

DEAD FIFTY-TWO DAYS

Body of Walter King is Discovered in Creamery.

ALL OF HIS MONEY WAS MISSING

Tragic Ending of Life of Norfolk Young Man.

AFFAIR CLOTHED IN MYSTERY

Lying in a Crouched Position. With a Heap of Ashes Behind Him, the Rigid Form is Discovered in a Dark, Dungeon-Like Vault.

From Monday's Daily.

Frozen almost beyond recognition, with the collar of his overcoat hugging his head and his two arms wrapped tightly across his breast in a cramp which would tend to indicate that he had suffered from the cold and tried during his last dying moments to fight off the chill which was gradually stealing over his body, the crouching form of Walter R. King, who had not been seen by his relatives since December 23, was discovered yesterday afternoon within a dark, unused vault at the old creamery on North Fourth street, where the man is supposed to have lain in the rigid jaws of an unknown and mysterious death for the past fifty-two days.

A summing up of all of the circumstances connected with the finding of the body and the last known of the young man by his family and friends, leads to the belief that he had entered the vault in a state of mind almost approaching mental aberration and had lain down to sleep the sleep that knows no waking and that the frost and chill, taking advantage of his slumbering condition, had crept in, stolen silently to his heart and stopped its beating long before he was in any way aware of his peril.

Appearances indicate that King had gone into the creamery building through a little south doorway and that, though he was in a state of semi-stupor, he was still clear enough of mind to make preparations for a certain degree of physical comfort.

Passing from the south room of the institution into the refrigerating vault, and no doubt feeling an intense desire for sleep, he had evidently looked about for a means of making himself comfortable and to that end he had dragged in a little table from the other room, climbed three stories into the top of the building for several layers of wrapping paper and stretched it out upon the table for a bed.

Built Two Fires.

He also built two fires. Within the hollow of an overturned lid of a creamery can, he had started a flame which grew so hot that the metal had melted and spread out upon the wooden floor. This blaze having gone out, he placed another tin lid within the first and lit a second fire. Then he had seated himself upon an egg case near at hand for the purpose of warming up and when the last spark had flickered out he had dropped to the floor to die without knowing it and his back was turned toward the cold, silent ashes which alone had witnessed the tragic end and which had stood watch for fifty-two days over the undiscovered body of the frozen man.

Within his pockets as far as has been disclosed, the rigid posture preventing a complete search as yet, were found a cigar case, a pocket comb, a small memorandum book, some private letters, receipts for assessments in the Knights of Maccabees in which order he was at that time a member in good standing, several empty bottles, copies of The Daily News for December 22 and 23, and a number of smaller articles but nothing of any great value. Spread out before him on the floor was a package of tobacco and some cigarette papers.

No marks of violence were disclosed and nothing to indicate that he had committed suicide, although the bottles were saved for examination lest there might have been drugs or poison inside.

Last Seen by Relatives.

Will McCune, a brother-in-law, was the last relative who had seen the young man alive. He had gone to King on the morning of December 23, just two days before Christmas. King was at that time in a house east of the river and promised faithfully to leave the place and return home by 4 o'clock that afternoon. He had been over at this house for some time. He at that time had \$117 on his person, a watch valued at \$34, to which was attached a bead-work chain bearing his name; together with a deed to a lot owned by him on Thirteenth street. None of these articles were found on his person at the preliminary search.

The body of the dead man was discovered quite accidentally by three men who chanced to be going through the creamery building during Sunday afternoon, on an inspection preparatory to entering into a contract to fill the building with ice and but for this circumstance alone the frozen form would no doubt have remained in its dungeon of darkness for many weeks to come.

The Discovery.

Thomas McNeill, E. B. Kaufmann and Joe Koppie were the trio who discovered the tragedy. After having gone all through the various parts

ments and rooms, they finally came to the vault. The door was slightly ajar. Within it was dark as night. Merely to make the inspection more complete, McNeill threw open the door, entered and said, in an explanatory tone, "This is the vault."

As he went inside and his eyes became accustomed to the darkness, he noticed a strange object a few feet away. "There's something in here," he exclaimed. "It looks as though it might be a dead man." A match was lit and the face of the man, whom all of them had known in Norfolk, was revealed. They did not recognize it immediately. The door was locked and one of them summoned the officers. Chief of Police Kane drove out, found that it was King and, upon authority of County Attorney Mapes who was out of the city, had the body conveyed to the undertaking rooms of Sessions & Bell.

Coroner Kindred of Meadow Grove was immediately summoned by telegraph and telephone to come to Norfolk at once for the purpose of holding an inquest.

The Coroner's Jury.

The following six men were impaneled as the jury: W. H. Lowe, H. H. Miller, Frank Jarner, A. P. Pilger, J. M. Covert and H. W. Winter. A number of witnesses were examined. The first was Mr. McCune, a brother-in-law, who testified that he had gone to the Bailey resort on the afternoon of December 24 and had tried to induce King to come home. Walter at about 3 o'clock had promised to be home by 4. At that time he was quite heavily under the influence of liquor.

Josie Wilson, an inmate of the house and the woman with whom King had associated during a several days' visit, was called. She is probably the last person who saw him alive. She testified that he had come on Wednesday, had remained two nights and had left the house at 10 o'clock Christmas morning, walking west to the railroad track which runs into town. He had been drinking quite heavily all of the previous afternoon and until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. When she got up at about 10 o'clock, he had left the place. He had no money when he left the house. He had no poison and merely a little beer bottle.

Other witnesses testified as to the condition of the body when it was discovered at the creamery.

McCune stated that King had given him \$17 on the afternoon of Thursday and that he kept about \$6.

Been Near Before.

In speaking of the affair Mr. McNeill, who was the first to discover the body, said: "I have been in and out of the creamery very frequently, as that is where I keep my horses. About three weeks ago I was looking through and cleaning up the building and noticed that this door had been blown open slightly. Tramps very often have gone in the building and stolen stuff, so to be on guard I had brought a bull dog with me. I pushed him into the vault and he returned. He looked at me queerly and went back. When he came out the second time, he looked with that same weird eye and I wondered what was troubling him but it never occurred to me that there was anything really wrong within."

Walter King was a son of Mrs. W. A. King whose home is at the corner of Nebraska avenue and Eleventh street. His father died a few months ago and since that time the young man had not been quite his usual self. He had squandered his money freely and had lived an altogether different life than that to which he had previously been accustomed.

Had Been Changed.

During the latter part of December he had remained a great deal of the time away from home at night and for several days previous to his disappearance he had not been at home at all. His family and friends were worried concerning his conduct and tried to calm the young man. On the morning of the twenty-third his brother-in-law, hunting him out, had located him and after pleading with Walter, had gained a promise that he would be at home at 4 o'clock that afternoon. But he never came. That was the last seen of him by a relative. A woman with whom he associated that day was notified to come in to the coroner's inquest to tell what she knew of his disappearance and what of the missing money, watch and property deed.

An Able Worker.

Walter King was an able worker. He was a young man of considerable executive ability and won considerable of praise when he chose to apply himself. Last summer he superintended the work of hauling gravel into the yard for the new government building. He managed many lines of teams and wagons and many men in the hauling. It was he who won so much admiration, too, at that time for "snaking" the long line of many animals into the yard and through the openings between the piles of gravel, by merely employing a single rein and calling out the directions.

He was well known throughout Norfolk and a young man of many warm friends. He was supposed to have gone to some other city and the news of his terrible ending has come as a shock to those who were acquainted with him.

King enlisted in the Second Nebraska at the time of the Spanish-American war, and went to Chickamauga. He was on the roster of Co. 4, at the time of his death.

He was twenty-six years old.

The funeral of Walter R. King will

be held from the home at the corner of Nebraska avenue and Eleventh street tomorrow morning and the remains will be taken to Scribner for interment beside the father, W. A. King, who died recently. The remains were so badly frozen that preparation by the embalmers has been very much retarded but they hope to prepare the body by morning.

It has been requested that all those desiring to form in the procession in the Walter King funeral tomorrow form promptly at the corner of Main and Fourth street at 10:45.

The Knights of the Maccabees will meet in K. P. hall at 10 o'clock and attend the funeral in a body.

King was formerly a member of company L and members of the company will form in lines in the procession.

The coroner's jury in the case of Walter R. King found yesterday, technically, that he "came to his death through exposure by freezing to death, and that his death was not felonious and that he died on or about the 25th day of December."

Christmas morning was one of the severest of the winter. A bitter cold wave swept down upon this section of the country early in the day and before noon, at about which time King went into the vault, the air was intensely cold. While his mother and friends and all the world, for that, were thus enjoying their Christmas dinners—the happiest hour, perhaps, in all the year, the young man who had promised to return to the fireside of his family—his widowed mother and his brothers and sisters—but who, instead, had remained another night in revelry, starting homeward next morning, was dying in a darkened room, attempting to keep warm by means of a little fire that he had kindled, but lying down at length to sleep and to gradually become frozen and rigid and utterly lifeless.

And for fifty-two days that followed; week after week and month after month, while his friends and relatives were wondering what could have become of the wayward young man, his cold, silent form lay within a mile of his home, concealed by the darkness of an unused room and closed into the hiding place by means of a little door that tightly sealed the place and kept secret the human form inside.

Watch Recovered.

The watch which King had worn when he left home, was recovered by the police yesterday.

Before a verdict was pronounced by the jury of six men who had been impaneled, all of the garments which covered his body were cut away in order that any wounds or marks of violence might be discovered. It was apparent that the dead man had died a natural death from freezing as there was no sign whatever of any other ending.

Death of John Gow.

John Gow, father of Messrs. W. J. and C. C. Gow, died at midnight last night at the home of the former, aged eighty-five years and eight months.

The funeral will be held from the home of C. C. Gow tomorrow afternoon at 2:30, unless a change should be made to the church on account of the weather. Rev. W. J. Turner officiating. Interment will be in the Prospect Hill cemetery.

Mr. Gow has been gradually failing since he lost his wife just ten weeks ago last night.

BATTLE CREEK WEDDING.

Two Well Known Young People United by Justice Newkirk.

Battle Creek, Feb. 15.—Special to The News: Mr. Charles E. Boyer of this place and Miss May Mink of Tilden were married here Saturday forenoon at 11 o'clock by Justice Newkirk in his office on Depot street. The groom is the second son of Mr. and Mrs. John Boyer and the bride is the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Mink of Tilden. Both are well known in this vicinity.

They left on the noon train for a visit with relatives and friends at Tilden and will make their home at that place.

MADISON HOG THIEF WAS FINED

Lew Dugan Loses All Around on His Attempt to Have a Neighbor Supply His Table With Pork.

Madison, Neb., Feb. 16.—Special to The News: Lew Dugan, guilty of stabbing, stealing and skinning a hog that had been taken from the pen of Dirk Bow, of this place one day last week, has been assessed a fine of \$10 and costs by the court, which he paid and is now a free man.

Dugan was the loser all around. Someone else got half the hog, while the other half found on his premises he will never be permitted to serve up on his table. In addition to this he was compelled to pay a fine and costs for his part in the matter, the entire sum amounting to about \$75. To meet this payment he was forced to sell a horse and harness.

Highlanders at Atkinson.

Atkinson, Neb., Feb. 12.—Special to The News: Atkinson Castle, No. 90, Royal Highlanders, held their annual banquet and installation of officers at their hall Wednesday evening. Six refugees were received within their castle walls. After the banquet a musical program was rendered and an exhibition of expert and trick rifle shooting was given by Antone Westhill of this city.

TRANSFER PHONE LINES

Nebraska Telephone Company Makes its Change.

YOU NEEDN'T RING ANY MORE

By the New System of Central Energy, the Lifting of the Receiver Summons the Central Girl—The New Quarters Commodious.

When you talk over the telephone wires today, your voice runs down the corner of Third and Norfolk avenue, just a block east of where it used to go before. This is because the exchange of the Nebraska Telephone company, upon which a large force of men have been working for many weeks, has now been transferred from the Cotton block, corner Norfolk avenue and Fourth street, to the second story of the McClary block.

The transfer was made at 10:30 o'clock Saturday night, while gossip over the metallic strings was light. Gossip that takes place at 10 o'clock at night is generally more or less of a light nature anyway. So far as the talkers were concerned, they wouldn't have known that they had been switched. The only visible indication of the change was the fact that the central girls walked out of the old office and into the new one across the street.

The new board, a magnificent affair, was wired up before the change was made. Then the linemen cut out the old wires, turned on the new battery and the transfer was complete.

No Ringing Necessary.

It isn't necessary to ring the bell any more when you want to call central. In fact no matter how much you work at the bell, it isn't heard in the central office. All that is essential in summoning the operator, is to take the ear phone off its hook. That drops a little white signal on the board and it stays dropped until you get through talking. What's more, it isn't at all necessary to call central every other minute to tell her that your party hasn't answered. When your party answers, a little signal drops down to tell the girl about that, too, and just as long as the signal doesn't drop, the central girl will keep on ringing.

If you should happen to want to talk with several phones in rapid succession, it isn't necessary to ring central or summon central at the end of each bit of conversation. As soon as one of your parties is finished, the girl knows it from the signal. And if your receiver is still off the hook, she knows that you want to talk again.

The Nebraska Telephone company has made these improvements at a cost of nearly \$30,000. They could never have been touched in Norfolk except for the mammoth toll business which is conducted out of this point as an exchange center.

For a few days the patrons will be obliged to bear patiently with any seeming delay in answering calls, as the new board is so entirely different from the old one that it will require some little time to become accustomed to the revolutionized features.

Tree on the Wire.

Not long after the transfer had been made with the wires, a huge tree on South Ninth street, which had been chopped down, fell across the wires and broke a large number of lines. This sent the gang of linemen out early yesterday morning to handle the broken bits of copper.

Manager Sprecher is cosily located in the new quarters. Here he has a big, commodious room of his own where people with complaints can easily make their way. Then there is a choice apartment for those who want to talk over the toll lines and the operators have an excellent new home, too.

FRIDAY FACTS.

E. A. Unthank of Neligh is a city visitor today.

P. J. Fuesler went to Omaha today to look up spring styles for his fast growing tailoring business.

Albert Braasch and wife are here from South Dakota on a visit to Mrs. Braasch's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Wiebert.

Mrs. H. A. Moore of Missouri Valley, Ia., is visiting at the home of her sister, Mrs. Andrew Teal, South Fourth street.

W. Amison of Creighton was in Norfolk today.

P. M. Conger was a Norfolk visitor from Ewing today.

S. S. McAllister was a Humphrey visitor in Norfolk.

Miss Lena Hansen was in the city this morning from Lindsay.

Walter Dixon and Dan Schtegel from Milford were in the city.

J. W. McCallum and J. M. Patterson were in Norfolk from Tilden today.

Geo. W. Talbot and Roy Talbot of Fullerton were registered in the city today.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Butterfield entertained the West Side Whist club last night.

Mrs. W. H. Bucholz entertained the ladies of the Kaffee Klatch at her home on West Norfolk avenue last evening.

The Trinity Social guild is arranging for a dancing party to be given at Mast hall this evening.

A. L. Manchester of Omaha, deputy

for the Woodmen of the World, is in the city to work for a time in the interest of that order.

Chris. Madsen is in the city from Chicago for a visit with his mother. Mr. Madsen is still with a shoe house of that city.

T. V. Read of Chicago and R. D. Read of Michigan have been visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Read of this city, and meeting with their many friends and acquaintances in the city. The former returned to Chicago today and Roy will remain in the city several weeks.

The theatrical company that is to present "The White Slave" at the Auditorium tonight arrived in the city this morning from Sioux City, and it is expected that they will entertain a good house. The company comes well recommended.

A large number of relatives and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Braasch met at their home on North Eighth street last night and assisted in the celebration of Mrs. Braasch's birthday anniversary. Choice refreshments were served, games furnished amusement and the male choir of the Relief association furnished music. It proved an enjoyable evening.

An examination for postal clerk, city mail carrier and city sub-mail carrier will be held in Norfolk on February 27 at 9 o'clock a. m. The examination will be held in the city hall. Four hours will be allowed for the competition. Applications will now be received by the board, B. C. Gentile and Miss Valley Garlinger.

Lincoln's birthday was not extensively observed in Norfolk today, outside of the city schools, in most of which exercises commemorative of the day were held. Pleasing programs were given in many of the rooms, with speaking, singing, spelling down contests and other features for entertainment. This being the last day of school for the week and St. Valentine's day coming on Sunday, this holiday was observed in conjunction with the birthday of the war president.

S. J. Plymmer of Foster was in Norfolk on business this morning. Mr. Plymmer is secretary of the Pierce County Farmers' Mutual fire insurance company, which has been running successfully during the past twelve years and which is now in better shape than ever before. "All of the best farmers of Pierce county belong to our association," said Mr. Plymmer in reviewing the history of the company, "and we are better pleased with the results than ever, during the twelve years that we have been running, the company has made but nine assessments and has paid 114 losses."

A NEW DISEASE AMONG HORSES

State Veterinarian Discovers Something Wrong With Animals at Bassett, He Says.

One of the most singular diseases of horses ever known in the country has come to light in Bassett through the efforts of State Veterinarian Thomas. In the caecum of a horse which died at Bassett he found a perfect mass of spiral worms. He has as yet discovered no explanation for the peculiar malady, and will bring it up before the national veterinarians' society at its next meeting.

Dr. Thomas said that it was possible that the germs of the disease may have been acquired by the animal from the water which it had been drinking. It comes from the surface, in a sandy soil, and it is possible, the veterinarian says, that the minute worms may have their habitat in the moist sandy surface soil through which the water percolates in time of rainfall.

He was called to Bassett by a farmer who had a two and a half year old colt which he thought was afflicted with the itch and distemper. When he saw the animal Dr. Thomas thought it showed signs of glanders. The colt was dying at the time the examination was made, and arrangements were effected for an autopsy. Then it was that the discovery was made a brand new disease.

The minute worms are scarcely discernible to the naked eye, but under the microscope they loom up like miniature sea serpents. The caecum, which is a portion of the large intestine, was fairly lined with these creatures for a distance of three or four feet.

It is said that other horses in the same locality showed the same symptoms, and it is possible that the disease has gained a considerable foothold in the neighborhood of Bassett, which is the county seat of Rock county. The soil in that region of the state is sandy, and mites of animal life are often found in the sand.

The state veterinarian is busy making a study of the disease with a view to securing a remedy which will enable him to cope with it in its incipency. He said Saturday night that he was completely at sea as to the origin of the disease, until he thought of an ancient text book in which it was discussed. According to the text the disease to which no name was given seems to have originated in Iceland in the early part of the last century. During the early 40's a few cases were recorded in Scotland, but beyond these two countries, he says, there is no record of the existence of the peculiar malady. He is of the opinion that the disease is not infectious except under the most favorable conditions.—Lincoln News.

PUT IN FIRE PROOF WALLS

Phe Porous Partitions are Going Up in Building.

DELAYS ON ACCOUNT OF WIRES

The Construction Company Finds That it Could Get Along Faster if the Men From Chicago Would Make Haste. Gas Pipes are Laid.

Everything is humming around the government building except the electric light wires and it is for these that the construction company is now badly delayed. A contract let to a Chicago firm to wire the structure, ought to have been fulfilled before now, it is said, but as yet the Chicago firm has failed to put in an appearance and a good share of the game is blocked.

The concrete floors are getting well along in all three stories of the building and a few more days, if the wires were only set, would see the finish of that. The little threads of metal, however, have to run along inside the concrete floors and must be laid before the top three inches of material can be set upon them. The gas fitter has done his work and the pipes are stretched in all directions east solidly into the concrete flooring.

The fireproofing is being put up along the walls these days and before so very long a fire couldn't do much damage in the federal building if it tried. No flame will ever be able to get more than one room of the court house. The fireproof partitions will prevent a spreading into other apartments. The woodwork and floors, together with trimmings in that room might burn, of course, but that would be the limit.

Up through the court house run a lot of little secret passageways which no one who is unfamiliar with the building would ever know about, and in which, by means of small iron ladders that have been set there, a man can climb back and forth. Out of these passageways, on the several floors, look tiny little windows through which detectives will be enabled to "shadow" suspicious characters who may be lurking about.

For another thing, too, the United States marshal, in case he should take a notion to get out of the building without going through the regular halls and doors, could climb this unknown ladder and get out in time to get busy with the criminals below.

Superintendent Williams is still in the east but is expected to shortly return.

Those Who Bought.

Among those who bought Majestic ranges of Blakeman & Hahn last week were: C. C. Martin, Mrs. J. H. Brown, Mrs. W. Ellenwood, Josef Heiruk, Al Anderson, C. F. King, Rev. J. H. Clay, T. Hight, Charles A. Greene, C. M. Johnson, J. M. Long, E. E. Coleman, E. A. Olmstead, Ed Wiedermann, A. McGinnis, Martin Machmuller, Carl Folk, Charles Knapp, L. C. Hepperly, Jacob Horst, G. B. Salter, John Ray, B. C. Gentile and F. A. Blakeman.

ATKINSON FARMERS' INSTITUTE

Atkinson Business Men Served Fine Dinner to More Than 200 Visiting Farmers.

Atkinson, Neb., Feb. 12.—Special to The News: A farmers' institute was held in Atkinson yesterday, the following speakers from abroad being present. D. P. Ashlun of Gibbon; T. G. Ferguson, of Beaver Crossing; W. Earnest of Grafton; G. S. Christie of Johnson. A permanent organization was effected with Hon. Jacob Roche as president and B. N. Smith as secretary. A fine dinner was tendered by the business men of Atkinson to the visitors, farmers and their wives, to the number of more than 200.

No business is so small that it can not advertise successfully if judiciously. And no business is so large that it can afford to dispense with advertising. The News now reaches more people in northern Nebraska and the country tributary than any other newspaper from whatever locality. An advertisement in its columns is a good investment and will bring returns if handled right.

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If it's coated, your stomach is bad, your liver is out of order. Ayer's Pills will clean your tongue, cure your dyspepsia, make your liver right. Easy to take, easy to operate. 25c. All druggists.

Want your complexion to be a beautiful brown or rich black? Then use

BUCKINGHAM'S DYE for the Whiskers

50 CENTS PER BOX. Sold by all Druggists and Grocers.