

BLIND MAN AT COLLEGE

NEBRASKA STUDENT TO RIVAL HELEN KELLER.

NOW SENIOR AT UNIVERSITY

Wonderful Work of William Leroy Clarke, Who Lost His Sight in School and Who Has Attended School at Lincoln for Five Years.

A young man, blind almost from birth, a senior in the Nebraska state university, has begun a career that promises to be as noteworthy as that of Helen Keller. William Leroy Clarke is his name, and his age is 22. He won the gold medal in oratory at the Padian Literary society and is one of the squad of fifteen from whom will be chosen eight men who will uphold the honor of the university in intercollegiate debates.

Clarke lost his sight when four years old as the result of severe illness. He was sent to the state school for the blind, and made such use of his opportunities that at the age of 17 he matriculated in the university. His work here has been so good that had he not been compelled to work his way through college he would have graduated a year ago. Last summer he sold pianos for a local music house and took subscriptions for a magazine, earning enough money to pay for the year's course.

"I have almost succeeded in making myself forget that I am blind," he said. "I go right ahead just as if I had my sight. I soon discover that people forget, too, that I am blind, and then we get along all right. I am getting a great deal out of life and hope to increase my capacity still more."

Hires Man to Read to Him.

Clarke's studies have been restricted to some extent by the lack of books printed in the point system, but he has supplemented his reading of those textbooks by hiring men to read to him. He studies geography, trigonometry, Latin, geometry and mathematics from point books, but is barred from the sciences because of his inability to handle apparatus. His book studies have included English and English literature, philosophy, political economy and sociology, which one can take up by merely having them read.

Preparing written lessons is a comparatively easy task. Young Clarke has bought a typewriter and uses it with success.

He has learned to write the point system so that he is able to take notes at lectures as readily as fellow students with perfect eyesight.

A wooden "slate" is employed. This has two narrow strips of metal arranged to slide up or down at will. The paper is placed between these and held in place by clamps. The top sheet has five rows of holes about a quarter of an inch square running across the page. Instead of a pencil a sharp pointed awl is used.

The lower plate is filled with little dents. When the operator desires to write he takes this plate, places at the top and by the use of an awl makes indentations in the paper. By this arrangement the awl is driven almost through the paper. When it is desired to read these notes the paper is turned over and the index finger is passed swiftly over the indentations.

The point system is something like shorthand, so many dots representing a letter or combination of characters. By the use of the awl almost as great speed at writing can be obtained as if a pencil were used by a person with eyesight.

In studying geography most of the knowledge is conveyed by means of relief maps. These are usually about three feet square and stand on easels. The states or countries are in detachable models of plaster of paris, so that the student can take any one out and examine it to get an idea of its boundaries. There are smooth creases for the rivers, tacks for cities and small cones and series of cones for the mountains.

Likes Football.

Clarke is an enthusiastic sportsman. Every football, basket ball or base ball game finds him among the rooters. He understands the games and is able to discuss the abilities of the players. A friend tells him the plays as they are made. He sits as breathless as hardened fans at the crisis of the contest.

He is an excellent talker and has command of language, being remarkably quick to see and take advantage of the mistakes of adversaries in debate. There is no hint of self-consciousness in his manner when before an audience, and it is difficult to remember when listening to him that he cannot see the effect of his words.

"Many persons exaggerate the difficulties experienced by the blind," he says. "There is a big world left for us to explore, and science and humanity have brought within the reach of even the partly educated blind much of the treasures of literature and life. I write with my right hand and read with my left, but I also employ my right to go ahead and spy out the country."

"It is just as you use your eyes. You go along reading with and pick up what is left by the other. As soon as I graduate I am going into business. I have a good ear for music, they tell me, and I play passably well. I have had several opportunities to

touch but that is not to my liking. I want a life of activity, with plenty of outside work. I shall sell pianos until I can establish myself."

Many former university students in Norfolk well remember Clarke, who entered the university five years ago next September. He is good looking, clean cut and wears dark glasses. The man who reads to him leads him about on all occasions and he is a familiar sight on the campus or in library halls at Lincoln.

ROBBERS SHOOT WOMAN.

Secure \$8,500 From Bank and Shoot Banker's Wife in Neck. Chermus, Ind., April 13.—Six unknown robbers today robbed the private bank of Oscar Gandy & Co., of \$8,500. Mrs. Gandy, wife of the banker, was shot in the neck by one of the robbers.

Distressing Accident.

As Mrs. F. L. Estabrook was working in the yard yesterday, the branch of a plum tree that had been bent down, sprung up and struck her in the eye, cutting a gash in the eye ball. The injury is painful and may prove serious to her eyesight.

Overlocker-Mills.

A very pretty wedding took place at the Mills home on South Fourth street last night when Miss Eva Mills was married to Mr. Harry Overlocker at 8:30 o'clock, the ceremony being performed by Rev. J. F. Poucher. About forty friends were present and the bride was the recipient of many very handsome gifts. The home was charmingly decorated with cut flowers and a delightful wedding supper in three courses followed the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Overlocker will leave on Monday for Fairmont, Neb., where he expects to engage in the jewelry business and where they will make their future home. Both have many friends in Norfolk who wish them much happiness.

Among the wedding guests from out of town were Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Tremm of Winslow, who are visiting Miss Ethel Doughty at the home of her parents on The Heights; and Miss Fannie Mills of Laurel.

SNOW IN THE MIDDLE OF APRIL

Like an April Shower, But Too Cold to Rain Today.

Snow in the middle of April came upon this section of the world today when, at 10:30 o'clock this morning large flakes began falling. The snow was like an April shower in its brevity and was of no serious consequence. It was too cold to rain and as a result the shower that had been promised, turned into crystals. The mercury was below freezing point.

Later during the day the snow increased and was falling in huge quantities throughout the afternoon.

WOULD GIVE \$500 REWARD

FOR APPREHENSION OF THE INCENDIARY IN NORFOLK.

HE BELIEVES CROOKS DO IT

For the Purpose of Tapping Tills—No Tills Have Been Tapped, However. Another Theory is That of Lunatic. Insurance People Offer.

[From Friday's Daily.]

W. W. Roberts, an insurance agent, believes that the fires in Norfolk are being set by either crooks for the purpose of tapping tills in stores near the fires, while excitement prevails, or by an insane individual who is having a good time. The boy theory does not appeal to him as feasible.

Mr. Roberts is in favor of offering a reward of \$500 for the apprehension of the incendiary, \$250 to be contributed by the business men and \$250 by the Insurance Fraternity, an organization among insurance companies for mutual benefit.

The police declare that no outsider is responsible for the fires for the reason that there are no outsiders in Norfolk. Just now, bums who drop in are all sent out again at once. "It is local talent, without a doubt," said an officer. "What's more, it is no boy. It is a man. We have clues, but the next thing is to prove them."

After one fire it is said that kerosene could be detected in the air for more than a day.

Warrerville.

Ed. Creamer made a business trip to Omaha last week, returning Sunday.

Fred Woodruff and family of Cripple Creek, Col., are visiting George Wheeler.

Dr. and Mrs. H. O. Munson of Battle Creek were the guests of the doctor's parents Wednesday.

Rev. Mr. Peters of Norfolk is holding revival services at the Warrerville school house every evening this week.

Fred Terry sold a carload of fat cattle and a fine bunch of hogs to George D. Butterfield of Norfolk Saturday.

Baccalaureate Sermon.

Rev. J. F. Poucher of the Methodist church has been invited by the class of 1905, Norfolk high school, to preach the class sermon on the evening of the last Sunday in May.

If you want help—men or women—get them easily with a little want ad in The News.

DO NOT ACCEPT HOSPITAL

STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS AND BUILDINGS HERE.

NOT PLEASED WITH CEILINGS

Streaks in the Ceilings and Huge Cracks in the Corners of the Walls are the Cause for Reserving Acceptance of the Institution.

The new Nebraska state hospital for the insane at Norfolk is still the property of the Capital City Brick & Tile company, the state board of public lands and buildings not yet having accepted the work from the builders. Though they came to Norfolk yesterday for the purpose of accepting the buildings from the contractors if everything was satisfactory, the members of the board, after inspecting the institution, were so displeased with several features of it that they returned to Lincoln without having taken any official action.

The finish in the ceilings was the chief cause of dissatisfaction among the members of the board. Huge cracks in the walls also had to do with the displeasure, and it was stated by one of the members of the board that before the institution is accepted a number of adjustments must be made.

Ceilings are Streaked.

In many instances the ceilings, which are supposed to be smooth and clear, were rough and streaked and crude in appearance. They look as though they had been half done. Spots have not been covered with the coating at all, and the bare boards protrude. In the corners of many rooms huge cracks several inches wide yawn open and show, underneath, the outside wall of bricks. The whole appearance in these respects is of crudeness and careless work.

State Architect Tyler, who planned the buildings and who, with his office, has since been abolished by the legislature, was present yesterday and was subjected to a rigid cross fire of severe questions, but like shots from a gatling gun by members of the board. He had nothing whatever to say in regard to the defects. J. C. Mardis, too, who superintended the building, was present and he, also, was asked many critical questions which were not answered to the complete satisfaction of the members of the board.

Crude in op Stories.

Although the first floors of the buildings are finished in imitation marble and fine materials, the second and third floors become very crude and out of harmony. It was stated by one member of the board that the changing will cost the contractor probably \$200 before the institution is accepted. The buildings were taken at a contract of \$96,000.

As yet none of the cottages are being used, all of the patients and officers here now occupying apartments in the old hospital, portions of it which did not burn having been made into living rooms.

Snyder Glad to Get Back.

The twenty patients who were brought from Lincoln are busy making gardens and are glad to get back to Norfolk. Snyder, who will be remembered by many people in Norfolk as having been a hostler, was busy yesterday chopping wood. He said that he had secured that job and was going to keep it. He was delighted to be back in Norfolk.

Members of the state board, composed of Secretary of State Galusha, Treasurer Mortenson, Auditor Eaton and Attorney General Brown arrived at noon yesterday from Lincoln, were entertained at lunch by Norfolk business men, later drove to the hospital grounds and were last night entertained at the Elks club rooms. They left for Lincoln early this morning.

FRIDAY FACTS.

T. H. Abts was over from Madison yesterday.

M. J. Hughes was in Norfolk from West Point.

C. B. Thompson was over from Wayne yesterday.

F. B. Lee was in the city yesterday from Verdigré.

Peter Sondex was down from Winterton yesterday.

Fred Pope was in the city yesterday from Long Pine.

Mrs. D. M. Baker was over from Wayne yesterday.

J. C. Bender was in Norfolk yesterday from Fremont.

John Rodgers was down from Battle Creek yesterday.

Charley Emerson was in Norfolk from Creighton yesterday.

Mrs. H. C. Heckman was in the city yesterday from Allen.

Mrs. John McIntyre was a Norfolk visitor yesterday from Wayne.

Wm. H. P. Mohr of Spencer had business in Norfolk yesterday.

Mrs. Gustav Scholtz of Stanton was shopping in Norfolk yesterday.

A. J. Durland returned last night from a business trip to Niobrara.

Mrs. C. C. Ball has gone to Long Pine for a visit with her parents.

M. Nichols, ranchman of Foster, was in the city this morning on business.

W. G. Baker returned last night from a visit to his parents in Pennsylvania.

L. L. Rembe has left on a business trip to Minneapolis, expecting to be absent two weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Fitch and Mrs. A. M. Parvis and daughter were in the city yesterday from Carroll.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Mumley have gone

to Hot Springs to visit relatives for a week or two.

August Kahn of Sioux City has been a guest at the homes of Mrs. Maas and W. L. Kern.

Mrs. H. H. Mohr, Mrs. Douglas Cones and Mrs. C. Staley were in the city this morning from Pierce doing some shopping.

E. J. Patras, manager of the Singer office in this city, went to Bonesteel on a business trip yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Form of Winside were here to attend the Overlocker-Mills wedding last night.

Ice formed to a considerable thickness on still water last night.

A week from today is Good Friday and the day following is Arbor day.

The office of the Norfolk Lumber company on East Norfolk avenue is being veneered with brick.

Mr. and Mrs. Harley McGinnis welcomed a fine son to their home at Warrerville Wednesday night.

The business men and property owners of Norfolk meet in social session with the commercial club tonight at the city hall.

Dr. Thomas White, United States veterinarian, left Norfolk yesterday for Salt Lake City, where he has been transferred by the government.

A punching bag that has recently been installed in the club rooms is proving a good attraction for some of the more athletically inclined Elks.

Carl Pilger, now nightwatchman on the police force, has accepted a position with the Johnson Dry Goods company, which he will assume after the administration changes.

Governor Mickey has requested Dr. Nicholson, appointed surgeon at the Norfolk hospital for the insane some weeks ago, to report for duty at the hospital not later than the 20th.

Activity on the cement walk proposition has opened up and every evidence is that there will be an increasing number of these permanent walks added to the city in both the business and residence portions.

All Norfolk business men are especially urged to come out tonight for the lunch which is to be served by the commercial club. A jolly evening among the men will prevail and it is hoped that all will take advantage of the opportunity.

Harry Watt, who for a long time has been employed in the Johnson Dry Goods company here, has gone to Creighton, where he has a position with a new department store. He was accompanied by his mother, with whom he lived here.

Rev. and Mrs. P. B. West left yesterday by wagon for Butte, to which point they expect to drive by the end of next week or sooner. Mr. West has a claim on the Rosebud reservation and has recently been buying horses and wagons for use there.

The wedding march for the Overlocker-Mills wedding was played by Miss Flossie Vail. The bride had lived in Norfolk since early childhood, having graduated in the Norfolk high school and having since that time been a teacher in Madison county. She was a member of the class of 1901. Mr. Overlocker had been a jeweler here and at Battle Creek for a number of years.

Chief-Elect McFarland of the Norfolk fire department has decided to appoint Will McCune of the West Side hose company as first assistant chief and let it go at that. It has heretofore been customary to appoint a second and third assistant, but the chief-elect thinks that so many in authority makes it cumbersome. He will look to the foremen of the various companies for the assistance usually rendered by the second and third chiefs.

From summer to winter within two hours time is not an altogether joyful experience but it is one which occurred yesterday in Norfolk. Yesterday morning was warm enough for negligence. Last night fur overcoats were needed. It was almost cold enough during the night to freeze a river over with a crust of ice thick enough to skate upon. It was nineteen degrees above zero—and that was all. A raw, chilling wind from the north failed to help matters any.

THREATENED TO KILL HER

WEST POINT YOUNG MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHARGE.

ASSAULTED WOMAN ON STREET

Wilfred Scott, a Good Looking Young Farmer, Today Pleaded Guilty to the Charge of Assault and Using Threatening Language.

Wilfred Scott, a young man from West Point, Neb., who is not bad looking, pleaded guilty in Judge Hayes' court this morning to assaulting and threatening to kill Mrs. Helen Peterson if she refused to do as he ordered. He was fined \$10 and costs and was jailed for ten days upon failure to pay the fine.

Scott was arrested last night on South Fourth street when he approached Mrs. Peterson, after having followed her, and caught her in his arms. According to her story today, he grabbed her and, holding his fist over her face, threatened to kill her. He had followed her for several nights, and upon one occasion she had fainted while running from him.

Scott has been working on a farm near Norfolk.

Telephone your want ads to The News office, number 22.

ONE MORE FIRE STARTED

BLAZE GETS GOING BEHIND THE CHRISTOPH DRUG STORE.

IT LOOKS LIKE A FIREBUG

What Might, a Few Hours Later, Have Been a Most Disastrous Fire in a Norfolk Avenue Building, Was Brought Under Control Soon.

[From Friday's Daily.]

Selecting another building in the heart of the business district of Norfolk to satisfy his fiendish appetite for a fire, and by coincidence a building in which the chief of police stood at the moment the fire was set, the firebug of Norfolk again last night started a blaze which for a time threatened serious results and which, a few hours later with streets deserted, would undoubtedly have gone through the George B. Christoph drug store and might easily have gutted a good portion of a block. The blaze was started in a little shed just at the rear of the drug store, in a bunch of excelsior, and was soon extinguished by the streams of water and ladders of the department.

It was at just about 9 o'clock that the fire alarm was turned in. The rear door of the store had been locked tightly at 6 in the evening and no one had been near the shed after that. There was nothing in the structure which could have started from spontaneous combustion, as there were but a few empty barrels, a little coal and a loose bunch of excelsior. Mr. Christoph was at home when the fire started but his head clerk, Mr. Bleakney, together with Chief of Police Larkin and W. H. Blakeman, stood talking in the front portion of the store. Glancing out of doors when the alarm was heard, they realized for the first time that they were in the burning building.

Ten Minutes Would Have Done.

Ten minutes more of the flame leaped up against the rear wall of the drug store, fighting and struggling in an ineffective effort to get within, where a large ware room was packed with all sorts of oils and inflammable fluids, would have resulted most disastrously for the building and possibly for many more buildings on Norfolk avenue, between Fourth and Third streets.

As it was, a window was broken in and a little more time, with a wind, would have drawn the tongues of flame into the store room. Fortunately firemen could get to the fire quickly and soon the shed was thoroughly soaked with water.

The fire, it was determined today, started inside the shed and when Mr. Bleakney arrived at the back door the flames were shooting out through the cracks in rapid shape. The loss will be covered by \$100, it is thought.

Who is Starting These Fires?

"Who is starting all of these fires?" That is the puzzle which police and firemen are trying to work out. And that, too, is the question which has begun to seriously alarm Norfolk business men. Seven fires within a week, all mysterious and all at night, is enough to give a scare to a town of Norfolk's size, and no man knows when he looks up for the night just how soon he may be the victim of this incendiary. As a result of fires within recent days, two restaurants on Norfolk avenue are heaps of ashes, three saloons have been touched by the flames, one of them totally destroyed and another badly damaged; a cold storage has burned to the ground; and a number of fires have occurred in barns about town, and in a new home under course of construction. And no explanation for any of them can be made.

The question, therefore, which confronts the police department, is, "Who starts the fires?" and "What is the motive for starting them?" It has been suggested that perhaps boys, eager to see the fires burn and the department called out, are responsible for the damage. Perhaps it is more than one. Perhaps a man or men.

The police believe that they have a pretty good clue as to who has set at least one of the fires and the suspect is being closely watched. One business man suggested that a reward be offered for the apprehension of the guilty party.

This makes the second fire of the season to adjoin the building of the Durland Trust company. On the east the Krug building burned and on the west the Christoph store. The Durland building, which burned a few years ago, has not been touched either time.

Married Thirty Years.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Gaylord celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary by entertaining a company of neighbors and friends at their home on Philip avenue at a 5 o'clock dinner last evening. Music and other entertainment was provided for the guests.

Monogram Designs.

New, original designs in monograms for correspondence stationery. Very late and artistic. Sample sketches will be made without charge, for the approval of exacting persons who desire this sort of work. THE NEWS.

ROAD NEAR STANTON.

Commissioners Meet Here to Arrange Repairs. A meeting of commissioners of Mad-

ison and Stanton counties was held in Norfolk yesterday for the purpose of arranging to repair a road on the Madison-Stanton line, between here and Stanton. Commissioners Smith, Schmidt and Harding of Madison county and Commissioners Kingston and Fuhrman of Stanton county were present, the third Stanton county commissioner having been absent in Omaha. County Attorney Koenigstein of Madison county and County Attorney Eberly of Stanton were present at the conference for the purpose of giving legal advice in regard to the road situation.

Madison county commissioners also made a trip north of the city to the German Lutheran church, near which place it is planned to open a road running east and west.

DR. PARKER FOR DENTAL BOARD

Candidacy of Norfolk Dentist Being Urged in North Nebraska.

Dr. C. S. Parker of this city is prominently mentioned in connection with an appointment as a member of the new board of dental examiners for Nebraska, which is now being considered by Governor Mickey. A new law has been passed increasing the number of members to five. Three at present constitute the board, the members being Dr. Messe of Auburn, who has served four years; Dr. Dordard of Omaha who has been a member for five years and Dr. Wente of Lincoln, who has served for nine years. The dentists of north Nebraska are anxious to have one of the five members of the new board credited to this section of the state, and Dr. Parker has been endorsed for the appointment by fifty members of the profession, who are urging him for the place. The law as passed requires that the appointment shall be made within sixty days after the passage of the bill, which would give the governor until April 28 in which to reach a decision. The new law becomes operative on July 1. It is probable that the three members of the old board may be continued, and but two new names presented, of which Dr. Parker's friends hope he will be one.

Letter List.

List of letters remaining uncalled for at the postoffice at Norfolk, Neb., April 18, 1905.

Miss Lulu Condon, Mr. Alfred Cobb 2, Mr. Chas. Carr, Martin Gerrits, Mr. G. L. Krause, Mrs. Jennie Reed.

If not called for in fifteen days will be sent to the dead letter office.

Parties calling for any of the above please say "advertised."

John R. Hays, P. M.

MADISON COUNTY VALUES

REPORT OF STATISTICS BY STATE BUREAU OF LABOR.

A BEAUTIFUL PRAIRIE REGION

Value of the Crops, Stock, and the Amount of Bank Deposits, Showing a Very Good Per Capita Wealth in the County—Good Farm Land.

The bulletin of the state bureau of labor, recently issued by Burrett Bush, deputy commissioner of labor and Don C. Despain, chief clerk, which deals with the resources of Nebraska, has the following to say regarding Madison county:

"Madison county forms part of one of the most beautiful prairie regions in the state. The surface consists of upland valleys, bluffs and bottom land; about 80 per cent is tillable and the remainder generally affords good pasture. The soil is a dark, sandy loam, with a clay and sand subsoil. Brick of a superior quality is manufactured at different places in the county. The Elkhorn river, the Northfork, and Union, Shell, Battle, Deer, Dry and Buffalo creeks furnish good drainage. Many cattle and hogs are marketed every year, and dairying and mixed farming are extensively followed. The cereals all do well and a large area is devoted to the culture of sugar beets. Numerous artificial groves and many orchards are attractive features of the advancement made in this section. There are five flouring and grist mills and three brick yards.

"The total number of acres under cultivation is 304,196, and the average value of the land in the county is \$35.50. The yield of the principal crops in 1903 was as follows: Wheat, 236,820; corn, 2,789,552; oats, 2,234,138; rye, 106,147; the total value of these crops being \$2,379,123, a per capita value of \$140.14. Madison county ranked third in the production of oats in 1903. The value of live stock in 1904 was \$2,281,225. The bank deposits in 1903 amounted to \$1,623,900.20, a per capita of \$95.66."

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