

The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

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Official Paper of the City of Alliance

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ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 1921

NO. 41

YOUTH IS HELD CHARGED WITH BURNING BARN

LLOYD A. WRIGHT BOUND OVER TO DISTRICT COURT

Witnesses Testify They Saw Him Touch Match to Refuse Near Barn on McLean Ranch

A youth giving his name as Lloyd A. Wright and his residence at Arkansas City, Kas., where his parents reside, was held for trial at the next term of district court following a preliminary hearing before County Judge Tash Monday morning. Wright claims to be nineteen years of age, although in appearance would lend color to the belief that he is a few years older. He was arrested Sunday morning following the burning of a barn on the J. M. McLean place, twenty miles northeast of Alliance, by Mr. McLean and Glen D. Locke, renter of the place.

This was the third time the barn had caught fire in a week. At first suspicion did not fall on Wright, who was employed as a farm hand by Locke, but Mr. and Mrs. Locke both testified that they saw him apply a match to a pile of straw and refuse at one side of the barn. County Attorney Basye prosecuted the complaint, and Wright, who was not represented by an attorney, conducted his own defense, later going on the stand in his own behalf. His appearance bond was placed at \$1,000 which he was not able to furnish. He is still in the county jail.

During the past week, there have been three mysterious fires, all of them in widely separated parts of the county. The barn on the farm occupied by Locke was three times found to be in flames. Sunday night the barn on the Lew Hood ranch, thirty-five miles west of Alliance, burned to the ground, six horses being burned alive. Mr. Hood is not a smoker and there was no one at the ranch at the time the fire occurred. There was no insurance, and the place was a total loss.

Last Tuesday the barn on the James Evans place, near Berea, caught fire in some mysterious manner, and was destroyed.

May Be I. W. W. Outbreak

There are some grounds for belief that the epidemic of burned barns may be due to I. W. W.'s. It is said that Wright had in his possession, while living with the Locke family, an I. W. W. song book, and that he told of having "buddies" in various parts of the county. On the other hand, there has never been such an influx of hoboes to this part of the country at this time of the year as have put in an appearance this spring, and it is possible that the sons of rest may have been careless with their campfires.

The testimony at Monday morning's hearing brought out the fact that Glen D. Locke has been a resident of Box Butte county for some years. Prior to the war he was employed by Chester Ross. He enlisted at Alliance when the war broke out, served overseas with the Third division and wears a wound stripe on his uniform. On his return he again went to work for Ross, but last fall married and rented the J. M. McLean farm. Four weeks ago Locke employed Wright as a farm hand.

Last Tuesday a mysterious fire started in the barn on the place. Locke and his wife, assisted by Wright, extinguished the blaze before it had gained any headway. The fire was apparently of incendiary origin, and Locke not only spoke of the matter to his landlord, but he and his wife and Wright, who had not been suspected, arranged to watch the premises for the firebug, as it was feared that he might return. Wright's actions aroused suspicion, however, according to Locke's testimony.

Saw the Fire Started

Last Saturday night, Mr. and Mrs. Locke were awake until midnight, taking turns making the round of the place. Wright had gone out, and was ostensibly making an inspection of the premises. The Lockes, in the house, heard two revolver shots fired, and Locke rushed out and fired a couple of shots himself, in order to make Wright believe that he had seen someone trying to make a getaway. Both men then returned to the house. Locke told Wright: "Jack, you'd better take another look." After Wright had left, Locke and his wife extinguished the lights in the house to give the impression that they had retired. The two of them slipped outdoors. They saw, they testified, Wright walk around the barn, the moonlight showing him plainly. They said they saw him strike a match and apply it to a pile of refuse at the south side of the barn. Mrs. Locke testified she saw the flash of the match.

They carried water and for the second time extinguished a blaze. Wright stood near, they said, and did not help or offer to assist them. Mrs. Locke became nervous and they left Wright alone at the house and went to McLean's, where they spent the night.

About 9 a. m. Sunday, Charles Vanderwalker, living two miles away, saw smoke coming from the McLean barn and he and another came in an auto-

mobile. When they arrived they found the barn ablaze and a portion of the roof fell in while they were getting out of the car. A granary, to the south, was threatened, and they started pouring water on it. While they were doing this, Wright came up to them. He carried a big six-shooter. Vanderwalker told him: "That's a poor thing to fight fire with—put it away and get a bucket." Vanderwalker testified Wright made no response.

McLean and Mr. and Mrs. Locke arrived almost immediately thereafter. McLean testified that he saw Wright run out of the house carrying the pistol.

Story of the Defense

Judge Tash informed Wright that since he was not represented by an attorney, he might ask proper questions of the witnesses. He asked Mr. and Mrs. Locke one question each, as to whether they had seen him light a match inside or outside of the barn. They both said they saw him outside.

Judge Tash then told the defendant that he might take the stand in his own behalf, but that he would subject himself to cross-examination if he did so. He took the stand and outlined his defense, which was that he was inside the barn at the time Mr. and Mrs. Locke saw him strike the match, and that he had done so, not to set the barn afire, but to see if anyone were concealed therein.

Judge Tash held that the evidence was sufficient to show that there had been an attempt at arson, and further, that there was sufficient cause for a belief that Wright was guilty of the crime.

While Locke was on the stand, Judge Tash asked him if there were any possible motive that Wright could have for wishing to set the barn afire. Locke said he could think of nothing save that during the first week Wright had worked for him, he had once found him leaving a six-horse team standing unhitched, and had cautioned him against doing it again. Wright had paid no attention to him and he had had to call him down for it.

From conversations with the officers and with the Lockes, it developed that Wright has been in trouble with officers before. He is said to have once been arrested in Joplin, Mo., on a charge of rape, but the charge was dismissed when he married the complainant, from whom he has since separated. He is said to have admitted being arrested many times, and to have boasted of having escaped from a court room in Bartlesville, Okla.

Mrs. Locke declared, following the hearing, that Wright had said that "yeggs would get Locke" and that Thursday he had told her: "Better say your prayers tonight." They were much relieved to find that he had been unable to secure bail.

The arrest was made by Sheriff Miller and Deputy Miskimen, who were called following the fire Sunday morning. McLean, Locke, Vanderwalker and others took charge of Wright and were bringing him to Alliance, when the sheriff's car approached. Wright jumped from the car and asked: "Is this the sheriff." On being informed that he had guessed correctly, he held up his hands and formally surrendered.

Annual Spring Influx of Sons of Rest Crowds Side Door Pullmans

It didn't really need a miraculous escape from a blizzard to convince trainmen operating on lines out of Alliance that spring is near—so near that the hem of his garment can be touched, provided she wears garments. For the past week or ten days there has been evidence of another sort—evidence as authentic as the back beer signs—the ones with the goats on 'em—used to be in the damp days.

The hoboes are coming, tra la, tra la. Every train from the east is as infested with them as an expeditionary soldier is with cooties. They ride the rods, or sit in state in the side-door Pullmans. And this year, due perhaps to the unemployment problem in the east, they are coming in greater numbers than ever. According to railway employes, there are as many as fifty and sixty beating their way on a single train, and hardly a train comes in that does not harbor a half dozen of them.

The hoboes are always a problem to the trainmen. In the days of full crews, it used to be possible to beat them off, but when they come in big bunches the average train crew is helpless. You can't blame the average railroader for not desiring to pick a quarrel when the odds are six to one against him.

Alliance will have more of these birds than is her just share, due to the fact that they prefer to hit the railroad centers. The pickings are poor here, however, and they do not stay long, as a rule. The Alliance and Box Butte county police, together with the co-operation of the Burlington specials, have managed so far to keep the 'bo's moving onward, but it will take the combined efforts of every law-enforcing agency in the county to prevent them outstaying their welcome.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Noah Stein, man, a boy, Sunday, April 17th.

CITY MANAGER N. A. KEMMISH IS NOW ON THE JOB

SPENDS FIRST DAY IN LOOKING OVER SITUATION

Issues Statement Explaining His Ideas on Conducting the City Administration

N. A. Kemmish, recently elected city manager, arrived in the city from York Monday morning, and put in a busy first day looking over the work in the various departments of the city's activity. Among the first business to greet him was a flood of applications for the position of city scavenger, the incumbent and several others putting in a bid for the work.

Mr. Kemmish this morning issued the following statement, which will give Alliance citizens an idea of the way in which he expects to conduct his office:

"Fellow Citizens: I spent a very strenuous week arranging my business affairs at York, so that I might arrive here Monday morning as planned.

"I realize you are all anxious to know the policies which we are to pursue. You know the members of our council and what they stand for. I think most of the citizens of Alliance know I stand for a strictly efficient business administration with special favors to none. Let us all pull and work harmoniously together for the common good. No doubt we will make some mistakes but if you think we are doing so, don't complain to your neighbor as he may think you have some selfish motive in view.

"It is your privilege and duty to come in so that we can talk it over as nearly all cases of discord are occasioned by misunderstandings. There is only one correct solution to any problem. Let us try to get it the first time. This is not my city, or your city, but our city. I am here to serve you. I may not always be able to please you or do just what you think should be done but if you have any occasion for complaint remember we are always glad to have your counsel as all we ask is justice and a fair deal for all.

"I realize that in a city the size of ours we will always have people who honestly hold opposite views on all important general, social and moral questions. We cannot always have the other fellow think and do just as we should like to have him do. The time has passed, however, when one can always do just as he pleases without first consulting the wishes of others. We have old established customs and have made laws, rules, and regulations to govern all of us. We occasionally find those who think their personal liberty is being taken away if they cannot do as they please. To these I might say that if they wish to live in harmony among us they too must comply with our laws and regulations.

"It is too early to make any announcement regarding our new organization. It is our policy to go cautiously and make such changes as will be to the best interests of the city.

Scottsbluff Couple Married in Alliance By Judge Tash Monday

Howard M. Tietzort and Miss Lottie E. Weaver, both of Scottsbluff, were married by County Judge Tash yesterday. The groom gave his occupation as a laborer and the woman that of housekeeper. The bride's age was given as eighteen and that of the groom twenty-four. Judge Tash questioned the bride closely as to her age, but was finally convinced that she had attained the age limit.

Branch Agency for Sewing Machine to Locate in Alliance

E. K. Hayes of Cheyenne, Wyo., who has been assistant manager of the Singer sewing machine agency at that place, will be manager of a branch agency which has been established at Alliance at 103 Box Butte avenue, in the same building with Ted Fielding's cleaning establishment. New and old sewing machines will be sold, and a specialty shop will be established in connection with the agency.

OBJECTION MADE TO SHOWING FILM IN LOCAL MOVIE

COLORED PEOPLE PETITION MAYOR HAMPTON

Ask Him to Use Authority to Keep "Birth of a Nation" Out of the City

A delegation of colored citizens of Alliance waited upon Mayor R. M. Hampton Saturday afternoon and presented him a petition, signed by eighty-five colored men and women, asking the mayor to use his influence in preventing the showing of the picture, "The Birth of a Nation," at the Imperial theater. This picture was advertised for Monday.

The colored people gave as their reason for opposing the showing of the film the fact that it has been responsible in the past between the whites and the blacks, race riots in some instances resulting, and that they feared its effect in this city. The picture has been shown in Alliance on other occasions, and the colored people have felt that it has caused some trouble each time.

Their petition to Mayor Hampton follows:

"To the Honorable Mayor of Alliance, Neb.:
"We, the colored citizens of Alliance, Neb., protest against the showing of the motion picture known as "The Birth of a Nation," for the reason that wherever this picture is shown it has caused more or less trouble between whites and blacks on account of its misleading characters.
"The display has been barred from numerous cities and towns on this account, and has caused race riots in more than one instance; therefore, we ask that you use your authority to prevent this display, thereby perhaps avoiding the same trouble that other cities have experienced where it has been shown.

"We realize that this picture has been shown here before, and each time it has caused more and more discussion among the races. We desire that this picture will not be shown here again.

Mayor Hampton, in his reply, states that the council and city manager have no authority, under existing ordinances, to suppress the picture, and that if they took this step without authority they would undoubtedly meet with opposition in the courts. Mr. Hampton also points out that there is no race antagonism in Alliance and that there are little grounds for the belief that the showing of the film would have a bad effect. He also called attention to the good points of the "Birth of a Nation." His letter follows:

"Alliance, Neb., April 18, 1921.—
"Dear Sirs: Relative to petition handed me Saturday evening, we referred this to the city attorney, and he advises that the city manager and council would have only such authority as would be delegated to them by the ordinances of the city, and as a question of this character had never been raised before there was no ordinance touching upon a subject of this character. Any attempt by officials on a subject of this kind unless they had full authority of law would meet with opposition by actions in court, and would probably be defeated.

"However, regardless of their authority to act in such cases, we do not look upon the matters as your people would see it, as indicated by your petition. If we were living in a community where there was prejudice existing between the two races and where the feeling was intense it would seem in such a case that it would be inadvisable for such an entertainment, as the people might misconstrue the lesson which we believe is intended to be taught by such a picture. There is no disposition between the two races in our city, and besides it seems to us that there is a lesson in the picture which should be beneficial to all. We think that it would be a misconception of the facts to believe that it is intended against your race especially. The subject goes back to a time when your race had been recently released from slavery, and at a time when your people had never had an opportunity to gain an education for themselves, and it pictures what they termed the Carpet Bagger, or a politician with an evil mind exercising his influence with an uneducated people for which you were not to blame, and shows the results of an attempted government guided by evil influences and misguided individuals. It shows the necessity on the part of our government as a whole of educating our people, which is a necessary step if we maintain a just and righteous government. Since that time your people have had an opportunity and such a thing could not happen at this age. It is really teaching a lesson indirectly, and if we stop to consider, the same mischievous influences are working all over the country at this time, and it is not with the black people either. In the state of North Dakota a very destructive influence is at work and they are attempting to organize in different states. It is specifically known as socialism, and which will end in nothing but disaster. This

comes about by agitators and misguided education.

"Trusting that your people will see these matters as I have expressed them, I beg to remain,

"Yours very truly,
"R. M. HAMPTON, Mayor."

Our New City Manager Talks at Meeting of Chamber of Commerce

N. A. Kemmish, recently chosen city manager of Alliance, arrived in the city Monday morning, and before he had time to dust off his new desk in the city hall found himself invited to attend a luncheon of the chamber of commerce and was called upon for an impromptu speech. He told the business men that he had decided that there would be neither the playing of favorites or the playing of politics in his administration of the city's affairs, and that he intended to see that every citizen got a square deal. The chamber of commerce and the city administration, he said, could co-operate to advantage in building up the city, and he would always be willing to meet the business men half-way and expected to be able to call upon them for assistance when he needed it.

The other speaker was F. C. Prince, principal of the Alliance high school, who spoke on the subject of "High School Athletics." He told of the recent ruling of high schools engaged in athletics that no student would be permitted to represent a high school who had not been a student for at least a year prior to his athletic activity. This, he said, prevented the building of a strong team for the purpose of winning games and augmenting the box receipts. Both of these were to be desired, he admitted, but declared that the present aim of high school athletics is to build up the student physically, rather than to win games.

During the last two years, the high school gymnasium has been opened evenings and after school hours for the accommodation of students who desire to use the equipment. Mr. Prince said, and large numbers of them have availed themselves of the privilege. The present limited equipment and accommodations will not admit of regular gymnasium classes for the entire school, but the school authorities hope to be able to extend the work in physical education when the new high school building is completed.

Lineup of Teachers in Alliance Schools For the Coming Year

All acceptances and resignations of teachers in the Alliance schools have been handed in to the board and disclose that twenty-six out of the thirty-eight are remaining. Those in the high school to stay are: F. C. Prince, principal; Helen White, history; Bertha Braddock, English; Hazel Sneathen, mathematics; Anna Steckelberg, domestic science. Those in the high school who resigned are: Gaylord Chase, manual training; F. N. Cunningham, science; Miss Rena Keith, Latin; Miss Hazel Bishop, commercial; Mrs. J. D. Emerick, normal training. Miss Ida Clark, penmanship supervisor, will remain. Miss Anna Booth, music supervisor, has resigned.

In central school, the following will be here next year:
Miss Blanche Wilson, principal; Miss Maude Wilcox, eighth grade; Miss Jeannette McConnell, sixth grade; Mrs. Alva Kase, fourth grade; Miss Madge Graham and Ruby Eloe, third grade; Miss Emma Davis and Miss Eva Crocker, second grade; Miss Vera Spencer and Miss Clada Batie, first grade; Miss Laura Johnston, kindergarten; Mrs. Thelma Wesley, assistant kindergarten.

The following at Central school have handed in resignations: Miss Avis North, seventh grade; Mrs. Verity Reeder, sixth grade and Mrs. Foster Moore, fifth grade.
At the Emerson school, the following are to stay:
Miss Lucille McNicholls, principal; Mrs. Devonne Price, sixth grade; Mrs. Nettie Donovan, fifth grade; Miss Katherine Jennett, fourth grade; Miss Inis Jennings fourth grade; Miss Izola Worley, first grade; Mrs. Elizabeth Cornu, kindergarten.

Those resigning are Miss Esther Johnson, eighth grade; Mrs. Hazel Harsh, seventh grade and Mrs. Wilma Carlson, second grade.

At a recent meeting of the board, it was decided to adhere to the salary schedule which was adopted last spring. That means that the teachers in the high school who remain will receive \$100 increase; those in the grades who remain will receive \$75 increase; and the principals and supervisors will receive \$100 increase, if they remain. Only two-thirds of the vacancies have been filled, but, while good teachers are still scarce, a number of applications have been received, and less trouble in getting teachers is anticipated than was experienced last year.

Herald Want Ads 1¢ a word.

COMMISSIONERS AGREE TO GIVE MONEY FOR FAIR

PROVIDED THE FARMERS HAVE COMPLETE CHARGE

Organization Meeting is Called for 1 P. M. Saturday at the Court House

Following permission received from the state authorities by George M. Carey, secretary of the Alliance chamber of commerce, for the commissioners of Box Butte county to appropriate funds for a county fair this year, despite the fact that no levy was made for the purpose, the commissioners, at their meeting last week, decided to appropriate the requisite money from other funds.

This was done, it is announced, with the understanding that the fair will be entirely under the control of the agriculturists of the county. The commissioners insist that it shall be under the management of farmers and that they have complete charge. This will be done if the farmers can get together on the proposition.

L. E. Bliss, William Neuman and Lester Beal, who have been working on the proposition for the past two weeks, have announced a meeting for those interested in a county fair at the court house at 1 p. m. Saturday. It will be necessary for twenty or thirty farmers and stockmen to get behind the fair if it is to be a success, and after Saturday's meeting definite arrangements will be made. Some weeks ago L. E. Bliss and D. E. Purinton got interested in a fair for Box Butte county, but at that time it was believed it would be impossible to get funds, and the matter was allowed to drop.

Alliance Hotel Cafe Announces Big Drop in Prices for Meals

It is now possible to get a square meal in Alliance for thirty-five cents. Restaurant prices are back to the regular pre-war basis. J. M. Miller of the Alliance hotel is leading the way, and it won't be long until others follow the lead. Pie may never drop back to the nicker-as-silver rate, but the price of practically every other item on the menu has been cut to the bone.

Mr. Miller this week announces reductions on meals in the Alliance hotel cafe, which amount to from 25 to 30 per cent on nearly all items. In some cases the reduction is as high as 50 per cent. The chief reduction is on the price of regular meals, which are now 35 cents. Coffee, iced tea and milk are now selling at 5 cents a throw. Sandwich prices are lower, and it will no longer be necessary to mortgage the old homestead to buy a steak that can be cut without calling for a handaxe. All egg dishes have hit the toboggan, and spuds may be had in any one of a dozen styles at the rates that obtained before the war profiteers started prices to skyrocketing.

Joe Price Has His Application In to the State Board for Parole

Among the thirty-six applications which came before the state pardon board at its meeting on Wednesday of last week was that of Joe Price, colored, sent to the state penitentiary from Box Butte county February 20, 1920. He was sent up from one to seven years. Price admitted to the state board that he had served time in jails in Omaha, Cheyenne, Wyo., and Sidney, Neb.

The Price case was reviewed by the board, which to date has not yet announced its decision.

Baer-Alter Company Will Open Shoe Shop Some Time Next Week

The Baer-Alter company will open its exclusive shoe shop in the quarters recently fitted up for it in the Alliance National Bank building some time next week. H. B. Alter, formerly with the Horace Bogue store, returned the first of the week from a two weeks' trip to eastern markets, during which he made extensive purchases in Chicago, Cincinnati and other places. The new store will deal exclusively in shoes, and will offer a wide selection for all members of the family.

THE WEATHER

Fair tonight and warmer west portion Wednesday. Probably increasing cloudiness, becoming unsettled at night.