

The Plattsmouth Journal

VOL. NO. XLIV

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1928.

NO. 46

Heaviest Storm of the Season Sweeps City

Over Three Inches of Rain, Heavy Wind and Some Hail Make Saturday Evening Dangerous.

From Monday's Daily—
Following three days of the most intense heat when the mercury had stood at from 97 to 102 for the greater part of the time, a terrific series of storms swept this section from 3:30 to 7 o'clock Saturday afternoon and evening and which threatened for a time a great deal of property damage through the rushing waters, the high wind that drove the rain at terrific force and the hail that fell in scattered areas over this section of the county.

The rainfall was considerably over three inches and with the great volume of water rushing down from the widely drained territory that is tributary to this city, swept down on through the main part of the city without doing serious damage and the greater part being carried nicely by the storm sewers that were filled to their capacity and the streets taking the overflow without any serious property damage, the only sufferers being the careless auto owners who had left their cars on the street and consequently suffering a badly soaked car.

The first storm broke shortly after 3 o'clock and was an intense rain that lasted but a short time and brought with it a rapid fall in the temperature in this part of the state. The second storm came at 4:30 and was even more intense than the first and in a few moments of the rain water was pouring down from the hills to flow along the streets in the lowlands and this caused a rapid rise of water in the business section where the storm sewers on North Sixth street carried the large volume of water without trouble. The continuation of the rain caused the overflow of the sewer and creek on Chicago avenue brought a great volume of water on down the avenue to the main section and which was so large that it soon had the sewers overflowed and was racing down the street and making the appearance of a small river.

Several of the members of the fire department, Dr. O. Sandin, chief, Ed Fricke, Chief of Police Johnson, George Ebersole, Sam Givinter and Henry Jasper were at the scene of the overflow and their work in keeping the sewers open and free of debris aided greatly in carrying off the water.

With the rushing waters filling the streets, the residents were startled when the huge masses of dark purple and green clouds from the west massed themselves in the sky and moved rapidly in the direction of the city, the first touch of the storm being an intense wind that reached cyclonic proportions and followed by another intense rain.

The high wind did much damage to the trees, the full fury of the wind ripping up a number by the roots and breaking other large trees off as if they were straws while at the Burlington shops a large part of the roof of the building occupied by the offices of Superintendent William Baird, was torn off and which was a combination of the wind and the effects of a lightning bolt. Telephone and electric light wires were blown down and hanging added danger to the forces of the storm. At the E. H. Wescott home a live wire fell on the roof of the house and threatened to cause serious damage until the fire department arrived and removed the threat of the wire. A broken wire at the gas plant of the Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Co., also caused a threatened fire that was extinguished, however, without serious loss to the plant.

While the last storm was at its full fury the waters from the area north and west of the city, overflowing the creek on Washington avenue, commenced to move down on the main section of the city and for a half hour was a threat of a small flood as the water rose steadily and along North Sixth street soon had the level of the water to the curb line and on the west portion of the city the rushing waters were soon over the curb and onto the walk, also not getting into any of the buildings fortunately.

The terrific rain caused the greatest of confusion to the hundreds of tourists passing through the city over the King of Trails highway and the streets on the hillsides were parked with cars for many blocks, as members of the fire department directed the traffic out of the danger zone. Travelers caught in the storm soon filled the hotels of the city as communication with other points were down and road conditions were down and which led the larger part of the travelers to remain here until morning rather than trust to the dangers of the uncertain roads. The Interstate bus from Falls City to Omaha arrived here in the midst of the storm and was held here until late in the evening owing to the heavy overflow along the roads to the north, while the DeLuxe bus line of the Gilinsky was also crippled by the storm. Mr. Gilinsky being caught between this city and La Platte by

the rain and delayed for several hours. The Cotner bus to Omaha was also delayed by the storm for a period of over an hour and a half by the rain before it could get through to Omaha.

When the rain ceased at 8 o'clock the task of the telephone and light companies was commenced in an effort to check up the damage and the storm found some 300 telephones affected by the storm and which meant that the company must do over a great deal of work that they had just completed to repair the lines damaged by the storm of the morning of July 4th. Several of the power lines over the city were also down and caused the force of the Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Co., to put in the night repairing their lines, but the service in general, baschall grounds and grove on the river front, located at the south end of the Platte river bridge at the cement metropolis.

Death of Mrs. George E. Perry Occurs Sunday

Old Time Resident of This City and Vicinity Hears the Last Call on Sunday Morning.

From Monday's Daily—
The death of Mrs. Catherine Genette Perry, wife of George E. Perry, of this city, occurred Sunday morning at 9:30 at the home of her niece, Mrs. Claude Mayab, where she has been making her home for some time, following an illness of some duration.

Mrs. Perry has suffered from the effects of a stroke for the past two years and her condition has gradually grown worse until her death, which occurred yesterday morning and the condition of the patient gave but little hope to the members of the family for her recovery.

The deceased lady was nearing her seventy-seventh birthday and came here when quite young with her parents from the state of Ohio, where the family were early settlers and where Mrs. Perry was born. The family have resided in this section for many years and Mrs. Perry has made many friends in these years who will regret to learn of the death of this highly esteemed lady and will share with the members of the family the sorrow that her passing has occasioned.

LARGE BARN DESTROYED

When the rain and electric storm Saturday afternoon struck the vicinity of west of Mynard, lightning struck the large frame barn at the farm of Jake Hild, destroying the structure.

The storm found Mr. Hild and his son, Arthur, and the hired man, named Hatcliff, some distance from the location of the barn and while they were endeavoring to get their car on to the house they saw the intense lightning and a few moments later noticed smoke rolling from the barn. They were able to reach the barn in time to get several horses and colts out of the barn and to a point of safety as the blaze spread rapidly and soon had the entire building wrapped in flames.

The barn was a 50x50 frame structure and at the time of the fire had some three tons of hay in the barn as well as the horses and colts, and the hay as well as the barn was completely wiped out by the fire.

Only the fact that Mr. Hild and his son and the hired man were able to reach the barn just the moment they did, saved the horses from being burned up in the fire.

The fire attracted the attention of the residents near the Hild farm and they came and assisted in preventing other farm buildings from catching fire.

From Monday's Daily—
Miss Claire Bookmeyer of this city is at the Immanuel hospital at Omaha where she was operated on Thursday for a very serious attack of bladder trouble and the patient is reported as doing very nicely and showing a pleasing progress toward recovery from her illness. The Bookmeyer family has had its full share of sickness in the last few weeks as Miss Mary Bookmeyer has just returned home from the hospital where she was operated on and is now recuperating nicely from the effects of the ordeal and well on the highway to complete recovery.

From Tuesday's Daily—
Last evening William Wehrlein, residing east of Murray and Glen Boedeker, well known banker of Murray, shipped several cars of stock from this city to Chicago via the Burlington, the stock being trucked to this city and loaded on the cars at the local loading yards and sent to the market at the windy city. The stock was large and fine and showed the excellent feeding that they have had and were in great shape for the market.

County Legion Picnic at Louisville Sunday

Centrally Located for All Posts—An Abundance of Shade, Water and Other Conveniences

Next Sunday, July 15th, will witness a great gathering of Legionnaires from all over the county, the occasion being the first annual Cass county American Legion picnic.

The site selected for holding the festivities is at the Louisville tourist park, baschall grounds and grove on the river front, located at the south end of the Platte river bridge at the cement metropolis.

Invitations have been sent to every Legion member in the county and a good many ex-service men who are not Legionnaires.

The picnic dinner is scheduled to take place at 12:30 and all are urged to come not later than then. Some will be on the grounds the greater part of the forenoon as well.

Individual families and groups will bring their own picnic lunch, as no edibles will be available at the site of the picnic. There will, however, be served free to young and old throughout the day, ice cold lemonade contributed by the Louisville Commercial club, and for the kiddies, the Legion posts have gone together in the purchase of ice cream cones and pop.

Following the picnic dinner, a program of sports and entertainment will be provided, with small prizes contributed by Legionnaire business men in the different towns, going to winners of the contests.

Those who desire to see the new \$2,000,000 cement plant now in process of construction and located nearby, will be given every opportunity of doing so with employees of the Ash Grove Lime & Portland Cement company on hand to show them about.

The completed work to date includes a large machine shop and numerous other buildings, while large storage silos and a 250-foot smoke stack are being rushed to completion.

Only one thing can mar the success of this great picnic and that is rain, in which event the picnic will be postponed to one week later at the same place, the notices say.

Plattsmouth post will furnish a large attendance at the picnic. The selection of Louisville as the site was pleasing to Legionnaires here, and should be equally so to all posts in the county, being located about equidistant from Greenwood, Elmwood, Nehawka and Plattsmouth, the towns in which Legion posts are located, outside of Louisville.

Another entertaining feature will be band music by the Louisville Municipal band and the Greenwood Junior band. The Louisville post will clean up the grounds (before and afterwards) as well as provide tags for all Legionnaire children, which will be their ticket of admittance to the ice cream and pop line.

If there is any ex-service man in the county who has been overlooked in the sending out of postal card notices, he is cordially invited and urged to attend, regardless of whether or not he belongs to the Legion.

From Monday's Daily—
The reports received here from sections west and southwest of this city state that crops have suffered a great deal from the effects of the storms of Saturday afternoon and night. A great deal of damage to the corn from both wind and hail is reported, but the hail was not over a large area of the territory and the greater part of the damage has been from the wind that laid great deal of the corn flat, blew other sections of the corn badly and caused leaves of the corn to be shredded by the wind. No definite estimate of the extent of the loss to the crop is available at this time as all of the farmers have not fully checked over their losses. West and north of Murray there is a great deal of corn badly damaged, reports from the Dettel farm indicating that a great deal of damage was done by the hail there and which struck the corn that was getting in good shape for the summer, making a very heavy loss, while other farms did not suffer as heavy from the effects of the storm.

From Tuesday's Daily—
We wish to thank our friends for their many words of sympathy and acts of kindness during the last illness and at the time of the death of our loved mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Forbes, also to those who sent the beautiful flowers and assisted in the funeral services. These kindnesses will always be remembered.—The Children.

OPERATING CHICKEN FARM

The many friends of E. C. Hill former resident here and also a former storekeeper of the Burlington at this place, will be interested in knowing that Mr. Hill is engaged in the conduct of a chicken and turkey farm in the vicinity of Bethany, a suburb of Lincoln. Mr. Hill has had great success with his new venture and now has 1,000 little turkeys that will be raised in readiness for the winter market while there are also 800 little chicks that will soon be ready for the market from the Hill farm. Mr. Hill with his son and daughter operate the chicken farm and have been very successful so far in their venture and are thoroughly pleased with the new line of work. Mr. Hill is personally a very fine gentleman and his host of friends here are much pleased at his splendid success in the chosen work that he has taken up. S. S. Gooding, former employe of Mr. Hill here, was a visitor at the Hill home Sunday.

Aged Man Ends Life by Hanging at Omaha Home

John C. Simons, Aged 82 Years, Hangs Self from Rafter in the Garage—Son Finds Body

On Sunday evening at 6 o'clock, John C. Simons, aged 82 years, a resident of Omaha for the past twenty years, ended his life by hanging at the home 6508 Parker street, Omaha, the body being found by his son, D. F. Simons, with whom the aged man made his home, when the son and wife returned to their home at 6:30 p. m. Sunday.

Neighbors of the family had seen the aged man enter the garage about 6 o'clock and a half hour later the son and his wife returned home from an auto ride and on entering the garage the son saw the lifeless body of the father swinging from the rope. Mr. Simons had left the door open and with the son as he entered the garage was Hugo Oberberg, a neighbor.

The cause of the rash act is thought to be despondency over ill health, as the aged man has been very poorly for the past three years and worry over his condition is thought to have caused him to decide to take his life. The man used a clothesline and a step ladder to carry out his desire and his life. He had apparently adjusted the noose around his neck, climbed the ladder, tied the rope to the rafter and then kicked the ladder from under him.

The body was taken to the Haynes funeral home, where it was held in charge of the coroner until after the inquest.

The relatives in Omaha notified the son, William Simons, of this city, of the tragedy and he drove to Omaha and remained with the members of the family there while the matter of the inquest and funeral were being arranged.

The aged man was married several times, leaving the last wife, from whom he was separated, and three sons by a previous marriage, D. F. Simons and L. M. Simons, of Omaha; William Simons, of Plattsmouth, and one daughter, Mrs. Anna Hultz, who lives in St. Louis.

PAPPIO ON RAMPAGE

The Pappio creek, just south of Fort Crook and east to where it empties into the Missouri river east of La Platte, was a great raging river Saturday night when the waters pouring into the stream along its course through Douglas and Sarpy counties brought the creek to flood stage and overflowed the lowlands on either side of the creek, laying waste many acres of the growing corn crop. The bridge over the Pappio near Fort Crook was overflowed and water raced over the road to the south of the bridge in a torrent for the entire night. Great piles of logs, brush and debris of all kinds was lodged against the bridge as well as the Missouri Pacific bridge east of the highway bridge. A force of roadmen were on duty at the auto bridge all night and all day and last evening had the debris well taken care of and the creek was again in its banks, altho the water was still standing in the fields along the creek banks.

RAIN STOPS GAME

The games in the Interstate league were all called off Sunday owing to the heavy rains of Saturday afternoon and evening in this section where the league teams are all located. The diamond here was a great lake Saturday night and heavy rains at all of the towns in the league decided the president to call off the entire series of games for the week This leaves the Plattsmouth team with two postponed games to be played off, that with the North Omaha Athletic club and the Knights of Columbus teams. The Missouri Valley team is scheduled to appear here the coming Sunday if the weather will permit.

Free Bridge Over the Platte Now Realized

King of Trails Bridge Turned to the Traveling Public Free Last Night at 6 O'Clock.

From Wednesday's Daily—
The dream and desire of the residents of this section of Nebraska for a free bridge over the Platte river at this point was realized last night when the toll keepers at 6 o'clock took the last tolls on the bridge and with the passing of the hour the bridge became free to the traveling public, the event making the disappearance of the last toll bridge in the state.

This splendid structure of concrete and steel, one of the best of its type in the state and which has been followed in design by many of the late bridges erected in the state, was first proposed in the late fall of 1924, but the actual steps toward its erection was taken up in March 1925, when the King of Trails Bridge Co., was formed and incorporated, composed of Plattsmouth and Omaha business men and capitalists and the preliminary work leading to the actual construction of the bridge launched.

The company selected as their officers, H. A. Schneider, Plattsmouth, president; J. B. Root, Omaha, vice-president; Searl S. Davis, Plattsmouth, secretary; Frank M. Bestor, Plattsmouth, treasurer; W. B. Cheek and T. C. Byrne, Omaha, and Arthur Troop, Plattsmouth, as the directors. The work on the bridge was rushed and day by day the spans grew more numerous and soon the steel work was started and in a few brief months the completed structure stood ready to be used by the traveling public and in October, 1925, the bridge was opened to the public.

The bridge was erected under the provisions of the state law that permitted the erection of a bridge by private capital and its purchase later by the state and the counties. This provision being made a part of the act of incorporation of the King of Trails Bridge Co., with the announced desire of ultimately having the bridge a free structure.

During a short period the bridge was operated as a private bridge, but in the early part of 1926 the structure was purchased by the state of Nebraska and the counties of Cass and Sarpy for the price of \$125,000, the state paying their half of the purchase price at once and the two counties being allowed to collect toll for their half of the structure, the bridge company turning over to the county the amount that had been collected during their operation of the bridge to hasten the ultimate making of a free structure.

Since the opening of the bridge the rates have been fifteen cents per auto and twenty-five cents for trucks and busses, and from this small toll Nebraska and the counties of Cass and Sarpy for the price of \$170,000, the state paying their half of the purchase price at once and the two counties being allowed to collect toll for their half of the structure, the bridge company turning over to the county the amount that had been collected during their operation of the bridge to hasten the ultimate making of a free structure.

The realization of the free bridge is a very pleasant event for all the residents of this part of the state and those who were responsible for the securing of the bridge by their initiative and public spirit in advancing the funds for the erection of the bridge are deserving of the commendation of the people of the southeastern part of the state.

TAKES OVER BALL TEAM

From Tuesday's Daily—
The Missouri Valley team of the Interstate league has withdrawn from the league, announcement received here last evening by the local management states and the franchise that has been held in the Iowa city has been transferred to the Julien-Essex team of Omaha, who will play out the remaining part of the schedule. The new team has been one of the best in Omaha and will give added interest to the loop race that has been very close among the several of the teams including the Plattsmouth team.

CLUB HAS MEETING

"Wednesday's Willing Workers," sewing club under the leadership of Miss Esther Albert met at the home of Miss Leola Heil, this being the 4th meeting to be held.

A short business meeting was held and a fee of five cents will be charged each month. As the sewing bags were completed the members began to work on clothespin bags. The sewing bags were very successful and it is hoped to make the clothespin bags on the sewing machine, and that they will be just as successful. The next meeting is July 11th.

SUIT ON FORECLOSURE FILED

From Tuesday's Daily—
This morning in the office of the clerk of the district court an action was filed in which the Travelers Insurance Co., is the plaintiff and A. H. Weichel, et al., the defendants. The action is one in which the plaintiff company seeks to have certain notes and mortgages foreclosed on land in the western portion of the county. The plaintiff company in their petition states that the defendant Weichel entered into a loan in 1919, for the sum of \$10,000, that later the land in question was secured by William Weiner and who secured an extension of the loan and mortgage on which it is now sought to collect. The plaintiff asks that a deficiency judgment may be given them against the defendants as the amount sued for it is claimed will not be covered by the land. William A. Robertson of this city appears as attorney for the plaintiff.

Grand Master of Knights Templar to Visit This City

Special Train of 400 Grand Commandery Officers to Make Stop Here at 5:30 Friday

From Wednesday's Daily—
George W. Vallery, of Denver, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Knights Templar of the United States, with a party of some 400 state commandery officers from Colorado, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, California and other of the western states, will be guests of Plattsmouth for some fifteen minutes on Friday, July 13th at 5:30 p. m.

The party of distinguished Templars will arrive here on two special trains over the Burlington and will make the stop here at this city, the replacement of Mr. Vallery and the other officers of the party will be at the depot on Friday, when the party of Mr. Vallery came west from Ohio to found a home in the great and then little known west.

The train will make the longest special passenger train that has been known, twenty-one cars comprising the train that will arrive at Omaha at 5:30 p. m. The train will have a stop and where the grand commandery officers of Nebraska will have their cars attached to the train. On the way from the west the train consists of sixteen Pullman coaches, three diners and the special lounge car and the baggage cars, establishing a new record in handling of the large special train.

From Omaha east to Chicago the train will be divided into two trains, both of which will stop at Plattsmouth for fifteen minutes and which is a special recognition of the city, the birthplace of the Grand Master.

The party is enroute to Detroit where the grand convolve of the Knights Templar is being held and on their arrival they will be met at that place by the uniformed Knights Templar of Detroit numbering some 15,000.

The Chamber of Commerce and the city is taking the matter up and the visitors will be greeted by representatives of the various civic organizations as an appreciation of the recognition given the city by the stop made at this place, the home of the Nebraska Masonic Home and where the Masonic bodies are very active.

The general public is expected to be present in large numbers at the station to greet the train and having the opportunity of meeting many of the most distinguished members of the Knights Templar in the west who will be on the train as it reaches this city.

UNUSUAL WEATHER

From Tuesday's Daily—
The residents of this city last evening experienced an unusual weather condition that caused not a little apprehension when a sudden very heated period came on about 9:30 to 10 o'clock and which brought fear of cyclone or tornado conditions when the indications pointed very strongly to existing. The earlier part of the evening a pleasant breeze had been blowing and suddenly this died down and the air became hot, almost burning in its intensity and all breeze died down for short periods of some ten minutes and this prevailed for almost half an hour. The heat was very intense and seemed as great as though a person was standing near a heated stove. The strange weather freak passed, however, with out any serious trouble altho it was the source of worry to the residents who had experienced two very serious windstorms in the last week.

MRS. GREBE VERY LOW

From Tuesday's Daily—
Mrs. George Grebe, Sr., is very low at her home on Wintersteen hill and the condition of the aged lady has caused the greatest apprehension to the members of the family here and relatives at distant points have been called to her bedside as the patient's condition has given but little hope of her recovery.

Banker Murray is Happy in Cell After His Arrest

Says Will Plea Guilty and Gladly Take Year's Sentence—Wanted a Year.

Mount, Vernon, Wash., July 9.—After a year of wandering as a fugitive from justice, Thomas L. Murray, 59, former president of the Dunbar State bank, rejoiced in his cell at the county jail this afternoon. He is glad of his capture, which means that he will go back to the community he left as president of the Chamber of Commerce, elder in the Presbyterian church, and civil pillar, as a prisoner in custody of Sheriff Carl Ryder of Nebraska City, who is expected to arrive here in three days.

Aware of Discrepancies. He said he is willing to plead guilty to making excessive loans, and is fully aware of a discrepancy charged to him in the bank accounts reaching 100 thousand dollars. He declared himself willing to take a year in prison for his offense, although conviction, he said, calls for a year's sentence, a thousand dollar fine, or both, but asserted that the discrepancies were due to bad judgment on his part.

"You don't know how happy I am that I was caught, because it means that I will soon see my family again," he declared. "I've got the best son in the world back here. And my wife has been loyal to me all the way through. I know, although I have not heard from her since last July. And there are the daughters, Janet and Mrs. Burton Gorton."

Turns Again to Bible. In his cell this afternoon Murray turned to the Bible, which he admitted he had neglected since his departure from Dunbar, although he had been an occasional church attendant.

He has hopes, he said, that he will be forgiven for what he says are "mistakes" rather than criminal activities.

Had it not been for a tip from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Price, former customers of the Dunbar bank who live here, Murray might never have rejoined his family, he admitted. He had come to obtain a loan of one hundred dollars, and had a round trip ticket to Vancouver, B. C., where he was negotiating for a place as manager of a real estate office.

Was Hard Pressed on Notes. Pride and lack of courage to face friends and citizens who had trusted him started him on his flight a year ago when he left his wife in Denver and fled to Canada, he said. He was aware then that loans on depreciated farm lands were threatening failure to the bank, and he had been hard pressed by Omaha banks to whom he had rediscounted notes, he said.

But bitterly he said that the last straw was knowledge that Burton Gorton, his son-in-law, had left a grain company in Dunbar, had "gone wrong" on the grain market. He had loaned Gorton about 25 thousand dollars on grain which the latter said was in storage, he said, and only later learned the younger man had speculated and lost.

When he told his wife this in Denver, he said, she fainted.

"And now I have learned that Gorton blamed me for everything while I have been away," he said.

Wants to Go West Again.

Although he never expects to regain the place of civic leadership he once held, the former president of the Nebraska State Bankers' association plans to face a new life and afterward to move back to the west with his family.

He hopes that his daughter, Mrs. Gorton, will remain with the family, and said that he will never be able to forgive Gorton.

Murray spoke willingly of his travels, his odd jobs, the times he faced want and lived in cheap lodging houses. He told how his fortune, which during war days was close to 200 thousand dollars, had dwindled to nothing, but said his wife has little but the home.

When he parted from his wife in Denver after an unsuccessful trip to Texas to sell some land for Dunbar persons, he had \$245, he added.

He blamed a competing banker for part of his difficulties, declaring the latter's tactics forced him to make excessive loans to hold his customers.—World-Herald.

STORE IS ROBBED

From Tuesday's Daily—
A message was received here this afternoon at the office of Sheriff Bert Reed, announcing that his presence was wished at Weeping Water as the C. H. Gibson store at that place had been robbed. The message did not state the circumstances of the robbery. The sheriff departed for the scene of the trouble this afternoon and will investigate the matter for Mr. Gibson.

Mrs. Lloyd Sharp was a visitor in Omaha today, going to that city on the early Burlington train and where she will visit with friends.

Journal Want Ads bring results.