

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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NO. 91

## Charge Wife with Murder of Husband Following Report of Finding Poison in Stomach

### Examination by University Hospital Reveals the Presence of Strychnine in a Sufficient Quantity to Cause Death.

### PLEADS NOT GUILTY—HEARING DEC. 30

### Mrs. Ines Wever Arrested Saturday Night on Return from Lincoln and Arraigned in County Court—Held without Bail in Douglas County Jail

Mrs. Ines Wever, 27, widow of George Wever, 33, whose death suddenly on last Tuesday has been under investigation by Sheriff Bert Reed, County Attorney W. G. Kieck and State Sheriff W. C. Condit, was formally charged with first degree murder here Saturday night at 7 o'clock.

The arrest of Mrs. Wever at her home here followed the telephone communication received by County Attorney W. G. Kieck that the examination of the stomach of Wever had disclosed the presence of strychnine in sufficient quantities to have caused death. The examination of the stomach was made by Dr. H. E. Eggers and Dr. John T. Myers of the University hospital at Omaha.

The report has been awaited for several days before formally arresting Mrs. Wever against whom suspicion has been directed since the first of the investigation on Wednesday when the order was made by County Attorney Kieck for the examination of the organs of Wever to test the poison theory.

The arraignment of Mrs. Wever followed in a few moments after her arrest, being held before County Judge A. H. Duxbury, when the woman entered a plea of not guilty to the charge of murder. Mrs. Wever was accompanied in court by a brother-in-law and heard without apparent emotion the charge preferred against her and clearly and firmly gave her plea of not guilty. The offense not being of a bailable nature, the woman was turned over to the custody of Sheriff Reed and in a few moments was taken to Omaha to be lodged in the woman's ward of the Douglas county jail to await the preliminary hearing which was set by Judge Duxbury for December 30th. Mrs. Wever was taken to Omaha by Deputy Sheriff Rex Young, Pat Reed and Mrs. Lottie Rosencrans, county probation officer.

George Wever was taken violently ill Monday afternoon at the Burlington shops where he was employed and was taken to his home where on Tuesday at 1 o'clock he passed away, suffering convulsions and under such circumstances that the physician called, Dr. R. P. Westover, refused to give a death certificate until the case was fully investigated and on whose report the inquiry was started in the case by County Attorney Kieck on Wednesday.

It was developed early in the investigation that on two recent dates prior to the death of Wever that pur-

chases of poison had been made by Mrs. Wever at local drug stores.

While the funeral services of Mr. Wever were being held here Thursday a search of the premises occupied by the family on west Locust street, was made by State Sheriff Condit and the Cass county officers but without success as to locating any suspicious clues. Later in the day State Sheriff Condit returned to Lincoln and at the Wyuka cemetery secured Mrs. Wever and had her accompany him to his office for questioning. The wife at the questioning denied at first the purchase of poison and later admitted buying the poison and told of its location at the home and where it was found later by Sheriff Reed and Officer Joe Libershal, a small bottle of strychnine being located at the home. She was not, however, arrested at that time.

The decision of the local officers as to the fact that the death was not due to natural causes was strengthened by the fact of the report of domestic difficulties between the husband and wife, she having on many occasions having visited the court house to complain of her husband as to drinking and that other women were attempting to lure him from her and also by disagreements alleged to have arisen between the husband and wife over alleged associations of the wife with other men.

Mrs. Wever at the Douglas county jail in Omaha broke her silence to deny the charges made.

"I believe that my husband killed himself," Mrs. Wever said reluctantly.

Her husband, she said, had told her one day last week to go to the drug store to buy a poison to "get rid of some rats" about the home. She went to a pharmacy and bought a small quantity of the poison, she said, bringing it home and giving it to her husband.

Friday, Mrs. Wever related, her husband came home from his work and remarked, that the poison was apparently no good. He suggested she get another poison, she said. The wife complied and bought 25 cents worth of the poison. She hid this in the basement, she said, for fear their child might get hold of the poison.

After he had been intoxicated all day Sunday, she said, the man came home ill Monday. She called the doctor, the wife declared.

There was no marital discord in the Wever family, Mrs. Wever said. "We had no family trouble, although his folks didn't like me," she said.

## Reception of Santa Claus to be Real Event

### City Government as Well as Representatives of Schools to Join in Greeting

Local preparations are advancing rapidly for the appearance of Santa Claus in our midst for a pre-Christmas visit, Tuesday, Dec. 23. Santa is coming all the way from the mysterious Northland where he dwells between the Christmas seasons and he is bringing with him Prancer and Dancer, two of his best reindeers, also two of his Eskimo friends to help him with the reindeer. Reindeer require a lot of attention because they are not accustomed to this mild middle-west climate and somebody has to watch them constantly to see that they do not get too much to eat or get too much violent exercise.

As far as we know now Santa will come in from the west by some secret road of his own. When he gets here we are going to give him a royal welcome and a parade. The Plattsmouth high school band have generously agreed to assist. The Boy Scouts will be on the job as usual. The Mayor will greet him and give him the key to the city, and then we are to have for him a Guard of Honor, composed of representatives

from every school in the county. The procession will march down Main street to the Burlington station and then back to the Court House lawn where we expect to have a lodge prepared for Santa and a coral for the reindeer.

Here every boy and girl can talk with Santa and as many possible with the dear old reindeer that they have heard so much about in the story books but have never seen in real life. Santa promises he will arrive in town about 9:30 Tuesday morning, Dec. 23, but we advise every one interested to be on hand early as he might surprise us and come ahead of time.

Full details of the parade and the program will be in this paper. Watch for it. Santa must leave by 12 o'clock noon on Tuesday to meet another appointment, so be sure and be here in the morning.

### ATTENDING BUSINESS COLLEGE

Two Plattsmouth young people, members of the 1930 class of the local high school, are now engaged in attending business college at Omaha, they being Warren Farmer and Miss Irma Pittman. Both of these young students have shown splendid progress in their work and their advancement has been the source of a great deal of pleasure to the instructors of the young people.

Finest line of Christmas cards we have ever had and two places to serve you—Bates Book Store and Journal office.

### FIND SKULL OF ANCIENT

A skull, apparently that of a man, was unearthed a few days ago in the sandpits of the Lyman-Richey Co., northwest of this city and which was rescued from the pit and taken by one of the employees of the company. Other bones no doubt a part of the body to which the skull belonged, was also discovered and unearthed, but the other bones were destroyed in the machinery of the pit before they could be rescued.

The skull was uncovered at a depth of some fifty feet and no doubt was one that has been there many, many years and perhaps was a relic of the ancients that once made their habitation in this section. Whether the skull was that of an Indian or white man has not been determined.

## Basketball Holds Stage at High School

### Squad Cut to Playing Size as Start of the Season Is Drawing Very Close

Basketball, popular midwinter sport of schools and colleges, is now holding the center of things athletic at Plattsmouth high as Coach Fred Rother's blue and white squad are working out for the forthcoming opener of the season here with Blair on Thursday, December 18th.

The number that has been out for basketball has been quite large but the squad has been cut to nineteen members and who will have the opportunity of battling for place on the team this year. Many of the younger players have shown a great deal of promise and the coach will have a fine reserve force for his team and many of the younger players will see a lot of time on the regular team before the season closes.

Those who are to form the squad are: Chet Wiles, (captain), Robert Hartford, John Galloway, Merle McCrary, Garland McCleary, Henry Donat, James Begley, Mott Frady, Clarence Forbes, Frank Yelick, Robert Hirt, L. Knofisek, Maynard McCleary, Gilbert Hirt, Robert Rummel, William Ronne, Dave Robinson, Richard Spangler, Sam Arn.

The schedule for the season is as follows:

- December 18, Blair, here.
- January 7, North, here.
- January 8, Glenwood, there.
- January 16, Auburn, there.
- January 17, Peru, there.
- January 24, Ashland, here.
- January 28, Neb. S. Deaf, here.
- January 27, South, there.
- February 6, Havelock, here.
- February 13, Nebraska City, there.
- February 14, North, there.
- February 20, Nebraska City, here.
- February 25, Glenwood, here.
- February 27, Wahoo, there.
- February 27-28, County Tournament, Eagle.
- March 5, 6, 7, Regional Tournament.
- March 12-14, State Tournament.

### CIVIL WAR VETERAN ILL

Robert Troop, 88, veteran of the civil war and pioneer of Nebraska, is ill at his home in this city, incident to his advancing years. The best of medical attention and nursing is being given this grand old man. Mr. Troop was born in Ireland, coming to America when a small babe, they locating in Davenport, Ia. From this place he went to the war, serving during the entire civil war. He spent a number of months in the Confederate prison at Tylerville, Texas. He is one of the few remaining members of the Grand Army post here.

Today was the sixtieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Troop and a number of the relatives from Nebraska and other points came to join in wishing this estimable couple many happy returns of the day, but owing to the fact that both Mr. and Mrs. Troop were not so well they were unable to have any extended reception of the friends. Several very handsome bouquets were received, however, by the bride and groom of sixty years ago.

### FUNERAL OF GEORGE WEVER

From Friday's Daily—The funeral services of the late George Wever were held yesterday afternoon at the Sattler funeral home at Fourth and Vine street, was largely attended by the friends of the young man who has been so greatly shocked by his sudden death here on Tuesday.

Rev. C. O. Troy, pastor of the First Methodist church, conducted the services and gave words of comfort to the family and friends on the bereavement that has come to them with such suddenness.

During the services Mrs. E. H. Wescott gave two vocal solos, "The City Four Square" and "Going Down the Valley," Mrs. J. M. Roberts being the accompanist.

At the conclusion of the service the body was taken to Lincoln where it was laid to rest in the Wyuka cemetery in the east portion of that city. A number of the friends here accompanied the cortege to Lincoln.

## Seniors Entertain at the High School Today

### Present Fine Program at the Convocation Held at School This Morning.

From Friday's Daily—The convocation program at the high school this morning was presented by the senior class. The convocation which had charge of the arrangements for the clever entertainment given the student body were: Ed Howard, Lucille Albert and Margaret Shellenbarger, with Miss Florence Bieghley as class sponsor. Five acts were given and each showed the ability of the senior class members to put on an enjoyable program and also that they had done considerable hard work to get the various numbers ready. The seniors used a novel method of introducing the talent by having the Ferrie twins, Rose and Ruth tell the audience of the numbers by the use of posters which the girls had designed.

The first number was a farce-comedy in three acts entitled "The King of the Cannibal Islands." The stage was made to represent a southern island with swaying palms and the actors were garbed in the habiliments of the southern islander. The part of King Mumbo Jumbo was played by George Lepert, his daughter was Reine De Les Dernier, the Wizard Kokobola was George Stoll and Paul Iverson the cast away sailor. The first act closed showing the dusky king to be very hungry and desirous of a taste of the white man. The plot thickens in the second act when the king desires to eat the sailor, but finds him to be too skinny to be delectable and in his rage determines to make soup of the Wizard Kokobola. The last act sees the wandering mariner entranced by the charms of the ebony-hued princess and by concocting a delicious porridge, he wins the friendship of the king and the hand of his daughter, while Kokobola perishes in the soup. Margaret Shellenbarger acted as interlocuter.

The second number presented six senior boys, Paul Iverson, Ed Howard, James Begley, George Stoll, Robert Hirt, and Geo. Lepert in a novelty dance wherein by the use of a curtain only six pairs of shoes could be seen above the curtain. This number was highly amusing.

The third number was billed as a one act play by Marvin Tritsch and Ed Howard as the cast. It was a short and silent drama.

James Begley as Prof. Dingleberry, famed musician and his assistant Doolally (Bobt. Bestor) entertained the audience with a few mystifying tricks of magic.

The final number was entitled the Long and Short of the Senior Class, featuring Paul Iverson and Ed Howard in several minutes of clever and comic dialogue which closed the program with many outbursts of laughter from the audience.

The whole program was very clever and the class, committee and sponsor deserve much credit for the work which they did in presenting the school with the program.

### DEATH OF MRS. EMMA MILLER

From Friday's Daily—Mrs. Emma Miller, 63, was found dead this morning at her home in the east portion of the city, the discovery of the body being made by the son, Frank A. J. Miller, as he came to awaken the mother as was his custom. The death had come evidently as a result of an heart attack and the aged lady had passed quietly and peacefully away.

Mrs. Miller has made her home here for a great many years and was well known to a large circle of friends who learn with much regret of her passing and share with her family the sorrow that the death has brought.

The deceased is survived by her husband, Jacob Miller, three sons, John of Knoxville, Iowa; Frank and Charles of this city and four daughters, Mrs. Myrtle Vroman of Mendota, Idaho; Mrs. Clara Boom of Chicago; Mrs. Ethel Sitzmann of Lincoln, and Mrs. Bertha Strats of Three Forks, Montana.

### WOODMAN CIRCLE ELECTS

From Thursday's Daily—The Woodmen Circle held their regular meeting last evening at the home of Mrs. Harry Kruger. Initiation and election of officers. The officers for the ensuing year will be: Mrs. Elizabeth Buttery, Guardian; Mrs. Rozina Ripple, Advisor; Mrs. Harry Kruger, Banker; Marie E. Kaufmann, Secretary; Miss Adelia Lee, Chaplain; Mrs. B. McGuire, Inner Sentinel; Mrs. Max Fitzmeyer, Mrs. Mary Hartwick, Miss Lee, Auditor; Junior Circle Supervisor, Marie E. Kaufmann.

After the close of the meeting delicious refreshments were served by the hostess, assisted by Louise Fitzmeyer. The members of the Woodmen Circle are giving the members of the Junior Circle a Christmas party this coming Saturday afternoon at the home of Mrs. John Zatopek.

### FIND GIRL WANDERER

From Saturday's Daily—Last evening Sheriff Bert Reed was called to one of the farms south of this city on highway No. 75 where it was reported that a young girl had been found wandering along the highway and in need of assistance.

The girl gave the name of Mable Hager, and stated that she had left Nebraska City for Omaha searching for work and had hiked as far as the Glenn Perry farm, when cold, hungry and footsore she had to give up the hike and seek shelter in one of the farm houses near the Perry place. She was exhausted and worn out with the long hike and her exposure and hunger. She was brought on to this city by the sheriff and Constable Tom Svoboda and cared for. The young lady was 18 years of age and had been out of work for some time, she stated, and thought perhaps she might find some work in Omaha.

## \$44,000 Asked for Damages in Auto Smashup

### Cremer Family Bring Action Here for Death of Lincoln Creamer and Injuries.

From Saturday's Daily—This morning in the office of the clerk of the district court a series of actions were filed that aggregated the sum of \$44,213 against Rev. Father Marcellus Agius of this city, the cases being filed by members of the Lincoln Creamer family.

The plaintiffs in their petition allege that on October 1, 1930, Lincoln Creamer, Mrs. Ida Belle Creamer, Helen Creamer and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Creamer were riding in a five passenger Ford sedan, the property of Lee Creamer, on highway No. 11, ten miles east of Lincoln. They further claim that the defendant, Father Agius, was driving west in the same direction as the plaintiffs and that his car passed that of the Creamers and further alleged that the Chrysler car of Father Agius struck the car of Lee Creamer in such a manner as to cause damage to the car and a front tire to blow out and making the car get beyond the control of Mrs. Eunice Creamer, who was driving, and as the result members of the party injured and the car damaged.

The largest sum asked was that of Ida Belle Creamer, administrator of the estate of Lincoln Creamer, asking \$20,850.60, alleging that on October 18, 1930, Mr. Creamer died of the injuries received in the accident. Mrs. Ida Belle Creamer is also plaintiff in her own name for an action for \$5,163 which she asks for injuries and expense of medical care.

Miss Helen Creamer is plaintiff in an action for \$18,200, which she asks for alleged injuries and which it is claimed will interfere with her work and productiveness.

In the county court Lee Creamer, owner of the car, is plaintiff in an action for \$200 which he asks as damages to his car, in which all of the Creamers were riding at the time of the accident.

### MODERN WOODMEN ELECT

From Thursday's Daily—Last evening Cass Camp No. 332 of the Modern Woodmen of America held their annual election of officers for the ensuing year and the following were selected:

Venerable Consul—O. A. Finny-frock.

Advisor—Fred H. Vincent.

Banker—Edward Gabelman.

Clerk—Henry F. Pos.

Wickman—William Schuldice.

Managers—V. T. Arn, three years; A. J. Snyder, two years.

Physician—R. P. Westover.

There was a very pleasing number of the members in attendance at the meeting and to participate in the naming of the new officers.

### DIES IN DAKOTA

From Thursday's Daily—The message was received here today conveying the news of the death last evening at Lead, South Dakota, of Mrs. Harvey Henrys, formerly Miss Florence Bradway of this city and daughter of Mrs. John Geiser.

The death came after an illness of some duration and in the last few weeks the condition of the patient has been such as to give but little hope of her recovery.

The deceased lady was forty-four years of age and is survived by the husband and three children as well as the mother, Mrs. John Geiser, one brother, August Bradway of St. Louis and two sisters, one of whom resides at Neola, Iowa, and one at Tallahassee, Florida.

A plate supper and social will be given on Thursday evening, Dec. 18, at Dist. 97, 2 miles east of Cedar Creek. Everybody welcome.—Mary Swatek, teacher.

### SECURES DIVORCE

Mrs. Ida Schilske of this city has been granted a decree of divorce in the district court here from her husband, Gust Schilske, the cause being uncontested and the decree granted as prayed for.

## Retailers to Sponsor System of Decorations

### Plan to Start Decorative Plan to Extend Over Four Year Period in City

There has been more or less discussion from time to time of a uniform decorative system for the business section of the city and to advance this plan, the retail section of the Chamber of Commerce, comprising the retail business men of the city, started the ball rolling yesterday by their noonday luncheon.

This plan is to cover a four year period as it is felt that the outlay at once would be too great to be undertaken at this time and the method chosen will give the same results with not so burdensome cost.

It is planned to have each street intersection arranged with decorations of Christmas trees at each corner, festoons of colored lights running from the trees to the center over the street intersection, making a bright and colorful setting for the street and one whose brightness will reflect the Christmas spirit and in the center to be suspended a lighted star.

This year it is planned to have the decorations arranged for the Sixth and Main street intersection as one of the main points along the highway No. 75 north and south and 134 east and west, they joining at this point.

Each year the decorations will be added for additional intersections and the system will be expended to include the festoons of lights for the entire length of the Main street, when completed this making a really wonderful plan of street decoration.

The retail section is sponsoring the move and is hopeful that it will appear to the residents of the city and particularly in the business section that they will join in the support of the proposition by financial aid that will lessen the cost very much to each person along Main street.

This certainly is a splendid opportunity to secure a permanent and uniform decorative plan that should be supported by the business men and citizens as a real forward step toward making a bright and attractively decorated city for the holiday season in keeping with similar moves in all the wide awake cities of our class.

### W. B. A. HOLDS ELECTION

From Friday's Daily—Last evening the W. B. A. held a very interesting meeting at the pleasant country home of Mrs. Walter Tritsch, west of this city and where the members enjoyed a fine business and social session.

The business session was largely occupied with the election of the officers of the lodge and the following were selected:

President—Mrs. Emmons Plak.

Vice-President—Mrs. J. H. McMaken.

Active Vice-President—Mrs. Rea McMaken.

Chaplain—Mrs. John Bafeck.

Financial Secretary—Mrs. John Livingston.

Treasurer—Miss Mary Peterson.

Lady of Ceremonies—Mrs. Fred Sharpnaek.

Sergeant—Mrs. Herman Eleketer.

Inner Hostess—Mrs. Sophia Mayfield.

Outer Hostess—Mrs. Fay McClintock.

Press Reporter—Mrs. Joe McMaken, Jr.

Following the business session of the lodge the members enjoyed a fine social evening in which cards were the diversion. Mrs. J. H. McMaken being the winner of one prize and the other awarded to Mrs. Guy Long for their skill. At a suitable hour dainty and delicious refreshments were served that added much to the pleasure of the ladies.

### BRIDGE NOW OPERATING

The Louisville bridge, new structure just completed over the Platte river at that place, is now in full operation and the Louisville Bridge Co., is engaged in the collection of tolls, John H. Busche, long time resident of this city, who has for several years lived at Louisville, being one of the toll keepers. The bridge replaces the old wooden structure which has been operated as a free bridge and the residents of that locality are now making their contributions to the new bridge and which will ultimately make the new bridge a free structure also. With the amount of traffic that passed through that section of the county the attainment of a fine modern toll free bridge ought not to be the matter of but a few years.

The bridge was built under the provisions of the Hughes-Davis bill that permits the state to pay half the cost of the purchase price of the bridge and the county or counties that adjoin the bridge to pay their half of the bridge price by the means of tolls.

### FINED FOR HUNTING

From Thursday's Daily—Yesterday Louis Matovnick of Omaha was before Judge A. H. Duxbury on a charge preferred by game wardens of having been hunting on a farm near Nehawka without the permission of the owner as is required by the new state law in that respect. The defendant was given a fine of \$10 and costs for the offense and after paying the amount of the fine was released from custody.

### SHOWING SOME IMPROVEMENT

The friends here of the Henry Egenberger family of Omaha, will be pleased to learn that their son, Bernard, is showing very nice improvement at the hospital at Omaha where he was operated on Tuesday. The little lad has been quite sick but is now showing some improvement and seems well or the highway to recovery.