

THE PLATTSMOUTH WEEKLY JOURNAL

State Historical Society

BE JUST AND FEAR NOT.

VOL. 15, NO. 20.

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1896.

\$1.00 PER YEAR. IF PAID IN ADVANCE.

MIDNIGHT BLAZE.

Fire in the Weber Building Does Considerable Damage.

A MYSTERY ABOUT THE AFFAIR

Several Theories as to the Cause of the Fire—Damage to the Saloon and Fixtures and Building Amply Covered by Insurance.

A Mysterious Blaze.

At a few minutes after twelve o'clock last Thursday night the ringing of the fire bell called out two of the hose companies and a number of citizens. The interior of the Elkhorn saloon, on upper Main street, operated by J. V. Egenberger, Jr., was discovered to be ablaze. After considerable delay, an entrance to the building was effected, and a line of hose laid through the front door. Soon a stream of water was playing on the fierce flames, and, in the course of an hour, the fire was all out, but not until a large amount of damage had been done, both by the flames and water.

The fire apparently originated on a partition dividing the saloon and bottling works of Snyder & Egenberger. The origin of the fire is a mystery, and several theories are advanced. It was first believed that lightning had struck the building, but a closer investigation dispels this idea. In the bottling works are several large copper kettles, and had lightning performed any of its pranks in the room, these would surely have been the first articles to be struck. The kettles were uninjured and showed no signs of having been struck. The stove did not have any fire in it during the day or night, and the saloon was locked up at about eleven o'clock. It is reported that a gas jet was seen burning in one of the wine rooms a short time before the alarm was sounded.

Today a number of people are inclined to believe that the fire was the result of incendiarism, but the real cause will probably never be definitely known.

The bar fixtures, including the mirror back of the bar, were almost totally ruined and a quantity of liquor and cigars were destroyed. J. V. Egenberger stated this morning that he figured his loss at \$3,000, but this estimate is probably exaggerated by at least \$2,000. The insurance on the saloon fixtures and stock is \$2,500.

Wm. Weber, the owner of the building, estimates his loss at about \$900, and the damage is believed to be fully that much. The plate glass window, costing about \$150, which is the largest in the city, was cracked. Mr. Weber carries a \$1,000 insurance policy on the building, and the Livingston Loan & Building association also hold some insurance on the structure.

Snyder & Egenberger, the owners of the bottling works, are the heaviest losers, as they did not carry any insurance. Their loss is between \$125 and \$200.

Thursday morning Messrs. Snyder & Egenberger received five tanks of carbonated gas from Omaha, each tank having a pressure of 3,000 pounds. These were laying on the floor amidst the flames. Had the heat exploded one of these tanks, the entire building would have been wrecked, and a number of the firemen killed. It was a sort of miracle that an explosion did not occur.

Two Saloons Less.

This city will endeavor to "plug along" with five saloons for the period of one year, commencing today. Messrs. Haas Goos and Geo. Weidmann closed their places of business as saloons last evening. The former will use his bar room as an office for the City hotel, while the latter will operate a billiard room and lunch counter at the old stand. The saloon men have had pretty hard "scratching" the past year, but with two saloons less this year, it will make business in their line considerably better.

April Mortgage Record

The Cass county mortgage record for the month of April, as compiled in the office of Register of Deeds Geo. Hay, is as follows: Farm mortgages—Filed, \$34,282 00; released, \$23,306 15. Town and city mortgages—Filed, \$1,729 60; released, \$9,246 00.

John Group, the Louisville farmer, who reported to the sheriff that one of his horses had been stolen a few days ago, writes that official that he has recovered the animal. No particulars are given as to where the horse was found.

Noble Matt Gering of Cass.

One of the brightest, brainiest and eloquent young men in Nebraska is Hon. Matt Gering of Cass county, and the Democrat is proud to number him among its friends. The sterling and staying qualities of Mr. Gering was never more forcibly brought to the attention of his friends than it was on the floor of the convention last Wednesday afternoon when he entered the fight against an unholy combination and offered one of the best efforts of his life in seconding the nomination of W. D. Oldham for delegate at large.

While Matt has been given the frozen-face by waxed-moustache and bear's-oiled gentry of Omaha, he can rest contented in knowing that it can always depend upon the boys from the Sixth district, and throughout the state, to stand solidly by him when he asks for their support. Matt can never be turned down by this same gang twice if he will only give the "wooly west" sufficient time to turn on its kalsomine.—Kearney Democrat.

The Bishop's Annual Visit.

St. Luke's Episcopal church was crowded to the doors Sunday evening and many were unable to obtain even standing room. The occasion was the annual visit of Rt. Rev. George Worthington, bishop of the diocese of Nebraska.

The class for confirmation this year consisted of seventeen people, several of whom were middle-aged. The services were beautiful and impressive and the bishop's address to the class was both eloquent and instructive and was listened to with profound attention by the large congregation. At the conclusion of the address, Bishop Worthington, in earnest language, eulogized the local pastor, Rev. H. B. Burgess, for his many years of faithful service for the good of his church and congregation. The singing by the especially selected choir was excellent.

New Barn Dedicated.

Nick Halmes, the well-known farmer living about five miles west of town, whose large barn and contents were burned some time ago, has just completed the erection of another structure, finer and larger than the other one. Saturday evening he invited a number of his friends, including many from this city, to come out and properly celebrate the event. A merry time was had dancing in the barn, and excellent refreshments were served. Sunday Mr. Halmes gave a picnic to his friends, and a splendid time is reported.

Fine Fish Ponds.

County Clerk Robertson is the owner of several fine fish ponds out at Louisville, and today he received the information that the state fish commissioner's car would be in that town tomorrow for the purpose of stocking up these ponds with an assortment of game fish. Mr. Robertson purchased the old sand pits up at Louisville, and utilized them for fish ponds, some of them being fifty feet deep, and the water is ice cold down near the bottom. A number of catfish were placed in the ponds about three years ago, and are thriving well.

Some Fine Alfalfa.

County Commissioner J. P. Falter had on exhibition at the county clerk's office today a bunch of alfalfa, of this spring's growth, which he cut from his three-acre patch on his farm this morning. It measured twenty-two inches in length, and was considered by all who saw it to be unusually fine and large for this early in the season. Mr. Falter says that the principal part of raising alfalfa is to plant enough seed to make a firm stand, and a good crop will follow. It makes the best kind of feed for hogs.

Martin Propst of Plattsmouth precinct sowed two and a half acres of alfalfa a year ago this week. He was in Saturday morning and remarked to a JOURNAL reporter that his alfalfa patch now stands fourteen inches high, and has roots that go twenty inches into the earth. It is spreading out, like clover, so that it completely covers the ground. He is delighted with his experiment, and has sown several acres more this spring. Other farmers who sowed alfalfa last year are making similar reports, and the new grass is certain to become popular with all Cass county farmers.

Henry Cooper has received a letter from his son, Bert, who is working in Cripple Creek, Colo., in which he says that his brother-in-law, Ed. Vanasta, who is city attorney of that town, had lost his library in the big fire of last Wednesday.

VERY SAD SUICIDE

Mrs. Coon Vallery Kills Herself at Her Mother's Home.

FIRES A BULLET INTO HER HEAD

Had Been Despondent For Some Time, But Was Apparently In Good Spirits Again—Sad Ending of a Popular Young Woman.

With suicidal intent Mrs. Louise Vallery, wife of Conrad Vallery, Jr., fired a bullet into her temple at 2:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon, while temporarily stopping at the home of her mother, at 701 Elm street. Mrs. Vallery came to town Saturday morning with her husband from the old Vallery farm, four miles west of town, for a short stay while doing some shopping. Mr. Vallery was down in town transacting some business when a messenger brought the news to him of his wife's rash act.

Mrs. Vallery appeared to be in as good health and spirits as usual all day, and walked about her old home place, viewing with apparent pleasure the trees and shrubs so familiar to her. A few minutes after two o'clock in the afternoon she went upstairs, saying she would look at some calomining which her brother, Frank, had been doing. A few minutes later Mrs. Niemann, who was down in the kitchen preparing dinner, heard a loud scream, followed by the report of a pistol and the falling of a body on the floor. The frightened old lady rushed upstairs, and a horrible sight met her view. Stretched out on the floor, writing in her life-blood was the form of her daughter, with a fearful wound in one of her temples, from which the blood was flowing. A messenger was sent at once to procure medical aid. Mrs. Vallery's maiden name was Niemann, and she grew to womanhood in this city. For several years she has been a sufferer from a complaint peculiar to women, and has at times shown signs indicating that her mind was not well balanced.

She was about thirty years of age, and was married in this city about five years ago to Mr. Vallery, and the fruit of this union is two bright little girls.

The sympathy of the entire community goes out to the bereaved relatives of the unfortunate woman.

Funeral of Mrs. Vallery.

As predicted in Saturday evening's JOURNAL, Mrs. Conrad Vallery, Jr., the unfortunate lady who shot herself in the head with a revolver, died from the effects of the wound at about five o'clock that afternoon. The funeral services were held at two o'clock Monday afternoon from the residence of Mrs. Niemann, the mother of the deceased lady. Rev. H. B. Burgess of St. Luke's church officiated, and a large number of sympathizing friends followed the remains to their final resting place at West Oak Hill cemetery.

A Good Horse Race.

At the fair grounds yesterday afternoon quite an exciting horse race was pulled off, and the half-mile track record was smashed. The race was between George Shreve's "Nehawka Girl," "Keystone," and a sorrel horse owned by Bert Crawford. No purse was put up, as the race was merely to test the running qualities of the horses. "Nehawka Girl" proved an easy winner, making the half mile in 51, while "Keystone" came under the wire about sixty feet behind her. The sorrel mare was flagged and not in it at any stage of the game. Considering the soft condition of the track, the time made was exceptionally good. At the conclusion of the race Crawford offered his sorrel mare and \$75 in cash for "Nehawka Girl," and the offer was accepted by Shreve.

Given Full Control of the Parks.

Judge Hall yesterday entered up a judgment sustaining the legality of the park commissioners appointed by Judge B. S. Ramsey, giving them full control of the city parks and ousting the mayor and council. This places the absolute control of the parks in the hands of the commissioners, D. P. Rolfe, W. L. Wilson and J. G. Strobble.—Nebraska City News.

Ribbons and Laces

For pretty summer dresses. The new wrinkles for trimming those new wash dresses. Shrewd shoppers say our values have never been equalled. WM. HEROLD & SONS.

Death of a Veteran.

At 8 o'clock Sunday evening Lewis C. Curtis died at his home on Sixth and Dey streets, surrounded by his family, after an illness of some months, of cancer of the stomach.

Deceased has resided in this city almost continuously since he came out of the army in 1868, and was esteemed by all who knew him as one of the most exemplary citizens and most faithful friends.

He was born in Connecticut, May 23d, 1843, and with his father and his three brothers was a soldier for the union. He enlisted August 12, 1862, in company K, 14th regiment Connecticut volunteers, and was discharged June 12, 1865. In December, 1865, he enlisted in the regular army and served until December 10, 1868, when he was honorably discharged at Omaha, soon after which he moved to Plattsmouth. Some time after this he was married at Glenwood, Ia., to the daughter of a farmer living near that place. He left a widow and six children to mourn the loss of a kind, affectionate, devoted husband and father, and an honest man. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and of McConike post of the Grand Army, under whose auspices he was buried—the funeral taking place at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

He had been under the care of physicians in this city for some time, until some three weeks ago he was taken to an Omaha hospital and passed a thorough examination, the doctors pronouncing his case hopeless and diagnosing his complaint cancer of the stomach. Since then the Christian Science people have taken his case in hand and have done all that could be done to alleviate his sufferings.

A post mortem examination was made on the remains Monday morning, conducted by Drs. Schildknecht, Livingston and Cook, as a doubt seemed to exist among some as to the real cause of death.

Funeral Largely Attended.

The funeral of the late L. C. Curtis occurred Tuesday at two o'clock p. m. from the family residence, Rev. Baird officiating, and the interment was made in Oak Hill cemetery. The members of the Masonic fraternity, G. A. R. and W. R. C. attended the funeral in large numbers. Mr. Curtis' fellow-workmen in the coach and paint departments of the B. & M. shops also followed the remains to their last resting place.

New M. P. Time Card.

The Missouri Pacific has completed its time card for a complete change, to take effect next Sunday. The new schedule gives every city along the line a better train service. The new time cards have not yet been received here, but the changes will be about as follows:

There will be a new fast train, known as the "Kansas and Nebraska Limited," leaving St. Louis at 8:10 p. m., and arriving in this city at about 10:45 a. m. Returning, this train will reach Plattsmouth at about 4:45 p. m., arriving in St. Louis at 7:20 in the morning. It will carry a through sleeper between Omaha and St. Louis. The "Kansas City Express" will make no change, leaving Omaha at 9:20 p. m., and arriving in Kansas City at 6:30 a. m. Returning, this train will leave Kansas City at 9:15 p. m., arriving in Plattsmouth at 5:00 a. m.

The "Nebraska Local" will leave Omaha at 3:15 p. m., running via Springfield, Louisville, Weeping Water, Dunbar, Talmage to Auburn, arriving there at 6:15 and connecting with the south-bound limited. Returning, it connects with the north-bound limited at Auburn, leaving there at 5:50 a. m., and running back the same way arrives in Omaha at 9:00 a. m.

Notice to Inquiring Friends.

We have received another lot of those chambrey and gingham sun bonnets you have been asking for. The demand for them has been so great that it is almost impossible to keep them in stock. When this lot is gone it will be several weeks before we get any more, as the factory is away ahead on orders. WM. HEROLD & SON.

Card of Thanks.

To the neighbors and friends who so kindly tendered their assistance and sympathy at the great bereavement we have suffered in the loss of a devoted wife, affectionate daughter and loving sister, we publicly extend our heartfelt thanks.

C. F. VALLERY, MRS. NIEMANN, FRANK NIEMANN.

BURGLARS CAUGHT

Officers Believe They Have the Louisville Burglars In Jail.

A BRIDGE OVER THE PLATTE.

Eight Mile Grove Residents Petition the Commissioners to Call a Special Election to Vote Bonds For a Bridge at Cedar Creek.

Louisville Burglars Captured.

Sheriff Holloway Tuesday afternoon received a telephone message from the police authorities at Omaha, stating that two suspicious characters had been arrested there who were believed to be the parties that robbed Edwards Bros.' store at Louisville last Wednesday night. The sheriff went up to the metropolis on the first train and returned on Tuesday evening, bringing with him the two men, who gave their names as Jas. Sullivan and Hale Perrine. They were placed in jail.

It is believed that Sullivan and Perrine are the right parties, as they each were wearing new shoes and pants which tally with the description of some of the stolen goods. They also had in their possession a hair brush, bearing the trade mark of Edwards Bros. The Omaha authorities promised Sheriff Holloway that they would endeavor to locate more of the stolen goods.

Want a Bridge Built.

A petition, signed by a number of Eight Mile Grove precinct residents, was presented to the county commissioners Tuesday afternoon, the prayer of the same being that a special election be called in that precinct to vote bonds for the erection of a wagon bridge across the Platte river at Cedar Creek. Sarpy county, on the other side of the river, agrees to bear half the expense for the construction of the bridge. The commissioners discovered that the signers of the petition had neglected to guarantee the expenses of the special election, but this was merely an oversight, and an amended petition will probably be sent in tomorrow for the consideration of the commissioners.

It is understood that the commissioners will grant the prayer of the petitioners, and that the special election will be called.

Frank M. Wolcott Dead.

Word was received in town this morning that Frank M. Wolcott had been accidentally drowned in Weeping Water yesterday. It appears that he had gone out to his pasture in the edge of town to repair the fence and is supposed to have set down to rest under a tree just on the bank of the stream, and been stricken by an attack of vertigo, or dizziness, and fallen into the water. When he did not return to dinner, search was instituted and his body discovered at about 1:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Mr. Wolcott came to Cass county in 1857, and was one of the wealthiest and best known residents in the county, and many friends in this city will regret his sudden death. The funeral will occur at Weeping Water tomorrow, and a number of friends from this city will attend.

A Very Old Book.

Ben Hempel, the court house antiquarian, has just obtained from a German citizen of Saunders county a book, printed in old-style German type, in the year 1696. It is a history of the early Christians and martyrs and the church from the time of Christ down through several centuries. It is quite a large volume, bound in horse-hide leather, and bears the marks of great age. It is said to have been handed down from the great-great grandmother's grandfather to the wife of the present owner.

Our Ladies' Shirt Waists

Have caught the feminine fancy. We have an endless variety of them, with attached and detachable collars, at prices from 25 cents upwards, with all the latest novelties in ties, linen collars and cuffs, white leather belts, gilt belts and shirt waist sets to go with them, at WM. HEROLD & SON'S.

The damages caused by the fire at the Elkhorn saloon have not yet been adjusted. The adjustors agreed to leave the matter to three men, and two of these decided that the damage to the bar fixtures amounted to \$325 while the other disagreed. And so the matter stands.

Advertise in THE JOURNAL.

'Twas Floral Day.

The first celebration of the A. O. U. W. Decoration Day, held in this city Sunday was a very gratifying success. Nearly two hundred of the members of the four lodges of that order in the city participated, together with some forty lady members of Star Lodge D. of H. With Frank Boyd as grand marshal and Dan Smith as assistant and Mrs. Drege assistant for the D. of H., and headed by the city band, the procession marched down Main street at 2:30 o'clock, counter-marched and proceeded to the cemetery, marching to slow music by the band. Carriages awaited the ladies at Fourteenth, while the men marched out to the grounds. Arriving at the cemetery a hollow square was formed about the lot belonging to the order, where the formal ceremonies were performed, according to the following program:

Prayer by the Chaplain, Elder McKay. Hymn—"Nearer My God to Thee," by the choir. Music—Pavane Hymn, by the band. Address by Elder McKay. Hymn by the choir. Decoration of the graves of deceased members of the order.

The address by Chaplain McKay was very impressive, eloquent and appropriate. The decoration of the graves then followed, a bevy of little girls bedecking the graves with wreaths and bouquets of flowers, a short address by the Chaplain preceding as the procession reached each grave. An abundance of flowers had been prepared.

The ceremonies over, the procession reformatted at the gate and returned to the city, being dismissed at the hall.

NOTES.

The ladies of Star Lodge, Degree of Honor, were furnished with very pretty regalia, made by themselves.

The lodges represented were: Platts-mouth lodge No. 8, Germania lodge No. 81, Trio lodge No. 84 and the Swedish lodge.

The celebration was something new for the order, no ritual for its observance have been prepared, but the membership engaged in it with an enthusiasm which marks it as a popular movement in the order.

Miss White Entertains.

Miss Mabel White entertained a number of friends at the pleasant home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. White, last evening, in honor of Miss Stella Hergesheimer, of Falls City. Cards, dancing and music constituted an evening of rare enjoyment. Dainty refreshments were served during the evening. Miss Barbara Gering and H. E. Weidmann won the honors at cards. The following were present: Mr. and Mrs. Will Clement, Misses Barbara Gering, Dora Clark, Minnie and Florence White, Ella Clark, Lulu Leist, Kattie Cummins, Verna and Nellie Leonard, and Messrs. George Spurlock, Frank White, Guy and Stuart Livingston, Will Hyers, Frank Cummins, Jas. Newell, Lee Atwood, H. E. Weidmann and Ed Barwick.

Identified the Goods.

Ezra Edwards and Constable J. L. Hartshorn of Louisville were in town yesterday, and the former gave a list of the goods stolen from his store last Wednesday night. The total value of the goods was \$59.85. Constable Hartshorn went over to the jail and took a look at Perrine and Sullivan, the fellows supposed to have burglarized the Edwards store, and recognized them as a couple of men he had seen in Louisville prior to the robbery. Mr. Edwards identified some of the property found in the possession of the prisoners as having been stolen from his store.

List of Letters

Remaining unclaimed in the postoffice at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, May 7, 1896. Betz, Mrs W H Baker, Kattie Groenho, Delbold Willis, Geo Mathews, O J Mathisen, P H Stines, Silvia Ott, Fritz Wilhelm Parry, W H Syversen, Carrie Nagenseller, T L Wheeler, M D Wolf, Henry

Persons calling for any of the above letters or parcels will please say "advertised." W. K. FOX, P. M.

Card of Thanks.

To the neighbors and friends, who so kindly tendered their sympathy and assistance in the great loss we have sustained in the death of our devoted husband and father, we publicly extend our heart-felt thanks.

Do You Know

That Elson the clothier is selling French balbriggan underwear for 45 cents, worth 75 cents.

It would only cost you \$1.00 to send the WEEKLY JOURNAL to a friend in the east for a whole year.