

THE NEWS-HERALD.

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SEE PLATTSMOUTH SUCCEED

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IS STATE CHAMPION

Miss Marie Douglass Wins
First Place in League
Debate.

UNANIMOUS DECISION FOR
HER AT THE YORK CONTEST

Rose to State Championship With
But One Adverse Vote in
the Entire Year.

(From Saturday's Daily)

By a unanimous decision of the judges, Miss Marie Douglass, won the state championship debate held at York last evening, and brought the first honors to the eastern district and Plattsmouth. Her arguments and oratorical work through the year have been something remarkable, having been in the Plattsmouth team which won from Fremont, Wahoo and Blair with but one adverse vote in the series. Her work before had always been of the affirmative side of the question while in last night's contest she was required to take the negative. The change, however, did not daunt her in the least and she went through the debate as though she had upheld the side of the question during the whole year. Her oratorical work is fine, her enunciation clear, her arguments clean cut and impressive and her work before an audience very free and easy. She was undoubtedly the best contestant last evening, the second honors being won by Van Webster of Hastings and the third by Jessi Ertel of Geneva. The debate was originally scheduled for Lincoln on May 6, but on account of small pox at that place it was postponed and held in York.

Two judges of the Nebraska supreme court and one of the district court passed on the merits of the debating. Judge C. B. Letton, Judge S. H. Sedgwick and Judge Lincoln Frost of Lincoln. The president of the league, Prof. M. M. Fogg of the University of Nebraska, presided. Supt. W. W. Stoner of York kept time. The contestants had nine minutes in rebuttal in which to present their cases. The question was: "Resolved, That labor unions, are on the whole, beneficial." The speakers were as follows:

Affirmative—Wayne Soper, Broken Bow; west central district; E. Floy Lewis, Wymore, southwestern district; Jesse Ertel, Geneva, central district; Lloyd Worley, Ashland, east central district; Van Webster, Hastings, southern district.

Negative—Edith Marie Christensen, Valentine, northern district; Clarence A. Davis, Beaver City, south-

western district; Marie Douglas, Platts mouth, eastern district; Joseph Fitzgerald, Kearney, western district; Ethel James, Alliance, northwestern district.

To assist the judges at arriving at a decision, the following instructions from the league's constitution were given:

"The judges shall judge the contest as debate, voting on the merits of the debate irrespective of the merits of the question. In deciding who has done the most effective debating, the judges shall give equal weight to (1) presentation (English and delivery), (2) direct argument and refutation, and (3) rebuttal."

Squirrel in Acrobatic Stunt.

Just a common, unofficious, little squirrel gained enough notoriety last evening to make its head whirl when it went through an acrobatic drill on Sixth street for the benefit of a large crowd of supper hour pedestrians. It must have heard of a more nutty condition of a different locality than the one which it was using for a stumping ground, for it decided to change its general headquarters via the telephone wire route. Perhaps it came down town to see if the new are lights are up yet, but anyway, it made the trip north on Sixth street past the Riley Hotel and postoffice, scrambling along the wire cables from one to another, going through a series of contortions that would make a garter snake shed its skin, and attracting the attention of many of the citizens.

Death of Henry Johnson.

Henry Johnson, an aged gentleman who has been ill for some time at the Masonic home in this city, passed away last night at 10:40, his death being caused by heart trouble and a complication of other diseases. The deceased was a resident of Wahoo until the third of May, 1909 when he entered the Masonic home. He was a member of Wahoo lodge, 59 A. E. & A. M. of Nebraska. The remains will be taken to Wahoo for interment on an early afternoon train escorted by B. M. Davis and H. K. Meroy who arrived from his home town this morning to take charge of the body. Mr. Johnson was born in Wayne county, Indiana, October 15, 1828. He has no close relatives who are now living.

Little Boy Convalescing.

Mrs. Joseph Halza went up to Omaha this morning to see her little son, Adolph, who had an operation performed on his eye last week. About a month ago the seven-year-old lad had a pair of scissors in his hand to cut one of his shoe strings when, in some manner, the scissors slipped and pierced his eye, making a very painful injury. A short time later, he was taken to Omaha and placed under an eye specialist who found an operation on the optic necessary. The little fellow is now out of the hospital and is doing nicely, but it will be a week or two before he can be brought home. It is thought he will retain the use of the eye for none of the nerves were seriously injured.

COMMERCIAL CLUB IN BUSY SESSION

Call Special Meeting For Wednesday
Night to Discuss Celebration
of Fourth.

LEASE ROOMS IN COATES BLOCK FOR HEADQUARTERS

Officers Busy in Trying to Land Big Ohio Brick Plant
in the City.

(From Saturday's Daily)

A most interesting meeting of the Commercial Club was held last evening, which was probably the last session the club will hold in Coates hall, for if the present plans do not miscarry, the club will have a chamber of its own before another week rolls by. This was one of the important actions taken by the club members last evening. It was decided to lease the two rooms in the Coates building formerly occupied by the Christian Scientists and to convert them into the permanent Commercial club headquarters.

Such a step has been under the discussion of the club for nearly a year, but it was hard to find a suite that would exactly meet the requirements of the organization. At the last regular meeting, a committee was appointed to try and locate desirable rooms which could be obtained for a moderate sum. Last evening Chairman of the Committee Falter reported on the above named rooms which the committee has inspected and found to be just what was needed for a meeting place and perhaps later a public rest room. On the movement of Mr. Tidd it was unanimously voted to accept the rooms, have them repaired and put in ship shape condition for the club headquarters for the coming year at least. The lease on the rooms will be drawn up today.

A report was made by A. L. Tidd of the State Commercial club convention which he attended at Columbus a few weeks ago as a representative of the Plattsmouth organization. He spoke of advertising committees that many of the clubs have, before whom any business men's advertising proposition are brought. The committee consisting of three or five members investigate into the merits of the scheme and if their endorsement is placed on it, it is considered worthy of the merchants' support. This plan seems to be meeting with great success in other towns in the state and is saving the business men much money formerly spent in useless advertising which brought no benefits to them.

A small deficiency from the recent banquet was ordered paid by the treasurer. The work of boosting for the proposed Rock Bluff road was brought before the house. A committee was appointed a few weeks ago by the president of the club consisting of Messrs. Newell, Richey and Becker whose duty it was to look over the highway in question and make an estimate of the amount of money required to grade up the road. It was thought by the committee that \$150 would cover all the expense connected with work which does not seem to be a difficult undertaking. All of the right of way for the road, with the exception of that through home farm will probably be donated to the county and the matter will come before the commissioners at their meeting on the 12th of June. It is certain that a road through this territory would bring a large amount of trade which is now going to Murray and other towns south of the city. It is the hope of the club to have a large delegation of the

boosters and people who are interested in the construction of the road present at the meeting of the commissioners at which the matter will be discussed.

A letter was read by the acting secretary from the Geological Department of the University of Nebraska to which a sample of the clay had been sent for examination. There are extensive deposits of clay on the Peter Goos place and other farms south of town and on account of its peculiar constituency, it was thought it might be valuable for pottery. An examination showed the earth to be a substance not fitted for pottery work, but with the strong traces of lime and iron it would make an ideal clay for vitrified brick. There are heavy veins of a soft slate near the city that might be used for shale in the burning of brick, which combination seems to look like this would be a good place for a brick factory. A brick company of Ohio has been corresponding with the club officers in regard to a location for a new plant in which the company is willing to expend \$40,000. Tests of the clay are to be made by the Burlington and samples are to be sent to the Ohio firm in an effort to land the new enterprise in this city. The vitrified brick is a hard substance, generally moulded into the large paving brick for which there is a much greater demand than can be supplied. According to an authority on brick who was in the city a few days ago, the Plattsmouth clay is as near like the Galesburg (at which place one of two large factories in the country are located) as any two clays could be. There is also an Omaha man who is looking for a good location for a brick plant whom the club members are trying to interest of the Plattsmouth mud. It appears that Plattsmouth has a valuable asset which heretofore has laid undeveloped in the ground, but when the time is ripe, will net her a goodly amount of wealth. That time now seems to be approaching and it is not thought to be long before the city will be supporting profitable brick kilns.

It was decided by the boosters to take immediate action on the construction of the river road from the city to the Missouri river ferry. Within a month, the spring rise will come, the river will cover the present road over the sand bar and make travel between here and the ferry impossible. If any action is to be taken this year it is necessary to have the work commence at once. It is thought a grading elevator can be secured from Union and a four foot grade thrown up at a very low cost, not expected to exceed \$150. A committee of Messrs. Hatt, Weyrich and Falter was appointed to get busy on the road, circulate a subscription paper and proceed with the work before the spring rise covers the bar.

A Fourth of July celebration was discussed but the men did not seem to be very strongly in favor of one, however, a special meeting of the club and all people interested in the event was called for Wednesday evening at the council chamber. Any persons

who have ideas in regard to the celebration, either pro or con, are urged to be at the meeting when it can be settled whether the town is to have a public demonstration or not. The majority of the club were in favor of giving a stock show in the fall and making no effort for any Independence Day doings with the exceptions of some good ball games and band concerts.

All present were enthusiastic over a live stock show, reports were made from the large committee appointed at a meeting a few weeks ago, showing the farmers to be very much interested in such an event. On a motion of Mr. Tidd it was voted to have a committee named to take the stock show matter in hand, arrange dates, concessions, etc., and put the show through some time in the fall. The committee is to consist of four citizens and five farmers which has not yet been appointed. The meeting was adjourned at an early hour until the special meeting next Wednesday to be held at the council chamber.

In Honor of Miss Howard.

The general history class of the High school informally entertained last evening at the pleasant home of Miss Elsie Thierolf, in honor of Miss Howard, their teacher, who will soon leave for her home. The evening was pleasantly whiled away in a manner known only to the youths of Plattsmouth and if you are young or ever have been you know what transpired. Those present were Tresa Droege, Mary McElroy, Minnie Jones, Willa Moore, Katie Foster, Mildred Cook, Anna Wolforth, Lelia Denard, Ruth Frans, Zora Smith, Elsie Thierolf, Henry McMaken, Vance Todd and Clyde Lind.

Editor in Trouble.

W. C. Benfer, of Lead, S. D., publisher of a socialist newspaper in that city, was indicted yesterday by the grand jury in the United States circuit court for placing obscene matter in the mails. The indictment charges him with sending out through his newspaper an indecent version of portions of the ten commandments. He was arraigned, pleaded not guilty, and gave bonds for trial. Benfer at one time, about ten years ago, was a resident of Plattsmouth and was connected in a minor capacity with the local papers at various times.

Continued on page 8

COMMITTS SUICIDE

Waverly T. Allen Shoots
Himself at His Home at
Weeping Water.

SHERIFF PRESENTS WAR-
RANT, MAN SUICIDES

Insanity Board Waiting Here to
Examine Him When Mes-
sage of Death Arrives

The town of Weeping Water experienced quite a sensation yesterday when Waverly T. Allen committed suicide after being confronted by the Cass county sheriff who was sent to bring the man before the board of insanity for an examination. Complaint had been made several days ago by Weeping Water residents claiming that Allen was insane and in a dangerous condition, not only to himself but for the neighbors as well. Sheriff Quinton was dispatched to bring the man before the commissioners who were in session yesterday at the court house. The sheriff arrived in the city shortly after the noon hour and finding the man on a business street, drove home with him in a rig which Allen had rented for a few days to use for business purposes. The two talked over the affair and the hearing which was to take place that afternoon, on their way to the home Allen commenced preparations for accompanying the sheriff to this city. The man lived in the house with his five-year old son, his wife having started divorce suit against him some months ago she now being with her mother, Mrs. Roenne, near Weeping Water. The little son went



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