

The Alliance Herald

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LACKEY TRIAL NEARING END

State Concludes Testimony Friday Morning—Case May Go to Jury Tomorrow

Lawrence H. Lackey, charged with first-degree murder in causing the death of his seven-year-old daughter, Pauline, by giving her candy poisoned with strychnine, took the stand to testify in his own defense about 11:30 Friday morning. The prosecution's last witness was called to the stand during the morning. There remain only the examination of Lackey, the pleas and the decision of the jury to bring the most sensational case ever tried in Box Butte county to a close.

Lackey, in his testimony, entered a flat denial of several statements made by witnesses for the prosecution, among them statements made by his brother, Frank. Frank Lackey yesterday morning testified that he had told Lawrence and his mother that one of them had killed Pauline, and that Lawrence had got red in the face. Lawrence Lackey declared that Frank had never made any such charge, but admitted that he had told the mother something to this effect, and that his mother had afterward told him of Frank's suspicions. He denied that he had refused to have an autopsy performed on the body of his little daughter. He said that he did not like the thought of mutilating her body, and Dr. Hand told him then that there was no time that evening to do it, and then he told the doctor that he would let him know in the morning. The following morning he called up the doctor and gave the consent.

Lawrence explained how he came to say to Frank: "If you had kept your d--- nose out of it, there wouldn't have been any trouble." He said that the two of them were walking home one night, and Frank said to him: "The three of us have got to stick together." It was then that he told Frank that if he had not stirred up the trouble, nobody would have been accused. Then, Lawrence said, Frank told him, in effect: "If that's the way you feel about it, I'll go ahead and see that my mother and myself are protected."

At the Friday afternoon session, Lackey testified that Pauline was his favorite child, that everybody liked her and that he knew of no one who would be benefited by her death or who would desire it. He denied the testimony of Sheriff Miller regarding the story told by Convict Gill and the sheriff, which was ruled out by the judge previously. He told of several quarrels with Gill, and that he found the bottle of strychnine in Gill's cell, but threw it away. He denied that he had asked his wife to return, but acknowledged regret at the separation on account of the children. He finally acknowledged that he had not only been willing to have her come back, but had done what he could to induce her to do so. He acknowledged that he had ridden down town with Dr. Blak after the child's death and that he had made no inquiry as to the cause of death. He denied saying to his brother, Frank, that if it took "death to bring his wife back, she would come back now," and also saying to County Attorney Basye that the result of the autopsy was just as he had expected.

Selection of Jury.

The trial began Wednesday morning, there having been less delay in the selection of a jury than had been anticipated. Forty-nine talesmen were called and a large number were disqualified because of having formed an opinion from the testimony at the preliminary hearing. The jury as selected consisted of the following: Joseph Carey, P. J. Knapp, W. L. Griffith, Bruce McDowell, A. J. Gahagan, Clarence Morgan, R. L. Harris, K. E. Robinson, C. D. Rider, C. W. Howard, Joseph Henricks and Joe A. Johansen. In his opening statement, County Attorney Basye declared that evidence would be presented to show that Lawrence Lackey and his wife were divorced a month before the death of Pauline; that he was awarded the custody of five children for six months; that on the evening previous to the death of Pauline the father had purchased candy, making particular request for chocolates with soft centers; that he took this candy home, giving it to his children; that on the morning of the child's death, September 11, he took Pauline and a younger sister, Wilma, to school, and as he parted from them, gave each a piece of candy; that Pauline complained her candy was bitter, but ate it nevertheless; that

shortly afterward she was taken ill, a doctor was called and she was removed to her home, where she died of convulsions.

The county attorney stated that the state would attempt to prove that the father was not in the habit of taking his children to school; that the symptoms of the little girl's sickness were those of strychnine poisoning, and that the father was the only one who gave her anything to eat after leaving home. The attending physician suspected poisoning, the city physician was notified, and the father objected to an autopsy, afterward giving his consent. An analysis of the stomach showed the presence of strychnine.

The state's theory, as shown by the opening address, seems to be that the father poisoned the little girl in the hope that her death would bring his wife back. Lackey had brooded over his separation from his wife. He had written letters, Mr. Basye charged, to his mother-in-law, hinting that something would happen that they would all be sorry for if his wife did not return to him.

Case for the Defense

William Mitchell, who made the opening statement for the defense, pointed out to the jury the solemn nature of the task that confronted them. He declared that what evidence the state had was purely circumstantial, and said that if such evidence were to convict, every member of the jury was in constant danger every time he bought candy for his children. Mr. Mitchell scored the brother of the defendant, Frank Lackey. He said there was an unnatural condition in this family, where a brother desired to convict a brother. He said there was no possible motive the state could show to explain why a father would kill his child. Mr. Mitchell insisted that the analysis of the child's stomach, which showed the presence of strychnine, proved nothing. The child had been embalmed, and there was a possibility that the fluid used contained a poison.

Judge Warns Crowd

Judge Bayard H. Paine of Grand Island, presiding, addressed the crowded court room before the taking of testimony began, warning them to abstain from applause, whispering or in any manner showing their sentiments. He explained that cases had been reversed and sent back for retrial where the audience had influenced the jury. The court room has been crowded at every session since the taking of testimony began. The audience is composed largely of women, and every available seat has been taken long before the time set for the opening of court. After the first day a number of women have brought their lunches with them and stayed right in the building in order to avoid losing any of the testimony. There appear to be many girls of school age

(Continued on page 5)

ESTABLISH SCHOOL TO TRAIN NURSES

St. Joseph's Hospital to Enter New Field—Miss Genevieve Sheridan Placed in Charge.

Under the direction of Genevieve B. Sheridan, R. N., of Rochester, Minn., a training school for nurses is about to be opened at St. Joseph's Hospital of this city. The rapid growth of the hospital within the last three years, has made the training school a necessity.

Miss Sheridan, who arrived in Alliance on May 1, and to whom the entire management of the patients at the hospital is now entrusted, is a graduate of the county and city hospital of St. Paul, Minn., and a post-graduate of the school of nurses of the Mayo-Clinic at Rochester, Minn. During the world war she was a Red cross nurse, doing overseas service in the American hospitals in France. "I am very optimistic," said Miss Sheridan to a Herald reporter this morning, "for the success of the training school. The splendid and modern equipment of this hospital, combined with unity of effort on the part of doctors and nurses, I am confident, will bring this institution up to the standard of any of the first class hospitals in the west."

TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT SHORTAGE THREATENED

The telephone company has been having much trouble recently getting enough apparatus and supplies to install telephones and telephone equipment.

This situation, telephone officials say, has resulted from two causes: There is a nationwide scarcity of raw products, especially wood, paper and metals, the principal materials used in making telephone supplies. Also there is an unusual demand for telephone service throughout the country, which has continued for nearly two years.

Because of the shortage of raw materials and the heavy demand for telephone supplies, the factories are unable to furnish telephone instruments, wire, switchboard parts and other equipment as fast as needed.

The telephone company is making every effort to take care of requests for the installation of telephone or changes in equipment as promptly as possible, but Manager Clay Harry says that at times there is likely to be considerable delay.

The telephone company is asking that it be notified as early as possible when a new telephone is wanted or when any change in equipment is desired.

ROTARIANS GO TO SCOTTSBLUFF

Attend Joint Meeting Where Clubs in Three Cities Will Receive Charters.

Charter members of the Alliance Rotary club left for Scottsbluff Thursday afternoon, where they will attend a joint meeting at which the newly organized Rotary clubs of Alliance, Chadron and Scottsbluff will receive charters.

Charles Stroger of Lincoln, district governor for the Rotary clubs, with a territory covering four states, made the presentation. He was accompanied by a large number of members of the Lincoln club. The Scottsbluff meeting, according to Mr. Strader, was the largest ever held in the west.

Invitations had been sent to Rotary clubs of northeastern Colorado and eastern Wyoming, and a number from the various clubs of the states were present to witness the installation of the officers of the Alliance, Chadron and Scottsbluff organizations.

The members of the Chadron club, twenty-four in number, stopped off in Alliance on their way to Scottsbluff, and for two or three hours were entertained in the city. They were made at home at the Elks club, and a luncheon was tendered there. If entertainment at the club proved too tame, they were permitted to go upon Box Butte avenue and use the crossings while a light rain was falling. One Chadron delegate said that it was the most thrilling sport he recalled since he had learned to roller skate.

The following members of the Chadron club made the trip: W. S. Bostder, R. I. Elliott, H. B. Coffee, Ed F. White, W. S. Satterlee, H. E. Reische, Euterpe Thompson, L. R. Eower, P. P. Proudft, Joe Rayburn (this is probably J. F. Rayburn, Chadron's new city manager, but the town is well enough acquainted with him to give him a nickname), Rev. Mr. Davies, Dr. M. B. McDowell, E. C. Eyerly, T. P. Dohy, Ed Morey, O. J. Schwieger, O. S. Renfro, W. T. Stockdale, George Stevens, B. F. Fenner, B. F. Pitman, E. D. Crites, Roy Randall, C. H. Pollard.

INTERESTING MEETING OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters held an interesting meeting at the home of Mrs. G. L. Fernald Wednesday afternoon. Subjects pertaining to national constitution and history of party caucuses, conventions and rights of suffrage. Other miscellaneous topics were discussed. It was voted to hold a meeting the first Thursday of each month.

THE WEATHER

For Alliance and Vicinity: Fair tonight and Saturday; warmer Saturday.

Miss Hazel Meyer, sister of Earl Meyer, 1012 Cheyenne street, has accepted the position of nursing at St. Joseph Hospital. Miss Meyer is a graduate of the Laughlins hospital in Kirksville, Mo.

HONORS TO JUNIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL MEET

The annual interclass meet was very successful. Each class was well represented and the competition was keen in the majority of events.

Lester Beal won individual honors with 33 1/2 points, Frank Dalley second with 26 1/2 points. Good records were made in the heavy track and field. One school record was lowered one-fifth of a second by Frank Dalley in the 220 yard dash.

100 yd. dash—Dalley, 1st; Strong, 2nd; Beal 3d. Time, 11 1-5 seconds.

Pole Vault—Dalley, 1st; Purdy, 2nd; Beal, 3rd. 8 ft. 6 in.

Shot Put—Beal, 1st; Brennan, 2nd; Purdy, 3rd. 33 ft. 4 1/2 in.

220 yd. dash—Dalley 1st; Beal 2nd; Purdy, 3rd. 26 sec.

Discus Throw—Beal 1st; Brennan, 2nd; Purdy, 3rd. 81 ft., 6 in.

440 yd. dash—Lawrence 1st; Strong, 2nd; Wong, 3rd. 64 sec.

120 yd. High Hurdles—Beal 1st; Cross 2nd. 19 1-5 sec.

Hammer Throw—Donovan, 1st; Beal, 2nd; Pate, 3rd. 81 ft. 6 in.

220 yd. Low Hurdles—Beal and Purdy tied; Cross, 2nd. 35 sec.

1/2 Mile Relay—Juniors, 1st; Freshmen, 2nd; Sophomores, 3rd. 1:48.

Scores by points: Juniors, 57; Freshmen, 33; Sophomores, 24; Seniors, 11.

The following will represent Alliance in the Western Nebraska Track and Field meet at Scottsbluff Saturday: Frank Dalley, Lester Beal, Lee Strong, Robert Lawrence, Leonard Pate and Lester Cross. Everyone is strong enough in his event to cop a medal in the meet. The first four will make up a strong relay team that should give any relay team strong competition all the way to the tape. The team will bid strong and should win the trophy of Western Nebraska.

TWENTY-FIVE TO BE GRADUATED

Commencement Exercises Will Be Held at High School Friday Evening, May 21.

Commencement exercises for the Alliance high school graduates, class of 1920, will be held at the high school auditorium Friday evening, May 21. The orator for the occasion is Charles A. Payne, a world traveler of note, who has been lecturing to classes in the universities of half a dozen western states. Mr. Payne was sent to Europe by the national geographic society, and was recommended to Alliance by the University of Nebraska.

The class of 1920, barring accidents, will contain twenty-five members, ten boys and fifteen girls. The names of the graduates will not be announced until the final week, for it is possible that some one or two slated for graduation will fail to make the grade. This seldom happens, but the school authorities prefer to be certain.

Baccalaureate services will take place at the high school auditorium Sunday evening, May 16. Rev. S. J. Epler of the First Christian church will deliver the address. It will be a united service of all the churches in the city.

ALLIANCE BRIEFS

The junior-senior banquet was given at the high school gymnasium Thursday evening. The hall was decorated in the class colors, maroon and cream. The dinner was served by the ladies of the Baptist church. About seventy five were present. The following toast list was given:

Carl Buechenstein, toastmaster; "Sincerity, Glen Joder; "Understanding," Mary Woolis; "Courage," Miss Keith; "Co-operation," Frances Grassman; "Endeavor," Ray Edwards; "System," F. C. Prince; "Service," Madeline Zediker.

One doesn't hear so very much about the overall clubs these days, but they have had their effect, all right. A local merchant was seeking this week to place an order for just four suits of overalls for one of his customers, and was given the information that the concern from which he buys it not accepting any overall orders for delivery earlier than September 15, and then at a considerably increased price. This concern is a large one, operating fifteen factories, and the state of the market indicates that the demand must have been way out of the ordinary.

One of the outdoor sports these days is to listen to the comments of Alliance visitors when they get a good look at our crossings, or better still, when they are wading through them. Alliance folks are becoming more or less resigned. Prospects right now are not the most favorable for street improvement. So long as the rains keep up, it is impossible to begin the preliminary grading, and there can be no hope of crossings until the paving goes in or public sentiment develops to a point where somebody will get insistent with those who are responsible for the condition. The paving gang is still working at Mitchell. One Herald representative, after hearing that the paving machinery and gang would be here within eight days, bet a handful of cigars that they wouldn't show up for three weeks. He hasn't worried about losing for a minute, and his opponent has practically conceded defeat. Just think how much rain can fall in three weeks—and keep cheerful.

A water-color picture of the proposed new Methodist church has arrived and a reproduction will appear in the next issue of The Herald. It will be seen to be a classic design, or what might be called "library style." This particular design, so popular in the west during the last decade or two, had its origin in the Greek temples, which were noted for their beautiful exteriors. "The interior arrangement has been carefully prepared for modern church work," says the Rev. Mearl C. Smith, "and while it will not be the largest church in the state, we know of none that we consider so well-planned for the latest type of church work. We think the arrangement will meet the approval of Alliance people."

It has been suggested that those who desire to observe Mothers' Day are unable to procure flowers wear a rosette of white ribbon or chiffon instead.

ALLIANCE IN THE SPRING OF 1893—JUST AFTER THE BIG FIRE



—From Photo owned by T. S. Fielding.

THROUGH the courtesy of T. S. Fielding, The Herald this week reproduces a photograph of Alliance as it appeared in the spring of 1893, shortly after the last big fire, which wiped out several blocks on Box Butte avenue. Twenty-seven years ago, Alliance citizens were wading in mud just as they are today, thanks to a conscienceless paving gang. The sidewalks, made of plank or boards, were few and far between. There would be sometimes as much as a half-block of sidewalk, and then for a block or two the mud was ankle-deep. There's more rain this year—and the mud is deeper.

The little frame shack in the foreground was the home of Porter & Co., bankers, who afterward sold out to R. M. Hampton. This building was probably built to replace one that had burned in a previous fire. The two-story building several lots to the north is the building now occupied by the Mallery grocery. The school building is the Central school. Two small buildings stand on the east side of the present postoffice. The Opera House block looked about the same at the front as it does now, save that it was then in course of construction. Now they are putting in the last of a series of modern store fronts. The church to the right of the picture is the Methodist. The small frame building this side of it was occupied

by a cobbler who was willing to stop half-soiling shoes to arise and shave customers when desired. The cobbler-barber afterward gave up the shoe repairing business and devoted his entire time to tonsorial work. In those days, thank heaven, hair tonics were unknown.

But one man in the entire picture has been recognized by the old-timers. You will observe, almost in the exact center of the scene, a gentleman with cutaway coat and silk tie. This is not, as Jim Hunter has guessed, a visiting railroad magnate. Jim's theory is that he must be a visitor. In those wild days, a citizen couldn't appear in a silk hat without some fun-loving brother taking a

shot at it with his pistol. The silk-hatted gentleman was a journeyman tailor, by name Ernest Zopher, who encouraged T. S. Fielding to move to Alliance from Chadron, and afterward entered his employ. History has it that he finally lost that silk hat, not by having it shot off, but by having a playful cattleman smash it down over his eyes—"crown" him, we believe, is the proper expression. The tailor had entered a third emporium, for a purpose not known, and the excess of dignity represented by that shining tile was offensive to someone. Mr. Zopher never again appeared in public wearing a silk hat, and the probabilities are that he didn't own the mate to it.

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