

# The Alliance Herald

Twice a Week—Tuesday and Friday

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ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1920.

NUMBER 47

## LAWRENCE LACKEY IS GIVEN LIBERTY

District Court Jury Acquits Him on Charge of Poisoning Seven-Year-old Daughter

A district court jury brought in a verdict of acquittal for Lawrence Lackey, on trial charged with first degree murder, at 2 o'clock Saturday morning after having been out for nearly five hours. Fifty or sixty of Lackey's friends, confident of a favorable verdict, had remained in the court room awaiting the jury's verdict, and for the next half hour Lackey was kept busy shaking hands with those who crowded around him with congratulations.

The case was given to the jury at 8:30 p. m., following the argument of Eugene Burton for the prosecution and the reading of instructions to the jury by Judge Bayard Paine. The testimony was concluded Friday afternoon and the argument of William Mitchell completed the afternoon session.

Lawrence Lackey was the last witness called. He took the stand about 11 o'clock Friday morning, and for three hours answered questions. He denied testimony given by his brother, Frank, his mother and other relatives. He entered a denial to all of the testimony given by John Gill, convict, who was in jail with him during a part of his confinement, and also to a part of Sheriff Miller's testimony. The testimony of the latter two had been ordered stricken from the records. He told of having had trouble with his brother, Frank, one of the most damaging witnesses for the state, and declared that Frank had once told him that he "would get even, if it took six years." He denied making statements his brother had quoted him as giving.

### Lackey's Testimony

Lackey told a straightforward story of the events of December 11, the day his little daughter, Pauline, died. He said that, due to an illness some time before, she was his favorite child. He knew of one one who would have benefited by the little girl's death and declared that he had no reason for wishing it.

In his cross-examination, Friday afternoon, Lackey told of an agreement made with his wife last fall, when she secured a divorce, that he was to have the children six months, after which she was to have the girls. He said he had been very anxious to have his wife return to him, and had even had a minister write to her in his behalf. Mrs. Kelly, his mother-in-law, was recalled and said she had received a letter from Lawrence Lackey, her son-in-law containing the statement that something might happen to the children so that his wife would never get them. Lackey denied that he had written any such letter. Mrs. Kelly said that in all the letters Lackey had written he had expressed love for the children.

County Attorney Lee Basye made the opening plea for the prosecution. He summarized the events leading up to the child's death, calling attention, among other things, to the fact that this was the first time that Lackey had ever gone to school with his children. He said that Lackey had admitted giving them candy. In other times when he had given them candy he had given them the sack and let them help themselves. This time he had handed it out himself, piece by piece. Other candy out of the same pail had been eaten by others with no bad results.

### Audience Applauds

William Mitchell, in his plea for the defense, was applauded by the court room when he declared that Dr. Blak should have called another physician. Judge Paine stopped the applause and warned the crowd that he would clear the room if the offense was repeated. The judge said that such a demonstration was strictly against the law, and that cases had been reversed where it was shown that the audience had shown its injury how they felt. Dr. Blak, Mr. Mitchell declared, had said the child was getting better shortly before she died, thus showing that he had not recognized the symptoms as those of strychnine poisoning.

Lackey, his attorney said, was willing to take back his wife for the sake of the children. The state had failed, he said, to show that Lackey had ever had any strychnine. The principal witnesses against him were relatives, interested in preventing the casting of suspicion on someone else or for other reasons.

The defendant wept during the plea of his attorney. His little daughter, Wilma, took the chair next to him during the argument, and when, in the course of the argument, Mr. Mitchell asked: "Does he

## THE WEATHER

ALLIANCE, Neb., May 11.—For Alliance and vicinity: Showers tonight and Wednesday. Cooler tonight in east and south-central portion Wednesday.

look like a murderer?" the picture father and daughter presented was most effective.

### Will Work on Ranch

Lawrence Lackey, the day following his acquittal, stated that he had not had much time to make plans, but that he was about decided to take his daughter, Wilma, and work for the next few months on the Irving Peterson ranch, near Alliance. The two sons of Mr. Lackey were kept by Mr. Peterson during the time the father was in jail. The boys and little baby are now with Lackey's divorced wife at McCook. Wilma will be taken to her mother after the stay at the Peterson ranch, Lackey says.

Lackey has been offered two positions since his release, one with the Alliance Packin company as a salesman, and the other with the Lowry & Henry arase, where he worked before his arrest.

Lawrence Lackey was a visitor at the court house Saturday following his release and with his daughter Wilma was an interested spectator at the case of the State of Nebraska vs. Charles Brown, charged with assault with intent to commit great bodily injury.

## FISHING TRIP AND SERMON FOR T. P. A.

At the regular meeting of Post M. T. P. A., held Saturday afternoon at the office of the Alliance chamber of commerce, the members of the post voted to attend a sermon to be preached by the post chaplain, Rev. Stephen Epler, at the Christian church on Sunday morning, May 30, at 11 o'clock.

The post also voted to hold a fishing trip, on another date, which will be attended by the traveling men and their families. F. A. Bald was appointed chairman of a committee to arrange for the date and the trip, as well as the location. The date will probably be on a Friday and the location will probably be on Dead Horse creek, in the Pine Ridge country, north of Alliance, where the trout bite freely.

Secretary Rufus Jones of the chamber of commerce, who is a member of the post and chairman of the press committee, resigned on account of leaving the city, and George Burr was elected to fill the vacancy. The following resolution was presented and adopted:

"Whereas, One of the best boosters for Post M is about to leave the city for his new home in Denver, and

"Whereas, He has done much for the welfare and advancement of Post M during his stay here, as chairman of the press committee and as a private in the front rank of the post; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we, the members of Post M, extend to our brother and fellow member, Rufus Jones, our sincere and hearty wishes for a successful future and career in his new location, and we extend to him our regrets in losing him as a citizen of our city."

George D. Read has been elected as delegate and Roy C. Strong as alternate to attend the national T. P. A. convention in Portland, Ore., in June.

## FAMOUS PIANIST TO VISIT ALLIANCE

Professor A. W. Roper, one of America's most noted pianists, will visit Alliance and give an entertainment in the Methodist church in the evening of June 4th, under the auspices of the Methodist choir. Those who attended the great Centenary convention in Omaha where 2,000 delegates from Iowa and Nebraska met in the Brandels theatre will never forget the fine entertainment given by Professor Roper, which was perhaps the most appreciated part of the program. He travels with Professor E. O. Excell whose name is known among musicians everywhere. The reason for his coming to Alliance is that he will be returning from a convention in Rapid City, South Dakota, and will necessarily have a few hours wait in this city. Learning of this opportunity to hear one of the world's greatest musicians, a telegram was immediately sent accepting the offer.

—Dodge touring car for sale or trade in A-1 condition. Phone 576. 47-48p



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

To be erected on the corner of Seventh and Box Butte, Alliance. Building is a classic or 'library' design, 75x75 feet besides the portico in front. It will be constructed of pressed brick and hollow tile. There will be a small dome for lighting the interior, but will not be visible from the outside, being hidden by the fire wall. There will be three stories, arranged as follows:

The main floor contains auditorium with bowled floor, circular pews, pulpit with choir loft behind, seating 50 people. The auditorium including the choir loft will seat 400 people. The main floor also contains choir room, pastor's study, and junior departmental room which can be opened into the main auditorium for additional seating capacity when needed.

Gallery floor: A few rows of seats on both the east and north sides will seat 150 people. Behind these seats are nine class rooms, all enclosed as ordinary rooms, varying in size. These will be used by the intermediate, senior and adult departments.

Basement: Contains large kitchen, parlor, beginners' department room, primary department room, and large social room, 42x48 feet, which can be used for dining room, games, Sunday school assembly room, or entertainments. A stage is in the north end of the room. It will be thirteen feet in the clear, so will be well adapted for an assembly room.

A pipe organ will be built over the choir room with the console in the center of the choir loft. A ventilating system will be installed with the heating plant, which will be used to circulate the heat in the winter, and to cool off the room by circulation of air in the summer.

## MADLINE ZEDIKER STATE CHAMPION

Alliance High School Contestant Wins First Place in the State Contest

Miss Madeline Zediker, representing Alliance high school, won first place in the state declamatory contest in the dramatic class, giving the selection, "Rock of Ages," which won her both the local and district contests, held during the past month.

The state contest was held at Gordon last evening, and at St. Edward, the oratorical and humorous classes being represented at the latter city. The Gordon contest was held Monday evening, and Miss Zediker made a tremendous impression with her selection, a number of the audience being in tears during its rendition.

At the contest last night, Miss Zediker entered into competition with the winners for the six districts of the state, and the competition was, of course, much more keen than on any previous occasion. Alliance high school is very proud of the record made by its representative, and the whole city feels the same way about it.

## RAMSEY OF AMARILLO DECLINES SECRETARYSHIP

R. S. Ramsey of Amarillo, Tex., who sent a wire to the chamber of commerce a week ago announcing that he would accept the chamber's offer of a secretaryship at \$3,300 a year, yesterday telegraphed that it would be impossible for him to come to Alliance. A letter explaining the reasons for his declining the position is on the way, and when it arrives the mystery may be solved.

The defection of Mr. Ramsey leaves the chamber of commerce in rather a hole. The race meet is only six weeks hence, and Rufus Jones, who has been holding the position until his successor's arrival, cannot much longer delay his departure. There are two or three outside men in prospect, but the directors, who discussed the matter at their regular meeting last evening, are of the opinion that the place should be filled without delay.

In all probability, a local man will be selected for the place, to serve until after the race meet, at least. Several men have been discussed, and a selection will likely be made within two or three days. The big task facing the directors right now is to make a big success of the race meet, and they believe that a local man could handle this to a better advantage than a regular secretary, unacquainted with the situation.

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evidence by the state was his property, although he admitted he had a knife. He did not explain by what right he had ordered the plaintiff to stay off the street, or why he had "promised her a beating."

Mrs. Essie English was the second witness called by the state and she corroborated Miss Foster's testimony in every detail, and told a lot more beside. It was she who advised Willie to run after Charles had struck her. She said that she reached for the quart bottles as soon as she saw him draw back his hand. When she had them in her hand, she addressed Charles thusly:

"If you touch that girl again, I'll bust your head wide open."

To which Charles gallantly made reply:

"If you butt in here, I'll slit your throat from ear to ear."

Whereupon, seeing that Willie was safe, she retreated to the house. Brown remained outside, daring them to come out. Mrs. English quoted him as saying:

"If you don't believe I'll kill her, just throw her out. Just you throw her out, that's all."

Mrs. English said she threatened to "call the law."

"Damn the law," was the way Charles expressed his sentiments.

On cross-examination, she denied that she told Charles that she'd take a "pistol and blow his brains

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## COLORED GAMBELERS IN POLICE COURT

Eight gentlemen of color, and one lady of the same complexion, received fines in police court after a legal struggle of four hours in which there was both testimony and oratory. Attorney Earl Meyer substituted for City Attorney Metz during the trial, which was one of the most interesting in weeks. The charge was gambling. The eight men received fines of \$10 and costs, apiece, a total of \$15, while Willie James, the woman, was assessed \$25 and costs, largely because it was in the rooming house conducted by her that the gambling was going on.

Arrest was made at a raid at 115 Sweetwater Friday evening by Chief of Police Taylor and Night Watch Trabert. They told of surrounding the premises, and lying in wait till the game started. The chief then took a look through one of the windows, and saw a large number of men gathered about a table. He heard the rattle of dice, and words sounding like "Big Dick" and "Little Joe" and others which furnished sufficient evidence to convince him that money was changing hands pretty rapidly. He then entered the house, gained entrance to the room by shoving his foot where it was needed when the door was opened. There was a general scattering, but the chief managed to hold eight men and capture one deck of cards, one pair of bones and a trifle over \$8 in money.

Every one of the captured men failed to be impressed by a night in jail and in firm, strong voices they pleaded not guilty to the charge of gambling. It was only an innocent card game, and every one of them averred that they were just playing whist to pass away the weary hours, and they proved that they knew how to play whist, too. They hinted that Chief Taylor was trying to "get" them. It was a peaceful story that they told, every one of them, with little variation in the details.

It seems that the evenings are sometimes long and dull on Sweetwater. There is no place down town where a colored man may spend his leisure hours and Willie James, in her rooming house, has set apart a sort of back parlor as a club room. There is a piano, a card table and a refrigerator, from which the landlady sells Bevo and pop and other harmless liquors at a reasonable price. The evening in question, ten people testified, they were playing whist. One man was at the piano, furnishing music. Every now and then someone would buy Bevo for the house. Into this peaceful scene the police thrust themselves, noisily, rudely and with profanity.

The men were backed up against the wall, ordered to hold up their hands and be searched. The landlady was relieved of a second pair of dice, but she came by them in a right a proper way, having taken them off "her aunt's little boy" only that noon. Willie also explained the presence of the money on the table. It seems that some brother had just given her a ten-dollar bill to buy the drinks (soft drinks) for the crowd, and she had gone into her room, adjoining, to get the correct change for this money. It seems that she had brought the wrong amount—or that

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## HEMINGFORD HIT BY A TORNADO

Sunday Afternoon Twister Tears Down Buildings and Causes Other Damages

A tornado which circled the city of Hemingford late Sunday afternoon left a trail of broken windows, damaged windmills and wrecked barns sheds and houses in its path. The windstorm was preceded by a heavy hail storm, which began shortly after 5 p. m., and fifteen minutes later the funnel-shaped cloud began to get in its work.

The tornado came up from the southwest and the first place it struck was the Fred Huckle farm, one mile due south of Hemingford. Here practically every building on the place was damaged somewhat, but with the exception of a few small sheds nothing was wrecked. The first object in the path of the storm, after it struck the ground, was a strawstack which was scattered all over the surrounding territory. Two or three small sheds were crushed, a snow fence was wrecked, the house lost a chimney and several patches of shingles, boards were ripped off the barn. A wagon was picked up and set down fifty feet away. In another place two wagons were standing side by side. The storm took one of these nearly around the house, driving the tongue into the lawn almost its full length.

After leaving the Huckle place, the storm continued northeast, and later circled around, striking Hemingford coming from almost the opposite direction. The reports of damages in that city show the loss to have been greater. The Melick & Redmon machine shed was literally torn to pieces. A plank was picked up and driven through the Hemingford Mercantile company's store, taking the back end out of the building. Here the loss was considerable as a drug stock is located in this part of the house. The back porch was removed from the house of Postmaster John Kinley, and Mr. Kinley was cut about the forehead by flying glass. The roof was torn off the Farmers' Union coal shed. One of the potato loading platforms down by the railroad tracks was picked up by the wind and set down, without damage, at a point near the city's electric lighting plant, two blocks distant.

A report of another twister, or the same one, striking at the home of James Ringer, four miles southwest of Hemingford, has also reached Alliance. The stories differ as to the effects of the storm, but it is said that new hog houses containing over 100 pigs were destroyed. There was little loss among the pigs, as given by our informant, who shows every evidence of being a truthful and upright man, is that since the tornado struck, the mother pigs refuse to own their little ones, having been so bewildered by the storm that they have forgotten family ties.

An hour before the storm struck Hemingford, a small twister is reported to have hit the Ross Eneyart place, with slight damage.

The rail storm is reported to have been exceptionally severe, very few places in Hemingford not having at least one window pane that needs repairing. Hemingford residents reported picking up hailstones that measured five inches in diameter at 8 o'clock, over two hours after the storm had passed.

Leo Fronapfel, a farmer living near Hemingford, was driving into that city at the time the storm struck. He says that the wind had a terrific force, so much, in fact, that each time he threw out the clutch on the automobile the wind would commence driving the machine backward.

## DISTRICT COURT IS STILL IN SESSION

With the Lackey murder trial disposed of, district court, with Judge Bayard H. Paine presiding, is still grinding away with a big grist of cases still to be disposed of. The criminal docket for the term is finished, unless the witness for the state, Joe Delhaute, in the case of the State of Nebraska vs. Tom Rubis, should appear. So far, he had not shown up, but there is a possibility that he will be located. Young Fought, up on a charge of forgery, was paroled to his mother, Mrs. Addie Dumond.

Yesterday, the court was occupied by the case of Vaughn vs. Nebraska Land company. It was tried before a jury, taking practically the entire day. The jury brought in a verdict for the defendant and against the Nebraska Land company. The case had been appealed from county court, and it is probable that another appeal will be taken.