

**OMAHA INSPECTS
NEW FIRST NATIONAL**

**Magnificent Interior Profusely
Decorated with Flowers
Sent by Friends of
the Institution.**

TO MOVE BANK ON SUNDAY

Omaha has seen the interior of the new quarters of the First National bank at Sixteenth and Farnam streets. The reception was held Saturday afternoon from 2 to 9, and the bank will move the books and records over today and be ready for business at the new location Monday morning.

At 2 o'clock the big brass-bar doors were swung back and the crowds which had been waiting in the outside lobby began to pour up the short marble stairs to view the new quarters of this old-established bank in its fourteen-story building. From that moment until 9 o'clock at night, when the doors were closed, the crowds continued to file up the stairs and stroll through the building.

An orchestra struck up sweet strains from the rotunda overhead; pretty gilded flowers on the visitors, and a half dozen colored porters in spotless white served punch.

Great baskets of flowers began to arrive early in the morning with the compliments of various business concerns and individual friends and associates of the bank from Omaha, Nebraska and other states.

Flowers Arrive Early.

Among the flowers which arrived thus early in the morning were those from C. W. Hull, the Jerpe Commission company, George H. Thummel, M. W. Dimery, Hugh E. Wallace, Metz Bros., William T. Bacon and Lucian Teter of Chicago, I. B. Zimman, Frank W. Judson, Hess & Swoboda, Clifford De Puy of Des Moines and Byrne-Hammer. After this hour flowers veritably tumbled into the palatial lobby from the other banks in the city and business houses of all kinds.

The lobby is worked out in a Roman colonnade effect, with eighteen huge white columns surrounding the rectangular enclosure. A wide stairway leads from the north entrance of the building up to the bank's quarters, which are really on the second floor.

The whole interior, the eighteen columns, the floor, the counters and the balustrades, are of pink Tennessee marble and everything above is shaded to keep the general tone. This takes off the glare of pure white marble and gives a soft, handsome and rich effect to the whole perspective.

Marble of Pink.

Around the stairway is a balustrade of Tennessee marble, of exceptional massiveness, containing five great built-in seats heavily cushioned with the finest leather upholstery.

A large clock looks down from either end of the lobby, controlled by a masterclock in the background, which electrically controls not only these two timepieces, but some ten others in the basement, in the rooms of the First Trust company, and in various offices.

A deep arched ceiling of snowy white and heavily figured swells high overhead.

The quarters of the main officers are at the north end of the room, where are also several private conference rooms, all furnished in finest walnut with mahogany finish. Here will be the quarters of F. H. Davis, C. T. Kountze, T. L. Davis, I. Allison and Myles Standish.

At the west side of the lobby near the south end will be the quarters of the city officers, Luther Kountze, O. T. Eastman and George Zimmerman.

Vaults in Basement.

In the basement two huge vaults present such a mass of heavy alternating brass and polished steel as would make a modern battleship jealous.

These vaults have among other capacities room for 5,000 safe deposit boxes. The old boxes, which the customers now have in the old quarters at Thirteenth and Farnam streets, will be moved bodily to the new quarters, where the new boxes will be ready to receive the contents. Then the customers themselves will come to the bank and transfer their valuables from their old boxes to the new.

To Move "Live Money."

The big brass cash boxes ordered have not yet arrived. This means that the main bulk of the bank's money will have to be left in the old vaults at Thirteenth and Farnam for a few days, perhaps until the new cash boxes arrive. In the meantime, when the bank opens for business at the new location Monday morning, enough money will have been brought up to carry on the necessary business. "The live money," as the bankers say, will be brought up.

This bank spent sixty years on lower Farnam street, and now, at last, to keep pace with the westward progress of Omaha, has come to the very hub of the city, the pivot upon which the business life of the metropolis turns.

In a little cottage at Twelfth and Farnam streets this bank began business. In those days the bank was known as the Kountze bank, founded by Herman and Augustus Kountze. In 1866 they built a two-story brick building for their bank at Thirteenth and Farnam. Then in 1888 they replaced this by a six-story building, which the bank has occupied until now.

"If the elder Kountze could only be alive today to step in here for just a moment, wouldn't he smile," was the exclamation of some of the prominent business men who stepped in for a moment to look over the rooms.

Come for Reception.

Members of the Kountze family from various parts of the country are here to take part in the reception. Pierce Anderson of the architectural firm of Graham-Burnham of Chicago, architects who planned the new building, is here for the reception. Mrs. Meredith Nicholson is here from Indianapolis. August and Herman Kountze have arrived from New York. They are elder brothers of C. T. and Luther Kountze of the First National. Also Charles Junod, formerly of Omaha and now with the Kountze Brothers in New York, is here. Harold Kountze of the Colorado National bank, Denver, is here.

LOBBY OF MAIN BANKING ROOM OF THE NEW FIRST NATIONAL BANK—Reception was held here yesterday and today the papers and money of the bank are being moved. Tellers' windows along the left side.

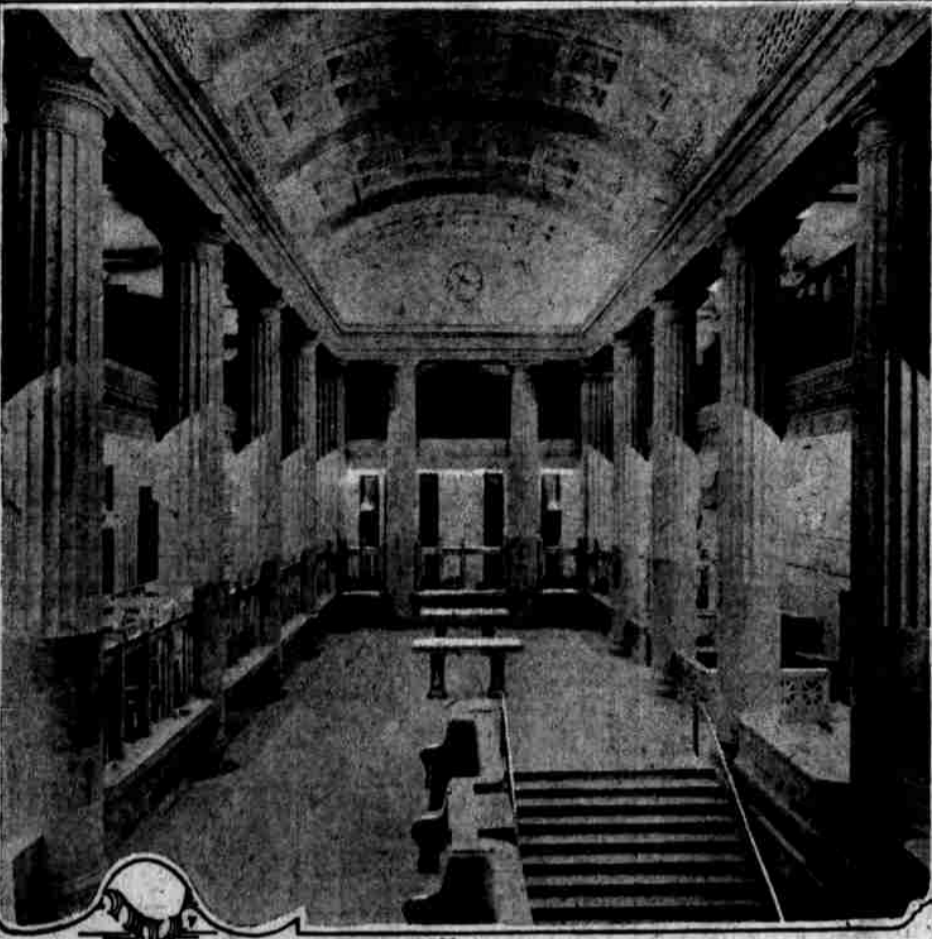


PHOTO BY BOSTWICK

**Wealthy Young Chicago Man's
Escapades Into the Limelight**

Omaha and an episode said to have occurred in the Nebraska metropolis last summer, when Mrs. Florence May Copper of Chicago alleges her gown was torn, her feelings lacerated and her nose broken, are prominently mentioned in a suit the Windy City woman contemplated bringing against Mitchell Wallis, Jr., son of the millionaire president of the J. I. Case Plow company of Racine, Wis.

The facts in the case were revealed when the United States Department of Justice started investigating the suit after the ownership of a big touring car, wrecked in Lincoln park, Chicago, two months ago, when it struck a telephone pole at 2 o'clock in the morning, was established. The car proved to be the property of Mrs. Copper, who left Chicago shortly afterward. The wrecked machine remains in a Chicago garage.

The intended suit unearthing by the federal authorities in Chicago shows that the damages listed by the plaintiff include a bill for the wrecked joy wagon, a broken nose and damaged gowns. Some of the items are those said to have resulted from the Omaha incident, when Mrs. Copper had her assailant arrested. The case was not pressed here.

As an aftermath of the Omaha adventure, Hinton G. Clabaugh, chief of the bureau of investigation of the Department of Justice in Chicago, has begun an investigation to determine whether the Mann act was violated by Mrs. Copper in her journey from Chicago to Omaha, according to the Chicago paper printing the story of the affair.

The plow family scion is said to have presented Mrs. Copper with the automobile wrecked in the Chicago park. While the total amount of Mrs. Copper's bill against the Wallis youth is not given out, it is said that a new automobile to replace the wrecked car is numbered among the items.

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**Husbands Settle Suits
For Deaths of Their Wives**

The cases brought against the Union Pacific by Kenneth Thompson and Alonzo C. Ash, whose wives were killed in an automobile-train crash at Sarpy crossing, two miles east of Millard, on June 11, 1914, have been settled for a total of \$3,000. In the original petitions filed with the clerk of the district court each of the plaintiffs asked \$15,000 damages. The wives, Maud Brainerd Thompson and Iva Vivian Ash, were riding in an automobile that was struck by a passenger train on the Sarpy crossing.

**Montana Man Blows Out the
Gas, but His Life is Saved**

Blowing out the gas almost ended the life of Jack Woods, 40 years of age, of Talking Creek, Mont., who, with his friend, Newell Bayes, rooms at 1115 Douglas street, Friday night. Police surgeons say the only thing that saved Woods' life was the fact that he pulled the clothes over his head before he went to sleep, thereby creating an air pocket in which there remained some comparatively fresh air.

See Want Ads Produce Results.

**Boy Thought to Have Been Drowned
Tells His Reasons for Running Away**

**Decided the Bridge Had Been
Moved to Suit Him, So He
Went to Lincoln.**

INTERESTED IN BUILDING

His inherent, bred-in-the-bone interest in structural works of all kinds was responsible for Carl Merker's sudden disappearance from his home and consequent hours of anxiety suffered by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Merker, 317 North Twenty-first street. Carl left home Monday and it was believed that he had been drowned in the Missouri river near the Union Pacific bridge until he was found alive and well at the Detention home in Lincoln. He was returned to his home Friday night, and there, in his childish way, he told of how he came to run away.

"Well, it was always lots of fun for me to go down to the river and watch the work on the big bridge," Carl began, as he toyed with an air gun his father had just given him, "and I was down there nearly all the time that I could get there, and lots of times I had to ditch school to get there. But finally, when they got it built and engines were running over it all right and it was put in place, I didn't have any place much to go, for there was nothing being built around town that I like like a bridge."

Found the Bridge All Right

"Well, Monday I thought I'd go down and look at it anyway, but I didn't see no other kids and I was all alone. I watched three or four trains go across the bridge, and after I saw that it was all right and everything and nobody working on it, it wasn't so much fun any more and I didn't know what to do to have any fun."

"But when I was wondering what to do I thought of a building that was being built in Lincoln when I was down there one time and was only half finished then, so I thought I'd go down to see how it looked when it was all built. So I went to the depot and found out when the train went and when it was ready to go I got on and crawled in between the backs of two seats. Nobody saw me, and the conductor



CARL MERKER.

didn't ask me for any ticket, and I guess I'd got put off if I had, because I didn't have no ticket nor any money. One time I put a near got caught when somebody turned the seat over, but I didn't, and I just laid still till I knew we were in Lincoln.

Taken to Jail.

"Then I got off, but I didn't get to see the building I went to see, for someone saw me around the depot and called a policeman and he took me to jail. It was fun there, for there were lots of other kids, but any way, sometimes I got lonesome and wanted to come home, but they wouldn't call up—"

"Car-ri!" Here the lad's story was interrupted by a voice from the kitchen.

"Yes!" answered the youngster. "Set the table."

"All right, ma." And the interview was at an end.

Carl's father first intended to send his boy to some school where he can be given more attention than his parents can give him, but when he learned of the youngster's "bug" on big construction projects he decided to buy him a set of mechanic's structural toys. Carl will have the set today.

**Farmer Breaks Toe and Sprains His
Back When Girl On Skates Hits Him**

As a result of a head-on collision at Hanscom park while skating Carl M. Johnson is suffering from a broken little toe and sprained back, and is wishing that the unwieldy lady who disturbed his equilibrium would be so kind as to come to his assistance as nurse.

Carl is a young man of 25 and lives on a farm about six miles northwest of Florence. After his chores were done he drove his horse to the skating pond to cut a few capers on the ice.

"He was entertaining a large crowd with his fancy work when a finely-dressed young lady alighted from a limousine and when her skates were on ventured down the southwest bank of the lake. But as she descended she lost all control and did not stop

until she had knocked Carl down and besides had sent him sliding on his back.

In speaking of the encounter Carl says: "Poor girl, she must have hurt herself badly. If a farmer like me comes high getting killed a pretty society girl like her must be dead by this time. I never had such exciting a time in all my life before. What else could I do but accept her apology when she asked with such a pretty smile?"

Promoting Exercise.
"You say my husband needs exercise, but he won't take any and I don't know how to make him," said a woman plaintively. "Is there any way in which we can force him to exercise?"
"Did you ever try, on windy days, making him wear a hat that will be sure to blow off?" asked the doctor.—Buffalo Express.

**Trial of Colcord
And Assman is Set
For January 15**

Fremont, Neb., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—The date for the trial of Tom Colcord and Louis Assman, in the county jail here on a charge of robbing the Winslow state bank a month ago, has been set for January 15. The case will be the first on the docket at the January term. Neither Colcord nor Assman have engaged an attorney, so far as Sheriff Condit knows, and it is not known whether they will ask for separate trial.

No trace of the remainder of the money, amounting to \$2,200, has been found. Sheriff Condit is of the opinion that the bandits threw the bags containing the gold and silver in the brush as they ran from Winnebago the night they were arrested. Mrs. Assman has visited Assman recently and declares she will stand by her husband.

**Sure Lewis Slayer
Of Model; His Mind
Thought Unbalanced**

Philadelphia, Jan. 6.—Police search for the slayer of Mazie Colbert, artist's model, who was murdered in her apartment here last Friday, ended today, and tonight Captain of Detectives Tate announced he was convinced that Bernard W. Lewis, son of a retired Pittsburgh coal operator, who committed suicide at Atlantic City last night just as the police were about to arrest him, was the murderer.

The detective department has accepted beyond doubt the conclusion that Lewis, a former law student at Yale, who has been separated from his wife in Pittsburgh, felled the model with a blow from a blunt instrument, and fled after strangling her with a silk stocking. The police investigation now has narrowed down to the motive for the crime, and while the general belief of the detectives is that Lewis was temporarily embarrassed financially and may have been driven to strangle the young woman to secure funds, the supposition that his mind was temporarily unbalanced is also given credence.

**Mrs. Sarah Coker, Aged More
Than Four Score Years, Dead**

Mrs. Sarah Coker, aged 84 years, and for twelve years a resident of Omaha, died Friday afternoon of pneumonia, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. H. E. Stine, 4314 Ames avenue. The date for the funeral has not been set, but when it is held, it is probable that the services will be conducted by Bishop Stuntz of the Methodist church.

V. W. Straub Honored.

Avoca, Neb., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—V. W. Straub, the well-known breeder of fancy Galloway cattle in the middle west, who lives east of Avoca, has been presented with a fine walking stick by the Live Stock Breeders' association for professional service rendered at the last American Royal Live Stock show.



**THE
FIRST NATIONAL BANK**

of
OMAHA

announces its removal to the

New Building

Sixteenth and Farnam Streets

You are cordially invited to visit
the Bank in its new quarters
and inspect the building

Nebraska's Oldest National Bank

