

## THRILLING STORY OF HAT CREEK HERO

Lloyd C. Thomas of this city, who made a special trip to the flood regions last week in the interest of the Omaha World-Herald, was accorded a page and a complimentary write-up on the story he told of John Williams, who, on Tuesday night, May 11, swam twice across Hat Creek, swollen to flood proportions, to warn a loaded passenger train from the west that the big steel railroad bridge had gone out.

John Williams, who is a quiet, unobtrusive section foreman, told the story of his adventures as follows:

"Well, I just figured the chances was probably against me a gettin' across but it was only my life against 150 passengers on No. 42 and I figured that the train would be a runnin' pretty fast when they came up that west grade to the bridge and they might be into it before they saw it, so I walked up the creek half a mile, stripped off my clothes, tied my red lantern, red flag and torpedoes to my back and swam across.

"There wasn't so many trees up there and she was only about 600 feet wide, but that water was full of hailstones and cold as hell. It was

raining to beat the band and dark as blazes. But it wasn't so bad until I got into the main channel. I'd rather tried it in a boat but there wasn't no boat anywhere near that I knew of. She carried me down to that big dike just above the railroad bridge. I sure felt good when I hit that fence on the west side and drug myself out on the bank.

"There hain't much more to tell. I walked down the track about half a mile, set the flag and lantern in the middle of the rails and put the torpedoes on the rails. Didn't have no matches, so I could not light the lanterns, but I figured they'd see my signals all right."

"But how did you get back to Ardmore?" he was asked.

"Well," said John, "I walked up to the government farm but when I got close to the office and saw the bright lights there I remembered I didn't have no clothes on and I thought I'd make a pretty lookin' sight bustin' in on 'em like that, so I walked up the stream and swam back."

"Did you find your clothes when you got back to the east side?" he was asked. "No, sirc, I didn't look for 'em. I just hotfooted it up the track for home. The wife and kids was somewhat surprised when I came in but I got warmed up, put on some

more clothes and went back a couple of hours later to watch that bridge."

John Williams is forty-three years of age and has a wife and two children. He was raised in Wisconsin on the banks of the Mississippi and swims like a fish. If he hadn't been a good swimmer he could not have made his way half across the raging, hail-filled stream, which was over 600 feet wide at the point he went across and which was filled with floating logs, with here and there an occasional horse or cow. Some of the jealous ones and doubting Thomases at Ardmore scoff at his story, but the torpedoes, the red lantern and the flag were found where he said he had put them and that is evidence enough to convince the smiling railroad officials who are glad to know that the Burlington railroad has loyal workers from the bottom to the top of the ladder.

Forty-two didn't go into the flood. She had been held at Edgemont by the officials at Sheridan, headquarters of the western division, who felt that something was wrong when the wires went out. But had she gone east towards the swollen and raging stream the lives of the passengers and crew would undoubtedly have been saved by the heroic work of the section hand—modest John Williams.

### TOUGH SEASON FOR THE POTASH PLANTS Resume Operation After Enforced Idleness Due to Floods and Lack of Coal

The potash plants at Hoffland, Antioch and Lakeside have resumed operations following enforced idleness for over a week, due to floods, caused by the swift disappearance of the late snow and the later rains, says the State Journal. These not only shut off the pumping from the potash-laden lakes, but prevented the delivery of coal to the plants, due to the going out of railroad bridges. Coal is now coming in, however. At Antioch the flood waters extended unbrokenly the other day for a distance of eleven miles.

W. E. Sharp of Lincoln, head of the American company, which operates two plants at Antioch, has been on the scene for several days looking after the resumption of work. All of the plants have enough orders ahead to run the remainder of the year, and at a price that makes possible a profit.

This is the bad season, however, for potash plants. The potash is extracted from water pumped from the lakes, and the cost of getting it out depends on the strength of the brine. In the spring, and especially this year, the lakes are running full, and this weakens the brine. Surface water is not pumped for potash producing purposes. Wells are sunk to the bottom of the lakes, and it is through these that the brine is pumped. With the coming of hot weather, the brine grows in strength, and the production increases. In winter the ice has the same effect.

The Canadian government gives a further indication that they are strongly in favor of helping their returned soldiers catch up with those few who remained at home during the war and tended to their business. One hundred fifty thousand dollars has been set aside to grubstake ex-service men who wish to prospect for minerals or other "pay dirt". In connection with their liberal bonus and farm gifts, a \$60 bonus looks small.

#### ANGORA

Mrs. Mabel Barber has charge of the telephone central board and the same has been moved to her residence.

L. D. Carnine and R. K. Maybell were Alliance business visitors Saturday.

Miss Frances Glau spent the week end with Miss Mildred Shippell at the Daxon home.

Mrs. Abbie Stoner of Scottsbluff is here visiting relatives and friends.

Miss Ella McInroy of Bonner and Miss Kate Graham were in Angora Monday and went to Bonner on No. 304. The young ladies had been guests of Mrs. S. Wozny.

C. M. Dove, W. N. Thompson and Pete McLaughlin were in Alliance on business Monday.

Alvin Turman went to Alliance between trains Saturday.

Mrs. Leo Lewellen entertained the George Venell family at dinner Sunday at her home on the McWilliams farm the occasion being in honor of Mr. Lewellen's and Mrs. Venell's birthdays.

Mrs. Henry Atwell of Torrington, Wyo., Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Atwell and daughter and two nieces of Bridgeport were guests at the J. C. Atwell home Monday.

The community club will be entertained this week by Mrs. C. M. Dove. Miss Francis Misk closed a successful term of school in the Klock district last week.

T. J. Shoopman has purchased from John Burry the cement cottage, formerly the Rivett old house, and has moved his family there from the Stoner cottage.

Friends of Clarence Rosenberger of Hemingford will be interested to learn of his marriage to Miss Fern A. Nickell of Hemingford, which took place at Bridgeport, May 13.

Mrs. R. K. Maybell was hostess to

the Tri C club Thursday of last week. Miss Marie Daxon returned last week from a visit to her mother, Mrs. Belle Daxon and her sister Sarah in Grand Island.

Arthur Powell, who lived in this vicinity several years was recently married in Alliance. He is a brother of William E. Powell east of Angora. Mrs. P. B. McCauley, Gladys and Bobby McCauley, Mrs. George W. Venell and Luella Venell were Alliance visitors last week.

B. M. Kelly was in Alliance Tuesday and Bridgeport Wednesday on business trips.

The Beister dance and box social

at the home east of Lynn Saturday night was well attended. Many from Angora were there and all report a good time. The music was furnished by a five-piece orchestra from Bridgeport. The dancing took place in the loft of the Beister barn. The boxes sold high, several bringing as high as ten dollars each. The proceeds were for the Catholic church at Bridgeport.

Mrs. B. E. Maybell entertained a few close friends Monday night in honor of Mr. Maybell's birthday. "A Motor Romance" contest was won by Mrs. W. R. McCrosky and Cash M. Dove. Norris Miller secured the

consolation. The remainder of the evening was spent in progressive cards. Mrs. A. B. Marsh and L. D. Carnine won first prize and B. E. Maybell the booby, which was a small pumpkin pie. Lunch was served at a late hour which consisted of egg sandwiches, pickles, veal loaf, cocoa and pumpkin pie with marshmallow whip. Mr. Maybell received many useful gifts. The guests were C. M. Dove and wife, B. M. Kelly and wife, A. B. Marsh and wife, W. B. McCrosky and wife, Miss Mildred Shippell, Norris Miller, Neil Miller and L. D. Carnine.

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# Want Any Help

Next week will be general Clean-Up Week for the City of Alliance. The Mayor and City Physician are urging citizens to act and act wisely with regard to the rubbish and trash that accumulates when it is not taken care of at regular intervals.

It is my business to keep the alleys and back yards looking spick and span, and all I need is the authorization from you to commence work.

During Clean-Up Week you will surely want something done. Just Phone 281 and leave your order and I will do the rest.

After this particular week is over, the necessity for clean-up work is not over. You can make arrangements to have the place kept looking nice at all times.

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