

SCHOOL CLOSED BY TARANTULA

Poisonous Insect Escapes in Building, Students Given Vacation

Bloomfield Neb. (Special)—All pupils in the new high school building here were dismissed Wednesday forenoon when it was discovered that a live tarantula was at large in the building. The tarantula had been kept in a glass jar, the top of which was covered with a piece of mosquito netting to keep the big insect from making his escape. In some way, the tarantula managed to force his way through the netting and get away. Fearing that it might bite some of the pupils, Superintendent Priest dismissed school for the day and search was made for the tarantula. So far, the big bug has not been found and it has been decided to give the building a thorough fumigation with the idea that the spider will be killed by the fumes. In the meantime, the pupils had an unexpected vacation.

SNOW THWARTED THIS FIRE BUG

Elaborate Plan to Burn Fremont Concern Had Providential Failure

Fremont, Neb. (UP)—Fall-fire extinguisher frustrated what Dodge county officers called a clever plot to burn the Simonson Serum plant near Hooper. The sheriff and his deputy started investigation of the fire. The blaze did little damage, but if arrangements had been successful, the whole plant would have been destroyed, it was thought. The incendiary displayed the ability of an expert electrician, the sheriff said. It was found that someone had tapped an electric light wire in the building, which was then connected to two other wires and looped to an alarm clock. The clock was set for 3:15 a. m. When the alarm went off, a contact was to be made which would cause the wire to become hot and ignite a pile of rags, which in turn would set fire to a gallon can of gasoline nearby. A short distance from the small can of gasoline was a larger one, which was to explode and cause enough flame to ignite the building. The contrivance worked perfectly as far as it went the sheriff explained. The alarm went off and caught the rags and the flames shot up through the roof following the explosion, snow began to melt over where the fire was burning. The three-gallon can never was ignited and the building was saved with little damage. The sheriff believes that if the incendiary had taken the snow into consideration and placed the gasoline cans closer together, the plot would have succeeded. The persons who set the fire, it was said, had even gone so far as to destroy the gasoline engine used for pumping water into the building. Officials of the serum company are unable to explain why anyone should want to set the building on fire.

NOBBARA MAN TO BE CANDIDATE AGAIN

Lincoln, Neb. (UP)—Among political filings with the secretary of state today were: State Senator Allen S. Stinson, of Niobrara, democrat, for renomination in the tenth district; State Senator Charles H. Meacham, of Dorchester, republican, for renomination in the 18th district.

STATE LAND OIL RIGHTS LAID TO WYOMING CONCERN

Lincoln, Neb. (UP)—Oil and mineral rights on the 330 acres of state land in Franklin county were granted the Ohio Oil company of Casper, Wyo., today. The land is located about five miles south of Riverton. The state reserves one eighth of the oil or other mineral production.

SPRING FLOWING IN BEGUN IN YORK COUNTY

York, Neb. (UP)—Spring plowing was started last week in York county, Carl Scamehorn, York farmer, said today. The ground was in excellent condition, he said, and could not have been expected to work any better than it did. Recent moisture has been a great benefit to the wheat, Scamehorn said, and added that it did not hurt cattle feeding.

HARTINGTON SCHOOL HEAD GOING TO BOSTON MEETING

Hartington, Neb. (Special)—Miss Myrtle Scoville, superintendent of the Hartington public schools, will leave Tuesday, February 21, for Boston where she will attend the national meeting of superintendents February 26 to 29. Miss Scoville plans to visit Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, and New York while she is in the east.

MISSING YOUTH SENDS SISTER BOX OF CANDY

Scottsbluff, Neb. (UP)—A sister of John Steen, Nebraska Wesleyan student who has been reported missing since February 6, received a box of candy from him on Valentine's day, postmarked Los Angeles. No word was received from the missing youth, but with fears for his safety allayed, his father, Dr. C. G. Steen, who has been in Lincoln and Omaha, sent word that he would return home Saturday. No further search for the youth will be made, it was indicated.

RETAILERS NOT AGREED ON THE TRADING STAMP

Omaha, Neb. (UP)—A fight over whether the legislature should pass a law at the coming session legalizing use of trading stamps with merchandise was expected to break out in the resolution committee of the federation of Nebraska retailers meeting here. A trading stamp law passed at the last session was voted by Governor McMullen at the insistence of the organization. Many members of the federation are said to be in favor of the stamps but a large majority oppose them.

FOUR INJURED IN EXPLOSION

Kerosene Poured on Fire Sends Mother and Children to Hospital

Lincoln, Neb. (UP)—Four persons, Mrs. L. T. Weible and her three small children, were in a hospital this afternoon suffering from severe burns following explosion of a can of kerosene. The explosion took place when Phillip, 10 years old, poured kerosene on an open fire. Firemen were called. They extinguished the blaze and administered first aid to the four.

HER CLAIM FOR BALM GOES UP

Woman Appeals in Suit Against Estate of Man Who Ended His Life

York, Neb. (UP)—An appeal has been taken to the district court by Bessie A. Woods of Benedict, from the decision of the county court, which disallowed her claim of \$10,000 against the estate of Jesse M. Benedict, who ended his life April 11, 1927, and thereby was alleged to have broken his promise to marry the plaintiff. Mrs. Woods set forth that she and Johnson promised and agreed to marry each other in the spring of 1927 or not later than the first day of September of that year. The petition sets forth that Johnson refused to marry her about April 1, 1927, in violation of their agreement and without valid excuse. Under the terms of his will, Johnson's estate, valued at approximately \$20,000, was bequeathed to two nieces, Jennie M. Sidwell and Addie M. Hardin, who filed objections with the court to the claim of Mrs. Woods.

BELOVED MISSING BOY IS IN CHICAGO

Lincoln, Neb. (UP)—Belief was expressed today by Dr. C. G. Steen of Scottsbluff, Neb., that his 17-year-old son, John, who disappeared from Wesleyan Wednesday on February 6, is in Chicago. Dr. Steen had no direct clue to the whereabouts of his son, but was following a tip received today, and hoped to find the boy within a day or two.

INVEST NEBRASKA SCHOOL MONEY IN BONDS

Lincoln, Neb. (UP)—State trust funds to the extent of \$345,857.54 will be invested in bonds offered by Omaha brokers, it was announced today by the state board of educational lands and funds. This will be the first time for many years that the state has brought securities to net the state less than four and one-half per cent. interest. The Omaha securities were brought on a basis of 4.10 to 4.15 per cent. Some netted 4.25 and one 4.35 per cent.

ROSALIE IS GIVEN SCARE BY CASES OF SCARLET FEVER

Rosalie, Neb. (Special)—Public schools here were closed one day to fumigate the buildings, following discovery of two cases of scarlet fever. Two children of John Nelson were ill. Next day school was resumed, but a trained nurse examines all the pupils each morning, for any evidence of the malady.

SPEED MADE IN CASE OF OMAHA NEGRO ROBBERS

Omaha, Neb. (UP)—Henry Jefferson, negro, captured after a running gun battle with police, pleaded guilty to robbery late yesterday and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. He received his sentence a few hours after his capture. He will be in the penitentiary less than 24 hours after the crime was committed, setting a new record for speed in criminal cases in this county. Jefferson received a charge from a shotgun in his skull during the gun fight but did not know he had been shot until two hours afterward. His wounds are not serious.

OMAHA MAN TEMPTED TO BREAK LONG FAST

Omaha, Neb. (UP)—R. F. Kucharo, Omaha druggist, last night was sorely tempted to break his self-imposed fast which today reached its 23rd day. Mrs. Kucharo served bran gems for dinner last evening. They are particular favorite of Kucharo and for a time it appeared as though he would "fall" for them. He fingered and smelled the steaming hot gems, but finally set them down and announced he would go on with his fast.

Three Nations to Join In "Olive Branch" Pact



Sir Austen Chamberlain (left), Aristides Briand (right), and Benito Mussolini (center), may come together in peace session that will have important bearing on European political affairs. (International Newsreel)

Premier Mussolini has accepted the olive branch. The symbol, tendered by Aristides Briand, foreign minister of France, will lead to a meeting between the two statesmen that will clear up the somewhat strained Franco-Italian situation. What's more, Sir Austen Chamberlain, England's foreign minister, will probably be a third party to this important conference. The Duce is in favor of the session. He has informed the Italian Chamber that all points of friction should be wiped away.

Favorable Business Outlook

From Bulletin of National Bank of Commerce, New York. Notwithstanding the prevalence of rather dull conditions during the closing weeks of 1927, there should be a gradual acceleration of business as spring approaches. Interest now centers in the extent of the prospective gains, whether they will be gradual and largely seasonal in character, or whether they will be greater than this, with the possibility, perhaps, of new high records in some lines of industry and trade.

There is an extraordinary combination of favorable factors. Among the more important are: Prospect for stable money at moderate rates. Indications that building and construction will continue in large volume.

Removal from the automobile industry of the handicap of uncertainty as to the Ford plans and indications that increase of output will be general after the turn of the year.

Larger purchasing power on the part of farmers as a result of better conditions in staple agricultural lines. Adjustment of manufacturing output to demand during the latter part of 1927, and consequent avoidance of accumulation of stocks of goods.

Likelihood of fuller employment and larger payrolls ahead. While this is of course dependent on the foregoing factors, it constitutes in itself a favorable influence, because it is the basis of increasing purchasing power in industrial districts.

Constant technical progress, designed to lower costs and widen markets. Steady betterment in conditions abroad, as evidenced by return of several countries to some form of gold or gold exchange standard during 1927, with fairly stable currency and exchange in some others where the gold standard is yet to be established.

The presence of so many influences for better business has led to the apparent belief in some quarters that the increase in industrial and commercial activity which is imminent may assume boom proportions. Some such condition might develop in 1928, but it seems unlikely at present.

No Mistakes Say Ford

From the Santa Barbara News. In the course of an interview published in Forbes Magazine Henry Ford is quoted as saying: "I never made a mistake in my life. Neither did you. Neither did any one else. What are you here for anyway? For what purpose do you suppose you are living on earth? . . . I'll tell you what you're here for and what every living person is here for and that is to get experience. That's all we get out of life."

Possibly the possession of some hundreds of millions of dollars makes Mr. Ford so much of an optimist that he can see good in everything that happens.

When things go wrong, he does not call them mistakes. He merely feels that he has had a new experience out of which he learns something. He extends this philosophy to the rest of mankind which has no millions for backstop purposes.

It would be fortunate for our own peace of mind if we could always take the cheerful view of Ford. But is his philosophy sound? Has not the man of many millions not been guilty of the common error of making false definitions?

Has not he narrowed too closely the meaning of the word "mistake"? A man who is in a position to discuss calmly and apparently without regret the loss of \$100,000,000 is hardly in the same position of the man whose blunders might cost him the loss of employment and home.

To purchase experience at the price of blunders is not uncommon. Possibly it would be well if we could all accept the theory of Mr. Ford that these experiences are worth while.

It would be unfortunate if the world at large should accept the too narrow definition of mistakes given by Ford and refuse to admit blunders.

Why We Wear Clothes. From the Popular Science Monthly. How come people to wear clothes? Was it because of modesty? Or immobility to make the body more mysterious and alluring? Or for adornment, or for protection from the elements? Each of these theories has been advanced. Now Dr. Knight Dunlap, professor of psychology in Johns Hopkins university. Offers a new explanation. Primitive men and women first took to clothes, he says, to ward off flies and similar pests.

"Crawling and flying pests are with primitive man abundantly and very intimately," he says. "The most efficient protection is afforded by hanging strings, leaves, animals' tails, and similar articles that flap with the movements of the wearer. The fly protections used on domestic animals are exactly of the types of primitive human clothing which have baffled the anthropologists.

LAWYER LOSES SUIT AGAINST NEWSPAPER

Lincoln, Neb. (UP)—F. W. Fitch, Omaha lawyer, lost out in supreme court in his \$50,000 libel suit against the Omaha Daily News publishing company, a decision handed down today revealed. Fitch brought suit on the grounds that he had been brought into ridicule and disgrace by reason of the manner in which the newspaper "played up" charges made by his wife in divorce proceedings.

District Judge Paine, who wrote the court opinion, said headlines, to which Fitch made particular objection, are the paper's advertisement of the news it carried and if they are true, do not constitute libel.

PERSHING WILL NOT DISAPPROVE

Says Proposal Embarrasses Him But Patriotic Idea Is All Right

Omaha, Neb. (UP)—Plans of Omaha war mothers to use his statue as the central figure in a war memorial to be placed on the court-house lawn, does not meet with the "disapproval" of General John J. Pershing, he said in a letter to John L. Webster, chairman of the Omaha War Memorial committee.

General Pershing said he understood the spirit of the war mothers and while the proposal embarrassed him somewhat, he would not oppose the movement because it "is to commemorate the services of the gallant men who constituted our armies during the World War."

The proposed memorial would have an equestrian statue of Pershing surrounded by a guard of soldiers, sailors and marines.

ANOTHER DEATH CHARGED TO ILLEGAL OPERATION

Omaha, Neb. (UP)—The second death from an alleged criminal operation resulted here today when Mrs. Grace Weis, 19 years old, South Omaha, died at county hospital. She leaves her husband and a 7-months old child. She told a nurse at the hospital that she had been treated by a woman at Fort Crook to whom she paid \$15. She refused to give the woman's name, hospital authorities, said. Peritonitis was the cause of death, an autopsy disclosed. Coroner Steinwender is investigating the case.

OMAHA DRUGGIST HAS FASTED TWENTY DAYS

Omaha, Neb. (UP)—Richard F. Kucharo, druggist, today successfully passed his 20th day without food. Kucharo, suffering partial paralysis is abstaining from food in hopes his infirmities may be cured.

OMAHA WILL INVESTIGATE CORN STALK POSSIBILITIES

Omaha, Neb. (UP)—A delegation of 30 or 40 Omaha business men will go to Ames, Ia., soon to investigate possibilities of establishing a factory here to utilize corn stalks and other waste materials on the farm.

Glen R. Eastburn, chief of the industrial bureau of the Chamber of Commerce, who returned from a trip through Prof. O. R. Sweeney's model factory at Iowa Agricultural college today was enthusiastic over possibilities of a large factory here.

Eastburns of a large factory here. Eastburns devote its energies to the manufacture of wall board and insulation for houses, bosters said.

More than 250 useful articles can be made successfully and cheaply from cornstalks, Professor Sweeney contends. Flour made out of corn-cobs is of great value in treatment of diabetes. "Silk" stockings can be made from waste corn material and Professor Sweeney sees the eventual downfall of the silkworm.

Corn stalks contain 35 per cent. bulk cellulose, compared to 55 per cent. in wood and 85 to 90 per cent in cotton.

ALLEN LAYING PLANS FOR COMMUNITY BAND

Allen, Neb. (Special)—If present plans mature, Allen will have a community band this summer. Arrangements have already been made with James Mellacher, director of the Monahan Post band at Sioux City, to instruct the organization here if sufficient funds are raised. The town board has set aside about \$200 for this fund and the balance needed will be raised by popular subscription. At the present time 30 persons have signified their willingness to belong to the organization. Of these, some are more experienced musicians who formerly played in the Allen band which was organized several years ago, and the balance are high school students who have been playing in the school band and orchestra for a couple years.

EFFORT BEING MADE TO COMMERCIALIZE SCOUTS?

Omaha, Neb. (UP)—Certain organizations are trying to commercialize Boy Scouts, George Boardman, field executive of that organization, warned in a speech here last night. Boardman said the organization had gained considerable headway in Denver and other cities and was planning on starting operations here.

OMAHA MAN TRIES FASTING AS CURE FOR PARALYSIS

Omaha, Neb. (UP)—For the first time since he began his fast 21 days ago, R. F. Kucharo, Omaha druggist, was to be examined by a physician this afternoon. Kucharo, who suffered partial paralysis a year ago, had despaired of recovery through medicine and began abstinence from all foods. He believes this heroic method will cure him eventually.

He said he felt much better but is not sure that his paralysis is being helped.

BODY IS FOUND IN SMALL LAKE

Disappearance of Valley, Neb., Man Lost November Caused Death of Wife

Valley, Neb. (UP)—The body of Samuel Rice, 62 years old, Valley liverman for whom a search has been made underway since his disappearance last November, was found floating in McCann lake near here this afternoon. His coat and other belongings were found on a spring board at the lake following his disappearance. Grieving over his disappearance, Rice's wife died two weeks ago. Authorities today expressed the belief that ill health had caused Rice to take his life.

TO PLANT 2,000 TREES IN PARK AT FREMONT

Lincoln, Neb. (UP)—Two thousand trees, recently purchased by the state department of agriculture, will be planted in the state park at Fremont, State Game Warden O'Connell said today.

More than 25,000 trees will also be planted on state land in Cherry county, in co-operation with state and national forest organizations.

FILE MURDER CHARGE AGAINST OMAHA NURSE

Omaha, Neb. (UP)—Although a coroner's jury failed to unanimously request such action, Assistant County Attorney Ross L. Shotwell today filed charges of committing murder through an illegal operation against Helen Houston, a nurse. The woman is charged with having performed an operation on Mrs. Helen Nelson Volkmeier, 19 years old.

NOT DECIDED ON MOVE IN ILLEGAL OPERATION CASE

Omaha, Neb. (UP)—Assistant County Attorney Shotwell decided today that any request into the death of Mrs. Grace Weis, who died at county hospital here yesterday from effects of a criminal operation must be held in Sarpy county. Mrs. Weis on her deathbed said a Sarpy county nurse had performed the operation but refused to give her name. County Attorney William P. Nolan is expected to announce shortly whether or not sufficient evidence has been gathered to warrant prosecuting the nurse.

LAST OF ORIGINAL VIGILANTES IS DEAD

O'Neill, Neb. (UP)—Hugh O'Neill, one of the original organizers of the Holt county's first Vigilance committee in 1882, died at his anchorage on the Niobrara river, north of here last week. The committee, known as "An Organization for Law and Order," was formed to put down horse stealing, cattle rustling and "general cussedness," the three leading industries at that time along the breaks of the Niobrara river, and as a result of its operations "Doc" Middleton was captured and ceased his operations in this section of the state, and the notorious "Kid" Wade and other bad men passed on or out.

The "Kid" died suspended from the arms of a railroad crossing post near Bassett, where he was being taken for safekeeping.

BEATRICE AGITATES FOR VOTE ON ANOTHER FIELD

Beatrice, Neb. (UP)—Petitions were being circulated in Beatrice asking the city commissioners to put a proposal on the ballot at the next general election for issuing \$10,000 in bonds to buy an aviation field.

Workers for the project reported the petition was being signed readily. They pointed out that the city could save several hundred dollars by voting on the bonds at the general election rather than calling a special election.

A favorable vote would not mean that the field would be built on the site indicated by the committee it was explained; the committee previously selected 40 acres on the Black farm, east of Beatrice, as the most logical place for a field.

FARMER HAS EXCITING EXPERIENCE WITH RAT

Decatur, Neb. (Special)—Wallie Deman, farmer near Decatur had an exciting experience with a rat when it ran up his trousers leg and out through the collar of his shirt. Seeing the rat in an empty grain bin he tried to kill it stamping it with his foot, but he missed and the rat took refuge up his trousers leg.

COMMUNITY CLUB PUTS ON MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Bloomfield, Neb. (Special)—The Bloomfield Community club has launched a membership drive. Members have been divided into two sides with E. L. Durbin and William T. . . as captains and an active campaign is now under way. The drive will close February 29 and the losing side will furnish the winners with a banquet.

Pender, Neb. (Special)—The 90th birthday of Miss Jane M. Cook was celebrated here by relatives. A huge pyramid birthday cake decorated with 90 new dimes was the feature of the big dinner. Mrs. W. A. Love, of Carroll Neb., a sister, was unable to be present.

FARMERS ARE PLEASED WITH RECENT SNOWSTORM

Bloomfield, Neb. (Special)—Local farmers are enthusiastic over the heavy snow that fell here last week. Last fall the ground froze up with little moisture in it and the snow will overcome this deficiency to a great extent. A drizzling rain, which preceded the snow, took a lot of the frost out and most of the water from the melting snow is going down into the ground, assuring plenty of moisture when it is time for spring work to start.