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CORRESPONDENCE

Interesting Items Gathered
by Our County Reporters

WALNUT CREEK

Mrs. Arneson is visiting with Mrs. John Sutton.

Frank Blankenbaker bought an organ a few days ago.

John Sutton and Fay Arneson took a trip to Red Cloud Tuesday.

Oliver Sutton bought a fine organ and sewing machine last week.

Two land buyers from Alma were out on the creek looking around, Thursday.

Alfred Coulson has gone to McCook with the intention of going on the road as brakeman.

Mr. and Mrs. Linehart of Norman were out in an automobile visiting relatives on the creek.

BLADEN

School commenced Tuesday.

Tom McTigh spent Sunday in Campbell.

Charles Spence has returned from Illinois.

T. L. Paugh is visiting at the home of A. Reed.

The Baptists are holding services at the church this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Byrd Kile are spending the week in Hastings.

Quite a snow fall here Tuesday and made rabbit hunting good.

Vet Widdersheim and wife spent Sunday at Ernest Reed's.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Feis were passengers for Blue Hill Tuesday.

Mrs. George Newhouse and children

returned to Red Cloud Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Reed spent Sunday at the home of Fred Reed's.

Mrs. James McBride returned to Cowles Friday, after spending a week with her parents.

Mrs. Litters returned to Grand Island, after visiting her sisters, Mrs. Kile and Mrs. Frazier.

Mrs. Carrie Adams and children returned to Hastings Thursday, after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wash Reed.

U. S. Macklin left for Culbertson Monday. Mrs. Macklin and children left Thursday evening. Miss Grace Reed accompanied them and will remain with them till they get settled in their new home.

Local Grain Market.

(Furnished by J. P. Delaney)

Wheat	66c
Old shelled corn	30c
New shelled Corn	29c
Ear Corn, new	23c
Oats	47c
Rye	28c
Barley	28c

VAMPIRE BATS.

They Are Fond of Veal Blood and Cause Death of Many Calves.

Vampire bats are found by thousands in Veragas and Ciriqui. They are particularly fond of veal blood, but older stock and horses, colts, mules and burros all suffer. I did not catch a vampire at his work, though I saw hundreds of them, but the cattlemen all tell the same story. The vampire settles somewhere on the back of the beast in the pasture at night and then, while slowly fanning its wings to and fro, cuts a circular piece of skin one-quarter of an inch in diameter. Through this hole he sucks the blood till satisfied.

One wound would be of little consequence, nor would the loss of blood do

much damage were that all, but half a dozen vampires may feast on one poor calf or on the back of a saddle horse in one night. The calf is badly weakened by the loss of blood, while a saddle horse so served is worthless until the wounds are entirely healed. But that is not the worst result of the bite. The region swarms with a pestiferous fly that soon after daylight finds the wound and lays eggs in it. Unless the wound is properly cleaned and dressed with a waxy salve within forty-eight hours after the vampire's attack the animal will be destroyed by the progeny of the fly. The percentage of calves thus killed is large in spite of the watchfulness of the cow herders.—Panama Correspondent.

Smoking Customs.

Among the Bechuans of Africa it is the custom for the people when smoking to take a limber twig, which they bend into the form of a semicircle and then bury in mud. This is well pounded down, and when the earth is sufficiently set the twig is withdrawn, leaving a hole which answers the purpose of a pipestem. Tobacco is placed in the excavation.

The Hawaiian natives habitually swallow the smoke, and a few whiffs are enough to produce intoxication. This drawback, however, has its compensating advantage, since the exhaustion of a single pipe is enough to produce wholesale inebriation, as it is passed from mouth to mouth.

The Kaffirs smoke dagha tobacco, a species of hemp, in a water pipe resembling the hookah.

A Solemn Occasion.

When a certain well known comedian, who prided himself on his fun making ability, was "starring" in Edinburgh his landlord, who seldom attended any public place save the kirk, asked him if he would oblige him with a "pass for the playhouse." This favor was readily granted, and the "gude man" donned his best black suit and witnessed the comedian's two greatest humorous impersonations. Meeting his landlord the next morning, the comed-

an asked how he liked the performance. "Weel," said the Scotsman, "it pleased me in fac' gey weel, and I coseeder you played unco' natural-like, but heigh, man, I had a hard job to keep mysel' frae laughing."

Holmes on Poetry.

When I feel inclined to read poetry, I take down my dictionary. The poetry of words is quite as beautiful as that of sentences. The author may arrange the gems effectively, but their shape and luster have been given by the attrition of ages. Bring me the finest simile from the whole range of imaginative writing, and I will show you a single word which conveys a more profound, a more accurate and a more eloquent analogy.—"Autocrat of the Breakfast Table."

The Family Scrapbook.

Mrs. Sauters (to Willy, as minister calls to see Mr. Sauters)—Willy, is your father in? Willy—Yes, he's upstairs looking over your scrapbook. Mrs. Sauters (puzzled)—You mean my family account book? Willy—Well, it's all the same. He and you always have a scrap every time he goes over it.

Never Gives Up.

He—My motto is, "Never give up."
She—Yes; I've frequently noticed it in a crowded street car.—Philadelphia Record.

Denmark Claims Nelson.

The Danes maintain that Admiral Nelson was one of their race, despite the fact that he was born in England. They point out that the name is Danish and that many Danes were settlers in East Anglia. They consoled themselves over their defeat at the battle of Copenhagen with the thought that the victor was one of their own race. At least one Scandinavian historian refers to his family as "one of the most brilliant examples of noble English families descended from the Northmen."

Discouraging.

At the close of an address during an electioneering campaign in Ireland questions were invited. A man was making for the platform when he received a whack over the head with a stick. He was stunned and had to be carried out amid an uproar. When order was restored the chairman rose and blandly asked:

"Is there any other gentleman who would like to ask a question?"
Needless to say, there was not.

Curiosity.

Irate Parent (who has been trying to satisfy John's curiosity on every known subject under the sun)—Now, Johnnie, if you ask me another question I'll whip you on the spot. Johnnie (whose undying curiosity overcomes even the dread of punishment)—Wh-wh-what spot, papa?

His Advantage.

First Man—How do you do? Second Man—Beg pardon, but you have the advantage of me. First Man—Yes, I guess I have. We were engaged to the same girl, but you married her.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

All affectations of knowledge are more odious than any lack of knowledge can be.—Sprat.

MEMORY OF TURTLES.

Lay Their Eggs Almost in the Same Place Year After Year.

During the summer months from May to August the big sea turtles lay their eggs on the beach. They come possibly hundreds of miles, and if undisturbed will land within a few yards of the same place year after year. They crawl up the beach in the night and make their nest in the sand just above high water mark. I have watched them from behind a sandhill but a few feet away.

They dig the hole with their hind flippers, and after covering it over, first filling it with eggs, they will go a few feet and make another place, I always thought as a blind, for one looks just like the other. They lay each month, usually during the high tides of that month, beginning in May and ending in August, from 90 to 185 eggs. During the summer I found and brought into camp 2,755 eggs. I put some in the sand near our camp, and in twenty-seven days the top eggs hatched, the rest in three days more. The little turtles would dig out, raise their little heads and sniff the air a moment, then start for the river, 100 yards away. It was always a mystery to me how a turtle could find the same place on the shore when a short distance out at sea it all looks alike—just sandy ridges, with scrub palmetto and coarse grass.—Forest and Stream.

OUTWITTED THE BOERS.

Rhodes' Clever Scheme to Avoid Giving the Enemy Information.

Lord Harris tells an interesting story of how Colonel Frank Rhodes outwitted the Boers. It concerns the relief of Mafeking. As Colonel Mahon approached Mafeking from the south Colonel Plumer was approaching it from the north, and Colonel Mahon received the following questions from Colonel Plumer by heliograph: First—What is your strength? Second—How many guns have you? Third—How are you off for stores and provisions?

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Colonel Mahon would not allow any answer to be sent for fear of the Boers trapping it on the way, until Colonel Frank Rhodes suggested the following replies, which were approved. The key is attached in brackets: Naval and military multiplied by ten. [The number of the Navy and Military club in Piccadilly is 94, multiplied by ten approximated their strength of 1,000.] As many as there are boys in the Ward family. [Lord Dudley and his brothers.]

Colonel Mahon protested as regards this that there would be no one who would know, but Colonel Rhodes assured him that Colonel Weston Jarvis, who was with Colonel Plumer, would be sure to. Officer commanding Ninth lancers. [Colonel Little, known as "Small" Little.]

The answers were received and correctly decoded.

Death of Judge Tuley.

Milwaukee, Dec. 26.—Judge Murray F. Tuley of Chicago died at the Penoyer sanitarium, in Kenosha. He went to the sanitarium on Oct. 31, suffering from nervous exhaustion, caused by overwork.