

to closest friends the contents of the letter. But at 3:20 Saturday afternoon, accompanied by Sam Beber and Joseph Papp, he took a train for Galesburg, where he will arrive at 2:30 Sunday morning. Mr. Lapidus arranged before leaving here to flood the country around Galesburg with circulars and newspaper pictures of his son. A telephone message received here Saturday stated that Lester spent last Tuesday night with a farmer four miles east of Burlington, Ia. The lad asked the route to Peoria.

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL PRAISED

Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee. Lincoln, Aug. 9.—Following a thorough investigation into the charges of mistreatment at the Geneva industrial school for four girls who escaped from the institution a week ago, the state board of control announced that the charges were groundless. The announcement was made after Miss Sue Ward, matron, and Miss Mary Donohue, an assistant, had been called to Lincoln and everything was explained satisfactory to the board. Members of the board admitted that the girls were put into "solitary rooms" as punishment and part of the time their diet was bread and water. "The Geneva school is excellently managed and I feel certain that every kindness possible is accorded to the children there," A. E. Allyn, a member of the board, said. "Such punishment as is given girls is well deserved and there is no cruelty connected with it."

WOMAN ASKS HELP IN QUEST FOR MATE

Fremont, Neb., Aug. 9.—Mrs. William Carter, Woodbine, Ia., appealed to Fremont police today for aid in the search for her husband, who disappeared several days ago. "I want to try to persuade him to go back home with me," she said. "I think he will go if I can find him." The Carters have three children, and with the father absent, Mrs. Carter is unable to support the little ones. The children have been placed in a home while the mother is in search of her mate. She is unable to attribute any reason for his disappearance, explaining that it is the first time their home life has been disturbed. She has traced him as far as Fremont.

Cass County Valuation This Year Is Decreased

Plattsmouth, Neb., Aug. 9.—The total assessed valuation in Cass county this year is \$56,189,953, or \$300,000 less than last year. One hundred thousand dollars of this decrease is in railroad properties, while the balance is largely on farm lands. This year's average on the 341,803 acres of improved lands is \$111.54 an acre. Last year's average was \$111.62. Radio equipment in the county, a new item on the assessors' listing, is valued at \$2,640. There are 3,534 autos, with an average assessed valuation of \$4,711, and 1,858 dogs valued at \$18,75, or \$9.99 each.

Byron Farmer Binning Wheat for Higher Price

Byron, Neb., Aug. 9.—Threshing, which has been delayed in this vicinity for the past six days on account of wet weather, was resumed Friday. Twenty machines were working within a radius of eight miles of Byron Friday morning in an effort to finish up the grain. By a canvass of the country, it was found that about two-thirds of the grain raised here this year is being binned and will be held for higher prices. The crop this year is the best in the last 10 years.

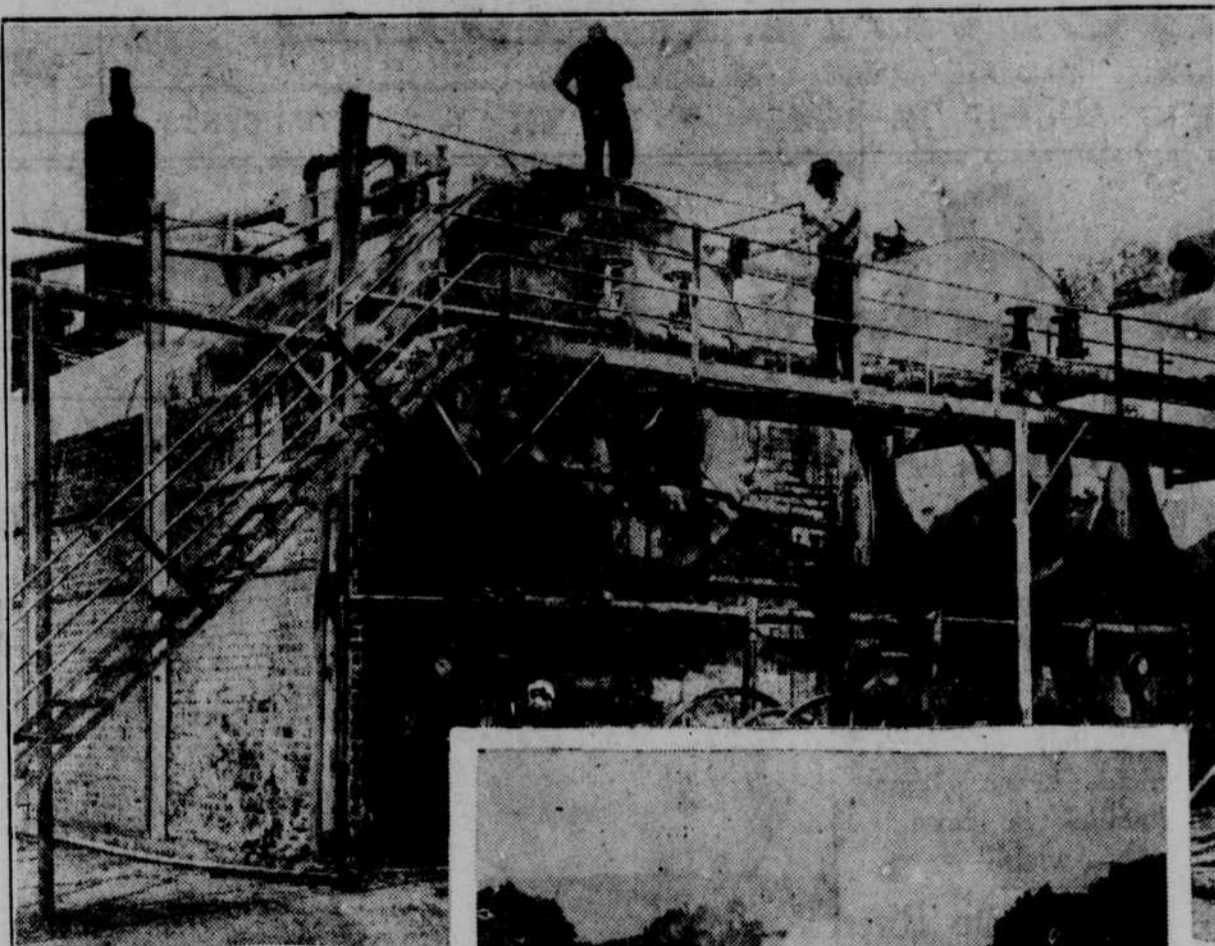
Man Falls 40 Feet.

Beatrice, Neb., Aug. 9.—Ray Bissell came near being killed today when he fell 40 feet from a school building on which he was working. He landed feet first in a box of mortar and was uninjured. The breaking of a scaffold caused the accident.

Plattsmouth — Father Ferdinand Suesser, pastor Bohemian Catholic church here, has departed for Dubuque, Ia., in which diocese he will be assigned to a new pastorate. Father Hancok of Prague, Neb., succeeds Suesser. Father Suesser just recently returned from an extended European trip, during which he visited the holy land and enjoyed a call on the pope at Rome.

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Scenes at Spectacular East Omaha Oil Fire



PHOTOS BY BEWELL

Above: Charred metallic crude oil still which caught fire at the plant of the Omaha Refining company, East Omaha, Friday.

Below: Heavy smoke from the fire as viewed by a large crowd of spectators.

Moonlight Ride With Bob-Haired Girl Last Trace of Lester Lapidus; She Tells of Soft Words, Sweet Song

Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee. From a Staff Correspondent. Des Moines, Ia., Aug. 9.—"The 'sweet pain' of a first boy-and-girl affection touched the heart of Lester Lapidus just a few hours before he disappeared from the citizens' training camp at Des Moines last Sunday night. Sonia Robinson, 17, graduate of North High school, Des Moines, late last night told about her last ride with Lester, the tender words they spoke, the sad, sweet song she sang to him. There were four young couples in the big car, she said. She and Lester, Harry Wise and Eva Caspe, Joseph Bernstein and Edith Cohen, Morris Rosenbaum and Lillian Denelisky. The evening was charming, the air still, the moon hanging in the west-ern sky. Liked Each Other. Sonia has brown eyes and dark brown bobbed hair, a pretty girl. "Lester and I had only known each other a few days, but I liked him very much," she said, "and I'm sure he liked me. 'After a while he said, 'What will you do when I go away?' and I said, 'You won't go away if you like me,' and he said real quick, 'You know I like you terribly much; why do you talk like that?' 'Then I began a little song. Here it is.' The girl showed a copy of a late popular song of peculiar sadness. It was this chorus she sang to him, as they sat there in the automobile: 'What'll I do when you are far away. And I am blue— What'll I do? What'll I do when I am wondering who is kissing you. What'll I do? What'll I do with just a photograph To tell my troubles to? What'll I do with only dreams of you That won't come true, What'll I do?' As the sad, tender notes fell from the girl's lips she noticed that Lester was weeping softly. When she stopped she sat in silence for a time

and then the youth said: "Will you give me your photograph, Sonia?" Call From Lester. And the girl, changing mood, answered lightly: "Oh, you don't love me enough to ask for my photograph." Miss Robinson declared she noticed nothing extraordinary about Lester. He seemed normal aside from the natural emotions of the moonlight evening and their tender feelings. Sonia started searching for the boy Friday by declaring she heard from him in the early hours of Friday morning. She was awakened by the ringing of the telephone bell, she said. Hastening down stairs she took down the receiver and the operator told her Lester Lapidus was calling on long distance. "Hello, is that you, Lester?" she says she cried. "Yes," he answered. "Where are you? Everybody is searching for you," Sonia exclaimed. But there was a click in the instrument and then silence. And the

girl admitted that the whole episode seemed hazy to her as she recalled it. Did Lester's felling for this pretty girl cause him to forget all else and go away? That is the theory on which police and other searchers are now working. They are convinced that he is alive. Always high-strung, the excitement of coming to the training camp and of meeting this beautiful girl might easily have caused him to take a drastic step, police believe. Theories Abandoned. The theories that he was overcome by heat or feared parental or army discipline for infraction of camp rules have been abandoned. He and his father, Harry Lapidus, were on the best of terms. Mr. Lapidus recalled today that just before Lester left for Des Moines he was at his father's office. Mr. Lapidus said, "There was something I wanted to tell you, but I can't think of it right now." "Oh, I know," said Lester. "You wanted to tell me to be sure and write a letter every day." "Yes, that was it," said his father. "Well, I'll be sure to do it," said Lester. And he did. Mr. Lapidus received one letter telling of a party Lester had attended. He answered the letter but Lester could not have received the answer before his disappearance, he said. Mr. and Mrs. Lapidus returned

Airmail Service Is Up to Public

Initial Success Insures Permanence If Patronage Warrants

For 30 days the night air mail has been tested under weather conditions as severe as any that may be reasonably expected, and has carried the mail of the United States without a serious accident of any kind, but, despite its success from a physical standpoint, its continuance is not assured unless the public lends adequate support. This epitomizes a report of Col. Paul Henderson, assistant postmaster general, in charge of air mail, to his chief, Henry New, head of the United States mails. "I now have no hesitancy in predicting its success so far as the physical operation of this New York to San Francisco route is concerned," writes Colonel Henderson, and then warns, "whether or not the service will be supported by the public to a degree which will warrant its continuation is still an open question." Revenue Insufficient. The revenue from air mail stamps in excess of ordinary postage exceeded \$51,500 for the month, says Colonel Henderson, but this sum does not cover the cost of operating the service. An average of 21,000 letters were carried daily. In order to arrive at some conclusion as to the advisability of continuing the night air mail Colonel Henderson suggests a "stock taking" at the end of five or six months "of the whole operation, its cost, its income and its performances." Colonel Henderson further finds that letters intended for air mail sometimes get into pouches sent to the trains because air mail stamps "are not sufficiently distinctive." Clerks also find it difficult, he says, to catch air mail letters, due to their scarcity compared to the volume of mail handled. Time Needed for Adjustment. "I do not think there is anything in this situation which warrants criticism of any part of the postal organization, however," he says. "It is, of course, natural that it will take some time for the thousands of people in this service to learn in detail just the sort of treatment to give this new class of mail."

The air mail was scheduled to fly 173,910 miles in July, and all scheduled miles were flown. It was not found necessary in any case to dispatch mail by rail. The report points out the bad weather conditions which were fought by the planes in the month of July, were also many electric storms which are particularly disastrous to flying. Despite the unfavorable weather conditions, a very good record was made in regards to the time. The scheduled time westbound was 24 hours and 45 minutes, and the scheduled time the other way was 31 hours and 35 minutes, and this schedule was kept comparatively well. Hardy.—The annual chautauqua started here Friday afternoon, supported by the business men of the town. It is the fifth consecutive season for a chautauqua here.

amounting in certain instances to cloud-bursts and tornadoes. There were also many electric storms which are particularly disastrous to flying. Despite the unfavorable weather conditions, a very good record was made in regards to the time. The scheduled time westbound was 24 hours and 45 minutes, and the scheduled time the other way was 31 hours and 35 minutes, and this schedule was kept comparatively well. Hardy.—The annual chautauqua started here Friday afternoon, supported by the business men of the town. It is the fifth consecutive season for a chautauqua here. Bee Want Ads produce results.

Boys Capture Strange Bird; Wear Gloves for Protection



A bird believed by the captors to be so unusual that it might be dangerous was found Friday by three small boys against the windows of St. Paul Episcopal Church Thirty-first and California streets. The bird is of gun metal hue, has a sharp curved beak and quills in its tail that spreads. The wings of the bird, which is a little larger than a sparrow, are longer than a bird of that size. The boys who captured the bird are, left to right, in the picture: Edgar Sokoloff, 3023 California street; George and Chester Longstein, 3037 California street. George Longstein is wearing gloves to protect his hands from the bird.

Radio Set on Overland Limited Picks Up Stations Within 600 Miles

The westbound Overland Limited train on the Union Pacific, which went through Omaha Saturday morning, was equipped with a radio receiving set, the first train thus equipped to pass through Omaha. It was in charge of K. A. Stark, representative of the F. A. D. Andrea Radio Equipment company of New York, who is en route to attend the radio exposition in San Francisco this month.

In spite of bad weather conditions and static, the receiving set has been in constant communication with stations within 600 miles' radius of the train. Just after leaving Pittsburgh, Pa., the set picked up the powerful broadcasting station at Hastings, Neb. Railroad officials say this is in the nature of experiment and that receiving apparatus may be regular equipment of trains in the near future.

AGED IOWA MAN DIES IN FREMONT

Fremont, Neb., Aug. 9.—J. N. Mitts, 83, Council Bluffs, Ia., died here at the home of his son, Edward Mitts, late Friday night. Mr. Mitts was a pioneer resident of Council Bluffs but came to live with his son a short time ago. He is survived by his wife, two sons, Charles of Denver, and Edward of Fremont, and one daughter, Mrs. C. R. Howland, Calhan, Col. The body was taken to Council Bluffs for burial Sunday afternoon at 2:30 in the Woodring chapel.

Storm Toll Nine in Middle West

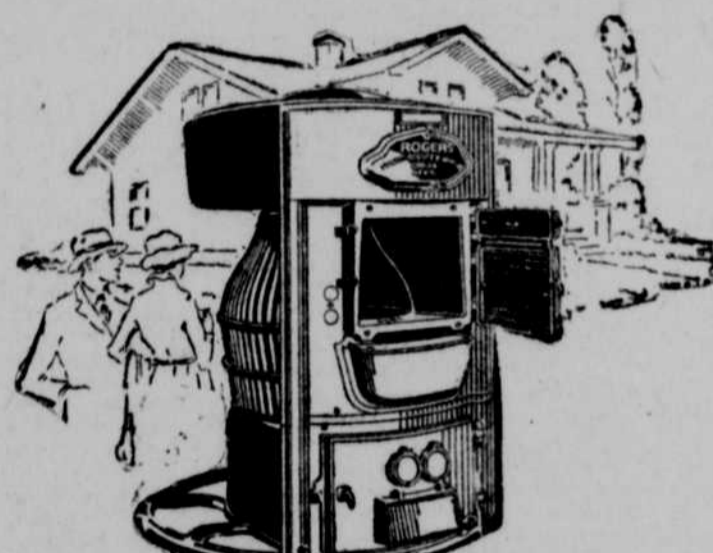
2 Hoosiers Electrocuted When They Seek Shelter Under Steam Shovel

Chicago, Aug. 9.—In the face of further rain and wind storms predicted for today, inhabitants of Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Indiana, districts that were smitten by cyclonic winds and deluges of rain for the last four days, are striving courageously to dig themselves from the debris which strewn these sections. Latest reports place yesterday's and Thursday night's death list at nine. This total does not include six or eight deaths due to storms earlier in the week. Property damage in cities and towns in the path of the blow, and to farm crops, will run into millions. Early today a storm of terrific intensity, accompanied by hail and lightning, cut a swath through central Indiana. Two were killed at La Fayette, two at South Bend and one at Petersburg by lightning. The first two had sought shelter under a steam shovel. Preceding a deafening aerial explosion, a bolt of lightning carried its way through the mechanism of the great shovel, ripped the mechanism apart and electrocuted the two men. Eleven others were badly shocked. The two at South Bend were boys seated on a steel plate fishing. Attracted by the metal, the lightning flared in a freakish sheet of flame over the plate surface, instantly killing the boys. There were many other freaks of the storm. Perhaps the weirdest of these was a bolt at Oak Park, which splintered down the trunk of a tree, followed the roots and broke up through the pavement to a velocipede being ridden by 3-year-old Lisette Benthim. She was burned to death by the sudden sheet of flame that ensued.

RESERVES RETURN FROM LAKE CRUISE

Six officers and 45 men of the Fifth regiment of the naval reserves, headed by Commander D. C. Buell, have returned from a summer cruise of the Great Lakes aboard the steamer Paducah. They left Duluth, Minn., July 25. Wymore.—J. A. Reuling, president of the First National bank of Wymore, with his wife, has started by auto for a month's trip through the Yellowstone National park, Glacier park and other points in the northwest, returning via Denver.

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