

**Believe Death
Due to Murder--
Suicide Friday**

(Continued from Page One)
Neighbors labored in trying to search the still smoldering ruins and at 2:30 in the afternoon the terribly burned remains of Blanche Griffin was found in the ruins in the north-east part of the kitchen-dining room. The fire had terribly burned the body with the arms and legs consumed and only

the torso and the head were left intact.
The body was taken to the Caldwell funeral home for a check as to identification.
At the funeral home in the examination of the body of Olive Horning, it was found that death had been caused by blows on the left side of the head, two wounds being revealed, one a gash two inches long, another that had crushed into the skull and brain, leaving it very clear that the aged victim had been slain as

she slept and without resistance. The medical examination was made by Dr. L. S. Pucelik.
When the body of the second sister was brought to the funeral home, it was impossible to find any evidence of violence on the pitiful remains and identification was made by Dr. P. T. Heineman, dentist, who had cared for the teeth of the victim and whose chart checked perfectly with that of the dead woman.
Near where the body of Blanche Griffin was found in the home, was a small hatchet that in the opinion of the authorities was used in the slaying of the older sister. The hatchet will be taken to Lincoln for a test as to possible blood stains.

The body of Blanche Griffin revealed that she was dressed in her workday attire, parts left unburned, indicating that she had been up and down in the kitchen where the fire originated.
It is the theory advanced that Mrs. Griffin after the murder of the sister had gone to the kitchen and there had set herself on fire or was caught in the flame from the stove and overcome had sunk to the floor where hours later the charred body was found.

The murder-suicide of the Horning sisters, take away the last of one of the pioneer families of this community. This farm where the tragedy occurred was homesteaded by the

parents, Cornelious and Christina Horning at an early day, here the family was reared. The sisters and their brother, the late Ben F. Horning, made their home there for their lifetime, although other members of the family married and moved from the old home.
Both of the sisters engaged in teaching school in Cass county and were members of the faculty of the Plattsmouth schools, Blanche Griffin being engaged in teaching here for a period of some twenty-five years.

In the last few months the sisters had sought to secure someone to stay with them at the farm home and just a few days ago renewed efforts were made to secure help. The younger sister had desired to move into Plattsmouth to enter a nursing home but this was opposed by the older sister.

In his early youth, James Griffin had come to the farm to assist in the work, remaining there until a short time ago. When Mr. Griffin, through ill health, was compelled to seek greater medical attention, on his leaving the farm it was revealed that he and Blanche Horning had married some twenty-five years before but this had been kept a family secret until in the transfer of lands it was necessary to be revealed. Mr. Griffin is now 85 years of age and is a resident at the Nebraska Masonic Home.

There is surviving one brother living in the western part of the state and a large number of nieces and nephews.
Saturday morning County Attorney Walter H. Smith, acting corner, impaneled a jury to hear evidence and probe into the seeming murder-suicide case. The members of the jury selected were Edward G. Ore, Harry A. Meisinger, Chester Weisheimer, Emery Doody, former deputy sheriff; William F. Kraeger and John J. Clodt.

The hearings were held at the district court room and later the jury visited the Caldwell funeral home to view the bodies, also the site of the burned house where the tragedy had occurred and to examine a number of the witnesses.
The testimony of Dr. L. S. Pucelik relative to the nature of the wounds on the head of Olive Horning was received.

Dr. P. T. Heineman, dentist, testified as to the dental work found in the charred remains of Blanche Horning, that the body was undoubtedly that of the unfortunate woman.
The testimony of Newton Sullivan, neighbor of the Hornings and who had farmed their 240 acre farm, was received. Mr. Sullivan had been untiring in his efforts in assisting the sisters on their place since they had been left alone. The testimony of Mr. Sullivan revealed that Blanche Horning had on a previous occasion threatened to take her life. He told of her being taken to an Omaha hospital a year ago suffering from an overdose of sleeping pills. While at the hospital she had tried to leap from a window.

Mr. Sullivan testified that while the sisters were well to do, they had not been in the habit of keeping much money around the house. The two sisters had disagreed as to leaving the farm, Blanche desired to move into Plattsmouth while Olive had desired to remain on the farm.
The hatchet found at the time of the recovery of the body of Blanche, as well as oil-soaked clothing, will be sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Washington. The contents of the stomach of Blanche Horning will go to the University of Nebraska laboratory at Omaha for examination.

The jury is to continue its probe this week with the examination of W. F. Evers, superintendent of the Nebraska Masonic Home where James Griffin, husband of Blanche, is a resident; physicians who attended her for nervous breakdown, as well as local firemen. It was indicated that Omaha psychiatrists who had interviewed the late Blanche Horning might be called to testify.
A verdict in the case is not expected until late this week.

**To Enjoy Christmas
Vacation Trips**

Miss Jessie M. Robertson, who is engaged at the State Teachers College at Peru, was here Saturday to visit with her sister, Mrs. H. L. Gerner for the day. She is leaving this week for Phoenix, Arizona, for a visit until after the holidays. She will be the guest of her niece, Mrs. H. O. Murphey and family in the Arizona city.

Mrs. Helen Gray Robertson, who is the house mother at the sorority house of the Delta Delta Delta sorority at Lincoln, is leaving on a holiday vacation trip to the east. She will visit with her son, Lt. James M. Robertson and family, at Annapolis, Maryland, until after the close of the holiday season.

**Rescue Work Is
Familiar Task**

George Mumm, who with James LePERT, carried the body of Miss Olive Horning from the home where she was slain, is rather familiar with the work of rescue from the scene of fires. In the early part of the year, he was one who rescued J. H. Wooders from a fire at Mynard and assisted in getting him to a place of safety. Mr. Wooders died several weeks later from the effects of the injuries.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Goodchild of Los Angeles, arrived Friday to be here at the home of Mrs. P. A. Horn, mother of Mrs. Goodchild and the other members of the family over the holidays.

**Your CHRISTMAS Trip
Will Be Happier**



Don't battle holiday traffic
Take a carefree ride home

Go Greyhound for a merry holiday adventure!
Frequent schedules get you there quickly. You can stay longer at family reunions, visit with old friends and neighbors, and still profit by the inexpensive fares. Your Greyhound Agent will be glad to give you complete travel information on any holiday trip.

GET AWAY FROM WINTER!
Leave winter's wrath behind, and enjoy a vacation under sunny skies! Let your Greyhound Agent help plan your trip. Transportation, hotels, sightseeing—all pre-planned—for one LOW price. Ask for FREE folders!

GREYHOUND LEADS IN COURTESY!
ERNA LAPIDUS
HOTEL PLATTSMOUTH
6th Main Dial 3200

Mrs. W. H. Homan of Omaha, former resident of the Weeping Water community, was in the city Friday and a caller at the Journal office, where she added her name to the list of subscribers. She wishes to keep in touch with the old friends in Cass county.
No postmaster in the United States is allowed to shoot ducks. It's a federal statute.

THE PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, SEMI-WEEKLY JOURNAL
Monday, December 20, 1948 PAGE FIVE
Use Journal Want Ads.

.Clearance Sale.

- TOYS AND GIFTS . . .**
- **MANY AT COST OR LESS** •
 - All Roller Skates 1/2-Price
 - \$1.98 Xmas Tree Lights \$1.19
 - Good Supply of Xmas Light Bulbs.
 - \$4.25 Scooters 1/2-Price
 - 79c Wind-Up Car 49c
 - \$2.10 Cork Guns \$1.49
 - \$2.00 Doll Beds \$1.49
 - Dart Games 1/2-Off
 - New Haven
30-Hour Alarm Clocks . . . 1/2-Price
 - \$15.00 Portable Phonograph
(Electric) \$10.00
 - \$9.50 Value 24 Piece Stainless Steel
Dinnerware with Chest \$5.95
 - Pen Lights 39c
 - Checkers with
Backgammon Board 98c
 - Wood Trays—up to \$2.50 value . . \$1.00
 - Biles Paint & Wallpaper Store**
FRANK K. BILES, Owner



Last Time—Monday, Dec. 20
Mickey Rooney and a Big Cast.
"SUMMER HOLIDAY"
Comedy, Cartoon and News

Tuesday Only—December 21
Bargain Day—Adm. 12 and 20c
Randolph Scott and a Big Cast.
"BELLE STARR"

Bro't back as one of the greatest
of all outdoor pictures!
Comedy and Novelty

Wednes. and Thurs.—Dec. 22-23
Dan Dailey and Nancy Guild
"GIVE MY REGARDS
TO BROADWAY"
Big Technicolor Musical with
Charles Winninger!
Comedy and late March of Time

MOST

**Plattsmouth
Retail Stores**

WILL REMAIN

**Open
Evenings**

UNTIL CHRISTMAS

PLATTSMOUTH MERCHANTS HAVE A FINE SELECTION OF MERCHANDISE FOR YOU TO CHOOSE FROM.

SHOP IN PLATTSMOUTH

SAVE WEAR AND TEAR ON YOUR CAR AND YOURSELF. NO PARKING PROBLEMS. PROMPT, COURTEOUS SERVICE BY MERCHANTS AND CLERKS YOU KNOW.

STORES WILL CLOSE AT 6.30 P.M.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24
AND REMAIN CLOSED TILL MONDAY A. M.

This Advertisement Published By
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**NYLONS
MAKE LOVELY
CHRISTMAS**



51 GAUGE
15 DENIER
A.L. NEW WINTER
SHADES

**Woster
SHOE STORE**
X-PERT SHOE REPAIR

The Time Grows Shorter . . .
Note Carefully these Suggestions for the Closing Days

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Till 9 O'clock tonite you can buy—	Let's call this Handkerchief Day—	This would be a good day for neck scarfs. We have plains- in maroon, gold, brown, blue and white— 1.95 to 3.95 Beautiful bro- cades in white and fancy 2.95 Scarfs and Glove Sets to match 3.95	Just to put you wise—these Reg- al Monogram Ties are the last word. They may all be gone by Thursday . . . so you better hot- foot thither soon as you read this ad.	Had you thought of Sox . . . they're always good. We have the popular Argyle patterns Cotton 55c All wool 1.50	A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
Arrow Shirts	An all white satin border 35c				
Jason Shirts	A finer all white satin border— hand rolled edge 50c				
Champ Hats	Any Initial.				
Glover Pajamas	A box of 3 ass't fancy border \$1				
Esquire Sox	Pure linen 65c				
Cooper					
Underwear					
Wembley Ties					
Hickok Belts					

YES! Green Stamps with Every Cash Purchase. Watch our Windows.

OPEN EVENINGS
TILL 9 O'CLOCK
Wescott's
SINCE 1879
CLOSED ALL DAY
CHRISTMAS

