

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT.

I. M. Rice, Editor and Proprietor

VALENTINE, NEBR., THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1909.

Volume 24, No. 11

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Murderer Confesses

Samuel Story Confesses to Murdering Fred Smith Last October Near the Wagon Bridge On the Niobrara River, Southeast of Valentine.

Through the untiring efforts of Sheriff Clyde A. Rosseter, assisted by County Attorney Tucker, of Cherry county, a chain of convicting circumstantial evidence has been secured that permitted no denial as to guilt.

The murderer, Samuel L. Story, now held in the county jail of this county, confessed yesterday to Sheriff Rosseter and County Attorney Tucker that he murdered Fred Smith last October a few rods east of the wagon bridge on the Niobrara river, about 2 1/2 miles southeast of Valentine. Story says he killed Fred Smith with an automatic revolver, shooting him in the back of the head while he lay sleeping on the ground where they had lain down together. Story says he then went through Smith's pockets and took his money and tore up the paper and slips and threw them away, and threw the body into the Niobrara river. Story then started down the road toward Woodlake and threw the revolver away on his way to Thacher.

Story and Smith had left Valentine together, and our Sheriff Rosseter had been thorough in his work, tracing the journey of Story and Smith from Douglas, Wyo., where he had them starting out together, and even many minute details of their journey to Valentine, where they were put off the train, how they appeared at the Chicago House and washed and of their eating breakfast at the Home Bakery, and of their starting out together from here on foot and of parties meeting Story alone after the murder; of people seeing them together near the bridge and of Story mailing a letter on the train to Fred Smith at his home at Geneva after the murder, accusing Smith of forsaking him to go with another fellow, and of his circuitous journey down through the country, heading for Cheyenne, and from there to LaGrange, Ore., where he was located, arrested and brought back to Valentine March 1st.

When confronted with this evidence against him, Samuel L. Story saw no avenue of escape and decided to confess the murder with a view of getting a life sentence, fearing that he would be convicted and likely be hung if he went to trial.

School Notes

By R. H. WATSON

Miss Bertha Gordon visited last Saturday and Sunday with her parents at Hot Springs, S. D.

Dr. B. F. Jeffers and wife made us a very pleasant call at our home last Sunday. Mrs. Jeffers is a member of the class '00 and Mr. Jeffers of the class '01 of the Valentine high school.

The following little folks have entered the "C" class in the primary room this term: George Jennings, Sarah Wells, Phillip Francke, Edna Holsclaw, Glorietta Whipple, Helen Northrop, Wilber Glen, Helen Hammond, Eddie Gassan and Robert Stetter.

The following girls from the intermediate grades have organized a basketball team and have called themselves the "Valentine Juniors": Martha Haley, Jennie Graham, Callie Faddis, Leon Anderson, Arlene Burge, Marie Melendorff, Eldene Sparks, Zeta Haley, Marion Anderson, Irene Northrop, Myrtle Fitzgerald and Queen Moon.

On Wednesday of this week we received from Mary Easley a beautiful postal picture of the school of education building which is a branch of the Chicago university. Mary is with her cousin who lives very near the university. This cousin was a classmate of ours in Dr. Clark's class in the Chicago university two years ago.

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"Shall oppose the election of Mr. Cannon as speaker."

The above pledge was made by Congressman Kinkaid in an open letter addressed to the voters of the Sixth congressional district, over his signature, and scattered broadcast throughout the district during the last campaign. Last Monday congress met in special session and Speaker Cannon was re-elected, and, notwithstanding his pledge to the electors of this district, Mr. Kinkaid cast his vote for Cannon, the "Iron Duke of American politics."

The average republican believes that ante-election promises and platform pledges should be faithfully lived up to and are at a loss to account for the double cross handed them by the congressman from the big Sixth. Cannonism was made an issue of the last campaign in this district and his pledge to oppose him undoubtedly won him many supporters throughout the district. That he should acquire icicles upon his pedal extremities and line up for Cannonism at the last moment is not surprising to those who are intimately acquainted with the cold-handed, hand-shaking congressman.—The O'Neill Frontier (rep.).

The Band Concert.

The band concert given by the Woodlake Cornet Band in the opera house at Woodlake on March 17th was a complete success. J. P. Kreyek, the band director, has fully demonstrated that the boys under his direction are as good musicians and can handle their respective parts in the band as well as they are ranchmen and cowboys and can handle the rope and horse.

The program showed that it was carefully prepared and contained very difficult and uptodate compositions. That the music was appreciated was fully demonstrated by the tremendous applause after each selection.

Special hits of the evening seems to have been the Humoresque Overture, "I Am Afraid to Go Home in the Dark," and a cornet solo with drums accompaniment, "The St. Patrick's Day in the Morning," both the numbers being good and were repeated.

A free dance after the concert seems also to have been enjoyed very much. In conclusion I must say that we have a first class band here and should keep it right at the top notch. And I know the band will do their part if we do ours. This was fully demonstrated by the exhibition of musical interest in this concert by the business men of Woodlake and in appreciation of their efforts a great turnout of the people from the town and surrounding county as well was greatly appreciated by the band.

DISINTERESTED OBSERVER.

Wm. Gulick came up from Ainsworth last night where he had been attending a meeting of the M. W. A. He says there were about 50 new members initiated, of whom 25 were from Woodlake vicinity. He expected to return to Woodlake this afternoon on the freight.

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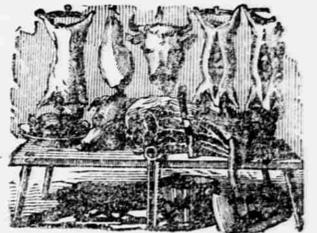
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