

The Plattsmouth Journal.

SEMI-WEEKLY EDITION—FOUR PAGES

VOLUME XXIX

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, MONDAY FEBRUARY 7, 1910

NO 11

STORY OF THE MORRISON SHOOTING AND SUICIDE IN OMAHA

Husband, Who Was Insanely Jealous of His Wife Had Made Other Murderous Attacks on Her.

Further particulars of the attempt of S. A. (Sandy) Morrison to kill his wife and his father-in-law J. A. Sumner at Omaha, show details to be something different from those told the Journal man yesterday. According to the story as given this morning, Morrison, his wife and her father were walking together from the Monadnock hotel, corner Fifteenth and Capitol Avenue, to the court of Justice Altstadt, where the differences between his wife and himself were to be straightened out preliminary to a divorce proceedings. Morrison suddenly turned upon his wife and father-in-law while they were descending the steps of the hotel and opened fire upon them with a revolver. He first shot Sumner, the father-in-law, the bullet entering his head just over the left eye and burying itself in the brain. Despite the terrible nature of the wound Sumner did not stagger but after the close of the tragedy walked down the stairs to the street where he looked around and then turning back, ran up stairs to the room which he and his wife occupied at the hotel, telling her "He's shot us both—I must go for the police" and started for the police station. At the foot of the stairs he ran into the police who took him to the hospital in an ambulance.

After shooting his father-in-law, Morrison then fired upon his wife, the bullet striking her in the back of the head and inflicting a deep scalp wound but not penetrating the brain. Mrs. Morrison staggered and fell down the steps. Morrison surveyed the bloody work which he had done and then turned the gun upon himself, shooting himself through the head and expiring within a few moments. Before he dropped to the walk he had staggered quite a little distance and gained the corner of Fifteenth and Capitol Avenue before he succumbed.

The police arrived very quickly after the shooting and the ambulance took father and daughter to the hospital where their wounds were examined. The wound in the head of Mr. Sumner was such that the attending surgeons pronounced it fatal and great amazement was expressed at the way he had held up under it. The wound which Mrs. Morrison had sustained was pronounced serious but not probably fatal.

The body of Morrison was taken to the Omaha morgue by the coroner. The motive for Morrison's act is said to have been jealousy and an in-

sane attempt to make his wife carry out the terms of a suicide pact. It is said that within three months of Morrison's marriage, he had besought his wife to enter into a suicide pact, claiming that he could never be happy until they were both dead. While the wife was badly scared at his proposal, she decided after consulting her parents that it was better to live with him than to take chances on his doing some rash act if she left him. However, ever since that time—a period of seven years, the life of the couple was marked with bitterness and stormy scenes, and Morrison seems to have repeatedly threatened her life.

Last Friday he made a murderous assault upon her striking her several times over the head with a hatchet and inflicting ugly wounds which the woman had dressed by the family surgeon. At that time she made no complaint to the police. It is said that all that prevented her being killed then was a "rat" which she wore in her hair.

Morrison's murderous frenzy continued to develop and on Tuesday morning he so badly scared the woman that she hurried to the office of Justice Altstadt's court and sought to get a peace warrant for her husband. He learned of her action and went before the court making bond for \$100 for his appearance yesterday noon. It was while arrangements were being made to fix up this case that the shooting occurred. Up to the time of the shooting Morrison and his wife had been living on Emmett street, Omaha, but after the assault of last Friday the wife went to live with her parents at the Monadnock hotel.

According to an aunt of Morrison's living in Omaha the cause of the trouble was insanity, she asserting that there had been four cases of insanity in his family.

The condition of the injured man and woman was reported this morning to be comfortable and it is possible the may may recover while the woman is almost sure to get well. Morrison was a native of Springfield, Neb., and a well educated man, having graduated from the Fremont normal school and having at different times been principal of the schools at Eagle, Alvo and Union in this county. After he was in the newspaper business as outlined in last evening's Journal, He came of a very prominent family, his brother A. R. Morrison having, at one time been county treasurer of Sarpy county.

After "Suckers."

Somebody in Holt county has written to the state board of health inquiring about a preparation which a firm at Kansas City is reported to be offering for sale guaranteed to make a pound of butter weigh nearly two pounds. The formula for doing this is to take a pound of ordinary butter, a pound of water and ten or twelve drops of the liquor putting them all inside of a receptacle and agitating it like a church. The process, according to a newspaper clipping which was enclosed with the letter, results in the particles of butter and water adhering to one another, so that the solid mass, when worked together, contains both ingredients in an inseparable mixture. Four ounces of the emulsion cost 25 cents, the article says. The writer who wants to find out does not disclose his occupation, but it is supposed he may be a farmer who has butter to sell. Secretary E. A. Carr of the state health board will report the matter to the board of secretaries at its next meeting and recommend that it be referred to the food commissioner's office for an investigation as to whether or not such stuff is being sold in Nebraska and if so whether its use is in violation of the law. The mixture was lately reported to be selling in Kansas and the secretary of the health board for that state will be asked to furnish any information he can give about it.—Nebraska City News.

Carl Berggren, Jr., was a passenger this afternoon for Omaha where he will spend the afternoon.

In the County.

Livingston Richey departed yesterday afternoon for Louisville and the west end of Cass county, going out in the interest of the Journal in both news and business capacity. The young man expects to visit several of the towns in the west part of the county and to glean all the interesting items of news to be had. He is authorized to collect subscriptions and transact other business for the paper.

WEDDING OF ROSS BARSTOW

United in Marriage to Miss Edith Sayre at Omaha.

On Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock took place the wedding of Miss Edith Sayre, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Sayre of 1816 Maple street, to Edward Ross Barstow. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Newton Mann of Unity church.

The bride wore a handsome gown-away-gown of gray, with hat to match and carried a shower of violets. Miss Margaret Pearman was the bridesmaid. She was attired in Nile green silk and carried a shower of white roses.

Mr. E. R. Sayre, brother of the bride, was best man. The ceremony was followed by an informal reception at which the guests were the immediate relatives and friends.

In the dining room there was an attractive decoration of violets. The young people went for a western wedding trip and later will be at home at 4528 North Twenty-first street.

The above from the Omaha World-Herald conveys to the many friends of Ross Barstow, a former Plattsmouth boy, the news of his marriage in Omaha. He is the son of Mrs. Ed. Ward Barstow and is a bright and able young man. His many friends here extend their best wishes for a long and happy married life.

Sells Baskets in Omaha.

Jake Jlek, the basketmaker, took another large consignment of baskets to Omaha this morning where he has large orders standing at all times. Here is one industry which the commercial club has had an opportunity to do something with and which could be made into a paying concern, but which apparently has been overlooked. Mr. Jlek informs the Journal man that he has orders for twenty large baskets which he could not fill as he has no facilities for their manufacture. Mr. Jlek is a practical basketmaker and his work which is entirely done by hand is as fine as any turned out. The baskets which are of hickory are practically imperishable. The commercial club should wake up and get busy.

Connor Case For Trial.

The Joseph A. Connor will case has been set for trial in Judge Kennedy's court February 28.

In county court Judge Leslie decided that Mr. Connor died intestate, which was a victory for the relatives. The proponents, who were the trustees named to carry out a bequest of \$300,000 for parochial schools, contended that Mr. Connor died leaving a will which contained this bequest and giving the remaining \$200,000 of the estate to relatives.

The question of whether Mr. Connor did leave a will was somewhat obscured by the fact, which was not disputed, that Mr. Connor had a number of wills prepared, one after another being destroyed to be replaced by another to conform to changes in plans for disposing of his property—Omaha World-Herald.

Visits Old Home.

A. C. McKinney of Indianola, Neb., who has been in the city for several days making a visit with Enoch Mason and family, departed this morning for his home. Mr. McKinney formerly lived in this city, having been an employe of the Burlington shops under Master Mechanic Greusel. He left here some twenty years ago and has since located in Indianola where he is in the restaurant and confectionery business. This is his first visit to the city since his departure. He reports that the past year has been a good one generally speaking at Indianola and vicinity, although there was not a full crop by any means, yet the people are satisfied. He noted many changes in this city since his departure and many new faces.

IN HONOR OF THE OLD SOLDIERS

W. H. Russel Banquets Veterans of the Civil War, and Others

W. H. Russell, manager of the Hotel Riley bar, last evening gave a fine banquet at the rooms back of the bar, the occasion being in honor of the old soldiers of the city, who were invited to participate at the feast. Mr. Russell's father of Lincoln, Neb., who is an old soldier, was among those present, being one of the special guests.

For the occasion tables had been specially constructed along the wide hall between the pool room and the north basement wall and at these the guests were seated. There were some thirty-five guests seated and they set down to what was a veritable feast. In addition to the old soldiers who had accepted the invitation, there were a number of the city officers present as well as several especially invited guests.

The menu was an exceedingly good one, Mr. Russell sparing no expense in securing for the veterans the very best in the line of eatables which the market afforded. Oysters, celery, various kinds of meats, salads and the like was on the banquet board in great profusion while liquor refreshments suited to all tastes, were to be had. It is quite needless to say that with such a feast there could not help but be a fine time had and it was a late hour before the feast had been finished and the speechmaking part of the program reached.

In connection there were a number of very fine speeches made, some of them soldier reminiscences which were very interesting and many of which were highly humorous.

Louis E. Reinackel acted as toastmaster and he made a masterly one. His speech in assuming the position sparkled with wit and humor and kept his audience in a roar of laughter throughout. Corporal Reinackel served with the American army of occupation in Cuba during the late unpleasantness with Spain and has a glorious record in that capacity. His graphic picture of the sufferings which he underwent in company with those of the other Third Nebraska veterans brought tears to the eyes of all who heard it. On the whole his speech was far and away the hit of an evening full of hits.

Mayor Sattler delivered an address to the old soldiers which was full of feeling and which paid them a noble tribute for their great help when the nation stood in peril. The mayor was at his best and his address aroused great enthusiasm.

A. N. Sullivan, another veteran, spoke and made a telling address, moving his audience to alternate laughter and tears. The judge also paid a fine tribute to the great worth of the old soldier, not alone during the time of war but when peace had been declared and he had assumed his proper place as a good American citizen.

Many other addresses and impromptu speeches enlivened the course of the banquet, a large number of the veterans telling stories of their war experience which should have been heard by everyone who cares to appreciate the trials and hardships which they had to undergo. William Renner was one who made a pleasant and interesting speech, his remarks covering his work as a veteran and some of the incidents connected with his career. George Edgerton also spoke at length and his long period of service for his country had furnished him with much worth the telling. His speech was a most interesting and attractive one and met with a warm reception.

One especially striking feature of the evening was the presence of J. G. Russell, the aged father of the host. Mr. Russell is in his ninety-sixth year, a venerable man, but stronger and more active than many men thirty years his junior. Mr. Russell lives in Lincoln and is employed at the Oliver theater as doorkeeper. He spoke last evening and his hearers were amazed to hear from one on whom the snows of almost a century have fallen and whose mind ran back to the early days of the republic. His speech was a fine one and everyone greatly enjoyed it.

All round the evening was a highly satisfactory one and will long be remembered by all who had the pleasure of participating in it.

THE LAST SAD TRIBUTE PAID TO THE LATE REV. JOHN T. BAIRD

His Death is Mourned Throughout the City and All Business is Suspended Between the Hours of Two and Four As a Token of Esteem and Respect to His Memory.

From Saturday's Daily.

The funeral of the late Rev. John T. Baird was held yesterday afternoon from the First Presbyterian church of this city, a church in whose service deceased had spent so many years of a long and useful life. As a token of the esteem and respect which was felt in this city for this good man, all places of business were closed during the hours from 2 to 4 o'clock in the afternoon during which the services were held and all business at the city and county offices as well as the public schools was suspended.

The attendance was very large, all who possibly could attend and pay a last tribute to the worthy man being present. In addition to the great gathering from this city and its immediate vicinity, there were many present from remote points where Dr. Baird had been so well known in his life time.

The services were conducted by Rev. Thomas L. Sexton of Lincoln who for a great many years was synodical missionary of the Nebraska synod when Dr. Baird was stated clerk. He had been intimately associated with the deceased for more than forty years. Dr. Sexton preached from the last clause of the 3rd verse of the 20th chapter of 1 Samuel.

"There is but a step between me and death." Dr. Sexton's sermon was principally upon the suddenness with which death had come to his old friend and associate and the necessity for being prepared for the final summons. That all should emulate the example of Dr. Baird and be ready to answer the final summons, was the burden of his remarks. In addition he paid an eloquent tribute to the high christian character of the deceased and the earnest piety which had marked his whole career through life. It was an able and impressive sermon.

Dr. Sexton was assisted in the services by Rev. J. H. Salisbury of the First Presbyterian church of Auburn, who had succeeded Dr. Baird in the pastorate of the church here. Rev. Salisbury spoke at length upon the character of the deceased paying him a very eloquent tribute for his high character, his upright, moral

and christian life and his great worth as a man and a citizen. Rev. Salisbury spoke with an intensity of feeling quite noticeable. His intimate association with Dr. Baird in his life time had given him such an insight into his true worth and noble character, that he felt as if Dr. Baird's passing was that of a father.

The services were marked by the singing of the familiar hymns which the aged clergyman had so well liked in his life time. A choir composed of Mesdames Edna Eaton and J. H. Donnelly and Messrs Ralph White and B. A. McElwain sang "Asleep in Jesus" and several other of the well known hymns. In addition a beautiful solo was sung by Mrs. Edna Eaton. Canon H. B. Burgess of St. Luke's Episcopal church read the 90th Psalm while prayer was said by Rev. J. H. Salisbury and Dr. Phelps of Bellevue.

The pulpit from which Dr. Sexton and Rev. Salisbury spoke had been heavily banked with flowers, these being the extent of the floral emblems except for several branches of palm leaves tied with purple ribbon which lay upon the casket.

On the platform immediately behind the pulpit the several ministers of the city occupied seats among them being Canon Burgess, Rev. W. L. Austin, Luther Moore, Dr. Sexton of Lincoln, Dr. Phelps of Bellevue and Rev. Salisbury of Auburn. Several other ministers occupied seats in the church.

Immediately following the services the remains were interred at Oak Hill cemetery, the honorary pall bearers being Messrs W. H. Newell, A. M. Holmes, J. N. Wise, Thomas Pollock, J. W. Larkin and John Waterman. The active pallbearers were Messrs C. C. Parmele, J. E. Douglass, T. H. Pollock, D. C. Morgan, O. C. Dovey and J. M. Roberts. There was a very long cortege of sorrowing friends to Oak Hill from the church.

Among those who attended the services from abroad were J. H. Waterman and wife of Lincoln, Dr. Phelps, T. W. Mohr, Fred Jones, and Miss Margaret Quigley of Bellevue. Rev. J. H. Salisbury of Auburn, Mrs. A. J. Klepser of Union and A. M. Holmes of Murray.

DEATH CLAIMS MRS. JOHN SHEAR

L. B. Brown Returns From Onawa, Iowa, Where Sister Died

L. B. Brown returned this morning from Onawa, Ia., where he was called by the illness of his sister, Mrs. John Shear. Mrs. Shear's illness which had been of considerable duration, took a turn for the worse last Sunday when Mr. Brown was summoned to her bedside and she steadily grew worse until Tuesday when death intervened and ended her sufferings.

Mrs. Brown had reached the ripe age of eighty-one years, having been born at Mount Liberty, Ohio, in the year 1829. She was married at that place to her husband John Shear, and of this union there are eight children still living. Their names are Mrs. Belle Haygood of Onawa, Ia., Mrs. Anna Tucker of Onawa; John Shear of Onawa; Miss Eva Shear of Onawa; Mrs. Ella Riggs of Walthill, Neb.; Wm. Shear of McPaul, Ia.; Mrs. Alice Johnson of Blencoe, Ia., Mrs. Ida Johnson, McPaul, Ia. Her husband preceded Mrs. Shear to the Better World in the year 1881, and since that time she has made her home with her children at Onawa. In addition to the children, she is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Gustina Nix of this section and Mrs. Amanda Brown of Taylorville, Ill. She is also survived by her brother, L. B. Brown spoken of above.

The funeral of this very worthy woman was held yesterday from her late residence in Onawa, there being a very large number of old friends gathered to pay her the last sad tri-

but. The services were conducted by the minister of the Methodist church of Onawa of which church she had been a member since early age.

In her lifetime Mrs. Shear was a most lovable woman, one whom all knew to love and respect. She was a kind and loving mother and sister and a faithful wife. Those who are left behind have the most sincere sympathy of a wide circle of friends in their bereavement.

Forest Rose Flour.

How about that sack of flour you purchased? Do you think that it was the best that can be found on the market? If not let us suggest that the next sack you buy call for "Forest Rose," made by the Wahoo Mills. "Forest Rose" is a top notcher, and can be found at all leading dealers, and is fully guaranteed by the mills. This popular brand of flour has been on the market in Plattsmouth for some time, but the mill experienced a severe fire some time ago, since when this brand has been short in the city. Now the Wahoo mills are equipped with all new machinery, and are putting out a better brand of flour than ever. The next time you buy try the "Forest Rose," sold by all the leading dealers in the city.

Leaves the City.

Mrs. Hugo Asemussen and baby departed this morning for Lake Park, Ia., where they will visit friends for several weeks before departing for their new home at Oelrich, S. D. Mr. Asemussen accompanied them as far as Omaha, going from there to Oelrich where he will superintend the starting of the new hardware store which Asemussen & Klinger will open at that point. He expects to be gone for several weeks. His father H. L. Asemussen accompanied him and will remain to look after the business for sometime.