

Tom Flinn to Face Jury on Bus Robbery

Acquitted Slayer Looks Much Less the Hero Than at Murder Trial Two Years Ago.

Looking much less the hero than when he sat in federal court in January, 1923, charged with the murder of John Salerno, Tom Flinn, 21, sat in district court Thursday while a jury was being impaneled to try him on a charge of robbing the Union Bus line office, 114 South Seventeenth street, of \$52 on August 28.

He shot Salerno, he alleged, in self-defense while Salerno and others were taking him on a terror ride and threatening to throw him in the river because at that time he was an informer working for the federal prohibition director.

Fifteen members of the W. C. T. U. sat in the federal courtroom. Bishop and Mrs. Homer Stutz, other ministers and Elmer Thomas and Dr. Jennie Callias of the 5,000 committee were there, lending support to the young champion of law enforcement who was believed to have risked his life for the cause.

He was acquitted triumphantly. In the marshal's office after the verdict a large group of his new-found friends gathered about him. Many asked for his signature in their auto graph books.

Flinn extended profuse thanks, not only to these but even to the prosecutors who, he magnanimously declared, "only did their duty."

These friends were absent in district court Thursday, except Irvin Stahnmaster, who prosecuted him on the murder charge. He was present, again as prosecutor.

Raymond Baker, arrested with Flinn for the alleged robbery, is scheduled to be the principal state's witness against Flinn.

He didn't even have an attorney of his own. Assistant Public Defender James Walker appeared for him.

Court Orders Charge of Perjury Against Witness in Birks Trial

"Mr. Witness," said District Judge L. B. Day, sternly to Robert W. Bridges, Carter Lake club, in domestic relations court Thursday, "I have never heard a man who has been more persistently evasive in giving testimony than you have shown yourself to be."

"We take exception to the remarks of the court," said Eugene O'Sullivan, attorney.

"The exception is allowed and the court continues," replied Judge Day. "The county attorney is directed to file charges of perjury against this witness. He is excused."

It was in the suit of George Birks of Mount Pulaski, Ill., against his former wife, Eileen Birks, 4319 Erskine street, to get possession of their child, Robert Roland, 5.

Bridges admitted that he had been hired by Mrs. Sue Griffin, then living at Carter Lake, and Detective J. Bitterly and Jack Cloutie, who came here from Illinois to do some work in the case. Bridges said he had done nothing but drive the party around in his car. He received about \$125 for this, he said.

He insisted he knew nothing that happened on drives to Lake Manawa and Krug Park, when Mrs. Birks was a member of the party. He admitted he understood that W. E. Birks of Mount Pulaski, father of George Birks, was behind the detective work.

He told of getting two money orders for \$50 each which came in his name, but went for Mrs. Griffin, to whom he said he turned over the money.

Bridges said he refused Bitterly's offer to take employment as a detective.

Mrs. Eileen Birks took the witness stand and related several episodes of alleged cruelty by her husband.

"Once when we were moving to the Dairymoor I hired a coupe because I had a lot of running around on errands to do," she said. "He came home and demanded to know why I had hired the car. I told him and he went out to drive it away. I had a little dog in it that I had bought for the baby and he was going to throw that out."

She alleged that he took dope.

State Paving Drive Favored

Bad Roads Cost Nebraskans \$4,000,000 Annually in Gas, Claim.

Omahans who attended the annual meeting of the Nebraska Good Roads association, predicted on their return to Omaha Thursday that Nebraska will rapidly climb out of its low ranking among states with reference to mileage of paved roads.

The plan for a state-wide paving program is regarded as a most comprehensive one, calling for the expenditure of between \$4,000,000 and \$48,000,000 over a six-year period. This money is to be raised through appropriations to match money available through federal aid, a 2-cent tax on gasoline and the use by the state of 50 per cent of the license fees collected by counties.

Bipartisan Committee.

Most important part of the plan, in the opinion of J. C. Rahel, who represented C. M. Wilhelm at the meeting, is the provision for the appointment of a bipartisan committee of three unsalaried men, one to be an expert

Boat Firm Seeks to Lease Tracks

Pier to Be Built at Douglas Street Landing If Request Is Granted.

H. J. Rix, secretary and manager of the Western Barge Line company, has applied to the Union Pacific railroad for a lease of the tracks at the foot of Douglas street for the use of the steamship Decatur. This lease, it was said at the railroad office, probably will be granted within two weeks. A pier will be built there, Rix said.

In the meanwhile the Decatur, towing a barge-load of hogs and grain, was reported slowly making its way downstream on its maiden trip from Sioux City and Decatur. Because of the heavy load and the shallow channel, the steamer is not making fast time. It was expected Wednesday, but the arrival was postponed 24 hours.

The cargo will be unloaded at the Woods Brothers Construction company plant at the foot of Pierce street and, as a temporary expedient, the Burlington has agreed to put cars on the spur there to take care of the load.

If the Douglas street lease is approved, Rix said, grain and merchandise will be loaded there, and cattle

engineer, to serve as a state highway commission and to superintend the state-wide program.

This commission is expected to keep the program on a state-wide basis rather than on the present county road building system. The commission is to be appointed by the governor and approved by the senate.

"Actual tests proved that dirt roads cost the gasoline user 6 cents per gallon," said Mr. Rahel. "By getting the roads paved the motorist actually saves 4 cents on every gallon. There should be no objection to the tax."

\$4,000,000 Wasted Annually.

"In Nebraska last year, 100,000,000 gallons of gasoline were used. With its present unpaved roads this means that Nebraska gasoline users actually were wasting \$4,000,000 annually because it takes more gas to drive on dirt roads."

W. A. Ellis of the Chamber of Commerce made clear the great need for road improvement in his speech at Hastings, when he explained that automobile clubs and chambers of commerce in both the east and west are routing tourists to avoid Nebraska's bad roads.

Directors of the association were elected as follows: F. W. Putney, B. A. George, Lincoln; F. L. Nesbit, C. M. Wilhelm, Omaha; George Wolz, Fremont; W. H. Blakeman, Norfolk; A. H. Gray, Beatrice; E. T. Parnell, Fairmont; Walter Livingston, Hastings; J. S. Canady, Minden; J. A. Ross, Long Pine; Arthur Bowring, Merriam.

Officers were elected as follows: President, W. H. Blakeman, Norfolk; vice president, F. L. Nesbit, Omaha; treasurer, A. H. Gray, Beatrice; secretary, F. W. Putney.

SWITCH CHANGES MINDS OF BOYS

Back to Prison.

Shenandoah, Ia., Oct. 9.—Nebraska prison gates will again close on a youth who broke his parole but whose name is withheld, this promise being made him if he would confess. Wearing apparel taken from the home of D. D. Stitt, Page county treasurer, was found in the youth's room.

New Mexico G. A. R. Delegate Is Visiting at Hartington

Hartington, Oct. 9.—B. A. Jones of Albuquerque, N. M., who represented New Mexico at the national G. A. R. encampment at Boston, is visiting old friends in this community. Mr. Jones formerly lived here.

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REVENGE IS SWEET, CRIES PERFUMER

"Zev" Fitch, Union Pacific special agent, embodied the condensed essence of spring when he stalked into police headquarters Thursday morning. The reason was black narcissus perfume lavishly applied.

His entrance caused the usual "wise" comment from various detectives. Whereupon "Zev" calmly produced a vanity case, extracted a bottle of the black narcissus and proceeded to sprinkle drops of fragrance upon detective bureau operatives.

"Revenge is sweet," quoth Fitch. "Maybe they won't have to do some tall alibiing to their wives tonight."

UNIVERSITY FUND DRIVE IS PLANNED

W. F. Baxter, J. E. Davidson, A. W. Gordon and A. B. Currie, who have been delegated by the Greater Omaha committee to direct the work of raising a building fund and endowment for the University of Omaha, made preliminary plans Wednesday afternoon for having this work done by January 1. The men met with Dr. P. E. Jenkins, president of the University of Omaha.

This committee will meet next Tuesday night with the board of trustees of the university, at which time a definite working plan will be outlined.

A city-wide financial campaign is not contemplated.

Presidential Poll.

On the train carrying many Omaha business men home from the good roads meeting at Hastings Wednesday night a presidential poll was taken by a prominent democrat of Nebraska City, who had been telling his friends how Nebraska was swinging for Davis and Bryan.

The poll showed the following votes: Coolidge, 28; Davis, 14; La Follette, 4.

Doctor's Father Dies.

Dennis Fitzgibbon, father of Dr. H. M. Fitzgibbon, died at a local hospital following a lingering illness. Burial will be Friday morning at Missouri Valley.

WHEELER HAS TO 10 A. M. FRIDAY

City Clerk James Hector reports that no supplementary recall petitions have been filed by Lyman G. Wheeler, former police captain, whose original recall petition was declared by city council to contain only 13 acceptable signatures out of a total of more than 9,000 signatures. Wheeler, according to law, has until 10 a. m. Friday to file supplementary lists.

FIRE STATION TO BE ARMORY

The national guard committee of the Chamber of Commerce, a subdivision of the federal relations committee, agreed Thursday to underwrite the \$7,000 to \$8,000 necessary to remodel the old fire station at Twelfth and Dodge streets into an armory.

Col. Amos Thomas, commanding officer of the 124th infantry, Nebraska National Guard, declared at the meeting that his regiment of 1,500 men would march in the American Legion parade during the convention next year.

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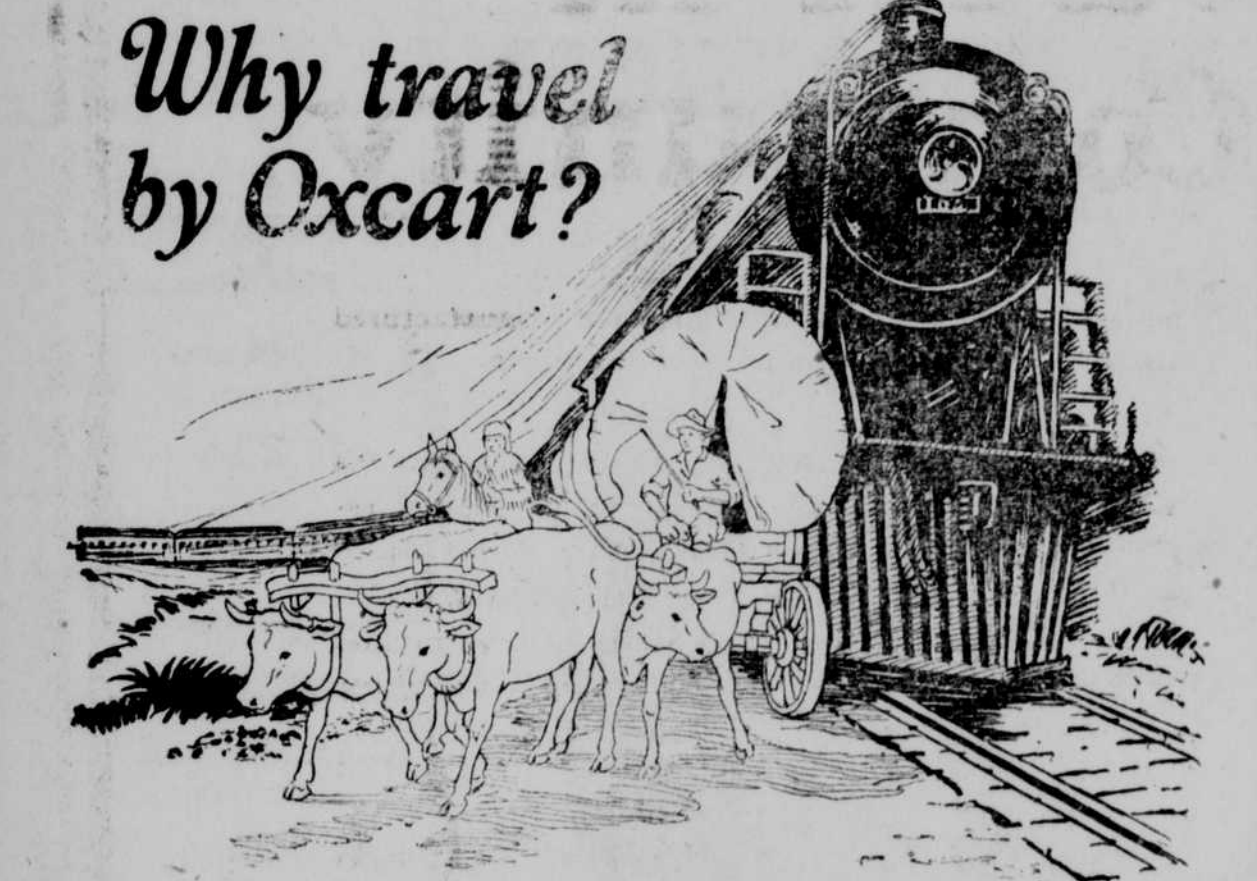
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