

# The Plattsmouth Journal.

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## IS THERE GOLD IN THE HILLS SOUTH OF TOWN?

Explorers Seem to Think There is Evidence of Both Gold and Silver Mines Years Ago.

The Omaha World-Herald of Sunday contained a most interesting article on early mines and mining in this section which was carried on by the Spaniards in early days, and of the large cave that exists at Rock Bluffs and which it is supposed at one time was a mining tunnel. The article, as will be seen, has been supplied with some very interesting facts furnished by Father M. A. Shine of this city in regard to the early operations through this section of country. The article is as follows:

About four miles south of Plattsmouth, one of the oldest towns in the state, is situated what is said to be an old mine once worked by very early explorers, probably the Spaniards. The first settlers of what is now Cass county reported that when they first arrived in that locality they found at the entrance of a huge cave—possibly a tunnel—implements of the forage, showing that at one time, many years before, there had been iron heated and pounded into desired shapes by someone other than the wild men that then inhabited this section of the new world.

In addition to these finds there was located nearby a cave, or tunnel, that led under the steep hill not so very far from Rock Bluffs. An adventurer who once came into the country at once declared that the cave was in reality a mining tunnel that had been dug many years previous and that the hammered implements were those once used by men engaged in mining. Immediately there sprang into existence the belief that a hidden and forgotten mine existed nearby and that the tunnel found that led into the hill, or bluff, was possibly that mine. In those early days it was hard to convince the pioneers that great wealth lay within their grasp, but the adventurer, one La Follette, insisted that if he should be given one-half of what he found, and that the pioneers provide the men to work the abandoned mine, he and they would soon be rich beyond their undreamed dreams. For some weeks, the early pioneers say, this Frenchman tried his best to interest the men he thought most interested, but did not succeed. At last he left for up the Missouri river in disgust, and from that day to this what has been known as the old Spanish mine has remained as it was found when Nebraska territory was in its infancy.

No Modern Exploration. The old tunnel, or cave, has fallen in at the mouth and has never been explored except at the mouth. How far it extends back into the bluff no one can say. It may run back only a hundred feet, and yet it may extend back many hundred feet. If ever there was taken from that old tunnel precious metal—gold or silver—no one is today wiser, and yet within its dark recesses may, for all the present generation knows, lie untold wealth. That it was once worked, or at least worked at, by the old pioneers of Cass county is firmly believed. Whether it ever will be investigated remains for the future to develop. That this locality does exist is beyond the question of a doubt.

Not long ago the Rev. Father Michael A. Shine of Plattsmouth was asked if he knew anything of the history of this old mine or tunnel. Father Shine had not. It was news to him, although he is deeply interested, in a scientific way, in early mines along the Missouri, and has given the matter much thought and deep research. However, he is interested and will willingly assist in delving into the forgotten past and help, should his services be re-

quired, in bringing to light all possible facts regarding the old Spanish mine of Cass county.

For many years Father Shine has made a study of early mines along the Missouri river and kindred locality. His knowledge of them is equal, if not superior, to any man in this locality who has made a study of existing conditions, past and present. Upon request he has prepared for the Sunday World-Herald data regarding early mines as he obtained it from well authenticated sources of information. In brief, his resume of these early mines follows:

**The Early Mines.** 1699—Daniel Coxe in describing Carolina (i. e. Louisiana), says: "The rich mines of Spain were in the most northerly part of Spain, and in a much greater northern latitude than the farthest mines of New Mexico, near their capital city, Santa Fe, situated in about 36 degrees. Not but that there are more and richer mines more northerly than Santa Fe, but they are hindered from washing them by three or four populous and well policed nations, Pawnees, Comanches, Apaches, Kiowas, Padoucas, who have beat the Spaniards in many encounters, not to say battles; and for 100 years have not been able by their own confession, to gain from them one inch of ground."

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## A NUISANCE THAT SHOULD BE ABATED IN SHORT ORDER

It is becoming very apparent that the authorities of the city are going to be compelled to take some action in regard to the crowds of loafers who gather at the different street corners throughout the business section of the city and decorate the sidewalks with a frescoping of tobacco juice and make it very disagreeable for the persons who travel along the streets. There is a city ordinance covering this nuisance and if the parties who have in the past made this a practice do not cease their activities the prospects are excellent for their getting tangled up with the law. One of the most frequented spots by the tobacco chewers is in the vicinity of the Hotel Riley, and when the batteries of the chewers are in full operation it is some job to pass there without getting well-spattered with the vile stuff. This is very annoying, especially to the ladies who travel along the street, and a stop will be put to it, and it would be well for those who have been in the habit of congregating on the corners to select some other spot to spew forth their tobacco juice before they are compelled to pay a fine for their shortcomings. Let this be a warning to them before something drops.

## MRS. J. H. HEROLD'S FATHER DIES AT DORCHESTER, MASS.

The many friends here of Mrs. James H. Herold of Lincoln will be greatly grieved to learn of the death on November 2 of her brother, Henry J. Clark, at Dorchester, Mass. Mr. Clark was very prominent in his home city, where he was the founder of the Clark shorthand school. Mr. Clark was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, fifty-six years ago, and when a young man came to America. He was buried at his home on Tuesday, November 4. To the sorrowing sister in Lincoln the deepest sympathy of a host of friends in this city will be extended in this, her hour of grief over the loss of her beloved brother.

**Notice.** Dressmaking and Ladies' Tailoring. Hayden's Dressmaking Co., Woodman Building. 11-12-14wkd

## "BURLINGTON CORNER" IN OUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Many New Books Added to the Institution, and Other Improvements of Note.

The average citizen has but little idea of the splendid work that the public library in this city is carrying on or of the large number of subscribers it reaches every day in the books loaned out. This is one of the best institutions in the community and brings into the homes of many who would otherwise be unable to have it the best of the literature of the past and present, and every effort toward helping the public library is a lift for the improvement of the city and the hundreds of persons who take books from this institution.

There has in the past few months been quite a number of little improvements made which add greatly to the facilities of the library, and quite a number of new books have been added to the large number of volumes that makes this library one of the best in the cities of this size in the state, and among these is a large number of volumes of standard works of different authors donated by the Burlington railroad from their stocks which have been used on the library cars which are used on this road. These books are in fine shape and consist of the masterpieces of literature of both Europe and America, and have made a most welcome addition to the library and shows the interest that the railroad company takes in the advancement of this splendid library in the town where the Burlington had its first home. To care for these volumes donated by the railroad company, Superintendent Baird and the workmen at the shops in this city have constructed two fine book-cases, which in a short time the board will install in a part of the library, setting this aside as the "Burlington corner," where the works from the library of the railroad can be placed and proper recognition given to the generous donation made to the library.

The city has just recently had the heating plant in the library fixed up and the building is in excellent shape, although it is rapidly becoming too small to house the large number of volumes now on its shelves.

## A JOLLY COMEDIAN IN A JOLLY SHOW HERE NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT

The past season has developed an entirely new form of theatrical entertainment. It is nothing else than a musical farce. Someone conceived the idea of taking a brisk farce, bringing it up-to-date and interpolating musical numbers. The idea proved an immediate success. It is in this style of entertainment that Billy (Single) Clifford will come to the Parnelle theater next Saturday for one night only. The offering is called "Believe Me," being a lively farce, with a laugh in every line and interspersed therein no less than eighteen tuneful songs added for good measure. Billy is seen to the best possible advantage and is surrounded by an excellent company who sing and dance in a very acceptable manner.

**Dance at K. S. Hall.** On Saturday evening, November 22, the Catholic Sokol society will give another of their pleasant social dances. Music by the "Weary Willies." The public is cordially invited.

**For Sale.** One bay horse, for reasonable price if taken at once. Apply to Lorenz Brothers.

## Goes to Florida for Winter.

This afternoon Mrs. L. B. White and two little sons departed for Beuna Vista, Florida, where they expect to spend the cold winter months in the pleasant climate of that locality and away from the chill and snow of this part of the country. The best wishes of the many friends of Mrs. White goes with her for a very pleasant time in their winter home in the sunny south. They will be absent several months.

## JAMES BAJECK ASSAULTED ON HIS WAY HOME

Knocked Down and Terribly Bruised by Kicks in Face and Cut by Knife.

James Bajeck was down town yesterday afternoon bearing all the marks of having taken part in the Mexican revolution, as his face was literally a mass of bruises and scratches and both of his eyes were badly discolored and one of them looked as if it had almost been knocked out of his head. According to the story told by James, he was on his way home Sunday evening, and when near Maiden Lane and Pearl street, in the west portion of the city, he was assaulted by a stranger, who approached him with a large knife in his hand, the flash of which could be seen, but whom the party was James was unable to distinguish. He grappled with his assailant, and in the scrap received a severe gash across the left wrist, and then the man proceeded to beat him up in bad shape and he lost consciousness and from the looks of his face his assailant must have stepped on James face or kicked him, as the injuries are very severe.

It was about 10 o'clock when Mr. Bajeck started home, and it could have been only a few minutes after that when the assault was made, and he lay there until about 2:30 in the morning unconscious, as it was 3 o'clock before he reached his home. The injuries on James face point to either being inflicted by a pair of "knucks" or by being kicked with brutal force by his assailant. Who the party was is a deep mystery to Mr. Bajeck, as he knows of no enemy who would take such a terrible revenge on him as this, and if it was a highwayman he certainly would not have gone so far in the work as to beat him up in such a manner.

## DEATH OF AUGUST KNOFICEK AN AGED BOHEMIAN CITIZEN

Yesterday at the home of his son, August Knoficek, in the northwest portion of the city, Frank Knoficek passed away, at the ripe old age of 94 years. Mr. Knoficek was born in Bohemia, where he resided most of his lifetime, and he came to Plattsmouth in the early eighties and since that time has been a resident of this city. He has, during the past few years, led a retired life, due to his advanced age, but was well known to a large circle of his fellow countrymen, and with his long life was able to relate many interesting experiences of days gone by in the old country. He leaves to mourn his loss two sons, August of this city and Frank, residing in Iowa, and three daughters, Mrs. George Horn of Hay Springs, Nebraska; Mrs. John Ptak of this city, and Annie Knoficek, who resides in Iowa. The funeral was held this morning from the late home.

Try a sack of Forest Rose flour. Your money refunded if not satisfactory.

## CITY DADS HAVE SHORT BUT A BUSY SESSION

The Session Was a Short One and the Business Was Done Up in Haste.

The city council, at their meeting last evening, almost broke the record as to the shortness of their session, as they were adjourned by 9 o'clock, after the meeting had transacted the usual routine business. All the city dads were present at the meeting except Councilman Richey, who was out of the city, and as soon as City Clerk Wurl finished the reading of the minutes of the last session the council got busy on the consideration of the different matters coming before them.

City Treasurer Cook reported that the treasury had a balance of some \$8,000 on hand, but this will be boosted considerably by next month, as the taxes for the past year will be in by that time and added to the amount on hand, and the fact that the street work will be very light for the winter will make the city's strong box much fatter with the coin of the realm.

The streets, alleys and bridges committee reported that the bridges on Locust street had been placed in repair by the county and were now in safe condition for travel, which will prove a big thing for that section of the city.

The special committee which had under consideration the ordinance reported in favor of striking out the section of the ordinance that provided for the giving of signals by the raising of the hand or whip as to what direction the vehicle was going to turn. The part of the ordinance providing for the regulation of motorcycles was changed to read that effect instead of motor vehicles, as it was in the original. The committee also recommended that the speed limit for intersections of streets be raised from ten to twelve miles per hour and to strike out certain parts of the section cover the driving of vehicles by persons who were intoxicated, the section struck out providing that the fact that a person took a drink during the day was evidence of the fact that they were intoxicated. The ordinance was referred to the city attorney for presentation at the next meeting of the city council.

The old bone of contention, the occupation tax ordinance, was next brought up for consideration, through a communication from City Attorney Tidd, in which he stated that he thought the sections that taxed the drug stores \$10 because they handled paints and wall paper, and the double tax on furniture stores for running an undertaking department was not just, in view of the fact that other stores handling more than one line of goods were only taxed \$7.50, and he advised the council to change this in order to make the ordinance good. This matter was thoroughly threshed out by the different councilmen for a few minutes, when Councilman Lushinsky made the motion that the action of the city council, in passing the ordinance, be reconsidered and the ordinance brought back for revising. On the vote the motion was lost, as it did not command the necessary three-fourths vote to reconsider. Those voting to reconsider were Patterson, Bajeck, Lushinsky, Vroman and Shea, while Buttrey, Hallstrom, Streight and Johnson voted no and the ordinance will stand as it was originally.

On motion of Councilman Buttrey the city clerk was instructed to notify the county surveyor to file a report on the work he had done on Mercer avenue, in the west part of the city. The chief of police was instructed by the council to notify Mr. R. M. Shlaes to either fasten

the bill board in front of his moving picture shows or cease using them. The chief of police and street commissioner were also instructed to look into the matter of the bill boards on Washington avenue, near the German Home, and if they were on public property to have them removed at once.

The attention of the council was called to the fact that in the rear of the tailoring establishment of Mr. Vejvoda it had been the practice of burning rags saturated with gasoline, and the flames from these were considered by some of the councilmen as quite dangerous, and on motion the proprietor of the establishment was instructed to have a tiling with an iron lid on it placed there for the purpose of burning his old rags.

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## JUDGE ARCHER'S WAY OF GETTING RID OF EVIL DOERS

The mill of Justice Judge M. Archer has been kept quite busy handling the different cases of law-breaking that have been brought up, but the chief offenders seem to be those who have sought to put the distilleries out of business by attempting to consume all the "corn juice" manufactured by them. Victor Hodson was one of the parties who had been taking a mental joy ride by indulging in the excessive use of "booze," and he was brought in by the sheriff Saturday from Cedar Creek, where he was stopping and where his actions had greatly alarmed the lady at whose place he was boarding, and on the arrival of the sheriff he was taken into custody and brought here, where he was arraigned, and after hearing the evidence the judge fined him \$10 and costs, amounting to some \$23, which Victor was unable to liquidate and he will be compelled to board it out in the Hotel de Manspeaker. James Ross was gathered in by the police Saturday evening for using vile and profane language and he confessed to the court that perhaps he might have done this and the court gave him a fine of \$5 and costs, but remitted it provided he left the city inside of 30 minutes, and he lost no time in putting many miles between himself and this city.

## MATHEW GERING RETURNS FROM TRIP TO WESTERN PART OF STATE

This morning Matthew Gering, the eminent attorney of this city, returned home from Bridgeport, Nebraska, where he had been conducting the defense in the case of the State of Nebraska vs. James Fitzgerald, a former resident of this city, who was charged with shooting with intent to kill one H. G. Rex, a rancher, living near Bridgeport. The affair grew out of a contest that Rex had made over some land of Fitzgerald's, and it created a great deal of excitement. The matter was finally settled by the state withdrawing the charge of intent to kill and substituting that of assault, and Mr. Fitzgerald was given a small fine. The case was handled very ably by Mr. Gering and it was largely through his efforts and skillful handling of the case that the charge was modified and his client let off quite lightly.

## Charged With Wife Desertion.

A complaint was filed this morning in county court before Judge Allen J. Beeson by County Attorney Taylor charging Clarence Price with wife desertion and child abandonment. Price has been employed in the Burlington shops for the past several months and a little over a year ago was married in this city, but for the past few months has failed to provide anything for the care and maintenance of his family.

## FUNERAL OF MRS. R. W. GIBSON HELD YESTERDAY

Large Concourse of Old Friends Attend the Services at the Methodist Church.

Yesterday afternoon the sorrowing friends of Mrs. Robert Gibson gathered at the Methodist church to pay their last tribute to the one they had known and loved for so many years before she was laid to rest. The church was filled with the friends of the family and their moistened eyes and grief-bowed heads attested the deep grief felt at the taking away of this worthy lady in her prime of life and while yet the shadows of time were falling toward the west upon the dials of time.

The services were conducted by Rev. F. M. Druliner, pastor of the church, who preached a very impressive sermon on the value of a well spent life whose daily acts had been in the services of the Master and in the benefiting of their fellow man, and at the close he paid a most eloquent and touching tribute to the life of the departed friend, whose daily walk in life had been filled with kindly and helpful acts for those with whom she had come in contact and in laboring for the church she had loved so well. The sermon was a most powerful one, and as the pastor closed there were many moistened eyes. A choir composed of Mesdames E. H. Westcott, Robert Hayes, Haney Howitzer and C. S. Johnson, sang several of the well loved hymns of the departed, and Mrs. Westcott sang as a solo, "Son of My Soul." At the close of the services the casket was opened to permit the friends to take a last long farewell of their loved one ere she was borne to the last earthly resting place in beautiful Oak Hill cemetery by the pall-bearers.

Letitia Adeline Smith was born in Burlington, Iowa, June 14, 1874, and while yet a very small child came to Plattsmouth with her parents and has since made her home in this city. She was educated in the public schools of this city, graduating from the High school, and in 1896 took up the work of teaching in the schools, which continued until 1911. On June 14, 1911, Miss Smith was united in marriage at the Methodist church to Robert W. Gibson, and their married life, while covering only two short years, was filled with happiness to both until sickness laid its blighting hand upon the wife and finally resulted in her death. At the early age of 14 Mrs. Gibson united herself with the Methodist church, and during her lifetime thereafter was a devotee and untiring worker in the cause of the church and her absence in the life of the church will be very keenly felt by those who are left behind.

## Card of Thanks.

We desire to take this method of extending our most sincere thanks to the many kind neighbors and friends, the city teachers, the school children, members of the Burlington tin and paint shops, for their sympathy, kindly assistance and beautiful floral tributes during the illness and death of our beloved daughter, wife and sister.

Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Smith and Family, Robert Gibson.

## District Court Tomorrow.

District Judge James T. Begley has notified the clerk of the district court that he will be here tomorrow morning to hold a special session of the district court. There are a number of interesting cases to be taken up by the court at this session.

Best results are secured by advertising in the Journal.

Web State Historical Soc