

NEGRO PLEAD GUILTY TO MURDER SENTENCED TO PEN FOR LIFE

SIMON PITTS, COLORED ACCOMPLICE, BROUGHT FROM PENITENTIARY TO TESTIFY AGAINST BARBER WHO SHOT RAY WILSON

Alfred Sheffield, colored barber, who was arraigned before the district court on Monday morning on the charge of murder and who pleaded not guilty at that time, changed his plea when brought before the court this morning. On his plea of guilty he was sentenced for life in the penitentiary at Lincoln, thereby saving his neck. It is believed that a jury would have found him guilty of murder in the first degree and that the death sentence would have been the penalty.

Sheffield was charged with being the one who fired the shots that killed a white man, Ray Wilson of Garden county, on a side street in Alliance on the night of September 20, 1918. Wilson had been drinking and had flung a roll of money at the auto races. Early that evening shots were heard on West Second street and Wilson staggered under a street light and fell dead. Suspicion was directed towards Sheffield and Pitts at once. Sheffield escaped but Pitts was captured, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the pen for life, being taken to Lancaster in October.

Sheffield was captured in Illinois and brought back to Alliance some weeks ago. County Attorney Basye had lined up an array of evidence against him that would have undoubtedly caused his conviction on the charge of murder in the first degree. On finding Monday that Sheffield intended to stand trial, acting Deputy Sheriff Charles Jeffers went to Lincoln and brought back Pitts, who had confessed in October that Sheffield had used the gun that caused Wilson's death. Sheffield, on learning that Pitts had been brought back to testify against him, changed his plea.

Pitts proved rather a hard one for deputy Jeffers to handle. He told the deputy that he had all "they could give him" and that unless he was treated tip-top he would refuse to testify against Sheffield. Two officers will accompany the murderer back to Lincoln.

JOHN W. BAUMGARDNER DIES IN ARIZONA

Former County Superintendent of Box Butte County Passes Away After Long Illness

Word was received Wednesday by Mr. W. E. Spencer of Alliance, of the death at Phoenix, Arizona, of John W. Baumgardner early that morning. Mrs. Spencer, sister of the deceased, went to Phoenix about thirty days ago when she was informed of the poor health of Mr. Baumgardner, and was at the bedside when the end came.

John W. Baumgardner, an early settler of Box Butte county, came to this section and homesteaded eighteen miles from Alliance with his mother. He was a member of the Masonic and I. O. O. F. orders of this place and was for several years superintendent of public instruction of Box Butte county. He leaves besides his wife, two sisters, Mrs. W. H. Spencer of Alliance and Mrs. George Williams of Norfolk.

The funeral will be held at Phoenix Friday and interment made at that place.

PASSENGER TRAIN GOES INTO DITCH MONDAY

Number Forty-three Jumps Track at Hyannis—Tracks Badly Torn and Traffic Tied Up

Burlington passenger train number forty-three is running true to form still and for the third time in as many months was the cause of a general tie-up of traffic on Monday afternoon and night when it went into the ditch at Hyannis. The accident happened at the east end of the Hyannis yards when the engine split the switch and headed into the siding while the remainder of the train attempted to remain on the main line. The steel baggage car left the track and went into the ditch at a rate of speed sufficient to completely bury the fore trucks; a rail was forced through the floor of the car and general shake-up effected. The baggageman suffered minor injuries and was the only member of the crew to get hurt in any way.

The wrecker from this place was sent to the scene of the wreck and not before twelve hours was it possible to get things cleared away sufficiently for the train to resume its course.

"A penny saved is two pence clear, A pin a day is a groat a year."

WARM WEATHER CAUSES SLUMP IN POTATO MARKET

RECEIPTS OF POTATOES IN BIG LOTS AT CITY MARKETS CAUSES DROP

PRICES CHANGING THIS WEEK

Statistics From Reports Show Larger Stocks Held in Storage Than Year Ago

The warm weather of January caused a slump last week in prices on potatoes at practically all the big markets. The snow and colder weather of Saturday, Sunday and Monday caused a change, however, and prices now are steady.

Much of the 150,000 bushels still held in Box Butte county is graded for seed. This constitutes about twelve per cent of the total crop for 1918.

According to the Packer, the markets for last week were as follows:

Kansas City Market Declines
Kansas City.—The mild weather prevailing over the country the last month has been phenomenal for this season of the year and especially advantageous for the movement of both staple and fresh vegetables. Loading has been heavy and now the market points are noting the effect in larger receipts.

In no other line has the effect of the mild weather been more evident than in the potato market, where the movement has more than doubled the figures of a month ago and where prices have been lowered steadily. Supplies of potatoes in Kansas City Monday and Tuesday were heavy, being 13 cars and 45 cars respectively and with no cold weather yet to stop the loading, supplies are expected to continue heavy.

A general decline of nominally 15 and 20c per cwt has been shown since last week, and the general tone of the market continues weak at the lower prices. Some dealers expressed the belief that the market had reached the bottom and could not go lower, but other thought a bad slump might follow continued heavy movement.

Wednesday's carlot sales of sacked stock were in accordance with the following quotations: Northern Ohio Red River, U. S. No. 1, \$1.80 and 1.90 per cwt; Western Red McClures, \$1.80 and 1.90; Nebraska Early Ohio, \$1.70 and 1.75; Minnesota whites and Burbanks, \$1.70 and 1.80; Western Russet-Burbanks \$1.80 and 1.90. A car of No. 1 sacked Green Mountains sold Tuesday at \$1.80 per cwt.

Stocks of potatoes held in consuming centers on anuary 1 were 144,185 cwt, compared with 51,889 cwt a year ago. Stocks in warehouses on anuary 1 totaled 301,593 cwt, compared with 296,513 cwt a year ago. Stocks held by wholesale growers on January 1 were 236,401 cwt, compared with 241,327 cwt a year ago, the comparative increase being chiefly in cold storage stock. Stocks held by wholesale dealers in fruits and vegetables are not yet reported.

Chicago Market Lower
Chicago.—The slump in the potato market continued last week with receipts running liberal and the demand rather quiet.

The call from the outside trade has been especially light while the demand here has remained fairly steady. The local dealers greatly prefer bulk stock which, in line with the light call from outside for sacks, has resulted in bulk selling on a par and one or two days at a premium, over sacked potatoes.

In spite of the falling off in country paying prices in line with the market here growers have continued to sell rather freely and dealers seem to be of the opinion that the market will not recover as long as loading remains so active.

The Triumph seed potato deal has been very weak. The season for the sale of Triumphs as seed is pretty well past but several of the Northern dealers still have a good many cars on hand that cost them around \$2.30 last fall against a present very dull market at \$1.80 and 2.00 per cwt.

Tuesday the market was off 5c with either bulk or sacked white stock, No. 1, from nearby states selling at \$1.70 and 1.80. No. 1 sacked Idaho Russets brought \$2 and 2.10. Receipts were 55 cars and a total of 224 cars were held in the inner and outer yards.

Wednesday the market was off

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ELKS WANT PICTURES OF WORLD WAR SOLDIERS

Men Who Have Seen Service Abroad and Those Who Served in This Country Included

The Alliance lodge of Elks has taken up the task of getting together a collection of the photographs of all the men from Box Butte county who served their country in the world war. Arrangements have been made with Van Graven, the photographer, to make a picture of each man and when this has been finished there will be made a large composite picture to be known as the Box Butte County Historical Picture of the World War.

With this great picture will be the name, rank, organization of each and every man and the work will be placed in the archives of the county court house, a part of the history of the county.

It is no little task to get together this information and the lodge respectfully solicits the earnest co-operation of the men themselves and of the families interested. The work will be of priceless value when finished to the community and to the relatives of the men who did their bit. The expense will be borne by the Elks lodge.

YOUNG FORGER LANDS IN THE PEN QUICK

Colored Laborer Wrote Check on Wrong Bank and Causes Suspicion of Merchant

Wilbur Wright, young colored laborer, who had been employed by Contractor Charles Fuller, signed the name of the latter to a check for \$14.25 and tried to pass the same on an Alliance merchant Monday afternoon. The merchant had cashed smaller checks for Wright but his suspicions were aroused because the check was written on a different bank than formerly.

Wright was captured the same evening. He was taken before Judge Tash Tuesday morning and bound over to district court. He was then taken before Judge Westover and pleaded guilty to the charge of passing a forged check. He was immediately sentenced to from one to twenty years at hard labor and the sum of \$100 and costs and started with acting Deputy Sheriff Jeffers for Lincoln that night.

Wright was raised at Chadron and had gone as far as the tenth grade in high school.

DISTRICT COURT GRINDS OUT CASES

Court Started Monday Morning and Will Probably Continue Until the Last of Next Week

The February term of district court for Box Butte county began Monday morning with Judge W. J. Westover presiding. The list of cases on the docket this term is rather long and court is expected to last until the last of next week.

Charles Brown, colored, charged with wielding a knife which caused serious injury to another colored man, pleaded guilty to assault and battery. A fine of \$100 and costs was imposed and Brown promised to leave the county.

The case of M. C. Woodley, charged with selling liquor, was dismissed. The parties concerned were colored and most of the witnesses had left for parts unknown.

Oswald Kittelman, German farmer charged with rape on his daughter, pleaded guilty to the charge Monday afternoon and on recommendation of the prosecution the life sentence was suspended during good behavior. The wife appeared before the court and said Kittelman had been good since his preliminary hearing. There are nine children in the family.

Tom Farien, charged with forgery at Hemingford, was not present for trial, having jumped his bond of \$300. Fred Melick of Hemingford was his bondsman.

The case of the State vs. Harry Anderson was dismissed on motion of the county attorney.

The case of Simon Spry vs. A. B. Wheeler was dismissed for lack of prosecution.

A number of divorces were granted, among them being: Hannah Simmons vs. Rajah Simmons; Minerva A. Brown vs. Thomas A. Brown; Nels P. Nelson vs. Bessie D. Nelson; Katherine Nelson vs. Harry Nelson; Charlotte Coates vs. J. L. Coates; Chloe Sparks vs. Leonard Sparks; Inez Sharp vs. Charles W. Sharp; Eva M. Thompson vs. Clarence E. Thompson; Ida Richards vs. James Richards.

People who think the present Nebraska house of representatives is "lopsided" politically because it has 85 republican and 15 democratic members, should recall the 1895 session, when Edgar Howard, who has just quit the office of Lieutenant governor, was the only democratic member of that body.

"A rolling stone gathers no moss."

ATTENTION PATRONS OF LIGHT SERVICE

In order to meet our lamp contract for this year we were compelled to make a large order for lamps to get the larger discount which is given. The city handles this lamp contract in order to keep up the street lighting at the least cost to the tax payers and can therefore ill afford to not sell lamps to the customers.

On and after this date and until further notice we will give the patrons the benefit derived from buying these lamps in large quantities.

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|------------------------------|----------|--------|
| 10-15-25-40 watt Mazda lamps | — \$.30 | \$.25 |
| 60 " " " | .35 | .30 |
| Type C 75 " " " | .70 | .60 |
| " " 100 " " " | 1.10 | .90 |
| " " 200 " " " | 2.20 | 1.75 |
| " " 300 " " " | 3.25 | 2.75 |
| " " 400 " " " | 4.30 | 3.50 |
| " " 500 " " " | 4.70 | 4.00 |

CITY OF ALLIANCE.

EXPRESS OFFICIALS URGE SHIPPERS DO BETTER MARKING AND PACKING

SUPERINTENDENT VANCE OF ALLIANCE SPOKE TO ALLIANCE COMMUNITY CLUB ON WAYS TO SECURE BETTER SERVICE IN DELIVERY

HOME GUARDS WILL CONTINUE THEIR ACTIVITIES

NO ARRANGEMENT AS YET FOR PAY FOR POLICE DUTY IN EPIDEMIC

HAD PLANNED TO DISBAND

In Accordance With Request of Governor McKelvie County Organization Will Be Continued

The Box Butte Home Guards met Friday evening, January 31, at the call of Captain Roy C. Strong. Although an order had been issued by former governor Neville demobilizing the Nebraska home guard organization, insofar as operating under the state authority, the new governor felt that the organization should be continued.

At the meeting Friday evening Captain Strong read the following letter from Governor McKelvie:

Lincoln, Nebr., Jan. 22, 1919.
Captain Roy Strong,
Alliance, Nebraska.

My dear Captain:
In my inaugural address, I made the following reference to the Home Guard:

"In recognition of the considerable expense at which the Home Guards were organized and equipped and the service which they rendered at a time when they were greatly needed, I believe that organization should be privileged to continue but without any authority of act except as they may be called upon by the governor."

I have been awaiting the return of Colonel Paul who is in France and who will become Adjutant General upon his return before taking this subject up further. I find now, however, that the Home Guard companies are at a loss to know how to proceed and I suggest to you that your company be held intact awaiting the return of Colonel Paul.

Furthermore, if these companies are to be mustered out, I would like to see it done with proper ceremony and with proper recognition for the service that was rendered by the members of these organizations.

Will you please advise me of the status of your company so that I may bring the matter to the attention of Colonel Paul immediately upon his return.

The Box Butte home guards who actively participated in the policing of Alliance and in nursing and caring for influenza sufferers during the recent epidemic have not yet received pay for the time they gave to the work, in spite of the fact that Chairman Robert Graham of the county council of defense is reported to have said that they would be paid for the time spent in this police duty.

The city officials have taken the stand that the county should pay the bill, amounting to a little more than \$700. The county officials have taken the stand that the work was done solely in the interest of the city of Alliance and that the city should pay the expense.

The guards were called out on order of Mr. Graham and authority delegated to them by Mayor Rousey to police the streets. In order that the matter may be settled in some way or another a committee was appointed to meet on February 12 and confer with the county commissioners. This committee consists of Hamilton, Thomas, Rhein, Covert and Pilkington.

The guards decided to attend the Roosevelt memorial services in a body on Sunday afternoon, February 9, at the Imperial theatre.

A banquet is to be given on Friday evening, February 13, to the guards. The committee in charge will be Rodgers and Burrows.

PERCY COGSWELL IS SERIOUSLY INJURED

Prominent Alliance Man Fell From Roof of Porch Shortly Before Noon and Breaks Hip

Percy Cogswell, well known Alliance business man and prominent member of the Elks, was seriously injured when he slipped and fell from the porch roof at his home, at 802 Cheyenne avenue.

Dr. C. E. Slagle, who was called immediately after the accident, found that one hip was broken and it is feared that internal injuries may have been caused by the fall. Mr. Cogswell was suffering severely from the injuries this afternoon.

Superintendent J. H. Vance, of the Alliance office of the American Railway Express Company, Monday noon addressed the directors of the Alliance Community Club at their noonday luncheon on the better packing and better marketing campaign now being inaugurated by the company for the purpose of cutting down the immense loss caused by poorly packed and poorly marked packages sent by express.

Mr. Vance stated that the American Railway Express Company has seriously applied itself to the task of improving the express service. A nation-wide campaign is being launched with this end in view and the first subject to receive attention is that of claims. These are the cause of more waste in time and money, and dissatisfaction and ill-feeling between shippers, consignees and the carrier itself, than anything else in the business.

On the theory that the best way to treat a claim is to prevent it, the company hopes to do a great deal in this organization of the service, and secondly, by the co-operation of shippers.

If claims, which result from improper or insufficient wrapping and marking of express shipments, are eliminated both the express service, and the public using it, will be benefited. The bulk of express shipments are given to expressmen, in a short period of the day, and must be handled at high speed to make train connections. They must travel with a miscellaneous collection of articles of all sizes and weights and must be able to stand up for themselves.

Experience has shown that shipments started right have an excellent chance of going through without difficulty. The use of sufficient paper and twine of good quality and of strong boxes and crates will accomplish this purpose, while many shipments nowadays are not packed, wrapped or secured in such a manner as to withstand ordinary handling in transit.

Mr. Vance discouraged the use of old or second-hand boxes and urged the necessity of shippers marking their packages clearly and correctly, always putting the names and addresses of both the shipper and consignee on the outside, while in the case of baggage, to place similar information inside of the shipments. All old marks on packages or baggage should be removed.

The use of a single tag is often responsible for the loss of packages, through the complete lack of identification if it becomes torn off. When it is necessary to use tags, at least two should be provided and securely fastened. Eighty per cent of lost personal baggage is said to go astray on old marks. All of these cases of inadequate and incorrect preparation of shipments for transportation by the express company result in claims, to say nothing of the annoyance and dissatisfaction and waste of time which their adjustment requires.

The speaker referred to the "No Mark" evil as one that "calls for drastic action not only by us but by the shipping public." From July 1 to November 30, of last year, the "No Mark" bureaus of the company received 127,859 shipments, an average of over 25,500 per month, which could not be delivered, owing to the fact that they were entirely without marks of identification of any sort. The larger percentage of these comprise hardware, automobile tires, and personal baggage, while everything movable reaches these bureaus.

In this campaign it is proposed that all express employees receiving shipments from the general public will be required to exercise proper care, in the interest of the shipper as well as of the service. This means that drivers and receiving clerks will hereafter more closely examine the condition in which shipments are turned over to them for handling and will decline to accept those which in their judgment do not meet the required standard.

The speaker urged the executives of business houses to take a personal interest in their shipping departments, to see that they are using the best methods in this respect. He emphasized the fact that the proper preparation of express shipments is necessary to a successful business and require the same personal supervision that the owner may give to his buying and selling.

One reason why express claims should be reduced is that a shipment is never made for the purpose of having it result in a claim. The prudent shipper with an eye to future business wants to deliver the property to the consignee and the consignee wants that same property intact and on time for himself or for his customer. The payment of a claim does not satisfy either. A contented customer is a good asset to every business and shipments delivered in bad order or with the contents damaged or pilfered, owing to

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