

MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED

Self-Confessed Forger Makes an Escape from the Clutches of the Law.

COURT AND JAIL RECORDS CONFLICT

Former Shows that He is in Jail but He is Not There - Jailer Says He Was Released on Judge Scott's Order.

Just before the 1st of January a young man was arrested by the police on the charge of uttering forged checks. He gave his name as Charles or George Woolridge. William Neve, George Benson, Morgan Heafey, J. A. Reed and J. A. Samish were the witnesses who were summoned in police court to testify against Woolridge. Some of these witnesses have been seen and have related their connection with the charges. William Neve, at 412 South Eighteenth, said he knew Woolridge had been in the employ of Liveryman Flanagan for some time, and Woolridge came out to him with his check to have it cashed. Woolridge came to him Christmas eve with a check endorsed by Heafey & Heafey. It was for the sum of \$5 and Neve cashed it without question. When he sent it to Heafey's it was pronounced a forgery.

Morgan Heafey of Heafey & Heafey said Woolridge had been in their employ as a stable hand and as a clerk. He acknowledged the firm's name being forged, but said he did not appear against the man as his (Woolridge's) brother-in-law made the amount good to the firm, as he did to several others, and asked each in each case not to prosecute.

TRIED IT AT OTHER PLACES. One of the places where Woolridge attempted to cash a check, and the one which aroused the first suspicion against him, was at Hayden Bros. He went there on December 24 and purchased \$1 worth of muslin, saying Heafey had sent him. The only one of the employees in the place at the time who had authority to cash or O. K. checks was Mr. J. A. Samish of the hat department. Woolridge tendered a payment for \$10, or some such amount, and the cash boy took it to Mr. Samish. It was signed by Heafey & Heafey, but as Mr. Samish was acquainted with the signature of the firm, he suspected something, and, taking the check to Mr. Hayden, asked for instructions. Mr. Hayden did not recognize the signature as that of Heafey & Heafey, and he sent Mr. Samish down stairs to see the young man, but he had left.

The affair was reported to Heafey and the check in this instance also was pronounced a forgery. Hayden Bros. lost nothing, however. Woolridge also offered a check for \$10 at the Diamond gambling rooms, where he was playing in a game. The check was cashed, but was found to be a forgery. The Diamond people lost nothing by the transaction, however, as friends of Woolridge redeemed the forged document and made it a financial object for the victims to make no charge against the man in police court.

WHAT COURT RECORD SHOWS. Woolridge was given a hearing in police court December 28, and was bound over by Judge Berka to the district court. He was committed to the county jail on that date. Appearance docket 42, page 7, of the district court, presents the following record of the case: To this Mr. Moore made the following reply: The State of Nebraska against Charles Woolridge, alias George Woolridge. From police court, charge forgery, January 6th, continued (25-50). February 5th. Filed information, recorder information (25-77); February 7th, defendant arraigned for plea, defendant pleaded not guilty, defendant remained in jail (25-10); February 20th, defendant withdrew plea of not guilty, defendant remained in jail (25-10); defendant remained to jail (25-23); issued subpoena for state; February 1st, subpoena for state; February 1st, February 20th on M. Heafey, George Benson, William Neve, J. A. Samish, Heafey, H. P. A. Reed, J. A. Samish, February 25th, defendant gives Charles Woolridge as true name, judgment and sentence suspended until September 17, 1894; defendant remained to jail (25-18). The State of Nebraska, Douglas county, ss-I, Frank E. Moore, clerk of the district court, Fourth judicial district of the State of Nebraska, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full and true copy of the appearance docket 42, of the records of the district court of said Douglas county. Witness my signature and official seal this 16th day of March, 1894. (Signed.) FRANK E. MOORE, Clerk.

BUT HE IS NOT IN JAIL. While the record of the appearance docket says that Woolridge was committed to the county jail, the county jailer says that Woolridge is not in jail and has not been since February 25. Then the natural inference would be that he is on bail, but in response to a request for the record the Clerk Moore furnishes the following information on that point: The State of Nebraska, Douglas county, ss-I, Frank E. Moore, clerk of the district court, Fourth judicial district of the State of Nebraska, do hereby certify that the records of this office in case, The State of Nebraska vs. Charles Woolridge, Doc. 42, No. 7, shows no recognition or bond for appearance of defendant, Charles Woolridge, taken in this court. Witness my signature and official seal this 16th day of March, 1894. (Signed.) FRANK E. MOORE, Clerk.

THE DOCKET OF THE JUDGE OF THE CRIMINAL COURT has the following record of the case: State of Nebraska against Charles Woolridge, alias George Woolridge, forgery, J. G. Tipton, attorney for defendant. February 1st. Defendant being duly arraigned personally, pleads not guilty and is committed to jail. February 20th. Defendant withdraws his plea of not guilty and is committed to jail to the crime charged against him. February 25th. Defendant, being arraigned for sentence, pleads not guilty to the charge of Woolridge. Sentence suspended until the 17th day of September, 1894.

A LITTLE CORRESPONDENCE. Here was a plain discrepancy. The record of the district clerk shows that Woolridge, or Woolington, was committed to jail, but not in jail. In order to secure the facts in the case the following letter of inquiry was addressed on Saturday morning, March 17, to the district clerk: Dear Sir:-By whose direction did you insert in the record of the case of the State against Charles Woolridge, alias George Woolridge, Doc. 42, page 7, the following: "Judgment and sentence suspended until September 17, 1894; defendant remained to jail?" Was the order committing the defendant to jail issued by the court in your presence or either of your deputies, or does your file directed by the judge or any court official to make the record read as it does? Yours truly, E. ROSEWATER.

To this Mr. Moore made the following reply: OMAHA, Neb., March 17.-Hon. E. Rosewater, Editor: In reply to your letter of the 17th inst. relative to authority for clerk inserting judgment and sentence suspended until September 17, 1894, defendant remained to jail, into record in case of State vs. Woolridge, Doc. 42, page 7, of this court, I have to say: That so much of said order as relates to suspension of sentence until September 17 was taken from original notes of Judge Scott upon the criminal docket for September term of the court. The balance of order, remaining defendant to jail, was made without order expressed in this particular case. It is customary for the clerk in making a record of proceedings in criminal cases, where defendant is committed to jail, to show the bringing of defendant from jail into court by sheriff and the return of the defendant back to jail at close of proceedings, unless otherwise expressly ordered. Very respectfully, FRANK E. MOORE, Clerk.

The following letter was addressed to County Attorney Kaley: OMAHA, March 17.-Hon. J. L. Kaley, County Attorney: Dear Sir:-Will you please make the responses to the following questions on this blank: (1) Was Charles Woolridge, alias George Woolridge, whose true name was Charles Woolington, arraigned for forgery

HE ROASTED THE EX-SHERIFF

Judge Berka Severely Condemns His Conduct as a Public Officer.

MOSHER'S PRIVILEGES AND LIQUOR AT JAIL

Was Mr. Rosewater's Right to Give the People the Facts and the Label Case Dismissed-Defendant Held as to Mrs. Bennett.

Judge Berka handed down his decision in the Bennett-Rosewater libel case yesterday afternoon. He dismissed the defendant as to the case brought by ex-Sheriff Bennett, and bound him over to the district court in the sum of \$700 in the case in which Mrs. Bennett is the prosecuting witness. The court held that the publication as to the abortion in the jail with full knowledge of the material was libelous per se as to Mrs. Bennett, and the truth of the charge had not been proved, neither had Mrs. Bennett been sufficiently connected with it if true to make the publication justifiable. It was held that inasmuch as Mrs. Bennett was not a candidate going before the people for re-election, the defense of privilege would not hold good.

In passing on the Bennett case the court severely criticized the conduct of the county jail under the ex-sheriff. The sheriff did not only allow the prisoner, Mosher, privileges far in excess of those accorded the ordinary "trustees," but it had been proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that Mosher had been allowed to have possession of the keys of the jail, and could at any time have liberated every prisoner in the jail. The law required that no liquor should be dispensed in a public place without a license, and in the county jail under ex-Sheriff Bennett this law had been systematically violated, and liquor had been given out in defiance of law.

The court said he did not care to enter upon a discussion of all the charges. Bennett had gone before the people for re-election, and it was necessary for him to put his character upon the scales and allow the electors to pass judgment. All of the authorities obtainable had been carefully searched and it was found that they were almost a unit in according the press the greatest latitude in cases of this kind, particularly where an officer was a candidate for another term. In the case at hand, and the evidence, the defendant was certainly justified in publishing what he did, and could not be held for trial in the upper court.

The court said that he did not want to have any blame shifted on to his shoulders by the prosecuting attorney. In case that official was not satisfied with the decision, if the result was not what it should have been, it was the privilege and the duty of the county attorney to bring the case on in another court, and not hide behind the assertion that the court had made a mistake. The conduct of the Pigeon in commenting on the rulings of the judges during the trial of the case was brought up and reviewed in unmistakable language. The court warmed up considerably on that point, and quoted Roscoe Conkling as to how would happen when courts fell from grace and the people ceased to hold them in the greatest respect. "You had his own course, the judge said that he had been frequently honored by the people, and because of this he was satisfied that the rectitude of his conduct had been proved to the satisfaction of very much whether some of his critics could be elected dog-catchers, to say nothing of a position as magistrate.

Ex-Sheriff Bennett was not in the court room to hear the court's opinion of his conduct of an official position; neither was the other prosecuting witness on hand, but Theodore Bennett and the "friend of his youth," ex-Deputy Jailer Horne, were there as the representatives of the past regime. Mr. Rosewater signed a bond for his appearance in the district court, and the case, so far as the police court is concerned, came to an end.

We often hear people say there is only one good cough medicine and that is Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, the specific for colds. \$5 Dollars and \$20 Dollars To San Francisco. The \$5 pays for your berth in one of the through Pullman tourist cars and the \$20 pays for a first class passage, all via THE UNION PACIFIC. No, you don't have to change, the sleepers run through to San Francisco. Have your nearest Union Pacific agent reserve you a berth or write HARRY P. DEUEL, city ticket agent, 1302 Farnam street, Omaha.

PLATTE CANAL PROJECT. To the Business Men and Property Owners of Omaha: For the past two years the question of building a canal from the Platte river and developing a great water power at Omaha, that will bring countless manufacturing industries to our city, has been discussed and under consideration; that the benefits to be derived by all classes of our people from the starting of this great enterprise are of the utmost importance, cannot be denied; that the present is an auspicious time to start this undertaking is manifest to all. Thousands of people all over the east are looking for some point at the present time to locate and invest their money, either in business, manufacturing or in real estate. This is Omaha's opportunity, and the question of building a Platte river canal this spring is of such vital importance that a meeting has been called at the Commercial club rooms, Tuesday evening, March 20, at 8 o'clock, of all business men and property owners who are interested in Omaha's prosperity and who are in favor of starting this great project at once. You are earnestly requested to be present. Respectfully yours, ALVIN SAUNDERS, THOMAS A. CREIGHTON, DAN FARRELL, VINCENT BURKLEY, E. T. LINSEY, A. P. TEKEY, J. A. WAKEFIELD, A. R. DEFFENSE, W. A. WEBSTER, C. O. LOBECK, GEORGE W. AMES, GEORGE W. HICKS, J. C. WHARTON, E. A. BENSON, ADOLPH MEYER, J. G. GROOM, D. C. PATTERSON, GEORGE H. PAINE, W. E. CLARKE, W. J. KIERSTEAD, JEFF W. BEDFORD, N. A. KUHN, J. S. STANFIELD & CO., P. L. PERRINE, GEORGE W. DOANE, L. MENDELSSOHN.

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