

## KOENIGSTEIN'S POSITION

### An Open Letter to the People of Norfolk.

#### THE MAYOR ELUCIDATES.

##### Meaning of a Democratic Victory at the Coming Election—What Has Been and What May Be Expected. Discusses Many Subjects.

[From Saturday's Daily.]

To the Public: Being a candidate for the office of mayor I deem it a matter of justice to the citizens to make a few general remarks as to the real condition of affairs in this city, because I believe that ignorance of the conditions, rather than a desire to injure any man's standing is the cause of a great deal of the criticism now indulged in. I had no desire to be a candidate for a third term and so announced my intention, but the general satisfaction that my administration seems to have given has caused me to listen to the importunities of my friends (I did not think to ask the opposition) and permitted the use of my name again.

I will start with the streets and sidewalks as that seems to be one great cause of dissatisfaction and one which seems to be laid at the door of the mayor. The mayor has nothing whatever to do with the streets and sidewalks. He cannot even build a crosswalk without the consent of the council. The matter of streets and sidewalks is under the supervision of what is called the "street and alley committee," and the street commissioner works under the direct supervision of this committee. The street commissioner can only make such improvements as he is instructed to make by the street and alley committee and this committee can make no improvements unless authorized so to do by the council as a whole. Before any improvement is made an appropriation must first be made by the council and right here is where all the trouble originates. The city council allows all the money that it possibly can for the use of streets and sidewalks that a reasonable tax levy will permit, and whatever improvements are not made are simply neglected, or put off on account of lack of funds; in this connection I also wish to state that at the time I took the office there was a floating debt of \$2,444.00 and it was my recommendation, and the council consented to it, that we should use every endeavor to clear up this floating debt before we proceeded to make any extensive improvements. It was no more than right that this should be done as this debt has been in existence for something like eight or nine years, maybe longer, and it was the duty of some council to see that it was paid. Any person who has been on the council, and who knows what the requirements of a city of this size are, can easily see that it requires a considerable sacrifice somewhere in order to make up this deficiency. I also will state, as a general proposition, that if the city council would build and do everything that everybody wanted done our tax levy would be seventy-five mills instead of thirty mills and we would be broke then in a short time.

Another thing that we have to contend with, and frequently not taken into account, is the fact that in spring the water, especially during high water time, comes up from below. This effectually prevents the surface water from soaking in and makes more mud than we can care for; especially is this fact true of the down town district. The truth however is that we have ordinarily good roads ten months in the year, barring the mud holes on main street. Considerable is said about paving main street, something which is certainly desirable; but this question is one that is to be largely decided by owners of property abutting on main street, and I really do not expect that at the present time the property owners will fall over themselves in an endeavor to have a paving tax assessed against them. I believe that a brick gutter on main street would be sufficient for our present needs and with the floating debt paid, it would be possible to build this coming year without levying a special tax for that purpose. In connection with this talk on paving it will be apparent to everyone that the water question would also have to be settled because paving would suffer considerably if we should have a flood in the city. It is certainly to be deplored that we have trouble with water at all sides, and I freely admit that I am at a loss to know how to solve the question. This question has been before us for the past fifteen years and councilmen come and go without effecting a solution. A good sewer system would effectually dispose of all surface water and, no doubt, help in disposing of the water from the west end. The time is coming when this city will have to put in a sewer.

Mr. Rish has informed me that he is going ahead with his sewer proposition this year and it is certainly preferable to have a private party construct the sewer rather than burden the city with an additional debt for this purpose or any other purpose. I would like to see one thing, and that is that the citizens in general would take an interest in coming to the city council meetings at the time the levy is made; they would then understand the troubles that the councilmen have in making both ends meet, and criticism would not be so rampant when matters are not just as he thinks they ought to be. Every member of

the council is desirous of doing everything he can to promote the best interests of the city and the fact that he is a republican or a democrat makes no difference whatever in this respect. I heard a republican councilman state he would like very much to see sidewalks, but he does not know how the thing is done. An increase in the taxes on main street.

WATER WORKS.

The city water system is one that concerns the public generally and I can state that under the able management of our present water commissioner and also the engineer at the pumping station everything is in first class condition.

It was generally thought that it would be necessary to spend \$5,000 for a new set of boilers but when the present engineer took charge it was found that a good cleaning of everything in and around the boiler house including the boilers, was more necessary than anything new.

There has been some complaint as to water not being clean in some parts of town, but I can say that the standpipe has been thoroughly cleaned and the hydrants flushed several times and we are sometimes at a loss to understand where the difficulty lies. In most cases the trouble seems to remedy itself in the course of a short time.

SALOONS.

Criticism is made by some people regarding the way in which saloons are conducted.

That I am liberally disposed toward the saloons I have never had occasion to deny. The reason for being liberal with them is, primarily, because a "tight" policy would not stop the sale of liquor in this city on Sunday and also because I consider it no greater crime to drink beer on Sunday than on Monday.

It is a fact, which can be borne out by the records of the police court that we have less drunkenness in this city, with the "open policy," than under the "tight policy."

It is also a well known fact that if the sloop law was enforced to the letter, as some of our citizens desire that it should be, it would be a hard matter for a saloon to exist and inasmuch as this community is not ready to get along without saloons, the matter of liberality remains one of degree; the republican platform, itself, permits the saloons to run until 12 o'clock when the ordinance requires that they should be closed at 11 in winter and at 12 o'clock in summer.

We also exact \$750 license from each saloon and I feel that they should be given the chance to make it back so long as they run their places decently. Neither do I care to enrich the town of Hadar at our expense. If money is spent on Sunday I like to see it spent here. We need all of it.

I can also state that the saloon men we have in this town are gentlemen in every way and none of them have the slightest desire for anything but a good clean business. They all despise a drunkard and minors are not permitted. The fact that a minor occasionally does get a drink is not always the fault of the saloon keeper. He is very often deceived in the youth and when he does ask for the age of this apparent minor he (the minor) usually lies about it.

GAMBLING.

Gambling was prohibited when I was elected for the second time and all public houses were closed, and so far as I know there is no public gambling house in this city. By this statement, however, I do not wish it understood that there is no gambling done in this city. With the conglomerate element that exists in this community there will always be some gambling and the man who is seeking a "game" can, no doubt, get one here as quick as he can anywhere else. All gambling done in secret I am powerless to prevent and the very law which is made to punish the gambler is his best protection, because the player is just as liable to punishment as the gambler and it is therefore impossible to get evidence to convict one even when the complaint is filed against him.

BAWDY HOUSES.

The bawdy houses, commonly known as the "row" are outside of the city limits and I do not concern myself about what they do or what they do not do. Any mayor in this town can find all the trouble he wants within the city limits. It has been the custom under previous administrations to occasionally fine these people but no benefit accrued by this procedure to the city. I followed the precedent for a while until I found how the matter really stood and then I instructed my police that they could not go over there for any purpose whatever, and if anybody had a grievance against these people, he must file his complaint before a justice of the peace and prove his case himself. I also informed the people of the "row" that if they desired any police protection, they would have to pay for it themselves and could get none at the expense of the city. Right here is where some of this "rake off" talk originated; some people construing the matter into a hold-up and stating that the mayor had asked them to pay a certain amount each month for his own special benefit. I wish to state to the citizens of Norfolk as an answer to all talk of this kind, that I receive no money directly, or indirectly, in my capacity as mayor of the city of Norfolk, except the \$100.00 salary, allowed me by the city. There are no houses of the character above spoken of within the city limits to my knowledge.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS.

During my administration I have received a great many anonymous letters

and will say that they as promptly went into the waste basket as they were received. I am at all times willing to answer any communications or any reasonable questions regarding any matters concerning the city if the party desiring the information will sign his or her name. In this day and age it is no crime to seek information and inasmuch as the party writing asks me to sign my name I have a right as a matter of justice to ask it of everybody else.

CITY LIGHTING.

With the advent of the gas plant considerable has been said regarding more light for the city of Norfolk. I am heartily in favor of having the city better lighted but, whether it may be gas or electric light is not for me to decide. There are eight men on the city council and they have just as much to say about this question as I have, and inasmuch as the majority rules, I am perfectly willing to abide by the will of the majority of the council.

In conclusion I will state that I have no desire to pose as the only man capable of being mayor of Norfolk, and it remains with the citizens to say who shall hold the office. If I am re-elected I shall cheerfully serve and use my best endeavor with the aid of the city council to work for the best interests of the city, and also assist in making such improvements as a reasonable tax levy will warrant. If it shall be the will of the majority of the citizens that a change is desired I just as cheerfully accept the result, because no one can step out of office and feel less hurt than I can.

DANIEL J. KOENIGSTEIN, Mayor.

THREE INDIANS IN JAIL.

#### Trio of Young Red Men Caught Here Yesterday Afternoon.

[From Saturday's Daily.]

When three young specimens of copper colored aboriginals stepped off the Union Pacific freight train that pulled into Norfolk Wednesday afternoon, they little realized that the officer in the blue uniform who stood on the platform was there especially to meet them and that their journey away from Genoa had ended.

The trio of red men were running away from the Indian school where they have been learning things. They didn't mind learning things when it could be done without effort on their part, but they had a grudge against the idea of being cooped up, any way, and longed for the one-time freedom of their savage ancestors. So they started to run away and got as far as Norfolk.

Shortly before the train pulled in a message from the school asked the Norfolk officers to keep an eye out. A half hour later the wiry haired trunks had fallen into the arms of the law. They were not backward about admitting their identity and went willingly to jail. Yesterday a representative from the school arrived to take back his charges.

The names of the fellows were hard to get. They refused to give them and it was only by accident that they were discovered. They are H. Raymond, P. Whitelaw and J. Bearskin. Whitelaw played center field on the Indian baseball team which was twice beaten in Norfolk last summer.

Yesterday morning the outfit put in their time playing pitch at the city jail. When they stopped for dinner, Bearskin was three stacks to the diner. They are not a bad looking lot and can swear like any white men.

When an officer carried a basketful of breakfast to the boys he slipped in the snow at the entrance of the city hall and sent eggs and coffee flying in all directions. The young jailbirds ate what remained, and were thankful for that.

Night before last a pair of Indians from the same school passed through Norfolk and were in charge of the police for a time. They, however, had been expelled and were allowed to go on.

SAW GHOST OF NIEGENFIND.

#### Lincoln Farmer Says He Beheld the Restless Spirit of the Murderer.

[From Saturday's Daily.]

J. T. Lynch, a farmer living near the penitentiary at Lincoln, has in his employ a hand named Lutz, who is positive that he saw the ghost of Gottlieb Niegenfind in the dusk of a recent evening. Lutz went duck hunting Sunday afternoon and before he had returned home night had fallen. His path led him by the walls of the penitentiary and in the uncertain light of the early evening he alleges that he saw the figure of a man, dressed as Niegenfind had been when he went to his doom. The ghost was looking for someone on the walls of the penitentiary with a revolver in hand, but when it discovered Lutz it gave pursuit and chased him home. Lutz claims to have fired both barrels of his shot gun through the figure with no effect, and when the man was discovered by his employer, chattering and trembling in a corner between the corn crib and barn, he had the gun clubbed to deal the restless spirit another blow.

Lutz took a deep interest in the fate of Niegenfind, had seen the body on display at the undertaker's and had brooded over the event until his mind was quite prepared to see the ghost of the murderer. He was able to resume his duties Monday morning, but insisted that his story was correct and that he had seen the ghost of no one but Niegenfind.

It is thought that too frequent communication with the flask may have had something to do with the illusion.

## ORATORICAL CONTEST.

### Miss Nellie Handley Took First Place Last Night.

#### SHE WILL REPRESENT NORFOLK.

##### Miss Cordelia Luikart Was Second. Winners Both in Humorous Class. Other Contestants—Large Crowd There to Hear.

[From Saturday's Daily.]

In the local oratorical contest held at the high school building last night, Miss Nellie Handley was awarded first place on "Her Cuban Tea," a humorous selection, and Miss Cordelia Luikart took second with "Sandy Macdonald's Signal," also in the humorous class. The high school room was crowded with friends of the contestants and the program was a success in every way. An admission of fifteen cents was charged to help defray the expenses.

Those taking part in the program were Roxie Sturgeon, Clyde Bullock, Nellie Handley and Cordelia Luikart. They all did well and in the main displayed careful training. The principal points considered in the awarding of places were articulation, pronunciation, naturalness and memory.

As the winner of the Norfolk contest Miss Handley will now represent the local high school at the north Nebraska teachers' association contest to be held in Columbus next week. A large number of Norfolk high school students are planning to be present at the time.

Music was made an enjoyable feature of last evening. The high school orchestra, composed of eight high school pupils, came on for a number. Miss Frances Davenport sang, a piano trio was rendered by Misses Shaw, Estabrook and Drebert and the program closed with a piano solo by Miss Katherine Shaw. Miss Florence O'Connor and Samuel Erskine each gave a reading.

Miss Handley won first place in the contest of two years ago. The judges were Rev. J. F. Poncher, Wm. M. Robertson, Mrs. M. A. McMillan, Prof. W. G. Hiron of Pierce.

T. J. HARTER DEAD.

#### Old Settler Passed Away at 5:30 O'Clock Last Evening.

[From Saturday's Daily.]

T. J. Harter died at his home one mile northwest of the city at 5:30 o'clock last evening. Mr. Harter had been suffering from liver trouble for some time and the end was not unexpected. For the past four days he has been unconscious, as he was at the time of his death.

Mr. Harter was an old soldier about sixty years of age who has lived in Norfolk for nearly a quarter of a century. He had watched the city in all of its developments and had a great many friends. He has long had charge of Prospect Hill cemetery where he will, himself, be laid to rest tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. The funeral will be held from the house.

Ed Harter, a son, arrived today from Chicago too late to see his father alive.

Attention, Comrades.

The funeral of Comrade Thomas J. Harter will be held from his home northwest of the city tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock and all members of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Woman's Relief Corps, and all old soldiers are requested to meet at G. A. R. hall tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock for attendance at the funeral. Those having conveyances are requested to bring them.

E. P. WEATHERBY, Commander.

W. H. WIDAMAN, Adjutant.

Earnest Workers for Their Church.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]

A work is being carried on in Missouri Valley by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Craft in a way highly commendable. Mrs. Craft saw the need of the work in the number of Episcopalians out of a church home in the city. She at once invited these into her home, organized a Sunday school and is now their leader and teacher. The number increased each Sabbath and it was found necessary to have a larger room so Mr. Craft fitted up a nice room in his spacious basement, laying a floor, building the partitions, finishing the ceiling and building the pews and altar by his own hand.

The Sunday school has raised money to buy an organ and vest the choir. These earnest workers have gone on with their efforts until others have become interested and a choice lot has been offered them at less than half price, on which to erect a church building. By the influence of Mrs. Craft eighteen pupils are soon to be confirmed.

MIKE MADDEN IS DEAD.

#### One Time City Editor of The News Dies in Hawaii.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]

Word comes to The News from the Hawaiian Islands that Mike Madden is dead. Mike Madden was a character well known in Norfolk several years ago and there still remain a large number of people who remember him. He died in Hamakua, H. I., on January 29, at the home of his brother, Edward Madden.

Mike Madden drifted into Norfolk some ten years ago and took work in The News office. From pressman he went to the city editor's desk and did

well at it. He was a favorite among his friends, and his genial good nature made friends for Mike Madden wherever he went. For some time he continued in newspaper work in Norfolk and finally went to the Hawaiian Islands to enter the sugar business with his brother. The best medical skill on the islands was employed to save Madden's life, but he died, after twenty-four hours of unconsciousness, on January 29.

Odds Were the Other Way.

[From Saturday's Daily.]

In a communication in the Times-Tribune Lee Baily asserts that there was a misstatement of facts in regard to a bet he had made on the approaching city election. He asserts that his bet was \$50 to \$100 that Mayor Koenigstein would be defeated, while the Tribune has it that he took the big end of the bet on the same proposition. Emil Koehn took the odds on Koenigstein.

HAGBLAD GETS \$4,000.

#### Man Hurt in Norfolk Recovers Damages in Court.

[From Saturday's Daily.]

Attorney Sheehan of the Northwestern road, passed through Norfolk yesterday afternoon on his way to Omaha from O'Neill. He has been attending the case of Axel Hagblad vs. his company for damages for injuries received on the Norfolk tracks. Hagblad, it will be remembered, was run over by an M. & O. engine at South Norfolk.

The jury in the case brought in a verdict for \$4,000 damages. The case will be carried to the supreme court.

CRAZY MAN SLEEPING IN HAY.

#### Been About For Ten Days and Was Taken to Madison.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]

Harvard Johnson is crazy. He went down to Madison this morning to have the board of insanity say so. He was accompanied by Chief of Police Martin Kane who will keep tabs on him the while.

Harvard has been sleeping in hay stacks in the country around Norfolk for the past ten days. He has been a funny acting individual in the neighborhood of the Kent farm, southwest of the city, and this morning when he came to town he was put in charge of the officer, for safe keeping. The farmer who had been bothered were beginning to get scared. There was no telling what Harvard might take a notion to do next. As soon as he is officially made insane he won't have to take a notion to do anything but ride down to Lincoln and be locked up. If the asylum was here now many dollars would have been saved.

Harvard is not violent. He sat in the train this morning waiting to go. "Now we're off," said the officer—That's good," said Harvard. Then the bell rang, the whistle tooted and away they went.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT.

#### Theatrical Company Attracted a Few Saturday Night.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]

The Le Febvre-Carpenter company attempted another alleged theatrical at the Auditorium Saturday evening before an audience of perhaps a hundred victims who paid good money for the torture. If Friday night's performance was bad that of Saturday night was infinitely worse. Two acts of one play were put on and one of another, and when the audience waited for more the manager of the show took it upon himself to appear before the curtain and announce that they had witnessed the startling climax although they may have failed to recognize it. As barnstormers the company was quite a success—and as bluffers. It is the first real cause for complaint the patrons of the Auditorium have had since Mr. Beall acquired ownership and he will be very generally excused on the belief that he did not know the character of the company billed for the two performances. Hoyt's "A Trip to Chinatown" for Thursday evening gives promise of something better in the amusement line.

SOME NEW ELKS.

#### Norfolk Lodge Initiates, and Elects Officers.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]

Elks lodge, No. 653, initiated seven candidates, elected officers and held a social session Saturday evening, which continued far into the small hours of the morning.

The seven candidates taken into the lodge are Sanford Parker of Spencer, J. W. Parker of Clearwater, M. H. Rathburn of Columbus, E. W. Cuff of Butte, J. W. Finnegan of Chadron, J. K. Boas of Norfolk and J. W. Harmon of Orchard. The lodge now has a membership of 267.

Officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows:

W. M. Robertson, exalted ruler.

J. B. Barnes, esteemed leading knight.

N. A. Rainbolt, esteemed loyal knight.

C. E. Green, esteemed lecturing knight.

W. R. Rainbolt, secretary.

Burt Mapes, treasurer.

O. F. Tappert, tyler.

C. P. Parish, trustee.

W. H. Bacholz, representative to the grand lodge.

C. H. Reynolds, alternate.

The grand lodge meets in Baltimore next July.

## KICKED HER IN THE RIBS.

### Three of a Kind Will Beat Two Pair.

#### AND TWO BEAT NELLIE MOOLICK.

##### It Cost Lulu Squires and Gertrude Brown Chisholm \$10 to do it. They Kicked Her Until She Was Black and Blue.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]

It cost Lulu Squires and Gertrude Brown Chisholm of South Norfolk just \$10 for kicking Nellie Moolick in the ribs until she was black and blue. That was the decision of Justice Easley Saturday afternoon and that was the amount that Lulu and Gertrude paid over for their chugs at Nellie. They didn't deny that they had done it—they just came up like little ladies and pleaded guilty to the charge of assault which Nellie filed against them, and were glad to get out that easily.

Nellie Moolick was going to church, it seems, when the kick was registered. It was Friday night, just after dark and Nellie was churchward bound in a quiet, orderly sort of manner. She didn't reach the church, though. Justice as she rounded a corner in South Norfolk, the two women came upon her. The next thing Nellie knew, she had had four feet joggled into her side. That was the sole trouble. The church didn't get a chance at her soul that night.

This constant kicking made Nellie sore. So the next morning she came up to the office of the chief of police and registered a complaint herself. In the afternoon Lulu and Gertrude were brought up by the officers. Rather than get any notoriety out of a trial, they decided to plead guilty, although, as a matter of fact, they said, they were perfectly innocent of the charge.

In the first place they pleaded guilty. In the second place they said they had never done it and in the third place they maintained that when they had done it, they had done it justifiably because Nellie had called them a string of unendurable names, beforehand. So the court charged them each five dollars and costs, which amounted in all to nineteen even.

Nellie is the wife of a blacksmith in the railway shops at South Norfolk.

DECIDED TODAY ON BRIDGES.

#### County Commissioners are Meeting in Madison This Afternoon.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]

The county commissioners are meeting in Madison today for the purpose of deciding what shall be done in regard to the new bridges that have been made necessary by the high water. Nearly every bridge in the county over the Elkhorn has been sent out, except the one on Thirteenth street and the Kast bridge.

Thomas J. Harter.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]

The funeral of Thomas J. Harter was held from the family residence northwest of Norfolk yesterday afternoon and was attended by a large number of comrades, friends and neighbors. Rev. F. P. Wigton officiated at the services and interment was in Prospect Hill cemetery, over which Mr. Harter had supervision since it was planted.

Thomas J. Harter was born in Allen county, Ohio, May 5, 1845, and died at his home near Norfolk March 27, 1903. He was married at Des Moines, Iowa, and came to Norfolk in 1883, settling on the farm home northwest of the city. Five sons and one daughter were born to Mr. and Mrs. Harter. One son and the daughter died in infancy and four survive. They are: Joseph J. and Curtis J. Harter, both of whom are at home; Ed. E. Harter, in the employ of the Burlington at Chicago, and LaFayette M. Harter of Neligh. Ed. E. Harter is the only son who is married.

Mr. Harter fought for his country during the war of the rebellion, receiving honorable discharge on account of wounds he had received at the battle of Shiloh. He entered the service August 6, 1861, enlisting as a private in company A, Forty-First Illinois volunteer infantry. He was in the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donaldson and Shiloh; was wounded in the right arm at Shiloh on April 6, 1862, and on account of such wound received an honorable discharge from the service on December 5, 1862. He was mustered in as a member of Mathewson post, No. 109, G. A. R., on September 18, 1891 and has since been an honored member of the post.

Mr. Harter was highly esteemed as a citizen and as a comrade by his fellow citizens and comrades. He was quiet and unobtrusive as to disposition but was ever ready to assist a comrade or a friend. His charity and good will were ever responsive and he will be sincerely missed by all his comrades and a large number of friends. His acquaintances have nothing but reverence for his memory and sympathy for those who are bereft of husband and father.

Card of Thanks.

To the members of the G. A. R. and W. R. C., those who provided the music and to all the neighbors and friends who so kindly gave their assistance during the sickness of husband and father and extended their sympathy in our home of bereavement, we return our heartfelt thanks.

Mrs. T. J. HARTER AND FAMILY.