

Schurman Testifies to Threat on Life

Poor Waifs Made Happy by Bee Fund

100 Wistful Boys and Girls Stand in Line to Get "Real Shoes."

Many Children in Want

What a crowd of thin, wistful, pale little boys and girls gathered in the room on the sixth floor of the city hall last Friday afternoon! Each clutched the precious notes from "teachers" which endorsed them as needy children, very much in need of shoes.

Dressed in all sorts of odds and ends. Some of them with their feet literally on the ground. Others with their remnants of shoes barely holding together.

J. B. Carver and his assistants interviewed and inspected each child and gave out the certificates which entitle the holder to be fitted with a pair of shoes at a store, the bill to be sent to The Free Shoe Fund, provided by readers of The Omaha Bee.

Most of the children have been left fatherless. They live in the poorest of homes. Their mothers—in cases where there are mothers—wage a ceaseless struggle with poverty.

Tried to Make Shoes. "My mother tried to make me some shoes," said a poor little waif, showing foot-coverings made of piece of canvas which the mother had sewed into a poor imitation of a shoe.

More than 100 children were taken care of Friday. And still the waiting line grows and waits for money to come in to the fund so that they may be provided with shoes.

"If I just get some by Christmas I don't care if Santa Claus doesn't bring me anything else," said a little girl.

The money is coming in from generous readers, coming rapidly. But much more money will be needed. If you, reader, can help, do it now.

Checks, cash or money orders, mailed or brought to The Omaha Bee, will quickly be turned into shoes to warm and protect the feet of a poor child. Checks may be made payable to "Free Shoe Fund" and sent to The Omaha Bee.

Acknowledged heretofore: Robert E. Johnson, 1.00; J. B. Carver, 1.00; J. L. McGowan, 1.00; J. W. H. ... 1.00; Omaha Typographical Union No. 10,000.

Several clubs here and out in the state are pushing the work of putting shoes on the feet of these waifs. Individual contributions acknowledged today range from 50 cents to \$25, the latter in memory of one who is gone.

This is good Christmas news for the cold little ones.

Now for another big bunch of letters with the much-needed checks and money orders. Address contributions to the Free Shoe Fund, care of The Omaha Bee.

More Than 100 Youngsters Given Shoes by Readers of The Omaha Bee



Shoe orders were given to more than 100 children by the Free Shoe Fund of The Omaha Bee. Picture shows the head of the long line in the office of J. B. Carver, city hall. Margaret Price, Carver's secretary, is at the typewriter; Mame Mullen at the left; Paul S. McAlay, assistant truant officer, is back of Miss Price; Truant Officer J. B. Carver at the right.

First of Candles Burn Tonight in Chanukah Rites

Orthodox Jewish Feast Will Last for Period of Eight Days.

The first of the candles to be burned by Jews, throughout the world to commemorate the eight days of Chanukah will be lighted tonight in all orthodox Jewish homes and churches.

The symbol of the lights, Jews say, is that it emphasizes the firm conviction that the day will come when justice, love and mercy will be exalted and selfishness and hatred between races will be a thing of the past.

Cantor Joseph Malek, and his male choir will present a Chanukah cantata at the B'nai Israel synagogue, Eighteenth and Tenthon streets, on the eighth day of the festival.

DOUBLE FUNERAL FOR IOWA COUPLE

Missouri Valley, Ia., Dec. 20.—The funeral of Mr. and Mrs. George S. Green, both of whom died Thursday, Mr. Green in the morning and his wife in the evening, will be held Sunday at the Presbyterian church, of which both were members.

Pair Serves Bank More Than 30 Years



Two Omahans, one a cashier and the other an assistant cashier of the First National bank, have worked at the bank for more than 30 years each.

In fact, J. H. Bexten, the cashier of the bank, has been in the employ of the bank for 28 years. G. T. Zimmerman, the assistant cashier, has been with the bank 24 years.

The two old bank employes celebrated the anniversary of their starting at the bank last week.

Winter? Not Until Tonight! Today Is Shortest Day

WINTER may have come to Omaha this past week but officially and astronomically winter comes tonight at 8:46 p. m., the shortest day of the year.

Today the sun rose at 7:46 a. m., and will set at 4:59 p. m., making the duration of possible sunshine just nine hours and 13 minutes, said Meteorologist M. V. Robins of the local weather bureau.

This is the time when the sun reaches its greatest distance south of the equator and its rays fall vertically upon the Tropic of Capricorn in 23-1/2 degrees south latitude. With the ending of fall in the northern hemisphere, spring will end and summer will begin in the southern hemisphere.

The sun is now 23-1/2 degrees below the horizon at the north pole and the long winter night of six months' duration at the pole is at its height. At the south pole, the sun is now at its highest altitude, 1-1/2 degrees above the horizon and it is the middle of the polar day, six months long, during which the sun does not set.

The sun rises each day a little farther to the north, crosses the meridian at a little higher altitude and sets a little farther to the north. At the beginning of spring in March, the 21st, usually, when it crosses the equator, it will rise due east and set due west and day and night will be equal in length.

BLOOMFIELD MAY GET NEW SCHOOL

Bloomfield, Neb., Dec. 19.—Petitions are being circulated here asking the board of education to erect a new high school building. The attendance, both in high school and in the grades, has increased largely in the past few years.

MONEY SOUGHT FOR INDIAN RESEARCH

Columbia, Dec. 20.—Declaring that E. E. Blackman, curator of the Nebraska State Historical society, is not asking enough money from the legislature, the Columbus Chamber of Commerce endorsed a bill asking the next legislature for \$2,000 to be used in historical research in old Indian sites along the Loup river valley next summer.

ALMA COUPLE HAS BEEN WED 50 YEARS

Alma, Neb., Dec. 20.—The 50th wedding anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Myers of Alma was celebrated Wednesday at a dinner given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Seckman, Mr. and Mrs. Myers were married at Freeport, Ill., December 17, 1874. They came to Alma in March, 1879.

Omahan, 77, Drowns Self in Bath Tub

John Schroeder States He Felt Mind Failing Through Worry Over Auto Crash.

"No Hope," Says Letter

Worrying because of illness, John Schroeder, 77, drowned himself in the bath tub of his home, 2816 Dewey avenue, Saturday afternoon.

The body was found by Mrs. Bernice Gier, another roomer in the house. She summoned Ernest Kubi, who called police.

The house is rented by Mrs. Louise Schoepin, and the aged man had lived there for 12 years.

Unusually Cheerful. "He had come to depend on me and once remarked that if anything happened to me he would kill himself," said Mrs. Schoepin.

He was injured in an automobile accident Thanksgiving day and Schroeder seemed to worry about this and it affected his mind. But at breakfast he was unusually cheerful.

Leaves Two Notes. He left two notes. One was addressed to Mrs. Schoepin and reads as follows: "December 20, 1924. There is no one to blame for this act. Although non compos mentis, I know perfectly well what I am about to do. Having been sick for more than 20 years has caused the better part of my mind to weaken and all senses are affected. No one knows what I have endured and there is not the least hope of betterment. On the contrary I am getting worse."

To his friend, Ed Davis, he wrote a note reading: "Dear Ed: You have promised me to act as administrator to settle my affairs. Please look up my belongings thoroughly for I am not fit to do it. I can't bear this life any longer for I am not only in my own way but, the way of others."

Came Here in 1874. His will was filed in county court, January 28, 1904. The body is at the Stock mortuary.

Schroeder was for many years a harness maker. He had a shop on the present site of the Y. M. C. A. and also on the site of the old Merchants hotel.

Famous Spreckels Stock Ranch Sold to San Diego Man

San Francisco, Dec. 20.—Baron Long, noted San Diego millionaire horse breeder, recently announced the purchase of the famous A. B. Spreckels racing establishment at Napa for a consideration in the neighborhood of \$150,000.

Long declared he hoped to perpetuate the Spreckels ambition of raising "wonder" horses in California, stating that among the horses he had acquired, one of them, a little gangly-legged colt, out of Hymic, mother of the mighty Morvich, was possibly one of the most promising youngsters of the present year.

In all, Long acquired 40 brood mares, 24 sucklings and four horses in training.

The 6-months-old colt, as yet unnamed, is the first Hymic colt since Morvich that shows promise of developing into a worthy successor of the former racing flash, Long said.

"Hymic had just one colt after Morvich, a young filly which, unfortunately, was lame, and is now owned by Herbert Fleishacker, the banker.

"Since then the present youngster is the first brother of Morvich to begin life with a good chance of duplicating the Morvich performances on the track.

Pawnee City Couple Holds Reception on 65th Wedding Anniversary

Pawnee City, Neb., Dec. 18.—Mr. and Mrs. G. A. J. Moss of this city, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary at their home Tuesday. They have been married longer, than any other Pawnee City couple.

The first years of their married life were spent at Charles, O., where Mr. Moss was postmaster. He received his appointment through Abraham Lincoln.

He served in the union army during the civil war and through exposure nearly lost his life. Hoping to improve his health, he and his wife moved to Nebraska 38 years ago, locating on a homestead five years and then moving to Pawnee City, where they have been for the past 33 years.

During the administration of Grover Cleveland he served as postmaster of Pawnee City.

Nebraska Lowest in Rate of Deaths by Tuberculosis

Nebraska wins another blue ribbon as a national health resort. A federal survey of deaths caused by contagious diseases shows that Nebraska last year had the lowest rate per 100,000 of deaths caused by tuberculosis. This rate was 34.2, compared to 158.6 in Colorado, which had the highest rate.

During the year covered by a federal report there was decrease from 97 to 93.6 per 100,000 in deaths caused by tuberculosis.

The health departments of Omaha and other communities having been giving increased attention to tuberculosis during the last few years, in Omaha there are several agencies interested in the cure and prevention of the "white plague."

Omaha physicians are co-operating with the health department by reporting tubercular cases.

KIMBALL FARMERS HAVE GOOD YEAR

Bridgeport, Neb., Dec. 20.—According to figures gathered by H. L. Bonham of the Kimball Lions club, the farmers of Kimball county have had a prosperous year. They have shipped more livestock and produce this year than ever before, having sent 92 more cars of livestock, 140 more cars of grain and 23 more cars of hogs and potatoes in the past 11 months than in the same time last year.

According to his figures, there were 244 cars of hogs sent out, 60 cars of corn, 153 cars of potatoes, 26 cars of beans, three cars of beans, 26 cars of rye, 40 cars of barley, 85 cars of oats, and 576 cars of wheat, from Kimball alone. This does not include 13 cars of sheep, 32 cars of cattle and 100 cars of produce. It is estimated that there has been a total of \$3,000,000 worth of products sent from the three stations of Dix, Rushnell and Kimball in the past 11 months.

SURVEY MADE FOR RAILROAD BRANCH

Bridgeport, Neb., Dec. 20.—Assistant General Engineer Leonard of the Union Pacific railroad is in Gerling with a force of surveyors to go over the proposed route of the best spur, which will run southeast from Gerling for about nine miles. It is thought that actual construction on the line will start about April 1.

Pawnee City Couple Married 65 Years

Pawnee City, Neb., Dec. 20.—Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Giffin, pioneer residents of this city, who are spending the winter with his brother at Center ville, Kan., celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary there Monday, December 15.

Poison Plot Disclosed in Note to Wife

Letter Written by Mrs. Schurman to Husband Is Read in Court; Defendant's Body to Be Thrown in River.

Elopement Planned

Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee. Beatrice, Neb., Dec. 20.—An intercepted love note, discovered by a suspicious husband led to the murder of George Reimiller, by Ed Schurman, the husband, who took the witness stand in his own defense today and gave dramatic testimony regarding the alleged alienation of his wife's affections by Reimiller.

Choking back what seemed to be a sob, Schurman launched into the story of events leading up to the shooting. He told of warning Reimiller to stay away from his wife and home.

Then came a climax—the finding of the note alleged to have been written by Mrs. Schurman to her husband. Schurman testified he found the note pinned to his pillow.

The court permitted the note to be introduced. The letter was read. It ran: "Dear Ed: George told me either to help him get rid of you or to leave you and come with him. Ed, I am not all bad, and I cannot kill you nor think of anybody to do it. He wanted me to poison you and he wanted me to chloroform you, and then he said he would take you and throw you in the river and say that you got up in the night and jumped in."

"I think to save us all I will go, but I wish you to know it. We started to love on July 4, 1922, when we drove home from Wilber. He put his arms around me. Every time we were together, he made more love and I kissed him. He often came to see me until you caught us. After this we started to write letters. When George started to bring the letters I stepped out to kiss him.

"Every time I came in and seen the children and little Irene I almost had to cry. You thought it was all over and I was afraid to tell George because I heard he would kill you. I don't want you to die, so I will go. Don't think this doesn't hurt me. I know it will nearly kill father and mother. I know I'm not good enough for you and I have brought shame on our children. It makes me feel bad to leave our dear children, but I know I am not fit to raise our little girl. Vernon is not strong and you can take good care of him. Won't you forgive me the best you can, but only God can really forgive me.

"Just think, how happy we were when first married. I tried to make a good mother and wife all George led me away. Think of how I cared for you and our dear children. When they were sick and when our dear baby died, it would have been a blessing had I gone too. George said if I did not do as he said he would show my letters to you, so I must go. Our happy home for 20 years has been broken up. No one will ever know how it makes me feel to think of how you love me. Take good care of our children, and bring them up good and try to forgive me, for I am guilty. Yours, Mary."

The court ruled against counsel for the defense when it attempted to introduce some 70 love notes alleged to have been written by Mrs. Schurman and Reimiller to each other. The prosecution objected to their introduction strenuously.

Alvin Schurman, 19, the son, told a pathetic story of the change from happy family life to continual distrust and unpleasantness which followed the meetings of his mother and Reimiller.

It was on January 24, 1924, that his father discovered the affair between his mother and the former hired man, the son testified.

"I was sleeping upstairs," the youth asserted. "I was awakened by father calling downstairs. I got up. Father was very excited. He was in his overalls and barefooted. He had a gun in his hand. He said he had found mother and Reimiller together downstairs. It's too bad for the sake of our little daughter," he said. The next day he demanded that mother leave home. Later, in the presence of father, mother said it was all her fault and they patched up their troubles and she agreed to leave him alone.

Later, in July or August, the son continued, his father told him that he had discovered Reimiller was visiting at the house again. "He told me he found him lying in a shed and had fired at him, but that he had got away," the son testified. "He said 'Something would have to be done to keep him away.'"

Told of Letter Writing. "I told father that mother and Reimiller were writing letters to each other and that mother had promised she would stop," young Schurman related. "Father said that if she would stop, he'd stop abusing her."

Three Years for Robber. R. M. Rhody, who was found guilty of highway robbery, was sentenced to serve three years in the penitentiary by Judge James Fitzgerald, Friday.

DOGS KILL 73 HEAD OF SHEEP IN PENS

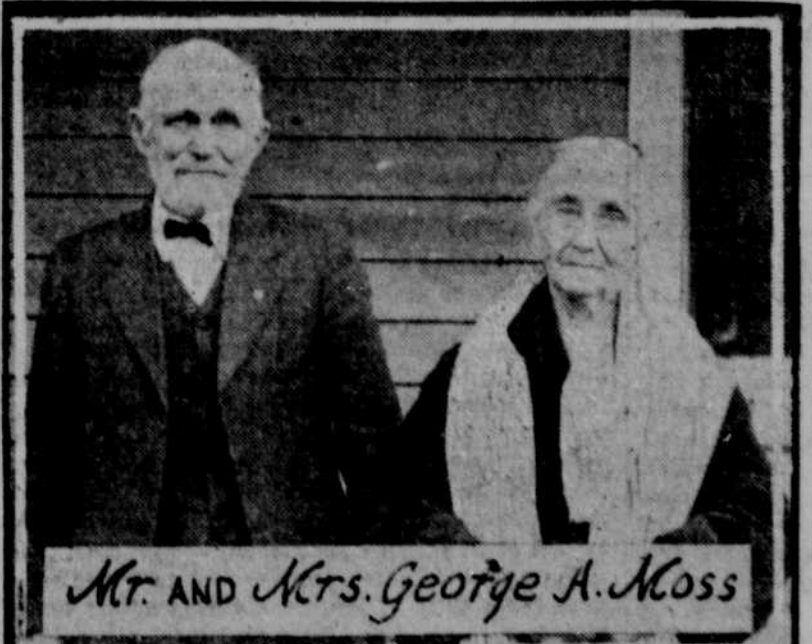
Bridgeport, Neb., Dec. 20.—Jack Pederis in Minatare had his sheep in the stock yards at Minatare, ready for shipment Friday morning, when a pack of dogs entered the pens Thursday night, and either killed or mutilated 73 fat ewes. Some of them were found dead in the morning, while others were so badly bitten that they had to be killed. Many were smothered as they huddled in the corner of the pen. Pederis' loss was about \$700.

Farmers Realize \$6,000 on Joint Poultry Sale

Bridgeport, Neb., Dec. 20.—Following the example of Goshen county, whose farmers realized more than \$15,000 from co-operative shipments of turkeys to eastern markets, the farmers in the vicinity of Henry have joined in sending a carload of poultry from which they have just realized \$6,000, getting a price of 28 cents for No. 1 and 20 cents for No. 2 stock. Seventy-six farmers were in the deal, and sold 22,100 pounds of dressed turkeys.

Civil War Veteran Dies

Bridgeport, Neb., Dec. 20.—Thomas C. Elder, age 84, a veteran of the civil war, a resident of Scottsbluff district for 14 years, died at his homestead yesterday, after a short illness.



Mr. and Mrs. George A. Moss