

## AWAKENED BY THE POLICE

Three Mysterious Calls at Midnight Give Alarm.

ONE AFTER ANOTHER THEY CAME

But Not One of the Blue Coated Officers Stopped to Tell Mrs. Charles Durham What the Trouble Was and She Was Much Puzzled.

Of all the weird and creeping sensations which psychologists attribute to the human mind under various circumstances and conditions, perhaps none could be more uncomfortable and at the same time more filled with angry curiosity to know what was the matter than Mrs. Charles Durham of South Norfolk who was all alone at her home last Saturday night and who suffered a thrill from three distinct visits of policemen—each time a different one—within the short space of half an hour. And the most exasperating part of it all was that not one of the blue coated officers who stole up to the door mysteriously, rapped and asked for her husband, told her what was wanted. Each one of the three, having learned that Mr. Durham was not at home, went away in search of him.

It was just about midnight and the dogs had stopped barking in the neighborhood. The lights in all of the cottages round about had been darkened until morning and the streets were empty and vacant and noisy in their loneliness. Charles Durham, who works during every night at the Northwestern switching yards, had left home when the six o'clock whistles blew and would not return until daylight. Mrs. Durham, tired from the work of the day, had been sleeping for several hours.

Of a sudden she was brought to her senses. There was a noise at the front door. Someone had knocked. The third came again and she asked who was there.

"It's Livingstone, the policeman," he said, "Is Charlie there?"

"No," replied Mrs. Durham, "he's at work in the yards. Is there anything I can do for you?"

"No," came the words of the officer. "I only wanted to see him on private business." And he turned from the door and walked away.

Wondering what could be the trouble and puzzled as to the incomplete reply which she had received, Mrs. Durham was just dozing into a sound sleep again when she was startled by another rapping at the door.

"Who's there?" she questioned.

"Pilger, the policeman from up town," was the answer. "Is Mr. Durham here?"

"No, he's working at the yards," she said. "Is there anything I could do for you?"

"I guess not," said Officer Pilger, "I merely wanted to see him a moment on private business." And he turned his dark lantern toward the street and retreated from the yard.

Ten minutes passed. Quite worked up over the peculiar coincident, and not yet understanding what could be the trouble, the little woman was trying to think and to wonder when a third tapping came upon the panels of the door.

"Who's there?" she asked.

"It's Kane, the policeman," was the answer. "Is Charlie here?"

"Charlie isn't home," she said. "He's working at the yards. Is there anything I could do for you?"

"No," replied the chief. "I just wanted to see him a minute on private business." And he turned and went away.

And thus it was, half distracted by the three consecutive calls of officers of the law within half an hour—and that at midnight, Mrs. Durham worried through the rest of the night, until her husband came home from the switching yards and cleared up the mystery.

During the night before, it seems, Mr. Durham had purchased a half dozen spoons from a tramp who had stolen the silverware in a grip from the platform of the union station. Having just heard that the fellow disposed of some of the wares and that Durham had bought something of the sort, and presuming that the thief was still in the city, the three policemen, one after another, had taken cabs and hurried to the home in the hope of securing some clew by which the tramp might be apprehended and landed in jail before he could get out of town on a freight train.

It was too late, however, as the selling had all taken place twenty-four hours before and the thief was by that time many miles away from Norfolk. Mr. Durham had bought the spoons but he didn't think it was quite fair to have the whole police force after him just because he happened to pay a dollar for some silver. And his wife was glad that no more serious object had brought the officers on their midnight mission.

WEDNESDAY WRINKLES.

O. R. Robinson was down from Niobrara.

Mrs. E. Jackson of Newman Grove was a Norfolk visitor.

Mr. C. A. Case was a city visitor yesterday from Plainville.

Superintendent Williams of the government building has gone east for two

weeks. He will visit Washington, New York, Boston and Chicago.

Matt Classen, Jr., of Madison transacted business in Norfolk.

Charles Marshall of Deadwood, S. D., was a visitor to Norfolk yesterday.

H. J. White, postmaster at Bassett, and his daughter, were in Norfolk today.

Mrs. S. J. Long of Hawkins, Wis., is the guest of her brother, Rev. W. R. Peters.

A. M. Wilson, S. L. Wilson and Mae E. Wilson of Wayne were in Norfolk yesterday.

Fred Remender, Fred Biedinger and F. M. Leach were a trio of Plainviewites in Norfolk.

Mrs. Moore went to Creighton at noon today. She will later go to Fairfax for a visit.

Mrs. O. G. Rankin goes to Fremont tomorrow to visit friends for a short time.

A. H. Winder, who has just returned from an extended business trip west, reports that business in that section of the country is excellent.

The Winside bowling team is in the city and a contest between the visitors and a Norfolk club will be held at the Wilkinson alleys at 8 o'clock.

A very important meeting of the Eagles fraternity will be held at the rooms tonight and every member of the lodge is earnestly requested to be present.

Company L is talking over the advisability of giving an amateur theatrical in the near future. An actor, formerly with Sanford Dodge, is in the city to endeavor to interest the company in the plan, and if he succeeds will train the amateurs in their parts.

The Ladies Aid society of the First Congregational church will meet with Mrs. Darius Mathewson Thursday afternoon, February 4. The ladies of the congregation are cordially invited to attend the meeting.

Richard Wachter and Miss Lizzie Nimmer are to be united in marriage tomorrow at 11 o'clock at the St. Paul Lutheran church, Rev. Philip Hoeltzel officiating. After the ceremony the happy event will be celebrated at the home of the groom's parents, north of the city.

Conductor Linaberry of the Union Pacific, running between this city and Columbus, found in the waiting room of the depot at Madison, a check for \$22.50, in favor of John E. Miller, The check was drawn on the Citizens National bank of this city and the check has been left there for its owner.

The Norfolk Leap Year club has determined upon every Friday night for meetings. The proceedings will be published each Saturday in The News. Letters which have been received during the week will be read and acted upon at these meetings. Also applications for membership. Now and then, in case of emergencies, special meetings will be held.

Owing to the lightness of the work on the Northwestern here the management has arranged for the transfer of a number of engineers to help out in the rush incident to the lumber season at Kaukauna, Wis., until traffic again becomes heavy here. Among those who have gone or will go are four engineers, G. O. Rankin, Ralph Allen, Arthur Gray and Alfred Berling, and four firemen. The transfer is preferable to a lay-off, naturally.

This battle between the north wind and the south wind at this season of the year is a weather feature that is not agreeable to the people and far from being the best for the health.

One day the wind shoots up from the south and the next day it has switched to the north, producing rapid changes of temperature, frequently within the twenty-four hours. In spite of this tendency the temperature has preserved its equilibrium in this vicinity very creditably. For three mornings past the minimum has been one degree below zero, but the maximum temperature has shown greater range.

COMING TO NORFOLK.

One Young Man at West Point Has Already Written to Club.

It is reported that a number of the young men of West Point are contemplating taking up their residence in Norfolk in the near future and it is quite probable that this city will lose part of her population unless our sweet maidens organize a like club to retain the young men here. Wake up girls! Strike for your sweethearts and future happiness.—Cuming County Democrat.

There is some truth in the above item. One letter has already been received by the club from a West Point man. His case will be acted upon at the next meeting of the club, which takes place Friday night.

SALOON ROBBED.

Uncle Sam's Place at Meadow Grove Entered by Burglars.

Somewhere between midnight and the dawn of day, Thursday, some miscreants tapped a pane of glass in the rear of Uncle Sam's favorite headquarters, gained entrance to the building and proceeded to ransack things.

They found the outer door of the safe unlocked and proceeded to break the inner door in a very bungling manner which made it plainly evident that they were not experts at the work. However they obtained nothing as the bar tender in charge had taken the currency home with him.

There is no other evidence of anything being disturbed.—Meadow Grove Press.

For the man who works from sun to sun—

# Uneededa Biscuit

For the woman whose work is never done—

# Uneededa Biscuit

The clean, fresh, crisp food that is always good, and good for all. Good for the worker because they are sustaining. Good for the housewife because they are convenient. Good for the children because they are wholesome.

The Crackle You Hear Is the Sign They are Fresh

NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY

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## TWO WANT TO GET MARRIED

Young Men of Pender, Neb., Write to Leap Year Club.

RUSH WITH THIS SECRET ORDER

A Letter is Received From a Pair of Young Men at Pender, Neb., Congratulating the members and Offering Themselves as Candidates.

The rush is on with the Norfolk Leap Year club, which was recently organized by a band of young women whose names are not disclosed because of the secrecy which surrounds their mysterious order. Outside of their regular work, which has now been in progress for several days, foreign correspondence has begun to develop and before so very long they may be required to hire a secretary by the leap year.

Two young men of Pender, Neb., are the first to register in for a share of the attention which this organization has planned to bestow upon young men in general. Noticing the report that such a club had been organized in Norfolk, and noting, also, its purpose, these two fellows have written a letter to the club congratulating them upon their pluck and offering themselves as candidates.

A copy of this letter, which was delivered to the president of the club, has finally been secured for publication. It was only upon the gravest assurance that the names of no Norfolk members would be disclosed, that the letter was available at all. The epistle follows:

"Pender, Neb., Jan. 27.—Norfolk Leap Year Club: Dearly Beloved: Seeing an item in the paper to the effect that the young ladies of Norfolk have organized a leap year club, we hasten to extend congratulations and wish you success in every way. The object of our writing is to inform you of our admiration for your pluck and modern method of securing a helpmeet through life. We are of the opinion that you will be successful in your excellent undertaking and hereby hasten to submit our names as candidates for matrimony. Write and let us know how you are prospering and what our prospects are. Yours without a struggle,

R. F. D. No. 1. James Keller. Frank McGuire.

In replying to the ardent admirers who live near Pender, the young ladies made it quite plain that the object of their organization was to secure to them for twelve short months

the right to choose their own mates, or to at least attempt to do so and that because they had by this letter tended to take away absolute independence in selection, the Pender gentlemen must be rejected.

Two or three applications have also been received by the club. All applications must be sent by mail.

IN MADISON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Association Will Hold Meetings This Month at Battle Creek, Madison and Newman Grove.

The regular annual meetings of the Madison County School Board association will be held at: Battle Creek, Feb. 13; Madison, Feb. 20; Newman Grove, Feb. 27.

Prof. Davison, principal of the agricultural college, will meet with the boards at Battle Creek and speak on "Agricultural Education."

Prof. Smith of the agricultural college will be at Madison and speak on "Teaching Agriculture in the Common Schools," or on "Principles of Feeding," or on "Improving Breeds of Live Stock."

D. P. Ashburn, the specialist in the breeding and selection of seed corn, will speak on that subject at Newman Grove.

A report of educational conditions will be presented by the county superintendent, and questions of vital interest to the school officers will be discussed.

All farmers, whether members of school boards or not, are invited to attend these meetings. The addresses of these agricultural specialists will be of benefit and interest to all. Teachers will do well to hear what these men have to say on the matter of teaching agriculture.

It is hoped to organize regular farmers' institutes at these three points in connection with the School Board association, and thus get some of the benefit of the speakers annually sent out by the state university.

School officers will please speak to their neighbors about these meetings and invite them to attend.

The meetings will open at 1:30 o'clock.

LOST FINGER IN CIRCULAR SAW

A. M. Hall, An Old Man Who Was Sawing Wood at the Buetow Farm, Has Accident.

While sawing wood with a circular saw at the farm of Herman Buetow, a few miles east of the city, A. M. Hall, an old man, got his finger into the whirling teeth and had it taken off. The wound was dressed later by a surgeon.

## A BRUNETTE IS SELECTED

One of the Members of Leap Year Club Starts It.

HE IS A QUIET OLD BACHELOR

In a Brief But Nicely Written Letter He Announced His Readiness to be Proposed to, and the Two Pretty Brunettes Drew Straws for Him.

Another letter written to the leap year club which has been organized in this city by a number of young ladies for the purpose of mutual advantage in a matrimonial way, has just been received from Sidney, Neb., and denotes that the project is in a fair way to meet with favor. It is as follows:

Sidney, Neb., Feb. 1.—Dear Ladies: Send the address and picture of the sweetest little brunette in the bunch to a quiet young bachelor, and I can promise you that you can soon get rid of one of your encumbrances if she has grit enough to pop the question. Earnestly yours, to command,

A. W. Scott.

The young ladies of the club feel highly flattered with the complimentary tone of letters which they have received from various portions of the state and are exceedingly gratified to know that they will without a doubt make a success of their organization. In regard to the letter from Sidney, they have been a bit puzzled as to just which one of the two very pretty little brunettes to propose.

At their regular meeting, which was held yesterday, the matter was quite thoroughly discussed. It seems that there are two exceptionally handsome girls of the desired complexion and both of about the same age. Both were quite struck with the tone of the letter which Mr. Scott had sent and both, too, were charmed with the penmanship and neatness of the epistle from Sidney. The writing is of the vertical type and is, to be sure, very attractive.

"You can see at a glance," remarked one of the blondes, who had no chance in this particular instance, "that he is a man of exceptional neatness and the vertical style of penmanship is a good indication that he is up-to-date. It may be a sign that he has just come out of the high school for the vertical style is getting to be a great fad there. If he's as young as all of that we don't want to even think of considering him. And still, a boy just getting out of the high school wouldn't call a girl a little 'brunette,' now would he?"

"I don't believe he's a man of much

learning," quoth another, who admitted afterward in a confidential mood that she was just the least bit jealous. "I really and truly don't think, girls, that he has ever seen the inside of a college campus for you can read every word he has written and that isn't consistent nowadays with education."

"That ending—that 'yours to command,' looks good to me," said a third member of the organization. "How few men there are who ever turn out to be anybody's to command. Maybe though, and if he does he's a good fellow to admit it because of course, being absolutely independent, we are not obliged to take him. And then he calls us encumbrances. Now what do you think of that? And still I sort of like the nerve of the fellow for that. I wonder if he'd be one of these kind of men who would remember things that go wrong. Now I've a friend who married a man ten years ago. Before they were married she lost a little stick pin of his one day and would you believe it, he still brings that up about twice a month and reminds her of her carelessness. I couldn't take any comfort with a man like that, could you?"

"We are getting away from the question," declared the president. "We will now draw straws for Mr. Scott."

"Great Scott!" cried the girl who drew the long one. "It's up to me."

Funeral of Mrs. Philip Beck.

Battle Creek, Neb., Feb. 3.—Special to The News: The funeral of Mrs. Philip Beck was held from the Catholic church at this place yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock, and was conducted by Rev. Father Walsh of Norfolk.

In spite of the cold weather the attendance was large. The deceased came here with her family twenty-four years ago, when the railroad was built, and has lived here almost continuously since. For a time Mr. and Mrs. Beck made their home with their son, William at Norfolk. The oldest son, Henry, who had been section foreman west of Norfolk for many years, died about two years ago in Iowa.

Besides the aged husband, three sons, Philip of this place, John of Washington and William of Norfolk, survive her. Five daughters also mourn the loss of a mother. They are: Mrs. N. M. Lund, Mrs. Thos. Taylor, and Mrs. M. J. Hughes of this place; Mrs. W. G. Smith of Spokane, Wash., and Mrs. Penniwell of British Columbia.

A sign was posted in the postoffice last evening which read, "The mail from the east is on time." Patrons appreciated the humor.