

The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

TWICE A WEEK—TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Official Paper of the City of Alliance

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No. 101

COUNCIL HOLDS SECRET SESSION TO INVESTIGATE

INFORMAL HEARING HELD TO PROBE CHARGES.

Officers Answer Questions Showing that Seven Gamblers Were Never Brought to Trial.

The city council met at 8:30 a. m. Monday for what was intended to be a secret session, but each councilman had apparently tipped off a friend or two, and before the hour for the meeting to open, a number of citizens had entered the council chamber and were unobtrusively decorating seats in the rear of the room. Members of the council and the city attorney promptly made the hearing public.

Charges had been made to Mayor Rodgers that Officer Nova Taylor and Night Watch Trabert had raided a crop game on the morning of November 2, in the basement of the Greek club room on West Third street. Following the usual custom, Night Chief Taylor had accepted a cash bail of \$15 each from the seven men arrested, but did not search them or take them to the city jail. This \$105 was not turned in to the police judge until last Friday morning, although Mr. Taylor had spoken of the matter to Chief Reed. The men were not brought to trial, although Taylor had prepared complaints against them.

Councilman F. W. Harris, at whose request the hearing was held, was not present at the meeting. Mayor Rodgers, City Attorney Metz, County Attorney Bayse, and Councilmen Moore, Sturgeon and Johnson were the city and county officials present. Taylor was represented by Attorney Eugene Burton.

Mr. Harris later stated to reporters that unless a change was made in the local police force or the alleged gambling stopped, he would tender his resignation to the city council. He said that the belief is common that gambling has been going on in a certain livery stable near the business section and that the electric light bill for the barn is being paid by two men who have never made any pretense of running a livery stable. Chief of Police Reed and Night Chief Taylor state that the barn has been closed for over a month, and that there is no gambling going on in the city to their knowledge.

Mayor Wanted Facts.

Mayor Rodgers, in opening the meeting, to which the city's three police officers had been invited, stated that the council had met to investigate certain reports that had been freely circulated. He asked Officer Taylor to reply to questions to be propounded by City Attorney Metz.

Taylor promptly inquired whether any charges had been filed against him. "I have to file charges before I can bring any man before a court," he said, "and I don't care to answer questions unless there is a definite charge and I know who has made it." Mayor Rodgers reassured him by saying that it was not the intention to remove anyone from office, but simply to get at the facts concerning the raid on the Greek club rooms. After consulting with his attorney, Taylor took the stand, and told the story of the raid.

About 2 a. m. November 2, he and Ray Trabert had gone to the Greek club rooms on West Third street. The door was unlocked, and the members of the club were playing the usual card games in the room. Taylor heard a noise from the basement, and went down to investigate. He saw seven men standing around a table, on which was a leather dice cup. The men had money in their hands. Indications were that a crap game had been in progress. He did not recall all of the players, but said that Elmer Bullock, Coney Blume and a man by the name of White were among them. Two of them were out-of-town men.

Accepted Cash Bail.

Following the usual custom, Taylor said, he did not take the men to the city jail, but accepted \$15 cash bond from each of them for their appearance at 10 a. m. the following day. The men were then allowed to go. The next day was election day, and the police judge's room was used as a polling place, and he did not know whether the men had ever turned up for the trial. He explained his failure to turn over the bond money by saying that he slept days and worked nights, and had no opportunity to catch the police judge. No attempt had been made by the gamblers to bribe him, he said. He had made out the seven complaints and placed them in the chief's desk.

Ray Trabert, night watch, corroborated Taylor's story. He did not go into the basement with Taylor, but went down shortly after.

The club room frequented by the Greeks is run by two men. They permit play for chips with which cigars are purchased. Officer Taylor had first opened, he asked the city attorney that he had to admit that it could be closed, and that he admitted that he had to go on there. The windows in a place are covered with a sort of a soap screen. Chief Reed said that he did not believe there was any gambling going on there in the regular club rooms, but "it's pretty hard to catch a Greek—when he's talking Greek," he said.

City Jail Unsanitary.

The officers said that the city jail was in such an unsanitary condition that they did not like to confine prisoners there over night for misdemeanors. It has been the custom in Alliance, as in other cities, to accept cash bail for appearance for trial. For a time the police judge was consulted on each occasion, but without any direct sanction from Police Judge Roberts, the officers have, in many cases, accepted bail rather than put their prisoners in the jail. City Physician George J. Hand arose to remark that everything that had been said against the condition of the jail was true, and reminded the council that they had spoken of remodeling it several months ago. Following the session the council examined the jail and planned a rearrangement of the cells, as well as a general housecleaning. "It's not a fit place for any human being to be confined," said Dr. Hand.

At the close of the hearing, which was rather informal, the council requested the city attorney to take the necessary steps to bring the offenders to justice.

Mayor Rodgers says that he has no intention of suspending members of the police force over the affair, and a majority of the members of the council are said to be behind the mayor in his stand.

WORKERS CHOSEN FOR RED CROSS ROLL CALL

Mrs. E. R. Harris, chairman in charge of the fourth Red Cross roll call, which takes place this year from November 11 to 25, inclusive, has announced the following list of workers, who will have charge of the streets assigned to them:

Laramie—Mrs. Fernald, Mrs. Geo. D. Darling, Mrs. A. J. Cole, Chayenne—Mrs. F. J. Peterson, Mrs. W. C. Mounts, Mrs. Nelson, Big Horn—Misses Janice Adams and Frances Schott, Toluca—Mrs. W. E. Spencer, Mrs. F. W. Hayes, Emerson—Dorothy Hamilton, Evelyn Kuhn, Platte—Verna Dow, Frances Grassman.

Alliance hotel—Mrs. A. H. Robbins, Niobrara—Phyllis Thompson, Vivian Corbett, Sweetwater—Lillia Graham, Marshall Drake, Yellowstone—Helen Hawes, Miriam Harris, Missouri—Estella Yarbaugh, Elia Thompson, Mississippi—Mrs. Klingensiel.

The campaign has already been started. The local chapter has made a firm resolve to put the membership drive over, and the entire city will be canvassed. Five-minute talks will be made at the Imperial at each show, and before the close of the drive some special picture illustrating the work of the Red Cross will be shown. This year no attempt will be made to secure contributions other than memberships. All that is needed is a heart and a dollar—and there isn't a returned soldier, or a relative of a returned soldier, who will fail to respond.

CAMPFIRE GIRLS HELD A BAKING CONTEST

The Campfire Girls of Alliance members of all bands participating, held a baking contest Saturday afternoon at the assembly room of the court house, five prizes being awarded to the winners in the various classes. Frances Schott was awarded the palm for the best cookies; Veletha Hacker, the best cake; Florence Baker, the best nut bread; Vera Lowry, cream puffs, and Wauneta Robinson, bread. Judges were Mrs. William Mitchell, Mrs. Harry Johnson and Mrs. F. C. Prince. Some eighty girls entered the contest.

Following the judging and the making of awards, a number of the contestants donated their entries for a bake sale, which was held at the Mallery grocery. The Campfire realized over \$30 from the sale.

SPUD EXCHANGE MAKES A KICK

J. F. Lawrence Will Take up Freight Question With the Railway Commission.

J. F. Lawrence, manager of the Nebraska potato growers' co-operative exchange, is in Lincoln this week, where he will take up with the state railway commission the matter of freight rates on potatoes to southern Nebraska. The Burlington and C. & N. W. lines have been charging potato shippers two local rates, instead of giving them the through rate on direct shipments where it has been necessary to route them over the two lines.

According to George Walker, local manager for the North American Fruit exchange, which sells spuds for the Nebraska exchange, it costs as much to send potatoes to southern Nebraska as to Des Moines, Peoria, Hutchinson, Kas., Kansas City or Chicago. The freight charge now ranges from 51 and 60 cents per hundred from points on the C. & N. W. to points on the Burlington in southern Nebraska. Both railroads nick the shippers for short hauls instead of a portion of a long one.

Growers Don't Understand.

There seems to be a general misunderstanding, especially on the part of the growers who do not belong to the association, that when they sell their spuds through the Nebraska exchange, they have the expense of making collections as well as the trouble of attending to other unpleasant details. This is not the case. The exchange not only does the selling, but does the collecting as well. All the grower has to do is to get a car and load it. From that time on, the exchange takes care of the matter.

Sell by the Hundredweight.

The general custom in Nebraska and the west is to sell potatoes by the hundredweight. The Herald, an issue or two back, mentioned a price of \$1.80 per bushel, instead of per hundredweight, and for the next few days Mr. Walker was kept busy explaining to shippers that it was an error. Newspapersmen are not particularly to blame, however, as the unit in selling potatoes varies in every part of the country. In Maine, potatoes are sold by the barrel, in certain northern states by the bushel, and in the south they are sold by the sack. The hundredweight is the official unit in Nebraska, at least, and prices on all carlot sales are based on this weight.

ALLIANCE POST WILL ENTERTAIN DECEMBER 3

Alliance post No. 7, American Legion, will be "at home" to members and other ex-soldiers, their wives and friends, on Friday evening, December 3, according to plans made by the executive committee at the last meeting. The entertainment will include a regular buffet luncheon, served army style, consisting of the w. k. baked bean, half a dozen kinds of sandwiches, and a number of drinks without any kick in them. It will take place at the Armory.

Following the dinner, there will be a dance and several vaudeville numbers. Andy's Fearless Six has been secured for the occasion. This orchestra is well known in Alliance and the middle west. In the past week they have added three excellent features to the original jazz band, Mr. Slind of Minneapolis, formerly solo violinist with Graham's orchestra; Mr. Sid, the "sax king," formerly with Hagenow's of Lincoln, and "Billie" Ackerman, singer and pianist. With this lineup of two saxophones, violin, banjo, piano and traps, the members of the legion are assured of having one of the peppiest dances that could be arranged.

There will be no admission fee, and only ex-soldiers and their women friends will be admitted. The entertainment is the first of a series planned for this winter. After a summer's vacation, the legion intends to make up for lost time this winter. Very few social affairs have been held, but if present plans work out, legion members in Alliance will have the time of their lives.

A special committee was appointed at the recent meeting to consider a number of A. E. F. plays and vaudeville sketches for a legion production early this winter. The December 3 entertainment, however, will be for one purpose—that of having a good time.

D. C. Bradbury is chairman of the entertainment committee; Adjutant Farrell and every member of the post are the committee on invitations; and James P. Burlington, Jr., will have charge of the dance.

WOMAN'S CLUB PURE FOOD SHOW

To Be Held at Roof Garden Thursday and Friday Afternoon and Evening, December 2 and 3.

Among the coming events, the pure food show to be given by the members of the Alliance Woman's club at the Lowry & Henry Roof Garden on Thursday and Friday, afternoon and evening, December 2 and 3, is attracting the most attention. The women have been working on the project for the past two or three weeks, and weeks, and have found Alliance merchants willing to co-operate with them. The first seventeen merchants were prompt to contract for booths at the show. All the preliminary arrangements have been completed, under the direction of Mrs. Elmer McManis, who is general chairwoman, and the remainder of the time will be devoted to getting the hall in readiness and preparing the booths of which the club members will have charge.

The principal feature of the show will be the displays put on by the various merchants of the city. Those who have contracted for booths are A. D. Rodgers, the Golden Rule, Tom Stales, Earl Mallery, who will have two booths, Harry Thiele, Lee Mooose, the Rhein Hardware, the National Biscuit company, the Alliance Drug company, Hirst's Fourth Street Market, Morgan Grocery, George D. Darling, the Newberry Hardware company, Palace Meat Market and the Sugar Bowl. There will be displays of articles and demonstrations that will appeal to the women of the city. In addition to displays of fine furniture and clothing, there will be demonstrations concerning the various preparation of various foods and food products for sale in Alliance.

Many Interesting Features

There are a number of interesting features planned in connection with the show. The one that will undoubtedly attract the greatest interest is the baby show, which will take place on both Thursday and Friday. On Thursday afternoon, babies from four months to one year of age will be judged, and a prize awarded to the best looking and most perfect. But one prize, a large photograph contributed by Miss Mabel Worley, will be given Thursday afternoon, both boy and girl babies competing. Friday afternoon, photographs by Van Graven will be awarded to the winners in both sexes, and on this afternoon babies from one to three years of age will compete. Women who wish to enter babies have been asked to get in touch with Mrs. A. J. Cole, chairwoman of the baby show committee.

In order to avoid charges of favoritism, the judges for the baby show will be chosen from visitors to Alliance. It has been suggested that a committee of traveling men will be selected to make the awards.

The members of the club, in addition to the baby show, will sponsor a popular girl contest, in which the most popular girl in the city will receive a big box of candy. Entrants to this contest must be over eighteen years of age, it is announced. Other features under the management of the club women will be the country store, the cedar chest, the novelty booth and the doll contest.

Mrs. Elmer McManis, general chairwoman, has assisted in staging several of these pure food shows, and has put on a few of them herself, the last one, at Sulphur Springs, Texas. The receipts of this show will go in their entirety to the woman's club, and will be devoted to furnishing their rooms in the city library building.

Following are members of the various committees:

Country store—Mrs. Roy Strong, chairman; Mrs. R. M. Baker, Mrs. Jack Hawes and Mrs. Joe O'Connor. Novelty booth—Mrs. George D. Darling, chairman; Mrs. H. P. Toohy, Mrs. Harry Thiele and Mrs. Frank Harvey.

Baby show—Mrs. A. J. Cole, chairman; Mrs. Ralph Cox, Mrs. Stephen J. Epler, Mrs. W. R. Pate, Mrs. A. W. Newberry, Mrs. E. C. Barker.

Cedar chest—Mrs. Dick O'Bannon, chairman; Mrs. L. L. Smith, Mrs. Ella Young, Mrs. E. J. Baskin.

Soliciting committee—Mrs. W. E. Spencer, chairman; Mrs. Oscar O'Bannon, Mrs. Bliss Sturgeon, Mrs. James Hunter, Mrs. C. W. Grassman, Mrs. L. L. Acheson.

Popular young lady contest—Mrs. E. R. Harris, chairman; Mrs. Bernard Holsten, Mrs. James P. Burlington, Mrs. Verne Hunt.

Door committee—Mrs. Chase Feagins, chairman; Mrs. Walter Turner, Mrs. Howard Reddish, Mrs. C. L. Finch.

Music committee—Mrs. C. E. Hershman, chairman; Mrs. Inez Dunning, Mrs. J. S. Rhein, Mrs. William Lamson.

THE WEATHER.

Forecast for Alliance and vicinity: Fair tonight and probably Wednesday; rising temperature.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO STAGE A SMOKER

Invitations will be issued today or tomorrow to all the members of the Alliance chamber of commerce, as well as all those who should be members of the organization, to attend a luncheon and smoker to be held at the armory Thursday evening, November 18. E. W. Mess, secretary of the Greater Nebraska association, will be present and make a short address.

An effort will be made to make the Alliance chamber of commerce conform closely to the idea of contributing members. At this meeting there will be a general discussion of future plans, including the selection of a new secretary for the organization. Those present will be asked to vote on the question of whether they want a man from Alliance or an outside man for this important position. A general expression of opinion is desired. Another question that will come up concerns permanent quarters for the club, where weekly luncheons for directors and members can be served.

The directors hope for a large attendance at the smoker and feed. Not only do they wish to interest those who have not affiliated with the organization, but they want to get ideas from those who already belong, as well as to secure the highest degree of co-operation from every merchant in the city. Alliance needs good roads and hundreds of other things, and an aggressive commercial organization is a great factor in securing them. As the invitation expresses it: "We want an expression of opinion from all. If you cannot talk, you can listen and vote your convictions. If you expect to live in Alliance, come out and mingle with the rest of the business and professional men of the city and exchange ideas."

ROACH-MURPHY CASE TOOK DAY TO TRY

The suit brought by Alva E. Roach against Charles Murphy occupied the entire day for County Judge Tash Monday. He got an hour off for lunch at noon, but was called upon to perform a marriage ceremony for a rest.

Last August Roach and Murphy entered into a written agreement where Roach was to stack all the hay on the Phelan ranch, owned by Murphy, for which he was to receive \$1.50 per ton, the hay to be measured and computed according to the Hampton rule. Mr. Murphy secured two disinterested neighbors, Virgil Putnam and William Campbell, to measure the hay, which they did and gave the measurements to John Murphy. By these measurements there was found to be the 817 tons of hay. Roach was not satisfied with those figures and with the assistance of his father, brother and nephew, made another measurement, the result of which was 1,056 tons, being a discrepancy of 239 tons. After crediting Murphy with payments made on account, he brought suit for what he claimed to be balance due, the sum of \$645. Murphy admitted that he owed him the sum of \$179.46, which he tendered into court, and Roach refused to accept. After listening patiently to the testimony of the twelve witnesses, hearing the argument of the counsel, the court very quickly arrived at the conclusion that the defendant owed the plaintiff the sum of \$251.46, for which judgment was entered. Both parties to the suit expressed themselves as being entirely satisfied. P. Romig appeared for the plaintiff and Harry E. Gantz for the defendant.

NO OBJECTIONS NOW TO ISSUING LICENSE

The action commenced by Howard Beck in the county court of Garden county asking that a guardian be appointed for his brother, W. W. Beck, the hearing of which was to have been held Monday, November 15, was dismissed by the plaintiff. Willis Beck has made a wonderful improvement since his recent paralytic stroke, and County Judge Tash, after talking with him at the hospital, has announced that he has no objections to issuing him a marriage license. The brother, Howard, lodged a formal objection in writing in the office of the judge against the license being issued, and this has been withdrawn. A few weeks ago, the judge refused to issue a license to Mr. Beck and his housekeeper, Mrs. Prettyplace.

O. England of Wisington Springs, S. D., and Bernard Hix of McFall, Mo., enlisted at the local naval recruiting office as firemen.

OFFICER TAYLOR AND PRISONER DO A MARATHON

YOUTH FAILS IN SPECTACULAR DASH FOR LIBERTY.

Exasperated Cop Knocks the Fugitive Down—Free-for-All Threatened by Critics of the Cop.

"The next time I'm arrested, I'll stay put. No more trying to beat it when a cop has his hands on my coat collar. Never again!" With these sage remarks, or words to this effect, Walter Woodard, who gave his address as Denver, shook the dust from his shoes and walked forth from the city jail, where he had just been released by Chief Reed.

Woodard, who is a youth some twenty-five years of age, was arrested by Officer Nova Taylor early Saturday morning, following a complaint from the road camp of the Roberts Construction company, a mile west of Holland, that Woodard and a pal, by name A. Hill, had disappeared the night previous, and that at about the same time it was noticed that two suits of clothes and other apparel, valued at over \$100, could not be located. The men in the road camp were suspicious because all the disappearances happened at about the same time, and brought in a description of the two men. Within a short time, Officer Taylor had located Woodard.

Woodard was not wearing any of the missing garments, and professed to know nothing of them. He admitted that he had come to Alliance with Hill, and said the two of them had registered at a rooming house. Taylor suggested that Woodard lead him to the rooming house, so that he could nab Hill and make a search for the missing clothing, and Woodard apparently fell in with the idea.

A Wild Goose Chase

The officer was first escorted to the Alliance hotel annex by his prisoner, who, after waiting ten or fifteen minutes, announced that he was quite sure it was not the place. So the pair journeyed to a rooming house, and here, after some horsplay, the prisoner again declared that he and his pal had stayed elsewhere. They went to a third place, and the little scene was repeated. Officer Taylor was beginning to get hot under the collar, but he accompanied his prisoner to a fourth place, the Empress rooming house, where Woodard proceeded to break away and make a dash for freedom.

It was a short dash, but a spectacular one. Officer Taylor drew his revolver, but with fine restraint forbore to fire. Lower Box Butte avenue was lined with spectators, some of whom proceeded to revile the officer and cheer the fugitive. Woodard was under some disadvantage, because he was wearing heavy hobnailed boots, which cut down his speed. Officer Taylor, too, was not able to cut down any records, his Olympic days being long since over. He was more fleet of foot than Woodard, however, and caught up with him in the alley to the rear of the former Herald office, and the parade ended. By the time Officer Taylor had recovered his breath, the fugitive was defiant. He refused to accompany the officer to jail, and the officer wasted no more time.

Opinions differ as to just what transpired. Some of the onlookers maintained that the officer struck Woodard a powerful blow with his clenched fist and others say that he struck him with his open palm. In either event, the prisoner bit the dust and his ear skidded along the ground. Then the officer ordered him to arise, and emphasized the order with the toe of his boot. The young man arose, and followed his captor meekly to jail.

The police were unable to locate the rooming house where the young man stayed, and a thorough search failed to disclose either Woodard's pal or the missing clothing. There being insufficient evidence, Woodard was released by Chief Reed Sunday morning. He has learned one lesson, however, that it's unwise to kid a policeman, and still less wise to attempt to take to the woods when he is too far away from them.

Considerable criticism of the officer has been made in certain quarters, but Mayor Rodgers and a number of other citizens who saw the fray are of the opinion that, under the circumstances, Taylor was not particularly to blame. Some of the men present offered their assistance to Mr. Taylor in the event a free-for-all should take place, and for a time it seemed as though it might be needed. However, those who disapproved of the officer's methods were apparently in the minority.