

Commissioner Denies Issuing Indian Order

Merely Advised Aborigines to Stop Tribal Dances—Says Impossible to Change Customs Overnight.

By GEORGE F. AUTHIER, Washington Correspondent The Omaha Bee. Washington, March 10.—(Special.)—A storm of criticism in eastern newspapers, directed at Commissioner of Indian Affairs Charles H. Burke of South Dakota, over an alleged order he never issued, has developed the story of a curious situation among the Indians of Nebraska, South Dakota and other middle west states. The alleged order was one to the Indians that they discontinue their dances except in midwinter.

Mr. Burke never issued such an order, but did issue a circular advising them to do so. The susceptibilities of the eastern newspapers were disturbed by the fact that the spiritual customs of the Indians were to be rudely disturbed by this reported order. The vision of the Indian getting along without his spiritually uplifting dance was too much for centers where votaries of the jazz dance lift that form of exercise to an exalted height.

The story uncovered by the report of the order that was never issued, is this:

Conference is Held. It appears that some time ago Commissioner Burke held a conference with missionaries representing all denominations at Pierre, S. D. All joined in saying the dance custom among the Indians was a serious handicap to the Indians themselves. It appears, according to their reports, that it is customary, just in the midst of the harvest season, for the Indian to leave everything for one of these dances, devoting at times as much as 10 days to his own form of dance amusement. This, naturally, interfered with the habits of industry which the Indian bureau and the missionaries are trying to inculcate in the mind of the nation's wards.

The time lost is considered had enough, but an even worse feature is the "give-away" dance in which the Indians, after dancing around the tom-tom, suddenly decide to give away everything they have. In 1921, Mr. Burke says, at the Standing Rock agency, they gave away more than 100 horses.

Customs Unchanged. "I am not so foolish," Mr. Burke said, "as to suppose this long-ingrained habit can be stopped by an order and none has been issued. The circular has been issued in the hope it will have some possible effect. This custom will have to be eradicated gradually."

Mr. Burke explained the circular did not apply to the Pueblo Indians whose tribal customs are always regarded separately. The eastern press has been greatly disturbed over the possibility of the abolition of the Hopi dance. Mr. Burke says this remains undisturbed, but admits he would like to stop it.

"For the benefit of those who are so disturbed over the possible abolition of the Hopi dance among the Pueblos, I would say we have a report from an inspector under the previous administration on this dance. It is written in plain language and accordingly cannot be published. I am sure that if the eastern editors knew the obscene character of this dance they would scarcely undertake to defend it. We are trying to eradicate the custom by patient teaching, realizing tribal customs cannot be changed overnight."

Bodies of Two Hunters Found by Searching Party. Rino, N.M., March 10.—After a three-day search in the hills surrounding Rino, a searching party yesterday found the body of Lassaro Martinez, 40, a member of a well-known family of Rino. Earlier in the day the searchers found the body of Martinez's boyhood friend, Santiago Silva. Both bodies were badly beaten and each contained a bullet.

Keeping Other People's Cash Is Habit of Theirs



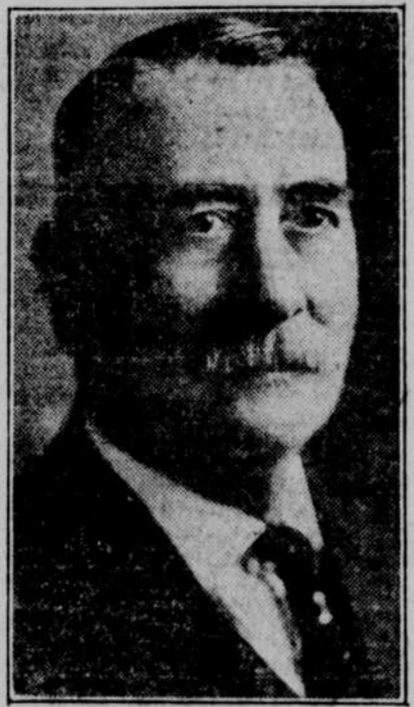
Mrs. Hazel Powell.

Taking care of other people's money seems to be a habit with the family of Charles D. Robinson, state treasurer of Nebraska.

For years Mr. Robinson has been a servant of the people of this state. His job has always been that of looking after their cash.

For a number of years Mr. Robinson was deputy county treasurer of Webster county. Then he ran for county treasurer and was elected. He occupied this office for eight years.

Retiring as county treasurer Mr. Robinson entered the employ of the state as state examiner of county treasurers and for four years served in this capacity.



Charles D. Robinson.

At the last election he entered the race as a republican candidate for state treasurer, was nominated and elected, and is now installed in that office in the state house.

But when Mr. Robinson left the county treasurer's office in Webster county to take up his work for the state, the family name was not entirely removed from the directory in the court house in Red Cloud. For by that time his daughter, now Mrs. Hazel Powell, was old enough to go into the Webster county treasurer's office as a deputy.

Then when her father entered the race for state treasurer, Mrs. Powell became a candidate for the position her father once held and was made county treasurer in the same election her father was made state treasurer.

A. C. Smith Will Filed in Court

Estate of Merchant Prince Is Left to Widow; Bulk Is in Insurance.

Estate of Arthur Crittenden Smith, former chairman of the board of directors of M. E. Smith & Co., is left to his widow, Mrs. Harriet Foster White Smith, under the terms of his will filed Saturday for probate in county court.

Petition accompanying the will, filed by M. L. Learned, attorney, lists real estate in Nebraska at \$2,000, real estate outside of Nebraska, \$2,500 and estimates the personal property at \$100,000.

Mrs. Smith, the widow, also obtained nearly \$750,000 in insurance.

Mrs. Smith is named guardian of all minor children until they become of age. She is appointed joint executrix with the Omaha Trust company. No security is required of either.

The will directs that its maker be decently buried in a manner corresponding with my situation and estate in life, but with as little expense as may be consistent therewith.

Mrs. Smith is 54 years old. The children are Harriet H. Smith, 27, Joseph H. Smith, 26, Helen B. Lovell, 23, Arthur C. Smith, 19 and Esther Smith 17.

Man and Woman Arrested for Murder of Iowan Freed

Los Angeles, March 10.—Charges of murder against Mrs. Pearl Paden, formerly of Dayton, O., and Beth Donaldson, in connection with the recent slaying of Frank Johnson of Marshalltown, Ia., stabbed by Anthony Whitley, were dismissed yesterday at the request of the district attorney's office.

Donaldson and Johnson went to the Whitley home at the request of Mrs. Paden. It was said, to "chastise" C. F. Wagonman, formerly a sweetheart of Mrs. Paden. Wagonman, a roomer at the Whitley home, refused to go outside to meet them. Whitley refused to permit the men to enter, and in what the authorities decided was a defense of his home, killed Johnson.

15 Firemen and Soldiers Injured Fighting Flames

Washington, March 10.—Fire which broke out in the barracks of enlisted men at Fort Myers, Va., just across the Potomac river from Washington, destroyed one building and spread into an unoccupied wing of the hospital.

Apparatus from Washington fought the blaze for two hours before it was brought under control. It was discovered in the kitchen, which also was destroyed.

Fifteen firemen and soldiers were injured, none seriously, in fighting the flames which did damage estimated at \$110,000.

Ford Runs 57 Miles On Gallon of Gasoline

A new automatic vaporizer and decarbonizer which in actual test has increased the power and mileage of Fords from 25 to 50 per cent and at the same time removes every particle of carbon from the cylinders is the proud achievement of John A. Stransky, 3632 South Main street, Pukwana, South Dakota. A remarkable feature of this simple and inexpensive device is that its action is governed entirely by the motor. It is slipped between the carburetor and intake manifold and can be installed by anyone in five minutes without drilling or tapping. With it attached, Ford cars have made from 40 to 57 miles on one gallon of gasoline. Mr. Stransky wants to place a few of these devices on cars in this territory and has a very liberal offer to make anyone who is able to handle the business which is sure to be created wherever this marvelous little device is demonstrated. If you want to try one entirely at his risk, send him your name and address today.

Rain Making by Use of Airplane Proven Practicable in Test

Washington, March 10.—Rain making by use of the airplane has been demonstrated to be practicable in experiments conducted at the Dayton army air station, Brig. Gen. William Mitchell of the army air service said in an address here last night. The experiments, he said, were being continued by scientists with the use of army air equipment in order to perfect the process.

As described by General Mitchell, the experiments consisted of sending which had been charged with positive electricity. When the sand was shot into the clouds a precipitation was induced, he said, by the contact of the positive electricity of the sand with the negative current in the clouds.

Discuss Farm Conference.

St. Paul, March 10.—Plans for conferences with representatives of the various farmers' grain marketing organizations of the northwest were discussed tentatively by officers and directors of the Equity Co-operative Exchange Friday afternoon following decision early in the day to change the character of the corporation and make it a national marketing enterprise.

Omaha Health Gains Ground

Twenty-Three Fewer Deaths Here Last Week Than During Preceding Period. Health conditions have improved during the last week, according to reports of the health department.

Deaths for the week ended Saturday morning were 73; for the previous week, 95. Deaths due to pneumonia during the week just closed were 24, as compared with 31 during the previous week.

Eight deaths of children less than one year were reported this week; last week, 11. Reports of communicable diseases have been unusually low for the two weeks. During the week ended last Saturday, there were 25 and during the last week, only 25. The health commissioner stated that there has been considerable illness, but most of these cases have been of grip and not of a nature that required reports to health department. Deaths due to pneumonia have been the outstanding feature of the health situation here for several weeks.

Health Clown Arrives in Omaha Via Airplane



Cho-Cho, health clown, arrived here this morning in his own airplane, "Cho-Cho Special," piloted by Theodor Nelson.

Charlotte Townsend, supervisor of medical work in public schools, officially received Cho-Cho as he stepped from the plane at the United States air mail field.

J. H. Beveridge, superintendent of schools, will greet the distinguished visitor Monday morning at Conestoga school, where Cho-Cho will begin his series of visits to the schools.

One of the functions that will be given here in honor of Cho-Cho will be on Tuesday night at the Brandeis grill, where the Tri-City Dental society will have a dinner, followed by a health program. Among the speakers will be Charlotte Townsend and Cho-Cho.

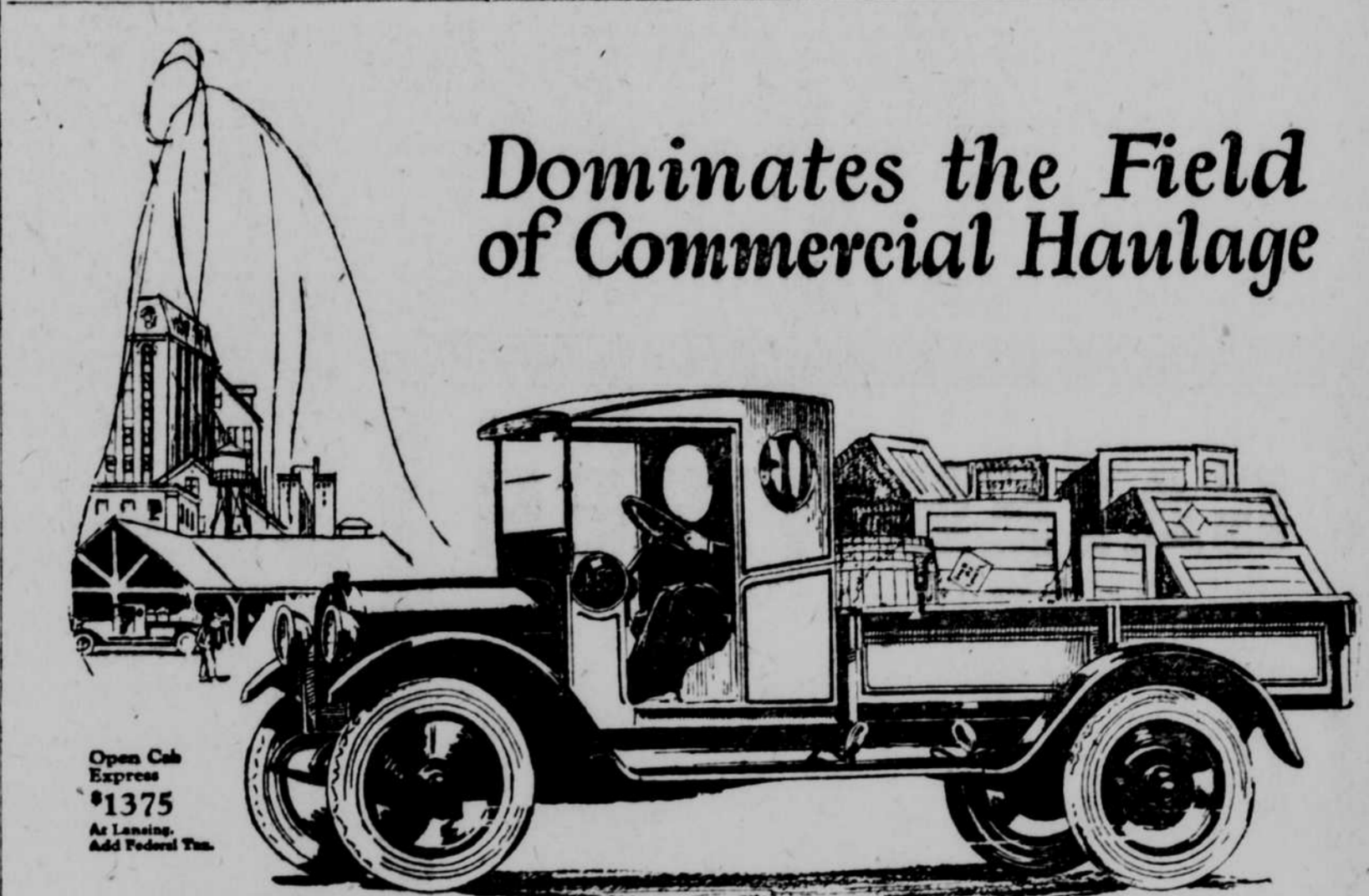
Cho-Cho has dedicated his life to the interests of health among boys and girls. He will tell Omaha children that a foundation of good health is the most valuable thing they can have and he will explain that they may have this great blessing if they will follow the simple rules outlined in his "health chores."

Character Sketches Given at Theater by Ruth Draper

Highest enthusiasm marked the reception of a series of character sketches from life presented Friday afternoon at the Brandeis theater by Ruth Draper, under auspices of the Omaha Drama League.

Miss Draper used no changes of costume, merely employing a shawl for some of her character parts.

"I enjoyed it thoroughly," said Miss Kate McHugh, president of the league. "It was a thing we could not get from anyone else."



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