

Santa Monica, Cal.,  
Aug. 29th, 1913.  
J. W. Burleigh,  
Loup City, Nebr.—

Dear Sir: I promised to write to you when I left Loup City last Spring and think I have been here long enough to form some idea of the country.

As you are an old timer here, it is not necessary for me to tell you of the fine climate, beautiful flowers and good roads of Southern California nor of the delightful situation of Santa Monica, the bay and the mountains. But if you have not been here of late years, the growth that has been made would certainly astonish you as it does everybody who only visits it once in five years or so.

This town now has about twenty thousand people and built a million and a half dollars worth of new buildings last year.

Los Angeles now claims a half million people and one only has to try to get along the streets and ride through in an auto to believe that it is the truth.

We have had many delightful auto rides around this part of the county and every little town seems to be growing at the same rate.

The roads are simply perfect and a ride of 75 or 100 miles in the afternoon is just pleasant. At the auto races here a few weeks ago they made an average of over 74 miles per hour for nearly 450 miles and this was on one of the roads that we drive over nearly every day.

We have had a delightful summer with the thermometer seldom

out of the seventies and never up to ninety although it reached 92 one day in Los Angeles. But on the beach we get the sea breeze every afternoon and it is never so hot as in the city.

Being only seven blocks from the sand here, we have many fine dips in the ocean, generally putting on our suits at the house and running down to the beach in the auto, then climbing in with wet suits on and coming home to dress.

An unusual feature here and one that we enjoy is watching them make moving pictures, there being about 100 outfits in the county in that business. One finds them on the beach, out on the hills or on the streets doing some "stunt" at picture making.

They have been in front of our house the past day or so with a comic auto doing foolish things for a picture. We have seen them making war scenes, cowboy, Salvation Army, comics and on the beaches doing the bump the bums, dippy dip, roller coaster and the various concessions.

Real cowboys, Indians, etc., together with first class actors, give one an idea what the moving picture business calls for these days.

I have been getting the Northwestern regularly and have enjoyed keeping in touch with Sherman county events, the news from the rural routes being especially interesting to anybody owning property there.

Wishing you success with the paper, I am, very truly yours,  
J. N. McLeod.

## Brings Suit Against York College

Lincoln, Neb., 8-22.—Alleging that C. W. and Winton W. Buckley of the York business college misrepresented their school and its surroundings to him and inveigled him into signing a \$170 contract with them for the education of his son, Horatio Van Valkenburg of Peetz, Colo., has brought a suit to the state supreme court involving a plea for \$47 damages and a cancellation of the contract upon which

he says he paid only a small part. In the petition filed in the district court Van Valkenburg alleged that the defendants represented that his son could procure board at \$2.50 a week near the college, but that in fact the lad had to pay \$5 a week a mile from the school. The alleged unsanitary condition of the school is also complained of by the plaintiff.