

The Alliance Herald

Twice a Week—Tuesday and Friday

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LACKEY TRIAL ON IN DISTRICT COURT

Difficulty Anticipated in Paneling Jury for Case—Paine Situating

Lawrence Lackey will be placed on trial for his life at the present term of district court, which began Monday morning, with Judge Bayard Paine of Grand Island on the bench, Judge Westover having exchanged with him for the May term. Lackey was arraigned Monday afternoon, and entered a plea of not guilty.

At the arraignment Monday, it became apparent that there would be considerable difficulty in selecting a jury that would be satisfactory to the defense and prosecution. A list of twenty-four talesmen had been called for 11 a. m. today, and Judge Paine inquired if this would be sufficient. William Mitchell, attorney for the defense, asked to look over the list, and having done so, announced that he doubted if four of the twenty-four would qualify. All of them, he said, lived in the city or near it, and it was likely that all of them had been present at the preliminary hearing and formed an opinion on the case.

Up to noon Tuesday, ten jurors had been examined and accepted by the state, but as all of these men must be passed by the attorneys for the defense, it is probable that the jury is not that near complete. The defense has twelve peremptory challenges that can be used on any talesman. It is probable that it will take at least another day, possibly two or three days, before the actual trial will begin.

Judge Paine directed that twenty-four additional men be called, and if it is impossible to select a jury from this number, others will be directed to appear. Monday morning was spent in arranging the docket. There are four criminal cases to be tried at this term, the State of Nebraska vs. Lawrence Lackey, charged with the murder of his seven-year-old daughter by administering strychnine to her concealed in a piece of candy; the State vs. Charles Brown (colored), charged with felonious assault on Willie Foster; the State vs. Tom Rubis, charged with sodomy, and the State vs. John Fought, charged with passing a worthless check and with forging the name of his mother. Mrs. Addie Dumond, to the check. A fifth case, the State vs. Dwight Zediker, charged with the theft of a farm wagon from the Farmers' Union association the first of March. The criminal cases will be tried in the order given, after which the civil cases, of which there are over eighty, will be taken up.

ARRANGING PROGRAM FOR ELKS CONVENTION

The committee on arrangements has been making ready for the state convention of Elks, which is to be held here June 23 and 24, and already a tentative program has been outlined. New attractions are being secured every little while, and when the program is finally completed, the visitors and the citizens of the town in general will have something to remember.

Chief Justice Morrissey of the state supreme court, it is announced, will be one of the speakers. A boxing match has been arranged, the fight to take place on the roof garden of the new Lowry & Henry garage. Grand Exalter Ruler Frank L. Rain will be present during the meeting. A number of lodges from out in the state will send large delegations. There will be banquets, dances, a smoker, vaudeville performances and other attractions.

RECRUITING OFFICE CAPTURES PENNANT

The Alliance recruiting office has again won distinction. Tuesday morning official notice was received that this office led the state during the month of April, and that it would be privileged to display the pennant for the coming month. Twenty-one recruits were secured by the Alliance office during April.

Major Morrison of Camp Funston, in charge of recruiting for the Seventh division, is spending several days at the Alliance office, in the interest of the Fifty-fifth Infantry, which will be recruited from Nebraska. The war department has changed front, and now seeks to encourage state pride by recruiting regiments from the various states.

THE WEATHER

For Alliance and vicinity—Mostly cloudy tonight and Wednesday. Probably showers in east portion. Not much change in temperature.

ALLIANCE ODD FELLOWS CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY

Alliance Odd Fellows and their families celebrated the one hundred and first anniversary of Odd Fellowship in America last Friday evening. About 200 people enjoyed the program. John R. Snyder, grand chief patriarch of Nebraska, gave the address of welcome, and related some of the facts concerning the first subordinate lodge in the United States. Mrs. E. C. Drake, noble grand of the Rebekahs, gave a very interesting address on the organization and growth of the Rebekah degree. George Gadsby gave a short address on "Odd Fellowship," and told of the growth of the order. Lee Moore, chief patriarch, gave a history of the first encampment. F. O. Roe, captain of the Patriarchs Militant, told of the organization and progress of this branch of Odd Fellowship. The music was furnished by Andy's orchestra and was enjoyed by everyone present.

BANKER DISCUSSES FINANCIAL SITUATION

W. B. Tagg, a banker in Hay Springs, has issued the following statement on the latest ruling of the federal reserve bank board which gives in a clear, concise way the nature of the new regulations and the probable effect on the livestock industry:

Farmers and stockmen will be vitally interested in a ruling recently issued by the federal reserve bank board, which became effective in this district on April 19th, by reason of which interest rates on loans will be higher and money harder to get than it has at any time during the last few years.

In an effort to curtail speculation and to cut down the amount of rediscounts placed with the federal reserve banks by the member banks, they have inaugurated a plan of rediscounts placed with them on the basis of what is called a progressive rediscount rate, so that now on essential industries like farming and raising live stock will be forced to bid for money in competition with those industries that are making big profits out of the manufacture and sale of luxuries and non-essentials.

A basis amount of credit determined by the member banks averaged reserve balance and capital stock payment has been set and loans made by member banks in excess of this amount will be subject to an increasing discount rate. For instance, if the normal discount rate is 6 per cent, a member bank using credit in excess of this reserve will have to pay 6 1/2 per cent on the first 25 per cent in excess of its reserve basis and 7 per cent on the next 25 per cent excess loans and so on up.

To a bank who handles a large amount of livestock paper and is familiar with livestock conditions and is trying to help the live stock men in its territory it means that they are liable to be charged anywhere from 7 to 10 per cent on the money they borrow or on the paper they rediscount at the federal reserve bank, and the harder they try to help out the livestock situation the higher the rate they will have to pay and they in turn will be compelled to increase the rate to their customers, and we are afraid that the banks will decline to make the loans rather than to be forced to charge their customers an exorbitant rate of interest.

This progressive rediscount rate was made effective in order to curb credit extension by making borrowing more difficult and is part of a move on the part of the federal reserve board at Washington to curb the use of money for speculative purposes. It was not aimed particularly at the farmer or livestock man, but it is going to affect them more seriously than any other commercial or industrial factor, because they will have to compete for money with the people who are taking big profits and who can afford to pay high interest rates.

The republican county convention will be held at the court house in Alliance, Neb., next Tuesday at 2 p. m. At the convention the delegates to the state meeting will be chosen. The delegates were chosen at the primary, and both men and women will be represented. The platform to be written will probably endorse Governor McKeivie and his administration. W. R. Harper, county chairman, will call the meeting to order.

ANGORA MAN IS BURNED TO DEATH

John Harroff, Eighty-five Years Old, Receives Fatal Injuries When a Lamp Explodes.

John Harroff, eighty-five years old, received burns from which he died shortly after 2 o'clock last Friday afternoon. Mr. Harroff, who was very feeble, had been making his home with his son's wife, Mrs. Mary Harroff, near Angora, for over a year.

About 12:30 p. m. Friday, Mrs. Harroff and little son went to Angora with R. B. Sween. Returning about 2 o'clock, as they neared the home they saw smoke coming out of the doors and windows. They found one room burned and the aged man lying beside the stove, badly burned about the face and hands, and unconscious. He died soon after.

The origin of the fire is unknown, but the theory is that Mr. Harroff built too hot a fire. Mrs. Harroff had left the fire in good shape, telling him it would not need replenishing until her return. The belief is that he made the fire up again, and that the room became so hot that a lamp, which was on a nearby table, exploded, throwing fire over the entire room.

That Mr. Harroff tried to extinguish the blaze is evident from the condition of his hands. When they picked him up, the flesh dropped from his hands and arms.

The coroner was summoned from Bridgeport, and the body was taken to that city. The remains were sent to Missouri for burial.

Mrs. Harroff has, for more than a year, had the care of two almost helpless men, her husband, the late B. F. Harroff, and his father, whose tragic death occurred Friday.

HARRY E. MOORE OVERDREW ACCOUNT

Harry E. Moore, salesman for the Emerson-Brantingham company, left Alliance some days ago for Omaha, where he had been transferred. At the time he left the city, his account with the First State bank was overdrawn in the sum of \$173. His attention was called to this, and a promise given that settlement would be made, but nothing came of it.

County Judge Ira E. Tash, at a hearing Saturday morning, gave the bank judgment for the amount Mr. Moore was overdrawn, and an execution was issued. Sheriff Miller proceeded to put a padlock and chain on an automobile belonging to Mr. Moore. The following morning another member of the Moore family, who intended to drive the car to Sidney, discovered that the chain anchored it. The judgment was paid as soon as the judge could be reached.

SOME PROGRESS ON IMPROVEMENTS

The sanitary sewer is now nearly completed. The last of the pipe line was laid this week and as soon as half a dozen manholes are installed this will be a finished chapter of the city's improvement program.

Work on the storm sewer is temporarily held up, awaiting the coming of more suitable weather. Most of the moisture of the past two or three weeks has drained down into the western part of town, and the sewer gang, which had been working east on Fifth street, is awaiting the coming of better days. The corner inlets, also have been held up pending a conference with Mr. Grant, who will be here in a week or ten days.

The paving is maintaining the status quo nicely. The paving force is expected to begin work within the next ten days, just as soon, in fact, as it finishes with a contract at Mitchell. Mr. Sprague or Sprague & Nicely, the contractors, is in the city today.

L. T. Burrows, who has been for the past eleven years in the employ of Glen Miller, Tuesday morning took up his new duties with the Burlington railroad, where he has accepted a position in the bridges and buildings division under Foreman Van Velzen.

John McCarthy of Antloch, who is employed at the Alliance potash plant, was in Alliance Sunday on his way to Denver.

H. E. Wells was called to Lake-side Sunday to the home of the late J. H. Lunford.

JOHN PILKINGTON ISN'T INTERESTED

Pitiful Plight of Wealthy Spanish Prisoner Doesn't Move Him the Least Bit

John Pilkington cut his eye teeth some years ago, and consequently failed to fall for the old Spanish prisoner gag this week, despite the fact that it held out a glowing promise of wealth. Not every man is strong enough to resist the temptation to take a trip to sunny Spain and come back with \$120,000 simply by putting up a few thousands in order to rescue some man from jail.

In Monday morning's mail, Mr. Pilkington received a letter from Madrid. It was written in a fine hand, and told the story of a man who, though imprisoned for bankruptcy, was possessed of a fortune.

MADRID, April 1, 1920.—Dear Sir: Being imprisoned for bankruptcy, I beseech you to help me to obtain a sum of 360,000 dollars I have in America, being necessary to come here to raise the seizure of my baggage, paying to the registrar of the court the expenses of my trial and recover my portmanteau containing a secret pocket where I have hidden two checks payable to bearer for that sum.

"As a reward I will give up to you the third part, viz., 120,000 dollars.

"I cannot receive your answer in the prison, but you can send a cablegram to a person of my confidence who will deliver it to me, addressed as follows:

"Rovirosa Calle RomanHauseuse, 72 Capl. Ciudad Lineal, Madrid. "Awaiting your answer to intrust you all my secret, now I sign only "R. de L.

"First of all answer by cable, not by letter."

Here's adventure for you—here's romance and wealth, but the prospect didn't appeal to Mr. Pilkington. Any man who has lived to his age is pretty certain to have heard of this grand old fraud at least two or three times. The details change from time to time, but the main idea is the same. Usually the plot is better laid. In most instances, the prisoner is in jail for political purposes—he has offended the powers that be. They hold him incommunicado, but he has a trusty friend who has been able to send him messages by underground means, such as notes baked in a loaf of bread and hid in a plug of chewing tobacco.

In this instance, the prisoner is held for bankruptcy. His money is in the form of checks made out to bearer, but it is in America, in a secret pocket. Usually the Spanish prisoner is content if the victim he has selected will cable money. This man is an artist. He prefers that the man he fleeces come to Spain, where the laws are less lax and where, if a man gets troublesome, they can knock him in the head and the police won't get too curious.

These Spanish grafters have a peculiar turn of mind. They fondly imagine that they have fixed up a letter that sounds plausible. This one is as full of holes as a Switzer cheese. Why should a man go to all the trouble to fix up a secret pocket in a portmanteau, and then leave all his wealth in it—and in the form of checks made out to bearer? Why should he leave his portmanteau in America? Americans, these days of reckless spending, are careless with money, but they don't leave \$360,000 lying around in portmanteaux in storage.

Mr. Pilkington will not take the trip to Spain. He will not send a cable to the friend. He is perfectly willing that any of Alliance's oil magnates take a chance, if they wish, and will turn over the credentials to anyone who wants to experiment with a Spanish gentleman who must have a cablegram before he intrusts his victim with his full name. In other days these gentry were content to wait for the mail steamers. Now they want replies by cable. Even the Castilian adventurers are getting nipped by the speed mania that is the curse of the world.

The letter came to Mr. Pilkington without warning. He has no friends in Spain. Once he knew a Spaniard, but all of us have made mistakes from time to time. It is probable that in some old newspaper they unearthed his name. Not so very many years ago, when Mr. Pilkington was in the grain business, he was known not only in Nebraska, but had an acquaintanceship that extended pretty well over the country as well. Just how well is instanced by the fact that he once received within ten days a letter from England addressed simply: "John Pilkington, Nebraska."

A BOQUET

Every little while we run across someone who likes The Herald's style and isn't a bit backward about saying so. We don't print all the nice things that are said about us, but we like to hear them, and we're glad that they come fairly often. Now and then, we come across a compliment so finely worded that we are just human enough to want our readers to know about it.

James P. Joseph of Chicago, secretary of the national board of fire underwriters, was one of the speakers at the Nebraska association of fire insurance agents, which met here a few weeks ago. J. W. Guthrie retiring president, mailed him a copy of The Herald with our story of the convention, and this is the letter that came back:

Chicago, Ill.

April 21, 1920.

Mr. J. W. Guthrie, Alliance, Nebraska.

Dear Mr. Guthrie:

On my return, following a week's absence, I have the pleasure of reading the "Alliance Herald," issue of March 26th.

The general presentation of the meeting and its objects is most clearly set forth and far above the average success attained by the journals in larger cities, that is, from the viewpoint of population and circulation.

I think Editor Burr is entitled to a vote of thanks and if it is put consider me voting strongly in the affirmative and twice if permissible under the law.

With best wishes, believe me Sincerely yours, James P. Joseph Secretary.

COUNCIL GRANTS A NUMBER OF LICENSES

The city council met in special session at the city hall Monday evening, and on this occasion there was a quorum present, although one or two of the councilmen managed to remain away. The meeting was called to approve pool hall and plumbers' licenses, and the following were given the official O. K.:

Pool halls: Jackson & Vallos; Vale & Simpson; Joe Smith; Everett Cook.

Plumbers: W. E. Zediker, C. E. Brennan, W. J. Leo, J. E. Hennebry, E. O. Beckwell.

A delegation of east side citizens was present—some eight or ten of them—and they presented a plea to the council for some improvements in their part of the city. The chief kick was that in other parts of Alliance, half a dozen citizens had been able to secure water extension, but a much greater number on the east side hadn't been able to get results. Mayor Rodgers explained that he was in sympathy with their demand, and that as soon as an estimate could be prepared, some arrangements would be made to take care of them.

Engineer White and Mr. Chambers were called in, and for some minutes there was a good deal of verbal fireworks. Mayor Rodgers and two or three members of the council objected to the way public improvements were being made, and especial objection was registered to the corner inlets for the storm sewers, which are being constructed of brick, instead of concrete. The contract was brought out and read, and it was discovered that the contractors could use either of these materials. Later it was announced that these inlets will be rebuilt or reinforced.

The council requested that Engineer Grant be asked to meet with the council at its next session.

A committee was appointed to investigate sewage disposal, the idea being that this should be carried as far away from the city as possible. Councilmen Moore, Hills and Hacker were appointed to make the investigation.

Mayor Rodgers announced that under the state laws, councilmen were required to give bond in the sum of \$1,000, and that unless this requirement were fulfilled, councilmen would be disqualified. Most of the councilmen have attended to this, but one or two have not considered it necessary.

At the close of the meeting, the board of health, which consists of Councilman Moore, chairman; Councilman Sturgeon, Dr. Hand, city physician, Chief of Police Taylor and Mayor Rodgers, ex-officio member, held a meeting.

AFTER RAMSEY SECRETARYSHIP

Chamber of Commerce Directors Request Amarillo, Tex., Man to Come to Alliance.

S. M. Ramsey of Amarillo, Tex., will be the new secretary of the Alliance Chamber of Commerce if he accepts an offer telegraphed to him Monday evening after the regular weekly meeting of the board of directors. Mr. Ramsey has been requested to accept the position for a period of three months, at the expiration of which, if his work looks good to the Chamber of Commerce directors, he will be offered the place permanently. At noon today no telegraphic reply had been received from the Amarillo man.

Rufus Jones, retiring secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, who leaves Alliance to enter business for himself in Denver, informs The Herald that Mr. Ramsey is an able secretary and newspaper man. Not long ago he surrendered the secretaryship of the Chamber of Commerce at Amarillo to get back into newspaper work, but finds himself anxious to return to the secretarial field now. He is a close personal friend of Mr. Jones, who recommended him to the Chamber of Commerce directors, and in addition the directors received several telegrams from the Texas town concerning Mr. Ramsey.

A telegram received by Rufus Jones early Tuesday afternoon brought word that Mr. Ramsey would accept the offer of the chamber of commerce and that he would arrive in Alliance Monday or Tuesday. Mr. Jones, who has been serving until the arrival of his successor, will leave within a few days to take up his duties with a Denver investment concern wherein he has purchased a half-interest.

COLORED MAN HELD ON LARCENY CHARGE

On receipt of a wire from Scotts-bluff police authorities, Chief of Police Taylor arrested Raymond Hitchcock, colored, Monday evening. The prisoner is held for Scotts-bluff authorities. A tailor shop in Scotts-bluff was robbed earlier in the evening, at which time one tailored suit of clothes and some ten yards of broadcloth taken. Suspicion fell on Anderson, who decided to leave town shortly after the robbery was committed. With the description furnished, Chief Taylor picked up his man the minute he alighted from the train, and he is now confined in the city jail awaiting the arrival of the Scotts-bluff officers, who will take him back for trial. Hitchcock says he worked in Alliance for some years and denies all knowledge of the crime for which he is held.

POOR PROSPECTS FOR CHEAPER CLOTHING

Marcus Frankle of the Famous Clothing House, who returned the first of the week from a four weeks' buying tour in eastern markets, including New England and New York city, made extensive purchases for his winter stock. He reports that there is little indication that prices will be cheaper. In fact, a number of lines show marked advances.

Especially in the good grades of merchandise is there no tendency for prices to come down. It is possible, Mr. Frankle says, to buy cheap grades of merchandise, but the values are so poor that merchants will not stock them. The cheap, shoddy stuff is going begging, buyers refusing to stock up on stuff that will not sell, no matter what price is put on it. There is still a shortage of good stuff and the demand is increasing, but the poorer lines are going begging.

The Alliance Packing Company have moved their offices to the rooms over the Rumor Motor Co., 301 Box Butte.

Judge L. A. Berry and family moved into their new residence at 936 Laramie the last of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Lemon of Belmont visited with the family of Henry Clayton, returning home Monday.

Mrs. Arthur Moore of Omaha is visiting Mrs. Redmond of this city.

J. H. Liston and wife returned from Rochester, Minn., the last of the week.