

# The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

TWICE A WEEK—TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Official Paper of the City of Alliance

VOLUME XXIX

(Eight Pages)

ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1922.

No. 13

## TWO PRISONERS IN COUNTY SAWED WAY

### COLORED FORGER AND AUTO THIEF MAKE GETAWAY

#### Harold Watkins Gives Self Up at Farm House Next Day, But the Smoke Is Still On His Way

Harold Watkins, self-confessed automobile thief, and James Howard, colored, held for trial in district court on a charge of forging a friend's signature to a check for his entire savings account, sawed their way out of the Box Butte county jail late Saturday evening. Howard is believed to have caught No. 42 out of Alliance shortly afterward, and no trace of him has been discovered. Watkins struck out on foot up the Chadron highway and after going for twelve miles, stopped at the farm home of James Chison and there decided to give himself up. He was brought back to Alliance by George Gerdes and surrendered without argument to Officer Stilwell at the city hall. He is now back in the county jail.

The prisoners staged their successful jail-break between 11 and 11:30 Saturday evening, making their getaway by sawing out two bars from a window in the main cell room, then crawling out on the cement dome of the skylight, breaking a window leading back into the jail and then getting out through Sheriff Miller's office. The route taken by the escaping men was rather roundabout, and showed that they had had their eyes open as to possible outlets during their incarceration.

All of the prisoners in the county jail, including Tom Gray, Schieve, Watkins' partner in crime and a Hemingford man or two, were in the cell room in the south part of the jail. The men were not locked up separately, but were allowed to roam through the cells and the narrow corridor at will. The window opening on the cement dome was accessible to every man in the jail, and all of the others could have easily made their escape had they desired, but apparently the colored man and Watkins were the only ones who cared to make the attempt. With the two bars sawed and bent back, however, there was a space of but 10 1/2x11 inches, and possibly Tom Gray and some of the other prisoners could not have crawled through until the opening was enlarged, which would have meant more sawing and a greater chance of detection.

#### Saw Left by Prisoner.

The presence of the saw with which the bars were cut has been explained by the officers, who remember that several months ago they entertained one James McDonald, arrested on a charge of breaking into the home of Ed Schwasinger, a mile west of the city. McDonald was arrested and later sentenced to the penitentiary. The officers discovered, while he was in the jail, that he possessed a nail saw, which had been broken into three pieces. One of these pieces was discovered inside the lapel of his coat and another in the bottom of his shoe. The third was never found, although the officers, knew, from the size of the pieces found, that there was a third piece concealed somewhere in the jail.

The missing piece of the saw, it develops, had been hidden in the mattress in McDonald's cell. At the time the saw was discovered, the officers placed new mattresses in the cells and the old ones were kept in a storeroom. New Year's day, when the big crowd of guests from Hemingford arrived, it was necessary to have more mattresses, and these were dragged out and put in use. According to some of the prisoners who did not run away, Watkins and Howard did not discover the saw until Saturday evening, when one of them turned the mattress over and the saw, in striking the floor, made its presence known.

With the saw in their possession, the two men waited until the officers had gone and things had quieted down, and started to work. It was a matter of only a few minutes to make their getaway. According to Watkins, they met no one.

The prisoners were not missed until about 3 o'clock Sunday morning, when Night Watchman William Mauninger thought he noticed someone coming out of the court house basement and with Officer Stilwell and Sheriff Miller, an investigation was made. The men had not gone out through the basement, but through one of the rear windows on the ground floor.

#### Left Note for the Officers.

It is reported that Howard, the colored man, left a most facetious note for the officers and county attorney, in which he indulged in some more or less good natured joking about the escape. He mentioned the fact that he considered the officers here a pretty easy bunch, and declared that he could have left any time he wanted to—the weather didn't suit him and he was waiting until travel conditions got better. He bid the authorities a fond farewell, and promised that when he got back east he would write again and send his best regards.

Watkins finds himself in hotter

## THE WEATHER

Forecast for Alliance and vicinity: Fair tonight and Wednesday; colder tonight.

water than he was before, when one penitentiary sentence staring him in the face. Now he has two offenses to add for. The last legislature made making a felony, punishable by ten years in the state penitentiary. County Attorney Basye has filed a second complaint against Watkins, and will also file one against Howard, in the event that good-natured smoke is recaptured and brought back for trial.

## J. M. Miller Sells Farm Near Alliance to Dick O'Bannon

One of the biggest real estate deals in Box Butte county in several months was completed last Saturday, when Jesse M. Miller disposed of his big ranch, including thoroughbred Holstein cattle and all equipment to Dick O'Bannon. Mr. O'Bannon plans to continue improving the place, and will conduct a modern dairy.

Announcement has been made that the city armory has been supplied with standards and other paraphernalia to make it a first class arena for basketball games. The plan is to form a number of city teams and play for the city championship. In past years there has been considerable interest in basketball, and it is thought a series of contests will appeal to the public.

## CHARLES PELTZ HELD ON CHARGE OF HOCH TOTTING

### WARRANT ALSO OUT FOR DETENTION OF FORD CAR

#### Farmer at Whose Ranch He Had Attended Dance Searched Car and Took Two Quarts of Liquor

Charles Peltz, farmer whose home is eighteen miles north of Alliance, in Running Water precinct, was placed under arrest Saturday afternoon when he came to Alliance with a friend, on a warrant and complaint which charged Peltz and Joe Prokoski with the illegal transportation of liquor in a Ford touring car, the engine number of which is given as 5139259, on the first day of January, 1922. There are two counts against Peltz, the willful and unlawful transportation of intoxicating liquor, and having intoxicating liquor in his possession at a place other than his dwelling. Prokoski, who is charged with the second count, has not yet been arrested.

Complaint was made by a rancher who staged a New Year's dance for his friends. Peltz attended the dance, and the rancher grew suspicious of him, and finally went out and searched the Ford car. He found two quarts of moonshine liquor concealed therein which he brought in and delivered to the officers.

Peltz was arraigned Saturday afternoon and gave \$500 bond, signed by Joseph A. Peltz and John Havranek, to appear for trial February 3.

The Ford car named in the complaint has not yet been secured by the officers. They made a trip out in the county to get it, but the machine in which they rode broke down after covering ten of the eighteen miles, and the officers were forced to return to the city empty-handed.

## High Schools to Debate Question of Closed Shop

For its fifteenth annual contests the Nebraska High-School Debating league has chosen the following closed-shop question. "Resolved, That the Movement of Organized Labor for the Closed Shop Should Receive the Support of Public Opinion."

The percentage plan of determining district championship honors will be used in nearly all of the eleven districts, in place of the straight elimination plan heretofore used. Under the new plan the general procedure will be that each school in a district will meet every other.

District debates will begin early in February and continue into April. The state debate tournament, in which the eleven district championship teams will compete, will be held at the University of Nebraska in May.

For several years, Alliance has won honors in the Northwestern district. This year the Alliance team is scheduled to first meet Chadron, and later will debate with Gering, Scottsbluff, Bayard, Bridgeport and Dix.

It is predicted that potato shipments out of Nebraska may reach a total of 4,000 cars this year. So far this season, 2,513 cars, or about three-fourths of the potato crop of western Nebraska, have been shipped as compared with 1,331 cars up to the same date in 1920.

## GOVERNOR AND STATE ENGINEER ARE HEARD FROM

### LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR BROADWATER BOOSTERS

#### State Department Has Not Yet Taken a Position on the North and South Road, But—

The Broadwater road boosters, who, through G. R. Harries, secretary of that town's chamber of commerce, recently took up with Governor McKelvie the matter of the selection of the north and south through road through Morrill county, has received a reply from his excellency as well as from State Engineer George E. Johnson, to whom the protest was referred. Neither of these letters holds out much hope for the Broadwater men, although, of course, a game is never out until it's played out.

In his letter to Governor McKelvie, Mr. Harries recounted the story of the scrap between the Gulf-Plains-Canadian route, and the North Star. He told of the deadlock in Morrill county and the designation of the road through Bridgeport as route No. 1 and the Broadwater road as No. 2, and of the understanding that the state officials would make selection between the two routes. He also charged that Division Engineer Gaddis or other state officials had never come over the Broadwater road, but had seemingly approved the Bridgeport-Alliance road. He also told of the defects of that route, which ends in the middle of the sandhills, eight or nine miles from Alliance, and of the fact that the Box Butte county commissioners and the Alliance road boosters were much opposed to the approval by the state of the road as laid out.

Governor McKelvie's reply was short and to the point. The governor passed the buck to State Engineer Johnson, intimating, the while, that it was unlikely either road would be built during the coming year. His letter follows:

#### Governor Passes the Buck.

LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 27.—Mr. G. R. Harries, Broadwater, Neb.—My Dear Mr. Harries: The matter referred to in your letter of December 20 is a subject that comes almost wholly within the duties of the Secretary of the Department of Public Works, and I am referring your letter to this case, but nothing of the merits of this case, but I think I am safe in assuming that very little will be done in the development of either of these routes during the forthcoming year. Very cordially yours, S. R. McKelvie, Governor.

And then, a few days later, came a letter from State Engineer George E. Johnson. Mr. Johnson's department once sent a man to the Box Butte commissioners, upon which was drawn the Bridgeport-Alliance road as approved by Mr. Gaddis, and suggested that some action be taken to connect the governor's lead. His letter bears the information that a decision as to the location of a north and south road, and anyway, that there is no money available to build such a road. A bit farther along in the letter he declares his conviction that the money available at the present time should be used to construct a north road. Of course, both the Broadwater and Bridgeport routes are north roads. Mr. Johnson's contribution to the discussion reads in this fashion:

LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 2, 1922.—Mr. G. R. Harries, Broadwater, Neb.—Dear Sir: The governor has gone over your letter with me and requested me to answer same.

In answer, wish to state that this department has not taken any position up to this time as to the proper location of the north and south road through your county. At the present time there is no money available to construct this road. The road cannot be constructed without the approval of your county board and until funds are available it is useless for this department to spend time and money making surveys, as any future county board that may come in office can control the expenditure of this money; however, wish to state that this department will be willing to spend the money coming to the county on any feasible route that can be located north and south through your county connecting up with other state highways where it will serve the greatest number of people.

I have instructed Mr. Gaddis to meet with the county board of Box Butte county and get all of the information that he can as to the different roads running south from that county, and that the money available at the present time should be used on a north road as it is only a short distance to the county line and Box Butte will be in a position to construct its part of the highway at any time Morrill county is in similar position.

I would advise that you take this matter up with the county board, as I am informed that two out of three members have agreed to spend the money coming to the county on the north and south road through Bridgeport. Very truly yours, GEO. E. JOHNSON, Secy. (Continued on page 5)

## W. C. T. U. WILL HOLD MEETING IN ALLIANCE

### REGIONAL CONFERENCE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

#### Program for Session Includes Talks from State and National Officers and Local Speakers

Alliance will be host to a regional W. C. T. U. conference on Saturday and Sunday of this week, when delegates from the counties of northwestern Nebraska will come to Alliance for a two-day convention, to be held at the Presbyterian and Baptist churches. An extensive program has been prepared, and there will be addresses by state and national workers, as well as local speakers. Delegates are expected from Scottsbluff, Chadron, Hay Springs, Rushville, Kimball and other towns, as well as a good attendance from Alliance and Hemingford.

Following is the program for the meeting:

Conference team—Mrs. Lela G. Pyar, state president; Miss Amy Spalding, Upland, Indiana, national regional director of Americanization; Mrs. Mary Lee Seibert, state corresponding secretary; Mrs. Harriet Vance, editor Union Worker; Mrs. Harriet Sylvester, Scotts Bluff county president; Mrs. Agnes Keegan, state superintendent social welfare; Mrs. Rose B. Wilkinson, Bethany.

Saturday, January 14—9 A. M.

First Presbyterian Church  
Child Welfare—Mrs. Sylvester.  
Organization and Membership—Mrs. Seibert.  
Social Welfare—Mrs. Keegan.  
Song—"Brighten the Corner Where You Are."  
Women in Industry.  
(Each topic presented to be followed by general discussion.)  
Noon-tide Prayer.

12:00—Noon.

5:00 Chicken dinner to be served by Presbyterian ladies' auxiliary. Everybody invited. First come first served.

1:30 P. M.

Devotional—Rev. A. J. Kearns.  
Scientific Temperance Instruction—Mrs. Vance.  
Americanization—Miss Spalding.  
Music—Vocal solo, Mrs. J. S. Rhein accompanied by Mrs. B. Ponath.  
Temperance and Missions—Mrs. Rose B. Wilkinson.  
Our Papers and Literature—Mrs. Seibert.

7:30 P. M.

Devotional—Rev. M. C. Smith.  
Music—In Charge of Campfire girls.  
Our Work for Young People and Children—Mrs. Seibert.  
"Young America"—Miss Spalding.  
"The Power of the Press in Law Enforcement"—B. J. Sallows.  
Drill—Campfire Girls Law and Work Song.  
"The Law, Our Defender"—Rev. A. J. Kearns.  
"Christian Citizenship and Law Enforcement"—Mrs. Dyar.

Music.  
Benediction.

Sunday, January 15

Second Anniversary of National Prohibition.  
Baptist Church.  
2:30 P. M.

Song Service—In charge of Mrs. C. H. Fuller.  
Scripture reading—Local Chairman.  
Prayer—Rev. B. J. Minort.  
"Why We Celebrate"—Miss Spalding.

Reading—Mrs. Dyar.  
Song—"America," and salute to the Flag—Boy Scouts.

"The World Looks to Us for Moral Leadership"—Mrs. Wilkinson.  
Drill—"Wind the Ribbon Round the Nation"—Campfire Girls.  
"The Nineteenth Amendment a First Aid to the Eighteenth Amendment"—Rev. S. J. Epler.

Song—"Work for Enforcement Where You Are."  
"Take Time to Be Patriotic"—City Manager N. A. Kemmish.  
"For the Sake of Our Future Citizens"—Rev. B. J. Minort.

Appeal for Community Cooperation—Mrs. Dyar.  
Singing—"Star Spangled Banner."  
First Presbyterian Church.

7:30 P. M.

Song Service—Union Choir.  
Devotional—Rev. S. J. Epler.  
Anthem.  
Address—Miss Spalding.  
Male Quartette.

"Is Law to Be Sovereign?"—Judge I. E. Tash.  
Violin Solo—Thomas Bass, accompanied by Mrs. B. Ponath.  
"As Are Its Homes So Is the Nation"—Rev. M. C. Smith.  
Singing—"America."  
Benediction.

Jack Miller, formerly of Alliance, has accepted a position as salesman with the Western Furniture and Casket company of Lincoln, and will travel in this territory, making Alliance every two weeks.

## Potash Suit Has Taken New Turn In Omaha Court

The long-standing suit for recovery of \$75,000 damages sought by Peter J. and Anna Long, former owners of a ranch near Alliance, Neb., upon which, after sale to John H. and Herman J. Krause, valuable potash deposits were discovered, was revived in Douglas county district court at Omaha Saturday, says the State Journal. After the Krauses obtained possession of the Longs sued for recovery of \$992,000 damages, charging the Krauses used "fraudulent methods" in purchasing the Long property, which adjoined theirs, for the sum of \$8,000.

The present suit is against Ingvard Sibbersen, for \$75,000, a judgment for which was obtained when the defendants appealed to the state supreme court, before which a supersedeas bond for \$152,000 was required by the lower court, and which Sibbersen signed. The Longs claim they are unable to collect the judgment following affirmation by the appellate court and they seek to have Sibbersen pay it.

Attorneys for the defendants today charged Attorney B. G. Burbank and Thomas Lynch, representing the Longs, are liable to be held in contempt of court, inasmuch as an action is pending in Alliance by the Krauses, in which they affirm the judgment against them was obtained through perjured testimony and which the court there granted a temporary injunction prohibiting collection by the Longs.

## HEMINGFORD MEN SLOWLY BEING TRIED

### DAVIS CRIST PAYS A FINE OF \$100 AND COSTS.

#### Potts, Lehman and Chapman Are to Have Their Inning in County Court Thursday.

One by one the eight men captured in the New Year raid on a tailor shop in Hemingford are coming before the court and accepting their medicine. The fifth one to receive sentence was Davis Crist, barber, who had been released under \$500 bonds pending a hearing last Friday. In the afternoon of that day he appeared before County Judge Tash and entered a plea of guilty to a complaint charging him with the illegal possession of intoxicating liquor, and was assessed a fine of \$100 and costs amounting to \$14.75, which was paid.

There remain to be tried Lloyd Chapman, Jim Potts and Fred Lehman. Trial has been set for Thursday morning before Judge Tash.

There has been some little discussion over the fact that these men have been held in jail for several days without even a preliminary hearing, but the word goes out that in cases of this nature, or any other nature, the prisoners may ask for an arraignment, but that trial cannot be forced by either prisoner or county attorney for four days, this amount of time being considered necessary to enable either side to get ready for trial. In the cases of the Hemingford men, those who desired have been permitted to plead guilty within a short time after they made up their mind to take the fatal step, and others have waived preliminary hearing and are satisfied to take all the time that has been given them in order to get ready to make the most of their day in court.

## County Judge Tash Submits Statement of Fees for 1921

County Judge Ira E. Tash has submitted his annual report of fees received during the year 1921 to the county commissioners. The record for the year was better, financially, than during 1920, when there was an excess of just \$2.80 after the judge's salary and other expenses were paid. This year the judge has turned over to the county treasurer a balance of \$69.75.

The fees, by months, are as follows: January, 137; February, \$180.45; March, \$212.60; April, \$258.30; May, \$130.70; June, \$244.95; July, \$159.75; August, \$201.30; September, \$178.15; October, \$181.95; November, \$216.40; December, \$140.75; total, \$2,243.30.

The disbursements include: Judge's salary, \$1,900; clerk hire, \$268.55; postage, 12; typewriter ribbon, \$1; excess fees paid treasurer, \$60.75; total, \$2,243.30.

The fines and forfeitures for the year, collected and paid to the county treasurer, amounted to \$1,794.50. Unclaimed witness fees amounted to only \$3.30. With excess fees of \$60.75, the total paid to the county treasurer was \$1,858.55.

Attorney Lee Basye returned today from Hyannis, where he has been on legal business.

## SECOND STILL DISCOVERED IN SIOUX COUNTY

### ALLIANCE OFFICERS MAKE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL RAID

#### Emmett Johnson and Olaf Sholander Arrested and Taken to Harrison for Arraignment

Alliance and Box Butte county officers, assisted by Sheriff George W. Hill of Sioux county, made a second joint raid on land owned by Emmett Johnson, and for a second time were successful. The raiding party consisted of the Sioux county sheriff, Deputy Sheriff Tom Miskimen of Alliance, Chief of Police C. W. Jeffers and a special deputy, and the raid was made Sunday afternoon. The ranch is situated eighteen miles west of Hemingford, and part of it lies in Box Butte county and the rest in Sioux county. In order that there should be no difficulty, should the still be discovered in either county, both Sheriff Hill and Deputy Miskimen carried warrants from respective counties.

On Monday of last week, the same bunch of officers swooped down on other land owned by Johnson, six miles farther west. On this occasion Jack Woods, a tenant, was placed under arrest, and a still, forty feet of coil, thirty gallons of mash and some of the manufactured liquor were confiscated. In the second raid, Emmett Johnson and his son-in-law, Olaf Sholander, were placed under arrest. They were brought to Alliance Sunday evening and taken to Harrison Monday morning, where they will be tried. The officers were successful in finding everything connected with a first class distillery, with the exception of the still. There were 140 gallons of mash, a gallon and a half of the finished product, a condenser and a three-burner oil stove. The outfit was located in a cave out in the middle of the prairie, a couple of miles from the house.

#### Woman Gave the Tip.

It is believed that the wife of Jack Woods, arrested in the first raid, was the one who tipped off the officers. When he was arrested she told the woman to keep her mouth shut, but she passed through Alliance on her way to Denver a few days after Woods was arrested. It is reported seven gallons of hooch were manufactured and sold between Monday, when Woods was arrested, and Thursday.

Johnson was quite indignant when the officers proposed taking him to jail. He called attention to his church and lodge affiliations as an evidence of his high character, but the officers were not convinced, the evidence being too strong for them.

Johnson has been in Box Butte county for a number of years, and is well known. He comes from North Carolina, and there are friends who recall that in the past he had defended the making of moonshine in his native state, explaining that there was a surplus of corn, so roads to haul it to town, and that it wasn't right to see it go to waste.

## Alliance Cagers Lose to Lincoln Friday Evening

### Alliance high school lost to the Lincoln high school cagers at the Y. M. C. A. Friday night by the score of 12 to 23. The Red and Black out passed Alliance during the entire game but the Alliance lads put up a husky battle from the start to finish, according to the State Journal. The breaks were against Alliance in the goal shooting phase of the game the ball failing to "stick" on many occasions when it found the hoop.

The speedy westerners were unable to score in the opening half but in the second period piled up six field goals with a rapidity that had the Lincoln fans somewhat worried about the outcome of the game. At one time the score stood 15 to 10 in favor of Lincoln with the Alliance quintet going at top speed.

Brown was the stellar performer for the Red and Black tossing ten points for Lincoln. Lewis, dusky center, threw six tallies through the hoop. Cross and Dailey of the visitors threw four points each, both playing wonderful basketball. Joder and Fowler at guard kept the Lincoln tossers going at top speed from start to finish.

The passing on both sides was excellent and the game became a contest of passing ability rather than goal shooting ability. The short snappy tosses of the Lincoln team gave them the advantage over the Alliance team since the latter were taking chances and throwing long distance and scoring something.

This was Alliance's ninth game on her trip during the Christmas vacation. She had won six and lost three games. The boys are a splendid set of young fellows with worlds of speed and a great amount of accuracy. They schedule this season calls for some thirty games.