

The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

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WILLIAM BOCK A SUICIDE AT RANCH SHACK

DEAD BODY DISCOVERED SATURDAY MORNING

Had Been Seen Last Thursday Morning When Neighbor Visited Him at Sod Shanty

William Bock, sixty-three years of age, was found dead in his sod shack twelve miles north of Alliance, about 8 o'clock Saturday morning, when Lemuel M. Clay, a neighbor, went over to the place to see about the return of some harness that Bock had borrowed from him a few days before. Bock had committed suicide by hanging himself to the rafters of the shanty where he lived. He had gone about the deed with methodical care, using a heavy crowbar to attach the small rope to, and carefully making the knot, as well as tying both ends of the crowbar to the rafters.

Bock had lived in the shanty for three or four years, according to neighbors. He was a sort of a recluse, having little to do with his neighbors. He had rented a quarter section there, and at one time had some farm implements and livestock, but last fall he held a public sale and closed out practically all of his possessions. Since then he has apparently lived on the money left over from his sale, and it is believed that the lack of money was responsible for the suicide. In his pocketbook, found on the body, were a five-cent piece and seven pennies, and a careful search of the shack failed to disclose any more money, or anything else of much value.

According to the neighbors, Bock was not at all friendly or communicative. He occasionally purchased a loaf of bread or a can of tobacco at the Clay home, but even on those occasions held no conversations or did no visiting. He was a German and was born in Germany, but could speak the English language fairly well. He read both Alliance newspapers and the Lincoln Free Press, and with a German Bible, this comprised his library.

It is believed that despondency over his financial condition was responsible for the suicide. He was without farm machinery and had borrowed harness and implements to do his farm work. In a conversation with Mr. Clay Thursday morning, he said that he was going to Alliance in the afternoon to see whether he could make arrangements to purchase farm machinery, and it is thought that he was unsuccessful.

Harry E. Wells of the Miller mortuary, who took charge of the body, said that Bock had been dead for twenty-four or thirty-six hours. The shack in which Bock lived was a board shanty, the only building on the place. His two horses were without a shelter of any kind. The shack had been veneered with chunks of sod. There was no floor. The contents included a small stove, straw tick set on springs and boxed in and one chair. There was a small sack of potatoes and a basket containing some eggs, which was the only food in the place. In a cellar outside were about fifty bushels of potatoes. There was no fuel and no feed for the horses. The door was standing open when Mr. Clay arrived.

Mr. Wells telegraphed to the officers at Carroll and West Side, Ia., in which places Bock lived before coming to Alliance, in search of possible relatives, but no reply has been received.

Boy Scout Minstrel Should Be a Success From all Indications

From all of the indications the Boy Scout minstrel show should be what is technically known as a "knockout." A. H. Harper who has the show in charge has already put on successful shows in Alliance and all those who have attended these know what he can do. There are also eight Campfire girls in the cast, who will sing and the addition of these will add much to the show. The director has a number of new songs, and also a few which while not new are favorites that could not be left out of the performance.

The end men, Verne Laing and Jay Cantlin are taking their parts like professionals, and all of the boys and girls have shown that they can and are not afraid to sing.

The interlocutor, Wayne Threlkeld, is contrary to the usual custom, the smallest man in the show, and is fully up to expectations.

There will also be specialties presented which are sure to please.

Anyone who likes good music, and good clean jokes can surely not afford to miss this show. Besides, the Scouts meet the money. Give yourself a treat Friday night.

BIRTHS

April 3—To Rev. and Mrs. B. J. Minort, 619 Laramie, a daughter. The little miss has been given the name of Lavon Evangeline. This is the first daughter in generations of the family.

MEMBER.

The Herald believes in occasional laughter and will go to almost any lengths to put over a good joke. It is encouraging when we find that our efforts are not entirely lost. The All Fools' issue is conceded to be the best bit of advertising ever done in Alliance, and we realize just what a compliment of this kind means from men who know something about advertising.

MUSIC MEMORY CONTEST FOR THE CITY SCHOOLS

GRADES WILL BE TESTED TODAY AND WEDNESDAY.

Final Elimination Contest Will Be Held at the Imperial Theatre Sunday Afternoon.

The Alliance schools have, through the music department and the heartiest and most energetic co-operation of the grade teachers concerned, just come to the close of a most enthusiastic period of concentration on the study of old and modern classics, patriotic selections, folk songs, grand opera, etc. This study has been running over a period of about six weeks, and each number has been studied carefully as to composer and his life, conditions which inspired or made possible the composition, stories of the opera, and many other details. This work has been going on in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades, and final contests for elimination will be held Tuesday and Wednesday in the various rooms, to determine the competitors for the grand concert, to be held at the Imperial theatre Sunday, April 9.

The preparation has been given by the use of the piano, phonograph, voice, and from time to time participating students have practiced some of the selections till they were able to bring them to the class, presenting them as violin, clarinet, trombone, saxophone and cornet solos, and in groups.

"The contest has proven beyond all question that our boys and girls will be interested in music of the right sort if only they be allowed to become acquainted with it in an interesting way," according to Mrs. Ince Dunning. "We are more and more convinced of the fact that we are not warranted in giving music to only a few talented pupils. Music is now generally recognized as a universal human need, and no longer a luxury for the few. The school is the logical place to meet the need of more and better music, and the time has come when every child in the country must have the opportunity of knowing what is best and familiarizing himself with it. The phonograph is the open door to the classics as a whole, but how soon have our pupils become so interested that many are whistling and humming, or attempting the leading melodies on the home instruments?"

Through the generosity of Harry Thiele, an added incentive has been in view. He has offered as a prize in each building to the winner in the contest a phonograph record of the pupil's own choice.

The primary or eliminating test is to be able to recognize the melody played, with its name and that of its composer. The pupils winning in this will participate in the final contest at the Imperial, and will be privileged to extend five invitations to guests for the final concert. At the final contest spelling and capitalization will also be taken into consideration, and all numbers will be presented in an entirely different manner from those heard in the preparations. Local musicians have kindly co-operated with us to make this concert a musical treat to the guests, and a joy to the contestants.

As this is strictly an educational feature, and no charges, Mr. DuBucque has generously given the use of his comfortable show house for the contest.

Leo Kindig, organist, will intersperse the program with several of his interpretations of the masterpieces; while other musicians lending a much (Continued on Page 8.)

RAILROAD MEN AND FARMERS HOLD MEETING

THOUSAND PEOPLE HEAR ADDRESS AT ROOF GARDEN.

C. A. Maier, Representative of B. of L. F. and E., Tells of 'Achievements of Labor.'

Nine hundred sixty-eight people, by actual count, are reported to have been in attendance Sunday afternoon at the meeting of the Box Butte county civic forum, held in the Lowry & Henry roof garden. Rev. B. J. Minort, pastor of the Baptist church, presided. The program included:

Song, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," by congregation.

Music by the orchestra.

Song by Mr. Stallenberger, "On the Road to Mandalay." "Mother March."

Poem recital by Miss Schirk.

Rev. Mr. Minort spoke on the "High Cost of Ignorance."

He stated that just one year ago Sunday night the first labor sermon was preached in Alliance. He took as a text, First Timothy, 1:13, "I did it ignorantly in unbelief." He stated that he was born in France but that he came to this country from choice. He went back into recent history to show the results of ignorance, mentioning the attempts of the French to build the Panama canal, showing how ignorance of the laws of sanitation and disease prevented their success and how the United States overcame these difficulties by knowledge. He then showed the results of ignorance in the political and economic world. He quoted from a recent speech of Senator Hitchcock in the senate on "Co-operative Marketing," as follows:

"My judgment is that this country should in some way be relieved from that necessity of throwing his crop upon the market immediately he has finished its production after months and months of labor. There ought to be some system of personal credit by which he could hold that crop for a few months and market it gradually, because the very necessities of the agricultural classes, which compel them to throw all their crops upon the market simultaneously and almost instantly, result inevitably in an undue depression of the market."

Effect Politically Predicted.

He quoted the recent statement of W. J. Bryan that "this is the most sacred congress that I have ever seen in all my time" and called the attention of those present to the golden rule as practiced by Henry Ford. He also predicted that the combination of the farmer and labor vote would result in some astounding results at the coming fall elections.

C. A. Maier, special representative of the B. of L. F. and E., spoke for an hour and a half. He talked mainly on the Adamson act and its benefits to the railroad men and of the constant, as he said, attempts to destroy or nullify this act. He also explained the sixteen-hour law and its operation. In his talk he mentioned William Allen White and the Kansas industrial court law, which he characterized as unjust and inhuman. He (Continued on Page 8.)

REUBEN KNIGHT QUITS HIS JOB WITH COUNTY

DECLINES TO CONTINUE AS THE HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER.

Unfriendly Attitude of County Board and Lack of Co-operation the Reasons

Reuben E. Knight, county highway commissioner, has turned over to the county clerk all the books and records of his office and has notified the county commissioners that they will have to get along without his services. Mr. Knight has held the office for the past three or four years, and apparently it has been growing more distasteful as the months have gone by. In January the commissioners talked of appointing one of their number to the office, but finally decided to reappoint Mr. Knight. He did not accept the honor formally, however, and developments the past two or three weeks have convinced him that life was entirely too short to try to do anything with the office.

The direct cause of the resignation was the reduction of the salary for the official from \$50 to \$20 a month. But this is only a small part of it. According to Mr. Knight, there has been no real co-operation on the part of the county board and a general lack of interest in the work, as well as an apparent conviction that it was unnecessary. In view of this attitude, Mr. Knight decided that he had no desire to go on with it, as the lack of co-operation made it impossible for him to accomplish anything. "I've no time to monkey with it under these conditions," he says.

The county highway commissioner, as contemplated by the statutes, is an official who is in direct charge of road construction and maintenance within the county. He is expected to keep accurate accounts of all money expended for roads, and a distribution ledger showing just which roads the money is spent on.

Actually, however, the past year or two the highway commissioner has been keeping books for the commissioners. The county board have taken charge of the expenditures of funds, and have made their own road programs and carried them out without interference and with very few suggestions.

Mr. Knight was actually in charge of road matters in the county during the building of the Chadron road. This is the best road in the county today, and cost the least money. At that time the laying out of plans and their execution was left to Mr. Knight. Apparently the commissioners prefer to do it themselves, and have no particular regard for systems of bookkeeping.

Mr. Knight points out that without any system in building or maintaining roads, it is impossible to keep accurate records. For the past year he had to depend largely on monthly reports, and these were most unsatisfactory. The road machinery and gang was pulled from one part of the county to another, and an accurate check was almost impossible.

John Duskin, a farmer living a few miles south of Hemingford, was taken to Alliance Sunday evening in the Miller ambulance. He was suffering from the flu.

ROLLER SKATING.

City Manager Kemmish in this issue gives warning to the children who are just getting another case of the roller skating craze. For the past week or ten days, the downtown streets have been crowded, most of the skaters being young men and women. The kids have always skated, but they do not make a fad out of it, and ordinarily keep out of danger.

Last night a fifteen-year-old boy was unable to stop in time to keep an automobile, running quite slowly, from colliding with him. The larger boys have been going full tilt down the main business streets, without slackening for the intersections or taking any other precautions. It is fortunate that dozens of accidents have not been reported.

Luckily the victim last night was not seriously injured, but the accident should teach a lesson to some of the other skaters who are too much intent on having a good time to watch their step.

The city's principal business street should not be converted into a skating rink, no matter how much fun it is for the skaters. Those who are wise will confine their amusements to less frequented parts of the city, or, as the city manager suggests, it may be necessary to pass an ordinance entirely prohibiting this kind of fun. A word to the wise should be sufficient.

HEMINGFORD CONTRIBUTES A BOOZE CASE

MARSHAL GRIMES DOES SOME SUCCESSFUL SLEUTHING.

Warrants Issued for Warren Lotspeich and Sanford Sahling—Hearing Friday.

The town of Hemingford, which on New Year's eve contributed half a dozen temporary and semi-permanent guests for the county jail following a raid on a tailor shop, has contributed another case to the county court. Marshal Grimes on Friday afternoon came to Alliance and secured warrants for Warren Lotspeich and Sanford Sahling, as well as one Ford touring car, the complaint reciting that these three were guilty of unlawful transportation of intoxicating liquor. Mr. Grimes placed Lotspeich in custody on Saturday and he was brought to Alliance with the offending Ford car on Sunday. Sahling was not arrested. Word was received at Hemingford that he was seen in Chadron Sunday, and it is believed that he took a tumble to himself and decided to go while the going was not beset with obstacles.

County Judge Tash released Lotspeich under \$300 bonds to appear for a hearing on Friday, April 7, to answer to the charges against him. County Attorney Basye was out of the city on legal business at Rushville, and the judge decided that the case should be postponed until his return.

According to the story told the officers by Marshal Grimes, he had noticed the Ford car, which is owned by Sahling, parked on the streets of Hemingford Thursday evening. His suspicions were aroused, and when the car left town and returned a second time within a few minutes, he decided to investigate. When he arrived on the scene, Sahling was just starting the car. The marshal hopped on to the running board and asked a question or two. His eyes fell upon Lotspeich's coat, and he picked it up. A bottle of whisky was in one of the pockets. Just at that moment, Sahling got the car started, he says, and threw him and the coat to the ground. A second later Lotspeich came running around the car, grasped the coat and jumped back into the Ford, and it was yanked away. But Marshal Grimes had the bottle of evidence, and proceeded to swear out the complaints.

Sanford Sahling was one of the men who was arrested at the New Year's eve raid in Hemingford. At that time he was fined \$10 and costs on a charge of possession of intoxicating liquor at a place other than his dwelling. The second offense means a jail sentence in punishment, and Mr. Sahling was apparently not disposed to take the risk.

THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska: Cloudy tonight and Wednesday. Colder west portion tonight.

The Cox family and Miss Gertrude Gist, domestic science teacher in the local schools, who lives at the Cox house are all ill with the flu and under the care of a nurse.

The George D. Darling family are all ill with the flu. Mrs. John Beach, trained nurse, is at the house caring for them.

Mrs. J. E. Calhoun of Interior, S. D., is in Alliance visiting her sister, Mrs. B. W. Keach.

FIGHT TO KEEP LAND OFFICE MAY NOT BE SUCCESS

SENATOR HITCHCOCK SAYS CASE SEEMS TO BE HOPELESS.

Policy of Administration Inflicts Harsh and Unfair Hardship on Western Nebraska.

According to a letter received from Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock by J. C. Morrow of this city, and read at the Monday luncheon of the chamber of commerce, the efforts of Alliance and other interested western Nebraska towns to retain the land office here are doomed to failure. Mr. Hitchcock has taken the matter up with the department in person, and has learned that they undoubtedly construe the appropriation bill under which the discontinuance order was made in such a way that it will be difficult work to make them recede from their position. The senator's letter follows:

"I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 24 and I quite sympathize with your protest against the closing of the Alliance land office. Nevertheless, I regret to report that the case appears to be hopeless. Under existing law the commissioner of the general land office has wide discretionary power of consolidation, and the department of the interior appropriation bill as passed very recently by the house and senate contains the following proviso:

"Provided further, that with the exception of the land offices mentioned in the last preceding proviso, and also the land offices at Eureka, Cal., Vancouver and Seattle, Wash., and Burns, Ore., and where the land office shall be the only remaining land office in any state, no money herein appropriated shall be expended for the maintenance of any land office, other than as is provided in this paragraph, in a land district having public land area of less than 100,000 acres, or whose cost of maintenance shall exceed 33 1/3 per centum of the revenues of the office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922."

Law Cannot Be Changed

"While the bill is still in a conference committee it cannot be changed with respect to the above proviso because there is no controversy between the senate and house on the proviso."

"I will confess that I did not notice this provision when the bill was hurriedly passed through the senate, and apparently no Nebraska congressmen noticed it in the house or they would have called it to my attention."

"The effect of the proviso will be that after the 30th of June the commissioner of the general land office will not be able, even if he so desired, to keep the Alliance land office open because the public land area of the district does not amount to 100,000 acres, and I presume also because the cost of maintaining actually exceeds one-third of the revenue."

"While I think this is a very harsh and unfair hardship to inflict on western Nebraska, it seems to be a part of the settled policy of this administration, and applies not only to Nebraska, but to many other states. Even the offices of registrar and receiver at Lincoln are consolidated by the terms of this bill as well as in a dozen other land offices in the country."

"I am sorry, therefore, that I am not able to remedy the damage. Very truly yours, "G. M. HITCHCOCK."

Uncle Moses Still on Job.

Congressman M. P. Kinkaid, who is also working on the matter, has not yet given up the ship. In a telegram forwarded to Judge J. H. H. Hewitt, receiver, Mr. Kinkaid admits that the prospects are against success. He last week wired for the acreage of unpatented entries under the North Platte irrigation district, as well as unpatented dry land entries, and Mr. Hewitt sent him word that the former aggregate 4,040 acres and the latter 28,920. This makes more than 100,000 acres of land subject to entry.

The section of the federal statutes under which the action is taken was passed in 1840, and refers to the "sale" of public land. Mr. Hewitt told the members of the chamber of commerce. This was before the passage of the homestead laws. Public land is not sold, but patented these days. The total acreage of land in this district is well above the 100,000-acre mark, and Mr. Kinkaid hopes to be able to convince the powers that be that the office should be retained as a convenience to the homesteaders in western Nebraska, who have cases involving hundreds of patents which have not yet been granted.

Mr. Hitchcock's letter was written before the information relative to the acreage of unpatented lands had been forwarded to him, and it is possible that this may change his outlook, although the provision relative to receipts of the office may still be a bar to rescinding the order.

Mrs. Pearl E. Montague of Denver arrived Saturday to spend Easter vacation with Miss Merle Welliver, who is teaching in Morrill county.

Mrs. W. C. Mounds is ill at her home with the influenza.