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High School Youth Beats Girl with Bolt

Ralph Hiner, 16, Charged as Assailant of Miss Mildred Fleming at Her Home Saturday

This city was profoundly stirred late Saturday afternoon when it was learned that Miss Mildred Fleming, 22, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Fleming, had been attacked and badly injured at the family home at 11th and Vine street by a party then unknown but later named by Miss Fleming as Ralph Hiner, 16, a high school youth who resided but three blocks from the Fleming home.

The first intimation of the trouble came in a message that Miss Fleming in a voice weak and agitated, gave to the telephone operator at 4:30 Saturday afternoon, pleading for the services of a physician and Dr. J. S. Livingston was called at his office and drove to the Fleming home, unaware of the startling developments that was awaiting him. The doctor called at the door on the upper floor of the house and then had gone to the basement and knocked at the door that leads to the basement and a weak voice called him to enter and guided by the voice Dr. Livingston made his way to the dining room in the basement where Miss Fleming, blood-soaked, lay on a couch. A hasty examination assured the physician of the seriousness of the injuries and he started to seek assistance from the neighbors and had just gone to the door to seek help when the father, M. P. Fleming, arrived home from his duties at the E. A. Wurl store and was driven almost frantic by the terrible spectacle offered by the daughter. Dr. Livingston returned to his office for additional supplies and also to bring the mother home from town where she was engaged in sewing. Dr. Livingston also notifying Sheriff Reed and the city police of the crime and then hastened back to the Fleming home where a large group of the neighbors had gathered.

The only clue at this time was that haltingly given by the victim of the beating, "It was a white man that did this" and then the suffering girl was unable to proceed with any further description.

It was found that Miss Fleming was suffering from a fracture of the skull caused apparently by some blunt instrument and also some ten other lacerations of a less severe nature of her head and had bled very much. The small cellar adjoining the kitchen where the girl had been from the assailant was a mass of blood and a most horrid scene when the officers arrived. It was here that Deputy Sheriff Rex Young secured a button, torn apparently from a pair of overalls and which was the only clue aside from the statement as to a white man that was received by the officers.

Miss Fleming was hurried to Omaha to the Immanuel hospital accompanied by her parents while the hunt for the assailant was taken up by the citizens under the direction of Sheriff Bert Reed and County Attorney W. C. Kiehl. Miss Fleming's father and bodies of armed citizens scouring the roads leading from the city, cornfields, along the railroad tracks and all over the section of the city where the Fleming family resides.

The suspicions of the officers were aroused by the fact that the person committing the outrage had apparently known of the fact that Miss Fleming was home alone at that time and which made it seem that the work was that of a local party rather than a stranger who would only by chance visit the home. She is rather isolated from the main highways.

Parties coming into the city were questioned as to seeing any strangers and little was known of the identification of the person committing the crime until Miss Fleming at 8 o'clock at the hospital, whispered to her mother at her bedside, the name of the assailant and which information was conveyed to the Cass county officers and the arrest of Ralph Hiner, sixteen-year-old high school student was ordered as being the one charged with the assault.

Miss Fleming related that she was telephoning to Mrs. John McNurlin about 2:30 and a noise caused her to cease telephoning and looking around she saw the young man standing in the door and this was followed by his striking her and she ran from the room to the kitchen and cellar where a desperate battle was staged and where she was struck repeatedly over the head with what was thought to be an iron bar. She had suddenly fainter and later had been able to creep to the telephone and call for help and which gave the alarm of the crime.

On learning of the identification of the man alleged to have beaten Miss Fleming, Deputy Sheriff Young and Sam Reed drove to the Hiner home and here they found the father of the young man, W. J. Hiner, armed and searching for any possible trace of the assailant and wholly unaware of the tragic event that was to come to them. The young man was sitting on the porch near the

parents and was asked by Mr. Young to accompany him to see some boys that claimed to have been swimming and the youth accompanied the deputy and when the auto was reached Hiner was informed of the serious charge that had been made against him by the girl.

His first denial was made of the affair by Hiner but later came through with his side of the story and the details covered practically that of Miss Fleming. Hiner stated that he had been swimming in the afternoon at the sand pits north of the city with several companions and on his way home had passed the Fleming home and seen the girl sitting in the house and apparently alone. The youth was unable to explain just why he committed the crime but stated that the first he knew he was standing in the house with a large bolt in his hand and had struck Miss Fleming without saying a word to her. With the first blow Miss Fleming ran and secured a broom with which she tried to beat him off and in a fury he had struck her repeatedly over the head until she sank to the floor partially unconscious and saying "why did you hit me?" He had then fled from the house and gone on home where he quietly entered, changed his overalls and washed up and without any member of his family being aware of anything unusual until they were notified by neighbors of the tragic occurrence.

Following the confession of Hiner, Deputy Sheriff Young returned to the house and secured the blood stained overalls which had been hidden in the bottom of a clothes hamper by the youth.

Fearing the possibilities of a demonstration from the large number gathered on the streets, here Sheriff Reed and his deputies took Hiner hurriedly to Omaha where he was placed in the Douglas county jail for safekeeping and there he detailed against the story of the attack and where the weapon, a large bolt such as used in telephoning line work, had been thrown and which was recovered later by the officers.

The condition of Miss Fleming was improved Sunday and today practical assurance was held that she would recover, the most severe injury being that of the skull fracture.

The alleged assailant is a student in the local high school and a member of the class of 1931 of the school, active in the work of the high school orchestra, a member of the basketball squad and a well liked student among his associates and the news of the charge was a very great surprise to the friends of the young man as well as a terrible blow to the family.

Miss Fleming is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Fleming and a graduate of the Plattsmouth schools as well as the Peru state normal and has been teaching the past year in the Nehawka schools.

The two parties in the tragic occurrence were not friends and merely knew each other by sight as residing in the same neighborhood, although Hiner told the authorities and newspaper men at Omaha that he had admired Miss Fleming a great deal from a distance although he was not even aware of her first name.

GIVEN A SURPRISE

From Thursday's Daily—
Mrs. Charles McGuire was given a very pleasant surprise last evening at her home on North 9th street when her sons and daughter-in-law arranged a very fine surprise and in which the friends and neighbors joined in making an event long to be remembered by the guest of honor. The event was the passing of the sixty-third anniversary of this estimable lady and it was not until the neighbors commenced to arrive that the guest of honor was aware of the pleasant event that had been arranged for her. The evening was spent in playing pinochle and at which a great deal of pleasure was derived by all of the members of the jolly party.

At a suitable hour refreshments of ice cream, cake and watermelon was served and the beautiful birthday cake prepared by Mrs. Con Lynch was presented to the guest of honor. Those who enjoyed the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. George Barr and son, Melvin, Mr. and Mrs. Con Lynch and daughters, Helen and Dorothy, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Burrows, Mrs. William Melburn, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar McGuire, Tom and Con McGuire, Mary and Reta Becker of Osmond and Mr. and Mrs. Charles McGuire.

CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

The home of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Tidball was the scene of a very delightful gathering of little folks on Thursday afternoon to assist little Miss Marjorie Ann in the observance of her tenth birthday anniversary.

The time was spent in the playing of all kinds in which the greatest of pleasure was derived and the large and spacious lawn made a most delightful spot for the various stunts arranged for the event.

At a suitable hour the birthday party was produced and with the dainty refreshments made a most fitting completion of an ideal day.

In honor of the event Miss Marjorie received a number of very attractive gifts.

Local Store to Seek Stories of the Early Days

Fiftieth Anniversary of C. E. Westcott's Sons Leads to Their Seeking Local Lore

The firm of C. E. Westcott's Sons of this city, which is now celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, is extending an offer to the residents of this county for incidents of the days from 1879 to 1889, covering the Victorian eighties when their store was just making its start under the guiding hand of the father, C. E. Westcott, now since passed to his reward.

The firm comprising C. C. Westcott and E. H. Westcott are extending to the old time residents of this community a chance to procure a prize for their skill in the preparation of stories of the days of the eighties and of Cass county. The stories preferred would be those which had some bearing on the store itself but any of the old time stories of Cass county and Plattsmouth will be accepted and will be of interest especially at this time when the state is observing its diamond anniversary of the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill under which the territory of Nebraska was admitted.

The stories must be true incidents and cover occurrences in this county and city and there is no doubt that the old time residents of this community can prepare many an interesting story of the old days when modern ease had not softened the race as much as today.

The clothing firm will have the various stories submitted to a committee of residents of the community who were here in the ten year period of 1879 to 1889 and who will pass judgment on the incidents related and the manner and style of their preparation.

ENTERTAIN OLD FRIEND

On Monday evening, July 22nd, Misses Emma L. Johnson and Helen Egenberger were joint hostesses at a bridge shower at the latter's home, in honor of Miss Mildred Schlatter of Denver, whose marriage to Mr. Sanford Lucy of that city will occur in the late fall. The house was decorated in spring flowers and the color scheme of pink and white was carried out throughout the evening. The first prize was won by Mrs. Guy Long, and the second by Miss Jeanette Weber. The bride-to-be received many beautiful gifts. The out-of-town guests were Mrs. James Carter, Mrs. J. P. Johnson and Miss Jeanette Weber of Omaha, and the guest of honor, Mildred Schlatter of Denver.

On Tuesday evening, July 23rd, Mrs. Louie Egenberger entertained the W. H. E. L. Club at 8:30 bridge dinner in honor of Miss Mildred Schlatter. The home was beautiful with spring flowers, and the color scheme of yellow and white carried out. The lucky ones were Miss Pearl Hild, first prize, and Mrs. John L. Hadraba, consolation. Miss Schlatter was a charter member of this delightful club, and it brought back many memories to have her with them once more.

On Wednesday evening, July 24th, the W. H. E. L. Club journeyed to Omaha, via Cotner's bus, where Miss Emma L. Johnson entertained at a farewell party at the home of her parents for Miss Mildred Schlatter. The evening was spent visiting with the most popular visitor and in various games until time for her departure, when all saw her off on her return trip, with best wishes. Afterwards the club returned to their various homes, happy to have had the chance of renewing an old friendship, but sorry to have one of their best friends and club members leave again.

BUSINESS PICKING UP

From Friday's Daily—
This morning the marriage mart at the office of County Judge A. H. Duxbury took a decided boom when two couples appeared to have issued the parchments that will entitle them to become man and wife.

Edward Lee Waples and Miss Dorothy S. Cosh of Omaha were callers at the office and granted a license and will be married here Sunday by the Rt. Rev. Ernest V. Shaylor, bishop of Nebraska of the Episcopal church.

The second couple securing a license was Skyle O. Miller of Harrington, Kansas and Miss Dorothy M. Olson of Elmwood, the young people being married later at the home of the bride in Elmwood.

ENJOYING VISIT HERE

George Ray, well known resident of near Murray is having the pleasure of a visit from his aged father, who arrived from Bethany, Missouri, yesterday and will spend the summer here with the son and family on the farm and enjoying the pleasures of the Nebraska farm. The elder Mr. Ray is now in his eighty-ninth year and is very active for his age and able to enjoy life much better than many who are younger in years.

COL. BATES DOWN TOWN

From Friday's Daily—
This morning Col. M. A. Bates, veteran editor of the Journal, was down in the business section of the city for the first time in a great many months. Despite his very advanced age of eighty-seven years, Col. Bates maintains his great interest in the affairs of the day and has been in very good health despite the weight of years but it has been necessary for him to abandon many of the former activities and remaining at home where he enjoys the quietude and comfort of the home surroundings. Col. Bates was taken by Mrs. C. A. Rosecrans on a drive over the city and in view of the many pretty scenes over the town.

Change to be Made in Highway Near This City

Corner Just South of This City Will Be Eliminated in New Road Plans for No. 75

From Friday's Daily—
The course of highway No. 75 at the corner just south of this city known for many years as the Livingston corner, will be changed before paving if the plans of the state department of public works are carried out and which it is hoped will eliminate a very bad condition in the turn and save possible accidents in the future.

The state department is planning to start the new turn just north of the old Livingston home near the corner and on the farm now owned by Elbert Wiles. The turn will swing in a winding curve through the farm of Mr. Wiles and come back into the present highway near the Spangler corner and giving a wide and sweeping turn where the vision of the car drivers will not be obscured as on the present highway turn.

The re-routing of the highway will make a decided cut into the Wiles farm and to secure an adjustment it will probably be necessary to have appraisers appointed and the matter handed through the county court as to condemnation proceedings as the road will cut a large section of the farm off from the main body of the farm.

SMOOTHING UP THE ROADS

Chairman Carl Kunsman of the streets, alleys and bridges committee is having the force of men engaged in smoothing up the dirt roads in the different sections of the city and relieving a very disagreeable condition that has existed for several weeks during and following the heavy rains. These streets were all worked over once this summer but hilly had the work been carried out when a series of heavy rains or "gully washers" came that made the job of grading useless and kept the roads in bad shape for weeks. The excessive rains of the summer are probably past now to a large extent and the Kansan is hopeful that the roads will be kept in good shape for several months at least.

The maintenance of the dirt roads and especially on the hilly streets is a real job and one that is costly to the city where the very wide area of the city limits keep the street force constantly on the move to try and cover the city as thoroughly as possible.

PICNIC ON WEST COAST

Edward Waintroub writing to friends here from his home at Los Angeles, tells of the very interesting time that he and his father, Herman Waintroub enjoyed at the Cass County Reunion held recently and at which time they had the opportunity of meeting many of the former residents of this city and vicinity who were gathering together to renew the ties of the old days together. The picnic was presided over by former County Judge Allen J. Beecher and who was named as the president of the Cass County Association and as a feature of the picnic the table at which the feast was enjoyed was covered by copies of the Plattsmouth Journal so that all could read the happenings in the old home as well as enjoying the feast to their heart's content. Edward reports his father (who is now in his eighty-ninth year, as being the very best and he has stood the trip west in fine shape and seems to be in the very best of health and vigorous for his age.

PURCHASES ELEVATOR

From Saturday's Daily—
Last week L. J. Marquardt and son, Fred, of the Marquardt elevators of Avoca, purchased the Farm-to-Elevator and will in the future operate both places. Mr. Marquardt and son have conducted a very nice business in Avoca during their time in business here and have always afforded an excellent market for the farming community, and with the two houses will be in position to more carefully care for the wants of the farmers than in the past.

Phone your news to No. 6.

Treasurers to Secure Cut of License Fees

Attorney General Holds 25 Cents Is For Treasurer or His Appointed Examiner.

County treasurers of Nebraska were notified officially for the first time Thursday afternoon that they are allowed by law to keep for their very own spending money twenty-five cents out of each seventy-five cents paid by applicants for a driver's permit under the new law which goes into effect Sept. 1. The glad tidings were received with repressed pleasure and the treasurers soon thereafter held a meeting of their own to discuss the manner in which the fee shall be collected. The latter meeting was presided over by Treasurer C. S. Marcy of Sheridan.

An opinion by Attorney General Sorenson, dated the fifth of last month, holding that the treasurer of the persons he appoints to perform the service of passing upon drivers' permits shall keep the twenty-five cent fee. It was read by State Accountant Sommer, who has prescribed a system of accounts for treasurers. The opinion was given in answer to a question by Treasurer George R. Gould of Pierce county. The meeting was a special one called by State Engineer Cochran at the capitol to discuss automobile license laws.

It is estimated that the twenty-five cent fee will amount to at least \$200,000 the first year. Thereafter it will be light. Estimating permits to two for each vehicle licensed in the state, on a basis of 400,000 vehicles, this would be the total of the fees for treasurers or their appointees. Some contend that the number of permits issued may average nearly three to the vehicle. At the close of last year there were 395,128 vehicles of all kinds licensed.

Big Incomes in Sight.
With nearly 50,000 vehicles licensed in Douglas county, Treasurer Otto J. Bauman of that county, or his appointee, would receive \$25,000 in the first year to be retained by him if the average is two permits to the car.

In Lancaster county, with nearly 30,000 licensed vehicles, County Treasurer Albert said he did not see how he could perform the service of passing on applications for permits as he would not have time. It was the opinion of treasurers in the smaller counties where licensed vehicles are few, that the work should be done by the county treasurer himself. The licenses or permits issued are good during the legal residence of the holder in Nebraska without a renewal fee.

CROWDS ENJOY BAND CONCERT

From Thursday's Daily—
The residents of the city and nearby territory found a relief last evening in the enjoyment of the concert given by the Elks band at Garfield park where one of the largest crowds of the season was present to hear the excellent program that had been arranged for the event by Director Holly and his boys.

The great overture, "The Poet and Peasant" by Suppe and the entrancing "Evening in Hawaii," proved hits with the audience as these masterpieces were given in a very fine manner by the band.

As one of the features of the concert "Beans" O'Haver was present and gave the vocal rendition of "From Sunrise to Sunset" and which proved a treat to the lovers of music of the popular variety and won further appreciation from the Plattsmouth people of this clever musician and vocalist.

NEW BUS STATION HERE

The Pickwick-Grayhound lines which include the Yellowbay bus system, a national wide organization, has entered the local transportation field in competition with the Union Pacific lines, the De Luxe and Cotner local lines. The Yellowbay has heretofore merely passed through this city without a stop, their Omaha-Kansas City line passing this way, the local part of the business being cared for by the Interstate, now owned by the U. P., but the Yellowbay will make this place a regular port of call from now on. The bus line will be located in the Havel Riley where they are to maintain a ticket office and conduct their business affairs and will furnish transportation to different parts of the country, they specializing in the through bus trips from distant points.

SOME FINE APRICOTS

Mrs. Jake Kruger and daughter from west of Myard were in the city Thursday for a few hours and brought with them an example of Nebraska fruit in the shape of a small branch from an apricot tree that was a mass of the luscious fruit and as well brought a box of the fruit that was presented to the Journal publisher.

WILL VISIT HERE

Rev. O. G. Wichmann, of the St. Paul's Evangelical church is looking forward to a very pleasant visit here in the next few days with his daughters, Miss Dorothy, who is teaching in Denver, and Miss Eva, who is engaged in nursing in Omaha, but who has been enjoying her vacation in the west, they coming here to visit the father for a short time. Miss Hildegard, another daughter, who is at Portland, Oregon, teaching, had planned to join the family here, but owing to the fact that she was compelled to go to the hospital, she was unable to be present.

Former Teacher Here Receives Warm Praise

Charles Wakefield Cadman, Composer of Great Note Praises Work of Roy S. Fager.

From Thursday's Daily—
Declaring it was a triumph for the director, students and all who participated in the production of "Lelawala" last Tuesday, the following letter was received today from Charles Wakefield Cadman, composer of the operetta, by Le Roy S. Fager, director of vocal music at the Monrovia Arcadia-Duane California high school, says the News of that place:

"I want you the know how perfectly delighted I was with the performance of 'Lelawala' you gave at Monrovia the other night and to express my profound thanks for the fine, intelligent manner in which you put this performance together.

"As I said to the audience that night, it was, I feel sure, the very best showing of this work I had seen up to now, in that it was timed so well, with not a loss of one moment in the action and the music itself. The tempos were well played and your students surely entered into the spirit of the entire work. I must commend you for the excellence of the orchestra that night, too. I understand that you trained them in the entire score and every part should go for that work. I can say without flattery or insincerity that it was the best orchestral handling of the operetta which I have ever attended. And such a great satisfaction to have the score played accurately, too.

"The stage settings were beautiful and the lighting positively the finest of any given this work, which I have witnessed.

"Altogether I feel it was a triumph for yourself, as conductor, a triumph for the stage manager, the dance director and the entire musical department. The young people did good work in the choruses and the cast without singly mentioning anyone, for all did their utmost to make their parts stand out, got into the spirit of things. I am awfully glad I went and hope that next year when you do a work by another writer if that is best, you will ask me down for it."

Mr. Fager was formerly music supervisor of the local school and produced this operetta here.

CHILD IS INJURED

Frank Blotzer, Jr., formerly of this city, but now of 2224 South 16th street, Omaha, was given a very unenviable experience late yesterday afternoon in Omaha when the car which he was driving struck Mary Dufesano, 7, of 324 Woolworth avenue, the child having run into the street while Mr. Blotzer was driving near Sixth and Williams street. The child suddenly coming onto the street and before the car could be stopped it had struck the child. Fortunately the injuries of the child were slight and will not injure her to any extent.

The incident caused a great deal of excitement in Omaha's Little Italy and in a few moments after the child had been taken to the St. Catherine's hospital for an examination, a very large crowd gathered and the report spread through that section of the city that the child had been killed and the police ambulance had taken the child away to keep the death a secret.

A great crowd of the Italians gathered at the general ward of the St. Catherine hospital and caused a great deal of confusion and trouble to the hospital attendants in convincing the crowd that the child was practically uninjured and not in any danger.

Mr. Blotzer was detained for some time on the technical charge of driving recklessly.

LEAVES FOR INDIANA

From Thursday's Daily—
This morning Mr. and Mrs. Sam Moye left this city for their new, or rather old, home, at New Harmony, Indiana, going from this city to Greenfield, Iowa, where the little son and daughter of Mr. Moye are spending the summer with their grandparents and the party were expecting to make Greenfield by noon and after a short stay there will resume the trip to Indiana.

Mr. Moye has sold his produce business here to N. A. Morrow and who is now in charge of the plant at Sixth and Pearl street and Mr. Moye on reaching Indiana will start the operation of a large chicken ranch near New Harmony and where in the coming spring he expects to have a large number of fine Nebraska baby chicks sent to populate the farm with the very best poultry stock of which Nebraska is famous.

In his residence here Mr. Moye has been quite active in the community life and was for several seasons interested in the local baseball team and assisted in its guidance. He has also been an active figure in the work of the Methodist church and a member of the Y. M. B. C. of that church during his stay here.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Rawls departed today for Des Moines, where they will visit over the week end with their nephew and piece in that city and enjoy the many points of interest in the Iowa city.