

# MRS. JOSEPH SHERA FOUND AT HER HOME FOULLY MURDERED

Three Bullet Holes in Back of Head Shows She Was Murdered—Satchel Containing Money Taken by Murderer.

From Saturday's Daily.  
One of the most mysterious and cold blooded murders ever perpetrated in this locality occurred, it is supposed, last Thursday morning, Mrs. Joseph Shera of Rock Bluffs being the victim. The bloody crime was not discovered until late last night when Will Shera, the murdered woman's son, in company with Will and John Smith, near neighbors of Mrs. Shera, went to her home to look for her.

Mrs. Shera was last seen alive on last Thursday morning, she having stayed all night Wednesday at the home of her son, Will, leaving his house early Thursday morning to go to her house which is a few blocks from her son's residence. Mrs. Shera kept the store, having her own residence only a few feet from her place of business. Her custom was to take her meals at her own home and at night lodged at her son's home. On Thursday morning she left Will's home intending to get her breakfast and go to Omaha that day, and passed the home of the Smiths carrying her hand satchel in which she is thought to have had some \$50 or \$75, this was the last seen of her alive. When she did not return on Thursday evening, her son did not feel much uneasiness, but supposed she had remained with her daughter, Mrs. James Holmes over night. On Wednesday evening J. H. Holmes, son-in-law of Mrs. Shera went to Chicago, and Mrs. Holmes wanted her mother to come to Murray and remain with her during his absence. Mrs. Holmes called up her brother to find that her mother had gone to Omaha, as she had not returned to his home during the day, and the son of course believed she had gone.

Mrs. Holmes then went to Omaha to look her mother up, but on finding no trace of her in Omaha, and that she had not been in Omaha, she became alarmed and phoned her brother that their mother had not been at Omaha and that a search should be made at Mrs. Shera's home. It was nearly ten o'clock when this news was received by Will Shera, who, with his neighbors, Will and John Smith went to the premises, finding the doors and windows locked. The kitchen door was then broken in and to their horror they lay Mrs. Shera prone on the floor face downward in a pool of dried blood. In a basket she had some dried sticks which she had brought into the house to kindle the fire. This including some paper in the bottom of the basket were strewn over her dead body.

There were three bullet holes in the back of her head, one ball entering just below the left ear had gone entirely through her head, coming out just under the right eye, the other bullets had entered the back of the murdered woman's head two inches below the first described.

As soon as the murder was discovered the sheriff was notified who with the county attorney and deputy Manspeaker went to the scene of the

crime. A jury of six men was empaneled consisting of Wesley Burnett, W. Byers, Mark Furlong, John Smith, William Smith and L. E. Randall who with the sheriff investigated the facts as developed, and after deliberation the jury brought in a verdict finding that Mrs. Shera came to her death by being murdered by a person unknown to the jury.

Many rumors are afloat regarding the mysterious person who committed the foul deed. Some days ago a phone message was received from a party at Lincoln by a neighbor of Mrs. Shera's who lives about 160 rods from the store, to call to the phone a man who was a stranger in the neighborhood. The neighbor went in quest of the man wanted at the telephone and found him at Mrs. Shera's store. This party has disappeared from the community and has not been seen since.

There was little about the premises to indicate how the murder came or went. The kitchen door has on it a spring lock, and the murderer pulled the door shut behind him which locked. A string on the garden gate had been broken and it is supposed that the murderer escaped through the corn field at the back of the house.

As the gate had been thrust open the opposite from which it should swing on its hinges, and tracks, and broken corn stalks were in evidence that the murderer passed through the corn field. Mrs. Shera's pocket book, hand satchel and all contents were taken. There was also evidence that the murderer approached the defenseless woman from a clump of bushes near the house, as the one bullet ranged from about this spot to where it passed through the old lady's head and into the casing on the doorway. Every indication is that Mrs. Shera was murdered just as she entered the door of her home, which was about 6:30 o'clock on Thursday morning, and by some one who was hidden about the premises awaiting her arrival, possibly aware of the fact that she was going to Omaha for a visit with her daughter and would have considerable money in her possession. Thus in old Rock Bluffs, one of the oldest towns in Cass county, has one of the oldest pioneer and most highly respected ladies been most cruelly murdered.

Mrs. Shera has lived in that locality for many years. In fact, in the days when Rock Bluffs was the metropolis of Cass county, and bid fair to be one of the leading towns of the state. Joseph Shera, who died some years ago, was postmaster of Rock Bluffs for many years, and after his death, Mrs. Shera was appointed and filled the position of postmistress up to a few years ago when the office was discontinued and the business of the vicinity passed over to the rural routes. Since this time Mrs. Shera has carried on a minor mercantile business, also the only eating house or restaurant and resided in the rear of the building, but of late had been sleeping at the home of her son.

Let everyone put their shoulder to the wheel, grab a spoke and give it a turn, and we will pull off one of the greatest ball tournaments ever held in this section of the state.

## FAST ONES WILL BE HERE FOR THREE DAYS

The Storz Triumphs, one of them, if not the fastest amateur teams in Omaha, are booked for three games of ball with the Red Sox on the Chicago avenue diamond one week from today, Sunday and Monday, September 3, 4 and 5. The Storz team is the one that defeated Plattsmouth at the Malvern tournament some few weeks ago, and are a mighty fast team, so you can look for your money's worth on these dates. The Red Sox are sure playing much better ball than when they went down to defeat by the Triumphs, and it is doubtful if they will have a look-in when they come down for the three days session.

L. B. Brown from Kenosha, mayor of the town and all around good fellow, and one of those mighty good friends of the Journal, was in town today looking after some business matters and called for a few moments chat at this office. Lig is one of the good fellows that you seldom meet and he is always a welcome visitor at these headquarters.

## Go to St. Joseph Hospital.

From Saturday's Daily.  
Adam Stober, a prominent farmer residing three miles west of the city, went to St. Joseph's hospital at Omaha this morning to undergo an operation for appendicitis. Mr. Stober has been ill for several days and has suffered very much during that time. He was accompanied by Dr. Cummins and his father-in-law, Leonard Born. Mr. Stober's numerous friends hope that he may soon recover his usual health.

## SHALL WE GET ENGINE FACTORY?

This Remains With the Citizens of Plattsmouth. Have You Done Your Part?

We are still in suspense as to this one most important question now before the people of this city. The Messrs. T. H. Pollock, H. E. Schneider and E. A. Wurl, have been working like beavers for the past few days endeavoring to secure the \$5,000, which amount is required to insure the removal of the engine factory and iron works from its present location in Iowa to Plattsmouth. Up to the present time the committee has raised only \$3100, when the full amount should have been subscribed within a few hours. When the committee undertook this very undesirable task they set their figures at about what they thought would be about the proper amount that each individual or firm should contribute. In some places these figures have panned out very well, and the amount has been paid without any argument, but in others they have fell flat, in fact, they have been turning completely down. Many of the merchants and business men can readily see where the advantages are in endeavoring to land factories of this sort, while others do not. A great many are giving quite liberally, and others refuse to even entertain the proposition, but the committee are thankful we have only a few of the latter.

This is a proposition that all especially those who are able, should give liberally toward. It certainly cannot be a losing one when the company makes us the offer they do. Here is what the company agree to give us:

They will remove to Plattsmouth \$12,000 worth of machinery, all new and in perfect condition, they guarantee to employ twelve skilled mechanics in the manufacture of their products, and give a bond that they will remain for a term of at least three years, and it is their intention to remain all the time. Is this not fair? Now, all they ask in return is \$2,000 bonus to be paid after the plant is moved here, \$500 upon the arrival, and \$1,500 when the plant is in operation.

Now, \$3,000 remain which is to be used in the construction of a suitable building in which to operate the factory, which is to be owned by the donors, who take stock in the building, only, and are in no way related to the company or have any interest in the same.

Mr. Chopieska agrees to lease the building for a term of three years, and at the close of which time he will purchase the same. There is no stronger evidence of the fact that he has no stock to sell and that he has an order now for 150 engines as soon as they can be made. His business is prosperous in every way, but the railroad facilities will not permit him to compete with other firms manufacturing similar lines of goods where he is at present located.

The commercial club have done their duty in getting this gentleman interested in location, brought him here to investigate the same, he is well pleased, the committee are exerting every effort to secure sufficient funds to land the factory, and it is now the duty of all those who are able to contribute their share of the cash, and we believe that you will do so. The committee have one more day (Monday) to report. Let it be favorable.

## John Gorder Wins Race.

John Gorder who resides on the old Gorder farm six miles west of Plattsmouth, accompanied by his wife and baby, attended the two-day picnic at Springfield Thursday and Friday. John being somewhat swift on foot entered the fat man's race and won out easily. John is not quite so fat as some of his brothers, but he is fat enough to win out. Good for John.

## Death Claims Little Girl.

The fourteen month old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Melsinger died Thursday after a week's illness. The funeral occurred Friday from the residence five miles northeast of Louisville. The parents and family have the sympathy of the entire community.—Louisville Courier.

## EPWORTH LEAGUE ENJOYS A VERY FINE MEETING

From Saturday's Daily.  
The Epworth league of the M. E. church held its regular business meeting last evening at the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hill at the corner of Pearl and Ninth streets. It had been planned to make the meeting a lawn fete, but the low temperature of the atmosphere precluded this, and the meeting was held in doors.

There were about forty members of the organization present to enjoy the occasion, an impromptu program was speedily gotten up by Miss Alice Tuey, who has charge of this branch of the work. And after a brief business session in which plans for future work were considered, the company was invited to participate in games and musical program. One of the amusing games of the evening was that of changing cars, which excited considerable merriment.

Mr. Hilt Wescott gave several instrumental selections and the entire membership joined in several songs, after which a general conversation was enjoyed. The meeting throughout was an enjoyable one and each member went home feeling that it never pays to miss one of the social meetings of the league.

## Candidate Addresses Voters.

As a result of the primary election held August 16th, I am made one of the Republican candidates for state legislature at the election next November. In view of this fact, I consider it proper to make the following statement:

At the Republican county convention held at Union in July, among other recommendations to go before the primaries was that of my candidacy for representative; my name being presented at that time absolutely without my knowledge or consent, as I have never either sought or held public office.

My activities have always been confined to the clothing business of C. E. Wescott's Sons of which firm I am the junior member.

In receiving the nomination, I am not indifferent to the honor and responsibility attendant.

If the voters of Cass county have confidence that I can render the service they desire in the state legislature, I shall endeavor to merit such confidence and respectfully solicit their support upon the Republican state platform of 1910.

E. H. Wescott.

## PARMELE THEATER OPENS THE 6TH OF SEPTEMBER

The Parmele theater will open for the winter season on September 6th, with what is guaranteed to be a first class attraction, "The Man on the Box." This company comes to our city well recommended and the play is well known to most of the theater patrons and many more have read the book, which was indeed very popular. Further announcements of this attraction will be found in the columns of the Journal next week. Manager Dunbar tells us that he has the entire season pretty well booked with good attractions so as to have one company appear in each week. He has selected companies that he thinks will appeal to the theater going public of this locality. The opening bill will be on the sixth of September. Let there be a good attendance and see if the Parmele cannot be made a paying investment for its owner. The least the people of Plattsmouth can do is to see that it pays expenses, which it has not done for several years.

## Visits His Brother.

Joe Nevtoney departed for Pocosset, Okla., yesterday afternoon where he will visit his brother, Frank Nevtoney, and his cousin, Frank Nevtoney and other friends for a week. Although Mr. Nevtoney has resided in Plattsmouth twenty-seven years and his brother is twenty-three years of age, yet he has never seen him, he having been born since Joe left Bohemia.

## Realizes \$100 Per Acre.

The Parmele land in the Brightside district, occupied by C. A. Miller for the past three years, was traded last week to Phillip Tritsch, a wealthy farmer of Cass county, Neb. There is 400 acres in the farm and Mr. Parmele gets three quarter section in Custer county, Neb., and enough cash to make the place realize him \$100 per acre.—Thurman, (Iowa) Times.

W. J. O'Brien of Gretna, superintendent of the state fisheries was in the city today looking after the state's fish car at the shops. We are indebted to Mr. O'Brien for a bundle of lovely pond lilies which was laid on our desk at his request. If there is one thing we admire more than another it is a pond lily.

# Lowney's Candies



Just received a fresh supply from the factory of this justly celebrated candy in bulk and in fancy packages. Fresh and wholesome. Come in and try them.

This is a good time to do that painting and paper hanging. Many good bargains in up-to-date wall paper. Come and see them.

## GERING & CO., PRESCRIPTION DRUGGISTS

## THE LADIES AUXILIARY HOLD ANNUAL PICNIC

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Presbyterian church gave their annual picnic supper last evening on the spacious lawn of Mr. J. M. Roberts on Main street. The tables were arranged to stretch for forty or fifty feet and covers laid for each lady member of the society and her husband or friend, and when covered with the snowy white linen and the palatable viands which the members of this society know how to prepare so well, the table presented a beautiful appearance. The menu consisted of sandwiches, pickles, fruits, coffee, ice cream and cake.

The fete last evening was in the nature of a farewell to Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Elster who are soon to depart for their new home at Omaha. The supper was served near the hour of six p. m., and at the close of the bounteous repast appropriate remarks were made by Rev. L. W. Gade and Prof. J. W. Gamble, both of whom spoke commendatory words of the high esteem in which Mr. and Mrs. Elster are held by not only the membership of the Ladies Auxiliary but the entire citizenship of Plattsmouth. Both Mr. and Mrs. Elster made feeling responses to the addresses.

When the twilight drew on the company repaired to brilliantly lighted parlors of Mrs. Roberts and enjoyed the evening in social converse and music.

George A. Kaffenberger and wife were passengers on the morning train today for Omaha where they will look after some shopping.

## GHAS. ISNER IMPROVES BUT VERY SLOWLY

Charles Isner, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Isner who returned from the hospital about two weeks ago where he underwent an operation for abscess of the hip, is still confined to his bed at the home in this city. When the young man was brought from the hospital his entire left side from the hip to his foot was bound in a plaster parris casting, where it remained up until a few days ago when removed by the family physician. He still remains in a very much weakened condition, and has no strength or control over the injured member at all. With the returning of his strength all hopes are entertained for his speedy recovery. The young man has had a serious seige of it, and his many friends will be pleased to learn that he will be up and around in a few weeks.

## Put in Improvements.

The popular firm of Lorenz Bros., yesterday added two fine sectional quilted meat blocks to their market on north Sixth street. In the eight years of business these enterprising young men have worn out two ordinary blocks and set them aside. They say when the quilted blocks are worn out they will probably go out of the meat business.

David Murray and Crede Harris from near Union, were in the city today looking after some business matters. While here Mr. Murray called at the Journal office and renewed for his copy of the Journal. This is Mr. Murray's first visit to the county seat for almost a year.

**M**OST men believe in the kind of economy we're proposing to you now; not buying stuff simply because it's low priced, but buying what's good, what you know you can use, even when you may not really need it. We're bound to clear these suits; and at these terms we're sure to do it; you'll be the loser if you don't take yours. Hart, Schaffner & Marx made them—regularly worth as high as \$30, now \$14 and \$18.



"Oust 'em out prices \$10, \$14 and \$18.

The display of our new things for the Fall season is well worth your examination. New browns and grays made up in the new two and three button models. Come in soon and look them over.

The Home of Hart, Schaffner & Marx Clothes  
Manhattan Shirts Stetson Hats

We carry the Largest line of Suit Cases, **Falter & Thierolf** VALUE GIVING CLOTHIERS Grips and Trunks in town Prices surprisingly low