

# The Plattsmouth Journal.

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## PANDEMONIUM REIGNED IN OMAHA LAST NIGHT—AN ORGY OF BLOOD AND FIRE

PARTICIPATED IN BY FRENZIED THOUSANDS AS AVENGERS STORM COURT HOUSE FOR NEGRO ASSAILANT OF GIRL.

WITNESSED BY MANY PLATTSMOUTH PEOPLE

Who Were in the City—Court House Damaged by Fire—A Number Injured and One Killed—Mayor Smith in Hands of Mob—Negro Lynched.

Pandemonium reigned in Omaha yesterday afternoon and into the wee small hours of this morning as it has doubtless never held sway before in the history of the Nebraska metropolis. A Journal representative was in the city and after witnessing the orgy of blood and fire can say that the celebrated race riots at Springfield, Illinois, in 1908, of which we are familiar, were as child's play, compared with the thousands who stood by urging the howling avengers on as they stormed the court house with bullet and flame in the efforts to secure William Brown, the negro who had been identified as the assailant of Agnes Loebeck, a young girl of the city who was brutally assaulted a few nights ago. At least one white man was killed, scores were shot or beaten and store fronts gave way before members of the infuriated mob in search of weapons, automobiles and patrol wagons were burned and the imposing Douglas county court house was gutted by incendiary fire kindled by the mob as a demonstration against the efforts of the police to shield the negro from lynching.

And in the end the negro, nearly dead of fright, was dragged from his cell, his body stripped and slashed with knives, after which he was hanged to a pole and no more had the nude body been lifted above the crowd than it was pierced by innumerable bullet holes.

Mayor Smith also suffered assault by the mob and is in a precarious condition as a result, one report received here this morning stating that he had since died. And if not, he came powerfully near meeting death last night, when, with the noose about his neck and his breath coming in short gasps, some more sane member of the mob cut the offending rope and he was saved.

The demonstration is however nothing more than an expression of Omaha people against the corrupt civic administration, of which the Omaha police force has held the lead for months past. Some twenty odd brutal assaults on women of the city have occurred within the past two months, with only two of the guilty ones being apprehended. And only recently one of them, a negro, drew a sentence of less than sixty days for his heinous crime. Little wonder then that people rose up to avenge the crime wave that has been sweeping over the city—due in part at least to the fact that more than fifteen negro assailants were never apprehended.

The mob began congregating at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon and all through the remainder of the afternoon and early evening continued to grow. There was evident lack of leadership however and not a great deal was accomplished until under cover of darkness individuals became possessed of boldness and forced to the front.

In the interior of the courthouse, the police force turned streams of water from the fire hose into the crowd which only further infuriated them and it was shortly after this occurred that the large windows in the building began to crash as they were struck by missiles in the hands of the angry crowd.

Later in the evening gasoline and bundles of paper were passed into the building by people congregated on the outside and a large bonfire was soon blazing in the center of the rotunda. Despite the fireproof construction of the courthouse, the woodwork throughout the building caught fire and flames swept from the broken windows of all floors. An effort of the fire department to put out the fire was frustrated when the fire hose was nicked in a hundred places by pocket knives in the hands of the assemblage. And it soon became apparent that no agency could be brought to bear to prevent the continued destruction, other than that of satisfying the demands of the mob for the brutal rapist.

Finally the heat and smoke became so intense in the corridors of the jail that the police were forced to vacate, taking the women prisoners with them to a place of safety and releasing the men onto the roof of the building. No sooner had they been given their liberty than fellow prisoners of the negro forced him

## MAYOR SMITH, OMAHA, IS RECOVERING

Chief Executive of Metropolis Recovered Consciousness This Morning It is Said.

Advices from Omaha late this afternoon indicate that the city is recovering from the reign of bloodshed and rioting that raged there yesterday. Mayor Ed P. Smith, who was strung up by the infuriated mob after his attempt to prevent the capture of Will Brown, the negro rapist, has recovered consciousness and it is now thought that he will recover the effects of his near hanging. Soldiers of the regular army from Fort Crook and Fort Omaha are patrolling the streets of the metropolis and machine guns have been mounted at intersections to prevent a further outbreak on the part of the citizens. Feeling against the negroes is still intense and only the most drastic steps have kept down the resumption of the race riot. The city will remain under martial law until quiet has been restored. The \$2,000,000 court house has been almost completely gutted by the fires started by the mob seeking for Brown and the damage will run into several hundred thousand dollars.

Homecoming celebration, Oct. 4.

## RECEIVES VERY PLEASANT NEWS

From Thursday's Daily. Mr. and Mrs. George Lamphere of this city have received some very pleasing news in a letter from their son George, informing them that his service in the United States navy is terminated and that he will soon be back in the old home to visit the parents and brothers and sisters. George is at present serving on the U. S. S. Vermont, which is stationed at the Mare island navy yard at San Francisco for repairs and he has been informed that he will be sent on Friday to Denver where he will be paid off and receive his honorable discharge for his service during the war. George has been in service two years and had a great experience during the war on the high seas and it is needless to say that he is mighty glad to be able to return home. He expects to reach this city about the first of October and will remain here for some time before deciding upon a permanent location. Mr. and Mrs. Lamphere had three of their sons in the service of their country and with the arrival of George the last of the brothers will have terminated their service and the parents feel very grateful that the ordeal of war has spared the boys to them.

## MEETING OF W. C. T. U. ANNOUNCED

The Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting to be Held at Weeping Water on Thursday, October 2nd.

From Thursday's Daily. The Cass county Woman's Christian Temperance Union will hold their twenty-eighth annual meeting at Weeping Water on Thursday, October 2nd at the Congregational church in that city and at which time a most interesting program will be given by the members of the deierent unions of the county.

The local unions of Plattsmouth, Weeping Water, Eagle, Louisville, Nehawka, and Union will be represented at the meeting. The county officers consisting of Mrs. M. A. Cross, president; Mrs. Ella Wiles, vice-president; Mrs. Mary S. Harmon, secretary; Mrs. Irene McFall, treasurer, will present their reports at this meeting covering the work of the organization for the past year and a large attendance of the members of the organization is desired.

The program for the meeting is as follows:

Morning Session, 9:30 A. M.  
Music.  
Scripture Reading—Mrs. Oella Kirkpatrick.  
Prayer—Congregational Pastor.  
Greeting—Mrs. Dr. Reed.  
Response—Mrs. Ella Wiles.  
Roll Call of County Officers and Delegates. (Delegates standing.)  
Appointment of committee on resolutions, nominating.  
Reports of county officers, local unions, nominating committee.  
Election of officers.  
Appointment of delegates to state convention.  
Noon-tide prayer.  
Afternoon Session 1:30 P. M.  
Music.  
Prayer—Mrs. A. Z. Bener.  
Scripture Lesson—Mrs. Cora Thomas.  
Jubilee fund report—Mrs. Dr. Kruse.  
"The Cigarette Curse and Its Remedy"—Mrs. Mamie Claffin.  
"What Prohibition Has Accomplished in Nebraska"—Mr. A. A. Hyers.  
Question Box.  
Report of resolution committee.  
Music.  
Benediction—Rev. Haskins.

## DEPARTS FOR MISSOURI.

From Friday's Daily. Last evening M. S. Briggs, of the Journal accompanied by Allen Land and Martin Nelson departed over the Missouri Pacific for Missouri where they will spend a few days looking over the land in the vicinity of Windsor, Missouri. This place is in the southern portion of that state and is a very fertile portion of the "show me" state. Mr. Briggs already has a very fine farm in that section of the state and the other gentlemen will look the situation over with a view of locating there.

## THE PARADE PROMISES TO BE A FEATURE

OF HOMECOMING ENTERTAINMENT WELL WORTH SEEING—500 SOLDIERS.

LINE OF MARCH TO BE SHORT

But Will Give Relatives and Friends Opportunity to View Doughboys and Gobs.

From Thursday's Daily. The homecoming celebration being held primarily for Cass county service men, it is not the intent of the committee to impose upon them the task of taking part in a long drawn-out parade. However the friends of ex-service men would be pleased to see them in a short, snappy line of march, extending over some half dozen city blocks—and we believe the boys will not disappoint them. The time elapsing between "Fall in" and "Fall out" commands will be no longer than that usually required to obtain a proper "Right dress" under a crabby shave-tail in one of the cantonments.

The parade committee of the homecoming celebration is busy getting the plans arranged for making the parade on the big day one of the finest of its kind ever seen in the city, and they will leave nothing undone to make it a grand success as far as lays within their power.

The committee in its work is dependent largely upon the hearty cooperation of all the service men of the county, who they cordially invite to participate in the short, snappy parade and to appear in the uniforms they have worn so gallantly during the late war.

With the proper turnout of the service men the parade can be made one of the greatest ever seen in this county for many years. It is expected to form the parade in column of squads and to move through the business section of the city shortly after the noon hour.

The expected appearance of the ex-soldiers, sailors and Red Cross nurses has created a great interest among the citizens of the community, who have set aside this day to pay honor to the returned service men and women, and they are eager to greet them as an organization.

The use of the uniform will also facilitate the work of the other committees in providing the admission to the different attractions and entertainments and to the big dinner as everything will be free to the service men of any branch of Uncle Sam's service and the uniform is the ticket for the day.

## HUGE PLATFORM FOR THE DANCERS

Floor 70x70 Will be Erected at Intersection of Main and Fourth Streets.

From Thursday's Daily. Lovers of dancing will have opportunity to trip the light fantastic to their heart's desire on homecoming day. The committee has arranged for the erection of a huge platform 70x70, to occupy the intersection of Main and Fourth streets and extend clear over the sidewalks. A sixteen piece orchestra, assisted by singing entertainers will have a place on the center of the platform, surrounded by the dancers. All ex-service men will be allowed to dance absolutely free, while a minimum charge will be collected from others in order to keep the large floor from being constantly crowded beyond capacity as would be the case if everyone were permitted to dance free of charge.

## POLAND CHINA PIGS.

Pure bred Poland China boar pigs for sale. C. L. Mayabb, Plattsmouth, Neb.

## HEAVY RAIN STORM VISITS THIS SECTION

MAIN STREET TURNED INTO A ROARING RIVER SATURDAY EVENING.

FLOOD IN CITY WAS AVERTED

Only by Dished Arrangement of Main Street Pavement—Terrific Downpour.

From Monday's Daily. Commencing Saturday night at 8 o'clock with a slight drizzle, a rain storm that was one of the heaviest in this locality for many months visited Plattsmouth and vicinity. The storm grew in intensity until about 11 o'clock when the rain fell for almost two hours in heavy torrents. As the surface water from the large areas drained by the creeks along Chicago and Washington avenue, swept down into the creeks these dried up streams became raging torrents that swept on toward the main portion of the city and reaching the storm sewers completely filled these outlets and the surplus volume of water overflowed into the streets and avenues. At Washington avenue he flood swept from just above the O. K. Garage across to the German Home and then added its force to the body of water sweeping down the avenue. As the stream swept into Sixth street it lapped over the curbing on the east side of the intersection at Vine and Sixth streets and left in its wake much mud and debris. The water threatened for a short time to do some damage to the Kroehler Brothers store but the work of Louis Kroehler in blocking up the doors at the rear of the store checked the entry of the water. It overflowed the curb at the Sixth and Main street corner for a short time and automobiles parked in the center of Main street were almost carried away by the force of the stream which was augmented by the flood water coming down from South Sixth street and Chicago avenue.

On Chicago avenue the water was quite deep, but did little damage although the cellar in the residence of John Kinser was filled by the water and it added its stream to the large volume flowing down Main street. A large number of autos which had been left in the center of the streets were damaged somewhat by the flood sweeping into the body of the cars and putting the ignition systems out of commission and made it necessary for a number of persons from the country districts remaining in the city. The flood water at the Burlington shops did some damage in the freight car repair department by washing out a small section of track but nothing of a very serious nature was caused by the flood there.

West of the city the rain was equally heavy and the Four Mile Creek was swollen and overflowed in a number of places making travel very dangerous over the bridges. It is fortunate that the storm did as little damage as it did as the rain came down in torrents and but for the fact that the streets had been prepared to carry a large volume of water a serious flood would have resulted.

## VISITS UNCLE HERE.

John Blackhurst of Lincoln was a visitor over Sunday in his city at the home of his uncle, Attorney D. O. Dwyer and family, prior to his departure for Montana where he will prove up on his homestead that he has in that state. Mr. Blackhurst was for a short time a resident of this city where he studied law in the office of his uncle but later laid aside his studies to enter the army and was a member of the 5th engineers and served with them in France. On his return to the United States he was placed in the employ of the state engineer of Nebraska and has been making some surveys on the state roads. Mr. Blackhurst has filed on a homestead under the soldiers land act and will remain in Montana until the same is proven up and turned over to him.

## AUTOS HAVE SMALL SMASH UP

From Thursday's Daily. Late yesterday afternoon a small automobile wreck occurred on Washington avenue just about a block west of the O. K. Garage when the Ford car of Floyd Richardson bumped into the car of W. H. Seybert, which was standing in the avenue near the Ninth street crossing. From what can be learned of the mix up it seems that both cars were traveling west on the avenue and had passed the garage when the car of Mr. Seybert stopped suddenly to allow a companion of Mr. Seybert to alight at the Ninth street crossing and the distance being very slight between the cars it was impossible for Mr. Richardson to check the speed of his car enough to prevent the collision between the two machines. The Ford of Mr. Richardson had the headlights smashed and the radiator badly jimmied up as the result of the mix up while the heavier car of Mr. Seybert did not suffer any great damage aside from having the tail light smashed. Mr. Richardson states that the car of Mr. Seybert was stopped very suddenly without any warning and made it impossible to avoid the mix up as the Seybert car did not swing over to the curb but was stopped in the center of the avenue along the main line of the traffic.

## HORACE RUFFNER A VISITOR HERE

Spends Sunday in the City with Old Time Friends After Service Overseas with A. E. F.

From Monday's Daily. Yesterday morning Horace B. Ruffner, a former Plattsmouth boy, and son of Mr. P. E. Ruffner, of Omaha, came down to spend the day visiting here with his old time friends. Mr. Ruffner was in the ordnance department of the army and was for several months with the army of occupation being detailed to assist in the care and supplying of the ordnance property of the American forces along the Rhine. Mr. Ruffner was sent to France in the summer of 1918 and during his stay there has had a varied experience and since the signing of the armistice has been able to see a great deal of the country of the old world having traveled quite extensively in France, Germany and Belgium. The many friends of Mr. Ruffner were very much pleased to see him once more and to know that he had returned safe and sound from his sojourn overseas.

## ARRIVAL OF A FINE SON.

From Monday's Daily. The home of Captain and Mrs. Harrison Gayer, south of the city in the Rock Bluff locality has been made very happy by the advent of a fine son and heir who on his arrival tipped the scales at nine pounds and it is needless to say that the occasion has been one of much pleasure to the parents. The mother and little one are doing nicely and the captain is very proud of the new recruit that has been added to his company.

Read the Journal for all the news.



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