

The Plattsmouth Journal.

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NO. 7

BLACK HAND LETTER APPEARS IN THE COUNTY

Henry Knabe of Near Nehawka, Receives Letter Demanding \$500 or Threatens Violence.

From Wednesday's Daily. This county has received a visit from the writers of "Black Hand" letters and one of the wealthy farmers of the south part of the county, Henry Knabe, residing between Nehawka and Weeping Water, yesterday morning received a letter in his rural route mail box threatening the lives of himself and family if the requirements of the letter were not complied with by the receiver of the letter and the sum of \$500 deposited at a certain telephone pole designated by the writer.

The message, which was evidently written by a person of culture and intelligence, stated: "If I don't get you now, I will later," and the receipt of the letter greatly alarmed Mr. Knabe and the members of his family, but instead of complying with the demands of the writer, Mr. Knabe notified Sheriff C. D. Quinton, who was at Union, en route to Nebraska City, and the facts, as far as known, were telephoned to the different authorities in the nearby towns in order that they might be on the lookout for the persons or persons sending out the letter, and the sheriff proceeded to Nehawka, where a search was made for any possible clue in that place that might give an indication of the writer of the letter.

The search for the culprit resulted in the arrest at an early hour this morning at Weeping Water of a stranger by Marshal Noel of that place, who, after searching the prisoner found on his person a letter, evidently from another party, advising him to write the letter to Mr. Knabe in order to force him to come across with the money desired. The sheriff proceeded from Nehawka to Weeping Water and will bring the prisoner to this city today, when he will be given a preliminary examination and an effort made to locate the other party or parties involved in the "Black Hand" letters.

A message from Weeping Water this afternoon states that the prisoner proves to be George Crifton, a young man of 18 years of age, who was employed on the Knabe farm a few months ago, and he states the letter found on his person was the work of himself in preparing to try and secure the money from Mr. Knabe. He gave to the authorities as the reason for the deed that he wanted to secure funds with which to start farming for himself in order that he might better assist in the support of his brothers and sisters, all younger than himself. Two brothers live in South Omaha, while one sister resides at St. Edwards and another at Waterloo, Nebraska.

St. Mary's Guild Meets.

From Wednesday's Daily. St. Mary's Guild held their regular meeting yesterday afternoon and were very pleasantly entertained at the home of Mrs. C. W. Baylor. A short business session was held, after which the ladies whiled away the hours in sewing, social conversation and the like. At the proper time the hostess served a delicious luncheon, which was very much appreciated by those fortunate enough to be present.

For Sale.

Good 160-acre farm, 3 1/2 miles southeast of Greenwood, Neb.; 125 acres in winter wheat, 30 acres meadow. Also good 160-acre farm 1 1/2 miles west of Greenwood, Neb.; 70 acres in winter wheat, 12 acres alfalfa. Call on or write, A. D. Welton, or Farmers State Bank, Greenwood, Neb.

Entertain for Mrs. and Mrs. Cole.

From Wednesday's Daily. Last Friday evening Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Cole entertained in honor of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Cole of Lexington, Neb. About 7 p. m. a sumptuous supper was served. The evening was spent in music and conversation. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Wiles, Delores and Chester; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cole and daughter, Lois; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Cole and Roy and Opal. About 11 o'clock the guests departed for their homes.

LIBERSHALL IS APPOINTED COUNTY CLERK

He Is a Young Man of Ability and His Worths Well Recognized.

From Wednesday's Daily. The county commissioners late yesterday afternoon selected for the position of county clerk of Cass county, to succeed D. C. Morgan, the present deputy clerk, Frank J. Libershall, who has, during the four years of the Morgan regime, filled the position of deputy with a great deal of credit to himself, and the appointment comes as the well deserved recognition of the excellent services that he has given the people of the county in the capacity that he has been serving them.

The commissioners have had the matter of the filling of the vacancy in mind since the news of the appointment of Mr. Morgan to the postmastership about a month ago, and the eminent fitness of the deputy for the position, as well as the fact that his services in this capacity deserved recognition, caused the commissioners to act on his appointment as soon as the resignation of the present clerk was received.

Mr. Libershall is a young man 30 years of age and was born and reared to manhood in this city and during his residence here he has made a great many friends among those with whom he has come in contact, and these friends will be greatly pleased to learn of the well deserved recognition that has come to him in receiving the appointment as clerk in the offices of the Burlington in the shops in this city, being in the employ of the store department of that railroad up to the time of his resignation in January, 1910, to accept the position he had been tendered by Mr. Morgan. There were no other applicants for the vacancy before the board of commissioners, so well pleased were they with the services of Mr. Libershall.

THE ICE IN THE PLATTE RIVER FLOATING DOWN THE MISSOURI

From Tuesday's Daily. The warm weather of the past few days has had a decided tendency to cause the ice accumulated in the rivers and ponds in this locality to melt and open up, and yesterday afternoon a slight rise in the Platte river caused the greater part of the ice which had formed in that stream, north of this city, to break up and move out into the channel of the Missouri, which has not been closed so far this season. This is an unusual occurrence for this time of the year, so the old residents of this locality claim, and one that has not been known for the past few years.

Tyewriter ribbons at the Journal office.

ELKS LODGE LAY THEIR CORNER STONE

Plattsmouth Lodge No. 739 Dedicate Their New Home Last Evening at 11 O'clock.

From Wednesday's Daily. Last night at the mystic hour of 11 o'clock occurred one of the most notable events in the history of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in this city in the laying of the corner-stone of their beautiful new home on North Sixth street, and the occasion was marked by ceremonies appropriate to the solemnity of the occasion and the important event that it marked.

Since its organization some twelve years ago Plattsmouth Lodge No. 739 has lived in rented quarters, being located first in the Morgan building and later removing to the present quarters in the Coates' block, which they have occupied for the past ten years and which the lodge has outgrown, as the rapidly increasing membership of the order has made it imperative that the lodge find more commodious quarters where the brothers could mingle in the common bonds of fraternity that is such a striking feature of this great order.

A few months ago the proposition of purchasing a site and putting up a suitable club house was first brought up by some of the leading spirits of the order in this city and the members at once took up the matter and a committee was appointed to secure funds to erect the building and to see that it was started, and in a short space of time enough was raised to see the way clear for the erecting of the new building and work was at once commenced on the building, which is being rapidly pushed to completion as a home for the members of the Elks residing here, or who may be visitors in the city, for in the Elks the doors are always open for the brother who is a stranger, and for all those who are members of the order, and for all a hearty welcome is assured.

The plans for the new building were drafted by Joe Guth of Omaha, as architect, and the design being accepted, there has been no let-up on the work on the building and it was in readiness last evening for the ceremonies that marked the completion of the first steps of the construction of the building, and the date was also made a red letter event by the initiation of a large class of new members that brings the membership of this order up to one of the largest in the city, and for the occasion Coates' hall was used as the scene of the adoption of the class into the mysteries of Elkdom.

After the meeting of the lodge and at the near approach of the hour of 11 o'clock, the lodge marched in a body from their rooms in the Coates' block to the new club house, where, under the inspiration furnished by the thoughts of the hour the stone that is filled with so much to the members of the lodge here, was placed in position by the ceremonies that were both solemn and impressive and which were conducted by Exalted ruler E. J. Richey, assisted by the other officers of the lodge. A male quartet of members of the Elks sang as the opening of the ceremonies were commenced, "Nearer, My God, to Thee," and as the notes of the music died away the voice of the chaplain of the order invoked the divine blessing upon the work of the evening and the building that is to shelter the lodge in the future.

A brass quartet was present and furnished a very pleasing number which added greatly to the impressiveness of the occasion, and then the secretary of the lodge advanced and gave a short history of the lodge in this

city and its early struggles, when a few of the loyal members had held the lodge to its purpose and ideals, and this history, together with the list of the officers and members of Plattsmouth Lodge No. 739 and the customary silver coins and a copy of the Evening Journal of last evening were placed in the stone, which was then placed in position by the exalted ruler of the lodge and dedicated with the ceremonies in keeping with the beautiful ritual of the order.

The main address of the evening was delivered by County Judge Allen J. Beeson and was one filled with a very eloquent exposition of the principals and fraternal love that has made the B. P. O. E. one of the greatest fraternal organizations in the world, and his remarks were heartily applauded, as he dwelt on the great spirit of brotherly love that has been so characteristic of the lodge since its organization, and he spoke of the inspiration that the erection of the new home had given the members of the lodge and the beautiful thoughts that the erection of the home brought to mind, as the structure meant to the members a home in the fullest sense of the word, in which only the spirit of unity and brotherly love would dwell, and the order would furnish by its foundation of the bible and the American flag the highest inspiration to better things.

As the representative of the grand exalted ruler, Dr. J. S. Livingston, deputy of the order, made a few remarks on the purposes of the order and congratulated the members of the lodge on the starting of the new home.

The exercises were most impressive, although the work was interfered with to a large extent by the biting cold wind from the northwest that swept down on the scene of the corner-stone laying, and after the singing of the ode the members of the lodge repaired to the club rooms, where a sumptuous banquet was served that was a most delightful event, and the members were enthusiastic over the outlook for the ensuing year.

CELEBRATES SEVENTEENTH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

From Wednesday's Daily. Saturday evening at the handsome country home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blotzer, sr., near Cedar Creek, occurred a most enjoyable birthday party, given in honor of the seventeenth birthday anniversary of their son, John Blotzer, and the pleasant event will be long remembered by all those in attendance. The rapid change of weather prevented the attendance of many of the friends, but those that attended felt that they had been more than repaid for their coming through the rain and mud to take part in the pleasant event. The evening passed very swiftly in the playing of various games by the jolly crowd and in singing of songs and the enjoyment of a number of very fine instrumental numbers, all of which served to make the evening one of rare enjoyment and pleasure, and at an appropriate hour a delicious and tempting luncheon was served, which aided greatly in making the event a most pleasant one for everybody. Those who were present at the gathering were: Messrs. and Mesdames Frank Parkening, Frank Blotzer, jr., George Meisinger, jr., Mrs. Kale Tritsch, Misses Marie Svoboda, Elizabeth Tritsch, Lulu Blotzer, Mathilde Donat, Maude Tritsch, Kathryn Blotzer, Messrs. Benedict Nook, Edwin Meisinger, Johnny Tritsch, Carl Tritsch, George Blotzer, Ernest Tritsch, John Blotzer and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blotzer, sr.

FOR SALE—Eight good work teams, weighing 2,400 to 3,000 pounds per team. Price \$75 to \$200 per team. O. L. Lundberg, Nehawka, Neb. Phone No. 42. 1-15-3tkwly

MRS. THOMAS POLLOCK IS CALLED TO REST

Passed Away Last Evening at 8 O'Clock at the Home of Her Daughter, Mrs. C. C. Parmele.

From Wednesday's Daily. Last evening at 8 o'clock one of the oldest residents of the city, Mrs. Thomas Pollock, passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. C. Parmele, where she had been making her home since the death of her husband in October. Mrs. Pollock had been in very poor health for the past few months and at the time of her husband's death was quite ill, and the shock of his death was such she gradually faded away until death last evening brought to her release from her illness and sufferings. Her death came as a great shock to her friends throughout the city, who had known her for so many years, and her passing will leave a place hard to fill in the community she had made her home for more than forty years.

Mary Kerr was born August 25, 1833, in Washington county, Pennsylvania, being the eldest daughter of James Kerr and Rebecca Dinsmore Kerr. She was given the best educational advantages open to women at that time, graduating at 18 from Washington female seminary. Following this she taught most successfully for several years in the south, and in 1859 was married to Thomas Pollock, son of Judge Thomas Pollock of Lincoln, Indiana. For a number of years they lived in Madison, Indiana; following this they were residents of Kankakee, Illinois, after which the desire for a better climate brought them to Plattsmouth in 1870. Immediately after coming here they identified themselves with the church and Sabbath school missions and temperance work, and always had this work been their greatest pleasure, and their influence been for the uplifting of humanity and the growth of the Master's kingdom on earth.

Four children survive her, as follows: Mrs. Alice McElroy of Minneapolis, Mrs. Lillian Parmele, James K. Pollock and T. H. Pollock of Plattsmouth, and a foster child, Mrs. Anna Philby of Tekamah, Nebraska. Eleven grandchildren mourn the loss of a devoted grandmother. Her last illness was of short duration, but ever since the death of her husband, three months ago, she has been fading away, pining for "the touch of a vanished hand—the sound of a voice that was still." The funeral service will be held tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home of Mrs. Parmele, Rev. J. H. Salsbury of Auburn, officiating.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD PROMPT IN PAYING INSURANCE POLICIES

From Tuesday's Daily. The local clerk of the Woodmen of the World, W. B. Rishel, yesterday received a letter from the head office of the society enclosing two drafts for \$500 each made payable to the two daughters of the late Jacob W. Vallery, who died December 27th in this city, and the proofs of death were gotten ready and sent into the supreme office, where they were given prompt attention and the payment of the claim made. The promptness with which the lodge looked after the payment of the claim is very pleasing to the members of the Woodmen of the World here and shows that this order is one of the most prompt in the country to settle all claims of its beneficiary members.

Best results are secured by advertising in the Journal.

Had Been Discharged From Gang.

From Wednesday's Daily. In an article alluding to the arrest and conviction of Pete Stride in the Journal of last evening the statement was made as to the man having been employed on a bridge gang of the Burlington. This was true, but the man had been discharged some six weeks ago by Foreman Zavron, who has charge of this work, and who will not tolerate the men in their over-indulgence in liquor, and this statement is made that the foreman and the members of the bridge gang may not be placed in a wrong light before the public.

PLENTY OF BUSINESS IN POLICE COURT

General Disturbance Occurs and Offenders Are Waltzed Up to Captain's Office to Pay Penalty

From Tuesday's Daily. Last evening was filled with some excitement for the police force, as there were quite a number of small disturbances created by the devotees of "John Barley-corn" in the different parts of the city, and it kept the officers on the go rounding up the different violators of the peace and quietude of the city.

At the livery barn of M. E. Manspender, Sandy Andrews and Riley McFarland became involved in a controversy, and in the altercation Andrews struck Riley with an empty whisky bottle over the head and also checked up two of his fingers in the mishap that followed, and as a result he was brought before Judge Archer this morning and fined \$5 and costs, which he promised to pay by Saturday and was released from the custody of the law.

Pete Stride was another of those who partook too heavily of the flowing bowl last evening and he was the central figure of a great deal of excitement on Main street, as when Officer Newmann attempted to place him under arrest he attempted to make his getaway and the officer of the law drew his revolver and fired a shot to stop the flight of the man, and this attracted a great deal of attention, but had the effect of stopping him, as the officer had no intention of hitting him with the bullet, and Stride was conveyed over to the jail, where he spent the night, and was brought up in police court this morning, where he was given a fine of \$5 and costs, and the court suspended sentence until February 1, for him to raise the amount of the fine and costs and provided he keeps sober during that time. Stride claims to be employed on a bridge gang that has been doing some work for the railroad company. He is a very neat appearing man and apparently was not used to being brought into the police court, and it is to be hoped he will find this a valuable lesson to him in the future.

GEORGE B. MANN PURCHASES THE HENNINGS PROPERTY

The Ross Hennings property on Vine street, two doors west of the public library building, has been purchased by George B. Mann and will be occupied by Mr. Mann and wife as a home in the future. This is a fine location for a home, being right in the central part of the city, and is a most desirable piece of property, and the new owner can feel very well pleased with the new home he has selected. The consideration for the property was \$1,000, which is a bargain for this place and its slightly location.

Typewriter paper at the Journal office.

GREENWOOD SWEEP BY FIRE LAST EVENING

Destructive Fire Visits Neighboring City and Wipes Out Large Amount of Property.

From Wednesday's Daily. For the third time the village of Greenwood, in the west part of the county, was swept by a very destructive fire last night, which laid in waste a large part of the business section of that thriving little village and caused a property loss that is estimated at \$25,000. The fire started in the basement of the First National bank building, caused from a gasoline stove, and soon the flames were sweeping through that section of the village and four other buildings were swept by the fire before it was stopped by a brick building half a block from where the fire started.

The First National bank building is a total loss with the exception of the vault, which is supposed to be intact. This building was occupied by the postoffice, which was a complete loss excepting a few stamps and old records. In this building was also located the lodge rooms of the I. O. O. F., M. W. of A. and Masons, all of whose property was destroyed. The telephone exchange in the building was also a complete loss.

The J. W. Yeast drug store was another of the buildings destroyed by the fire, and the stock of the store is estimated at \$5,000, with insurance of \$3,000. L. L. Hawthorne, who operated a restaurant in the block burned suffered a loss of \$3,000, which is only partially covered by insurance. The crematory of Connelly & Gettler was also one of the heavy losers in the fire, their loss being \$900, which was only partially covered by insurance. L. L. Hawthorne, who operated a garage in the burned district suffered a partial loss of his building.

The fire started at 6:30 and when it was seen that the flames had gotten beyond control and was asked from Lincoln and the Burlington railroad placed a special composed of a flat car and coach for the firemen at the Lincoln department's disposal. But on learning that Greenwood had no water supply for the engine, and as Lincoln had no suitable chemical apparatus, the train was not used. Just when the firemen were boarding the coach for Greenwood word reached them that the flames had been checked and they did not start.

Last night's fire is the third that has swept that side of Greenwood's business street.

TWO MORE "MERRY-MAKERS" CONFINED IN JAIL LAST NIGHT

From Tuesday's Daily. George Sherman and Henry Bachus were two of the Monday merry-makers gathered in by the police yesterday afternoon, after a message had been received by Chief of Police Rainey to come out to a residence on Lincoln avenue, where the men had entered the house and announced their intention of retiring to bed, despite the requests of the family to withdraw their presence, but the arrival of the chief of police soon banished all thoughts of sleep from the minds of the men, as they were walked over to the jail and lodged there until this morning, when they received a fine of \$2 and costs for their fun.

The next time the boys start out on a "slumber party" or mental joy ride they would do well to select some secluded spot along the river, as their experience yesterday proved quite costly to them.