

HOUSEMAID WAS A THIEF

"ETHEL BECKWITH" SUDDENLY DISAPPEARS IN AFTERNOON.

TOOK MANY THINGS WITH HER

A Maid From Newport, Neb., Giving Various Names, Who Had Worked for Mrs. Frank Cummins a Day and a Half, is Being Hunted by Police.

A short, fat, brown-eyed and brown-haired domestic with a pimply face, gowned in a navy blue skirt, a black jacket and a navy blue hat trimmed with white, has disappeared from the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cummins, 213 North Eleventh street, and so have a lot of valuables that were left unattended in the home. The girl had filled the position of housemaid for Mrs. Cummins just a day and a half, and her strange disappearance came yesterday afternoon while Mrs. Cummins was away from home. The name given by the girl when she applied for work was Ethel Beckwith but it is said that she has given various names about town and that at least three other families in Norfolk are looking for her and their lost valuables. The police are hunting for the woman today.

The Articles Missing.

Among the articles that have been missed at the Cummins home are: A silver toothpick holder, a china cup and saucer belonging to a chocolate set, eighteen fine handkerchiefs, three of them with point lace trimmings; and a hand-worked linen centerpiece that Mrs. Cummins had just finished.

The girl came to work at the Cummins home day before yesterday at noon. She was a suspicious looking character at best and Mrs. Cummins took pains when she left the house yesterday afternoon to first lock up her purse, watch and other jewelry. Two diamond rings that she occasionally left at home were carefully placed on her fingers when she went away, so that she knew they would be safe. When she went out of the house the maid asked, "How soon will you be back?" She was told that her mistress would return at 5 o'clock.

Girl and Other Things Gone.

When Mrs. Cummins returned at 5 the girl and other things were gone. None of the neighbors saw her go. The police were notified and said that they knew her and were already looking for her for other parties, but they had not found her late today.

"Ethel" came originally from Newport, Neb. She said that she had been here a month. For a time she worked in the Kryger cafe, which is now closed, and when she came to the Cummins home she said that she had been working several places about town.

The girl frequently used the telephone, always calling for a certain man at the other end.

FRIDAY FACTS.

August Tolle of Wisner is in the city.

C. D. Sims has returned home over Sunday.

C. H. Vail returned from Sioux City Thursday.

Miss Laura Schultz went to Pierce Friday afternoon.

Miss Lulu Mather went to Tilden Friday on a visit.

John Anderson of Burke, S. D., is in the city on business.

Miss Sallie Anderson of Pierce is in the city visiting with friends.

J. A. Ballantyne returned from a trip to the north Friday morning.

The Norfolk orchestra went to Winside Friday noon to play at a dance.

J. S. Mathewson will leave for Lincoln Saturday morning on business.

Will Schmitt of Green Garden precinct is visiting at the Pilger home.

Dr. J. M. Davey came down from Bonesteel Friday morning enroute home to Ponca.

E. G. Malone came up from Columbus Friday evening on business.

William Zutz has recovered from his spell of sickness and is again at work.

George Gishbert of Pierce was in Norfolk Friday morning on business.

Dr. Parker has recovered from his attack of the grip sufficiently to return to his office.

Don Wells of Madison is in the city on his way home from Clearwater where he has been buying some land.

Mrs. Fred Klentz, sr., went to Neigh last evening to be gone for several days.

W. Windolph came down from Creighton Thursday evening on business.

O. C. Rasmussen and N. Butterfield of Oakland came over Thursday from Oakland.

Myron Farley left this morning for Hot Springs, Ark., for the benefit of his health.

Jim James returned from Battle Creek yesterday in company with his brother Crockett, who will remain for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Durland returned last evening from Omaha. Mr. Durland had been on a two weeks' trip to eastern points.

Miss Gladys Bonney returned to her home in Orchard Friday noon. Saturday she will return going to Winneton for a few days visit.

Miss Fay Watts of Columbus was a guest of Mrs. C. A. Blakely over night and left today for Tilden, where she goes to visit her friend, Mrs. Lutz.

C. R. Taylor, who has been in the employ of W. B. Vail, leaves today for his home in Rochester, Minn. Mr. Taylor will seek a position nearer home.

Invitations have been issued for a dance at the home of N. Rautberg

south of town this evening.

Dr. and Mrs. Bear will entertain this evening.

A son was born yesterday to Mrs. Sam Rosenthal.

Subpoenas were served on former Police Officers Pilger and Larkin to appear as witnesses at the trial of Otto Johnson this afternoon.

Yesterday afternoon the colder weather had coated Klug's pond with a smooth layer of ice, and many of the boys and girls spent the afternoon skating on it.

W. E. Kurtz and family have just removed from Fremont to Oakdale, where they will be located for the greater convenience of Mr. Kurtz as conductor on the Northwestern.

Ernest Raasch has bought the fancy spotted saddle horse which has been owned and ridden for some years by Adrian Craig. The animal is said to be one of the finest in the county.

The missionary supper given Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. J. W. Ransom by the Ladies' Missionary society of the M. E. church was largely attended and netted the society a nice profit.

Conductor Collins of the Northwestern had his right hand crushed in a wreck near Cordova on the Superior line. A box car and the way car left the rails and were bumped along the track. Conductor Collins was in the latter and was given a hard fall. He was in Fremont yesterday afternoon, being off duty temporarily.

There will be a gay lunch at Madison next Wednesday if all of the Gobbler appear on deck who now show signs of a desire. From all corners of all trains and hotels can be heard but one word today—"Gobbler." It is said that Smith, representative for Haley & Lang of this city, is prominently mentioned for raider of the roost.

A party was given at the home of August Raasch, west of the city, on Wednesday night for Paul Maas of Minnesota who is visiting here. There were about twenty-five present. Hugo Fry and Henry Kluge of Hadar being among the guests. Games were played and a good time enjoyed. Mr. Fry is the leader of both bands at Hadar.

It has not generally become known throughout Norfolk that the cost of sending a letter in the city is two cents for which reason the four young ladies entertaining next Friday evening have been paying out large sums of pennies for postage due. Some have even sent their replies unstamped, which adds greatly to the burden of entertaining.

The writer had a short but very pleasant visit with Augustus Sattler while in the City of Mexico week before last. Mr. Sattler was making a tour of the southern republic and thought he would be in the city ten days more. He looks as young as he did ten years ago when he conducted a law and real estate office at this place. He is a brother of H. C. Sattler.

A few of the members of the Trinity Social Guild have planned a production of a recent play as a surprise to the members at their meeting next Tuesday with Miss Maloney. The full details of the plan and the names of those interested in it have become thoroughly known to all the members of the guild and it is believed that it will be more in the way of an entertainment and part of an expected program than a surprise when presented Tuesday.

"Unless there is a cold snap during the present month," said George Schwenek, the veteran iceman, "there will be no ice made this year. Ice can not be made in this climate after March. Occasionally it freezes for a day or two in March but it honeycombs and is not good. We must make ice in January and February and this month, with but twenty-eight days, must do the work this month. There is chance, however, for many cold days yet this month."

Another iceman has started business in Norfolk. John Ortwich, whose father bought the old Schwenek property southeast of town, has just now purchased six acres of land south of the C. P. Byerly place and will use it for an ice farm, the same as is done at the Waldo & Dillenbeck place east of town. Mr. Ortwich this week bought and hauled lumber for the purpose of building an ice house and this will be filled this year with ice from the river. Next spring he intends to dig a big pond which will be filled with water from windmills and later he will use the ice from this pool.

The Nebraska Telephone company have been putting a cable in for one block west of the central office during the past few days. It is expected that this will relieve the congestion in the downtown service and eventually do away with many of the separate wires downtown. An expert is expected from Omaha very soon to make a complete study of the local telephone situation and make plans for restringing the town this year. While this will cost a large sum of money the wires will be taken in cables way into the residence sections and the present trouble from crossed wires, broken circuits and other troubles common after storms will be done away with. The unsightliness of the present poles with their web of wires will be greatly decreased also.

Letter List.

List of letters remaining uncalled for at the postoffice at Norfolk, Neb., January 30, 1906:

Chas. Fox, Mr. J. L. Delong (Opera Co., M. J. Lovelace, Homer Smith.

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.

DESSIE McCOMB IS FOUND

HAD FLED TO TILDEN—NOW A NERVOUS WRECK.

THREATENS TO TAKE OWN LIFE

Rather Than Go Back to School, Where Trouble Caused Her to Run Away, She Says She Will Suicide—Was Hunting Work—Her Story.

Dessie McComb, the little girl who ran away from home Tuesday, has been brought back home and is in bed a nervous wreck. The experiences of her two days and a night away from home have completely unstrung her nerves and she is hysterical and unable to tell always just what she did and where she spent all the time since she left home. Yet through it all she pleads to be allowed to go away again. She says she will never go back to school and that she must work. To work she wants to go away from home, but she must earn money. That is the compelling feature of all her talk and of her runaway experiences. She wants money to pay back for her little follies of a month ago, which caused all the trouble at school and at home.

How She Was Found.

Wednesday afternoon word came from two sources only a few minutes apart that Dessie was in Tilden. The first word was in a postal card from the girl herself at Tilden. It was hysterical in its wording and frightened the parents greatly. Then Mrs. Perry, who had just read the story of the flight in The News, sent word that Dessie had gone to Tilden. She had known it all along but had just found out that it was without the knowledge of the McComb family. Officer Livingston immediately boarded the train for Tilden to get the girl and bring her home.

Hated to Come Home.

When he found her at the home of Mrs. Kierstead she broke down utterly and begged not to be taken back home, but he refused to hear her pleading. When he returned with Dessie in the morning there was great relief in the McComb family and all day today the invalid mother and the father have watched carefully over the daughter to make it easier for her to come back home.

Was Looking For Work.

As nearly as can be found out Dessie left home Tuesday morning for school and went over to Perry's eating house, where she tried to secure employment. Failing in this she went to the Cottage Home hotel where she tried to secure a room saying that she had secured employment at Perry's. However, she was unable to secure a room from Mrs. Belknap and stayed in the sitting room of the hotel until shortly before the train went west when she left and took the train for Tilden. At Tilden it is not known whether she made any further attempts to secure employment, although that seems to have been her greatest desire in leaving home.

Threatens Suicide.

The father and mother believe that she will recover her normal mind after a few days of rest and quiet. No attempt will be made to have her return to school this year, as she threatens to kill herself if forced to do so. Instead they will try to keep her up in her studies at home for the rest of the school year and have her enter school again next fall.

DEPOT FOR WARNERVILLE

UNION PACIFIC STATION IS TO BE REPLACED THERE.

WILL BE STATION AGENT ALSO

The Petition of the People of Warnerville, Who Asked for a New Station When Their Was Moved Away, is to be Granted.

The railroad depot at Warnerville is to be replaced. A new station will be built there soon and an agent will be installed. This is the assurance given to the citizens of that thriving little Madison county village, eight miles southwest of Norfolk on the Union Pacific, by officials of that railroad.

Some time ago the depot which had stood at Warnerville for years and which had been for some time without an agent, was moved to the site of the new town Enola between Madison and Warnerville. At that time the people of Warnerville resented the move and sent a petition to the Union Pacific officials asking them to place another station and an agent at that place.

Appreciating the fact that Warnerville is growing all of the time and that the business there has already reached proportions to justify it, the railway officials have consented to grant the prayer.

KIESAU BUYS ROBERTSON BLOCK

Two Story Building is Bought as an Investment—No Tenant Change.

The two story brick block known as the Robertson block and owned by W. M. Robertson has been bought by A. H. Kiesau. It was bought as an investment by the new owner and it is doubtful if there will be any change in the tenants for a while at least. The building has twenty-two feet frontage on Norfolk avenue and a depth of 110 feet.

BARGAIN STORE QUILTS.

Will be Closed Today, and Goods Shipped Out of Town.

After today the Bargain store on Norfolk avenue will be closed. Everything that is not sold by this evening will be boxed up and shipped away from the city. The Offenhausser jewelry store will occupy the entire store for the time being at least. C. E. Green established the Bargain store a couple of years ago and it is still his property.

JANUARY BROKE RECORD

BALMY DAYS CONTINUED GREAT-ER PORTION OF MONTH.

WEDNESDAY WAS WARMEST DAY

With a Temperature of 63 the Last Day of the Month Broke the High Mark. People Ate Picnic Dinners Out of Doors—Lack of Ice.

January 1906 has been one of the most unusual months of many years. Practically the entire month was sunny and the days and nights showed an abnormally high temperature, the temperature reaching its highest point for the month on the last day when it was 63 degrees by the government thermometer. While the average temperature for the month according to the local records has not been exactly ascertained the month has come very close to breaking all records in Norfolk for a balmy atmosphere. During half the month the days were so warm and sunny that it was possible to walk about during the day without wraps and feel no discomfort.

Ice men Worried.

The pleasure of the weather has been a worry to the ice men and will be to the city if there is not a snap of cold weather that will bring ice for long enough to fill the ice houses. Not quite one-fifth of the ice generally put up in the city is made yet and this would last but a little time without large shipments from outside and consequent high prices. Waldo & Dillenbeck took time by the forelock during the short spell of brisk weather in the middle of the month and put up almost half of their ice, when it was only eight and nine inches thick. That is all that Norfolk has now to meet the summer with. Generally 5,000 tons of ice are stored during the winter to run through the next summer. Now there are just 900 tons of ice made and ready for the summer. Without a spell of cold weather during February the ice situation during the summer will reach a critical point.

Government Records.

The government records here show that this was the warmest January in ten years. The highest point recorded by the thermometer was 63, the lowest 16 below zero. The average temperature for the month was 28.9. The average maximum was 39.3 and the average minimum was 18.6.

AN OLD MAN ASSAULTED

JAMES MANNON OF YORK IS WAY-LAID IN THE DARK.

BEATEN INTO INSENSIBILITY

An Unknown Assailant Met James Mannon on the Street at York and Beat Him Into Unconsciousness. Had Had no Quarrel—Is No Clue.

York, Neb., Feb. 2.—James Mannon, aged sixty years, was waylaid here last night and beaten into insensibility by an unknown assailant. He had had no quarrel and was struck without any warning whatsoever. There is no clue to the assailant.

PIERCE CHILD'S DEATH.

Three-year-old Boy Chokes to Death on Pop-corn.

Pierce Call: The little three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Dein, living west of town, met with an accident last Saturday evening between 8 and 9 o'clock, which cost the little fellow his life.

The child has always had an astonishing appetite for pop-corn and whenever his parents would pop some he would clap his chubby hands and be perfectly contented and satisfied. On this particular evening the popper was brought out and the work of popping the corn begun much to the delight of the baby and other members of the family. But in a few short minutes a different scene was enacted, that happiness changed to sorrow. While eating, the child had got some of the corn in his windpipe and was coughing violently. The parents tried everything they knew of to relieve the suffering one but all proved of no use. Doctor Pringle of this place was summoned to save the choking babe but before his medicine had time to take effect the child passed away and out of his misery. The funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the family residence by Rev. Geo. E. Taylor, after which the remains were conveyed to Prospect View cemetery south of town and interment made therein.

Market Repairs.

The interior of Louis Schenzel's meat market has been wholly redecorated and made over. In planning the interior the walls and the ceiling have been made waterproof so that the entire place can be washed in every nook and corner.

GREAT RAILROAD PROJECT

THE KANSAS CITY, MEXICO AND ORIENT.

SHORTEST LINE TO THE SEA

Traverses a Splendid Country and Reaches Deep Water Five Hundred Miles Shorter Than Any Transcontinental Line in Existence.

The Kansas City, Mexico and Orient railway, with whose promoters the writer recently made a trip through the republic of Mexico to the City of Mexico, is a line projected from Kansas City, Mo., to Topolobampo bay, in the state of Sinaloa, Mexico, on the Gulf of California. When completed the line will be 1600 miles long, 500 miles shorter than any other transcontinental road connecting the middle west with the Pacific seaboard. This project has been under way for the last six years, and already practically one half of the road has been built and is in operation, a section in Kansas and Oklahoma, a section in Texas and two sections in Mexico. Unlike other transcontinental lines at the time of their construction, which were obliged to cross great unprofitable deserts to reach their destination, the Orient road is passing through a country that is practically all in a good state of development and only needs the oncoming of the road to yield a rich local business. From Kansas City to Wichita the distance by this road is twenty-seven miles shorter than any other line, and it traverses the richest section of Kansas, while south of Wichita to the Rio Grande it passes through the great cotton growing section of Oklahoma and northern Texas and the cattle and mineral country of the southern part of the latter state. From El Oro, where the road crosses the Rio Grande, to Chihuahua, a distance of 150 miles, the road strikes mineral and grazing districts of northern Mexico, while west of Chihuahua over the mountains and down to the coast the road passes successively some of the richest silver and gold mines in the world, large deposits of anthracite coal and a vast timber belt near the coast. In this section also are grown sugar, coffee, cotton, tobacco and fruits. With the amount of local traffic in sight, together with the fact that oriental business can be handled on a haul 500 miles shorter than any other line, there is no doubt but that the road will do a large business from the time it is completed.

Oklahoma.

Oklahoma shows a wonderful state of development when it is considered that it has been open for settlement but a comparatively few years. The towns passed have a decidedly wide-awake appearance, and some of them, as Guthrie, Oklahoma City, El Reno and Enid have already become cities of 12,000 to 25,000 people, carrying on a good wholesale as well as retail business. The statement is made that the whole of Oklahoma averages three farmers to every section of land, and from the well settled appearance of the country, its fine farm houses, buildings and fences, the statement is not difficult to believe. It has every appearance of a long-settled country, with the possible exception that the improvements shine with fresh paint and show that in reality they are new.

The Magnitude of Texas.

While it is known that Texas is the largest state in the union, yet to the average mind that statement does not convey an intelligent meaning of the magnitude of that commonwealth. From El Paso on the west to Texarkana on the east the distance is practically 900 miles, while the distance from the extreme northern portion of the Panhandle to Brownsville on the southeast coast is farther than it is from Chicago to New Orleans. The census of 1900 showed more lands farmed in Texas than in any other state, with only one-fifth of the area then under plow. A statistician says that Texas has more prairie land than Kansas, more pine timber than Michigan, more oak than West Virginia, more iron than Alabama, more marble than Vermont, more granite than New Hampshire, more corn land than Illinois, more wheat land than the Carolinas, more rice land than California, more tobacco land than Virginia, more sugar cane land than Louisiana, and it is the first state in the union in the amount of railway mileage. The eastern part of the state is well settled, but the western part of the state has been given over practically to ranchmen hitherto. In all the vast region of western Texas the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient road is the only railroad extending through the state north and south, one third of the state lying west of the line of the road. It is known that much of the land is good for the raising of crops and the ranches are being cut into smaller tracts and sold to farmers and cotton planters. With this kind of a territory to traverse there can be no question but that the new railroad will do a great business as soon as it is completed, and with this business in sight it would be folly to doubt the completion of the line.

Stilwell's Inspiration.

This project was inaugurated six years ago by Arthur E. Stilwell, who is the president of the company. The idea of a short line to the sea from the middle west was suggested by a newspaper item reciting what the Panama canal was expected to do for the country, which closed with the statement that for the middle west the

freight question could not be solved until there was constructed a short line to the sea. The idea looked feasible to Mr. Stilwell and he started to find what would make a short line to the Pacific coast. Stretching a string with one end on the globe at Kansas City he stretched the other end along the Pacific coast until the point of shortest distance was found to be at Topolobampo bay, Gulf of California, and straightway he determined that a line should be built between these two points. The early difficulties of interesting capitalists in the project were numerous, but with his splendid ability and convincing presentation of the situation he finally succeeded in getting enough capital interested to make a start. He determined at the outset that this road should not be constructed along the lines usually pursued with such enterprises, in that he would keep away from the influence of Wall street and no Wall street money should go into the construction of the line. He had had a little experience with the gratitude of Wall street capitalists, who had frozen him out of his labors in the construction of the Kansas City Southern road as soon as that line was completed, and he resolved if he promoted another enterprise of this kind that he would deal with the people direct, sell stock in small amounts among small capitalists. The result of this policy is that at the present time there are 32,000 stockholders in the enterprise, among them being several hundred Nebraskans. These stockholders invest because they have faith in the enterprise and confidence that Mr. Stilwell will be able to complete the road. The object of the recent excursion, which was the sixth of the kind that has been run, was to demonstrate the possibilities for business over the new line as soon as it is completed.

What They Said.

At the City of Mexico the party called upon President Diaz, and he assured the members that he is very much interested in the completion of the line which will unite the two countries and give an outlet to the Pacific coast from the interior of Mexico, there being no railroad at the present time from the table lands of Mexico to the western coast. That what he said is true has been demonstrated by the large concessions granted to the road, payable as rapidly as it is completed. At Chihuahua Governor Creel, governor of the state of Chihuahua and one of the richest men of Mexico, who is first vice president of the road, gave assurances of his interest in the project, which assurances are backed by substantial state subsidies.

The portions of the line that have been completed have been built in a most substantial manner, the grading all being done solidly and the iron being heavy enough to stand great traffic. Edward Dickinson, for years general manager of the Union Pacific and well known in Nebraska, occupies the position of general manager of the new road, and he is a practical railroad man who is looking after the details of construction, which is an assurance that the line will be built right. The Sinaloa News in a recent issue pays the following well deserved tribute to the way this road is being built:

An Honest Road.

"The writer has traveled over practically every line of railway in the republic of Mexico, during the period of the past ten years, from the Rio Grande to the southernmost borders of the republic, and gives this entirely unsolicited testimonial that the Stilwell railroad from Topolobampo to Fuerte is an honestly built road, showing progressive American methods and excellent technical construction throughout. Every tie—and they are laid close together—is a redwood sawed tie, imported from California. Practically all of the steel is specially made sixty-pound American rails. The rails are properly spiked down, the fishplates strong and properly bolted, all switches of modern construction, and carefully installed, and the rails well reinforced at curves and grades. The bridges, while not of masonry, are well piled, with safe approaches and abutments, and a substantial superstructure. The water tanks, etc., are all modern construction, not a "streak of rust and a right of way." By contrast with some of the other railroads constructed in recent years in Mexico, under government subsidies and subventions, it looms up as a very "New York Central" in point of substantiality and honest construction, and the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient railway deserves unlimited credit and praise for the substantial and honorable manner in which it has carried out its contract with the federal government of the republic of Mexico. They deserve consideration at the hands of the Mexican government, and the stockholders of this railway may well be glad to know that they have a veritable railroad built and constructed on modern lines, instead of the miserable apologies for railroads which have been constructed in past years in Mexico. "Vive" the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient railway, and its efficient and earnest president, Arthur E. Stilwell. They reflect credit on Americans in Mexico."

INSANE INMATE SUCCUMBS.

John Prosser, Who Had Been Here but Thirty-four Days, Dies of Old Age.

John Prosser, an inmate of the Hospital for the Insane, is dead after having been there but thirty-four days. He was brought down from Bloomfield near which place he was a farmer. The cause of death was old age, he having reached the age of eighty-eight years. The body was taken back to Bloomfield Monday noon.