

ALTERED NOTE LOSS TO BANK

Nebraska Supreme Court Decides in Favor of Sign- er of Instrument

Lincoln, Neb. — (Special) — The Farmers' State bank of Genoa lost in supreme court in an effort to compel Axel Anderson to pay the \$780 note that he made in 1927 and due, according to the date fixed therein. In order to use the note for collateral, the banker then in charge, changing the date of maturity by writing "8" over the "7" in the note. This made it a note due in the future instead of one past due, and later when the bank sought to recover from Anderson the court held that the alteration was of such a character as invalidated the instrument.

LIFE TERM PRISONER GIVEN COMMUTATION

Lincoln, Neb. — (UP) — Having his life sentence commuted to 27 years in the state penitentiary was the Christmas present received this year by Frank Connell, lifer.

The announcement of the commutation of his sentence was made Thursday by the board of pardons. Connell started serving a life sentence October 6, 1916, for the murder of two members of a posse who attempted to capture Connell and his companion, Frank Lukins, after they had robbed the First State bank of Sunol, in Cheyenne county. Connell won publicity this fall when he was awarded first prize in the Ak-Sar-Ben diamond jubilee for an essay he had written on the contribution that the pioneer had made to Nebraska.

Seven other inmates of the penitentiary were granted "Christmas presents" by being paroled by the board of pardons, five won commutations; three were denied paroles, two were denied commutation and among the reformatory inmates, four won paroles and three were denied paroles. The cases of these prisoners were heard by the board December 10.

Charles W. P. Sealing, convicted four years ago of second degree murder in connection with the shooting of Chief of Police Asa Ransom, of Minden, also won commutation of his 12-year sentence, meted out by a Kearney county court. The 12 jurors who had convicted him had signed a petition asking clemency.

TEN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL BOYS GIVEN PAROLES

Lincoln, Neb. — (UP) — Ten youths, serving sentences in the state industrial school at Kearney, were granted paroles by the state pardon board, it is announced. The cases were heard at Kearney December 12 in the first one to be held under an opinion granting the board such powers.

SISTERS ASPHYXIATED AT GRAND ISLAND

Grand Island, Neb. — Miss Gertrude Lippelt, about 50 years old, a teacher at Grand Island college, and her sister, Mrs. Marie Kirby, about 55 years old, were found dead when officers, forcibly entered the little cottage they were occupying near the college campus.

Neighbors had not seen trace of the sisters for the last few days and suggested the investigation. Indications pointed to either asphyxiation from a hard coal burner, or a suicide pact. They died some time Thursday night or Friday morning. It is believed. A post mortem will be undertaken to determine definitely the cause of death.

Both bodies, fully dressed, lay on the floor of the room containing the base burner stove. That of Miss Lippelt had several cushions under it.

GET HANDSOME RETURN FROM ALFAFA SEED

Chadron, Neb. — Wealth of Dawes and Sioux counties has been increased between \$150,000 and \$200,000 in the last three months by shipments of alfalfa seed, according to an estimate furnished by Wes Williams, representative of an eastern concern.

Mr. Williams has handled nine carloads of seed, loaded in Chadron and raised in this vicinity. The balance of estimated shipments from this section of Nebraska was handled by a Nebraska alfalfa seed association, a co-operative organization, in Crawford.

PUT OUT WHEAT CROP CONTRARY TO CONTRACT

Lincoln, Neb. — (Special) — The supreme court decided against Peter E. Nelson in his case against the Union Central Life Insurance company originating in the district court of Burt county in which he sought to recover for a crop of wheat planted on a farm rented from an agent of the company. The company sought to sell the land, later disposing of it to Alfred Anderson. The arrangement was that Nelson should not plant wheat because it could not be harvested until the following year, but a hail storm left him with 33 acres devoid of crops and he planted wheat. He claimed that an agent of the company saw the planting and told him it was all right, but the company held that the agent had no authority and the court upheld this claim.

WORKMEN HURT WHEN KEROSENE TANK EXPLODES

Falls City, Neb. — (UP) — Two workmen were burned severely when excessive pressure caused a kerosene fuel tank to explode on the new bridge spanning the Nemaha river on federal highway No. 73 south of here.

O. W. Finney suffered burns on his leg and R. M. McClain sustained facial injuries. The tank was being used for the riveter on the span, which is still under construction.

COURT AWARDS 23 CHRISTMAS DIVORCES

Omaha, Neb. — (UP) — Twenty three persons received divorce certificates for Christmas presents here. Judge Herbert Rhoades, of domestic relations court, passed out the "presents" Tuesday. Usually domestic relations court vacations during Christmas week but was kept open this year because of a heavy docket.

REPORTS 1929 CROP RETURNS

Yield from Nebraska's Soil Was 4 Per Cent Greater Than in 1928

Lincoln, Neb. — (UP) — Nebraska's soil yielded crops this year that were valued at \$346,915,000, exceeding the \$326,666,000 value placed on the 1928 crop. A. E. Anderson, federal and state agricultural statistician, announces.

The value of the 1929 crops has been exceeded only twice in the last 10 years, and three crops, one of them barley, set new records. The acreage in cultivation was more than 2 per cent greater than last year and the yields were 4 per cent more than the 10-year average.

Despite a growing season that was unusual in many ways, 20 crops showed increases in production over last year and only nine crops showed lower production. Early prospects for a poor wheat crop turned into a most promising condition that remained until within two weeks of the harvest and finally ended in disappointment, Anderson said. The condition of corn began to deteriorate in July and continued throughout August but finally produced a crop above last year and above the average.

NORRIS FINDS GRIEF AT HOME

Nebraska Senator Taken to Task for Stand on Water Control

McCook, Neb. — (UP) — H. D. Strunk, publisher of the McCook Gazette, and one of Senator Norris' staunchest friends, has taken the Nebraska senator to task because he refused to join with the newspaper and the Twin Valleys association of Commercial clubs in the flood-irrigation program.

The Gazette is published in the senator's home town and is the mouthpiece for the association which includes representatives of 40 towns in its membership. The association is seeking to have the government place reservoirs on tributary streams of the Mississippi to allay flood dangers of the big river. These stored waters would also provide irrigation.

In answer to Norris' letter that the irrigation program would be a worth while project but that the group advocating it must prepare itself for a fight on the power trust, Strunk replied in an open letter: "Your letter indicates that you are so far removed from the interests of the state you represent that you fail to recognize the sentiments of the people. It shows that you prefer a fight in preference to joining hands with your home people and assisting in putting across the biggest measure that has come before the national congress since you have been a member of that body."

"It shows that you are so imbued with the idea that power trusts have contaminated every living soul in the United States excepting yourself that you fail to recognize the sincerity and integrity of your friends 'back home' who are responsible for your past successes."

DENIES PADLOCKS FOR 48 OMAHA PLACES

Omaha, Neb. — (UP) — Federal Judge Woodruff disposed of the liquor injunction docket in federal court Monday in speedy order. He ordered two notorious places padlocked but refused similar action for 48 other places.

HOWELLS WAR VETERAN TO RECEIVE PENSION

Howells, Neb. — (Special) — George T. Piala, one of the first Colfax county boys to volunteer for service in the World war, has received word from Congressman Howard that he will receive a pension of \$40 a month, dating from August 1, 1926. Piala served in the navy, most of the time on a submarine chaser. His sight was permanently injured in service and he suffered otherwise physically from his service.

BAYARD, NEB. BANK CLOSES ITS DOORS

Bayard, Neb. — (UP) — Frozen assets are blamed for the failure of the State bank of Bayard, the second oldest financial institution in the North Platte valley, to open its doors here Monday. The deposits in the bank approximated \$350,000.

There is one other bank in Bayard, a national bank. The state bank was founded in 1888. It was capitalized at \$25,000 and had a surplus of \$25,000.

MUST ANSWER FOR ROBBERY AT FREMONT

Lincoln, Neb. — (UP) — William A. Spicer, 24 years old, of St. Joseph Mo., and his two 20-year-old girl companions were taken to Fremont Monday, where Spicer is wanted in connection with the theft of merchandise from a shoe store.

Healthiest Boy and Girl in U. S.



Florence Smock, of Florida and Harold Deatlina, of Indiana, both seventeen, were picked as the two healthiest youngsters in the United States. at the National Health Contest held in connection with the National Live Stock Exposition, Chicago.

Foolish Conceptions of Duty Mar Naturalization Hearings

Miss Martha Jane Graber, a native of Germany, but now a resident of Ohio, recently appeared before the court of common pleas of Allen county, in that state, asking to be made a citizen of the United States.

The court asked her if she would be willing to serve in the army in time of war—a ridiculous question since we have not yet drafted women into our army. Miss Graber replied that she would be glad to serve in her profession, which is that of nurse.

Asked what she would do if in time of war the country called her to go to the front, she said she would go as a nurse. Listen to the rest of it:
Q. That does not answer my question. Suppose you were called upon to act as a combatant in time of war for the United States. Would you fight?
A. That would not be professional as a nurse.
Q. That does not answer the question. Are you willing to fight for the United States if need be? I mean take up arms in defense of the United States.
A. I cannot kill, but I would be willing to give my life.
Q. Do I understand that you mean that you would be unwilling to fight for the United States?
A. Do you mean by "fighting," killing?
Q. I do if necessary. Such is war, Miss Graber. . . . The question is whether or not, in time of war, if need be you are willing to shed blood in defense of the United States.
A. I said I would be willing to shed my own blood in defense of the United States.
Q. I am not asking you as to your willingness to shed your own blood; I am asking you as to your willingness to shed the blood of others if need be.
A. I could not conscientiously do that.

Miss Graber said that she loved this country, that she preferred its kind of government to any other, that she had attended public schools in Kansas and Ohio, and that she had no connection whatever with Germany, where she was born.

But the court was not satisfied. Summarizing again his specific inquiry whether this woman, this nurse whose life is dedicated to healing instead of destroying, would be willing to kill other people, he demanded and got this final answer:
"As I said before, I could not bear arms; I could not kill, but I am willing to be sacrificed for this country."
The court: "The petition of the applicant will be dismissed."

With that strange proceeding before the American people as a court of appeal, so that they might weigh that cruel third degree probing of this woman's soul, her pathetic willingness to die for her adopted country and her noble and womanly refusal to say that she would kill, one might ask that great court of last appeal this question, and await the answer with confidence:
Which, on the face of that record, is fitter to be a citizen of the United States—that nurse who would serve and die but who would not kill, or that judge of the court of common pleas of Allen county, in Ohio?

Field of Research Needs Enthusiasm

Manchester, Eng.—That the key to successful research will be found in the development of the individual enthusiasm of research workers was the contention maintained by Dr. F. A. Freeth, at the annual joint meeting of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical society, the Society of Chemical Industry, the Institute of Chemistry and the Society of Dyers and Colorists (Manchester section).

A great difference exists, asserted Dr. Freeth, between the man who is filled with a kind of "glorious obsession" and a man who is merely doing the work in order to earn a living.

Dr. Freeth believed that in the future research would not be affected by trades, but by the activities of various sections of natural science, into which all the affected trades would harmoniously fit.

Q. Can oysters be grown on the Maine coast? E. M. R.
A. Oysters were formerly plentiful on the Maine coast, as evidenced by the piles of oyster shells left by the Indians, which were found by the early settlers. The natural oyster beds have, however, all been destroyed. Oysters could be planted on the coast of Maine, but they would reproduce only in exceptionally warm summers, as the water on the coast of Maine is, ordinarily, too cold.

to territory, power and wealth, is today the sure road to ruin. No nation can today afford war. The United States, incomparably the richest of the nations, cannot afford it. And it is an astonishing thing that the United States, which has no predatory design, which in the words of Woodrow Wilson in his famous Mobile speech, "covets no neighbor's foot of soil," is today spending more money on its army and navy than any other nation in the world.
Q. When was opera first broadcast? S. B.
A. It was first broadcast, November 11, 1921, from Chicago.

BANK ROBBER HAS SENTENCE CUT DOWN

Lincoln, Neb. — (Special) — The sentence of Mike Casey, sentenced in Cedar county for bank robbery, was reduced to 13 years, with time allowed for good behavior. He was sentenced in November, 1921, to serve 20 years for robbing a bank. The two men who were his accomplices were sentenced to 10 years each and were released from the penitentiary some time ago.

STATE BANKING OUTLOOK GOOD

Head of Nebraska Association Notes Trend Toward Better Practices

Gering, Neb. — (UP) — A state that has its potential wealth built on an ever-productive soil surely must be headed for financial stability, and Nebraskans can look forward to 1930 with renewed confidence in the general banking situation, A. N. Mathers, of Gering, president of the Nebraska Bankers' association, says in an exclusive statement to the United Press.

"Visionary politicians, unworkable laws, too many banks, drastic deflation, dishonesty and incompetency, as serious and threatening as it may appear at times, can no more destroy the great sound banking and financial structure of the state than periodical hail, drought or frost, can destroy Nebraska's agricultural and industrial progress," Mathers declared.

During the last year, Mathers has noted the unmistakable drift of the depositors to pick those banks that are the strongest, safest and most carefully managed. This action of an intelligent public in taking more care where to do its banking may accelerate some bank failures and hasten bank mergers, Mathers said. But out of it all he believes, will come increased banking resources that will grow in direct proportion to Nebraska's agricultural and industrial stability and growth.

GOVERNOR MAY OUST SHERIFF

Lincoln, Neb. — (UP) — A decision will be given Friday by Gov. Arthur Weaver in the case of O. Ed Swanson, whose removal as sheriff of Kimball county has been asked.

Following the filing of affidavits concerning the sheriff's alleged conduct, Governor Weaver held a hearing several weeks ago to investigate the charges of Kimball county residents. Sheriff Swanson blamed the charges to a political maneuver to oust him from office and denied the accusations that he had been intoxicated and had conspired with bootleggers in Kimball county.

As none of the sheriff's accusers appeared against him at the hearing before the governor, Weaver had officers from State Sheriff W. C. Condit's office investigate the charges also to learn the other side of the story.

Sheriff Swanson had intimated that his accusers did not appear against him because many of them were serving jail sentences.

GIRL'S ATTACKER TO BE PLACED ON TRIAL

Omaha, Neb. — (UP) — Charles Egbert, accused attacker of Miss Marie Panek, goes on trial in district court here January 6. Death penalty may be demanded under the state kidnapping law, County Attorney Beal said.

Egbert and a youthful companion, Keith Helme, drove the girl to a secluded spot after offering to take her home from a dance. She was beaten badly when she said she had resisted Egbert's advances. She spent several weeks in a hospital.

Beal holds that enticing the girl and carrying her away under protest constitutes kidnapping. No date has been set for the trial of Helme.

HALF MILLION IN TAX REFUNDS FOR NEBRASKANS

Omaha, Neb. — (UP) — Nebraskans benefited by more than \$500,000 in tax refunds announced by the federal treasury department. The Osler C. Thompson estate at Spalding was the largest beneficiary, receiving a refund of \$104,301. Other refunds included: William A. Wolfe estate, of Beatrice, \$18,627; Mrs. Arthur D. Brandels, of Omaha, \$64,219; Fairmont Creamery company, \$83,841; Bankers Reserve Life, \$61,928; Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway company, \$41,111; Union Stock Yards, \$11,758; R. C. Peters, of Omaha, president of the recently failed Peters Trust company, \$17,707, and Joseph L. Barker, of Omaha, \$10,891.

AUTO TOLL IN OMAHA 50 FOR THE YEAR

Omaha, Neb. — (UP) — Automobile fatalities for 1928 in Douglas county reached the total of 50 Friday with death of Mrs. Olivia Sorenson, 72 years old, who was run down by a car driven by Allan Davis, 17 years old, on the street here Thursday night.

NEBRASKA POTATOES GO SOUTH FOR SEED

Alliance, Neb. — Shipping of certified seed potatoes from western Nebraska into the southern states potato belt is going along at a brisk pace. During the next four weeks around 200 carloads of the high grade potato stock will go to the planters in the Louisiana territory, where the planting season is now beginning.

CORN HUSKING WELL ADVANCED

Report of Statistician Shows Nebraska Farm Condi- tions Favorable

Lincoln, Neb. — (UP) — With conditions ideal for the winter wheat and with corn husking further advanced than last year at this time, farm conditions are very favorable at the end of the year, A. E. Anderson, federal and state agricultural statistician, said in his mid-December crop report.

Farm conditions look favorable for next year, Anderson said. The present moisture supply has made conditions most ideal for wheat and has reduced the chance for winter killing. The coming spring season should start out with one of the most favorable sub-soil moisture conditions in years, which is an important factor in Nebraska crop production, the statistician said.

About three fourths of the corn is husked and husking is farther along than a year ago despite the delay caused by rainy weather. About 77.6 per cent of the corn is husked as compared to about 75 per cent a year ago.

The per cent of cattle on feed in the various sections of Nebraska as compared to last year are: west section, 81 per cent; north central section, 75 per cent; north east section, 90 per cent; central section, 98 per cent; east central section, 68 per cent; southwest section, 92 per cent; south central section, 90 per cent; south east section, 89 per cent.

The per cent of hogs for market in the various sections of Nebraska as compared to 1928 are: west section, 86 per cent; north central section, 97 per cent; north east section, 96 per cent; central section, 98 per cent; east central section, 92 per cent; south west section, 93 per cent; south central section, 90 per cent; south east section, 98 per cent.

BUSINESS METHODS NOT USED IN T. B. TESTING?

Lincoln, Neb. — (UP) — Charges that the state did not use business methods in conducting its first test of cattle for tuberculosis in Lancaster county in 1926-27 are made in letters sent to state officers by county commissioners who protested against the expense that may be incurred for re-testing ordered to commence December 30.

The letters, addressed to Gov. Arthur Weaver and Secretary McLaughlin, of the agricultural department, declared the first test was unsatisfactory in that the mileage charged by state veterinarians for traveling would have been sufficient to have traveled every road in the county several times.

Claims were made that the state incurred unnecessary bills and the commissioners threatened to ask for an itemized statement for every cow tested in the coming retest if better business methods were not used.

HE WOULD PROSECUTE OFFICERS OF BANK

Lincoln, Neb. — (UP) — Criminal prosecution for felonious acts of the officers of the First State bank, of North Bend, is recommended by A. C. Shallenberger, chief bank investigator, in his report on the closed state bank.

GOVERNOR PLANNING PUBLIC RECEPTION

Lincoln, Neb. — (UP) — A New Year's reception will be held for the public at the capitol building, Gov. Arthur Weaver announces. The public reception will be held in the building from 3 to 6 p. m. New Year's day, Weaver said. Whether the reception line will be in the main foyer of the capitol or in the reception room of the governor had not been decided.

The public reception will follow a dinner given at the executive mansion by Governor and Mrs. Weaver to the elective officers. This will be held at 7 p. m.

NEBRASKA BEET CROP NEARLY ALL HARVESTED

Scottsbluff, Neb. — (UP) — Beet pulling in western Nebraska is nearly completed, according to officials of refining companies, who estimated that in the Scottsbluff, Gering, Mitchell and Dyman districts had planted a total of 44,000 acres.

In the entire Nebraska district of the Great Western Sugar company there is slightly less than 1 per cent of the crop remaining in the ground. It is stated. It is believed that it will be possible to harvest the entire crop the first of January by taking advantage of favorable periods of weather.

WAKEFIELD WOMAN IN CAR WHEN MAN KILLED

Lincoln — (UP) — Thrown from his automobile after it had collided with a wagon load of hay, Herbert H. Bradley, 57 years old, of Lincoln, was killed instantly when one of the horses drawing the hayrack fell on him.

Mrs. L. L. Lewellen and her two daughters, Mary Ellen, 10 years old, and Dorothy Frances, 8 years old, of Wakefield, riding with Bradley, were only slightly bruised and cut. The tongue of the wagon passed through the windshield but did not strike them.

Mrs. Lewellen had been picked up by Bradley who was taking the three to spend Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Lester L. Dawson, of Lincoln, parents of Mrs. Lewellen.

ACCUSED OF POISON ATTEMPT, HELD INSANE

Omaha, Neb. — (UP) — Joseph Shepard, 69 years old, accused of attempting to murder Mrs. Lawrence Stone, his landlady and John Voss and Earl Kelly, fellow roomers, has been adjudged insane by Douglas county insanity commission. Shepard was alleged to have placed poison in food and in a bottle of whisky in a fit of jealousy because he thought Mrs. Stone, with whom he was enamored, was accepting attentions of the younger men. All of his alleged victims recovered from effects of the poison.