

The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

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FIND A BIG STILL AND MUCH HOOSH NEAR ALLIANCE

ALLIANCE OFFICERS MAKE THE BEST RAID IN HISTORY

DISCOVERY DUE TO ACCIDENT

Two Hunters Stranded in Sandhills Discover Underground Plant of Fifty-Gallon Capacity

The biggest booze raid ever pulled off in Box Butte county or in all western Nebraska, for that matter, took place Wednesday morning, when a truckload of mash and half a gallon of the finished product were taken from a dugout on the old Charles E. Clough place, now owned by Charles Murphy and managed by his brother, John Murphy. The police succeeded not only in capturing the still, but Tom Gray, long suspected of being engaged in this and other illegal occupations, in the very act of distilling the moonshine liquor. Gray was brought to the county jail and in county court yesterday afternoon pleaded guilty to a complaint charging him with four separate counts, and was held for trial in district court under a \$20,000 bail, \$5,000 on each count.

It is understood that both John and Charles Murphy will be questioned by the authorities in connection with the raid.

The discovery of the still was the result of a lucky accident. Had not two hunters had an automobile breakdown in the region of the Clough place, it is all probability would never have been discovered, for it was located in a large dugout out in the midst of the sandhills, half a mile or more from the house, and was so well concealed that it could not be seen unless the observer were a few feet away from the opening. The two men found it necessary to walk to the Wambaugh ranch to telephone a garage in Alliance for assistance, and took a short cut across the hills. They brought them near the dugout. Even then they did not see the opening to the underground distillery, but a gasoline barrel standing alone in the sandhills aroused their curiosity. They investigated and found the opening that led to the place.

An Elaborate Equipment

Going down into the dugout, they found evidences of a tremendous amount of work and a completely equipped fifty-gallon capacity still, with numerous barrels of mash. The dugout is a fairly large affair, consisting of two rooms, one about twelve by twenty feet and the other room, separated from the larger by a partition, five by seven. The smaller room is open to the weather, and a rough ladder leads down. The rooms are about eight feet underground. The dugout is located in a small valley.

In the large room the two hunters found a fifty-gallon still, mounted on a washtub and an old stove frame. Heat was supplied by a gasoline burner with pressure tank. The boiler held fifty gallons of the mash. From the boiler was about fifty feet of copper hollow wire which went over the partition and coiled in a big cask in the smaller room. At the end of the coil was a faucet, and the distilled whisky drained into a stone jug.

There were also five or six large barrels filled with corn mash, covered with several inches of crushed fruit, peaches, apricots and plenty of raisins, several sacks of sugar and other materials. It was apparent that the outfit had been in operation for some time.

Officers Make Raid

The discovery was made Saturday afternoon, and was reported to the sheriff and Chief of Police Jeffers on Monday. There was some question as to whether the ranch was located in Sheridan or Box Butte county, and the first belief was that it was in the neighboring county. Sheriff Bruce of Rushville was notified, but the message did not reach him, and it was Wednesday before the raid was pulled. In the meantime, the officers kept an eye upon Tom Gray, who has been supposedly working at the Murphy ranch for several months past. He had been in Alliance several days and was supposed to be suffering from rheumatism. He left for the ranch Tuesday evening, and it was feared that he had got wind of the raid and had gone out to destroy the evidence. Later developments proved these fears unfounded.

The raiding party consisted of Deputy Sheriff Tom Miskimen, Sheriff R. M. Bruce of Rushville and driver, Edison Harrington, C. W. Jeffers and T. A. Cross, special deputy sworn in to take the place of Sheriff Miller, who was called to Hemingford.

Harrington is a young fellow who Wednesday was serving the last day of a thirty-day bootlegging sentence in Sheridan county and has been used as driver for the sheriff's car during his incarceration. He has had a wide acquaintance with bootleggers, and illicit distillers, he claims, and showed plenty of pep during the proceedings. The officers descended on the dugout about 10 a. m. and on arriving, heard noises which indicated the place

THE WEATHER

Forecast for Alliance: Fair tonight and tomorrow; somewhat colder to day.

was occurring, and the still in operation. Chief Jeffers jumped into the outer room, and was followed by the other raiders. Tom Gray, in charge of the still, was so busy with his work that he did not hear them, and the officers say the look on his face when he turned around and perceived his visitors was worth coming miles to see.

Gray was taken to Alliance by Deputy Miskimen and Cross, while the others waited for confederates, but none put in an appearance. A white truck driven by Oscar Zern drove out and brought a load consisting of nine or ten huge casks, containing over six hundred gallons of mash. There was only a half-gallon of distilled liquor drawn off, but the officers located two half-pint bottles of a colored liquid, corked and sealed with sealing wax. Seven or eight gallons of mash were cooking in the boiler. There were twelve or fifteen barrels in the dugout, some containing water. About 400 gallons of mash were emptied on the floor of the dugout.

Thursday afternoon a delegation of deputies and curious citizens went out to look over the dugout and decide as to its location. County Surveyor R. E. Knight was taken along for an official opinion.

Gray Under Heavy Bond

At a hearing in county court before Judge Tash, Tom Gray was held for trial in district court under \$20,000 bond. He was charged with four counts: Manufacturing intoxicating liquor; having in his possession a still for the manufacture of intoxicating liquor; having possession of materials used in the manufacture of intoxicating liquor; and having in his possession intoxicating liquor manufactured by himself for the purpose of selling same.

Gray pleaded guilty to all four counts, and is now in the county jail, awaiting trial at the next regular term of district court which convenes (Continued on Page 8.)

COKER PLACED UNDER ARREST A SECOND TIME

WILL FACE ARSON CHARGE IN MORRILL COUNTY

Complaint Says He Burned Granary and Barn on Gentle Place in Year 1913

Charles Coker of Alliance, who was arrested Monday on a warrant from Morrill county, charging him with the theft of a steer from the Hall and Graham ranch, was taken to Bridgeport, and placed under bonds of \$1,000 pending a preliminary hearing set for November 14. The evidence against Coker, it is understood, consisted of revelations made by a former employe of Coker's, who, after a row with his boss, reported that his employer had buried the hide of a steer. This hide was unearthed and was found to possess the Hall & Graham brand.

On his return to Alliance, it is said that Coker disposed of practically all of his property. He owned a ranch just over the line in Morrill county, and five sections of this was sold to one purchaser at a cash price of \$2,400 per acre. Another purchaser secured three sections of land, 210 head of cattle and horses, the town property consisting of a house and lot and two or three vacant lots by a payment of \$500 cash and assuming a mortgage of \$8,000, it was reported. Coker sold his Buick coupe back to the local dealer for \$1,000 cash. He purchased the machine new in May of this year for \$2,150.

Thursday afternoon officers from Bridgeport re-arrested Coker on another charge, that of arson, in connection with the burning of a barn and granary on the Glen Gentle place, on November 19, 1913.

Friends of Mr. Coker say that the sale of property is not to be taken as an indication that he was trying to make a getaway, inasmuch as he has been trying to dispose of his interests here for at least six months past. He would consider only a cash purchase, otherwise the property would have been disposed of long ago. He was arraigned at Bridgeport yesterday and again released on bond.

CLARENCE GAHAGEN IS IS PAINFULLY INJURED

Clarence Gahagen had his hand very painfully injured at 9:30 this morning while operating a three-shing machine near Yale Siding. His hand was caught in the machinery and badly cut and torn. He was brought to Dr. G. J. Hand's office for treatment. The physician states that Mr. Gahagen will not be permanently crippled, except possibly one finger will be left stiffened.

Elmer Hollingworth of Longmont, Colo., is a new employe at the Schaefer Auto Supply, taking the place made vacant by the resignation of George E. Belshaw.

ALLIANCE LIONS FAVOR DELAY IN SCHOOL BUILDING

PROVIDED IT ISN'T ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY

Instruct Committee Meet With School Board and Discuss the Problem From All Angles

The Alliance Lions club, at its Thursday noon luncheon at the Palm Room of the Alliance hotel, went on record as favoring a delay in the building program now under consideration by the Alliance school board, provided this can be done without seriously impairing the work of the schools. Discussion among the club members brought out the fact that the club was not desirous of working any great inconvenience upon the city's school system, and that they would cheerfully pay their share of the necessary taxes, but if there is any possibility of delaying a building program, the club favors it.

W. L. O'Keefe had been slated for a talk on "Fellowship," but the interest in the discussion of the school situation was so great that it was decided to postpone this feature. The subject was brought up by the committee appointed at a recent meeting to go into the situation with the local school board and see just what was being planned and its effect on the community pocketbook. This committee, consisting of J. S. Rhein, True Miller and C. L. Reynolds, reported that a meeting had been arranged at the chamber of commerce rooms last Monday at which there was discussion, but the discussion, the chairman said, was entirely friendly, and no one had anything to say against the proposed building program although a number of men present were known to be opposed to it. The chairman of the committee gave it as his opinion that this is no time to build. By delaying the sale of bonds the interest may be saved to the public. He believed that the school will be able to get along without any great hardship for another year.

Following the committee report, the discussion was general. County Attorney Bayse said that taxes will be raised 6 per cent when the bonds are registered. He drew attention to the fact that the interest load began with the registering of the bonds. John W. Guthrie pointed out that the bond market is gradually strengthening and that in all probability it would be better as time goes on. He said that if the bonds are sold now, the district may lose some money. Another member declared that he had been authorized to offer a price above par for the bonds.

J. S. Rhein suggested that the best way to handle the situation was by means of a petition to the school board. Men dislike to speak out in public meetings, he said, referring to the Monday luncheon at the chamber of commerce, but he believed that they would willingly register their sentiments on a petition.

A motion was made to continue the committee, and instruct them to take up the proposition with the school board, informing them that the club is with them if more buildings at this time are considered absolutely necessary, but urging delay if there is any way it can be arranged.

Alliance Rotarians Entertained by the Chadron Normal

Eleven members of the Alliance Rotary club accepted the invitation from the Chadron state normal to attend a dinner in their honor at the normal school Thursday evening. H. F. Thiele, A. V. Gavin, Glen Miller, Norman Newberry, R. M. Hampton, H. P. Coursey, W. R. Pate, Charles Fuller, Monte Hargraves, W. M. Bevington and Earl L. Meyer drove over to Chadron in the afternoon.

The Alliance men were met by President Robert I. Elliott, who conducted them over the normal plant before the hour set for the banquet. The Alliance men were very much impressed with the importance of the school and with the work that is being done there, as well as with the character of the faculty.

At the dinner, which was held at the school, there were ornamental hats for the Rotarians and other decorations. There was a short program, at which Guy Collins served as toastmaster. Mr. Elliott spoke on "The Chadron Alliance," and R. M. Hampton responded with a talk on "The Western Nebraska Alliance." Harry B. Coffey of Chadron responded to "The International Alliance" and Earl L. Meyer, "The Future Alliance."

The Chadron speakers told the Alliance men that Alliance was too far away to amount to anything as a rival of theirs, and therefore nothing but co-operation could be hoped for. Chadron has the normal school, the Alliance men were told, but Chadron is now willing to turn in and help Alliance secure something that is wanted here. The Alliance Rotarians say the occasion was one of the most pleasant in the history of the club.

FOOTBALL TEAM PLAYS ANCIENT ENEMIES TODAY

MEETS SCOTTSBLUFF AT THAT CITY THIS AFTERNOON

Newspaper Brings Up Last Year's Howls About Rough Playing And Rougher Treatment

The Alliance high school football team will play the Scottsbluff high school aggregation this afternoon at Midwest park in Scottsbluff. It will be one of the big games of the season, and Alliance fans are hoping that the local team will bring back another scalp for its collection. Last year the record was an even break, so far as Alliance and Scottsbluff were concerned, each team winning a game. This is the first time the teams have met this season, and there is a determination to win on both sides.

The Scottsbluff Star Herald, in an article announcing the game, calls attention to the ill feeling in the valley last year against the Alliance team. This was engendered by Bayard, which was at the time a contender for the state championship, and not being pleased with the result, proceeded to tell the world that Alliance played rough. Scottsbluff joined in the howl, but that was about as far as it went, for no other towns with which Alliance registered any kicks either as to the tactics used or the treatment accorded the teams.

The Scottsbluff newspaper intimates that Alliance used rough stuff at Bayard, but in its game with Scottsbluff at Alliance the chief objection was registered against "village stuff" by the rotters, and "bucolic and boorish treatment" thereafter. Alliance will not be humiliated at Scottsbluff, the Star-Herald says. At any rate, it will be a good game with plenty of pep, for this sort of attacks are just what make the Alliance boys desire to give the Scottsbluffers something to be peevish about, and nothing peevish 'em more than a good trimming.

Only One Defeat for Alliance

The Star-Herald announces the contest today after this fashion: "On next Friday afternoon, starting at 3 o'clock, Scottsbluff and Alliance, old time rivals in the football field, will tangle on the gridiron at Midwest park in this city. Alliance has suffered but one defeat this season, the little town of Ansley taking her measure by a score of 20 to 0. The Scottsbluff team shows a clear record of victories, with in fact only six points scored against them up to the present.

"Alliance has defeated Chadron, Sidney and Crawford. Scottsbluff has defeated Kimball, Torrington, Morrill and Sterling. Alliance has nine of last year's team on its 1921 aggregation. There is no use in hiding the fact reversed in football is well aware.

"The old score between Alliance and Scottsbluff shows about a fifty-fifty break in the matter of victories by each school during the past several years, and this fact, coupled with remembrance of some of the bitterness of the past contests, gives additional interest to the game that will be played in this city next Friday.

Wielding the Hammer

"But be that as it may, the Alliance in its games with Bayard last year, Alliance secured a rather unsavory reputation of being advocates of rough stuff, so rough, in fact, as to cause serious comment. With the Scottsbluff team the game was played in a more satisfactory manner, the chief objection being that in a place which prides itself on being a modern city, village stuff was the rule in the matter of rooting during the game and of bucolic and boorish comments thereafter. The treatment was the opposite of that accorded the local boys at Sterling.

"But be that as it may, the Alliance team will be subjected to no such humiliation here, chiefly because Scottsbluff has outgrown the village cut-up stage (if it ever possessed it) and looks upon a football game as a real sport in which honors go to the best and cleanest players.

"Next Friday's contest will have as a referee 'Irish' Carrig, of Torrington, one of the most capable and expert football men in the west, and one who will allow no rough stuff, as both Torrington and Scottsbluff learned during their contest. Unfair tactics will cause any player to be thrown out of the game. That much is settled in advance in the minds of anyone who has witnessed Carrig officiate at a football game.

"With teams, each of whom has a string of victories at their back and a determination to win Friday's contest as the chief point in the season's schedule, there is no question but that the spectators at Friday's game will see some real football."

All women who are eligible to membership in the woman's auxiliary of the American Legion will be given an opportunity to become charter members of the Alliance branch if they will sign the application blank, which will be this week at the home of Mrs. George L. Burr, Flora Apartments. Mrs. A. O. Dodge is chairman.

Fire Department Holds Its Annual Wild Duck Supper

The annual wild duck supper of the Alliance Volunteer Fire Department was held in the armory Wednesday evening, with over a hundred in attendance. Wigand Maurier, one of the volunteer firemen, was in charge of the menu, which included roast wild duck, roast sweet potatoes, cranberries, celery, with plenty of other "fixings."

Lloyd Thomas, former president of the local department, was in charge of the speaking program as toastmaster. He introduced the duck hunters—W. J. Trageser, V. E. Byrne, Clarence Schaefer, Roy Miller, George Snyder, Steve Cannon, James Keeler and E. G. Laing. He also introduced the officers of the department: O. C. Moore, president; A. G. Isaacson, vice president; Ross Sampson, secretary; Clarence Schaefer, chief; V. E. Byrne, assistant chief; F. W. Hayes, treasurer; Roy Miller, Ray Butler and George Keeler, trustees.

Rev. Walter Rindin of Mitchell, chaplain of the Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's Association, had been invited to attend but had found it impossible to come. The following telegram from him: "Sorry cannot attend duck dinner. Give the boys heartiest greetings from this old duck. Rattle the bones for continued prosperity."

The speakers of the evening included R. M. Hampton, mayor of Alliance; John W. Guthrie, former president of the local department and of the state association; N. A. Kemmish, city manager; P. E. Romig, former mayor and president of the local department; Dr. George J. Hand, former president of the department; E. G. Laing and Rev. B. J. Minort of Alliance, pastor of the Baptist church.

A special vote of thanks was tendered to the committee in charge of the banquet: Wigand Maurier, V. E. Byrne and Adam Wickman. The speaking was followed by dancing, the music for which was furnished by the Edwards orchestra.

CAMPFIRE GIRLS TO STAGE DRIVE FOR S. A. QUOTA

ECNAILLA BAND WILL CANVASS CITY SATURDAY

Alliance Asked to Contribute \$400 to Salvation Army's Maternity Home at Omaha

The members of Ecnailla Campfire of Alliance have been selected to stage the drive for funds for the Salvation Army maternity home at Omaha, and Saturday will canvass the city in the interests of that institution. At a meeting of the Salvation Army advisory board, held several days ago, it was decided that Alliance should endeavor to raise its quota of \$400. The first plans were to solicit from the various clubs and organizations of the city, but this plan was found objectionable because so many men belong to several organizations, and the canvass by the girls was arranged.

The drive will be made all day Saturday, and groups of the girls have been assigned to various parts of the business and residence sections. The quota is not large, and it is believed that it can be raised without difficulty. Large donations will be received, of course, but even small contributions are desired. The solicitors will be appropriately tagged, and the advisory board hopes that every one approached will make an effort to give them some sort of a contribution.

City Manager Is Suggested for Pier Custodian

At the Thursday noon luncheon of the Alliance Lions club, the members voted to recommend City Manager Kemmish as custodian for the municipal pier.

Penrose Romig reported for the municipal pier meeting, called for the county court room Wednesday evening. A capture of a big still and several hundred gallons of the material to make moonshine on that day had taken up Sheriff Miller's time to such an extent that the meeting was not held, but Mr. Miller's position was explained. The meeting was called by the sheriff, who was one of the men active in securing subscriptions for the municipal pier. Mr. Miller had given orders for material, and there are several unpaid bills. The Lions club has a subscription of \$100 ready to be paid over as soon as an organization to manage the pier is perfected.

L. C. Thomas moved that City Manager N. A. Kemmish be recommended to Sheriff Miller and Mr. Romig as custodian for the municipal pier, and if this suggestion is adopted, there will be no need for an organization. The motion was adopted by the club.

Leslie Glass spent a few days the first part of the week visiting with relatives at Hyannis.

DENVER IS NOW WORKING HARD FOR NEW SHOPS

CHOOSE COMMITTEE TO PRODUCE BURLINGTON OFFICIALS

ALLIANCE SHOULD GET BUSY

Local Railroaders Believe There Is a Chance If This City's Advantages Are Urged

Alliance will be peculiarly interested in the announcement in the Denver News on Tuesday that the Denver chamber of commerce had appointed a committee to urge upon the Burlington officials the advisability of making haste in the construction of railroad shops at Utah Junction, just outside the Denver city limits. The article states that the railroad purchased 160 acres of land some time ago, and that the plan was to build shops that would rank second to none in the west, being larger than those at Havelock. The Burlington is the owner of the Colorado & Southern, which now has shops at Denver, and it is understood that if the new shops are built, they will take care of both C. & S. and Burlington repair work.

This city has long hoped that it would be designated as the point where the new shops are to be built. The Burlington owns a large tract of land here, and at one time intended to increase the shop equipment at this place. Alliance now has a big repair department, being equipped with heavy repair machinery, but the capacity is limited so that the major portion of the repair work goes to Havelock.

Local railroaders are very much interested in seeing the shops come to Alliance, and they look upon the action of the Denver chamber of commerce as an indication that railroad officials have not made up their minds. Alliance, the railroad men say, is a much better location than Denver. They point out that shops here could take care of repair work on the Billings, Casper and Denver lines. Alliance now has the only heavy duty shops west of Havelock, the only other shops being located at Sheridan.

Says Time to Act

A local railroader, official in one of the shop craft unions, thinks this is the time for action by Alliance. He says that the Havelock shops are now overloaded, and that among the next big improvements made by the Burlington will be the construction of the new shops, and that Alliance undoubtedly is still considered as a possible location. "If we get together and make a showing," he says, "we may be able to get them there."

Alliance can arrange to care for the housing problem of additional laborers that the shops would bring here while the construction work is going on, it is pointed out, and the general belief is that if definite assurances were to be received that this city is to secure the prize, there would be plenty of building started.

Railroad officials have been interviewed on this subject a number of times, and on many occasions have spoken most favorably of Alliance as a location. If definite action has not been taken in regard to building at Denver, it is probable that there will be some effort made to make a showing in favor of this city.

The article in the News Tuesday read as follows:

A vigorous campaign to obtain the construction of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy shops in Denver was initiated Monday, when the Civic and Commercial association named a special committee to conduct the campaign. This committee will meet within the week and outline a general plan of procedure.

The board of directors of the civic and commercial association has selected all interests. The entire campaign will be left in the hands of this committee.

The Burlington several months ago bought 160 acres in the vicinity of Utah Junction, with the announced intention of building thereon shops that would be even greater than those near Lincoln, Neb., which are the main shops of the road west of the Missouri river. It was reported at the time of the purchase that, with the ownership of the Colorado & Southern, it was proposed to make these shops of a capacity that would take care of both roads, with the probable abandonment of the present Colorado & Southern shops, which are said to be too cramped for the work of the one road.

The Utah Junction land is reached by the Colorado & Southern by both steam and electric lines, and lies just without the city limits.

One of the inducements to the Burlington that has been discussed is that if the shops are built, the Broadway extension will be continued, with a viaduct over the tracks, and that this will be converted into a broad street that will lead directly to the shops.

The committee named Monday has not formulated any plans.

Mrs. Frank Maier of St. Joseph, Mo., who has been visiting with her brother, N. W. Steinman, returned to her home last night.