

**DEVOE REFUSES TO TAKE BLAME IN KIRK'S CASE**

Says Notorious Bandit Was Not "Furloughed" to Him But to Warden Fenton.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—Beryl C. Kirk, notorious Omaha bandit, has fled. R. W. Devoe, attorney, to whom it has been reported that Kirk was "furloughed," today denied that he should be held responsible for the released convict, stating that Kirk was freed from the penitentiary with instructions to report to Warden Fenton at irregular intervals by letter through his attorneys, Peterson and Devoe.

He admitted today that he has not heard from Kirk since the bandit left the penitentiary and was surprised when advised that a deputy sent by Warden Fenton to Des Moines, where Kirk was reported as staying, failed to find him.

When told that Omaha friends of the released bandit declared that he is now in Mexico he laughed and said: "I don't believe it."

**Say He's in Mexico.**  
Immediately following Governor McKelvie's order for Kirk's return to prison Warden Fenton of the state penitentiary dispatched a deputy to Des Moines, Ia., to get the bandit. Warden Fenton stated this morning that Kirk's street address in Des Moines had been given him, but that when his deputy appeared at that place Kirk was not there.

Friends of the bandit in Omaha, upon hearing that the governor had ordered his return, Ia., to get the bandit, announced yesterday that Kirk was already in Mexico.

Senator B. K. Bushie, on whose order as acting governor Kirk was released from the penitentiary, remains at his home at Kimball, Neb., since his public statement a week ago, which the governor says explained his action.

**Probe Begins Today.**  
Formal investigation into the Kirk scandal begins tomorrow morning at 9, when the members of the State Bar commission reconvene with the attorney general to plan their probe, ordered by Chief Justice Morrissey last week.

According to Attorney General Davis, this probe will be public, and secrecy will be avoided.

In a public statement yesterday, Governor McKelvie attempted to explain the matter of Kirk's release. This was the first official action taken by the state's executive in the affair.

The governor declared in his statement that Warden Fenton, in company with Attorneys Peterson and Devoe, last summer, supported the application for Kirk's release. This the warden has repeatedly denied.

**Statement Complicates Affair.**  
It is generally conceded that the governor's statement has complicated the Kirk affair, rather than tended to clear it up. He shows scorn for demands of the public urging Kirk's return to the state prison, but he orders him back.

Another contradiction which appeared in the case is the statement of Senator Peterson that the records of the case were in his office when Bushie signed the order for the "furlough."

Official records of the state su-

preme court show that the volume of testimony was returned to the Douglas county district court August 7 and officially accepted for August 12, nearly a month prior to the signing of the order by Senator Bushie.

**Says Records in Office.**  
"However, I cannot say whether Senator Bushie reached his conclusion from the records or from his personal representation, but the records were there when he was in our office," Mr. Devoe stated.

Mr. Anties, secretary of the board of public welfare, who previously denied knowledge of the affair of the Kirk release until Kirk came out of the door of the prison, was in the office of the warden at the penitentiary and read the order before the bandit was freed, according to Warden Fenton.

The statements of the warden and Mr. Anties both indicate that he knew of Kirk's release in time to stop it if he had so desired.

**Fuel Shortage Is Acute In Vicinity of Venango**  
Venango, Neb., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—Venango, which serves a territory of about 1,600 square miles, has only had one car of coal in three weeks. With the thermometer ranging from 20 to 30 below zero, and 25 miles from any timber, conditions are serious here. Farmers are tearing down their fences and burning the posts for fuel.

**Pioneer Nebraska Farmer Dies on His Homestead**  
Geneva, Neb., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—Funeral services for Chris Dunker, 76 years old, were held here, conducted by Rev. Mr. Payne. Mr. Dunker was the last of a group of pioneers who settled in Belle Prairie township near here in 1872. He died on the farm he homesteaded 42 years ago. Three daughters and two sons survive him.

**Organize Commercial Club.**  
Venango, Neb., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—At a mass meeting of the farmers and business men here a commercial club was reorganized with a membership of 50. The club will work for a bigger and better Venango in 1920.

**DEATH COMES TO ENGINEER STRUCK DOWN IN HIS CAB**

Union Pacific Veteran Dies in Hospital—Life Pursued By Tragedy.

J. W. Coolidge, 61 years old, 24 South Twenty-second street, Council Bluffs, veteran Union Pacific locomotive engineer, who was stricken with paralysis in the cab of his engine as the train was speeding through Valley, Neb., last Saturday morning, died in St. Joseph hospital yesterday morning.

Mr. Coolidge was piloting the first section of the Overland Limited and after his collapse at the throttle the fireman stopped the train and narrowly averted a rear-end collision with the second section. A special train brought the stricken man to Omaha.

Mr. Coolidge was employed by the Union Pacific for 30 years and tragedy has followed him for several years. Ten years ago his son, Ralph, endeavored to board the cab of his engine as the train was coming to a halt in Columbus, Neb. He fell under the wheels and his injuries necessitated the amputation of both legs.

Last January another son, Roy, who was superintendent of a gold mine in Nogales, Ariz., was killed by falling timbers which severed his head from the body. A complete breakdown following the death of his son is believed by Mrs. Coolidge to have been the cause of his stroke.

Mr. Coolidge was married twice and had three sons by his former marriage and two sons and five daughters by the second.

Mr. Coolidge was born in Glenwood, Ia. Funeral services will be held in the Hoffman Funeral home, Omaha, at a time which will be determined when an absent brother arrives. Burial will be at Columbus, Neb.

On the same day that Mr. Coolidge was stricken William H. Bay, 58 years old, 3522 Seward street,

Omaha, suffered the same fate as his train was pulling into the congested Omaha passenger terminal. He shut off the steam in his engine as he fell unconscious. He is reported recovering in St. Joseph hospital.

**Mrs. Josephine Bleick Dies In North Dakota at Age of 63**

Mrs. Josephine Bleick, 63 years old, died Tuesday at Elgin, N. D., following an illness of one year. The body will be brought to the home of a son, J. J. Bleick, Irvington, Neb., and services will be held Friday morning at 10, in St. Bernard's church, Benson. Burial will be in Mount Hope cemetery.

**To Cure a Cold in One Day.**  
Take LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE (Tablets) It stops the Cough and Headache and works off the Cold. E. W. GROVE'S signature on each box, 50c.

**BLOUSES Special at \$5.95**  
We have taken 300 blouses from our regular stock which formerly sold for \$7.50, \$8.75 and \$9.75. For quick clearance we offer them special at **\$5.95.**  
**JULIUS ORKIN**  
1508-10 Douglas  
FAMOUS FOR BLOUSES

**Sure Relief**  
BELL-ANS FOR INDIGESTION  
6 BELL-ANS Hot water Sure Relief  
FOR INDIGESTION

**Former Omaha Convict Reported Prospering Since Prison Parole**

With the arrest in San Francisco yesterday of James Randolph, alias Jack Wells, notorious automobile

thief, who was paroled from the Nebraska penitentiary March 19, information comes from the California city that Randolph has been extremely prosperous since he was given his freedom by the authorities at Lincoln.

Word comes from the police in San Francisco that a bank book was taken from the man's pocket show-

ing that he had been depositing money in large sums to his own credit in the Omaha National bank from June 1 to September 13. The man also has \$6,000 to his credit in a San Francisco bank, according to the police.

Randolph was arrested in San Francisco for stealing automobiles and he is wanted in Omaha for

stealing two cars since he was paroled, according to the police. Randolph was tried and acquitted four years ago for the murder of Sheriff Allenbaugh of York county.

United States government chemists have found that a good grade of syrup can be made from sweet potatoes and malt by a simple process.



Buy Her a Blouse for Xmas Thursday at Benson & Thorne's Big

**BLOUSE SALE**

Offering the greatest Blouse values of the season, a superb collection—every Blouse from our regular stock

Previously to \$15.00  
**\$7.85**

Previously to \$22.50  
**\$11.85**

INCLUDING Russian regulation tie-on and overblouses, of Georgette and Crepe de Chine, in plain tailored and embroidered lace trimmed or beaded styles, in White, Bisque, Flesh and Navy and suit shades, also combination. Also high neck styles, tucked and hand embroidered.

INCLUDING Russian regulation and overblouses of Satin and Georgette combinations, and all Georgette, beautifully beaded and yarn and filet lace trimmed, round, collarless, square necks, roll collar styles, long or kimono sleeve models, in flesh, white, peach, navy and brown.

Blouse Shop

Second Floor

**Thursday Morning From 9 to 12 M. only**  
**Women's Silk Hose**  
Previously \$3.00  
**\$2.00**  
These are pure silk hose, full fashioned, with lisle garter tops.  
Limit of 1/2 Dozen to a Customer.

**Women's Silk Hose**  
Previously \$1.75—At \$1.10  
Fine quality hose, silk to the knee, seamless foot, limit 1/2 dozen to a customer.

**Women's Handkerchiefs**  
Previously 35c to 50c.  
**25c**  
Pure linen, plain hemstitched handkerchiefs, some with embroidered corners, some with initial.  
Boxed if You Like—Limit of 1/2 Dozen to a Customer.  
Hdkf. Shop Main Floor

**Thursday morning for the early shopper**  
For three hours only—9 a. m. to 12 m.

**Girls' Beacon Blanket Bath Robes**  
Previously \$3.95 and \$6.50  
**\$3.00 and \$5.00**  
ages 8 to 16 years.  
Cozy, comfortable garments worth giving and worth receiving, well made, neatly trimmed in cords, or satin bindings.

**Girls' Middies**  
Three hours only—Sale of broken sizes  
**Of Serge** Previously \$7.50  
**Of Flannel** and finest serge Previously to \$13.50  
**\$5.00** **\$10.00**

Girls' Shop Second Floor

**BLOUSES Special at \$5.95**  
We have taken 300 blouses from our regular stock which formerly sold for \$7.50, \$8.75 and \$9.75. For quick clearance we offer them special at **\$5.95.**  
**JULIUS ORKIN**  
1508-10 Douglas  
FAMOUS FOR BLOUSES

**Handsome Red Cedar Chests About Half Price Saturday at Union Outfitting Co.**

Every imaginable Size and Style to Select From for Gift Making.

Low Rent Location Brings Saving of 25% to 50% on Dolls and Toys.

Every woman, especially a girl, desires a big, handsome Cedar Chest, and so the problem of a gift this Christmas should be easy when one considers the little price at which a GOOD Cedar Chest can be procured at the Union Outfitting Company.

The chests are made from Tennessee Red Cedar and are chock full of knots, which insures a lasting supply of oil, so deadly to moths.

The sale is a result of a fortunate purchase and prices are the lowest that Cedar Chests will be quoted at again in months.

Thursday—Real Inspirations  
For Christmas Gift Seekers  
The **Eldredge-Reynolds Annex**  
(The Down Stairs Part of the Benson & Thorne Store)  
**Lingerie Specialty Shop**  
**Bloomers--Teddy Bears--Camisoles**  
New and Lovely Merchandise--Special Values  
Specially Priced—Particularly Desirable for Gifts Useful  
CONSIDERING the difficulty experienced in securing desirable lingerie at any price, these splendid values at these prices are decidedly interesting and compelling.



**Teddy Bears** **Bloomers**  
Real Values **One Day Only**  
**\$1.69 to \$3.29** **89c to \$1.10**

Of sheer soft muslin, daintily made, beautifully finished; bodice tops of fine laces in pretty designs; fine embroidery; pretty satin ribbon straps; every garment a real value not to be overlooked.

Of splendid quality pink cotton crepe—cut amply full; good lengths; wide cuff at knee with ruffle and strong elastic band. These Bloomers are exceptionally well made and make very attractive gifts.

**Camisoles**  
75c to \$1.65

The prettiest camisoles of wash satin and crepe de chine you would want to give or receive on Christmas morning.

Each camisole trimmed in pretty laces, ribbons, self embroidery, clusters of silk rosebuds, hemstitched.

**Benson & Thorne**  
ELDREDGE-REYNOLDS CO.  
"The Store of Specialty Shops"

Really worth while values in daintiest of lingerie for Christmas gift-seekers.

**Crepe de Chine Gowns**  
Previously to \$18.80  
**\$5.95**  
Unusually alluring in the soft, heavy quality Crepe de Chine, lace trimmed and with gay little bows, wee rose buds, row after row of hemstitching and tiniest of tucks.

**Camisoles**  
Previously to \$4.50 **\$2.95**  
Very dainty are these camisoles of beautiful wash satins in flesh and colors—attractively hemstitched, or elaborately lace and ribbon trimmed, displaying bits of hand work here and there.

**Chemise**  
Previously to \$5.95  
**\$3.75**  
Charmingly dainty crepe de chine step-in and envelope styles—tailored bodice tops, with satin or lace shoulder straps, also beautiful lace trimmed yoke tops.

**Boudoir Caps**  
Previously 50c to \$1.50  
**25c, 50c, \$1.00**  
Exquisite little caps of mull net, satin, georgette, gaily trimmed in ribbon, Venetian laces, val lace ruffles—French rosebuds, rosettes and streamers.  
Lingerie Shop Second Floor

From 9 to 12 M. only  
**Boys' Winter Caps**  
Previously \$2.50  
**\$1.95**  
A dandy gift for every out-of-doors boy—made with ear band of plush, pull-down leather lip band in front, flexible visor. Of green or brown flannel.  
Sizes 6 1/2 to 7.

**Boys' Blouses, \$1.00**  
That are selling today in the wholesale market for more than we are asking retail. Guaranteed colors, neat stripes, well made, fine fitting blouses.  
Boys' Shop Balcony

**Thursday morning from 9 a. m to 12 m.**  
In the Men's Shop  
For the wise and early Shoppers—worthwhile savings.

**Men's Shirts**  
**\$3.50**  
Made with satin stripe silk crepe de chine bosoms and cuffs, white bodies of silkette.  
One to a customer.

**Men's Handkerchiefs**  
**\$1.00**  
Half dozen boxed, fine linen finish. Half dozen to a customer.

**Men's Gloves**  
**\$1.00**  
Men's Silk Gloves and fabric silk lined, in gray.  
2 pairs to a customer.  
Men's Shop Main Floor

**Benson & Thorne**  
ELDREDGE-REYNOLDS CO.  
"The Store of Specialty Shops"

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Until Further Notice

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