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PLATTSMOUTH WINS AND LOSES TWO EXCITING BASE BALL GAMES

Defeats Union Saturday by a Score of 3 to 1—Loses Hard Fought Sixteen Inning Game to C. B. & Q. Team Yesterday.

From Monday's Daily.
Plattsmouth won the game from Union Saturday and lost the one played on the Chicago avenue grounds yesterday to the C. B. & Q. team of Omaha.

The first game was taken from Union after a fierce struggle in which the colts distinguished themselves by fine playing. The team which faced Union was largely composed of try-outs who are being given a trial preparatory to real work against the swift clubs. Fender pitched and nobody here imagined he would do what he did but he certainly came close to shutting the Unions out in the contest. He twirled ball which amazed the home team and when he had finished he was voted the find of the year. He had excellent support including the members of the team who were unused to his playing but who were there when it came down to playing ball behind him. The score was 3 to 1 in favor of Plattsmouth, the Union team getting their lone run in the ninth inning.

Yesterday afternoon Plattsmouth got up against the game of its life. Barring the sixteen inning contest with the Ft. Crok soldiers no better game has been played this year than this one. Had it not been for a lot of errors in the first inning Plattsmouth would have been shut out but this was avoided. The Burlington Red Sox strengthened by a number of new players came to town and they came within an ace of making Plattsmouth look like a bunch of bad deuces. The pitcher for the Burlingtons was there and over when it came to tossing the ball and was really entitled to a shutout. He was air-tight over the first inning and held the heavy hitters of the local team safe at all stages of the game. He made a record for local games, having a strikeout list of twenty-one men which is some strike out list. Whether he is Mason or not remains to be seen but he is some pitcher at that. Plattsmouth played a gritty

and uphill game and Bardwell was at his best. He twirled magnificent ball and held the visitors to scattering hits as the score shows but he could not stop the winning rush of the Burlingtons who wanted revenge for the two beatings which Plattsmouth had given them before. And they sure got it.

After the one lone first inning there never was a look in for Plattsmouth. Young Mr. Mason who is some pitcher, believe me, was right there and the boys who have been used to lacing the leather to the far corners of the lot, fell down most horribly in connecting with his curves and that they played some fast ball. Bardwell kept the visitors hits well scattered and only a lucky drive to center in the ninth played havoc with Plattsmouth. This drive was a clean single and followed by a stolen base and a safe hit scored the winning run. Plattsmouth fought desperately and the game went to sixteen innings with a large and impatient crowd in suspense until the Burlingtons rapped out a fine long hit in the finish and won the game.

It was no disgrace to the locals to lose this game as they played mighty good ball and simply went up against a strong team which could win almost anything they tried to. The Burlingtons with the team they had in Plattsmouth yesterday could play almost anything on the diamond and their pitcher certainly did his best to get a shutout on the locals and came well nigh doing it. But with all this the best team in eastern Nebraska is located in Plattsmouth and is ready and willing to meet all comers. Herold played a fine game yesterday and his support of Bardwell was timely and much in evidence. McCauley, Droege, Mann, Beal, Mason, and Kelly also covet themselves with glory in their fielding and good team work and the Plattsmouth team as a whole can well be proud of their record. The score is:

B . . . 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 — 3
P . . . 2 0 0 6 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 — 2

WRITES OPEN LETTER TO PUBLIC

Communication From Mr. F. H. Woods in Regard 'to the Telephone Merger

To the Editor:—

In your issue of July 19th, you record the fact that a petition is being circulated and signed by Plattsmouth business men asking Attorney General Thompson to consent to a modification of the court order he caused to be issued to the end that the toll lines of the Bell Telephone company may remain connected with the Independent Telephone exchange upon which there still remain the toll line connections of the Independent systems of this state. In the same issue you connect my name with certain matters related by Mr. Pratt of the Bell company referring to alleged negotiations for the purchase of the Plattsmouth company. As these matters all intimately concern the people of Plattsmouth and especially the telephone users, I think I am entitled to ask of you the necessary space for a complete statement of the truth of the situation.

The business men who are reputed to have signed this petition have either been misled or they do not completely understand just what is going to happen to them if the Bell purchase is ever ratified by the courts. As the statutes of Nebraska specifically prohibit the purchase and merger of competing companies of any kind whatever, the same being in restraint of trade and intended to destroy competition. I do not believe that this transaction will ever receive judicial sanction. The signatures to this petition were obtained, if I read your article aright, upon the representation that if the modification be granted the Independent subscribers will not only continue to enjoy the privilege of connections with the Independent systems of Nebraska, but will also be afforded the opportunity to use the Bell to reach other points. The truth is that the policy of the Bell has always been and is yet to refuse to make physical connections with competing companies, granting that privilege only to sub-licensees. This means that the Bell will of itself sever these Independent connections should it ever come into complete control of the Plattsmouth exchange, being unwilling to divide any part of the toll business with competitors.

The Independent toll lines now on the Plattsmouth exchange and your merchants connections with Lincoln, Omaha, South Omaha, Council Bluffs, St. Joseph and Kansas City, which, I apprehend, compose the jobbing centers with whom these men do the most of their business. Aside from this direct connections are given with over 80,000 telephones upon the various Independent lines of the state, more than twice as many as are owned by the Bell. Under existing conditions and the present Bell policy your business men must lose these connections. They cannot permanently retain both toll lines on their local exchange.

Do your people generally understand what it means to them if the Bell is again permitted to enjoy a monopoly of the telephone business in Plattsmouth? Let me recall to their recollection the condition that prevailed before competition presented itself. The rates charged by the Bell were exorbitant, the telephones in service were of an anti-quoted type, they were comparatively few in number, extensions were refused until the Bell got ready to give them, farm line connections were denied, and as is natural with foreign monopolies the treatment of patrons was arbitrary. If you didn't like the service you didn't need to keep it. These conditions were so intolerable that a local company was formed to give the service that the people were clamoring for.

Do you recall that immediately thereafter the attitude of the Bell was changed. Extensions were freely offered, central energy telephones of the newest type were exchanged for the old ring-them-up-yourself style. Rates were reduced to fifty cents a month in many cases and free service offered in other instances. The people of Plattsmouth, however, having once had a sample of Bell autocracy refused these lures. They stuck by their home company, paid it living rates and gave it that encouragement which made possible its present development and its extension to the other towns of the county.

The taking over of the Plattsmouth exchange by the Bell company, if it is ever accomplished, will mean a return to old conditions. The Bell will in time recoup itself for the losses competition has caused it in your city. Rates will be raised and if the service is not to your liking there will be no other company to which you may turn to secure what is desired, no other company to use as a rod in pickle to get what you ought to have. The Bell has recently purchased exchanges in Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Des Moines and other cities. Immediately after consolidation began a movement for an increase in rates. Plattsmouth's experience will be the same. It is in the nature of monopoly, of a trust, to exact all it can and give as little as it must.

The Bell Telephone company is a trust. It makes no denial of the fact. All of its literature and all of its arguments are along the line that the telephone is a natural monopoly, that competition is an abnormal growth destined to die out and leave it in full possession of the field. It has kept on saying this during all of the years that Independent telephony has been growing from a few scattered companies in Indiana and Michigan, until today, when 4,500,000 of the 8,000,000 telephones in this country are owned by companies other than the Bell and its licensees. After almost twenty years of complete monopoly, granted it by patents, the Bell has installed less than 300,000 telephones. Not until competition spurred both sides on did real development begin and multiply. Its fruits have been a tremendous cheapening and a vast betterment of telephone service. To illustrate, in Lincoln before competition a business man paid \$72 a year for 1500 possible connections. Today if he has both telephones he pays but \$36 a year and has connections with 11,000 persons. A large proportion of the business and professional men use only the Independent telephone. They pay \$18 and have over 8,000 connections.

The statement that I was actuated by pique or failure to secure for myself the Plattsmouth Telephone company is not true. From the beginning the relations of the Lincoln company with the Plattsmouth corporation were friendly and co-operative. We helped it develop the Havelock plant, which it had started before the Lincoln company was organized. Business has been freely interchanged, and the only exclusive contract that the Plattsmouth company has ever been asked to sign is that which other Independents are signing, binding each other to a twenty-five year contract to maintain exclusive connections. The object was to protect all from encroachments by the Bell, to protect the Independent groups from disintegration by Bell purchasers here and there, a system of warfare it practices akin to that of the general who picks off his strongest antagonists so that he may at his leisure crush the remainder of the opposing force.

Some time ago officers of the Plattsmouth company asked me for aid. I agreed to loan them \$50,000 for the purpose of making extensions, but this gave me no greater interest than I had before and afforded no protection against Bell invasion. I have not the information at hand to definitely state the secret details of the transaction which resulted in the transfer of the Plattsmouth company to Bell agents, but if some of the stock purchases were made on the representation that it was in the interest of the Independent system, the deception practiced would lead on to the conclusion that an investigation will disclose that those who were on the inside, who had control to sell may have profited in a greater ratio than those who parted with their stock unaware of its ultimate destination, in the treasury of the Bell Telephone company. This deception, it seems to me, is all the more inexcusable when it is recalled that the franchises thus disposed of were freely granted by neighbors for the express purpose of relieving them of Bell oppression. What the Bell sought most and bought was not the major stock interest held, but the strategic position this and the two other companies purchased at the same time held in southeastern Nebraska. What it purchased was the opportunity to drive a wedge into competition that had cheapened cost and multiplied service, and these who could sell this were in a position to exact more than those who either sold under misrepresentation or were not asked to sell, the minority stockholder who must take whatever the Bell hereafter chooses to give him. If these minority stockholders desire to

know what the future holds in store for them, let them read what happened to the minority stockholders in licensee companies like the Missouri & Kansas and the Central Union, whose holding are today worth a third of what they cost, and have long been as quoted on the open market.

There is another phase of this matter of intense interest to the people of Plattsmouth. Competition has saved your community many thousands of dollars. Let a brief computation suffice to show the truth of this. Before competition, the Bell had about 40 telephones in service. It charged for business telephones at the rate of \$48 a year and for residence telephones \$36 a year. If we assume that the same development had taken place under monopoly as has actually taken place under competition and that no increase in rates had been asked for the greater service rendered, the telephone bill of Plattsmouth today would be \$28,000 a year. Instead of that you have been paying but \$10,800 at the rate of \$24 for business and \$12 for residence, giving a clear saving of \$18,000 a year, or enough in the ten years of competition to build anew the exchange now in service and leave a balance large enough to build a new court house. The truth is that no such development would have taken place because monopoly breeds no such expansion, and the rates would have been increased with the growth of the exchange instead of lowered with the growth of competition. When to this sum is added the annual saving on the other exchanges on the Plattsmouth system and in toll connection costs, reduced through competition, the total is greatly increased.

Other companies served by Plattsmouth company have made proportional savings under competitive conditions. These old rate conditions are certain to be restored under a Bell monopoly. They have elsewhere where competition has been eliminated, and Plattsmouth will be no exception.

It seems to me that a little reflection will convince the people of Plattsmouth and the patrons of the company in other cities it served that their interests lie with those who are endeavoring to maintain competition in your city, and not with those who would destroy it. The telephone trust is no different from any other trust, and experience has taught people to regard all of them as enemies of the public interest.

Frank H. Woods.
C. H. H.

A Pleasant Gathering.

A very pleasant party was held at Frank Svehia's place last Saturday afternoon, a number of Plattsmouth's young people being in attendance. The crowning feature of the gathering was the grand three course luncheon that was served in the late evening. There was a fine party of young people present and the afternoon was spent in the usual manner of such gatherings with a large crowd of young people taking in the dinner and luncheon which was prepared. The games which were held during the afternoon were interesting and there was lots of fun for all who attended.

Those who attended were Misses Cecelia Kalosek, Anna Burianek, Elizabeth Holly, Jossie Chechal, Palibe Svoboda, Messrs. Roy Wray, Frank Rebal, Clarence Mason, Joe Lindsey, Fane Morris.

The party had a fine time wading in the creek and fishing for crawdads. There is a fine spring in the premises and this was used to the best advantage. The luncheon which is spoken of above was one of the finest ever and was well worth the trip alone. The party returned in the evening tired but happy.

A Fine Saloon.

From Monday's Daily.
Mine Host Peter Gooch of the Hotel Plattsmouth is doing some work at his hostelry which is well worth noting. Peter is having the ceiling of his bar lined with fancy zinc roofing which is worth while. The design is fancy and the work which is done by Kroehler Bros., cannot be excelled. The result is going to be one of the finest barrooms in the county. Peter was a delegate to the late county option convention at Union and feels that he is probably wasting his time in putting in the ceiling but he is a game lobster and when county option carries he will likely sell Fred Egenberger's pop over the bar.

William Gilmour, the well known Plattsmouth product farmer and horse raiser is in the city today looking after business matters.

Coates Block Sold Again.

From the Omaha Daily News the following item of interest to Plattsmouth people is copied. According to this, the Coates block in this city has again changed hands and the consideration indicates an advance in the price of Plattsmouth realty. J. P. Falter of this city was one of the moving spirits in the deal and he is one of the men who want to see the price of Plattsmouth real estate reach a higher level. The Coates block is one of the real fine buildings in the city and is well worth the consideration paid for it. With the advantageous location which it has and the fine arrangements for modern conveniences which it enjoys this building is worthy of attention by any capitalist who has money to invest. The new owners will find their investment a good one is the belief of all who know what the property is. The item is as follows:

"The Coates block, the largest business block in Plattsmouth, Neb., together with two adjoining brick buildings, have been sold to A. W. Maas of New Orleans, La. Although the consideration named was \$100,000, it is said that Mr. Maas conveyed to the original owner of the building, A. B. Shriver of Des Moines, 5,000 acres of land in Morgan county, Tenn., as part of the purchase price. Harry H. Culver of Omaha consummated the deal."

Enjoy an Outing.

From Monday's Daily.
There were a number who sought, to escape the intense heat of the day yesterday and enjoy life in the woods. They chartered several vehicles and drove out to Cedar Creek early in the morning where they spent the entire day picnicking, lounging under the cool shady trees and angling for the finny tribe, of which several were caught. At the noon hour an elegant picnic dinner was spread to which all did full justice and which materially aided in the good time. Enough eatables had been taken along and after every one had had a sufficiency, there was found to be enough left for another meal. Supper was prepared in the evening and after having disposed of everything in the "eatin'" line, they started on their journey homeward and then were loath to do so as they had had a very fine outing.

Those who comprised this company of picnickers were: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Janda, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Svoboda, Mrs. Barbara Bookmeyer and daughters, Misses Lillian and Marie, Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Wurl and son Carl, and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bookmeyer and son Raymond.

Basket Meeting.

Rev. W. C. Lesley who preached at Liberty Chapel in the precinct yesterday returned this morning to Lincoln, his home. Rev. Lesley will be back on next Sunday and will speak at Liberty Chapel in the morning and evening. A basket dinner will be held in the park at the Anderson Davis place west of Murray in the afternoon. The meeting yesterday was fairly well attended and there was much interest manifested in church work. Rev. Lesley has developed into a great evangelizer in his locality and is a popular favorite with the many members of the United Brethren congregation. Next Sunday promises to be one of these red letter days in the history of Liberty Chapel.

A Record Breaker.

Willis Smith was out at C. Bengen's doing some threshing last week and they made a record week, 1100 bushels of wheat were threshed and this turned out remarkably well. An average of 40 bushels to the acre was maintained by one part of Mr. Bengen's farm and his whole farm will show a remarkably high average. Mr. Bengen is one of Cass county's best people and a mighty good farmer as his record above shows. Mr. Bengen with 40 bushels of wheat to the acre stands at the head.

Rooms Wanted.

Those who have any rooms which they could possibly rent during the week or five days, during the County Teachers' Institution which will be held in this city will confer a favor by calling up County Superintendent Miss Foster. Miss Foster is having some difficulty in securing enough places for the teachers who will be in attendance and if the people of this city do not respond to this call within the next few days, the institute will have to be held elsewhere.

George S. Smith, Rock Bluffs precinct's good assessor, is spending the day in the city on business, driving up from his farm this morning.

A House Party.

Miss Ellen C. Pollock has been entertaining Misses Ole Belle Hervey and Alice Woodworth of Omaha, Esther Bonsall of Salem, Ohio, Isadore Sheldon of Nehawka and Mary Hungate of Weeping Water at her home "Hillcrest" at a house party since last Friday and which closes this afternoon.

Saturday afternoon Miss Hallie Parmele entertained at a bridge party at her home in honor of the house party girls. In the card contest, Miss Alice Woodworth won the prize. Light refreshments were served.

Those in attendance besides the honored guests were Misses Charlotte Fetzer, Lucile Gass, Madeline Minor, Elizabeth Falter, Kathryn Windham, Helen Clark and Ellen Pollock.

Saturday evening Miss Ellen Pollock gave a lawn party in honor of the house party girls, which was a delightful social affair. The lawn was prettily lighted with Japanese lanterns. The principal amusement was derived from a guessing game, in which a journey around the world was taken, the various points indicated in the game being located about the Pollock lawn. Light refreshments were served.

The guests present beside the honored guests were Miss Hallie Parmele, Kathryn Windham, Lucile Gass, Helen Clark, Vesta Douglass, Dorris Patterson, Mildred Cummins, Elizabeth Falter, Madeline Minor, Messrs. Wayne and Clyde Murphy of Omaha, John Woodworth of Omaha, Lynn Minor, George and Grovener Dovey, Will Ramsey, Livingston Richey, Wayne Dickson, Charles Patterson, Fred Mann, Emmons Richey, Jack Patterson, John Falter, Searle Nundee and Clarence Staats.

Death at Alvo.

From Monday's Daily.
Charles Cook received a message last evening announcing the death of his brother-in-law, Eugene Lewis at his home in Alvo. The deceased was a brother of Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Fred Dreamer and a very fine man. The many friends of Mrs. Cook in this vicinity will join in sincere sympathy with her in her bereavement.

A Picnic Supper.

In spite of the intense heat, a merry company of picnickers wended their way to Ferry Glen Saturday afternoon about 5 o'clock for the purpose of enjoying an outing and participating in a meal in the open air. The first hour or so was spent in various outdoor sports and boating and a very enjoyable time was had. Preparations for the picnic supper was then begun and when it was announced that it was ready for the onslaught, the jolly picnickers gathered about the festive spread, well armed with appetites large enough to eat one of the bluffs nearby. The many delicacies which make up a delicious picnic supper and which were to be found in abundance, in the various baskets which had been brought, soon disappeared.

They returned to this city at a late hour, having had a most delightful time. Another very enjoyable feature of the evening was that of toasting marshmallows over an open fire and which furnished plenty of amusement for some time.

Those in attendance were Misses Verna Hatt, Ina Tatt, Hazel Tuoy, Edna Morrison, Mattie Larson, Jennie Batton, Cecil Hawkenbary, Lillian Thompson, Mrs. John Hatt, Mrs. J. L. Thompson, Messrs. Ralph Smith, Roy Thompson, Francis Whelan, Jennings Seivers, George Morrison and Mr. Moore.

Suffering From Poison.

J. Linderman is spending several days on the sick list, having had an attack of blood poisoning on the left arm. It is doubtful how the infection started but it is sure there as he has a very mean looking arm and is suffering quite a bit of pain. His many friends in the city and its vicinity hope that the attack will prove a light one and that he will be able to soon be about all right and able to look after his work.

James Holmes and wife and Mrs. W. O. Boedeker came up this morning and were passengers for Omaha where they will spend the day with friends and also do some shopping and see the aviators.