

The Plattsmouth Journal.

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PLATTSMOUTH AGAIN VISITED BY A DISASTROUS FIRE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

L. B. Egenberger's Store and Home Overhead Entirely Ruined and the Adjoining Buildings Receive Very Serious Injury.

MRS. J. F. STULL, AGED 80, BURNED TO DEATH

The Fire Boys Respond Nobly and Work Bravely and Were Greatly Assisted by Numerous Volunteer Citizens—Late Before Flames Were Extinguished.

From Saturday's Daily.

One of the most destructive fires that has occurred in this city in recent years came yesterday afternoon at about 1:30 o'clock, and as a result two of the business buildings of the city are completely in ruins and the life of Mrs. Frederick Stull, one of the pioneer residents of the county, was claimed by the ruthless fire demon. The fire, as far as can be learned from the many conflicting stories circulated, originated in the apartments of Mrs. O. P. Monroe, situated on the second floor of the building that was occupied by her store, and was caused from an overheated stove that soon had the room where it was located in a blaze, and the fire rapidly spread through the different rooms, the light partitions affording but little protection against the raging flames that lapped everything in their pathway.

The extreme cold of the day made the work of fighting the fire one of the greatest difficulty and the firemen deserve much credit, as well as the citizens who assisted in attempting to subdue the blaze, as almost all of the men on the scene who were fighting to save the building were coated with sheets of ice, and the streams from the five lines of hose froze almost as soon as the water fell on the building and soon a coating of ice was formed over the front of the building, making the work of fighting doubly dangerous. The rapidity with which the blaze spread made the work of saving anything almost impossible and there were few who were aware that Mrs. Stull was in the building until the whole second story was a roaring furnace, with the blaze bursting through the roof and spreading into the adjoining building on the west, which was occupied by the grocery store of L. B. Egenberger, with his living apartments on the second floor, and so rapidly was the fire in tearing its path through the buildings that the family had difficulty in escaping from the blazing structure, and were unable to save a thing from their beautiful home, which was soon in the grasp of the fire demon.

The fire had been going on for some time when the firemen and workers were startled by the announcement that Mrs. Stull was still in the building, which by this time was literally one continuous sheet of flames, with great clouds of blinding smoke rolling out and blinding all those who attempted to gain entrance. The son of the lady, Lawrence Stull, arrived from his home after the fire was in full headway, and being informed that the body of his aged mother, who was quite ill and feeble, lay somewhere in the midst of the blaze and smoke, mounted the ladder stationed in the front of the building and dashed in to try and search out the body of his mother. He was compelled to creep along the floor for some ten minutes before he came across the body of the aged lady lying on the floor in the front room with her clothing entirely burned off and the flesh cooked to a crisp, which fell from the body as it was lifted from the floor and carried by Mr. Stull to the window, from where it was carried down the ladder to the street and taken to the tailor shop of James Sochor, where it remained until taken to the Hill undertaking rooms. The deed of Mr. Stull was one that required great courage in entering what seemed certain to be a

death trap, as the whole structure was ablaze from one end to the other at the time the body was removed.

The Egenberger building was literally gutted and there was nothing saved from the living apartments, as the roof falling in completed the wreck made by the fire and nothing was left to tell where the once beautiful home had been. The loss to Mr. Egenberger on his home will amount to close to \$3,000, while the grocery stock is a total loss, amounting to some \$7,000, and this, with the loss on the building, will put the total loss of Mr. Egenberger at between \$13,000 and \$15,000, regardless of the many priceless tokens and family keepsakes that were swept away in the on-rushing flames.

The store of Mrs. Monroe is also a complete loss and there is nothing left there to tell the story of the fire. The loss here will amount to several thousand dollars, outside of the building, which will amount to about \$5,000.

The firemen and volunteer citizens assisted in carrying the hose over the roofs in the rear of the burning building, where streams of water were poured into the blazing buildings, both from the rear and through the windows on the north facing Main street.

As the fire spread into the Egenberger building it seemed that the section of the block occupied by the M. E. Smith shirt factory would also be claimed by the angry flames, but this was soon protected. The buildings burned are a portion of what is known as the Drew block, built in the early eighties, and while cut into different stores, did not have fire walls between them and made the work of the firemen one of great difficulty, as the partitions afforded little or no protection from the flames, as they came rushing through the building. The suddenness of the fire found most of the citizens and members of the fire department home with their families, but they soon rallied in fine shape to the work of trying to save something from the building, but the force of the flames and the freezing weather combined made the work one of the greatest difficulty, and while afterwards it might be seen where there could have been some other methods used, still, in the excitement and the difficulty attending the fire the department and citizens who served faithfully all afternoon from 1:30 to 5 o'clock in fighting the flames, deserve a great deal of credit.

Despite the freezing weather the fire attracted a great deal of attention and a large number of citizens soon assembled to try and assist in the work of fire fighting, and as several of the firemen were overcome by the cold and compelled to retire from the work, their places were taken by volunteers from the citizens, who certainly acquitted themselves in great shape and deserve a world of praise. There was much excitement created during the fire by the report that Mrs. Monroe could not be found and had met death in the building, but later it was learned that she was at the home of Adam Wolfe and wife, where she had been taken during the fire.

The family of Mr. Gibson, the fireman at the steam laundry, who occupied apartments in the rear of the Monroe building, were among the heaviest losers in the fire, as every-

thing they had was swept away in the wreck of the building.

The M. E. Smith building, to the west of that occupied by L. B. Egenberger, was damaged greatly by smoke and this morning the officials of the company came down to estimate the loss to their firm, which, however, will not amount to a great deal.

The loss to the property of J. C. Peterson on the east of the Monroe building was considerable from the water used in putting out the fire, the hall of their home and the meat market below receiving the largest share of the water. The fire wall saved them from the flames, as had it been lighter the blaze from the burning building would certainly have penetrated into their apartments. The household goods of Mr. Peterson were removed during the fire to a point of safety.

The Plattsmouth Water company was right on the job during the fire, as with five lines of hose in use the pressure, which averaged ninety pounds at the start, was gradually increased and there was plenty of pressure at all times for the work of fighting the fire. As soon as the alarm was sounded the plant was placed in readiness for work and at the close of the fire, with all the water used, the standpipe on North Seventh street was as full as when the hydrants were first turned on.

L. B. Egenberger, whose stock of groceries was destroyed by the fire, will reopen Monday morning in the Gorder building, across the street from the burnt structure, and he will look after his trade as usual, as goods will be shipped at once from Omaha to supply the needs of his customers. Mr. Egenberger is showing the true spirit of pluck in starting in to carry on his business after the heavy loss he has just sustained.

BALL ROLLING IN DIRECTION OF AID FOR THE FIRE BOYS

From Saturday's Daily.

A number of the business men of the city have expressed the opinion that some recognition should be given the members of the fire department for their gallant services yesterday at the fire, and Mont Robb, the proprietor of the Hotel Riley, is the first to step forward in this excellent movement and states that he will join in the movement to raise a fund by contributing \$5 to the same, and Mr. Kinslow, the owner of the Riley building will also contribute a like sum, and if all the business houses of the city will do likewise a neat sum can be realized for the fire boys that would be a neat appreciation of the feeling held by the citizens for their good work.

Taken to Omaha Today.

From Saturday's Daily.

Dr. G. H. Gilmore of Murray came up this afternoon from his home, accompanying Mrs. Mark Furlong, who was taken to Omaha on the 1:58 Burlington train, where she will undergo an operation at St. Joseph's hospital in that city. Mrs. Furlong has been in very poor health for some time, and while she has been operated on once before it was found that another operation would be necessary, and she was taken to the hospital to ace.

FAREWELL RECEPTION BY MRS. RICE TO FAMILIES OF MESSRS. SMITH AND BAILY

A farewell party was given by Mrs. James Rice Friday evening, December 18, for Jacob Smith and R. C. Bailey's families, as they will soon leave for their new homes in Minnesota. The family of Mr. Bailey were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Sutton and daughter and Mr. and Mrs. Modlin and two children from Omaha. The evening was spent in music and taffy-pulling. About 10 o'clock a delicious luncheon was served, consisting of oysters, pickles, cake and fruit. At a late hour the guests departed, thinking that the evening had been well spent and thanking Mrs. Rice for the pleasant time she had shown them. The families of Mr. Bailey and Mr. Smith have been neighbors of Mrs. Rice for a number of years.

THE GOOD OLD CHRISTMAS TIME IN PLATTSMOUTH

The Day Was Most Appropriately Observed by All the Churches and the People in General.

Christmas day in Plattsmouth was one filled both with joy and sorrow, and the happiness of the many homes was overcome by the terrible fire that devastated two of the business houses of the city and resulted in the loss of the life of Mrs. Frederick Stull in the burning of her daughter's home.

The celebration of the day in the churches began at 11:45 Thursday night, when the observation of the Holy Communion was celebrated at the St. Luke's church with a choral observation of the communion, which added greatly to the impressiveness of the service conducted by the Rev. Wilbur S. Leete, pastor of the church, who gave a short sermon in keeping with the spirit of the great event of the birth of the Savior, and gave to the large number of the parishioners present the communion of the church. The music of the choir was beautiful in the extreme and made the solemn service of this church even more impressive.

The services at the St. John's Roman Catholic church at 5:30 in the morning were attended by a large number of the members of the congregation of the church, and the impressive high mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father M. A. Shine, rector of the parish. The beautiful music of the mass was rendered in a most able manner by the choir and aided in making the service one of exceptional beauty. The altar was a sight of beauty, with the flowers and candles, and a great many of the congregation took the Christmas communion at this service.

The Christmas program given by the children of the Sunday school of the Presbyterian church in the auditorium of the church Thursday evening, was very largely attended and the entertainment provided by them was most pleasing to all. The pupit had been made larger and was very appropriately decorated. The program consisted of the Christmas songs, recitations and dialogues, and two playlets entitled "Santa Claus in the Southland," and "Little Bo Peep's Christmas Party," which were given in a very happy manner. At the close of the program Santa Claus made his appearance with his sacks of sweets, which were handed to the little folks as they passed the platform. Thursday morning and afternoon various members of each class of the Sunday school distributed baskets filled with a Christmas dinner to those who perhaps would not otherwise have a Christmas dinner. This custom has been observed by the members of the Sunday school of the Presbyterian church for the past ten years.

The Sunday school and choir of St. Paul's Evangelical church furnished an excellent Christmas program to a large and appreciative audience on Christmas eve. Rev. Steger, the pastor, gave in choice language the beautiful Christmas story; he spoke of the German custom of celebrating Christmas and asking consideration at this holiday season of friends and relatives of many present, who are in disturbed Germany. The greater part of the program consisted of reading, songs and dialogues by the boys and girls of the Sunday school. As they appeared before the decorated Christmas tree so happy and each doing his part so well, everyone in the audience responded to the spirit and was filled with the true Christmas enthusiasm of the child. The church choir contributed three appropriate anthems and everyone present enjoyed taking part in several of the most loved German Christmas hymns. The evening was completed for the little folks by the Sunday school teachers distributing well-filled bags among them.

The exercises in the Methodist church were most pleasing and the big Christmas exercises of the Sunday school at the church Christmas eve were attended by a large number of the parents and friends of the little folks to witness the pleasing little program prepared, and the little ones were delighted when at a suitable hour Santa made his appearance and distributed among them gifts suitable to the occasion, and which proved a very pleasing feature of the evening.

The Christian church enjoyed a very pleasant time at the Christmas eve exercises when the young folks of the Sunday school were given a treat, and here Santa Claus was very liberal, remembering everyone with some token of the evening and their little hearts were greatly pleased with the pleasant time prepared for them.

Throughout the city there were numerous home gatherings that brought into the home a sense of peace and joy, as families gathered around the parental board to pass the day in the enjoyment of the Christmas dinner, as well as in visiting with each other.

SHERIFF QUINTON OVER- TAKES LADY DESIRED IN OMAHA AT UNION, NEB.

From Saturday's Daily.

Sheriff Quinton Thursday received a message from Omaha asking him to go to the Missouri Pacific station and apprehend a lady who was a passenger on the 2:41 flyer for Kansas City and who was wanted in the metropolis in connection with the loss of some furs from the Adams Express company's office in that city. The sheriff boarded the train, but was unable to locate the party desired until the train was near Union, and alighted there with his charge, bringing her back on the 4:03 train to Omaha, where she was handed over to the authorities. The lady stated her name was Helen Pendleton and that her home was at Tacoma, Washington, and accounted for her possession of the furs by stating that she had purchased them in Omaha of some man who had offered them for sale. This is what the Omaha authorities contend and they desired the presence of the woman to try and locate the man who had been responsible for the taking of the furs, which disappeared about a month ago from the office of the company, where they were awaiting shipment, and are quite valuable. Miss Pendleton is a lady of fine appearance and great personal beauty, and while it is not thought that she is the party taking the furs, although through her it is hoped to get in touch with the real culprits and bring them to justice.

PETER C. PETERSON, FORMER PLATTSMOUTH CITIZEN, DIES AT EUGENE, ORE.

From Saturday's Daily.

Yesterday morning J. C. Peterson received a message announcing the sad news of the death, at his home in Eugene, Oregon, of his brother, Peter C. Peterson, who for a number of years was a resident of this city. Mr. Peterson passed away at 7:30 Thursday evening after an illness of some six months, and the body will be interred at Eugene. Mr. Peterson, when a resident of this city, was employed by the Burlington in the freight car repair department as an assistant to the foreman, Mr. Steimker, who was then in charge of this department. He removed from this city to Oregon some six years ago and has since made his home at Eugene. Mr. Peterson was married twice and leaves, besides the widow, three children to mourn his loss as follows: George Peterson, John Peterson and Miss Cena Peterson, who reside in Oregon. Three brothers, L. H. and J. C. Peterson of this city and Charles Peterson of Anacortes, Washington, are also left to mourn the passing of this good man. The old friends will be greatly grieved to learn of the death of Mr. Peterson, who during his lifetime here made many warm friends, and the family will receive the deepest sympathy of the entire community in their loss.

Mrs. John Gorder and children and Mrs. J. V. Hatt and children were among the passengers this afternoon for Omaha, where they go to visit for the day looking after some business matters.

"THAT PRINTER OF UDELL'S" NEXT TUESDAY NIGHT

That the dramatization of popular novels is a wise move on the part of the theatrical producers is exemplified by the tremendous financial returns reaped by the enterprising managers that were fortunate enough to receive the dramatic rights of any well known novel. Every book of any prominence has passed through the "read the book and see the play" stage, and the theater-goers eagerly await the stage session of their favorite novel. The popularity of the Harold Bell Wright stories brought forth an overwhelming demand for the dramatization of the same. "That Printer of Udell's" conceded to be Mr. Wright's masterpiece and the "best seller" in years, was one the public demanded. The author was besieged with offers from theatrical managers of every degree and the competition became so keen and the public demand so strong for the play that Mr. Wright, with the assistance of Elsbury W. Reynolds, the publisher, finally submitted a dramatization of his great story, Messrs. Gaskill & McVitty, a well known firm, after a spirited competition, secured the dramatic rights. The play will make its initial appearance at the Parmele theater on Tuesday night, December 29.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AT MASONIC HOME ONE CON- TINUED ROUND OF PLEASURE

The Christmas of 1914 was observed at the Nebraska Masonic Home in a manner that will cause the event to long be remembered most pleasantly by the aged people residing at the Home, and nothing was omitted from the arrangements to make it most complete in every way.

Christmas eve there was a great big Christmas tree placed in the large and spacious dining room of the Home, and this was laden with gifts for every member of the Home, being sent down by the members of the Omaha lodges of the Masons, and there was no one overlooked in the distribution of the handsome and choice gifts. This feature of the Christmas program was one that delighted the old folks, who felt keenly the spirit of remembrance shown by the great Masonic fraternity and the efforts of Superintendent and Mrs. W. S. Askwith in looking after their welfare and enjoyment.

At the noon hour a most sumptuous dinner was served in the dining room and the table spread the length of the room was fairly laden with the many good things that contribute to the wants of the inner man. The menu for the dinner was as follows:

Roast Turkey. Dressing.
Giblet Gravy.
Roast Sweet Potatoes.
Mashed Potatoes.
Stewed Tomatoes.
Coldslaw. Celery. Spiced Pickles
Cranberry Sauce.
Nuts. Mince Pie. Candy.
Bread. Butter.
Coffee. Tea. Milk.

The day was closed with a very fine oyster supper, served at 6 o'clock, and the old folks retired cheered and enthused by the enjoyment that the day had brought to them. Hon. Francis E. White, grand secretary of the Nebraska grand lodge, was a guest in the evening at the Home.

John G. Wunderlich of Nehawka came up yesterday from his home and visited here today with his many friends and looked after some business matters at the court house for the day. John is looking fine and his friends are mighty well pleased to meet him.

George Albert of Sidney, Montana, is here for a short visit at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Albert, during the holidays and he is greatly enjoying the visit with them and his old friends. He is engaged in ranching in Montana.

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Pleasant Home Gathering.
The beautiful home of Mrs. Eva Reese in the north part of the city was the scene of a very pleasant gathering yesterday, when a number of the members of the family gathered to spend Christmas in a most delightful manner beneath the hospitable roof. The out-of-town guests present to participate in the good time were: Karl P. Reese and wife, Omaha; Walter Scott, wife and son, Glenn, and Mr. Fred Arant of Omaha.

MR. AND MRS. C. C. DES PAIN CELEBRATE GOLDEN WEDDING CHRISTMAS DAY

From Saturday's Daily.

Yesterday was the golden wedding anniversary of two of the worthy residents of this city, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Despain, who fifty years ago were made as one on Christmas day, 1864, in Mills county, Iowa, near the site of St. Mary's, one of the points of interest in the county then, but which has since been almost forgotten. Since their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Despain have lived in this city and county almost continuously and here they have a host of the warmest friends that rejoice with them in having passed so many happy hours of married life together, and who will trust that the years to come may be filled with only the most choice gifts to both of these highly esteemed residents of Plattsmouth and that their closing years may be cheered and made happy with the memory of the many warm friends and happy associations here in Plattsmouth. There is nothing too good to wish for Mr. and Mrs. Despain, and the community will join in wishing them the privilege of celebrating their diamond wedding together at the home in this city.

REMAINS OF THE LATE MRS. AULT TAKEN TO GLENWOOD YESTERDAY FOR INTERMENT

From Saturday's Daily.

The funeral services of the late Mrs. Loretta Ault were conducted at her late home yesterday morning at 8:30 by Rev. A. G. Hollowell, pastor of the Church of Christ. The services were attended by a large number of relatives and friends desiring to show their last respects to this loved and respected lady. To these and others who knew her intimately her righteous deeds should be "footprints in the sands of time" to beckon them to so live that they may join the choir invisible of the immortal dead who have gone to live in peace in the land of glory and song. The music for the service was furnished by a number from the church choir, and the selections were from those best loved by the deceased. After the funeral service the body was conveyed to Glenwood on No. 4, where it was interred in the family burying lot.

Miss Loretta Lemm was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, January 21, 1855, and departed this life December 23, 1914, at the age of 59 years, 11 months and 2 days. In her early youth she moved with her parents to Syracuse, Neb., where she was married to Charles B. Ault, and with her husband later removed to Plattsmouth, where she had resided almost continuously since that time. She accepted Christ many years ago and at the time of her death was a member of the Church of Christ of Plattsmouth. She leaves to mourn her loss two sons and four daughters. The husband and two daughters preceded her to the better world.

Still Have Calendars.

You will still find a large number of those handsome sample calendars and wall pockets at the Journal office. While we have sold a large number the line is almost unbroken, all of which is being sold at about one-half what the original cost would be in quantity lots. Call and see them.

Joseph Tighe, wife and son, Francis, of Havelock, who were in this city as over Christmas guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fitzgerald, departed yesterday for their home, going over the Burlington.