

MURDERER HIGGINS LYNCHED BY MOB

SLAYER OF COPPLE AND WIFE, HANGED TO BRIDGE.

IS STRUNG UP NEAR BANCROFT

WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM SHERIFFS ON PASSENGER TRAIN.

BY A MOB OF TWENTY MEN

L. R. Higgins Was to Have Been Placed on Trial at Pender for Murdering Farmer Copple and Wife—He Was Hanged at 8:37.

Bancroft, Neb., Aug. 26.—Special to

The News: Higgins, the farmhand who last spring murdered Farmer Copple and his wife, was lynched here at 8:37 o'clock this morning.

Higgins' trial was to have begun at Pender for the double murder, today. The slayer of the Copples was being brought to Pender from Omaha.

A mob of twenty or thirty masked men boarded the train—No. 4—took the prisoner away from Sheriff Newell of Omaha and Sheriff Young of Pender, took the guns away from the two sheriffs, forced them at the point of guns to remain on the train while it went on to Pender, and made away with Higgins.

Higgins was taken a mile and a quarter north of Bancroft and hanged at 8:37 to a bridge over Logan creek.

The leaders of the mob are not known.

STORY OF THE CRIME

Higgins Shot Walter Copple and Wife in Middle of the Night.

It was about midnight on Sunday, May 12, of this year, that Louis Ray Higgins, then going under the name of Phillip Burke, murdered Mr. and Mrs. Walter Copple on their farm at Rosalie, Neb., in Thurston county. Higgins was employed on the farm. It was with a shotgun that Higgins slaughtered the farmer and his wife. He got up about midnight, took a loaded shotgun out of doors and called Copple. When the man appeared Higgins poured two charges into his body. Death was instantaneous. Copple's wife heard the explosion and came running out of the house, clad in night clothing. As she left the door, Higgins turned the smoking gun upon the woman whose husband he had just slain, and shot her down like a bead.

Then the murderer tossed the bodies of his two victims over the fence into the hog pen, where the swine badly mutilated the corpses.

Higgins escaped and was later caught at Hooper. At Fremont he confessed his guilt. He was taken to the Omaha jail for safekeeping and his preliminary trial was held on board a train in Thurston county to avoid violence. People of Pender were quite indignant at the time over the insinuation that any violence could occur in this civilized age.

Higgins at Fremont said he was unable to remember all of the details of the crime, because he was mad from drink when he committed it. He would give no cause for his crime and said he was ready to plead guilty. "It was about midnight Sunday night," said Higgins, "that I got up and secured the shotgun. I do not know why I did it. I called Copple out and then shot him. I emptied both barrels and may have fired four or five times afterwards. Mrs. Copple came rushing out and I shot her twice as she stood on the doorstep. Then I went into the house and stayed with the children until 4 o'clock, when I locked the door and went out. I took a mule from the barn and rode seven miles down Logan creek, where I left the animal. I wandered over the country from that time until I was arrested at Hooper."

Near Hooper a brigadier who had seen a description of Higgins, saw the murderer limping into town. He hurried ahead and informed the town marshal, who apprehended Higgins when he arrived.

Higgins sat unmoved in the Fremont jail while he confessed his dual crime. He was apparently numb and sleepy from the cold and was so stiff from rheumatism and an injured foot that he could hardly walk. He asked that his mother, Cora Fay Higgins of Denver, be notified. She later came to Omaha to see him.

Higgins claimed that Copple had given him whisky.

A PARALLEL CASE

Farmhand Near Elgin Was Lynched Eighteen Years Ago.

The Pender tragedy culminating in the Higgins lynching at Bancroft has a striking parallel in north Nebraska history of eighteen years ago. Last July this parallel murder of the eighties was pointed out in The News but at that time Pender people scouted the idea that their own double tragedy would end in the punishment of the murderer still further call to mind the shooting of the Clarks near Elgin and the lynching of Nicolas Foley.

It was on June 19, 1889, that Mr. and Mrs. Pomeroy Clark of Elgin were shot in their bed room. Nicholas Foley, who shot the Clarks, was like Higgins employed as a farmhand by the husband and wife who were his victims.

Angered because the Clarks objected to his attentions to Mrs. Clark's sister, young Foley stole into Clark's room and shot the husband. He rushed down stairs only to return later in the night with a ladder. Climbing the ladder he shot and instantly killed Mrs. Clark.

Foley was captured near Burwell after a chase that again paralleled Higgins' flight across the country. When Deputy Sheriff Beckwith with his prisoner were four miles east of Elgin on their way to Neligh they were overpowered by a mob. Foley was taken from the officer and lynched. He was hanged from a high bridge over Cedar Creek.

CITED TO NORFOLK COURT

ROW ARISES OVER ROAD DISPUTE NEAR LYNCH.

BRING IT TO FEDERAL COURT

On Complaint of Joshua C. Baker of Council Bluffs a Number of Prominent Boyd County Farmers Will Appear in Norfolk Federal Court Soon.

Lynch, Neb., Aug. 27.—Special to The News: A deputy United States marshal appeared in Lynch yesterday and served notice on seventeen leading citizens of Lynch and the country north, to appear in federal court at Norfolk on the first Monday in October and answer a complaint filed by Joshua C. Baker of Council Bluffs, Iowa. The trouble has arisen over a dispute concerning a certain road leading north from Lynch and crossing a farm owned by Mr. Baker.

He claims the road is not a legal road and is endeavoring to close it and force travel onto the section line, which is not passable. His fence has been cut a number of times and the tangle seems to be increasing.

The feeling here is very bitter against the actions of Mr. Baker and his brother, who has done the work of closing the road and furnished information against the parties said to have cut the fence.

What the complaint in the federal court is, is not known here at present. Following are the men against whom the complaint is made: Lewis Thibson, Hugo Thibson, Fred Ashby, Aug. Rankin, Henry Korte, Geo. Garrison, Bud Levy, Barney Smith, James Pinkerman, George Shibley, Frank Craves, Clyde Ritchey, Guy R. Ira, Joe Holden, Charles F. Roe, James Mullen and Boyd county.

As the closing of the fence now, while it has been threatened for some time, shuts off a large section of people from market or forces them to come over almost impassable roads it is working considerable hardship on the people of that community.

N. D. Burch of Butte and Saunders & Stuart appear as attorneys for Mr. Baker.

PEOPLE DISCUSS THE LYCHING

General Feeling That Too Many Murders Have Gone Unpunished.

News of the lynching of Murderer Higgins near Bancroft was given to northern Nebraska and southern South Dakota by The News just twenty-four hours ahead of any other newspaper. The story of the hanging was the principal topic of conversation on the streets of Norfolk during the afternoon and the "Trust Busters," farce comedy troupe, who arrived on the train from Emerson, were in demand because of the details which they were able to give.

Higgins was being taken from Omaha to Pender for trial. Bancroft is a town of 1,000 population and the first station south of Pender. Bancroft is in Cuming county. It is said that the mob of men forced the engineer to uncouple his locomotive from the train while they went into the car and took Higgins. The Omaha sheriff moved for his gun but one of the mob from behind grabbed his arms and the gun was taken. The mob carried guns and knives.

Among people generally who heard of the lynching soon after it happened, there was little tendency to condemn the mob as severely as in many instances of this sort. There seemed to be a general feeling that too many murderers have been going unpunished and that human life has been recently regarded too cheaply in Nebraska. Many referred to the case of Frank Brink, murderer of Bessie Newton at Ponca, who escaped with three months in the Norfolk hospital.

A FORMER PENDER TRAGEDY.

Trials of Dr. Goodmanson Created Excitement There.

This is not the first excitement that Pender has had over a murder case. A number of years ago the sudden death of Mrs. Goodmanson in the dental office of her husband, and the two subsequent trials of Dr. Goodmanson on charge of murder, caused endless turmoil. Dr. Goodmanson was finally cleared and soon afterward married again. He was charged with having poisoned his wife with strychnine in a glass of water. The first trial resulted in a life sentence. Both trials were at Ponca on a change of venue.

RAIN FOR THIRSTY CORN

REFRESHING SHOWER VISITS ALL THE NORTHWEST.

DRY FIELDS NEEDED MOISTURE

In Norfolk Something More Than a Third of an Inch of Rain Was Recorded—More Than That Fell in Brown County—Rained on Rosebud.

Refreshing raindrops came out of Sunday morning's sky to satisfy thirsty grain throats. Thirty-six one-hundredths of an inch of water fell in Norfolk and the rain extended all over northern Nebraska and into the Rosebud reservation, according to reports received here. In some places more rain than that was recorded.

A special to The News from Almasworth says that 1.39 inches of rain put a smile on the whole face of nature. A commercial traveler from Gregory said that it rained as far north as that point.

Rain was needed. For some weeks there has been less than the required amount of moisture and corn in some places was getting rather badly browned. A commercial traveler who drove through Boyd county last week said that rain was needed and conditions around and west of Norfolk showed the same need.

In Norfolk the rain was badly needed to lay the dust.

Corn Crop is Saved.

Valentine, Neb., Aug. 26.—Special to The News: After a hot and sultry day, a much needed rain fell here last night. This will cause much joy to the farmers, as it will save the corn crop, which had been much despaired of by them.

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TUESDAY TOPICS.

A. J. Durland Is in Spencer.

Miss Esther Walters is visiting in Humphrey.

J. Nelson of Wisner was in Norfolk over night.

Miss Genevieve Stafford is in Hot Springs, S. D.

John Stephens of Stanton was in the city yesterday.

Miss Hattie Jonas is home from a Battle Creek visit.

Thomas Coleman of Butte was in Norfolk yesterday.

N. P. Jepperson of Plainview was in Norfolk yesterday.

F. D. Brooks of Creighton spent yesterday in Norfolk.

A. V. Swanson of Wausa was a Norfolk visitor yesterday.

H. Reed of Madison was in Norfolk for a few hours Sunday.

George F. Boyd of Oakdale was a Sunday visitor in the city.

F. A. Wood of Dakota City was a Sunday visitor in Norfolk.

Herbert Zutz left yesterday for his school at Watertown, Wis.

E. H. Hunter of Oakdale was in Norfolk on business Saturday.

O. T. Conway of Fairfax was in Norfolk between trains Saturday.

Miss Luella Paul has been visiting with Hadar friends this week.

J. A. Wright, the Battle Creek real estate man, was in Norfolk yesterday.

George M. Carter of Sturgis was a South Dakota visitor in Norfolk yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schwartz are home from a visit to Spokane and the coast.

W. B. Carlock of Gregory was a South Dakota visitor in Norfolk over Sunday.

Mrs. Von Krosigk and Mr. and Mrs. John Hetzel of Boelus were in the city yesterday.

F. H. Carpenter and Misses Beadie and Cora Carpenter of Winslow were Norfolk visitors yesterday.

General Superintendent S. M. Braden of the Northwestern is in Deadwood and will not return until Thursday noon.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McWhorters, Mrs. Alarie Simpson and Miss Mamie Simpson of Pierce were in Norfolk last evening.

Miss Tillie Lehman visited all last week with her brother, Oscar, on his farm near Pierce. She expects to return this week.

Mrs. Kolber of Philadelphia and J. B. Well of Cincinnati are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lodor on South Fifth street.

Misses Louise and Helen Mathewson have arrived in Norfolk for their summers' outing. Miss Louise Mathewson will teach again this year in the Norfolk public schools.

Rev. J. J. Parker of Genoa is in Norfolk on a short visit with his son, Dr. Dr. C. S. Parker. Mr. Parker will be accompanied home tomorrow by Mrs. C. S. Parker, who will visit in Genoa.

Superintendent C. H. Reynolds of the Northwestern left on the morning train for Boone, Iowa, to attend a meeting of officials. He was accompanied by Mrs. Reynolds. They will return Thursday.

Prof. F. M. Gregg of the Peru State Normal school, who was in Norfolk the past week as a member of the teachers' institute faculty, left Saturday for Wayne, where he will be connected with the Wayne county insti-

tute this week. Prof. Gregg was formerly a member of the faculty of the Wayne normal.

C. E. Burnham was in Omaha Monday attending a meeting of the executive committee in charge of the semi-centennial celebration of the organization of the Masonic grand lodge in Nebraska. Mr. Burnham is chairman of the committee.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Ave, a son.

The assault and battery case against Henry Hasegapp has been continued again, this time to next Saturday at 1 o'clock in Justice Lambert's court.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Butterfield informally entertained a few neighbors last evening for Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Burnmaster of Davenport, Iowa, who were guests at the G. D. Butterfield home.

Thursday will be Norfolk day at Pierce and a large crowd are planning to attend the races on that afternoon. Many will drive, many will take either the morning or afternoon train upon return home in the evening.

The mission festival which St. Paul Ev. Lutheran church is to hold in Norfolk will occur on Sunday September 8 and not on September 1 as announced in The News. The festival will probably be held in Pasewalk grove and will consume the entire Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. George D. Butterfield and their guests, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Burnmaster of Davenport, Iowa, left at 7 o'clock a. m. in Mr. Burnmaster's automobile for an overland trip to Davenport, a distance of about 450 miles. The party expected to reach Omaha by night.

The firm of Lewis & Goldsworthy of the Norfolk steam battery are going to build a new building for their battery. The new building and ice cream factory will be put up east of the existing building on Norfolk avenue. It will be a two story frame building, 28x74. The structure will be built at once.

The Knox county teachers' institute opened at Niobrara Monday with an attendance of 125. Superintendent J. L. McFrien spoke to the teachers Tuesday and "Doc" A. L. Bixby, poet-philosopher of the Nebraska State Journal, will deliver one of his humorous lectures Wednesday night. Senator Dooliver of Iowa will lecture there Friday night.

Husbands who are in the habit of frowning at their wives' millinery bills had best start in early this year to practice on a gigantic frown for the occasion will demand it. The News has it on a private tip from a Norfolk millinery store that there is going to be a big jump in hat prices this fall. Hat materials, it is said, having been shooting skyward during the past few months and all this will be reflected in hat prices.

As illustrating something of the procedure of the new state railway commission the Norfolk Long Distance Telephone company has been asked by the commission to send to Lincoln a schedule of their toll charges from Norfolk to Battle Creek, Hoskins, Waverly, Madison, Meadow Grove, Tilden, Pierce and Newman Grove. The Nebraska Telephone company has appeared before the commission and asked permission to reduce local toll rates out of Norfolk.

Pat Kirby from the yellow banks was in Norfolk the other day on one of his rare visits to town. Pat came up the Elkhorn valley when Indians had their lodges here and sitting Bull with his followers have at times been encamped on Kirby's claim at the Yellow Banks for days. During the Black Hills rush when immigrants were harassed by Indians, Pat was employed to protect the trail. Miners were offering \$25 for every Indian scalp. Asked about how many he had secured, Pat swallowed something, winked and solemnly replied, "Devil a wan."

A special meeting of the Browning club was held last evening at the residence of A. J. Durland, the summer session being complimentary to D. C. O'Connor who was a member of the club before leaving Norfolk to take charge of the school system of the Panama canal zone. No formal program was carried out but during the evening Mr. O'Connor gave a very enlightening discussion of the canal work and Panama life. About thirty-four club members and guests were present, the guests from away being Rev. J. J. Parker of Genoa and Mr. O'Connor. Refreshments were served during the evening.

Stoux City Journal: Bleeding profusely from a gunshot wound in the leg, A. W. Nelson, of O'Neill, Neb., was arrested yesterday morning at the Northwestern depot, where he was about to board an early train. The man was taken to the police station and is being held for investigation. The police say Nelson put up a poor story in regard to the injury, which is a deep flesh wound, and looks as if it might have been inflicted with a 32-caliber revolver. He said he was trying to beat his way out of the city, and that instead of trying to shove him off the brakeman whipped out a revolver and shot him. This story is laughed at by Patrolman Harvey, who says there were no signs of commotion about the yards, and if a gun had been fired within a couple of blocks he surely would have heard it. The police think it is more probable that the man is a housebreaker, and that he got the wound while trying to enter some dwelling, or that he is a thief who is traveling away from the scene of his work. He is a new one to the local force, however, and if nothing turns up within a short time in regard to the peculiar injury the man will be turned loose.

FROM CANAL ZONE LIFE

D. C. O'CONNOR PREFERS AMERICA FOR HIS HOME.

HEAD OF CANAL ZONE SCHOOLS

Former Norfolk Superintendent, Now Superintendent of Instruction in Canal Zone of Panama, Revisits Norfolk and Finds Changes.

D. C. O'Connor, formerly city superintendent in Norfolk but now at the head of the American school system in the canal zone at Panama, has spent twenty-one months by the big ditch and is well satisfied with his surroundings and his work. But Mr. O'Connor says that he can not regard Panama as his home and that scarcely anyone living on the little strip of American land so regards the country.

Mr. O'Connor with his family makes his home in Gorgona, where the government machine shops employing 1,500 white men are located. But the hundreds of Americans now at Gorgona only three were there when Mr. O'Connor came to that canal zone city from Norfolk some twenty months ago. Twenty months' residence has made the former Norfolk superintendent one of the town's oldest inhabitants, so quickly do people come and go in this new country.

Back in Norfolk this last week on a business trip Mr. O'Connor found changes in Norfolk, not the startling changes of the zone strip but slower changes showing improvement, "at least most improved perhaps," said Mr. O'Connor, "with the work that has been done on the streets of the city during the year or two that I have been away. And there is progress all along that stands out after some months away. I am also more than pleased to note the plans upon which the new high school building is going on. It will approach towards a model school house."

Canal School Work. The school system of the canal zone represents Mr. O'Connor's work. He teaching force will be raised from forty-one to fifty teachers by December 1. The color line is drawn in these Panama schools. About a fourth of the pupils are white and these study Spanish and French. But the zone schools have only English for the black children. Work is carried up to the fifth and sixth grades and two high schools for white children are being planned.

It's vacation time in Panama schools now, but not because it is the warmest season, for it isn't. But it's the rainy season when the afternoon in Panama is filled with a flood of water poured out from the sky and when pupils can't always make school connections. It is warmer in the hot dry season with its cloudless skies from December 1 to June 1 but it is easier navigating then.

Panama school is "out" from June 30 this year to October 1 and Superintendent O'Connor has been in America on a sixty days' leave of absence. Today he left for the east to join Mrs. O'Connor and his son and daughter, Pearson and Miss Mary O'Connor, in Pennsylvania.

Norfolk People in Zone. The Norfolk colony at Panama has mounted up to a score of people. These Norfolk people are all well satisfied but none, with the possible exception of Dr. Walters, would smile on Panama as a permanent dwelling place. Dr. Walters, who is chief of the medical store department, views the canal strip with great favor.

JAMES A. ROMINE DEAD.

Veteran of Civil War and For Many Years a Horseman.

James A. Romine, a man of seventy-five years, died Monday morning at his Norfolk home on Branch street. Death followed a long illness. Mr. Romine had lived in Norfolk for eleven years, in Nebraska for twenty-two years.

Mr. Romine saw three years of service in the civil war as a member of the Seventy-third Indiana. The Norfolk post of the G. A. R. will take charge of the funeral, which will probably be held Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Romine is survived by a wife and by the following children: George W. Romine of North Loup, James H. Romine of Norfolk, Carl Romine of Norfolk, Tony Romine of Grand Island, Mrs. Carrie Weisberger and Mrs. Myrtle Carr, both of Rockyford, Colo.

The deceased was a horseman the greater part of his life.

"The Trust Busters."

It was a good sized audience which witnessed the little musical farce comedy, "The Trust Busters," at the Norfolk Auditorium last night and the crowd got its fill of shrieking and laughing. The show is just what it claims to be—no more and no less. It is a rather clever little musical farce comedy, with a number of catchy songs and musical numbers and jokes to laugh at. It plays at popular prices and apparently the good sized audience was satisfied.

The show is a wholesome, clean little skit built on the line of unadulterated fun.

It was the first night that the new electrical sign in front of the theater had been turned on for a show and the innovation was termed a marked improvement by many spectators. It was said to make the place look more like a metropolitan theater than ever. The new cement walk in front of the Auditorium also attracted favorable

comment, being a relief from the old rickety brick walk. The whirring electric fans inside the theater afforded cool relief from the day's heat.

The Auditorium management is much pleased with the way in which things have started, believing that a successful season for good shows in Norfolk is at hand.

"The Sweetest Girl in Dixie."

The next attraction at the Auditorium will be "The Sweetest Girl in Dixie," which comes Monday afternoon and night—giving a matinee and evening performance on Labor day in Norfolk. This play will be presented by the Fulton Stock company, who play all of each summer in Lincoln to packed houses. The show is said to be an attractive one and the company capable. Robert Fulton, leading man, was for a time playing leading man to Eva Laing in the Woodward Stock company of Omaha.

"KICKED" CAR, FINED \$5

M. & O. CONDUCTOR FIRST TO BE ARRESTED.

BROKE SWITCHING ORDINANCE

Norfolk Has Started in to Enforce the Ordinance Regulating Switching Across Norfolk Avenue—William Bohnhaugh Pleads Guilty.

(From Saturday Daily.)

Norfolk has started in to enforce the switching ordinance. Following the announcement of the ordinance that they would not countenance objectionable forms of switching over Norfolk avenue, Conductor William Bohnhaugh, an M. & O. freight conductor, has been called to account for a car "kicked" across the avenue. Chief of Police Flynn spotted the car taking a flying trip across the avenue and requested the conductor in charge to appear in police court.

Conductor Bohnhaugh came into court at noon. He admitted giving the orders that fractured the city ordinance and apologized for disregarding the city's regulations. A fine of \$5 and costs was promptly paid by the railroad man.

The railroads have announced that all fines from a violation of the switching ordinance must be paid by the men and not by the companies.

ROSEBUD CORN IS SAFE

GOOD RAIN SOAKS CROPS IN THAT LOCALITY.

LIGHTNING WAS A FACTOR

House of Pete Theobit North of Fairfax Was Struck—Two Dogs Under the Front Porch Were Killed—Four Grain Stacks Were Burned Down.

Fairfax, S. D., Aug. 27.—Special to The News: This section was visited by a heavy electrical storm and a good rain.

Lightning struck a house owned by Pete Theobit, a farmer living a mile west of here. The family were shocked but not hurt badly.

Two dogs were killed under the front porch. Four stacks of grain north of town were struck and burned down.

The rain came in time to save the large corn crop which will now be good.

PIERCE READY FOR "GO"

RACE MEETING THERE PROMISES TO BE A HUMMER.

THE TRACK IS VERY FAST ONE

The Thriving City of Pierce is Illuminated With Innumerable Electric Lights and the Streets Are Crowded With Many Strangers.

Pierce, Neb., Aug. 26.—Special to The News: Extensive preparations are going on here for the race meet, five stock exhibit and carnival to be held this week Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Already the streets are crowded with strangers and arches span every principal street crossing where hundreds of colored electric lights will shine to show Pierce in its best light and tuck.

Twenty teams for months have hauled dirt and made the fastest half mile track in northeast Nebraska, and if the weather is favorable Pierce visitors will see the fastest racing in the Short Equipment circuit. This town being the home of Captain Mack and King Woodford, there will be a special attempt between their owners and outside horse owners to pass under the wire first.

There were over 5,000 paid admissions last year and the indications are for double that number this week.

Sometimes the most urgent business of the day is to find a man—to fill a vacancy in your organization or to do an "odd job" for you. Want ads are "fishers of men."

Every day want ad readers are finding "better furnished rooms."