

The Plattsmouth Journal.

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COMMITTS SUICIDE BY HANGING HIMSELF

John B. Beckner, a Young Man in the Employ
of Charles Cramer.

TRAGEDY OCCURRED MONDAY

Claimed Nebraska City as His Home, Where
He Said His Parents Reside.

John Beckner, a young man about seventeen years of age, came to the home of Chas. Cramer living on the Levi Churchill farm, southwest of Rock Bluff, about four weeks ago, and applied for and was given work. Since then until Monday he has worked on the farm for Mr. Cramer, and at all times proven himself an excellent farm hand. Always quiet and with no bad habits, at all times willing to work and do his share of what there was to do, and a little more. He gave his home as Nebraska City, saying his parents lived there, and that he expected as soon as he had earned enough money to return to school of which he seemed very anxious of completing. Where he had been attending the school he did not state, neither where he expected to attend when he had earned sufficient money to complete what he desired in the shape of an education. With the stock he was a model hand and on his first arrival instantly made friends with the dog, which was a little long-haired black fellow, which followed him wherever he went.

During the entire time which young Becker has made his home with the Cramers, he has shown himself a model young man, and nothing about his actions would indicate that his mind was unbalanced, unless it might be that he was more than ordinarily quiet and very sober at times. Last Saturday he attended the old settlers' picnic at Union, and when he was ready to start Mr. Cramer asked him if he wished a horse to ride he said no but went afoot, and after he was at the picnic, Mr. Cramer asked him if he did not want some money, suggesting that he could have five dollars, but he told his employer that he did not need any money as he had plenty. While at the reunion he met his cousin, Stephen Beckner, and told him that he intended to attend school when he had earned enough money, but did not say where. Sunday he went to church services taking Mrs. Cramer, and in the afternoon went to Geo. Shrader's which is about a mile and a half away. Mr. Shrader being the father of Mrs. Cramer, and while there seemed himself as at other times, mingling with the people who had congregated there, and seemed to be enjoying himself as he usually did.

Not until yesterday morning was anything noticed out of the way in his actions. Mr. Cramer had gone to help a neighbor thresh and had left young Beckner at home to rake some millet which had been cut and was lying in the swath. After Mr. Cramer had gone, John went to hitch the horses to begin his task, and after he had been gone for a little while Mrs. Cramer heard some one calling "Georgia," "Georgia," and going to the door found Beckner in great distress, telling her some one had cut the lines of the harness all to pieces. Mrs. Cramer went with him to the stable and found that in harnessing, he had gotten parts of two sets of harness and by so doing had both horses harnessed for working on one side. He seemed very much excited by this event, but after having been assisted in getting

the things straightened out by Mrs. Cramer, he went to work and seemed much as usual and Mrs. Cramer went back to work. Mr. Becker raked the millet that had been cut around the house which took him until nearly or about ten o'clock after which he had some more to rake about a quarter of a mile east of the house.

At this place evidence shows that he must have worked from one-half to three-quarters of an hour, judging from the amount that was raked. When dinner time came he did not come to the house and at one o'clock, when he had not appeared, Mrs. Cramer went to see if there was anything the matter, and after having passed around a piece of corn, found the team next to the millet patch eating corn, having evidently wandered from the other side of the field as if on their way to the house. She thought to tie them and look for Mr. Beckner, and after leading them to a tree she found no line with which to do so, and the idea dawned upon her that he had taken the lines off and hung himself. Looking down south toward the farther end of the millet she saw the dog come out of the woods which bordered it and she called him but he would not come, and she, fearing to find the man hanging to a tree, went and got the neighbors, John Yardley and wife, the latter a sister to Mrs. Cramer, and going to the woods, found him hanging to a tree with one of the lines around his neck, dead.

The dog was still watching near him, and could not be called away, remaining until after the body had been cut down when he came away with another dog, which had been allowed to go along with some of the neighbors. Other neighbors were notified and County Attorney Rawls and Sheriff Quinton were also notified and they immediately went to the scene of the tragedy. Mr. Rawls says when he got there the faithful dog was still watching at the side of his dead friend. The coroner was telephoned for and could not be reached, so Sheriff Quinton impaneled a jury, consisting of George Shrader, John Yardley, Chas. Sans, Gus Splitt, Wm. Splitt and Chas. Cramer; after a short time they returned a verdict that the deceased, John Beckner, came to his death by his own hands, by hanging himself to a tree with the lines taken from the team which he was working. The body was turned over to funeral director, L. R. Upton, and taken to Union. The dead man's cousin, Steve Beckner, who had been summoned by telephone, came just before he was removed to Union. The parents of the unfortunate young man have been notified, but at the time the officers from here left the scene of the tragedy last evening they had not arrived, nor had they been heard from. Yesterday morning Mr. Beckner had shown Mrs. Cramer a letter from a young lady cousin of his, and he had two others in his possession from someone, but after the tragedy none could be found upon his person; neither any evidences of their destruction. The motive for committing this rash act remains a deep mystery.

I. O. F. Convention.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Mills county, Iowa, are holding a county convention at Pacific Junction to day, which comprises the lodges of Malvern, Glenwood, Tabor, Randolph, Henderson, Silver City and Pacific Junction. A large number of Odd Fellows are present, and more would have no doubt attended but for the rain during the night. Pacific Junction, while a small place, knows how to rustle in taking care of a crowd.

Special Trains for State Fair.

Thursday, Sept. 5th, special train, Plattsmouth to Lincoln, over short line. Leaves Plattsmouth at 8 a. m. Returning leaves Lincoln at 7:30 p. m. Fare \$2.74, round trip including admission to fair.

A special train will leave Lincoln for Omaha and Plattsmouth at 7 p. m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Rate via Omaha \$3.54, round trip, including admission to fair. W. L. PICKETT.

KILLED BY DE- MENTED WOMAN.

Cass County Girl Pours Carbolic Acid
Down Throat of Attendant at
Bailey Sanitorium, Lincoln

The Lincoln Journal contains the following account of Miss Irene Nickel, whose parents reside at Alvo, this county, pouring carbolic acid down the throat of an attendant at the Bailey Sanitorium, in that city, at which place Miss Nickel was sent for treatment for her demented condition:

"Irene Nickel, a demented woman at the Bailey sanitorium eluded her sleeping nurse and poured carbolic acid down the throat of J. Gallogly, an attendant who was sleeping at the hospital, so that he died at 8 o'clock, three hours after the poison was administered. The coroner's jury found that the man had come to his death by having carbolic acid thrown into his face and that the Bailey sanitorium was exonerated from any blame.

"The woman wore handcuffs through the entire act. She arose in the early morning, went to the bed of the young man who she thought was murdering her family and she was determined to stop it. She said in her testimony that she debated whether she should take the poison herself or give it to the man. She decided that if she took the acid the killing would still go on but if she killed him it would stop at once, and her family would be safe.

"Mr. Gallogly was sleeping in an adjoining room. He was lying on his back and his mouth was partly open. The woman took the poison from the chest and in the awkward way one would throw the contents of a bottle if both hands were tied, she threw it on the face of the sleeping man, a part of the liquid going into his mouth and the rest on the other parts of the face. He started from the bed and removed a part of the acid from his mouth by expectorating vigorously. His face and neck were badly burned besides parts of the body where the acid touched.

"Irene Nickel lives at Alvo. She is said to come from a good family. Her folks thought that a few weeks at the sanatorium would restore her to her normal health. Her people did not like the idea of sending her to the state insane asylum. She has been here for several months.

THE PRIMARY NEXT TUESDAY

A Few Pointers That Would
Be Well for Voters to
Look Over

Names cannot be written on the primary ballot. They must be printed thereon and only the names of those printed may be nominated.

The Friday after election an official canvas of votes will be made at the court house by County Clerk Rosenkrans and two deputies who will be appointed later.

The Saturday following the canvas, when the official nominees become known, the county central committees of both republican and democratic parties will hold their meeting for organization.

The law makes two elections instead of one. The primary will be conducted, practically the same as past elections, with the exception of the main features mentioned and the usual judges will be in evidence.

The method to be pursued by those living in the country is to go to their polling place after noon and before 9 at night and call for a ballot. The party allegiance must be stated under the new law, or no ballot will be given.

If the voter fails to state his party allegiance he cannot vote at the primaries, but failure to make known this will not prevent him from voting at the general election. The same is true of the other provisions of the new law. They have no bearing on the general election to be held in November.

The primary election, September 3, is to nominate candidates. It takes the place of caucuses and conventions. The election in November is to elect, and will be conducted as heretofore. Failure to vote at the primary election will not invalidate the voter at the general polls later.

Married in Nebraska City.

Judge Wilson this afternoon united in marriage Allen R. Compton and Miss Belva Shanklin. Both are well known and popular residents of Weeping Water and after the ceremony left for their home and will be given a reception at their home this evening.—Nehawka City News.

Improved Safety Device

The Burlington is putting in a new combination switch and semaphore at the station here, which is supposed to avoid any trouble that might arise from the failure of anyone to properly throw the switch at that point. The switch as it is thrown will show itself either day or night the conditions. In the way the arms of the semaphore are during the day will show conditions and at night it will be told by the different lights.

SUCCESSFUL AFFAIR

More Speakers Announced for Labor
Day Celebration.

With Governor Sheldon, Hon. George L. Loomis, of Fremont, Hon. Hugh Meyers, of Omaha, and Senator Root and Judge Travis, of our own town as speakers on Labor Day, we are certainly guaranteed plenty of interesting talk. Then again, we have two excellent bands of music to enliven the occasion, including the Iowa Institute band, one of the best musical organizations in the west.

The parades alone will be worth coming many miles to see, as great efforts are being put forth to make the parade at night a most brilliant affair, as illuminations of various kinds will be carried in this parade.

Remember Labor Day is intended for you to take a day off from your labor, and enjoy yourself. This you can do by coming to Plattsmouth next Monday to witness one of the greatest and grandest celebrations in the history of the town. Bring your wives and children with you, for they will enjoy this occasion as well as yourself. Remember the day and date—Monday, September 2nd.

THE WABASH PARK AGAIN.

An Explanation Why the Groves and
Lake are Seemingly Uncared For

Our article in regard to the condition of the once beautiful park at Wabash, but which has not been taken care of as a park for some time, has provoked a few comments, and brought forth an explanation as to why the conditions are as they are. When Mr. Richards acquired this park, says Mrs. Joseph Tighe, formerly of Wabash, he expended considerable money in fixing it up in the proper shape for park purposes. He had the park houses and stands in the best of shape, and the bridges over the lake in excellent repair and a number of good boats on the lake. In fact everything was fixed up in very nice style. As it was situated then, Mr. Richards was willing for the people to use it for picnic purposes, and for the meeting of conventions and outing parties, expecting of course, that those using the property would exercise reasonable care in trying to preserve its good condition. This they did not do, but many who went there did not even say, 'by your leave,' but took possession, without saying word, or even expressing any thanks after it was over and seemed to delight in destroying as much of the property as was possible. When using the boats on the lake they would not return them to the landing or boat house, but turn them loose to drift where they might, leaving the oars in the boats or in the water as it best suited them. For these reasons Mr. Richards had concluded that it was well, if the people did not appreciate the provision that he had made, that he would use it as a pasture and thereby have an income from the place, rather than the way it was before with an outlay all the time, and the property being destroyed as well. We see your position, Mr. Richards, still we think that if you had prosecuted a few of the people who have wantonly destroyed your property, it would have solved the question, and also have been a preventative to those who have no regard for other people's property, from doing the same thing in the future. No one could expect you or any one else to keep up a park, even in the event that they did care for the property, unless there was some revenue to pay a portion of the money invested. Still we regret very much that the park has gone to disuse as it is, and should like very much to see it restored as it was in the years which are past.

A Former Resident of Cass.

Wm. Hagel, wife and son came in last evening from Northport, Neb. Mr. Hagel is a former resident of Cass county and is a brother of Mrs. John Fight and Mrs. Wehrbein, and father of Mrs. Jacob Treitsch, jr. The Journal acknowledges a pleasant visit from Mr. Hagel, who has been a reader of this paper for many years.

OLD SETTLERS' RE-UNION AT UNION

Address of William Ramsey
Delights His Auditors.

Quite a number attended the old settlers' reunion at Union yesterday from Plattsmouth, and from several we learn that there was quite a crowd present and everything passed off pleasantly.

Our young friend, William Ramsey, was one of the principal speakers, and he surprised all in his oratory. All agree that he made a fine speech and that his manner of delivery was that equal to many of our leading orators of this day. After he had concluded his address many of the old settlers who had known his father (Judge Ramsey) for many years, gathered around him and congratulated him upon his excellent address, so appropriate to the occasion, and wished him success and prosperity in his chosen profession, that of the law.

The attendance was not large yesterday, but in numbers fully up to that of the first day of previous reunions. From the number that went from this vicinity this morning, we judge there will be a large crowd in attendance today.

WHAT TIME BRINGS ABOUT

Duff Grain Company Will Remove
Several of Their Elevators

There was a time when the Missouri Pacific did not run through this country and well do we remember when the people used to come here with grain from away down in the county. But the inauguration of the Missouri Pacific made a change in the affairs, not only new towns sprang up, which took a portion of the business that had formerly come to this town, but it made new shipping points for grain that had before sought a market at this point. The other little places which were nearer to the place where it was raised getting the shipments. When the Duff Grain company first acquired the elevator at this point there was a good deal of grain for shipment offered here. But one elevator was built nearer to the place where the corn was raised, and then another and another, until there were five elevators nearer and almost forming a semi-circle around this one. The amount that it was able to ship from here gradually grew less, until within the last few years scarcely any was offered. At last the Duff Grain company have concluded to try another experiment, in fact to do as the others have done. They have made arrangements to have the old elevator torn down here and rebuilt out near the old Doud place, or what is known as Chas. Cook's now. It has been whispered "That the Burlington will continue their road on down through Mynard, crossing the Missouri Pacific there, take a southwesterly direction to Weeping Water and Lincoln." This would tap a very fine piece of farming country, and not only make a much shorter and more direct line to Lincoln and the west but also prove a very valuable feeder to the system. The Duff Grain company also expect to tear down their elevator at Cedar Creek and rebuild it at Louisville. Both of these changes are intended to be made by the time the present crop is ready to move. The gang of workmen whose duty it is to do this work have first to remodel the elevator of the company at Franklin.

A Big Blowout

A large number of young people gathered at the home of Adam Stoehr's last Saturday evening and enjoyed a big time in dancing, and refreshments were served at the proper time, and every body went home feeling that it was good to be there. Those present to enjoy the event were: Henry Born and family, Louis Born and family, John Ahl and family, Willis, Allie, Emil and Louis Meisinger, Henry and Adam Heil, John Krager, John Kaffenberger, William Hirtz, Martin Jim and Will Kroler, Frank Steppart, Otto Parkamin, Peter and John Kenny, August Thomas, Nick Baumgartner, Misses Minnie Born, Hattie Heil, Anna Parkamin, Hattie and Mattie Kaffenberger, Lizzie Amma and Katie Steppart, Mary and Rosa Kenny, Miss Minnie Stohlman, Nettie and Mary Meisinger.

ONE WHO WAS THERE.

For Sale

A six-room house with cistern, half block. Price \$800. C. L. MARTIN, Corner 10th and Pearl streets.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT NEHAWKA

Team of Ernest Philpot Runs
Away Thows Occupants
to the Ground

Ernest Philpot, who lives near Nehawka, last Saturday had made preparations to go to the Old Settlers' Reunion at Union, and had driven to town with a team of western horses which were not too well broken, having in his rig his wife and three small children. At the crossing of the road which he wished to take, and the switch which leads to the quarry, was an engine standing and was about through with the work in hand and ready to pull clear of the crossing. Mr. Philpot not knowing this and being impatient about getting started to Union, pulled out of the road and endeavored to cross the track between the road and the station. When he started around the train, the engine detached and started also, frightening the team, which became unmanageable and ran away, tearing the buggy all to pieces and throwing the occupants out, injuring some seriously.

Two children escaped with slight bruises; the third child had a scratch on its right temple but otherwise uninjured. Mrs. Philpot, who was holding two of the children on her lap at the time the accident occurred, succeeded in protecting them from injury but suffered a very painful wound, extending from the top of her forehead down between her eyes, following her nose and terminating at the chin, and otherwise badly bruising her. While her injuries are very painful and the cut in her face looking badly, they are not of a nature to produce any permanent suffering.

Mr. Philpot, who, in endeavoring to control the team, could not look to his own safety but was more concerned as to the welfare of his wife and children, and was dragged over the rails with the wreckage of the buggy, and in his endeavor to check the on-rushing animals, his head hit against a rail which rendered him unconscious and also broke his jaw. He layed in a semi-conscious condition during the day and night following. Our informant, J. P. Kuhney, says when he came away yesterday that Mr. Philpot had not entirely regained consciousness, and the doctors considered his condition as being very serious. The buggy was entirely demolished and strewn along the track for a long distance.

DUE TO WEAK HEART

James McNealy of Louisville
Found Dead on Streets
of that City

At one o'clock Monday at Louisville, the clerk at the drug store while on his way to the store to fill a prescription for a customer who was sick, noticed a dark object lying on the walk and upon investigation found it to be the body of James McNealy, a butcher by occupation and employed by Lute Boedecker, owner of the market at that place. McNealy is a married man, having a wife and one little child, and appeared very stout and healthy, seemingly never having had a sick day in his life. Since the Fourth of July he has been drinking very hard and it was supposed that his sudden death was in a measure due to the effects of the excess of drink.

The remains were taken to the undertaking rooms of P. C. Stander, and his family notified. Coroner B. I. Clements was telephoned for at Elmwood, arriving early this morning. He immediately impaneled a jury consisting of Michael Treitsch, H. J. Haberman, Frank Johnson, J. R. Grimes, F. J. Petit and P. C. Smith. They viewed the remains as they lay at the undertaking rooms, and then retired to the council chamber where they considered the subject, receiving the testimony of those who had anything to offer. Dr. Lewis was put on the stand and said in substance that it was his belief that the deceased had come to his death by reason of heart failure. Others testified that they had known him and seen him during the day and evening; some says that they had heard someone vomiting but a short time before the time when he was found by the druggist.

When Mr. Peterson first noticed the remains they were lying on the east side of Main street and a short distance south of the barber shop. The finding of the jury was that the deceased came to his death from causes unknown to the jury but supposedly from heart failure. The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. The deceased was a member of the A. O. U. W. and carried \$1000 insurance in that order.