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OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 20, 1904.

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This school teaches practical Penmanship—Penmanship stripped of its fancies—Penmanship that gladdens the eye of the hard sense business man, just the same as it teaches practical stenography, practical bookkeeping and touch typewriting.

SPRING TERM, APRIL 4.

The catalogue is ready.

Address, H. B. BOYLES, President, Omaha, Neb.

MEET AFTER SEVEN YEARS

Sixty Members of Most Select Secret Order Plan for First Reunion.

PIGS OF THE PIG TAIL ALLEY CLUB

Scatter from Atlantic to Pacific, but Will Meet Here to Celebrate Strange Origin of Unique Society.

For seven years Omaha has been the home and headquarters and it was the birthplace of probably the most exclusive and remarkable secret society in existence. Very few persons, even those ardent lovers of the city's possessions, who find great pleasure in sounding its praises, have ever known anything about this mysterious and wonderful order. It was conceived under conditions of the most profound secrecy, brought forth amid surroundings as dark and subtle as night and has existed thus far without even breaching its affairs to the world at large. The circumstances attending the advent and career of this society read like the lurid tragedies of Dare Devil Dick or some other monstrous hero of the dime novel.

The night of July 7, 1897, seven young men, playmates from earliest childhood, held a reunion typical of their boyhood pranks in the barn on the old residence lot of W. J. Broatch, at Twenty-fifth and Dodge streets, and organized the "Pigtail Alley club." They made that old barn the headquarters of this fraternal fraternity and rigged it out as a regular den, with a billiard table and a gymnasium to give it the air of dignity and sure enough sportsmanship.

A solemn oath was taken by each one of these seven young men to maintain throughout their life their loyalty and devotion to this organization. First they adopted secret bylaws. A ritual they didn't need, for they determined there and then that the membership should be limited to just these seven.

Names of the Members.

The seven members are Charles C. Muehlering, Mac Morrison, Michael C. Clark, Arthur C. Welshans, H. T. Sears, J. H. Jenson and H. J. Leonard. As some of these young men were leaving Omaha they solemnly agreed that precisely seven years from that night they would, if alive, hold a reunion probably in Omaha, but did not specify that it should be held in the barn, for seven years can make a heap of changes and then the reunion proposition involved the attendance of the wife or family of each should any have launched his boat on the sea of matrimony by that time. As a bond of good faith the members drew up what they called a "reunion contract," had it printed in the regular form of secret order certificates, procured a seal of their order and stamped its imprint on the lower left hand corner of this contract, to which they affixed their signatures. The wording of this contract, a copy of which is in hand,

REUNION CONTRACT OF THE PIG TAIL ALLEY CLUB.

That we, the undersigned Pigs of Omaha, Neb., do hereby agree to meet at a common point, chosen by a vote of membership of the organization, just previous to the time of the said reunion, to be held on the seventh day of the seventh month at seven

o'clock p. m. in the seventh year after this, the eighteen hundred and ninety-seventh year of our Lord, A. D. Any expense to the individuals undersigned derived therefrom, to be met by a special fund, obtained by revenue from an income tax, levied upon the undersigned. It is further agreed that should any of the undersigned enter into the bonds of matrimony, said member is to introduce his better half to this meeting. Let this agreement be sacred to the hearts of the undersigned.

This last sentence is printed in bold type. The names of the members are signed to this contract.

Members Are Scattered.

The membership of the club has become well scattered, four, Messrs. Muehlering, Clark, Jenson and Leonard are in Omaha, while Mr. Welshans is in southern California, teaching bees how to make honey without stinging, and writing to the eastern papers and magazines of the beauties of that delightful climate and country which other less famous writers have failed to observe; Mr. Morrison is in the merchandise business in Nevada and Mr. Sears is a grain broker in Washington. Nevertheless, scattered as they are, they profess their intention of keeping their sacred obligation and holding the reunion in Omaha this summer if alive.

Three of these members, Sears, Clark and Jenson, are married, so that in order to keep the pledge they must have their wives with them at this notable reunion. The contract does not provide that the meeting shall be in Omaha, but as this is a central point it probably will be here.

It will be observed from the "Reunion Contract" that the fraternal name applied to the members of this club is "Pig." The pass word is a sort of guttural sound which some pigs make and the distress signal is a squeal. On the day of the reunion here in Omaha, or wherever it is held, the pigs will sit down with their wives to a banquet and they will eat nothing but pork; they will have bacon, ham, pork sausage, fresh pork and any other kind of pork, but nothing but pork.

These features of the affair were not given out by any member of the club or by their authority, but they are said to be some of the very inmost secrets which never before got out. The penalty for disclosure is the loss of an arm.

Location for Business.

If you are seeking a location for any mercantile business, for the practice of a profession or for the manufacture of any article, first communicate with the undersigned, who will inform you in regard to opportunities on the line of the Chicago Great Western Railway Co., the most progressive railway traversing the most fertile section of the United States. Maps and Maple Leaflets mailed or more specific information given as requested. W. J. Reed, Industrial Agent, 24 Endicott Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.

Fire Losses.

Placing the Ballot Box at \$20,000.00 and that of Rochester, N. Y., at \$200,000.00, the New York Journal of Commerce figures up a total destruction from fire in the United States and Canada for February of \$2,612,000, compared with about \$4,000,000 in the month last year and \$1,000,000 two years ago. The loss for the first two months of the year aggregates \$11,200,000. The fire loss for the first two months of the year aggregates \$11,200,000. The fire loss for each of the last three or four years averaged about \$15,000,000 for the whole twelve-month period.

CHANGE GIVEN TO CONVICTS

Men Who Have Fallen May Be Restored to Useful Citizenship.

WORK OF NEBRASKA PRISON ASSOCIATION

Organization Devoted to Aiding Prisoners to Take Up Life Anew After They Have Satisfied the Law.

Having attained a sure footing in the educational, commercial and political world by a program probably unsurpassed in the history of any state in the union, Nebraska is now to take the lead in assisting the unfortunate and those who have fallen to become the good citizens it was intended they should be. At this time there is being circulated over the state little pamphlets, sent out by the Nebraska Prison association, calling on all people to assist in the work.

This association, though incorporated less than two years ago, has accomplished a world of good, and with the number of members it expects to secure, the good it will accomplish cannot be estimated. It was incorporated May 1, 1902, by these men: M. B. Reese, George A. Adams, B. L. Paine, A. S. Tibbets, C. H. Gere, George W. Martin, J. H. Haggard, H. V. Hoagland, J. H. McClay, Will M. Gifford, Charles E. Bessy, W. E. Hardy, J. E. Miller, A. E. Davidson, H. J. Davenport and Victor Rosewater.

Before the organization was thought of a prisoner was released from the state penitentiary, of which Dr. Martin was the chaplain. He was given the regulation cheap suit of clothes and \$5 and started out in the world, stamped forever as a former convict. His home was in a state far distant from Nebraska and the \$5 would not pay his way there. He walked the streets of Lincoln in search of employment. Everywhere he turned the doors were closed upon him, for the stamp of the penitentiary does not soon wear off. Every policeman in the town was watching him on the theory that once a criminal walks a criminal. In desperation the man applied to Dr. Martin for aid. Dr. Martin took a collection among his friends and sent the man to his home. It was in this incident that the Nebraska Prison association was conceived.

Objects of the Society.

An organization was perfected and at once articles of incorporation were filed with the secretary of state. As stated by those articles: "The objects of the incorporation shall be the reformation of criminals and the assisting of prisoners in the work of self-reform, to promote reformatory system of prison management, to aid discharged criminals in the obtaining of employment, the repressing of crime, to hold, own, rent, lease, buy and sell property, including real estate necessary for the carrying out of the business of the corporation."

Since these articles were filed the association has aided seventy-seven persons upon their release from the penitentiary, either financially or in securing them positions. The first aid rendered the freed men is not all the aid given them. The officers of the association keep in constant touch with every former convict it helps and today these officers know the address and know

just what each of them is doing. Letters are exchanged and a constant correspondence is kept up. And in those seventy-seven cases only one man has gone wrong after being started right by the association. The other seventy-six report regularly and are now living honest lives and are at work. Money that has been given the convicts by the association is being returned and in many cases of recent date the convicts have returned twice the amount advanced by the association.

The headquarters of the association is at Lincoln, but it is the intention to have an organization to work in harmony with the Lincoln headquarters in every town in the state where there is a jail. Already subordinate associations have been organized in many towns, the last being Omaha, when the Ministerial association endorsed the Prison association and became a part of it.

When a prisoner is released and signifies his intention to locate somewhere in Nebraska the officers of the subordinate association are notified. Upon the ex-convict's arrival in the town he is met by a representative of the association, who assists him to secure employment. He is encouraged by the officers of the association and given a fair chance to make his way.

Duties of Visiting Committee.

The association has a regularly elected visiting committee, that keeps in touch with the management of prisons and jails and sees to it that the prisoners are given every comfort that it is possible to give them, and that does its best to see that those who are young in crime do not become steeped in it because of association with hardened criminals. This association has discovered that in the Nebraska penitentiary nearly 90 per cent of the convicts are under 35 years of age, and that they are there because of their first crime. Many of them are not criminals at heart, but fell in a moment of weakness, to become, if not assisted, hardened criminals in the course of time.

It is among this class of convicts that the association is doing much good work now. These young men are associated with some of the most desperate criminals in the country, and it requires constant vigilance upon the part of the visiting committee to see that they do not fall under the influence. Upon the recommendation of the warden of the penitentiary, the Prison association and committees recommend that these young men be paroled, and it is part of the work of the officers of the association to find the friends of the prisoner who will look after him. Here in Lincoln the association has a number of young prisoners out on parole and those paroles secured by the association have never been violated. A number of convicts assisted by the association also live in Lincoln, and one night this week an even dozen of them met with Dr. Martin in the Lindell hotel for a social evening and to report their doings since being released. These meetings are not unusual. This visiting committee is composed of Rev. Dr. F. L. Wharton, Rev. Dr. H. C. Herring, Rev. M. A. Bullock, D. D., Rev. N. S. Haynes, D. D., Dr. B. L. Paine, Hon. Lorenzo Crouse, Captain Will M. Gifford, Rev. Father John Smith, Rev. C. C. Cissel, Mrs. N. M. Richardson, N. J. Waugh, Mrs. Emma P. Davis, Mrs. Emma E. Martin, George A. Adams, George W. Martin and Rev. S. Y. Bolton.

Dividing the Work.

Subordinate to this committee North

Platte and South Platte visiting committees have been appointed, the duties of which are to investigate the condition of jails and prisons and report to the general committee. The North Platte committee is composed of Rev. Clyde Clay Cissel, Rev. H. C. Herring and Father John Smith. The South Platte committee is composed of S. Z. Batten, M. A. Bullock, Mrs. Nellie Richardson, Mrs. Emma P. Davis and Rev. N. S. Haynes.

The association at this time is endeavoring to create sufficient sentiment in the state that will insure the enactment of an indeterminate prison sentence. This would be a great advantage to the association in its work. The officers of the association believe that when a man falls and receives his sentence, a little encouragement to create sufficient sentiment in the state that will insure the enactment of an indeterminate prison sentence. This would be a great advantage to the association in its work. The officers of the association believe that when a man falls and receives his sentence, a little encouragement to create sufficient sentiment in the state that will insure the enactment of an indeterminate prison sentence.

Officers of the Association.

The officers of the association are: M. B. Reese, president; C. H. Gere, Judge A. S. Tibbets, Dr. George L. Miller, Victor Rosewater, Rev. J. W. Jennings, Rev. H. C. Herring and Auditor Charles Weston, vice president; John Davis, secretary; A. E. Davidson of the State university, treasurer; Rev. George W. Martin, superintendent, and Captain W. M. Gifford, assistant superintendent. Victor Rosewater of Omaha is the senior vice president, and it is to him that the committees in Omaha report, and he keeps in touch with the officers at headquarters.

The finance committee is composed of Dr. J. B. Haggard, William M. Morning and W. T. Auld. The directors are: M. B. Reese, Prof. A. E. Davidson, Hon. George A. Adams, Rev. George W. Martin, D. D., Captain Will M. Gifford, Dr. B. L. Paine, Dr. J. L. Haggard, H. V. Hoagland, John H. McClay, J. E. Miller, R. D. Stearns, C. H. Gere, Rev. Fletcher L. Wharton, D. D., A. S. Tibbets, M. J. Waugh, Victor Rosewater, John Powers, Dr. George L. Miller, Hon. Lorenzo Crouse, C. F. Harpham, Prof. C. E. Bessy, Rev. J. W. Jennings, D. D., Judge S. P. Davidson, John Davis, Mrs. N. M. Richardson, Mrs. Emma P. Davis, Mrs. Emma E. Martin, Rev. Dr. Edwin H. Jenks, Rev. Thomas Johnson,

D. D., Rev. Herbert C. Herring, D. D., Rev. E. Comble Smith, D. D., Rev. J. W. Conley, D. D., Rev. T. J. Mackay, D. D., Rev. Father John Smith, Rev. C. C. Cissel, Rev. M. A. Bullock, D. D., Rev. N. S. Haynes, D. D., Rev. B. M. Long, D. D., Rev. Samuel Z. Batton, D. D., Hon. A. D. Beemer, William M. Morning, W. T. Auld, Judge James P. Cosgrave.

The association incorporated with a capital stock of \$5,000, to be fully paid up when subscribed. It costs just \$1 to become a member and there are no assessments. It is the desire that every person in the state take stock in the association, to the end that it will be able to accomplish the most good possible. At present the membership is about 200, the last addition to the association being the Omaha Ministerial association, which recognizes the association as the organization to look after the released convicts. As the smaller towns become organized each of them will be accorded a vice president, who will be in charge of the work.

QUANT FEATURES OF LIFE.

Everyone who has read of the queer customs of the Chinese has laughed over the way they have of hiring mourners to attend funerals. Yet, in Cincinnati a few days ago at the funeral of a shoemaker a son of the deceased moved around among the mourners present at the grave and handed each of them \$1, which was thankfully received.

John Eggert, a farmer of the town of Center, Wis., failing to get his neighbors to shoot an old horse which was useless, and not daring to do it himself, took the animal to a field and tied dynamite around its neck. After attaching the explosive he touched off the fuse and started to run. The horse started to follow. Eggert took one look and ran for his life. He reached a wire fence in his wild scramble, crawled through it and ran about two rods when he heard a terrific explosion behind him. Looking back, he saw no horse and no fence, and the ground was torn up for yards around.

What is known as "the millionaires' train," running from Morristown, N. J., to Hoboken, carries a number of millionaires to the world of finance. The conductor is David Sanderson, to whom his passengers, grateful for his uniform, good nature and efficiency, have just presented a handsome watch and a purse of gold. They insisted on his making a speech and Sanderson did so, winding up in this way: "Some people wonder why it is I have such great success in life; why I have had no trouble with nobody. Even the other conductors don't understand it and they often ask me how I get along with the drunks on my train, and I just tell 'em—'Such a shout of laughter went up from the millionaires that Sanderson's speech ended then and there."

"Soda water in the heart of Letcher county, sixty-five miles from a railroad in the feud country of Kentucky, would surely the northern citizen who believes that Kentuckians drink no water," says the Louisville Courier Journal. "J. V. Larson has just returned from Letcher county, where he sold a handsome fountain to one of the leading druggists. 'I think I am doing a good deal to civilize and make temperate the mountains,' said Mr. Larson, 'for they are buying fountains at a great rate up there, and the men who buy them are making money, for the proun-

tainier is drinking ice cream soda even in the winter time, with the snow deep on the ground."

Two bears, driven by hunger into the suburbs of Altoona, Pa., attacked the butcher delivery wagon of Peter Morse at Broad avenue and Thirty-first street as the driver was making his last round among suburban customers. Charles Long, who was in charge of the wagon, first saw the animals baring his way as he rounded a turn of the Logan valley trolley lines near a wooded plot known as Baker's park. He shouted at them, but the bears, instead of running, leaped toward the wagon, one on each side of the road. Long remained on the wagon until one of the bears made a lunge at his horse and tore open its side with his great forepaw. Then he leaped from the wagon and ran half a dozen blocks for his life. When several men reached the scene with guns they found the horse dead and the bears gone. A trolley car had passed, and it is supposed the animals were frightened by it and fled. The horse had to be killed.

Virginia does not want its schoolmasters to drink, and a bill to that effect is now before the legislature. Their need of a high ball or anything of the kind is to be determined by a doctor of medicine and not by their private interior yearnings, and they must show a prescription before any tavern or saloonkeeper is empowered to give them one. If they violate the ordinance they are to be removed, and if the trustees fail to carry this out they are to be fined for dereliction. The old commonwealth is very much in earnest in the matter, convinced that the general run of its teachers have taken "sugar in their" quite long enough.

Senator Frye, president pro tem of the senate, was presiding over that august body the other day when a page handed him a card bearing the name, "Edward F. Jones." The page said, "The gentleman says he is one of your predecessors." Mr. Frye went into his private room and found former Lieutenant Governor Jones of New York, long known as "Jones, he pays the freight." After they had shaken hands the senator remarked: "The page tells me you are one of my predecessors. Did you ever preside over the United States senate, Mr. Jones?" The New Yorker laughingly answered: "On April 19, 1861, I was colonel of the Sixth Massachusetts volunteers. We marched through Baltimore and came to Washington. My regiment bivouacked in the senate chamber. As its colonel I was entitled to the best place and I slept in the presiding officer's chair."

Slide Lights of History.

Job was waiting patiently for the doctor. At last he came. "Doc," said Job, "can you tell me the difference between me and David?" "I'm up against it," said the doctor. "Tell it." "Well," said Job, "David is a manly boy and I am a bolly man." "This was only another of Job's humors. 'Wily,' said Samuel Johnson, one evading to David Garrick, 'is a misogyrist like an epithalamium.'" "Mistah Johnsting," said Garrick, who was a wonderful impersonator, "dat am a vey difficult question. Why am a misogyrist like a epithalamium?" "A misogyrist is like an epithalamium," responded the great lexicographer, "because each is a verse to marriage." Garrick was simply convulsed.—Chicago Journal.