

The Plattsmouth Journal

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NO. 61

Old Time Resident Here is Injured at Lincoln

Michael Schirk, 75, Burlington Veteran, Struck by Car—Has a Fractured Skull.

Michael Schirk, 75, veteran of the Burlington railroad, former Plattsmouth resident, was seriously injured when crossing the street was struck by a car at 7th street and Havelock avenue, hurled to the pavement and suffered a fractured skull as well as a fractured left collar bone.

The driver of the car, H. E. Wormholtz of Des Moines, Iowa, stated that he saw the aged man crossing the street and trying to avoid him had turned to the right and the car came over the curb but the rear of the car struck Mr. Schirk and knocked him down.

Mr. Schirk came to this country when a young man, he having been a native of Germany and on reaching this country came to Plattsmouth where he was engaged for some time in the grocery business with H. M. Soennichsen under the firm of Soennichsen & Schirk, being located in the building where the Knights of Columbus hall is now standing. He was also an employe of the Burlington here and later moved to Havelock where for the past forty years he has been living and engaged in the machinery work in the locomotive shops of the Burlington there.

Mr. Schirk was also president of the Burlington Veterans association for a number of years.

The old time friends here will regret to learn of the accident and the serious condition of the patient, who at the last reports was still unconscious.

HONORS MATRON AT HOME

The ladies of Grace Episcopal church of Tecumseh gave a farewell party to Mrs. L. S. Chittenden, her daughter, Mrs. Mary Barnes, and Mrs. Barnes' daughter, Miss Blanche Barnes, at the home of C. D. Barnes, Tuesday afternoon. A delicious 1 o'clock luncheon was served and enjoyed, and the ladies spent the afternoon in a social way. Mrs. Chittenden was presented with a necklace, and the ladies who are to locate at Plattsmouth not later than the first of the coming week, were assured of the deep regret of the community over their leaving this community where they have lived so long. All here to be promoted with Grace church for years, have been untiring workers in the church and with the ladies' auxiliary societies, and their presence and efforts will be missed by the church. Mrs. Barnes is a matron in the Masonic Home at Plattsmouth, and Mrs. Barnes will go to Omaha shortly, where she will enter the University hospital for nurse training.

DEATH OF OLD RESIDENT

Amerith Clement Whitehead was born in Greensburg, Indiana, in Decatur county on Dec. 2, 1863 and died in Rosalie, Aug. 16th, aged 67 years, 8 months and 8 days.

At the age of 21 years he was united in marriage to Sarah Adella White and the union two children were born. Ora Ardra still living and George Lee, who died in infancy. They moved from Indiana to Nebraska in the year of 1888.

Mr. White head was for many years a resident of Cass county, living in the vicinity of Nehawka and Union and the news of his death will bring a great regret to the old friends here.

PROVES A REAL WOODMAN

From Friday's Daily— This morning the last traces of the old maple tree that has stood for so many years on Fourth street just west of the court house was removed. Henry Donat, who was the chief artist in cutting the tree down, removing the large stump of the tree and laying a brick walk over the site of the once large tree. Those who have tree moving jobs should give Captain Donat a ring as he is getting to be a veteran in this line.

DEPARTS FOR THE EAST

From Friday's Daily— This morning Miss Esther Olson and brother, Ralph Olson, departed for the east where Miss Olson goes to take up her teaching work at Bernardston, Mass., while Ralph will spend a short time in the east and possibly may locate there. They expect to visit at Washington for a few days before going on to New England.

RETURNS FROM OUTING

Miss Grace Nolting has returned home from a two week's trip out in the state, accompanying Mrs. Frances Barton to Clay Center, visiting with Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Blume at Minden and also with her aunt and uncle, Rev. and Mrs. J. J. Timken at Beatrice.

BOX CAR BLOCKS TRACK

From Thursday's Daily— This morning a box car on one of the east bound Burlington freights had its front end jammed against the wall in the local yards and as the result the car was damaged and made necessary a crane to remove the car from the main line. The line was blocked for several hours and made necessary the sending of No. 6 east over the Council Bluffs line. Traffic was resumed however in time to allow the morning passenger train to Omaha to reach this city at 9:58.

Robert Mann Receives Award at C. M. T. C.

Basic Student from This City to Show Most Progress—James Begley Best Bandsman of Camp.

The awards of the Citizen's Military Training camp at Fort Crook were presented Thursday afternoon at the Fort at the conclusion of the final review and parade of the student battalion before the officers of the camp and an audience of several thousand relatives and friends.

In the awards two of the Plattsmouth students were recognized. Robert Mann of this city, being given the camp prize for the best bandman of the student organization. This young man has been outstanding in his musical work in the schools here both in the band and as a vocalist, that he has been recognized by the C. M. T. C. camp officers is most pleasing to the many friends of James. The award was a gold medal presented by the seventh army corps.

LOCAL PEOPLE ARRESTED

From Saturday's Daily— Herbert Swanson, arrested by Omaha police for Blair authorities, is in Washington county jail facing charges as the owner of a still found on a farm near Blair.

Swanson's arrest here followed a raid on a still buried below a brooder house on the old Wood's Farm near Blair. John Guthrie, whose home is thought to be in Iowa, was working the farm for Swanson, while Ralph Jacks and Morris Lloyd, both of Plattsmouth, operated the still, according to the Washington sheriff's office.

RETURNS FROM HOSPITAL

From Saturday's Daily— Cecil Comstock, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Comstock, who has been at Omaha for the past two weeks recuperating following his operation, returned home last evening. The operation has proven very successful and Cecil is doing nicely altho he is still quite weak and will have to remain at home resting for several days at least. The young man expects to be in good shape for the opening of the school year on September 8th and to take up his studies as usual. The many friends of the young man are very much pleased to see him back home again.

HAS REAL GRAPES

Attorney A. L. Tidd, who in his hours away from the practice of his profession delights in the cultivation of flowers and fruits, brought to the Journal office today, a fine array of grapes that were produced on the vines at his home. The collection embraced the purple, white and red varieties and were as excellent as any that we have seen this season. For this remembrance Mr. Tidd has the deep appreciation of the Journal.

RETURNS FROM HOSPITAL

From Friday's Daily— Mrs. James T. Begley, who has been at the Clarkson hospital at Omaha for the past several days, taking treatment, returned home this morning. The many friends are pleased to learn that she is able to get back home and has shown much improvement from the treatment.

Wiles Family Gather Here for Annual Reunion

Groups of Members from Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri Form the Large Part of Reunion.

Thursday there gathered here members of the Wiles family, one of the largest family groups in the country, for the annual reunion, despite the fact that lowering clouds in the morning threatened the disturbance of the plans of the reunion.

This family has large numbers in Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri and the different branches of the family were to be seen in the groups of the members as they assembled at Garfield park for the happy occasion.

The occasion brought the opportunity of the members of the family meeting the relatives from distant points and a large number were here from Mills county, Iowa, where the family had been early settlers before the first of the family crossed the Missouri river to settle in Cass county.

The homestead that was preempted by the first of the family, Thomas Wiles, is located a few miles west of this city and is owned by the descendants of the first settler, G. L. Wiles operating the farm and here the twenty-fifth reunion was held last year.

In keeping with the custom of the reunions, at the noon hour a large table was spread and all of the members of the family gathered to break bread and carry the family spirit in the one large group. At the dinner the invocation was offered by Charles Leslie Wiles, of Glenwood, the oldest member of the family present.

The business session of the association was presided over by President Ray M. Wiles of Plattsmouth, and the following officers were named for the ensuing year: President—T. Frank Wiles, Omaha. Vice-President—Marion S. Wiles, Glenwood.

Secretary—J. J. Hall, Plattsmouth. Treasurer—Stephen Glenn Wiles, Plattsmouth. It was voted to hold the twenty-seventh reunion in 1932 at Glenwood, in which locality there are a large number of the family living.

The minutes of the reunion of last year showed there had been six births, nine girls and seven boys, five marriages and ten deaths. This year at the reunion there was reported eleven births, seven girls and four boys, two marriages and four deaths.

The afternoon was occupied by the program which was quite lengthy and filled with many interesting talks by the members of the group as well as musical offerings of all kinds that made the day one of the greatest in history.

RETURN FROM OUTING

From Friday's Daily— Last evening Mr. and Mrs. Don Selvers and family returned home from a very pleasant auto trip back to Illinois, spending the greater part of their time at Kankakee, where they were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Holcomb. The Holcomb family are nicely located in the Illinois city and Mr. Holcomb has charge of the water plant of that city, a large and modern plant, they liking the new home very much. Mr. and Mrs. Selvers also stopped for a short visit at Pekin and Peoria, Illinois, with relatives and friends before resuming their journey on home.

Lost Child Causes Stir on South Side

Little Lad of Three Found at Phil Hirz Home and Police Make Search for Parents.

Not a little excitement was occasioned in the south part of the city Wednesday afternoon when a small boy of three years of age came to the Phillip Hirz home in the south part of the city and the little one was unable to give his name or that of the parents.

The members of the Hirz family made a canvass of that section of the city in the vicinity of their home, Ninth and Gold street, but without success and the services of Chief of Police Jess Elliott was called in to assist in trying to locate the home of the child.

After some search in the city it was finally discovered that the boy was a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Winters, residing in apartments at the residence of Dr. F. L. Cummins, Ninth and Pearl streets, some five blocks away from the Hirz home. The little one had wandered away from the home and his absence was not noticed for some time and while he was being sought the chief restored the wanderer to his home.

Cook Family Has a Fine Trip Thru Northwest

Visit Through National Parks from Black Hills to Pacific Coast on Auto Tour

From Saturday's Daily— Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Cook and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cook, have just returned from a most pleasant auto trip of 5,600 miles through the northwest, taking in their route all of the national parks and places of the greatest scenic beauty from Nebraska to the Northwest.

Leaving here the party motored through the Black Hills and then across the Big Horn to the basin where they spent a short time at the home of Samuel Gape, at Hyattsville, Wyoming. The party also drove through the mountains to Cody and thence through the Yellowstone National park, looking over the great natural beauty places of the park altho the park trip was marred some by the fact that the smoke from the forest fires made it far from pleasant.

In the park the rangers were rounding up the bears and other animals and driving them to points near the camps. From Wyoming the auto party proceeded through the Montana parks and forests to Spokane and then on to Tacoma. At Tacoma the party were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cook and family and some time while Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cook continued on by boat to Vancouver, British Columbia. They found the Cook family doing nicely and the visit of the parents was very much enjoyed by all of the family returning home.

The many places of interest in that section. On the return the auto party followed the Columbia river highway through the northwest to Cheyenne, Wyoming. The party had one real thrill in the trip through Idaho where they stopped at the town of Payette, over night and the next day, some eight hours after the Cook party left, the town was burned up by the forest fires sweeping down the mountains. After reaching Cheyenne, the party motored to Estes Park and Denver for a visit before returning home. They have felt the trip was one long to be remembered but are happy to be home and back in the comforts of old Nebraska.

Covered Dish Luncheon for New President

Mrs. Lottie Rosencreans to be Honor Guest at Joint Legion and Legion Auxiliary Function

From Friday's Daily— A seven o'clock covered dish luncheon, honoring Mrs. Lottie Rosencreans, new state president of the American Legion Auxiliary, was planned last night at a meeting of the executive committee of the local unit, which was also attended by Commander and Adjutant of the Legion post.

This social function will be held on Thursday evening, September 3rd, at the Legion community building, and as stated above, will start promptly at 7 o'clock with the serving of the luncheon.

The dinner will be followed by an evening of entertainment and sociality including dancing and various card games. All auxiliary members, their husbands and families, and all Legion members, their wives and families are to be extended telephone and post card invitation. Each family attending will be urged to bring a covered dish and to avoid a sameness in this type of refreshments the parties calling will offer general suggestions, such as salads, meats, fruit, etc. The exact contents will be left to the parties themselves, however. In addition to the covered dish, each family is to bring sufficient sandwiches for its own needs.

The Legion Auxiliary is to furnish coffee, sugar and cream and the Legion will provide ice cream. A number will be asked to bake cakes instead of contributing a covered dish for the affair. In this manner it is hoped to provide an evenly balanced dinner, and all the dishes will be spread upon a long table around which those present will be seated as a large family group with the new president occupying a position at the head of the table.

Members of the Legion post and Auxiliary unit at Nehawka, where Mrs. Rosencreans formerly resided are to be extended analogous invitations to those sent members of these two organizations here.

The children as well as their parents are to be "in" on the party, and special entertainment to keep them occupied and less boisterous will be provided. Details of this and the general program of entertainment in which the more talented youngsters will participate are to be worked out by special committees to be appointed by Mrs. Hettie Larson, Auxiliary president.

BASEBALL AT PICNIC

As one of the features of the American Legion public picnic to be held on Sunday, September 6th at Naevs park at La Platte, will be the baseball game staged by the Plattsmouth Merchants and the fast Manley team. This feature will prove a very pleasant part of the picnic for the large crowds that are expected to be in attendance. While the game will be free, a collection will be taken to defray the expenses of the teams that have so kindly volunteered their services to help make the picnic event a great success. Manager Ted Harms of the Manley team and Manager Richard Herold of the Merchants are both planning on making this a real contest.

LOCATED IN NEBRASKA CITY

Frank Creeley, who for some months operated the New Way Cattle, hamburger establishment in this city, has now located at Nebraska City where he is to open today the Star billiard room at 707 Central avenue. Mr. Creeley was formerly a resident of Nebraska City some twelve years ago where he was manager of the Empress theatre of that place. Since disposing of his interests in Plattsmouth he has been engaged in looking for a new location and has decided to engage in the conduct of the billiard room. Randall Oldham of this city will assist Mr. Creeley in the new enterprise.

OPENS NEW STORE

From Saturday's Daily— W. A. Swatek, of the Bestor & Swatek Co., departed this morning for Louisville where the opening is being held today of the new store of the hardware company. Mr. Swatek is looking after the conduct of the store at the present time and will be assisted by Marion Ossekop, one of the well known and popular young men of Louisville.

Willbur Hall, who has been engaged with the Black & White grocery for the past few years, has now taken up a new line of work and is to be a clerk in the store department of the BREV shops, taking the place that was formerly held by Charles Nowacek. Mr. Nowacek going to the office of Superintendent W. T. Distel in a clerical position.

PROMOTED TO SERGEANT

Robert Bestor, who is serving his third year at the C. M. T. C. at Fort Crook was appointed under special orders of the camp commandant, sergeant in Co. B, to which he has been assigned this year. The young man has assisted in the drilling of the first year men at the camp and made a very excellent record in his work that has led to his being advanced in the non-commissioned ranks. After the fourth year camp Mr. Bestor will be eligible for a service in the R. O. T. C.

Funeral of Mrs. L. R. Sprecher is Largely Attended

Services at the Sattler Funeral Home Brings Large Group of the Old Friends.

From Saturday's Daily— The funeral services of Mrs. L. R. Sprecher this afternoon at the Sattler funeral home drew a very large number of the friends of a lifetime to pay their last tributes of love and esteem to the memory of the departed lady. The sudden death of Mrs. Sprecher had brought a great shock to the community and friends and the sorrow of her passing was attested by the large number in attendance at the services.

Rev. C. O. Troy, pastor of the First Methodist church of which the departed lady was a member, brought words of comfort and hope to the members of the bereaved family and the friends.

The male quartet composed of Frank A. Clodt, George Sayles, Jr., L. D. Hiatt and R. W. Knorr, gave two numbers, "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" and "Abide With Me," at the home and at the services later at the grave in Oak Hill cemetery. "Jesus Savior Pilot Me."

The pall bearers were from the close friends of Mr. and Mrs. Sprecher, being Howard Fullerton, Lon Henry, Henry Ofe, Jr., Fred Sharpnack, L. B. Rakow and Frank Topiff.

NEW ANTHRAX OUTBREAK

Reports were received Friday by the agricultural department of the first new case of anthrax to develop within the week. Death of stock on the farm of Charles Wangler, near Wynot in Cedar county, was found due to anthrax infection.

Veterinarians in charge of the campaign to curb the spread of the disease said the recent rains and cool weather had made danger of new infection slight. It is believed the disease has probably run its course in the state.

Strict quarantine laws are still being enforced in areas where the disease has been found, and all carcasses of diseased animals are burned.

IMPROVES BUILDING

The building at Third and Main street, occupied by the C. E. Hartford coal office, has been repainted and presents a very fine appearance. Mr. Hartford has a neat and attractive looking building now and one that adds much to the general appearance of that part of the city. Charles Ferguson has done the painting work on the structure.

IMPROVES FRONT

The front of the Knorr Variety store in the Masonic building has been given a touching up as has the sign which extends from the front, the sign being in red and white. The work was done by Frank R. Gobelman and certainly makes the front look much neater with the fresh and bright coloring.

VISITING IN THE CITY

From Saturday's Daily— Miss Nellie Woodruff and niece, Miss Genevieve Pierce, of Fairbault, Minnesota, are in the city to enjoy a visit at the Henry Herold and the Gering homes for a short time. Miss Woodruff is the dietician of the Shattuck Military Academy located in her home city.

ENJOYING OUTING

City Clerk and Mrs. Herman L. Thomas are enjoying their annual vacation outing and are spending the time in a motor trip to Colorado, visiting at Estes Park and several other points in the mountain state. They will visit at Denver before returning home.

ASKS FOR DIVORCE

In the office of the clerk of the district court Friday afternoon a petition was filed entitled G. A. Rutledge vs. Helen Rutledge and in which the plaintiff asks for a decree of divorce as well as custody of the minor children.

WILL TAKE UP CLERK WORK

Charles Reichart and Frank Wheeler, two of the well known residents of Louisville were in the city today looking after some matters of business and visiting with friends.

Early History of Plattsmouth is Recounted

By ROBERT FOSTER PATTERSON, Principal Plattsmouth H. S.

The early settlers in Plattsmouth were not only concerned about the Indian situation which proved to be more apparent than real but they were forced to organize to protect their claims from Claim Jumpers. Civil law did not usually follow settlement immediately, so there was a period, from 1855 to 1858, in the absence of constituted authority, the settlers had to protect themselves as an expedient born of necessity. This circumstance gave rise to the Claim Club Courts. These were organizations of settlers banded together to protect their land claims. It was personal government by the settlers themselves and was aimed specifically at the speculator and claim jumper.

The Plattsmouth Claim Club was organized at two meetings held in 1855, one a preliminary meeting January 29 and the second on March 20 when the organization was perfected. The latter meeting was held on the farm of Mil. Cardwell with B. Cole as chairman and M. G. Powers as secretary. It adopted the name of the "Union Association of Nebraska Territory." The constitution was signed by twenty-seven men. While the land laws allowed claims of one hundred sixty acres, the Claim Clubs protected their members on claims of three hundred twenty acres. Largely of a judicial nature, the Union Association carried on its activities through a committee of three elected by the Association for terms of three months each. One of the three was designated as "Principal" who was a sort of chairman and charged with the duty of attempting settlements between disputing parties. Failing in this, he was to appoint a time and place for a trial before the Association. All cases were to be tried on the evidence as presented and the disputing parties were at liberty to choose other counsel than members of the committee if they so chose. The "Principal" was not only a prosecutor, he was also the enforcement officer and had power to call on the entire Association to enforce the decisions of the court.

Every claim had to be registered with the Recorder giving a description of the land for which a fee of twenty-five cents was permitted. Vacancies on the Committee were to be filled by the remaining members of the Committee. Any member who refused to abide by the decision in a claim dispute, he could be forcibly removed from the premises. Every member's claim was to be his own regardless of the survey lines when the lands were offered for sale. The boundaries of the Union Association embraced the entire Plattsmouth Precinct. Other Claim Clubs were formed at Bellevue, Rock Bluffs and Nebraska City and they differed somewhat in detail of arrangement but had an identical purpose: protection in their land claims.

The speculator would make attractive lithographs showing desirable corner lots, public parks and buildings and use these as selling talk in extracting money from unsuspecting and hopeful purchasers. The Clubs attacked this menace by driving the speculators out. There is some evidence that the speculators formed their own Clubs to carry out their designs, thus bringing two hostile groups into opposition with one another. One instance in point. A settler paid \$205.00 for the privilege of getting a claim but the speculators decided he did not have a claim though his claim had been registered at the land office. The pioneers prepared to resist with violence and the matter was dropped.

The Claim Jumper was even more summarily dealt with. This frontier menace amounted to little more than stealing the claim of a squatter either by intimidation or fraud. It is natural that organizations like the Claim-Clubs, dispensing justice in a more or less quiet, firm way should suffer from peculiar legends as to its actions. "Over the river" came to be the common mode of expressing Claim Club justice which meant that offenders were forced to cross the river from Plattsmouth into Iowa. Some are certain to have never reached the other side.

There were good Claim Club Courts and had ones. With reference to the Plattsmouth Association, A. L. Child, for two years a member states: "To-day, I would not hesitate to submit my questions in which I had an interest to the Claim Club Court in preference to any legal court I have ever seen either in Nebraska or elsewhere."

On the contrary, the Nebraska City News relates one Cass county case where one F. Pearman was charged with claim jumping and ordered to leave the county with the warning that "no claim jumpers can have headquarters in Cass county." Pearman succeeded in getting a reply printed three weeks later in which he branded Claim Club law as mob law and stamped his treatment by the Club as inhuman. "Its members are abominable, filthy blackguards and when I use this language,

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