

# The Plattsmouth Journal

VOL. NO. 40

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1946

NO. 273

## Plattsmouth Man Is Accused of Slaying Wife at Sidney, Ia.

Sheriff Joe Mrasek said Monday afternoon that the six children of Mrs. Marguerite Ballinger of Sidney, Iowa, who was shot and killed Sunday evening, had told officials that their mother was killed by Glenn Ballinger of Plattsmouth, estranged husband of the murdered woman.

Iowa highway patrolmen arrived here Monday afternoon and told Mrasek that Ballinger had been accused by the children, all of whom witnessed the shooting.

## Tecumseh Trips Eagles in Tight Pitchers' Duel

The Plattsmouth Eagles hooked up with Tecumseh in a tight pitching duel Sunday at Tecumseh and the Eagles came out second best as they dropped a narrow 3-0 decision to the Tecumseh nine.

Yelken, Tecumseh mound artist struck out 19 Plattsmouth batters, and yielded only two hits, a single by Noble and a double by O'Donnell. Jacobs, Eagles pitcher, gave up only six hits and struck out seven Tecumseh batters.

**No Hits Until Sixth**  
The game was almost tight for five innings with a single by Anderson of Tecumseh as the only hit for either team. O'Donnell laced out his double in the sixth after two were out but Hobbs struck out to end the threat.

A hit, a walk and an error brought Tecumseh its first run in the sixth inning. Two hits in the seventh and two more in the eighth accounted for single runs in each of those innings.

**Noble Hits Single**  
Noble gave the Plattsmouth nine hope in the ninth as he opened the inning with a single, but Yelken struck out O'Donnell and Hobbs and Chovanec was out to Stangel at first to end the threat.

O'Donnell was the only Eagles player to reach second base.

Low, Tecumseh short stop, led the winners with two hits, Stangel's triple in the eighth inning was the only extra base blow the winners garnered.

Jacobs issued four walks to the Tecumseh team while Yelken gave up two passes. The Eagles were guilty of four errors and Tecumseh made three miscues.

Fielding highlights to the game were two sensational catches by Noble, Eagles left fielder, and a double play, Gradoville to Shiffer to O'Donnell.

**See Little Relief From Heat Wave**  
Little relief was seen Monday from a heat wave that has kept high temperatures 84 or above since Wednesday of last week. Continued warm with a high in the middle 90's was the prediction cloudy weather was forecast for Tuesday.

Sunday's high was 90, Lemuel Gessell, Masonic home weather observer, reported. Low for the 24-hour period ending at 8 a. m. Monday was 70.

Saturday was the first day since the mercury hit 98 last Thursday that it failed to reach the 90's. High for Saturday was 84 with a low of 56.

Meanwhile, R. A. Dyke, director of the state weather bureau, reported rainfall in the state totaled 4.78 inches in May, over a half-inch above normal.

May was the coolest since 1925, temperatures averaging 55.2 degrees, of four degrees below normal.

**Clanton Fined for Reckless Driving**  
Vernon Clanton of Plattsmouth paid a fine of \$25 and costs to County Judge Paul Fauquet Monday after pleading guilty to a charge of reckless driving.

Sheriff Joe Mrasek reported Clanton's car struck a parked car, owned by Hillard W. Land, at 414 North Sixth street, early Sunday morning. Damage to Land's car was estimated at \$175 and damage to Clanton's car was believed to be about the same.

ed wife, Mrs. Marguerite Ballinger, 35, mother of six children, was found shot to death in her home at Sidney, Iowa Sunday night.

Fremont county Coroner Ralph Lovelady said she had been shot twice through the chest apparently at close range, with a 22-caliber rifle. Sheriff A. S. Christoffer said no gun was found.

**Ballinger Left Sunday**  
Sheriff Joe Mrasek said Monday that Sheriff Christoffer had notified him of the death of Mrs. Ballinger. Cass county officials learned that Ballinger, who is employed at the BEX, left Plattsmouth Sunday afternoon for Sidney. It was not known how he made the trip because he had no car and there is no bus service directly to Sidney. He was wearing a pair of overalls and it was not known if he had a gun. His present whereabouts is unknown.

**Children Witnessed Slaying**  
The six Ballinger children witnessed the shooting. One child said her mother staggered into the kitchen and collapsed after the shooting. Another told Fremont county officers his mother had been talking with someone in the yard before the shots were heard.

Officials said Mrs. Ballinger recently filed suit for divorce from her estranged husband.

An inquest was to be held Monday at Sidney.

Ballinger, who started work at the BEX last Jan. 31, was discharged from the army Dec. 7, 1945. He served over a year in Italy with the 15th air force as a member of the ground crew and was in the army more than two years. He had made his home in Sidney previous to entering the service. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Ballinger of Plattsmouth.

**Meat Famine in Week Predicted**  
WASHINGTON (AP)—The office of economic stabilization warned Monday that the United States may have a meat famine in a week.

It said cattle and hog growers were withholding livestock in expectation that Congress will lift price controls on meat July 1. The Senate planned to begin debate late Monday on an OPA extension bill which includes a provision for ending meat controls on that date.

Livestock growers feel prices will soar after July 1 and thus want to delay marketing until they can sell for what the traffic will bear, said a spokesman for the office of economic stabilization.

He said packers also were holding back meat. This practice, he added, has been increasing steadily for several weeks and "if it continues, we will have a meat famine a week from now."

**Call Me Mister!**  
Two men reported their discharges from the armed services to the Cass county selective service office Friday, it was announced Monday.

They were: From the navy, Arthur Lepert of Plattsmouth. From the marine corps, Donald Harriger of Ingleswood, Calif.

**Who's Talking Through Whose Hat, -- Wherry or Bowles**  
By Frederick C. Othman  
WASHINGTON (AP)—Two of my favorite people are stabilization chief Chester Bowles and Sen. Kenneth Wherry, Nebraska republican. I respect them both for their honesty and their intelligence, but one of them is talking through his fedora.

Bowles claims the bill before the Senate today making mince-meat of the OPA will, if made law, be a national disaster. Wherry says if it doesn't become law, disaster is too mild a word. Mr. Bowles, meet Sen. Wherry; Ken, shake hands with Chet.

I wish I knew which of these gentlemen's ideas are cock-eyed. I'd sleep better. So would about 140,000,000 other people, from President Truman down to the last lady in the last butter line.

We're going to be hearing thousands of hot words almost immediately from the experts on both sides in the Senate, but I doubt if this will make the rest of us feel easier. One thing we

can do is take a look at H. R. 6042, the bill that seems destined to make one or the other of my friends look (I hate to say it) like a dope.

It would end exactly three weeks from today all price controls on livestock, meat, poultry, milk, cheese, butter and eggs and whatever is made from these things, including custard pies, cheese blintzes, hamburger sandwiches and egg-nog. Bowles says this would raise our grocery bill, not by millions, but by billions. Wherry says it would bring to market 10,000,000 surplus steers on the ranges, bring order out of chaos, and lower the price of food.

I still am confused. I don't believe these fellows' comments are much help.

The bill will either save the nation, or wreck it and it'll be a sorry day for me when I must decide whether Bowles or Wherry is to be gagged with old ration stamps.

**23 Believed Killed In Crash of Army Transport Plane**  
PANAMA CITY (AP)—Searchers hauling themselves up the jungle-matted slopes to Taboga island on rope lines Monday removed 12 unidentified bodies from the wreckage of a U. S. army C-54 transport plane in which 23 persons apparently perished.

The hunt for the other 11 persons aboard the giant airliner continued through the tangled tropical trees and underbrush.

Search parties brought the 12 bodies found to the Panama mainland for identification. The victims' names will be announced as soon as they are established and relatives notified.

The four-motored army plane smashed into the south slope of the mountain on Taboga island, in the Pacific ocean 12 miles from Panama City, at 11:13 a. m. Sunday. It was on a routine flight from Morrison field, West Palm Beach, Fla., to Albrook field in Panama. There were 17 passengers and a crew of six. Apparently all were killed.



**NEWLYWEDS**—Their wedding twice postponed, first by a search for \$5 with which to buy a license and then by difficulty in locating a willing minister, Mrs. Mattie Lyons Large, 79, and Delbert Lee (Shorty) Sprouse, 18, abandoned plans for a marriage in Mrs. Large's two-room log cabin and made the 16-mile trip to the Lawrence county courthouse in Louisa, Ky., where they were wed by the county judge, who, the bride explained, had to do it. Mrs. Sprouse is the mother of seven children and grandmother of 49. "Shorty" is her former farm hand. (NEA telephoto)

## Mrs. Nelson Installed as Grand Regent of Catholic Daughters

Mrs. William Nelson was installed grand regent in the Our Lady of Loretto court of the Catholic Daughters of America, No. 709, of Plattsmouth in ceremonies conducted Sunday afternoon in St. John's hall, by Miss Mary Hyland, district deputy installing officer of Lincoln.

**Mrs. Rea Honored**  
Other officers are Mrs. John Bergman, vice-grand regent; Mrs. Walter Smith, prophetess; Mrs. John Hadraba, lecturer; Mrs. William Woolcott, historian; Mrs. Lucille Gaines, financial secretary; Miss Dorothy Svoboda, treasurer; Mrs. E. J. Doody, organist, and Mrs. Rudolph Iverson and Mrs. F. G. Frickel, trustees.

Mrs. Fred Rea was presented with a sterling silver rosary in recognition of her seven years as grand regent of the Plattsmouth court and as present state vice-regent. Mrs. William Swatek made the presentation.

**Three New Members**  
New members received Sunday were Mrs. Louis Svoboda, Mrs. Edward Gradoville, and Mrs. Ernest Janda. Holy communion was given the members of the organization at the Holy Rosary church at the morning Mass Sunday.

Following the reception of new members and the installation of officers in the afternoon, a dinner was served to the entire group at Bestor's dining room. Mrs. Rea and Miss Hyland were speakers at the dinner.

**Rev. Bennett Said Improving Slowly**  
Rev. T. Porter Bennett, pastor of the First Methodist church, who is at the home of his son, Oscar Bennett, 1840 E Street, in Lincoln, recuperating from a stroke he suffered a week ago Sunday at Union, is reported to be improving slowly. He isn't expected to be able to return to the pulpit until next fall. He had been in Bryan Memorial hospital in Lincoln.

Raymond C. Cook filled the pulpit Sunday at the First Methodist church in the absence of Rev. Bennett.

**Chinese Government Charges Communists Broke 15-Day Truce**  
CHANGCHUN (AP)—The Central news agency reported "increasing communist attacks on government troops" Monday despite a 15-day truce which went into effect Friday in Manchuria. Communists surrounding Lafa were attacking furiously and have inflicted 200 casualties, the report said. Twelve regiments have reinforced the communists recently, the report added.

In addition to the fighting in Manchuria, communists were reported surging forward in Shanghai and Samsai provinces to the south.

(Nanking reported that peace prospects were dim as the 15-day truce entered its fourth day.)

**Fire Discovered By Employee**  
The flames were discovered by a hotel employee when he opened the door to a small closet in back of the cocktail lounge, which had been closed for the evening and emptied of guests a short while before.

William Canfield, hotel manager, said the employee ran to him to report the fire. Canfield ran for a fire extinguisher but when he returned the cocktail lounge was ablaze. He dropped the extinguisher and ran back to the desk.

"It was terrible," he said. "I ran to the clerk at the desk in the lobby and told him to call the fire department and notify the guests" (Turn to Page 3, Number 1)

**Firemen Fear More Dead in Dubuque Fire**  
DUBUQUE, Iowa. — Firemen feared Monday that a search of charred debris in the fire-swept Canfield hotel would yield more bodies in a tragedy which already had taken 15 lives.

Red Cross officials, who earlier reported 25 persons unaccounted for, revised their estimate downward. Mrs. James Donahue, executive secretary of the Dubuque Red Cross chapter, believed there were "only seven or eight" not yet accounted for.

Police and fire department officials believed that some of these might have been permanent residents of the hotel who were away during the week end.

**No List of Missing**  
Mrs. Donahue said she had no list of the missing, but that Red Cross estimates were based on the number of guests believed registered at the hotel.

However, a check of the hotel register, which was water-soaked and scorched, disclosed the names of 21 persons not accounted for. The register actually listed 24 such names but it was believed that three of them would be found to belong to three bodies still unidentified.

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How many persons were registered was not determined definitely because of condition of the register. Estimates ran from 123 to 193.

A search of the blackened rubble within the 55-year-old main section of the hotel was delayed while crews worked to erect supports to prevent further collapse. The second and third floors of the four-story building had caved in, and the weakened walls were bulging.

The fire broke out at 11:30 p. m. Plattsmouth (time) Saturday and spread swiftly throughout the 200-room hotel. The flames, starting in a closet near the Red cocktail lounge on the ground floor, shot upward to the floors above.

**Two Miss Nets**  
Panic-stricken guests trapped by the smoke and flames leaped out the windows and screamed as firemen set up ladders and rigged nets. Fire Capt. Harold Cosgrove said 30 persons were rescued when they leaped into nets, and 27 were carried down ladders. Of those who leaped, however, two were killed when they missed the nets.

Some of those who perished were burned to death and others suffocated in the smoke-filled rooms and corridors. Many escaped by ripping and knotting bedsheets into makeshift ladders.

About 400 survivors were injured many suffering broken bones jumping from windows.

Firemen admitted there was a possibility that some of the missing had escaped and had failed to report to authorities, but they feared the worst.

**Fire Discovered By Employee**  
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**DOOLITTLE WEDS**—Lt. John Doolittle, son of Gen. "Jimmy" Doolittle of air force fame, is pictured with his bride, the former Priscilla Johnson of Washington, D. C., following their marriage in the capital.

## Thimgan Fans 16 As Plattsmouth Nips Louisville

Sixteen Louisville American Legion Junior batters were unable to solve the slants of Larry Thimgan, Plattsmouth American Legion Junior pitcher, and the local junior nine nipped the Louisville team, 6-5, in the opening game in district No. 17 competition for both teams here Sunday.

After a shaky first inning in which Louisville counted three runs, the local boys settled down behind Thimgan's fine hurling. The slender right-hander struck out 16 batters and gave up only two earned runs, the other three being scored as the result of errors.

**Alkire Bats in Two Runs**  
Thimgan gave up ten hits, two of them of the scratch variety, while his mates battered Welton, Louisville hurler, for 12 blows, six of them doubles. Welton struck out only two Plattsmouth batters.

It was Jim Alkire's solid double in the fourth frame that gave Plattsmouth its victory margin. Alkire came to bat with two outs and men on second and third and proceeded to lace a two-base hit down the right field foul line, giving Plattsmouth a 6-4 edge.

Louisville tried to come back in the seventh, scoring one run after two were out and putting men on first and third, but Thimgan bore down and struck out the last batter to end the threat.

**Eaton Gets Three Hits**  
Eddie Eaton led the Plattsmouth batting attack with three safe blows, two of them doubles, and scored three runs himself. Sheehan, Mayfield and Ingram each collected two hits each for Louisville.

Louisville did its heavy scoring in the first inning after two were out. Mayfield was safe on (Turn to Page 3, Number 2)

**Cook Speaker at Church Meeting**  
Raymond C. Cook, president of the Nebraska conference of the Brotherhood of the United Brethren church, will be one of the speakers at the national Brotherhood conference to be held in Indianapolis, Ind., June 11 to 13. He will speak at the Tuesday evening session of the conference and again on Wednesday morning on subjects relating to the work of the laymen of the church.

Rev. Lee Huebert, pastor of the United Brethren church at Mynard, and Cook plan to leave Plattsmouth Monday for the conference.

Other representatives from Nebraska who will attend the conference will be H. O. Layson, Auburn, vice-president of the Nebraska conference of the brotherhood, and Rev. Arthur C. Core, pastor of the Lincoln United Brethren church. Rev. Core was heard here on the first day of the Holy Week services and he is the director of adult education in the Nebraska conference of the church.

**Mrs. Moomey Dies At Masonic Home**  
Mrs. Isadore Moomey, 83, a resident of the Masonic home, died Monday morning. She was born Feb. 8, 1863, at Alveston, Ill., and married William E. Phelps. They moved to Nebraska and settled near Rising City. Her husband died in 1900.

In 1904 she married Richard Y. Moomey and they lived at Gresham. They both were admitted to the home here June 10, 1940, exactly six years ago. Mr. Moomey died about six weeks later. They were from Morning Star lodge No. 197, A. F. and A. M., Gresham.

Survivors include two sons, Homer A. Phelps of Omaha and Arlos Moomey, who lives in California, and eight step-children.

Funeral services will be held at the Caldwell funeral home Wednesday at 1:30 p. m. with Rev. J. W. Tenzler, pastor of the First Christian church, in charge. Burial will be in the Hillcrest cemetery in Omaha.

**Break-in at Greenwood**  
A radio, a bicycle and a bar-trucks bag containing army clothes were taken from the home of Mrs. Beverly Moore at Greenwood Saturday night, Sheriff Joe Mrasek reported Monday.

**NEBRASKA WEATHER**  
Forecast—Generally fair and continued warm Monday and Monday night. High temperatures Monday middle 90's. Tuesday partly cloudy, scattered thunder showers and cooler northwest and extreme west in the afternoon.

## Phone Dispute Settled Less Than 20 Minutes Before Strike Deadline

### George Farley Honored for 51 Years in Church

George Farley is wearing a small gold pin today. It's not an expensive pin but what it means to Mr. Farley is something that cannot be evaluated, for its worth is in the thought behind it.

He received the pin Sunday morning at the First Presbyterian church from Carl Schneider, elder of the church, on behalf of the church. And it was given to him for the time and effort he has given to the church in his 51 years of membership.

**Never Missed Sunday School**  
During those 51 years, Mr. Farley has never missed attending Sunday school.

The occasion was also in observance of Mr. Farley's 80th birthday which occurred Monday, June 3.

In presenting the pin, Mr. Schneider briefly reviewed the life of Mr. Farley. He was born at Weeping Water June 3, 1866, and was educated at the public schools there and graduated from the academy in 1891.

From 1900 to 1908 he was editor of the Plattsmouth Evening News and Semi-Weekly News Herald.

**Gardening Is Hobby**  
Mr. Farley has been an extremely active in public service, having been county superintendent of schools for three terms, county assessor for one term, deputy county treasurer for two years and county commissioner for two terms. He was a member of the home guard during World War I.

In addition to those activities, he has found time to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary club and the Modern Woodmen of America.

And in the church he has been equally as active. He was superintendent of the Sunday school for many years, church treasurer, elder and sang in the choir many years and he teaches a Sunday school class.

He also has found time for a hobby, which is gardening.

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**Former Plattsmouth Man Dies in Omaha**  
Gernie B. Thomas, 61, Omaha died Friday evening in the Doctor's hospital in Omaha after having been in failing health for the past two years.

Born in Plattsmouth, Jan. 30, 1885, he lived here until 1907 when he went to Omaha. He worked as an interior decorator until the time of his hospitalization a month ago.

Surviving him are one son, John, of Tacoma, Wash.; his mother, Mrs. Julia Thomas, 6108 Williams street, Omaha; one sister, Mrs. Drusilla Franks, Omaha, and one brother, Alvin E., of Pueblo, Colo. His father was killed in the Burlington station in Omaha in 1901.

Funeral services will be held at the Glendale mortuary in Omaha Tuesday at 2 p. m. and burial will be made in the Homing cemetery south of Plattsmouth.

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Union members of the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Co. here continued in the job Monday afternoon as a strike scheduled to get underway at noon was forestalled when the company and the United Union of Telephone Workers reached a compromise agreement less than 20 minutes before the walk-out was to begin.

"Everyone returned to work and everything is normal," W. L. Eckles, area managers at the local office, said shortly after 1 p. m.

**16 Cent Hourly Boost**  
Settlement granting the company employes an average of 16 cents an hour increase was signed by the company and the union, the United Press reported.

The new wage contract, which makes the increase retroactive to last April 20, runs until March 30, 1947.

The contract substantially that proposed by federal conciliators who have conferred with union and company bargaining committees during the last three days, and did not meet the workers' original demands for wages equal to those paid by Northwest Bell Telephone company in Nebraska.

The union, according to attorney George I. Craven, intends to "bridge the gap" when a new contract is signed next March.

**President Approves Increase**  
Craven estimated the new contract will give employes in the bargaining unit \$50,000 in additional wages during the contract year.

The wage boost agreed to Monday will increase employes salaries by about \$25 a month, he said.

Company President Thomas also approved the increase.

The new contract was amended in minor respects only from that submitted by the conciliators, according to both management and labor. The original settlement offered would result in some increase over the company's original proposal to pay \$438,000 increase in wages for the contract year beginning last April 20, estimating the current contract may cost the company an additional \$60,000 in wages.

**Threatened Election Returns**  
Both factions professed pleasure that the threatened strike had not come off, and that service to the public was left unaffected. The walkout, Craven said, would have cost union members approximately \$5,000 a day in lost wages.

The strike had threatened to delay returns in the primary election Tuesday in Cass county and 21 other southeastern counties served by the company.

In Plattsmouth the company was prepared for the strike and arrangements had been made to continue service in this area, with the exception of Avoca and Eagle, which are serviced by independent companies. The service, Eckles admitted, would have been slowed somewhat but it would be as near normal as possible.

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