

The Plattsmouth Journal.

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NO 202

PLATTSMOUTH'S NEW POSTOFFICE BUILDING NOW OPEN TO PUBLIC

Already Postmaster Schneider and His Assistants Feel at Home, and Thousands of Patrons Who Have Visited New Quarters are Delighted With the New Building.

From Tuesday's Daily

The new government postoffice building was opened for business yesterday afternoon, when the mail from No. 24, arriving at 1:12, was unloaded by Mail Carrier John Beeson on the receiving platform at the rear of the building and Postmaster H. A. Schneider was kept busy yesterday afternoon giving out keys to those who desired them.

The new building is a beauty and was inspected throughout yesterday by about 2,000 persons, and for four hours a continuous procession passed into the corridor and into the private and public office of the postmaster, down the concrete steps into the boiler room, and up the spiral stairway to the attic.

The building is a massive brick structure, 80x50 feet, the exterior walls are constructed of Minneapolis hydraulic pressed brick and were planned by a government architect, and for beauty and convenience cannot be excelled by any city of our class in the country. The very latest devices for a speedy handling of the mail has been placed in the building, with ample room for handling every department of the service with quickness and dispatch.

A long, wide corridor on the east side of the building is ample to accommodate the public, although hundreds should come for mail at the same time. Two entrances, one on the east and the other from the north, for the convenience of the public, lead into the corridor. At the south end of the corridor is situated the money order and registry department. On the west of the corridor the general delivery and stamp departments and boxes for the general public. Both the postoffice room and the register and money order offices have vaults in which are iron safes for the protection of the valuable property for which the government is responsible. At the south of the general postoffice room are closed shafts extending from the basement to the ceiling, with windows looking in on every department from the engine room to the attic. The entrance to these shafts are locked and the keys are in the hands of the government detectives, who will come in at any old time and enter the lookout rooms and spy on the postoffice employees.

There is but one entrance by which employes can gain admission to the postoffice, this being through the postmaster's private office, which is a large, handsome room reached from the north corridor. Off of the postmaster's private office is a small room, fitted up with lavatory and wardrobe. In the basement is the lavatory, toilet and shower bath for the employes of the office; also leading to the boiler room below is a nice large room to be fitted up for a rest room. Every room is fitted out with lockers and furniture designed for a particular purpose, such as wardrobes, filing cases, pigeon-holes, bottle coolers and so on.

The walls of the interior are a beautiful white, the floors of the offices of hard maple and the corridors of taraxa. The light fixtures and arrangement for lighting the building at night are superb, the very latest designs in electric lamps and fittings have been used and the corridor at night is illuminated with a brilliant splendor, eclipsing any private establishment in the city.

The boiler room is reached by a wide concrete outside stairway and the room is large, the floor being of concrete. The coal bin is located at the north end of the basement at some distance from the boiler and the coal will be taken by wheelbarrow for the present and transported to the boiler. In the boiler room H. M. Wilcox is in charge for the present, and he will probably be the permanent engineer when the

selection is made at Minneapolis soon.

The work on the building has been done by skilled mechanics, and much of the labor, as well as skilled work, has been performed by Plattsmouth men. The contract for putting up the building was let by the government to H. S. Pelton of Milwaukee, who is a skilled mechanic himself, but the brick work was superintended by his son, Roy Pelton, who moved his family to Plattsmouth a little more than a year ago. The brick work was completed and the masons left the building July 12 last.

On July 5 the carpenters, under the direction of D. E. Hall of Council Bluffs, began putting in the windows, finishing off the inside of the building, laying the floors and hanging the doors. The plastering was sublet to Emil Walters and was wholly done by home men and is one of the neatest jobs found anywhere.

J. B. Hummerfeld done the painting, and his work was so satisfactory that he was asked by the contractor to go to Council Bluffs and help finish the building there. The plumbing was the work of John Bauer & Son, who also got the contract for placing the metal roof on the building. The gas fittings and fixtures were the work of Warga & Cecil. The electric light wiring was done by the Nebraska Engineering company of Lincoln. The contract for the heating plant was awarded to the Mechanic-Kremmer-Moon Heating company of St. Louis. Walter Scott did the job of unloading the big boiler, and did it with the ease of an expert.

The biggest contract outside the construction of the building was awarded to Walter White, who got the contract for filling the lot about the building and the construction of the concrete walks about the grounds and the stone driveway, as well as the steps. The concrete floor in the basement was put in by McMaken & Son; this firm also did much of the draying in the delivery of material.

The beauty, size and purpose of the building adds to the value of every piece of Plattsmouth real estate, and particularly to the properties on Fifth street and in the vicinity of the building.

It is useless to review the history of the steps taken to secure the building. The matter was agitated when Senator Burkett was a member of congress from this district, and a bill framed at that time, but nothing definite was accomplished until he was elected to the United States senate, and more credit is due him for our present splendid postoffice building than any other man in Nebraska. Much credit is also due E. M. Pollard, who was instrumental in securing the passage of the appropriation bill in the lower house, and without his able work in the house the appropriation would never have passed that body, and all Plattsmouth citizens appreciate these efforts in behalf of the postoffice building in this city.

The care of the building and the operation of the heating plant will require the services of two good men. John Claus will attend to the janitor's duties, while Mr. Wilcox will keep the building at proper temperature. The light company will acquire another strong user of electricity, and that quarter of the city, which has hitherto been in the shadow will be one of the busy, well lighted districts until a late hour each night.

For years Plattsmouth has been working for a postoffice building, and while there was some contention for the location in the start, we should all feel proud that after all these years of hard work we have at last reaped the fruits of that labor.

In From Nehawka.

From Tuesday's Daily

W. A. Stoll and wife, F. H. Stoll and Miss Caroline Baumeister were in the city last Saturday from near Nehawka looking after some business matters and shopping. The Stoll's are prosperous young farmers from near Nehawka, and have been readers of the Journal for years, and, of course, paid us a brief visit. They are fine young people and we are pleased to have them numbered with our large army of readers.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK FORTY YEARS OLD TODAY

First National Bank of Plattsmouth Celebrates Fortieth Birthday Today.

From Tuesday's Daily.

The First National Bank of Plattsmouth celebrated its 40th birthday today. The bank was organized in the office of Chapman & Maxwell December 12, 1871, and but one of the then stockholders of the bank is now living, namely, Captain Isaac Wiles, residing west of the city.

The bank has had but two presidents in all of the years of its usefulness, being John Fitzgerald, who served from its organization until 1891, when George E. Dovey was elected to succeed him. The first officers of the bank were: John Fitzgerald, president; E. G. Dovey, vice president; John R. Clark, cashier. The directors were the men just named, with the addition of R. C. Cushing, C. H. Parmele, Samuel Maxwell, E. E. Cunningham. Mr. Clark served as cashier from the organization of the bank until 1880, when he was succeeded by A. W. Laughlin, who served until 1886, when he was succeeded by Samuel Waugh, who was succeeded in 1902 by the present cashier, H. N. Dovey.

The bank has had but two assistant cashiers, namely, Thomas Evans, now president of a bank in St. Joseph, Mo., who served as cashier for this bank for three years. The second assistant cashier was C. G. Fricke, who was elected to this important position in 1904.

For the first two or three years of the bank's existence it occupied a building situated where A. Bach's ware-room now stands on the south side of Main street, after which the bank was moved into the corner of the Fitzgerald, now the Coates' block, the quarters now occupied by the Plattsmouth State bank. In 1908 it moved into its present beautiful, comfortable and convenient building.

The present officers and directors are as follows: George E. Dovey, president; F. E. Schlater, vice president; H. N. Dovey, cashier, and C. G. Fricke, assistant cashier.

The directors are five in number, being the first three men just named and E. W. Cook and G. Knapp. The bank enjoys a large patronage, being one of the strong financial institutions of this part of the state.

In District Court.

From Tuesday's Daily.

A jury was impaneled in the case of the State vs. John Bose for shooting with intent to wound and for shooting with intent to kill, a young man named Roy Spearhase last May. The following named men compose the panel: Joe Tubbs, A. F. Boedeker, William Atchison, N. K. Peoples, Charles Noyes, A. C. Clymer, E. Norris, William Wagner, John Schoeder, Fred Stoke, Dave Foltz and G. W. Cheney. One witness was examined before noon, and the case was proceeding as the Journal goes to press, with the indication that it would require the greater part of two days to try the case.

Officers Elected Saturday Night.

The members of McConbie post G. A. R., met last Saturday night at their hall for the election of officers for the next year. The following were elected: Edwin Bates, commander; W. H. Freeze, senior vice commander; John Renner, junior vice commander; George Poissall, chaplain; William Porter, officer of the day; T. M. Carter, quartermaster.

The Journal office carries all kinds of typewriter supplies.

BEAT THIS—IF YOU CAN!

Actual Settlement Made on December 30, 1910, of a Twenty Payment Life Policy in the

OLD LINE BANKERS LIFE Insurance Company of Lincoln, Neb.

No. of Policy 1637

Age 52

Name of Insured

..... Wm. R. Kelly

Residence, Los Angeles, Cal.

Amount of policy, \$5,000.00

Annual premium, 180.55

Total premiums, 3,611.00

Options of Settlement.

1st. Reserve \$3,036.05

Surplus 3,286.20

Cash value \$6,322.25

2d. Surplus in

cash \$3,286.20

And paid up

participating

policy 5,000.00

Total \$8,286.20

3d. Paid up in-

surance \$10,410.00

4th. Life annuity 686.25

Mr. Kelly settled under

option No. 2, having secured

his full paid-up Life Policy

at a net cost of \$16.24 per

year. His death occurred

March 9, 1911.

This company had \$136.86

assets to each \$100.00 of

abilities, and saved 59.16

percent of its income in the

year of 1910, and is still

going. For a home company

that has a 25-year record of

such work, little more need

be said.

References—State Insur-

ance Department of Ne-

braska, and hundreds of

satisfied policyholders. Full

information given upon re-

quest.

C. M. ROBINSON,

General Agent.

Makes Candy for Santa Claus.

Many compliments have been showered upon John Nemetz, the candy-maker and confectionery dealer, concerning his beautiful Christmas window decorations, as well as the interior of his store. Autumn leaves, holly, cut roses and large chrysanthemums all blended in harmonious groupings, with Christmas bells suspended here and there and a large bell in each window, furnishes a picture to gladden the eye of an artist. Candies of different designs are arranged on plates, tastefully decorated and placed in the large show windows.

This morning Mr. Nemetz made a large quantity of maple-filled chocolates for the Christmas trade, and his candy kitchen was a scene of activity when the time came to pour the maple in the moulds. Mr. Nemetz is an expert candy-maker, and for quality and purity his candies cannot be excelled anywhere.

Rain Delays Them.

Last Saturday afternoon Mrs. M. E. Manspeaker and Mrs. J. C. Petersen chartered an automobile and chauffeur and started for Lincoln, expecting to return Sunday morning. They have not returned yet, for just as they reached Greenwood some gentle raindrops began to fall, and so many fell and for so long a time that they were thoroughly drenched by the time they reached Lincoln. These gentle raindrops also placed the roads in such condition that, so far, it has been impossible for them to return via the auto route. Juornal Ads bring results.

Addressed Y. M. B. C.

Rev. L. W. Gade of the Presbyterian church addressed the Y. M. B. C. at their rooms last night on the topic, "Big Peaches on Top." The address was a strong appeal to the young men to "ring true," and was a very helpful and interesting talk. Prof. N. C. Abbott of this city and Hon. C. E. Noyes of Louisville were guests of the class. This is the last of the bi-monthly lectures before the holidays.

CASE OF STATE VS. JOHN BOSE ON TRIAL IN THE DISTRICT COURT

Case Growing Out of Shooting Affair at Avoca Last May Attracts Much Attention in that Part of the County—Both Parties in the Case Reside in Otoe County.

From Wednesday's Daily.

Judge Travis and a jury spent all of yesterday and a portion of today trying the case of the State vs. John Bose, an Otoe county farmer, who shot and wounded another Otoe county farmer, Louis Spearhase, at a dance in Avoca on the night of May 6, 1911. The state introduced nine witnesses to prove its case, among them being the injured man, Dr. J. W. Brendel of Avoca, W. H. Mick, Fred Rubge and Sheriff Quinton.

The defense called seven witnesses, among them was August Huntman, a witness called by the state in the preliminary, but since thought not to be needed, and Henry Freustenberg, a cousin of the defendant. The state's evidence tended to show that the parties to the shooting had been drinking some, but neither was drunk. On the other hand the defense showed by Freustenberg that the defendant, Bose, was drunk at the time the shooting occurred.

The incident took place in the vestibule of the Avoca town hall. Bose had been in the vestibule a short time, and with him was August Huntman and others, when young Spearhase came in from the street with a bicycle pump in his hand and said to August, "I will pump you up, August." Then before August could reply Spearhase said to defendant, John Bose, "I guess I'll pump you up, too," whereupon the defendant thrust his hand into his coat pocket and quickly produced a revolver, which he thrust in the face of Spearhase and fired. Spearhase ran out of the door to the street, holding his hand over his left eye. The injured man was taken to Dr. Brendel's office, where his wound was temporarily dressed, and the next day he was taken to an Omaha hospital for treatment. The sight of the injured eye was destroyed.

To show an ill-feeling between the parties as a motive for the crime, it was a part of the evidence that the farm occupied by Fred Bose, father of the defendant, during the seasons of 1909, 1910 and 1911, had been rented and lease signed up on the part of John Bose for the seasons of 1912 and 1913, and that Louis Spearhase had attempted to rent the land for 1912 and 1913, which caused the landlord to spring the rent \$50 for the season, which John had to pay.

The defense showed by August Huntman that the witness was with John Bose in Berlin the evening of May 6, and before the saloons closed drank with defendant, and witness procured whisky and the defendant a dollar's worth of beer to take to the dance at Avoca. They met Louis Spearhase near the outskirts of the village and proposed to him that they go to the Avoca dance. Bose was to ride to Avoca with Huntman and back after the ball with Spearhase, and with this understanding witness and John Bose continued on their way to Avoca. On the way Bose showed witness the re-

volver, a 22-caliber gun, which witness took in his hand and pulled the trigger, snapping the gun six or seven times, but it did not go off. After they reached the dance witness and Bose and Spearhase were at witness' buggy, where Bose and witness and others drank, but witness could not say whether Spearhase indulged at that time or not. Witness Huntman saw the shooting, but did not see what Spearhase had in his hand nor understand what he said, if anything, prior to the shot being fired. The witness could not say for sure, but thought Bose and Spearhase were good friends. The witness indicated by his manner that he was anything but a willing witness, as the information gotten from him was all brought out by leading questions.

Harry Marquardt of Avoca was introduced by the defense and testified that he was not acquainted with either Spearhase or Bose, and at the time the shooting occurred was playing with the orchestra on the stage, but hurried out after the crowd which followed Spearhase and Bose, and went to the doctor's office with them. Heard what the defendant said and heard the reply of Spearhase. Defendant, in his conversation to Spearhase at that time stated that "we have always been friends; I am sorry I shot." On objection of the counsel for the state this part of the witnesses testimony was stricken out as not a part of the transaction, but later was admitted as throwing some light on defendant's motive. The conversation of Spearhase replying to Bose to the effect that they had been friends, was also later admitted as related by witness, Harry Marquardt.

At the recess of court last night the testimony was nearly all before the court and jury, the defense having but three witnesses more to testify.

When the state rested its case, after the testimony of Fred Rubge during the afternoon, Attorney Tidd, for his client, John Bose, the defendant, made an oral motion, addressed to the court, to instruct the jury to bring in a verdict for the defendant, which was overruled by the court. Attorney Tidd then demanded that the state produce and have sworn August Huntman, and his testimony be given to the jury. The county attorney said nothing except that the state had not subpoenaed the witness. The defense took the position that as this witness had been sworn and testified in the preliminary on behalf of the state, the state should be required to use the witness now.

The court took a different view, saying, in substance, that the county attorney could use his judgment as to what witnesses were to be sworn on the trial, and the request of the defense was denied, to which an exception was taken.

The jury retired at noon and up to the hour of going to press were still debating on a verdict.

Big Damage Suit.

The Nebraska City News says that Louis Spearhase, jr., through his attorney, A. A. Bishop, has filed suit in the district court of Otoe county against John Bose, asking a judgment for \$10,816.50. The News also says:

"According to the petition the plaintiff was at Avoca on May 6, 1911, and John Bose assaulted him with a revolver and the discharge of the same destroyed the sight of his right eye. He says the loss of time is 8372, medical services \$404.50, and trips to Omaha \$40. He wants damages in the sum of \$10,000 for the loss of the eye and the sum total is \$10,816.50. The matter has been in the hands of his attorney for some time and they have delayed bringing the suit in hopes that the matter would be settled. It is

understood that an offer of \$1,500 has been refused. The men are both well known residents of this county. The News published an account of the affair at the time." Bose is now on trial in the district court of this (Cass) county, charged with shooting with intent to kill, and from the number of witness subpoenaed the case is liable to continue most of the week.

Will Visit Former Home. Mike Lutz and wife will depart Thursday afternoon for a visit at their old home at St. Jacobs, Ill. While Mr. Lutz and wife are away his brother, George and wife, of Cedar Creek, will look after the stock and care for the house.

For Typewriter ribbons call at the Journal office.