

# The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

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## TESTIMONY OF KIDS CONVICTS CRAP-SHOOTERS

### THREE FOUND GUILTY IN COUNTY COURT THURSDAY

#### Men Accused of Playing African Golf Say They Were Only Taking a Rest Cure

John J. Riordan, John Landis and Wayne Reddington were found guilty by Judge Tash in county court at a hearing held at 9 a. m. Thursday, and fined \$15 apiece and costs were assessed against them. The charge was gambling with dice. The place specified in the complaint was the old Herman slaughter house, a mile and a half southeast of Alliance, not far from the Antioch road. William Kiskis, also named in the information and complaint, was held not guilty by the judge and the charge against him dismissed. Appeal will be taken to the district court, the bond being fixed at the minimum amount, \$50.

The men were convicted on the testimony of two children, Victor Gostrom, aged thirteen, and Richard Knott, twelve, who were playing at the slaughter house Sunday afternoon last and told the court a straightforward story of what they had seen. The defense, through Attorney William Mitchell, tried hard to confuse the small witnesses, but the boys stuck to their stories.

The first witness called by County Attorney Basye was George Stafford, taxi driver, who said that about 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon he had been hired to drive the four men to the slaughter house. They told him to return for them at 4:30, and borrowed from his automobile a lap robe. He saw no gambling, no dice and no money save his fare, but met Chief Jeffers and Sheriff Miller when he returned to take them to the city.

#### Chief Jeffers Testifies

Chief Jeffers testified that he first saw the four men Sunday about 2 o'clock near King's Corner. Later he saw them at the slaughter house, having apparently done a little detective work in the interim. In company with Sheriff Miller, he met four boys who said they had seen crap-shooting going on. When he arrived at the slaughter house, he said, Mr. Kiskis was apart from the other three, looking into one of the windows. The other three were east of the building, in the shade, sitting on the lap-robe. One of the men had something in his hand, but he couldn't discern just what. He thought it was dice. He saw no gambling or money.

The four boys mentioned by the chief were in court, but only two of them were called to testify. Victor Bostrom said he lived on East Third street. There was some little question as to whether he knew the nature of an oath, and after a considerable amount of discussion and examination by both attorneys and the court, his testimony was admitted. He said the four boys had gone to the slaughter house about 3 o'clock, and had climbed a fence surrounding one of the stock pens, some five or six yards from where the men were. They had a glass jar, with which they were shaking red dice, he said. He declared that he saw paper and silver money, and saw it change hands. Only three of the men were playing, he said, Mr. Kiskis standing apart. The other three took turns shaking the glass jar, Mr. Riordan told them to get off the fence, he said.

Richard Knott told much the same story. He included an additional detail, saying that the man who told them to get off the fence asked them if they had any money. Richard said he knew they were gambling, admitting that he had never seen gambling before, but insisting that he had "heard how it was done."

#### Boys Stick to Their Story

The attorney for the defense labored with the two boys in an effort to show that they had been coerced by the county attorney as to how they should testify, but got little satisfaction out of the witnesses, who stuck to their stories with remarkable tenacity.

The four defendants were then put on the stand. They denied all the allegations of the diminutive witnesses, completely and unequivocally, individually and collectively. According to their story, Jack Riordan, who is agent for the Herman slaughter house, had gone out there to look it over preparatory to framing a talk that would sell it. He invited the others to go along. Mr. Kiskis said that he had to go work at 4:30 and the prospect of getting a little fresh air appealed to him. The robe, they all said, was borrowed so they could recline in the shade and rest for a while. They did rest, it seems on the shady side of the building, dragging the bench over into the shade from time to time at the sun forced them to move.

All of the defendants testified that the boys were sitting on the fence on the other side of the stock yards, the estimate of the distance they were away varying from fifty to two hundred and fifty yards. Mr. Kiskis, it was testified, was standing at the window to lift down one of the boys who

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For Alliance and Vicinity: Generally fair tonight and Saturday except unsettled east portion tonight. Not much change in temperature.

was afraid he'd fall. It was denied that any of them had asked the boys if they had any money. Mr. Riordan said he told them to get down off the fence because he didn't think they had any right there.

There was no argument by attorneys. Judge Tash, in assessing the penalty, said he was convinced they had been having a private game. The court declared that it wasn't such a heinous offense against the peace and dignity of the state. He remarked that if there had been a case of enticing an innocent or ignorant stranger into the game and fleecing him, the penalty would be the limit. As it was, he thought a low fine, say \$15, would be sufficient.

Cecil Henry returned Tuesday from a short business trip to Walcot, Wyo.

## Alliance Land Office Receiving Inquiries About Land Drawing

Judge H. H. Hewitt, register and receiver of the Alliance land office, has been receiving a number of inquiries from ex-soldiers concerning the irrigated land drawing to be held at Torrington, Wyo., on September 6 to 9, at which time over two hundred irrigated farms will be thrown open to homestead and water right entry.

Most of the inquiries concern the question of whether it is necessary for the ex-soldiers to view the land before filing on it. The homestead laws require this formality, but some of the Wyoming newspapers are saying that it is not necessary. Judge Hewitt explains the matter in this way: It is not necessary to view the land before filing on a water right—and for these irrigated lands, the water right carries the right of homestead entry with it. Filing may be made on the water right, after which the drawing will take place. The men who are successful in securing a water right must then view the land before making homestead entry, and will have seven days in which to do so and complete filing.

Blanks for homestead entry are on hand at Alliance, but water right filing blanks must be secured from Torrington.

The departmental instructions under the Act of Congress which provided that ex-service men in the world war should have sixty days preference right of entry on lands opened for settlement required the ex-service man to file a copy of his discharge with his application for the land. The United States land office here has just received a telegram from the Washington office as follows:

The requirement that an ex-service man shall execute affidavit showing his qualifications in manner and form required in the instructions is mandatory but the further requirement that he attach to his application copy of his honorable discharge is directory only and where such discharge has been lost or destroyed the soldier may properly account therefor by affidavit.

## No Special Observance of Labor Day by the Various Alliance Unions

Contrary to the usual custom, the Alliance labor unions will not observe Labor day with a parade and program. According to word sent to Secretary Frank M. Coffey of the Nebraska state federation of labor at Lincoln, some sort of a celebration is planned by this city, but if this report is true, details have not been made public. As a rule, the union men observe Labor day by taking a holiday. The parade has been one of the big features in other celebrations, but it is believed this will be dispensed with this year.

However, those who desire to celebrate the holiday will have an opportunity for entertainment in the Fairview round-up, put on by the live-wire men of the Fairview church neighborhood. An elaborate program of sports has been arranged, and a large attendance from this city is expected.

The Alliance Odd Fellows and their wives are planning a Labor day picnic at the Purlington grove, near Alliance, and a special program of sports has been arranged.

## Alliance Firemen Will Occupy New Quarters Within Next Few Days

The club room that is to be used by the Alliance volunteer fire department as a meeting and resting place, was enlarged and put in shape last week, and Thursday the department's records and paraphernalia was being removed from the second floor. The upper portion of the city hall is being fitted with blackboards and desks, in preparation for use by students when school takes up on Labor Day. The firemen's new quarters are considerably smaller than the old rooms, but should prove acceptable as a meeting place.

David, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. LaMon, had his tonsils removed Wednesday.

## JOHN MOXON IS BADLY BURNED BY GASOLINE

### ANOTHER CASE OF CARELESS DISPOSAL OF MATCH.

#### Careless Bystander Tosses Burning Match on Bench Near Bucket of High-Test Gasoline.

John Moxon, employed by the Schafer Auto Supply company, suffered severe burns on both hands and arms about 9 o'clock Thursday morning, when a bystander, in lighting a cigarette, tossed the match, still burning, on to a work bench near an open bucket of high-test gasoline.

Young Moxon was engaged in cleaning up some electrical apparatus, and was washing it in the gasoline. A friend dropped in and remained to look at the work. After he had touched a match to his cigarette he thoughtlessly tossed it away. It fell several inches away from the gasoline, but the gas ignited instantly, and enveloped him in the flames. His clothing did not catch fire, but the palm and fingers of his right hand, and his left wrist and hand were badly burned.

The men in the shop had the flames under control quickly, and Moxon was taken to the Slagle clinic, where his wounds were dressed. He will be unable to work for two or three weeks, it is said.

## Drs. Blak and Morris Address Meeting of Physicians and Surgeons

A very interesting meeting of the local physicians and surgeons took place last night at St. Joseph hospital, following a banquet given by the sisters. Dr. Edgar Cowles of Lakeside was also present at the meeting.

The main feature of the evening was the instructive paper on head-pains, read by Dr. Einar V. Blak, local eye, ear, nose and throat specialist. It was pronounced one of the best medical papers heard since the staff was organized, and highly recommended by the other doctors for the deeply scientific and original method in which the difficult subject was handled.

Dr. Minor Morris, president of the Box Butte county medical society, presented to the doctors an intricate medical case. Much interest was taken in the patient by all the doctors and much information was gained regarding the true condition of the patient and the best method of treatment. It is expected that such group-consultation will henceforth be a regular occurrence at all the monthly meetings.

Every effort is being made to bring about a district meeting of the medical men of western Nebraska to be held in this city next month. Men from Rochester, Minn., and New York city are expected to be present as speakers on this occasion.

## G-P-C Highway Meeting Held at Holyoke, Col., On Thursday Evening

President Glen Miller of the Alliance chamber of commerce received a telephone invitation two or three days ago from the secretary of the G-P-C highway association at Holyoke, Col., asking that this city send delegates to a meeting to be held in that city Thursday evening. Broadwater sent a delegation to the meeting, but Alliance was not represented. The secretary got a trifle hard-boiled in his talk with Mr. Miller, among other things suggesting that if Alliance did not come out openly and support that route above all others, an attempt might be made to run a road north from Holyoke, missing Broadwater and Alliance. Mr. Miller pointed out to the belligerent gentleman that Alliance was sincere in her position of neutrality, and that if he succeeded in building a road along the route he had in mind, he'd be the tenth wonder of the world, as no one else has ever been ambitious enough to attempt it.

The Morrill county commissioners are to meet on September 6, at which time it is hoped that some decision will be arrived at. Alliance will be represented at the meeting by W. E. Spencer, vice president of the North Star route from Box Butte county.

An interesting sidelight on the road situation is found in a notice sent by the Bayard Lions club to several Alliance Lions, of a meeting which was held here last night for the purpose of selecting a man "to succeed our present County Commissioner Osborne." Just what this means can only be conjectured. Mr. Osborne had no intention of resigning at the time of the North Star meeting in Bridgeport, when he and Commissioner Garvey of Broadwater apparently got together. This may mean an entire change in the line-up.

#### ATTENTION ELKS

Brother Robert Patrick of Omaha will visit us tonight. All Elks are requested to attend meeting at 7:15 tonight. H. O. Condit, E. R.

## HOODLUM GANG MAKES TROUBLE FOR THE POLICE

### TENT SHOW FAIR GAME FOR YOUTHFUL ROUGHNECKS

#### Chief Jeffers Announces a Change of Heart and Policy in Dealing With Mischievous Lads

Some of these nights, if little Johnny or William or Frankie fail to come home at the usual hour of 11:30, fond parents are apt to discover that their offspring are down in the city bastle, waiting for the cold gray dawn. Chief Jeffers has announced that while he isn't warring with kids, some of them that he knows will have to show a decided improvement in their behavior before he next meets up with them, or else a number of candidates for the workhouse will languish in jail until their parents agree to initiate them.

The chief's attitude and frame of mind are due to the occurrences of Wednesday evening. It was a peaceful night, and the chief was taking in the tent show. The play was going along swimmingly, the villain was gloating over the hero and the heroine, when there was a commotion outside. The chief investigated, and found the spotter for the show was fomenting eighteen or twenty hoodlums who were attempting to gain entrance to the show by this time-honored custom of crawling beneath the canvas. The chief assisted in dispersing them. A few pleasant minutes passed. The villain was now at the mercy of the heroine and everything was going well. It looked as though the play might yet end happily. The show's watchman hunted him up.

He found the same gang of little roughnecks—aged anywhere from ten to fifteen years—were in the act of oversteering the automobile belonging to Councilman J. B. Irwin. The car was rescued, and the band again dispersed. The chief saw the rest of the show.

An hour or two later he received a hurry-up call from a resident up on Laramie, who declared that a gang of hoodlums were perilously close to setting fire to some building in his neighborhood. The chief and Night Watch Stillwell investigated. And for the next hour, rising in state in the car of a vexatious householder commended for the occasion, Chief Jeffers ran down the offenders. The culprits were captured in gangs of two or three, given a ride, scared a trifle, lectured and turned loose with a warning.

But the next time a gang of hoodlums undertake to make night hideous by annoying anyone, the chief will use different tactics, he says. From now on, he's going to quit the lecture platform and will use other means to subdue youthful mischief makers. Therefore, if son doesn't come home by his usual late hour, parents are advised to communicate with the police station before worrying themselves ill. It may be that son will be trying to sleep on those cast iron mattresses.

## Alliance Youth Returns From Citizens' Military Camp at Fort Snelling

Clement G. Kniest, the only Alliance youth approved for the first citizens' military training camp, held for this area at Fort Snelling, Minn., returned to his home here Thursday morning after a month's training at the camp.

Young Kniest is enthusiastic about the month's experiences, and about the only kick of any kind he would make is the one that soldiers have made since time immemorial—that is, that plenty of time was devoted to drilling. The program kept the boys busy from 6 a. m. until 5 p. m., with another five hours of rest and recreation before taps at 10 o'clock. The activities were the same as occupied regular soldiers during the period of training, physical exercises, drills, hikes, rifle practice at the range. One of the hikes lasted four days. There were some six hundred boys at the camp, ranging in age from sixteen to twenty-four years, the majority of them being around the eighteen mark. The menu shows the boys were fed exceedingly well.

There were five companies of about a hundred and twenty-five in each, and in order that the boys should have a real taste of army life, each company took turns at "k. p." work for the outfit. Mr. Kniest's company drew this privilege during the last days of the camp.

During the month, there were inspections by various high officers of the United States army, including a visit from General Pershing on August 10.

#### S. W. HOLT DIED TODAY AT SOUTH ALLIANCE HOME

S. W. Holt, 61 years of age, a well-known resident of Alliance for many years, died at 3 o'clock at the home of his aunt, Mrs. Gordon, in Hill's addition in South Alliance this morning. Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Saturday.

C. L. Kerr of the Buick Garage drove to Chadron Wednesday evening.

## Alliance Country Club Plans the First Annual Golf Qualifying Games

The first annual golf tournament qualifying games will start Sunday, September 4, at the Alliance Country club and continue until Saturday night, September 10. The sixteen highest contestants will qualify for the first flight and the next sixteen will qualify for the second flight. The rules provide that each contestant must play eighteen straight holes some time during the week and designate his play before starting. The club trophy will be presented to the winner.

Sidney golfers will be guests of the Alliance club on Sunday, September 11, at which time an inter-city tournament will be staged. Roy Beckwith is a committee of one in charge of the golf program on that day. Sidney has a good aggregation of golf players and some close contests are expected.

## County Buys New Style Road Maintainer From the Sturgeon Garage

The first of the week the Sturgeon garage received the new Avery road maintainer, purchased by Box Butte county, and a number of interested people have been down to look it over, and there have been expressions of approval from all of them. The machine is an entirely new model, and is known as the "road razer". It is intended primarily for road maintaining, and not for grading, although it is as good grading equipment as anything the county now has in its possession.

The road "razer" is most compactly constructed. It travels under its own power, having a fifty-five horsepower engine, propelled by gasoline and looking much like the ordinary tractor. The gasoline consumption averages less than a gallon per hour, and this, it is claimed, is much more satisfactory than using kerosene. The chief advantage is the speed at which it will cover the ground, the manufacturers claiming that it will average four miles an hour and that it will be possible to complete ten miles of road per day. The cost is only \$1,700—less than a good truck costs.

The machine is equipped with three blade sections, one of which is fashioned to clear the ditch alongside the road, and the others to throw the dirt up on the crown. It is said to be much more efficient as a road maintainer than the usual drag, inasmuch as it will fill holes in the road instead of making them deeper. There are three speeds forward and reverse and an ingenious arrangement whereby the "razer" can be turned around in a space no longer than its length.

A day or two ago, the machine was taken out on the Chadron road and on Third street in Alliance for a trial run, where it gave a most satisfactory demonstration. Despite its complexity, it can be easily handled by one man, who has control of both engine and graders from the seat at the rear. The county is planning the purchase of additional machines if its success justifies the expenditure.

## Ranger Cafe Will Add "Cafeteria" Service Beginning Labor Day

Ben Grinstead, proprietor of the Ranger Sudden Service Cafe, formerly Harvey's announces that, beginning Monday next, Labor Day, a cafeteria service will be installed and the hungry patron will be able to secure a satisfactory meal for from 22 to 25 cents, or even less. With the cafeteria plan, the patrons serve himself, and will be eating within three or four minutes after he enters the cafe.

According to Mr. Grinstead, the addition is made in response to the popular demand for lower prices for food. He has decided to cut out his biggest expense, the employment of waitresses, and give the cafeteria plan a thorough try-out. This is the first cafeteria for Alliance in several years, and Mr. Grinstead is confident that it will prove a popular innovation. For those who do not desire cafeteria service, there will be the regular cafe service, at the usual prices.

## Picked Team From the Sunday School League Trims the Odd Fellows

A picked team from the various clubs in the Sunday School league played real baseball at the fair grounds Thursday evening, defeating the Odd Fellows team, 8 to 4.

So well does this picked team like playing together and so satisfied are the members with the teamwork that they are planning to issue challenges to some of the other Alliance teams. The Alliance Creamery players will be their first victims, if the latter will accept the gauntlet.

The Sunday School league has been under the management of P. C. Prince, and Billy Wood has taken a great interest in their performance. The two men are planning to organize a basketball league for fall and winter playing, further announcement concerning which will be made later.

## CLEAN-UP SQUAD TO START WORK HERE MONDAY

### BIG CROWD OF EX-SOLDIERS EXPECTED TO BE ON HAND.

#### Hope to Clean Up All Claims Against Government in Five Counties in Two Days.

The federal "clean-up" squadron will begin work at the library building in Alliance on Monday, September 5, and in two days hopes to meet every ex-service man in Box Butte, Garden, Cheyenne, the south half of Sheridan and Grant counties who has a claim against the government of any nature. There are eight men in the squadron, and they are empowered to make examinations and pass upon claims without delay that has resulted heretofore. The American Legion and the Red Cross are co-operating in the work.

Preparations have been made in Alliance for the filing of at least a hundred claims. There will be fifteen stenographers and typists, who will assist in making out claims; Red Cross secretaries from Alliance, Sidney, Chadron, Broken Bow and perhaps other places, who have been trained to fill out government forms; a notary public will be on duty all of the time to certify the papers. The organization is such that a big number of claims can be handled in record time. If there are a sufficient number of claimants on hand, the Red Cross cautions workers, who did teaman service during the war, will be asked to establish a canteen for the two days.

The squad will go from Alliance to Scottsbluff. Claimants are asked to put in an appearance as early as possible, in order that every application may receive action during the two days.

#### Don't Come Empty Handed.

"Don't come to the squad empty handed" is the plea which comes from local Red Cross headquarters. Workers from that organization together with the American Legion are co-operating with the government in this attempt to get speedy action for the hundreds of ex-service men whose claims are in process of adjudication as well as to find the isolated cases of men not informed as to the help they are entitled to from the government.

Other suggestions from Red Cross headquarters to men whose claims have not been satisfactorily adjusted include:

Bring your discharge papers and all communications received from the Federal Board and the Bureau of War Risk.

The greater majority of ex-service men now filing claims for compensation have been discharged from service for nearly two years. In order to establish their claims for compensation, additional medical evidence may be required.

Bring written statements from all doctors who have treated you since discharge and from hospitals where you were confined—(unless these were U. S. P. H. S.)

#### Secure Plenty of Affidavits.

Affidavits should be prepared by persons who know of your disability during service and who have

with you since your discharge. Affidavits are also helpful since one or more disinterested persons (employers if possible) who have known you since your discharge and are familiar with your physical disability. In place of formal affidavits those giving details of the situation with dates, etc., are of great value in aiding officials to understand your case. Any disabled service man desiring vocational training, with allowance for living expenses, must in addition furnish a statement from a former employer giving his occupation previous to service with reference as to his ability to perform the work together with a statement as to his present unfitness for the work. This statement should give the nature of present disability and that, according to the employer's opinion, it was incurred in the war or is the result of service. If witnesses accompany ex-soldiers in person their testimony can be taken in affidavit form and sworn to before American Legion or Red Cross representatives with the squad.

When in doubt as to procedure ex-service men are requested to apply for information to the nearest Red Cross chapter or Adjutant of the local Legion Post. They will be glad to advise and help in every possible way to secure all the compensation, training or hospital treatment to which former service men are entitled.

## St. Agnes Academy to Open School Year Monday, September 5

St. Agnes academy will open its school year next week, Monday, September 5, in registration day for the boarders; Tuesday, September 6, for the day pupils. Classes will be opened Wednesday, September 7. Applications for admission have been coming in great numbers and it is hoped that the attendance will equal that of last year.