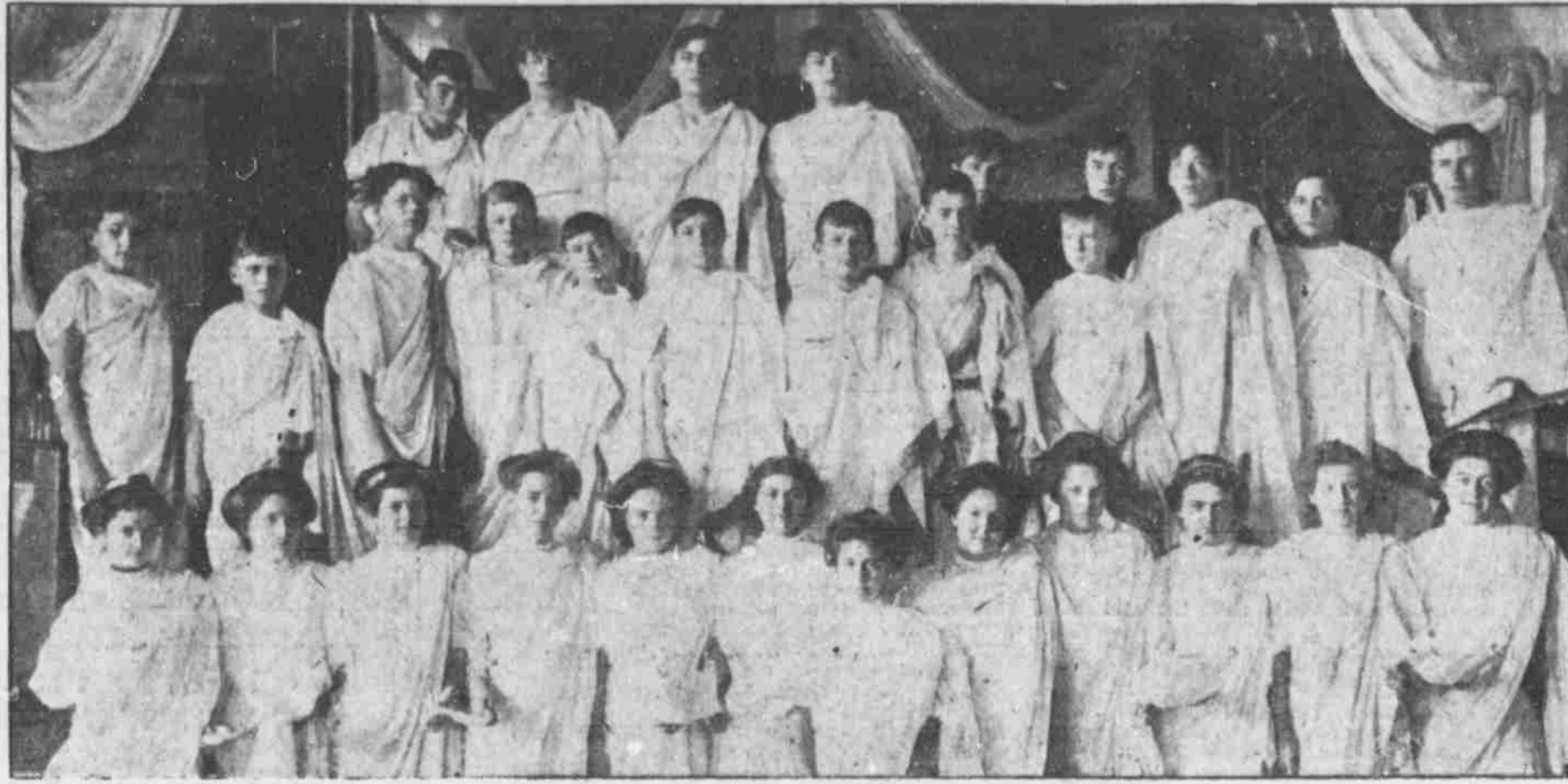


Literary Societies Stimulate Study Among Omaha High School Pupils

IN ALL of its supplementary branches there is none in which the Omaha high school feels more pride than its literary societies. Of these there are about fifteen at present and conspicuous among them are the Latin and German societies. During the last week both these organizations have given programs of more than passing interest.

The Latin society was organized about four years ago, Miss Susan Paxson and Miss Ellen Rooney, instructors in the Latin department, being chiefly instrumental in its launching. Realizing that by the average boy and girl Latin was looked upon essentially as a root language and that Caesar and Cicero were very much of the past, Miss Paxson conceived the idea of putting into the study a little more of living interest. To present the Latin to the student as an everyday language that had been spoken by boys and girls like themselves seemed most desirable and to this end she wrote the little Latin play, "The Latin School," which deals with Caesar and Cicero as school boys, together with many others of their time. The play was put on at the high school by the Latin students and so successful did it prove that it not only resulted in the organization of a permanent Latin society, but has come greatly into demand by high school Latin students in many other cities. Last week it was put on for a second time at the Omaha high school and was one of the cleverest things given this year. The intelligence of its presentation proved the interest and study it had inspired in members of the cast, while the appreciation of



PARTICIPANTS IN THE LATIN PLAY AT THE OMAHA HIGH SCHOOL.

the audience indicated the general understanding. The society now includes about seventy members and meets Wednesday every other week. Its programs are made out for a year ahead and Miss Bess Snyder, head of the Latin department, with the other four instructors bears equal responsibility in planning its work. The program consists largely of papers and discussion of subjects directly pertaining to the regular class work, but for which recitation hours do not admit because of limited time. This supplementary work has proven most valuable and has been productive of a number of essays that would have been creditable to students much further advanced. Membership in the society is limited to members of the three upper classes. "The Roman School" has recently been produced by the Central High school of Kansas City and also by the South Omaha high school Latin students, and within the last week requests for its loan have come from five other high schools. As presented last week the cast included:

- Magister Howard Roe
- Judex Merrill Rohrbough, Stanley Beranek
- Bery Robert Howe, Allen Tukey
- Podex Stanley Beranek
- Crassus, Adolescents Philip McCullough
- Discipuli:
 - Marcus Tullius Cicero Arthur Rodgers
 - Quintus Tullius Cicero Edward Wirtz
 - Lucius Sergius Catilina Paul Byers
 - Marcus Antonius Philip Metz
 - Caius Julius Caesar William Grodzinsky
 - Appius Claudius Caecus Wilson Heller
 - Lucius Licinius Lucullus Roy Greebling
 - Cneius Pompeius Doren Smith
 - Publius Licinius Pulcher Joseph Burger
 - Marcus Junius Brutus James McAllister
 - Quintus Hortensius Hortalus Ed Smith
 - Marcus Claudius Marcellus Wallace Troop

The German society or Verein is a much larger and older organization. It was formed about five years ago at the suggestion of Miss M. A. Landis, head of the high school German department, for practice in the spoken language. It now has a membership of about 150 and is open to any German speaking student of the school whether a member of the German classes or not. The meetings are held weekly and are devoted to programs and the singing of folk songs alternately. The singing is counted especially valuable, as it not only helps in the reading of German, but gives confidence to the reader, who seldom hesitates to take his part in so large a chorus. Then, too, the German songs are especially expressive of the German spirit and this is also valuable to students. By this method beginning students come into the meetings with the more advanced ones and from them gather much that is helpful and impossible under other circumstances. Miss Abba Bowen, with the other instructors of the German department, work with the society.

Last Wednesday the society presented a Christmas program that was additionally interesting for its portrayal of the German emphasis of the Christmas season. Recitations, songs by the girls' chorus, a violin solo, a violin quartette and a Christmas play contributed to an altogether enjoyable hour. It was all given in German and at the close of the play the children in the cast called upon Santa Claus, when not one, but two appeared, each with a sack on his back, from which were produced small stockings filled with candy and popcorn, which were distributed among the audience.

Widening Ways of Applying Electricity

COMPARE Locomotives. Most interesting, if not conclusive, have been the tests instituted by the Pennsylvania Railroad company to determine the efficiency of its new electric locomotives as compared with others driven by steam. In no case did the electrically propelled engine equal the speed displayed by the rival locomotive. In some cases the difference per hour was very marked, which indicates beyond a doubt the superiority of the older type for long runs, where high speed maintained for hours is considered essential to transit.

"Several things must be remembered to the advantage of the electric locomotive," comments the Brooklyn Eagle. "It is incomparably cleaner than its competitor, it does not fill the eyes and lungs of passengers or passers with smoke and soot. It is therefore much more desirable for suburban traffic, which involves rapid leading through thickly settled neighborhood and through tunnels or partially covered cuttings, which as frequently constitute the approach to terminals.

And as to the speed factor itself, it must not be forgotten that the electric engine is still, comparatively speaking, in its infancy. In the early days of steam railroading, thirty miles an hour was thought to be a terrific and excessive speed. It was a long while before this rate of speed was generally attained as a regular thing upon all the trunk lines. In other words, a considerable period elapsed before the steam locomotive was developed to the point where what is considered slow going became established as the normal standard. Yet, though the electric locomotive is but a few years old, it can reel off seventy miles an hour with an ease suggesting much greater things hereafter. It is a reasonably safe guess that the near future will witness an improvement in the electric

motor such as the steam driven machine can neither equal nor surpass, in spite of the vast advantage which experience contributes to its construction.

Extending Electric Zone. The New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad company is so well satisfied with electric power on the New York City terminal that it will, in the spring, extend the electric zone from Stamford to South Norwalk. The company's experts say that the first six months can hardly furnish an adequate idea of the comparative cost, but enough has been demonstrated to prove that economy will result.

The first electric trains on the New York division were run July 23 last. At that time the equipment was completed as far as New Rochelle. Electric trains began running to Port Chester on August 5, and Stamford became the eastern terminus of the electric system on September 20. At present there are sixty-four electric trains per day on the line between Stamford and New York—thirty-two each way. Most of these are locals, but some are through trains. For the latter, steam locomotives are attached in place of the electric motors at Stamford.

Largest Transformers in the World. Three of the largest transformers ever known in the electrical industry are being manufactured for the Great Western Power company of California by the General Electric company at Schenectady, N. Y. The main power house of this company is located on the Feather river, near Oroville, in the County of Butte. The ultimate head of water developed will be 525 feet and 40,000 horse power will be transmitted at 100,000 volts to points along the coast 165 miles distant.

The total weight of each of these monster transformers will be 125,000 pounds;

of this enormous weight 40,000 pounds is due to the 5,000 gallons of oil used in each machine for cooling and insulating purposes. Each giant transformer is in the shape of an oval, stands twenty feet above the floor and measures 5 by 18 feet. When these machines are working they will each transform 14,000 horse power of electrical energy from a low voltage to a high voltage at the remarkable high efficiency of 98.8 per cent.

The rapid development of the numerous water powers of the country during the last few years was made possible by the wonderful improvement of the transformer by the General Electric company and other electrical concerns. With the old types of electric transmission devices the current could be carried but a short distance, whereas with the hugh transformers of today electricity is transmitted under high pressure for hundreds of miles.

New Electric Lamp. Tests have been made in Newark, N. J., of a new electric lamp, the invention of Ralph Scott, a young resident of that city. The lamp is designed to light large spaces, the smallest size being 400 candlepower and the largest 200,000. A special size is being made by Mr. Scott, who is only 22 years old, for the Lackawanna terminal in Hoboken. The inventor says this light will give 1,500,000 candlepower. The first test of a 22,000 candlepower lamp was made on Monday night at the inventor's factory in Newark. The lamp threw such a brilliant light that the reflection was visible for miles. The largest electric lamp in the world will be built this winter by Mr. Scott for a theater in New York. The principle of the new lamp is the gathering of a cluster of carbons in such a manner that they slant downward obliquely from each other, thereby eliminating the shadow.

Tea Party at Which Some Old Ladies Over 65 Were the Guests of Honor



GROUP OF OLD LADIES WHO WERE GUESTS RECENTLY AT A RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE EXETER WOMAN'S CLUB.

Omaha's "Finest" of a Quarter of a Century Ago

Quaint Features of Life

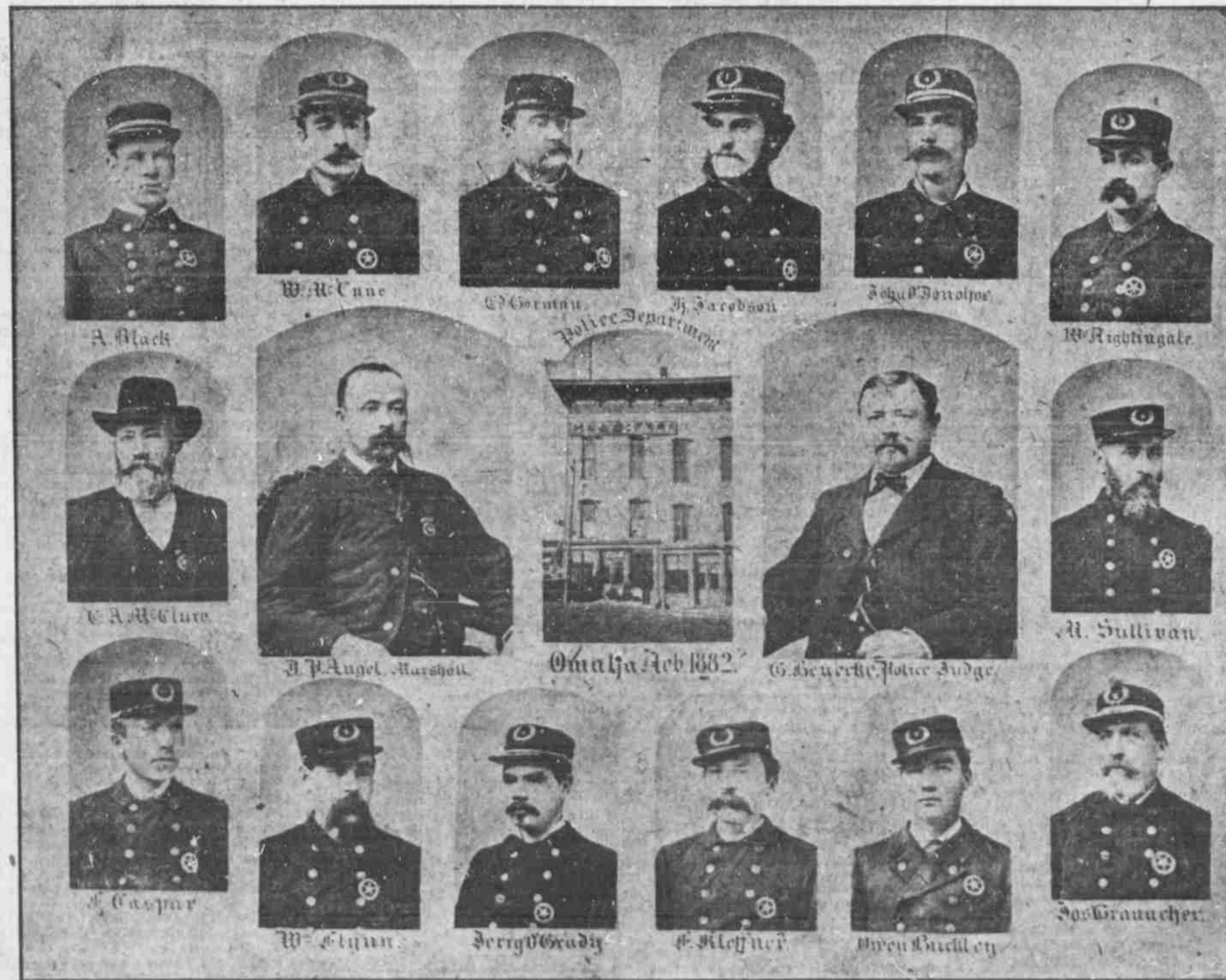
TWENTY-FIVE years ago the police force of Omaha consisted of sixteen men, including the police judge and city marshal. It was a sturdy bunch of men, too, and they managed to keep the city level, although the west was then a much more woolly type than in these days and the lot of the policeman was a hazardous one even in the mildest form. The "force" in 1882 consisted of Police Judge Gustave Benecke, City Marshal D. P. Angel, A. Black, William McCune, Ed Gorman, Halfdan Jacobsen, John O'Donahoe, William Nightengale, C. A. McClure, F. J. Kaspar, Maurice Sullivan, William Flynn, Jerry O'Grady, E. Klefner, Owen Buckley and Joseph Granacher.

Of the old crowd there is now living William McCune, better known as "Billey" McCune, the personal friend and advance agent of Colonel W. F. Cody, "Buffalo Bill," who is at present spending the winter in Omaha, with his headquarters at the Merchants hotel; Halfdan Jacobsen, who is employed in the office of the city treasurer; John O'Donahoe is farming over in Iowa; William Nightengale is engaged in the painting business in Omaha; Maurice Sullivan is living a retired life on South Seventeenth street; Frank J. Kaspar (Casper) is in the real estate and coal business on South Thirteenth street; William Flynn is taking things easy at his home in Omaha. All the rest are dead. Judge Benecke died about seven years ago. His widow returned to her old home in Germany, where she still lives. City Marshal Dan Angel has been dead these many years, but is still remembered as one of the best men who ever wielded the mace in the west.

Judge Benecke was a character in his way. He was one of the old-timers of Omaha and the white was the editor and publisher of one of the first German papers published in Nebraska. It was called "The Beobachter" and was printed in the old Bee building on lower Farnam street. He was subsequently elected justice of the peace and succeeded Pat O. Hayes in the office of police judge. He only served part of his term, having been granted a vacation for a few months, and managed to stay away from Omaha over a year, when the city council appointed Gustave Anderson (now United States commissioner) to serve out the term. E. M. Stenberg succeeded Judge Anderson. Prior to Judge Benecke's time the police force consisted of but eight men. There was no police board at the time.

The city hall at this time was located in Patten's opera house, a three-story frame building located at the northwest corner of Sixteenth and Farnam streets. The building was later known as Redick's opera house, having been won by one of the Redicks at a lottery drawing and the name changed to that of the lucky ticket holder. The city jail was located in a small two-story brick building in the center of a big lot across Sixteenth street, where the Paxton block now stands, the building being surrounded by trees. The rock pile was located across Farnam street on the present site of the Board of Trade building. That rock pile was the result of Judge Anderson's activity, and after it was under full headway a tramp could not be coaxed within fifty miles of Omaha for to Judge Anderson's time the police force consisted of but eight men. There was no police board at the time.

The state courts used to sit in the old city hall building, but the third story was reverently kept for opera house purposes.



OMAHA'S POLICE FORCE OF TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

Prior to the police court days there was no police judge. The trial of municipal offenders was held before the mayor in the "Mayor's Court." The police judges of Omaha served in this order: John Sahler, John R. Porter, E. G. Dudley, R. H. Wilber, John R. Porter, Gustave Anderson, Pat O. Hayes, Gustave Benecke, Gustave Anderson, E. M. Stenberg, Louis Berka, Lee Healey, Samuel L. Gordon, Louis Berka and Bryce Crawford.

During the years 1882 and 1883, James E. Boyd and Champion S. Chase were the mayors of Omaha, though P. F. Murphy was elected to fill out the unexpired term

of Mayor Chase. The city clerk in 1882 was J. J. L. C. Jewett; Truman Buck was city treasurer; John D. Howe and W. J. Connelly, city attorneys; Andrew Rosewater, city engineer; John H. Butler, the warden; P. S. Leisenring, health officer. The members of the city council were: C. C. Thomas, Fred Behm, D. L. McQueen, Martin Dunham, Edward Leeder and W. I. Baker. For a couple of years the city headquarters were removed to near Douglas and Thirtieth streets, but the facilities there were considered inadequate and were again moved back to Sixteenth and Farnam in the Redick opera house.

Along about this period a strong anti-saloon fight was in vogue, similar in some respects to the one now prevailing. The saloonmen were arrested in great numbers and brought before the police court and fined heavily, some of them getting jail sentences. William Altstadt (now Judge Altstadt) started a paper called "The Dutch Flea," and he lambasted the anti-saloonists to a finish. The paper was published weekly and went extensively into the cartoon business, paying special attention to the police judges. Judge Anderson was unmercifully cartooned, one special picture representing him as shaking hands with

the saloonmen before election, and after election putting balls and chains upon them and making them work on the rock pile. "There were no notable crimes during this period of 1882 and 1883, as under Marshal Angus's administration and his efficient force of policemen the riff-raff was kept pretty orderly, and the rock pile was such a menace to ordinary offenders and tramps that it paid to be good.

Judge Benecke was a rigorous judge and during his brief term made life a misery to ordinary malefactors. Personally he was a whole-souled, genial man and extremely popular.

"Father, Come Home!"
"WINE! Come home!"
If James Garfield Curtis of Onekama, Mich., had seen the above notice, which was posted for his special benefit in Chicago and if he is the right kind of a man—who can forget the little differences which creep into married life—he is now speeding toward Onekama. Two little girl cherubs await him there, and a forgiving wife, who needs him in this her greatest hour of trial—and of her triumph, relates the Chicago Inter Ocean.

The notice is signed, "Your Best Friend." But the friend did not know to what part of the world James Garfield Curtis had flown, and only hoped that it might be Chicago.

"Nellie, be patient and have faith and James will be with us another night," she told the suffering woman. "He could not have gone far away, and when he sees the notice which I will write him, he will forget everything but you and the babies, and then when you get well again you can start anew."

The joyous news of the birth of the twins was followed in the few lines that the best friend wrote for James Curtis' eyes to read, with this message: "Come home at once, for the sake of your children, before it is too late. Twin baby girls have blessed the home since you left. Things have greatly changed; all will be forgiven. Your wife is very ill and all alone."

If James Curtis were to be welcomed by quads or triplets instead of only twins, and pretty girl twins at that, he might have cause to put further distance between himself and Onekama, Mich., but under the circumstances his innate gallantry to the gentle sex has probably caused him to throw a few necessities into a suit case and take the first train for Michigan.

He Got Off.
The doors of the third-class railway cars in Spain are narrow, says a writer in Harper's. I remember at one of the mountain towns how a fat man kept the train waiting with his efforts to get out. He was huge and round, with a red face full of wrinkles, and shining shaven head. A Maltese cross shown white upon his brown expanse of cassock. He got wedged tightly in the door and could move neither in nor out. His face grew apoplectic. Perspiration streamed down his forehead. His hair rolled beneath the train. He dropped his bag upon the platform, and as it fell, it burst open. Glass crashed; cigars were scattered all about. As the bell sounded he began to shout. The guard came running. The station idlers crowded up. They tugged at him, pulling at his hands, his robe, his fat striped legs. Over his shoulder within the car you could see men pushing with a rush, his cassock torn and flying, his little eyes wide with fright.

I looked back as the train moved off. He was lying back panting on a bench, his feet spread wide, the crowd standing sympathetically about, while a woman was pouring something down his throat.

Survived a Broken Neck.
The puzzle of Milwaukee physicians, Michael Quigley, is dead from consumption. For the last five years Quigley has

rolled with his neck broken. He was able to roll himself in a wheel chair and to walk with little or no support. Physicians who attended him say that he might have lived to a ripe old age if he had not fallen prey to consumption.

Five years ago Quigley fell from a hay-loft in a barn and struck with his back on the curb of a manger. Several small bones immediately protecting the spinal cord were broken. The cord of itself was so compressed at the point of fracture that all circulation was cut off.

The operation on the man was delayed for three weeks because of his own protests. Dr. T. G. Walsh, who then operated, was able to relieve the pressure on the spine so that the man regained partial control of his lower limbs.

Two months ago, when his tubercular ailment had reduced him beyond hope of recovery, he was taken to the county hospital, where he died.

Blows, Nose and Saves Man.
M. J. Meyers, a bookkeeper in "Lucky" Baldwin's Arcadia in Los Angeles, blew his nose in the district attorney's office and saved George Wilson from state's prison. It was the strangest circumstance in all the romance of crime in southern California.

Meyers was waylaid, knocked senseless and robbed of \$75. Soon afterward Wilson and two Mexicans found him lying in the road and took him to the Arcadia hotel. There the dazed man tried to fight Wilson and succeeded in scratching his face severely. But Wilson lent him his coat and hat and went home.

Meyers complained to the sheriff that a white man and two Mexicans had held him up, describing Wilson accurately. The latter was brought in, and just as the complaint was being sworn to Meyers blew his nose hard, relieving his head of a thick clot of blood. An instant later he turned to Wilson and cried: "Why, that is not the man who held me up. He helped me. I have his hat and coat on."

The accused was immediately discharged. Officers say he would undoubtedly have been convicted, as he said he was drinking and did not remember what happened.

Only Happy When Hurt.
Robert Ward, a well-to-do farmer of Richmond, Mich., though 69 years old, is as spry as a boy, notwithstanding the fact that he has had more accidents than half a dozen structural iron workers. One of his legs has been broken at the thigh, shin and ankle. He has also suffered fractures of one arm and nearly all of his ribs. One of his feet was crushed by a loaded wagon and he is now suffering from a broken nose from a blow from a spring of a farming implement he was repairing.

The last time Ward broke his leg his wife was horrified to find him setting it himself. He declared that he could do so better than a doctor and has his way. The leg, unlike an arm set by a physician, is not crooked. Ward says he does not feel natural unless he is nursing a broken bone.

He has been a resident of the state more than forty years and has a 200-acre farm which is the show place of the county. There are five children, Mrs. Ira L. Lovejoy and Mrs. W. L. Rowley of Lenox, Mrs. J. Wakefield of Armada, and Robert and Joseph Ward, who live on the farm.