

# The Plattsmouth Journal.

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## ROCK ISLAND RESPONSIBLE FOR CATASTROPHE

No. Criticism Concerning Signal, but Showing Made of Inability to See Train.

## DANGEROUS CROSSING ALLEGED

From Tuesday's Daily. The following from the Lincoln State Journal gives the coroner's verdict in the killing at Alvo, and other particulars of the distressing accident:

"Because of the maintenance of a dangerous crossing near the station at Alvo where the automobile accident occurred which resulted in the loss of three lives, the Chicago, Rock Island Railway company is held responsible for the deaths of Alma Godby and Edith Foreman. The coroner's jury, which met at the Foreman home near Alvo to hold an inquest over the bodies of the two girls who were instantly killed, reached this conclusion after hearing the testimony of the trainmen, two eye witnesses and a number of people who reached the scene shortly after the accident.

"Engineer David Ireland of Sunday's Rock Island train No. 5 testified that the train was running behind time, but that the whistle had been blown at the regular time and place. Conductor Hinshaw and the fireman of the train corroborated the story of the engineer and said that there was no irregularity about the warning signals. Mrs. Moore, wife of the station agent at Alvo, and 'Jimmie' Dimmitt, eye witnesses, told of the catastrophe.

**The Jury and the Verdict.** The members of the coroner's jury were P. J. Lynch, Harry Appelman, Will Stewart, Frank Cook, George Cook and S. C. Boyles. The verdict of the men was as follows:

"We find that Alma Godby and Edith Foreman met death at Alvo, Neb., January 16, 1916, at or about 5 p. m. by being struck by Chicago, Rock Island train No. 5, the same train running behind time. And we hold the Chicago, Rock Island Railroad company responsible for the death of Alma Godby and Edith Foreman because of the maintaining of a dangerous crossing at the place of the accident."

"J. H. Foreman, his two daughters, Edith and Belle, and Miss Alma Godby were in the automobile on their way to Alvo where the girls were to take a train to Lincoln. The view at the crossing near the station is obstructed and the parties in the car did not see the approaching train until it was upon them. Mr. Foreman was driving slowly at the time though he did not expect the train which was late. When the front wheels were well on the track the car stopped. In spite of his efforts to get the machine reversed the train was on the car before the wheels began to move.

"Edith Foreman and Alma Godby were instantly killed. Belle Foreman was unconscious and with her father was brought to Lincoln on the train, dying on the way to the St. Elizabeth's hospital.

"No inquest will be held over the body of the sister who died in Lincoln, Lancaster county officials, under whose jurisdiction the case comes, deciding that the one in Cass county would be sufficient."

Where the accident occurred at Alvo the tracks had recently been cleaned off and a number of large chunks of frozen ice and dirt thrown off along the main line track and a part of this was on the crossing, which caused the wheels of the automobile of Mr. Foreman to skid, it is thought by those who visited the scene of the accident, and as he was running very slow at the time the engine of the machine was "killed." The front wheels of the auto were in the center of the main line track when the machine was struck by the fast moving train and hurled quite a distance into a telephone post.

The Foreman home is a mile and a half north of Alvo and the Godby family reside just south of them less than a block, and at the time of the terrible accident Mr. Foreman was driving his two daughters and Miss

Godby to Alvo to catch a train, it is claimed, which was due about the time that the flyer made its appearance, being two hours late, and the train was a surprise to the members of the auto party, who were not aware that it was due. The auto in which they were riding was enclosed and when struck by the train was completely demolished. Mr. Foreman is getting along very nicely at the St. Elizabeth's hospital in Lincoln, where he was taken at once after the accident.

## FIRE IN WASTE BASKET CREATES CONSIDERABLE EXCITEMENT

From Tuesday's Daily.

The court house was the scene of considerable excitement this morning and for a few minutes it seemed as though the office of Sheriff Quinton was to be gutted by the fire demon as the result of someone dropping a match into the waste paper basket which was sitting near the desk of the sheriff. The sheriff had a number of callers just before the fire occurred and it is thought that someone accidentally flipped a half-lighted match into the waste paper basket, which was partially filled with paper and was also constructed of very inflammable material, and as soon as the fire got a good start it had spread over the wall, catching a large map afire and scorching the paint on the wall, as well as the varnish on the desk of the sheriff and in places burning it quite badly and leaving in no unmistakable way the marks of the affair.

At the time the fire occurred the sheriff was engaged in some work at his desk and was attracted by the sound of the flames and glancing up was greatly surprised to see that the whole side of the wall adjoining his desk was merrily burning away, and the blaze spreading around very fast. The sheriff tore the burning map from the wall and rushing into a closet grabbed an old coat and soon beat out the flames, but not until they had did a great deal of damage. The fire shows clearly that there should only be fire-proof waste paper baskets used in the court house, and if there had been there would have been little damage done in the fire this morning, as the flames could not have spread, but with the wooden basket it was an easy matter to burn considerably before it could be put out.

## JULIUS A. PITZ FILES FOR RE-ELECTION TO COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

From Tuesday's Daily.

County Commissioner Julius A. Pitz, who has represented the First district on the county board for the past four years, has just filed with the county clerk his intention to seek the democratic nomination for that office at the primaries in April. Mr. Pitz has just retired as chairman of the county board and is serving the last year of the present term and feels that the services rendered the people of the county justify his again becoming a candidate to the office he has so acceptably filled. Mr. Pitz is a farmer and realizes the needs of an agricultural community and has devoted a great deal of his time to the study of the good roads question, as well as other questions in which the farming section of the county is interested. Residing close to this city, he has been able to keep in touch with all sections of the district and has made as capable a man as has been in the office of the commissioner in recent years.

George Becker on the Job.

George Becker, who has just recovered from a very severe case of pneumonia, is now back on the job again at the Streight furniture store and his many friends are well pleased to see him able to be up and around after his late illness, which kept him confined to his home for several weeks. He is feeling very good since the sickness and does not look a least bit worse for his experience.

We will buy chickens at our store Tuesday, January 25. We will pay highest market price. ZUCKWEILER & LUTZ.

## OIL PROSPECTORS PUSHING WORK AS FAST AS POSSIBLE

Work of Sinking the Well Will Begin Some Time This Week, and Be Pushed Rapidly.

From Wednesday's Daily.

The oil-seeking project in the vicinity of Union seems to be being pushed to the utmost by the gentlemen in charge, and with anything like favorable conditions prevailing it is expected to begin the work of sinking the well either tomorrow or Friday, and when once started the work will be rushed to try and determine the much discussed question of whether or not there is oil in paying quantities beneath the hills of old Cass county.

The machinery has all been hauled out the Larsh farm and set up ready to start in drilling down through the rock and soil into the lower stratas of the earth where oil and gas are usually found. C. H. Baker, who has had charge of the project, is on the ground and constantly on hand to do all that is possible to advance the work. As soon as the work is started on drilling it is expected to operate a day and night force constantly on the job of drilling and casing, and without any unforeseen delays it is expected to be able to sink the well 1,000 feet a month until it has reached a depth that will demonstrate the question as to whether or not there is anything doing in the oil line in the bluffs of the river.

Those who have become interested in the matter are feeling confident that they have a good chance to secure something worth while and will push it to the utmost, but the whole question can only be settled by making the experiment, and with the equipment on the field it certainly looks good to have it fully tested out so that there will be no doubt left either way as to the fact of their being oil or not concealed down beneath the stratas of rock and dirt.

Stromsburg, Nebraska, it seems, has been greatly stirred up over the oil question and Mr. Nelson, who has been there for the past several weeks, has secured sufficient inducement from the residents of that locality, and the machinery has arrived there to drill for oil, and there is much speculation there over the outcome of the test.

If oil is struck in this section of Nebraska it certainly would be the starting of wholesale operations along this line in the eastern part of the state.

## PROBABLE CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY ON DEMOCRATIC TICKET

From Tuesday's Daily.

Joseph Cappell, one of the young and enterprising attorneys of the county, was here today engaged in looking after some litigation in the county court and getting acquainted with the officials at the court house. Mr. Cappell is located at Elmwood and is one of the most popular young men of that community and one who commands the very highest respect from all whom he meets. He is above all a talented young democrat and will in all probability be in the running this fall for the office of county attorney, as a large number of his friends have been urging him for this position and he has about decided that he will get into the race. There is no question as to his qualification for the position for which he has been mentioned, and while his friends in Elmwood regret to lose him from their midst, there is no doubt that they will give him a handsome send-off if he makes the race for the office. While in this city he was a caller at the Journal office, in company with Ted Jeary, and spent a few minutes very pleasantly with the editor.

Only a few more days remain for you to secure the many bargains at the Fanger Store at auction. The sale will close Saturday evening, January 22. You still have a chance. Come in now.

Letter files at the Journal office.

## LARGE NUMBER GO TO WEEPING WATER TO ATTEND MEETING

There were quite a number from this city leaving for Weeping Water this morning, where they expect to take part in the convention being held there today by the "dry" interests of the county and to join in the discussion of plans for the forthcoming campaign, when the question of prohibition will be submitted to the voters of the state on election day in November. The state secretary of the state association, which is conducting the preliminary work of organization, will be present at the meeting to give his views on the work in the different counties of the state and advice to the Cass county boosters of the project of a dry state.

## DEMOCRATS OF CASS COUNTY WILL HOLD BANQUET IN FEBRUARY

From Tuesday's Daily.

The democracy of Cass county are preparing to hold a banquet in this city in the near future, the exact date of which has not been fixed, but it is probable that it will be held in the middle of February. At a meeting held last evening of the members of the party in this city, presided over by Chairman Langhorst of the county central committee, it was decided to get the ball to rolling in the direction of holding a get-together meeting of the followers of democracy, and it was thought that at a banquet could be found the greatest opportunity of reaching the larger number of the members of the party than any other means. It is expected to make the banquet in the nature of a dollar dinner, which will allow plenty of the good things to eat to grace the occasion, as well as speakers who will dispense democratic doctrines.

The dinner will be served, if possible by one of the ladies' church societies of this city and there is no doubt that if any of them take hold of the proposition they will make it a grand success in the way of a feast. The committee who have the affair in charge are getting busy right away and will leave nothing undone to have representatives present from all sections of the county to take part in the meeting, and by the general expression of the members of the party gather inspiration for the coming campaign in the state and county, in which the party is just about to launch. The members of the party throughout the county will be invited to be present and assist in the good work which will be served by the holding of the meeting.

## SLIGHT CHANGES IN THE NATURALIZATION LAWS

The naturalization department of the federal government has just sent out to the offices of the district clerks throughout the country notice of a change in the laws covering the making of declaration of citizenship in which the name of the wife of the person making the declaration is given, as well as her present residence if known, whether divorced or not and other questions that would permit the department to get in touch with the wife and ascertain if she desires to take advantage of the laws of the country in regard to education and which provides free schools for those that desire to attend. The opportunity for securing a free schooling for the wives of the new citizens is one that will doubtless be taken full advantage of by a great many of the women who are the wives of those seeking citizenship and in this the United States government desires to give them the fullest possible opportunity to realize the possibilities that lie in the United States and to fit them so that they can rear their children in keeping with American ideals and make better men and women of them than would be possible otherwise.

Mrs. Fred Kissing departed this morning for Glenwood, where she will visit for the day with friends.

## LAST SAD RITES OVER THE REMAINS OF PETER D. BATES

Large Number of Sympathetic Neighbors and Friends Pay Tribute to the Memory of a Good Man.

From Wednesday's Daily.

The funeral of the late Peter D. Bates was held yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Christian church and was attended by a very large number of the old friends and neighbors who gathered to pay their tribute to the memory of the good man gone to rest. The body of the departed arrived in the city from York Monday evening and was taken to the home of Henry Miller, a brother-in-law, where it rested until the hour for the funeral services when it was conveyed to the church by the members of the I. O. O. F. of which the deceased had for so long been a devoted member. The services at the church were simple yet beautiful and filled with an impressiveness that brought to each one the thought of the loss they had sustained in the old friend and neighbor who was sleeping for the last long time in their midst. Rev. C. E. Perlee, pastor of the church gave a very impressive sermon touching on the great sorrow that had been visited upon the family of the deceased and the lessons that Christian faith held out in the future for those who believed in the great truths of the teaching of the Master of the world and to the family and friends his words brought comfort and aided in cheering them in their hour of grief and sorrow. The choir of the church gave a number of the old loved hymns during the service which had been such favorites with the deceased during his lifetime. At the grave the I. O. O. F. lodge conducted their beautiful ritualistic service over the body of the departed brother, as it was consigned forever to rest within the bosom of the earth.

## DEATH OF A FORMER PLATTSMOUTH CITIZEN NEAR CREIGHTON, NEB.

From Tuesday's Daily.

The death of a former Cass county man, Jacob Lohnes, occurred at his home near Creighton, Neb., on Saturday evening at 6 o'clock, as the result of an accident that befell him a week previous. Mr. Lohnes was injured when a weight that was used on a windmill fell and struck him on the head crushing the skull and rendering him unconscious from the effects of the blow, and for several days the injured man lingered until death came to his relief. The body arrived last evening in this city and the funeral services were held at noon at the St. Paul's Evangelical church, conducted by Rev. J. H. Steger. The two nephews of the dead man, John G. Lohnes and George Lohnes were here yesterday making arrangements for the funeral services and assisting in the last sad services to the unfortunate man. The deceased was a resident of Plattsmouth for several years and was at one time a member of the police force here in years gone by and his two sons are buried at Oak Hill cemetery, where the body of the father was laid to rest. He was also a brother of John Lohnes, sr., residing near Cedar Creek, who was unable to attend the funeral owing to the illness of Mrs. Lohnes and the cold weather that his age would not permit him to defy and drive from his home to this city. Jacob Lohnes was a man of sixty years of age.

Mrs. Lohnes Quite Ill.

From Tuesday's Daily. Mrs. John Lohnes, sr., has for the past few weeks been quite ill at her home west of this city, in Eight Mile Grove precinct, having suffered from the grippe, as well as a complication that has kept her in bed the greater part of the time and her condition has caused a great deal of worry to the members of her family.

Do not fail to visit the Auction Sale at Fanger's Department Store. Everything in the store goes.

## MIKE TRITSCH FILES FOR COUNTY TREASURER

From Tuesday's Daily. Yesterday afternoon Mike Tritsch, present deputy county treasurer, filed in the office of the county clerk his intention to seek the democratic nomination for county treasurer at the primaries on April 18th. Mr. Tritsch is just finishing up a four-year term as deputy in the office under Treasurer W. K. Fox, and has proven a good public servant, as he is an expert in bookkeeping and is always at his post of duty in the office from early to late. This office seems to be quite attractive to the candidates and filings have been made on both party tickets for the position. Arthur Baker of Murray having entered the list as a candidate for the republican nomination. With the early primaries this year the crop of candidates should get out early in the running, as the time will be short for them to get before the public eye and seek the favor of the voters of the county.

## THE ICE HARVEST IS NOW RUNNING AT FULL BLAST

From Wednesday's Daily.

The ice harvest in this community is now on in full blast and the frozen chunks of the river water are being hauled in for storage in the various private ice houses, as well as in those which will supply the wants of the private consumers during the summer months. A portion of the ice is being cut from the Missouri river, east of the Burlington depot, while J. H. McMaken & Son are starting in to harvest their crop from the Platte river chutes north of the pump house, which will be stored in their Washington avenue ice house. The ice all seems to be first class and of a good thickness, but little sand is found in the fields where the ice is being cut. The work will furnish employment for quite a number of men for the next few days until the storehouses of the city are filled up.

## OBSERVE THE QUARANTINE RULES IN THE CITY

From Wednesday's Daily.

There has been some complaint made as to the observance in the rules of the cases of quarantine where contagious diseases exist in this city, and it has occasioned considerable annoyance to the officials to compel the enforcement of the rules laid down by the board of health. Every citizen should do their utmost to see that the rules of the board covering such cases are observed as far as possible as a safeguard to the public and to aid the city officials in seeing that the regulations for the welfare of the community are observed in every way possible. While the cases are not at all dangerous, it makes it much easier to handle if everyone interested and who may be subject to the quarantine regulations will do their utmost to see that they are lived up to they will do a great deal toward helping out in the effort to keep the general public from undue exposure to the maladies that are so prevalent at this season of the year.

Herman Hough Has Pneumonia.

From Wednesday's Daily. Herman Hough, the carrier on rural route No. 1, who was taken sick Monday morning, has developed a case of pneumonia and is kept at home under the best of care and is showing a little improvement, but as yet has not reached the crisis of the malady. Ralph Rich of Weeping Water, a brother of Mr. Hough, is here and is looking after the work on the route.

Only a few more days remain for you to secure the many bargains at the Fanger Store at auction. The sale will close Saturday evening, January 22. You still have a chance. Come in now.

Read the want ads in the Journal.

## DEMOCRATIC BANQUET THURSDAY EVE, FEBRUARY 10

All Arrangements Are Complete and Attorney General Willis E. Reed Will Be the Principal Speaker.

The committee on arrangements of the democratic get-together banquet, which will be held in this city on Thursday evening, February 10th, have completed the final details as to the time and the committee on speakers have also secured Willis E. Reed, attorney general of Nebraska, as the principal speaker of the evening, and this will prove an exceptional treat to the members of the party, as Mr. Reed is one of the leading democrats of the state and ranks high as an orator among the attorneys at the bar, and his distinguished services to the party in the past as a worker has won him great esteem among the greater part of the members of the party throughout the state. There will be several other speakers of note present to take part in the meeting and give the benefit of their advice to the Cass county democrats.

The democrats of the county are all invited to be present on this occasion and they will find the most cordial welcome awaiting them here. There will be no formalities to the occasion, but everything will be strictly democratic in every way and a real old-time love feast enjoyed. The democrats in the county are especially urged to be present to take part in the meeting and a large number have already signified their intention of being present to take part in the banquet.

In order to bring the matter to the minds of the residents of the county a circular letter has been sent out to the members of the party in the county, but if they have missed receiving their letter they will understand that a cordial invitation is extended to every democrat to be present.

## FAREWELL FOR MRS. V. ZUCKER AT THE EGENBERGER HOME

Yesterday afternoon the handsome home of Mrs. Fred G. Egenberger was the scene of a most pleasant gathering of the members of the Kensington club and a number of invited friends at a farewell given in honor of Mrs. V. Zucker, who is soon to leave the city to make their home elsewhere, and the friends took the fullest advantage of the occasion to pass a few hours with this estimable lady whom they are soon to be forced to part with.

During the afternoon the ladies passed the time most pleasantly in sewing and enjoying a social visit with each other, as well as the pleasure of listening to several very pleasing instrumental numbers which were given by Mrs. Charles Petersen, jr., and a number of pleasing features were enjoyed that added much to the delights of the afternoon.

As a token of the feeling of affection in which Mrs. Zucker has been held by the ladies of the club, Mrs. Val Burkle, in a few brief and appropriate remarks, presented the guest of honor with a set of solid silver teaspoons, which the club gave her as a remembrance of the many pleasant and happy occasions when they had been together, and with the wish that continued happiness and success might follow their friend wherever she might make her home.

At a suitable hour the hostess, assisted by her daughter, Miss Helen Egenberger, served a most dainty and tempting three-course luncheon, which was very much enjoyed by all. The dining table was very prettily arranged with a centerpiece of ferns, jonquills and smilax, making a very attractive touch to the beauty of the dining room.

Those who were present as guests of the hostess and the club on this occasion were: Mrs. W. E. Rosencrans, Mrs. Charles Peterson, jr., Mrs. C. A. Rosencrans, Mrs. John Bauer, sr., Mrs. Louis Egenberger, jr., Mrs. Gus Petersen of Tilden, Neb., Mrs. Joseph Droegge and Mrs. A. H. Weckmach.