

The Alliance Herald

Twice a Week—Tuesday and Friday

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ROUGH HOUSE IN SMITH POOL HALL

"Red" Hudkins, Former Baseball Pitcher Stages Battle With Billiard Balls as Ammunition

"When a chunk of grizzly standston struck him in the abdomen, and he smiled a sickly smile, and curley up on the floor, and the subsequent proceedings interested him no more."

Those of us who recall Truthful James, an early western character made famous by Brete Harte, will see in the lines quoted above a rather accurate description of certain events which transpired at the Joe Smith pool hall Wednesday evening. Only, in this case, the ammunition was not red sandstone, but red billiard balls, which are fully as damaging, as the walls of the pool hall and the bruised arm and side of John Landis, an employe, will testify. The legal record of the case to date follows:

On complaint of Joe Smith, County Judge Tash Thursday morning issued a warrant for the arrest of Roy Hudkins, known better by his sobriquet of "Red," on two charges, felonious assault and intoxication. At a preliminary hearing held Thursday afternoon, the case was continued to next Tuesday at 10 a. m., and Hudkins placed under a \$200 bond to keep the peace and appear for trial. The bond was furnished.

There are a number of conflicting stories out concerning the episode, and that of Joe Smith, proprietor of the pool hall in which the melee occurred, is that Hudkins entered his place of business about 8 p. m. Wednesday. Mr. Smith declares that Hudkins was under the influence of liquor, and that shortly after his arrival, drew out several rolls of bills and insisted on playing for money. He was warned that gambling would not be tolerated, and subsided for a time. Later, he drew out his money, some dice, and kneeling down on the floor, began to roll the bones. He was again cautioned, and, according to Smith, efforts were made to persuade him to leave. He refused to do so, and continued to remain in the establishment, despite the efforts of Mr. Smith and Mr. Landis to get him to leave and to get friends to take him home. Along about 11:30 p. m., after considerable trouble with him in various ways, Mr. Smith ordered him to leave and threatened to call the police if he did not. Thereupon an argument began, and threats of battle were issued. Hudkins, according to the story of the proprietor, aimed a blow at him, which was never delivered, due to John Landis, who seized a billiard cue and struck "Red" on the head with it, flooring him. Hudkins fell beneath a billiard table, and remained there for several minutes. When he arose, his hands were full of red billiard balls, and selecting Landis as his target, Hudkins brought his pitching knowledge into play. According to several witnesses, five balls were thrown. Two of these struck Landis, one in the left side, just below the ribs, and another, aimed at his head, struck his left forearm, which he threw up to ward it off. The marks left by two other balls are seen on the wall. Having knocked Landis out, Hudkins then left by a side door, and came around to the front of the building, and later, when Smith came to the door, he was seized by the arm, drawn outside, and attacked. Mr. Smith bears on his forehead a huge bruise, which he says resulted from a kick by his assailant. He succeeded in eluding Hudkins, and ran over to the police station, where he found Chief Reed.

John Landis' story is very similar to that told by his employer. He has been confined to his room since the fracas, and is unable to leave his bed. His arm and side are badly bruised. He declares that he has always been friendly with Hudkins, and that he had personally urged him to leave. His story is that when Hudkins attacked Smith, he came up intending to persuade "Red" to go home, and that when he started to talk to him, Hudkins asked: "Do you want some of this, too?" When he saw that fist play was certain, he seized a cue and struck Hudkins, intending only to make him be decent and leave. He said that some of the witnesses cried out to him not to strike "Red" again, but that he had no intention of hitting him more than once. Landis says that when the fusillade of billiard balls began, everyone left the building for safer quarters, but that he stayed. No balls were thrown at anyone save himself. He believes that he would have been laid out.

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GREATEST COMPLIMENT WE EVER RECEIVED

"One advantage about having The Herald in the house," said a sober minded business man to us the other day. "Is that it doesn't have to be censored before I take it home. There may be a time and place for shady stories, but somehow other, I prefer not to have them run across them."

He doesn't know that I can be as a prude—I may have been to the wrong kind of a stool in a while—but I find it a mighty embarrassing to have to sidestep when some of the kids ask me about certain bits of alleged humor I run across in some newspapers.

"The Herald seems to have the right combination, and your policy of 'humor without smut' is appreciated by a lot of readers," he told us, and we have never had a greater compliment.

This business man laughed when he told of reading a paragraph which inferred that The Herald didn't print as much news as some. "That's absurd—and no one knows it better than the fellow who wrote it," he said. "Both newspapers are better since you fellows came to the city." He called attention to a certain article that had been copied from us for two issues in succession—each time the details changing so as to make it out of date. "You ought to print one of those deadly parallels," he told us.

H. F. BERRY FINED ON PETIT LARCENY CHARGE

H. F. Berry, brakeman on the south line of the Burlington, was assessed a fine of \$50 and costs in justice court by Justice of the Peace Roberts Thursday morning, following a plea of guilty to a charge of stealing an overcoat, valued at \$50, from a rancher Wednesday evening. The police were notified by the train conductor about 8 p. m. Wednesday evening, and went to Berry's quarters and recovered the coat. He was arrested later in the evening. The rancher's name is not known, but he gave his residence as Scottsbluff. He was on his way to Kansas City with a carload of thoroughbred cattle, and had just time to catch his train. The police returned his coat to him, and decided that it was not necessary for him to appear against Berry.

When Justice Roberts called on the defendant for a plea of guilty or not guilty, Berry hesitated for some time. He scratched his head, beginning at a point above the right ear and gradually working over to the top of the left ear. Then he worked his fingers back again. He also scratched it from the forehead to the back of the neck and vice versa. Finally, he remarked: "I guess I'm guilty, judge," and it took Mr. Roberts exactly four seconds to pronounce sentence. Berry said, when informed that a fine of \$50 and costs amounted to exactly \$55 that he believed he could raise that amount, and was released on his assurances that he would do so. Within half an hour he had dug up the money.

According to Chief Taylor, Berry said that it was his first offense in the stealing line. He had seen the coat hanging up over the seat—it was a new one, and the thought came to him that he could get away with it. He declared that the first experience would be the last.

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC IS SLOWLY SUBSIDING

Indications are that the influenza epidemic will soon be a thing of the past. Only a few new cases have been reported the past week, and one of the patients is reported in a serious condition. There is but one patient left in the city hall hospital, and he is reported as doing fine.

Henry Emde, the night man at the city's power plant, is one of the last cases reported. He has been under quarantine for two days. His illness makes a big difference at the plant. One case of smallpox was reported to the health officers this week.

The members of the Woman's club wish to express their thanks to H. A. DuBouque for the benefit program given at the Imperial Theatre Tuesday evening.

GETTING READY FOR ROAD WORK

Graders Ordered by Commissioners From State Have Arrived—Other Supplies on Hand.

Box Butte county commissioners have been buying supplies of one sort and another in preparation for road work to begin in the spring. Last month they ordered a caterpillar tractor and two road graders from the state highway department. This material was surplus army supplies and intended primarily for use on state aid highways, but Box Butte county has only forty miles of these and that means that other highways will get a good deal of benefit.

The two graders arrived last week and are now awaiting to be erected. They are of huge size, with twelve-foot blade, and will be able to move ground at a rapid rate. The commissioners have also ordered supplies for other graders now on hand, and in addition have a good supply of steel culverts now on hand.

C. L. Hashman, chairman of the board, is in the city today after a long drive. He says that where the roads are broke, they are in fine condition. The snow lies level all over the county and when it thaws down will be of inestimable value. Mr. Hashman came to the city to meet a representative of the Aultman-Taylor company, who will be taken to the county poor farm this afternoon to repair an engine.

T. L. MISKIMAN IS NEW DEPUTY SHERIFF

T. L. Miskiman of Alliance, whose residence is in Duncan's addition, has agreed to accept the position of deputy sheriff made vacant by the resignation of Oscar W. Reed, who has returned to the city's police force at an increased salary. The job is in the nature of a trial trip with Mr. Miskiman, who may decide that he wants to do something else. He is the fourth man who has taken that position under Sheriff Miller and in the other three cases the man in question stepped out into a job that brought in more kaka.

The size of the new deputy is something to strike terror to the hearts of evil doers. He is stalwart of frame, husky of build and his two hundred and thirty-odd pounds are distributed where they ought to be. Mr. Miskiman has not filed a bond as yet, but this will be done immediately, and he will enter upon the duties of his new position without delay.

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE CENTRAL SCHOOL

The pupils of the Central school gave an entertainment last evening, the object being to secure funds to finish payment on the new piano. Numbers were given by the primary and first grade, the fourth and fifth grades, the sixth and seventh grades. The eighth grade conducted a tea room. No admission fee was charged, but voluntary contributions were accepted, and the entertainment realized around \$50.

Your LAST Chance

After March 1, The Alliance Herald will cost you either \$2.50 or \$3.00 per year. If you live within a radius of 150 miles of Alliance, you will pay the lower rate, but outside of that, due to increased postage and mailing charges, you'll have to come across with 50 cents additional.

The Herald prints more real news than any other paper of its class in the state. Live news of Alliance, printed while it's still news, written in a newsy way. All the news that's fit to print—and nothing that isn't.

Until March 1, subscriptions will be received at the old rate. Regular subscribers may pay for not to exceed one year in advance at \$2.00 per year. Use the coupon—before you forget it.

SPECIAL \$2.00 OFFER

The Herald, Alliance, Neb. Enclosed find \$2.00 for which credit me with one year's additional subscription to The Alliance Herald.

Name _____

Postoffice _____

R. F. D. or Box No. _____ State _____

Mark with an X (New.....) or (Renewal.....)

COMMUNITY CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

Governor McKelvie in Alliance Next Monday Evening as Principal Speaker at Banquet

Preparations are smoothly under way for the annual membership meeting of the Alliance Community club. The time is Monday evening at 7 o'clock, and the place is the automobile storeroom of the A. H. Jones company, just to the west of the stairway in Masonic Temple.

Cash sales reported at the office of the community club Thursday night by the committeemen in charge of ticket sales aggregated more than 100 admittances, and there will, of course, be others to be added to this total before the crowd in attendance Monday evening seats itself around the tables and begins the annihilation of the tempting edibles.

The banquet will be served by the ladies' guild of the Christian church and The Herald learns by grapevine telegraph that in return for the \$1.50 which each banquet surrenders for the tiny piece of pasteboard admitting him he is to be served honest-to-goodness grub worth all of that and more. There is going to be an imposing variety of toothsome things, daintily prepared, and, what is still more comforting to reflect, there will be a gracious plenty for all and sundry.

The banquet itself, the first incident on the program, will begin at 7 o'clock sharp. At its conclusion there will be held the election of directors for the year 1920-21. The terms of three directors expire at this time—J. S. Rhein, L. H. Highland and A. T. Lunn. In addition some one will be named to succeed Glen Miller. Mr. Miller is filling an unexpired term caused by the resignation of Ben J. Sallows as president and a director.

So far as The Herald is able to learn from street discussion, these few gentlemen will be unanimously selected as their own successors. They have worked hard and faithfully in the interest of the club, and there seems to be a universal sentiment that the club's best interests will be served by asking each of them to remain on the board for another year.

Following the selection of directors there will be up for discussion two matters which the membership will be asked to decide. One of these is the advisability of considering a permanent home for the organization. The other is a change of name from the Community club to the Chamber of Commerce. The Herald understands that the directors and the club secretary are anxious to see this latter suggestion approved by the members. The matter of a permanent home is, of course, even more important.

The secretary will not make a verbal report of the year's work. This has already been made to every member in the form of a printed resume, and he will not consume unnecessary time by rehashing his report.

The principal event of the evening, aside from the business procedure, will be the speech of Governor R. S. McKelvie, the club's guest of honor.

THE WEATHER

For Alliance and vicinity: Partly cloudy east, unsettled; probably light snow west portion tonight and Saturday colder Saturday and north-west portion tonight.

There are many in Alliance who have not had the opportunity of hearing the state's chief executive. He has many personal acquaintances here, and his presence will no doubt prove a big factor in the attendance.

In the wake of the governor's speech there will be three or four short talks, limited to five minutes each, by members of the club, and these will conclude the evening's program.

President Glen Miller will preside at the gathering and will introduce the governor. The latter will be the guest of Earl D. Mallory while in Alliance.

There are some members of the Community club who may have been unintentionally overlooked by the committee charged with the sale of tickets. In such instances tickets may be had by calling at the club's headquarters underneath the Alliance National bank.

"DESERT GOLD" COMES TO IMPERIAL SUNDAY

Zane Gray's powerful novel, "Desert Gold," is one of the film attractions for the Imperial next Sunday, and this is one pieturization that satisfies the author, so it must be as good as a film can be. Authors are notoriously cranky, and from the way some of these screeners take liberties with the manuscript, you can't blame them. The eighth episode of "The Invisible Hand," and a comedy, "Rips and Stitches," completes the bill.

There is a treat in store for the lovers of that old southern melody in the appearance of the Barnes Merry Minstrels for a one night engagement.

Black-face comedians, singers and dancers will entertain with the old and new songs and dances of the sunny south. Then there is that Dixie jazz band that plays the jazziest jazz that was ever jazzed by a jazzband from that jazziand. There are no dull moments and the comedians are a veritable incubator of laughs.

TO FORM SCOTTISH RITE WOMAN'S CLUB

Preparations are being made for the formation of a Scottish Rite Woman's club following a banquet to be given at the Masonic temple on March 5. Mothers, sisters and daughters of Scottish Rite Masons from the fourteenth to the thirty-second degree will be eligible to membership. W. R. Harper is chairman in charge. He has announced that there will be no initiation fee.

WHO DROVE CITY'S CAR IS ANOTHER MYSTERY

Another mystery has developed at the city hall. Who was driving the city's truck when it backed into the Powell auto some weeks ago. Mr. Powell has put in a claim to the city for damages, and while the automobile was damaged, no one can be found who knows anything about the accident. If one of the city's employes was at the steering wheel, he is keeping dark about it. Mr. Powell has been to see Mayor Rodgers about it several times, but the mayor isn't particularly worried. He says that it's up to Powell to say who, when and how.

SPRING CEREMONIAL OF SCOTTISH RITE

March 18 and 19 will be erec letter days for the Scottish Rite Masons, for on these days will be held the spring ceremonial, during which all degrees up to and including the eighteenth will be conferred. A large class will take the work and visitors from out of the city are expected. Recently letters temporary have been issued for the Rose Croix degree, and these will be given in full form during the ceremonial.

ALLIANCE HOME BUILDERS CHOOSE SUPERINTENDENT

A. S. Mote has been chosen as superintendent of construction for the Alliance home builders' association, which will begin the erection of fifteen houses within the next few days.

NO COAL SUPPLY AT CITY'S PLANT

Coal Mines Fail to Deliver—Using Fuel Borrowed From Burlington Railroad

Beginning Thursday afternoon, the boilers at the city power plant were benig fired with engine coal borrowed from the Burlington railroad. The city has no less than four cars on the way, but they have been on the way for weeks, and are no nearer delivery than they were a month ago, so far a can be discovered. There is no way of telling how long the shortage may continue, City Manager Smith says, but he declares that the plant will be kept running, "even if it necessary to burn wood."

The city buys its coal of the Acme Coal company, at Acme, Wyo., and all during the fuel shortage the company kept Alliance in mind. Recently the company was absorbed in a merger and is now a part of the Sheridan-Wyoming Coal company. Ever since the change, delivery has been on the blink, the city manager says, the Sheridan company not giving anywhere near the service the city received from their predecessors. The new company, when Acme coal is ordered, doesn't always send Acme. They send Wyoming coal, but, according to the city manager, there is a whole lot of difference in coal from that state, and his experience is that Acme gives the best results. "A man can shovel away more than his salary with some of the coal we have been getting," Mr. Smith said.

The first intimation that there had been a change in ownership came on January 24, in a letter acknowledging receipt of orders to increase shipments of coal to one car of one-inch slack every three days. The letter stated that, beginning January 1, the Sheridan-Wyoming company would invoice all coal. This increase to ten cars a month was ordered January 19, and apparently was received, but the coal failed to arrive as scheduled. Straggling deliveries were made, but not in increased quantities, and less than before.

February 23, Mr. Smith sent the following wire: "Ship immediately four cars, either one-inch or to one-half inch screenings for city light plant. Keep our regular shipments coming. We are hōw out of coal."

Then, in a letter dated the same day, the company acknowledged the order and assured the city that it would be sent out within twenty-four hours. Incidentally, they suggest that orders be placed a little further in advance. Mr. Smith declares that thirty-odd days ought to be sufficient notice. A significant statement in the company's letter is that the mines are only running half-time. The letter, in part, follows:

"We note you advise you are out of coal and we do not see why you should be, because we have been giving you regular shipments. We realize the railroad company have been rather slow with deliveries, telegrams coming in daily from the potash field advising of non-delivery of coal. We have been after them vigorously to get coal hurried out from this end, but cannot say our efforts have met with entire success, although we do believe cars have been given average movement.

"We might suggest that it will be well for you to place your orders a little further in advance of your needs of coal. The mines are not working every day and if your order should come in on a day when they were idle and we had no coal on track unbilled we could not ship on that day, but would be obliged to wait until the mines run again. Right now they are running not to exceed three days a week, and occasionally they are idle two days in succession. Thus you see it would convenience us if we were given a little more time in which to ship."

Ora Darnell, former manager of the Acme mine, was in Alliance Tuesday of this week between trains and made a friendly call on the city manager. He expressed himself as glad he was able to take care of Alliance during the coal strike, and was considerably concerned at the lack of service now. He intimated that it might have been expected.

The city has no contract for coal, buying in the open market. The Acme people back in last December offered to contract for a year's supply, but the council decided that this course was unwise.

Your attention is directed to the coupon. Remember this is your last chance to get this grade of reading matter at the old price, \$2.00 a year.