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SMITH MERRELL HUNG HIMSELF SUNDAY EVENING

Last Sunday evening at 10:20 p. m. the fire whistle blew announcing a fire at the Smith Merrell barn, and the cause of the fire was found to have been caused by Mr. Merrell setting a fire in the haymow and had hung himself from a rafter in the barn. As soon as the firemen arrived his body was taken down and artificial respiration applied, but to no avail, as after 45 minutes he failed to show any return to life.

Mrs. Merrell and Miss Minerva had gone to Ewing that morning and Miss Amolia had stayed at home with her father. We understand that during the day and in the evening he wanted Amolia to go somewhere, but she would not go. In the evening Francis Kimbrough came there and he decided to stay there until Mrs. Merrell came home and he and Amolia drove to the Kimbrough home to let his folks know he would be at Merrell's and during this short absence Mr. Merrell committed the deed. Mrs. Merrell and Minerva returned at this time and Mrs. Merrell got out of the car at the house and Minerva drove the car in the barn and when she got out of the car she smelled smoke. She immediately went to the Harry Bowen residence and asked for help. Elmer and Russell Bowen and Charles Graham went to help and when they got there they saw the smoke coming out of the barn and one of the Bowen boys ran back to his home to turn in the fire alarm. Charles Graham got a pail of water and went up stairs to put out the fire and at that time discovered the body.

Mr. Merrell had started a fire just south of a cream can in the haymow, probably of a catalog or paper box and had gotten up on the cream can and adjusted the rope about his neck and stepped off. The fire only burnt a portion of the floor about 8 to 10 inches square, and did not spread. There was a little loose hay on the floor, but this did not catch. He had also put some papers in his cap and soaked them and his cap with kerosene but this did not catch fire.

Smith Merrell had suffered for years from a pressure on the eye balls that caused total blindness. This was a severe affliction to an active man like him, and no doubt was the direct cause of his act. His home life was made as pleasant as well could be done, and he has been constantly guarded and cared for for years. County Attorney J. D. Cronin and Deputy Sheriff C. C. Bergstrom were called and after viewing the situation decided no inquest would be held as it was a clear case of suicide.

It was a fearful shock to the family and to his many friends, that he should close his life in this manner, yet his affliction was great to a man like Smith Merrell and we must be slow to judge.

The following obituary was read by the Rev. Beers at the funeral services:

Azariah Smith Merrell was born in Jennings county Indiana, January 21, 1863 and departed this life at his home in O'Neill, Sunday evening, May 26th. At the time of his death he was 66 years, 4 months and 5 days of age.

In 1887 he moved from Indiana to Atkinson, Nebraska, going there as

a young man; he resided there for three years; on March 17, 1890, he came to O'Neill where he made his home until his death. September 12, 1898, he was united in marriage to Miss Fredereka Spengler, of O'Neill; to this union three children were born, Oscar W., Tonkawa, Oklahoma; Minerva M. and Amolia, O'Neill.

In March of the year 1908 he and his wife joined the Presbyterian church; he was also a member of the Modern Woodman of America.

He leaves to mourn his death, his wife, three children, three brothers, four sisters and one grand-child, Mary Luella.

Another pioneer of Holt county has gone; he lived here forty-two years; another husband and father taken; another neighbor and friend is with us no more; a good man has lived—has died—we mourn his going.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES

The Holt County Eighth Grade Graduation Exercises were held on Saturday, May 25th, at O'Neill. Most of the 276 graduates who took the state examinations were present at the exercises to receive their diplomas. The day was beautiful and a very large crowd representing every section of the county was present. A picture of the graduates was taken on the court house lawn. The graduates then marched to the K. C. Hall where an entertaining program was given followed by a very helpful and interesting address by Prof. E. E. Emme of the Nebraska Wesleyan University. The graduates were then presented their diplomas by County Superintendent, Luella A. Parker. A special matinee was given at the Royal Theatre showing Ranger in A One Man Dog. Each graduate was given a free ticket to this matinee.

This is a day that will be remembered for years as a stepping stone for a higher education.

Several of the town schools did not require the state examinations of their pupils. Graduates of these schools bring the total number of Eighth Grade Graduates for Holt County for 1929 up to 364.

Following are the pupils who received averages of 90% or higher:

- Average 97%
 - Dist. 44, St. Boniface—Evelyn Mains.
 - Dist. 51—Christie Henkel.
- Average 95%
 - Dist. 21, St. Joseph—Viola Schaaf.
- Average 94%
 - Dist. 30—Walter Fick.
 - Dist. 36—Helen McCaffrey.
 - Dist. 44, St. Boniface—Bertha Kaup.
- Average 93%
 - Dist. 7—Kathryn Hagensick.
 - Dist. 7—Elsa Ohmart.
 - Dist. 20—Cecilia Malloy.
 - Dist. 44, St. Boniface—Victor Hamik.
 - Dist. 48—Nila Renner.
 - Dist. 137—Zetha Hubbard.
 - Dist. 228—Ruth Mulligan.
- Average 92%
 - Dist. 7—Luella Crandall.
 - Dist. 21, St. Joseph's—Rita Cleary.
 - Dist. 23—LaVern Hartford.
 - Dist. 44, St. Boniface—Joseph Kramer.
 - Dist. 44, St. Boniface—Grace Kaup.
 - Dist. 46—Augustine Thiele.
 - Dist. 48—Eileen Renner.
 - Dist. 86—Virginia Clark.
 - Dist. 218—Ila Nelson.
- Average 91%
 - Dist. 5—Violet Anderson.
 - Dist. 16—Franklin Baird.
 - Dist. 20—Luree Ohart.
 - Dist. 20—Anthony O'Donnell.
 - Dist. 29—Dick Brion.
 - Dist. 29—Antonia Calkins.
 - Dist. 48—Marie Chase.
 - Dist. 51—Virginia Damero.
 - Dist. 71—Earl Werth.
 - Dist. 137—LaVern Huston.
 - Dist. 181—Ralph Shaw.
 - Dist. 242—Malinda Baum.
 - Dist. 249—Lynn Frost.
- Average 90%
 - Dist. 9—Leona Jansen.
 - Dist. 30—Merle Leidy.
 - Dist. 30—Ruth Fraka.
 - Dist. 27—James Spindler.
 - Dist. 29—Ruby Service.
 - Dist. 110—June Nisson.
 - Dist. 124—Grace Clasey.
 - Dist. 124—Opal Stevens.
 - Dist. 134—Norma Coppoc.
 - Dist. 137—Annabel Scott.
 - Dist. 184—Tracy Weibel.
 - Dist. 44, St. Boniface—Gibbons Flannigan.
- Average 89%
 - Dist. 218—Alma Lofquist.
 - Dist. 228—Catherine Gilster.
 - Dist. 242—Leonard Vogel.
 - Dist. 192—Clara Cole.

The next state teachers examination will be held on Saturday, June 1st at O'Neill, only.

Most of the schools of the county are now closed for the summer and this office extends wishes for a happy vacation season to all teachers and pupils.

All persons wishing transfers for school privileges must have their cards or petition in this office by the 10th of June.

Margaret Leach closed a very successful term of school at District No. 5 last Friday with a picnic for the pupils and patrons. After a delicious picnic dinner served by the ladies, the afternoon was spent in visiting, playing baseball and horse shoes. Ice cream was served by Miss Leach.

Miss Loretta Shaw closed her 3rd successful term of school at district No. 181 last Tuesday. A very interesting program was well rendered by ted badges of citizenship as members of Uncle Sam's Boys and Girls Club. The pupils and teacher had organized this club several months ago. Its main object being to promote good citizenship in the school and community. Patrons of this district are ambitious and energetic. They are anxious to do everything possible to make their school one of the best. Within a short time they have brought their school up to the requirements for State Standardization. At the close

of the exercises County Superintendent Luella A. Parker, after a short talk, presented the district with a Standardization plate. A delightful dinner was served after which the men, aided by the ladies set out 200 good sized Jack Pine trees.

A few years ago persons passing the school house would give it only a passing glance and make slighting jokes regarding the "sand hill shanty." Within a short time a new building has been built, the unsightly grounds beautified by trees and shrubs until now it is very attractive spot. The patrons of district 181 may well be proud of their achievement.

CLASS HISTORY

The following article a part of the high school commencement program which was left over from last week.

(By Violet Strube)

It seems a long, long time ago since we entered this Public School. It was a bright, peaceful September morning when we presented ourselves at the door of this splendid institution of learning. Most of us were accompanied by one or both of our parents.

We were first presented to our teacher. We found our surroundings most novel and interesting. Our kindergarten teacher was Miss Wilkinson.

Those struggling, wailing infants left, who kept up the fight thus far are:

Phoebe Abdouch, Velda Sanders, Florence Roseler, Bennett Gillespie, Lona Cromwell, Amolia Merrell, Loretta Saunto, Charles Hancock and Ray Toy. We learned quite a lot in that first year of school, most of all to keep quiet (which most of us have forgotten by now).

The next year we were able to come to school unaccompanied by our parents. The first grade teacher was Miss Irenaia Biglin. I am sure we all envy her pupils this year. Our second grade teacher was Miss Bridget Carr.

The third grade was a rather interesting one.

Our first teacher was Miss Craig. She was replaced about the middle of the term by Miss Mary Fitzsimmons. While in this grade the Woman's club sponsored a dandelion contest. The object was to see which of the grades could dig up the most dandelions. I doubt if there was a dandelion left in town after the contest. The best feature of the contest was the fact that our class, the third grade, won the contest. The prize was a case of pop, very well earned.

Gladys Williams and Violet Strube entered school this year. Velda Sanders left and Eva Spengler stayed part of the term.

The fourth grade teacher was Miss Meta Martin. I think Phoebe can remember the paper wads, the black board and the teacher. Kenneth had his ears boxed.

The fifth grade teacher was Miss Stuckenholz. Beryl Winchell enrolled this year to add her wit to the already exceptionally bright class. Eva Spengler again appeared on the scene.

The sixth grade teacher was Miss Bea Murphy. I don't believe Amolia's love for her has ceased. Vira Eidenmiller also enrolled in the sixth grade.

The seventh grade teacher was Miss Alice Treihy. This was not a very interesting year.

In the eighth grade our teacher was

Mary G. Horiskey. At the Commencement exercises our teacher had Mr. Charles B. Scott announce that we were the best class that she had ever had. We were certainly proud and excited that night. Helen Pinkerman left us to continue her work at the convent.

It is not the nature of youth, we are told, to live in the past, but we do have many pleasant memories of our high school days, and you are now requested to turn back with us and train your glasses on some of the foot prints from our high school days.

After much excitement and worry over registration and the like we were duly entered as freshmen and started on the road for the Land of Great Wisdom. After wandering around from room to room for several days trying to learn what studies we were supposed to pursue, we settled down to business, some well satisfied with conditions and others feeling sorry that we had ever left the eighth grade and plunged into the untried depth of high school life.

At first each teacher seemed uglier than each of the others and tried to see how unbearable she could make life for the sophisticated Freshmen. After a time we learned it was not meanness on their part but what they were pleased to call "Discipline".

After we became acquainted with the teacher and were accustomed to their exquisite, though some think peculiar manner, we loved them all and our affection has not ceased even unto this day. Even when they marked us 45 on our examination papers when we thought we should have received 95, we have never wavered in our admiration of them, one and all.

Charles Graham, Anita Knapp, Merle Omart, Mae Peter, Eldon McPharlin, Joseph Donohoe, Shobert Edwards, Neva Oberle, Ambrose Rohde, and Helen Cleary entered school in that Freshman year. Velda Sanders again joined our ranks.

With what a different air we entered as proud, domineering sophomores to that of the preceding year as humble and timid freshmen. There came into our midst a great number of freshmen whose greenness could never be described. Those who entered our class this year were: Ivy Langmack, Margery Grutsch and Maude Fuller. Helen Pinkerman enrolled in our class again.

As we entered the Junior Class we realized we were one step nearer the goal of our ambition. We gave only the most pitying glances at the Sophomores. We were upper Classmen. It would take a volume to write the history of that Junior Year. The Junior play was "The Hoodoo", it was said to have been well given.

Francis Tenborg, Virgil Johnson, Francis Kimbrough, and Daisy Calhoun entered school here in our Junior year.

Never did the breast of the king coronation day swell with such joy and pride as did ours as we entered the high school as Seniors. We looked neither to the right nor to the left as with dignified step and compressed lips we took our places for the last lap of the journey that would place us "Out of School Life and into Life's School."

Our Senior page of history is near the close. We could unfold to you tales of joy, of companionship, of happiness on the one hand and of sorrow, jealousies, and petty grievances on the other. We shall not dwell on those but let time smooth

out the clouded side until rays of sweet memories and dear friendships subdue all else.

Now we, the Class of '29 stand at the portal where the doors swing outward to the varied and many paths of life. Our history cannot be written by any one of us but by our ideals, our characters and our individual lives.

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