

## Cascades

Because of the weather there was some doubt as to the success of the Sunday wolf hunt. Those doubts were dispelled with finality by 12:30 yesterday when it seemed as though at least 75 per cent of all the nimrods in the community were congregating at the corner of Fourth and Main streets.

From the number of gun enthusiasts in the community I'd venture a guess that the sheriff would have little trouble organizing a posse.

But what I can't understand is "wolf hunts" when all the hunters seem to be coyotes. There are plenty of wolves around here, found in drug stores and on street corners.

You've probably heard it before but I think it's worth repeating. The setting is purely local. I speak of it respectfully. The story concerns a young man who was above reproach as to character, relations with his fellow man and all his acts. His father was as wicked as the young man was good. The son was stricken with an incurable ailment and died. About the time of his funeral his erring father sought out the minister. He could not understand why the son who was good should be taken while he, a sinner, was spared. The clergyman answered, in so many words, that the Lord took the boy because he was ready to die. "He is giving you more time so you can see the error of your ways," the preacher philosophized.

This column for weeks has been pieced together from scraps of information anyone else hears about town. It can be done by anyone who tries to remember what he hears and takes time to make it appear on paper.

Cascades is never begun with a definite conclusion in view. That works itself out.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars have an excellent opportunity to contribute a bit to community spirit in their recently formed organization. They have many things in their favor including enthusiasm, youth and the bond formed by a common wartime service.

Joe Samek has been at the Methodist hospital in Omaha for the past week where he underwent a major operation Saturday. He will remain for the removal of a cast.

## Memory Lane

### Farm Sold For \$50 An Acre In Cass County Only Ten Years Ago

Ten years ago this week the Oak Hill Cemetery Association discussed with lot owners the possibility of perpetual care of graves. Safe burglars struck the grocery store of A. O. Ault at Cedar Creek. They took a small amount of money. The L. R. Hickenbottoms moved to Ellensburg, Wash. Musicians of PHS, directed by Miss Helene Perry, provided entertainment at the Rotary club meeting. An epidemic of scarlet fever raged in the Alvo community.

Atty. A. L. Tidd was using a cane after a fall on an icy walk near his home. William Rakes sold his 80 acre tract east of Union to W. A. Ost for \$4,000-\$50 an acre. Priests from Sutton and Roseland were the guests of Fr. George Agius. Mrs. J. A. Capwell visited her brother at a Wahoo hospital. Mrs. Carl Kell attended funeral services for her grandmother at Beaver City.

The Community Building club ended its first year of existence. Leo Boynton was club secretary. County Treasurer John E. Turner attended a meeting at Grand Island. Miss Margaret A. Kider and J. L. Eley were married at Glenwood. The farm home of William Dettman near Elmwood was burglarized.

Wolf hunts are not new in Cass county. Back in 1916 one was held to bag six of the animals. The Eagles held a social evening. In charge of the program were Jess Warga, Will Mason and Clifford Burbridge. A play, "The Birth of a Nation," was at the theatre. The company came here in two special railroad cars and included a 25-piece orchestra. The C. O. C. C. club met at the home of its president, Miss Eleanor Schlot.

The Plattsmouth Red Sox baseball team gained another member when L. Roy Jams arrived to work in the railroad shops. Peter Madsen, although actually 68, celebrated his 17th birthday. He had been born on Feb. 29. Louis Puls and family moved into their new home in Murray. Charles Boedeker farm west of Murray.

The cafe owned by Chief of Police William Barclay reopened. The high school basketball team lost to Elmwood, 16-14. The S. S. Club met at the Sattler home on High School hill. The Elmwood state bank was bought by J. M. Stone and sons of Nehawka. George McDaniel, who had been engaged in the blacksmith business at Riverton, Ia., returned here and set up a shop.

## ...at the Court House

Two marriages were performed by County Judge Paul E. Fauquet during the weekend.

Married on Sunday were Vern Anderson, 21, commercial artist, and Jennie Pauline Makey, 27, secretary, both of Lincoln.

The Saturday marriage was that of Everett Stroup, 49, foundry foreman, and Dorothy Jones, 38, both of Omaha.

Burke Robertson, 20, Murdock, was fined \$30 and costs when he pleaded guilty to speeding today in county court. Sheriff Tom Solomon testified that Robertson drove 80 miles an hour on Highway 1 and went through Elmwood 60 miles an hour.

All county offices were open Saturday afternoon in conformance with a recent resolution of the county commissioners.

## 39 Bills Passed At Rapid Pace; Unicameral Acts

By Senator William A. Metzger

The legislature this week moved along at a rather rapid pace. We have acted either in committee or in the legislature as a whole upon 225 bills of a total of 515. We have passed 39 bills and killed 28. The Governor has vetoed one bill, an attempt was made to override this action but this action did not prevail.

None of the "new tax" proposals have been acted upon in any manner. It is the thought behind this that it would be better to wait until we can tell what the needs of the state will be.

An interesting discussion was brought out before the Education Committee in a hearing this week. The majority of the school districts in the state will be unable to continue having a 9 month schedule school term unless the mill levy ceiling of 22 mills is raised. Some figures were shown that in certain areas a levy of 40 mills will be necessary. When one stops to realize that the state budget will need a mill levy of only 4 mills for all state functions it is easy to see that the main portion of our taxes today are of a local nature for our county. Continued to No. 1 Page 4



## 278 Young People Of County Active In Four-H Clubs

Four H club week is being observed by hundreds of Cass County rural young people.

There are now 50 active clubs in the county with a membership of 278. Ninety four are boys and 184 are girls.

Clarence Schmadeke, County agent is urging that the club obtain 100 new members. He suggests that each 4-H member attempt to interest one person in the work.

The week of March 1 to 8 is being observed on a nation wide basis.

Four H livestock leaders from Cass, Otoe, and Lancaster counties will meet Tuesday, Mar. 11, at the farm auditorium in Weeping Water. Judging and exhibition of livestock will be explained by K. C. Fouts, cattle expert from the college of agriculture at Lincoln.

Officers for 1947 have been selected by the 4-H county committee. They include Mrs. John Rieke, Weeping Water, secretary; Howard Wiles, Plattsmouth, boys representative, and Miss Evelyn Wolph, Nehawka, girls representative. Other officers are James Schafer, Nehawka, chairman, and Mrs. Throvald Hansen, Weeping Water, vice chairman.

John Biesing, who was taken by Caldwell ambulance to St. Catherine's hospital in Omaha, will remain there for a few days longer for treatment.

## Many Attend Rites For G. L. Meisinger

Many persons attended the last rites for George L. Meisinger held Saturday at the First Presbyterian church with the Rev. Dr. H. G. McClusky officiating.

Two vocal numbers, "Last Mile of the Way," and "Wonderful Peace," were sung by Frank Clويد, accompanied by Mrs. Richard Schade.

Funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Tuesday at the Caldwell funeral home with the Rev. H. G. McClusky officiating. Burial will be in Oak Hill.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Anna Tams Roberts, Lincoln one sister, Mrs. Wallace Hunter, Omaha, two nephews and a niece in Omaha, and Mrs. J. M. Roberts, his stepmother, of Plattsmouth.

Visiting hours at the funeral home will be from 7 to 9 p. m. tonight.

WEeping WATER — Mrs. Oscar Johnson has sold the house east of the school grounds to Mrs. Dill, who has moved back here from Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Lester Parson, who rented the Johnson house, are moving to the L. C. Reed property west of the park.

WEeping WATER — Members of the Cass County Farmers Union and their families are meeting at the community building here tonight to hear reports on the state convention.

WEeping WATER — Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Morris, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Morris, has been elected president of the Kampus Veterans club at North Texas Agricultural college where he is one of 1400 World War II veterans enrolled.

## Paul Roberts, 62 Dies At Lincoln; Rites To Be Here

The body of Paul Holland Roberts, 62, former local man who died at Lincoln Saturday, has been returned here for funeral services and burial.

Mr. Roberts, the son of Joseph M. and Alice Donelan Roberts, was born here on Oct. 1, 1884.

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HUNDREDS OF HUNTERS took part in the wolf hunt held near here Sunday under the auspices of the Plattsmouth fire department. Only trouble was the lack of wolves and coyotes. The nimrods, more than 400 of them, managed to bag but one coyote. The above picture was taken at Fourth and Main streets when the hunters assembled. The coyote in the foreground was bagged before the hunt began.

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## September Dates Are Selected For King Korn Event

Make way for the King Korn Carnival.

The outstanding annual event this year will be on Sept. 17, 18, 19 and 20.

Sponsors of the gala festival are announcing the dates early so conflicting affairs will not be arranged.

The executive board has elected Ordell Hennings, Hinky Dinky store manager, as vice president to succeed Richard Peck who resigned. Leslie Niel was appointed concessions chairman.

The King Korn Carnival Klub is headed by Ed Egenberger. He succeeded Walter H. Smith who had charge of last year's successful celebration.

## Lumber Concerns Of County Bought By Omaha Firm

Purchase of the Cash Lumber company, 648 First Avenue, and the Clويد Lumber company, Louisville, by the Chicago Lumber company of Omaha was announced today.

The two institutions were formerly owned by A. W. Clويد, John Clويد and Albert Funk.

Name of the local business will be changed to the Plattsmouth lumber company. The Louisville firm will be known as the Chicago Lumber company.

New member of the Plattsmouth firm will be Lester Dalton, who was born and raised in the local community. He has been with the Chicago company at Edgar.

A. W. Clويد has been connected with the lumber and coal business in Cass county for more than 40 years.

## Chartered Bus To Cage Tourney Leaving At Five

Many Plattsmouth high school basketball enthusiasts are expected to accompany the team for its appearance in the district tournament at Auburn Wednesday night.

A special Cotner bus will leave the Plattsmouth hotel at 5 p. m. Some reservations are still available, according to Harold Alkire, Chamber of Commerce committee chairman.

The locals, ninth in state ratings, open against Crete, third in the state list of Class B club at 6:30. Crete has had a good season and the clubs are pretty evenly matched.

Blue Devil hopes were lifted when Coach Merle Stewart today said that Jim Alkire, who's been out with a sprained ankle, probably will play.

## Many Moves Are Being Made Here

Many residential changes are being made in the local community.

Clifford Hankins is moving into the property at 623 North Sixth street which he purchased from George McGraw. The Hankins family formerly resided at Murray. The McGraw family is moving into the property adjoining Sixth street.

George Mayabb has moved from the George Hennings place near Louisville to the A. B. Rogers farm at Mynard.

Louis Starek will occupy the A. B. Rogers farm three miles west of here on the Louisville road. The Stareks formerly resided at Omaha.

Arthur Rogers has moved from the Myron Wiles place to the Arthur Troop farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Reuel Sack will occupy the Pearl Albin farm near Murray.

## Town Team Opens In Bellevue Meet

Town team cagers tonight play Cedar Rapids at 8 p. m. in the Bellevue tournament. Paced by Sterling Cole who scored 16 points and Stewart who got 13, the locals Thursday night trimmed Nebcity, 46-17.

ELMWOOD — The Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Janssen and daughter have left for San Juan, Capistrano, California where they will make their future home.

# Patterson Murder Tagged Baffling Crime Epic

By Max Mandelko

This is about the man who talked himself to death.

It can not be construed as humor in any sense of the word. Murder is not funny.

Mrs. Annette Shera was in last night's edition of the historic Rock Bluff story. The man who murdered for profit had not been caught.

But disintegrating Rock Bluff was not the most pleasant little village in the Midwest.

Murder had been stamped on the little community in scarlet letters. People who had long lived there became suspicious of one another. Whenever the Shera murder was mentioned there were insinuations and suggestions.

So many autumns came and went in Rock Bluff. Occasionally the oldtimers would hear the rustling leaves echo "who." Who killed Mrs. Shera?

Among the many who were unwilling to forget the unsolved Shera crime was Frederick Patterson, hardy pioneer who rivalled one of Brett Hart's western characters. There was more distinguished about him than just his white flowing mustache.

The Patterson family played an important part in the development of Cass county. Way back in 1827, Thomas Patterson came to the Missouri river valley as a young surveyor. After settling in Rock Bluff, the Pattersons raised two sons who were to be remembered. This is not a history of the Patterson family so it is incomplete. Anyway, one Patterson became a famous educator. Fred Patterson followed in the footsteps of his father—became a surveyor. Fred Patterson was elected Cass county surveyor every time he ran for office. Once he did not run because he didn't think the job was worth the \$5 filing fee.

The 77-year life span of the pioneer surveyor, abruptly terminated by a blazing revolver, was colorful. He was married twice and at the time of his death was believed to be corresponding with a Pennsylvania woman.

In the years preceding Mrs. Shera's slaying, Patterson lived in a hut along the river high up in the bluffs a mile south of the ghost city. The shack was in a small clearing. To this early day pioneer dwelling Patterson took two brides and here his children, some by each of the women, saw the light of day.

There was a relationship between the Patterson and Shera families. Mrs. Shera's grandson married Patterson's daughter.

The Rock Bluff decline continued without acceleration after the death of the elderly woman storekeeper. There was no general store in the village for about 15 years.

It was in the twenties that Patterson quit the court house and reestablished a store in Rock Bluff. He took private surveying jobs and continued to talk.

There are many local oldtimers who recall the veteran surveyor. He was abrupt in speech often humorous. He had admirable traits.

One thing Patterson could not rid from his mind was the unsolved murder of Mrs. Shera. He often revived the subject to intimate friends, and in so many words, indicated he knew the identity of the slayer.

A story made the rounds that Patterson had evidence that would pin the Shera murder on someone stored away in a vault at the court house. The theory of that was something like life insurance. But discussing murder in Rock Bluff makes one unpopular like

a violent case of measles. No one wanted to talk about it 20 years ago. They still don't.

For sentimental reasons, Patterson built his store at the intersection of Waterloo and Main St., on the original homestead of his father. It was an "L" shaped one-story frame building just a short distance from the store-home where Mrs. Shera breathed her last.

The long arm of the "L" faced the street. There was a gasoline pump out in front. The first section, which had an open porch, was for merchandise. To the rear of that was sort of a kitchen and storage shed. At the rear and left were a bedroom and garage.

There are so many alikes in the Shera and Patterson murders that repeating them seem redundant. They were both elderly. The similarities never end.

Only in the probable causes of their deaths does the observer find a divergence of ways.

Everyone in Rock Bluff for many years had known about the things Patterson said. News travels rapidly in small communities. There were many who could quote his exact words without error.

It may have been only coincidence, but the Plattsmouth Journal in 1931 revived a ghost and momentarily the footsteps of Mrs. Shera were once again heard as she made that final walk from the home of relatives to her store-home.

An enterprising reporter revived the Shera murder on its 21st anniversary. Tongues began to wag in Rock Bluff and a lot of talking was done in Patterson's store.

No one today knows what Patterson knew. Perhaps, he was only guessing. Somewhere along the line, Pat-

erson made the correct guess. The knowledge was his death warrant.

The newspaper article about the Shera murder was published in August. That was the 30-day notice of death for Mr. Patterson.

Once again whispers and rumors floated like the leaves that were drifting from the riverbank trees. People eyed the Shera home furtively—perhaps with wide-eyed fear.

And so it was in September of 1931 when death came to visit Frederick Patterson.

The ever-changing banks of the Missouri was only a few hundred "Farmers Cash store." Death, the cashier.

Jean Hull, 10, peered in and saw Mr. Patterson's prostrate form on the floor near the far end of the merchandise room. As had been her habit for three years, the girl had come to the store to prepare the old man's Sunday dinner. She did not realize she was looking at a corpse.

After walking leisurely to the home of Joe Shera, a quarter of a mile east of the store, she met Mrs. Shera in her yard.

"Your father must have been awfully tired last night," Jean told Mrs. Shera, "because he laid down on the floor of the store and went to sleep."

As if sensing the full significance of what had happened, Mrs. Shera summoned her husband from the farm yard, repeated what the little girl had said and sent him hurrying to the store.

Shera did not need to enter to learn what had taken place. He prevented his wife from seeing the horrible sight and summoned other relatives. Sheriff Bert Reed of Plattsmouth was notified. Patterson's body was lying in a pool of blood near the rear of the

store compartment. The slain man was lying face downward and the bullet wound at the base of the skull was plainly visible. His arms one leg was bent back at the knee, as if he were taking a step at the time his assailant fired the fatal shot from a 32-20 gun, probably an automatic. His head was resting against the baseboard. He fell so heavily, the postmortem later revealed, that he fractured his nose.

There was forty dollars in the cash till that had not been touched. Patterson's personal effects were in his pockets. The store had not been ransacked and there was no evidence of a struggle. Not even a chair was overturned.

The murderer, before leaving the store, had switched off the lights and set the night lock on the front door.

In the kitchen authorities found the unwashed supper dishes of the aged survivor. A diving fire was in the kitchen range. Mr. Patterson's bed had not been slept in and under his pillow his .38 caliber revolver was found. Nothing in the bedroom had been disturbed.

It was an afterthought that Sheriff Reed pronounced Patterson dead and approved the removal of his body to a Plattsmouth mortuary.

Fingerprints? There were a lot of them. Before Sheriff Reed arrived nearly everyone in the Rock Bluff community had crowded into the store for a last look at their familiar neighbor.

Did the killer join the throng that was assembled? That is not unlikely.

Every clue reflected back to the Shera murder.

The theory that Patterson did know the identity of Mrs. Shera's assassin was given a setback when

officers failed to find in Patterson's vault in the court house the coat he had claimed belonged to her assailant. There was nothing in the vault to throw light on the mystery.

In a deposit box at a local box the sleuths dug up a copy of a letter presumably written by Patterson to a Pennsylvania woman in which he proposed marriage. There was a reply that indicated she had no such intentions.

Overall, however, was one fact no one could ignore.

The motive of the Patterson murder was NOT robbery.

Therefore, The aged surveyor was slain for one of two reasons, i. e. 1. To silence forever his talk. 2. As revenge for some act, either real or imaginary.

In another article the Patterson murder will be resurrected with additional details. Many of the facts given at the inquest will be recalled.

(Author's note: It was fully intended that this series of stories about Rock Bluff mysteries would be limited to three. There have been, however, some repercussions since the first appeared. It is also impossible to fully tell of the Patterson slaying within the limitations of space in this edition. Because of these factors, a fourth chapter will appear Thursday.)

NEHAWKA—The Maple Grove Extension Club recently gave a household shower for Mrs. Sam Martin, whose home was recently destroyed by fire.

NEHAWKA—Mr. and Mrs. Will Ost have returned from an extensive vacation trip through the south. They also went to Cuba.