BLIND MAN WINS ANNUAL CONTEST OF OLD FIDDLERS

Veterans Rosin Up "Old Betsy" And Furnish Amusement For Large Crowd at Y. M. C. A.

William Rumsey, blind fiddler, who plays at Fifteenth and Douglas streets, won the first prize, a gold medal, in the annual old fiddlers' contest at the Young Men's Christian association last night. He was the youngest of the 11 old fiddlers entered in the tournament, being only a lad of 53. And, though he is very poor and sightless, he was the jolliest man there among all the jolly old fiddlers.

Second prize, a silver medal, went to Josiah Petty, of Perry, Ia., a sturdy chap of 80 summers. Third prize, a hat, was awarded to Jesse McCarthy of Bellevue, who is only 63, but played a violin which, he declared, is 350 years old.

Veteran Wins Prize.

Fourth prize, a $5 bill, was won by Joseph Green, 1545 Park avenue, better known as "Daddy" Green, a veteran of many fiddling contests, who, in spite of his 89 years, still draws a wicked bow when playing "Turkey In the Straw," "Leather Breeches," "Arkansas Traveler" and other classics.

The Y. M. C. A. auditorium was packed to the doors with an audience that applauded the sages of the bow and laughed at the many gallies of wit with which the venerable musicians interspersed their program.

When the regular contest was over, "Daddy" Green and Josiah Petty struck up a clog dance tune while Nimrod Fisher, 72, and William Balfour, 75, showed the audience some real, old-fashioned clog dancing.

Sing "The Cork Leg."

Then, while the three judges were out preparing their decision, Mr. Balfour volunteered to sing "The Cork Leg," a beautiful ditty of 32 verses. His triumphant progress in this performance was marred only temporarily, when, in the course of the 21st verse, his false teeth fell out. Mr. Balfour caught them like Ty Cobb, replaced them and went on with the song.

Besides the prize winners mentioned, these also produced lively music with their fiddles: C. A. Nicol, 2920 Seward street, 57 years old; William Balfour, Nehawka, Neb., 75; J. S. Silcott, Fifty-third and Spalding streets, 62; Nimrod Fisher, 113 North Twenty-fourth street, 72; H. G. Kiddo, 1102 North Thirty-first avenue, 54; E. A. Gallup, 2215 Lathrop street; C. W. Frey, Trinidad, Colo., 70.

Henry Mahaffey presided. David Rovel, H. A. Stephenson and C. J. Shaw were judges.

City Planning Committee Launches Spring Campaign

Every lawn in Omaha cut regularly and kept trim, and every yard smiling with flowers during the entire summer is the plan of the "city beautiful" committee, a sub-body of the civic improvement committee of the Chamber of Commerce, which will launch its capaign at a meeting next Saturday.

According to figures compiled at the chamber, an average expenditure of $2 on flower seed for each yard in the city would mean putting Omaha ahead of the vaunted rose-lands of California, and give the city an aspect possessed by no other in the land.

Activities of other subcommittees of the civic improvement body will also get their start for the year at the meeting. David Cole, chairman of the committee, will outline improvements to be accomplished during the year and make suggestions as to methods to be followed. Other divisions of the body are city street, water and sewer, city planning, civic art, service and education and music committees.

Proposes Safety Zones In Business District of Omaha

An ordinance providing for the construction of safety zones in the business section of the city, which will permit automobiles to pass street cars without interfering with passengers entering or leaving the car, was introduced at the city council meeting yesterday morning by City Commissioner Ringer.

The zones will be directly parallel to the street car track, and will be six feet wide and 40 feet long, Mr. Ringer said. They will be marked with lime and cast iron disks and are exactly the same as those in use in many eastern cities, according to Mr. Ringer.

The ordinance provides for the placing of these zones at all street intersections between the river and Twenty-fourth street, and between Cuming and Leavenworth streets, and the extension of the system to Thirty-ninth street, on Farnam street.

Plan Effort to Crystallize Legion Sentiment on Bonus

Discussion of a proposed federal bonus for former service men occupied most of the business at a meeting of the executive committee of the Douglas county post of the American legion, at the Rome hotel yesterday noon. It was brought out at the meeting that an effort to crystallize national sentiment of the legion in regard to bonuses will be made at a meeting of the national executive council, called for March 22, in Washington.

The local post plans to hold a dance at the Municipal auditorium on March 22.

Occupants of Autos Stage Gun Battle in Heart of City

A gun battle was staged early last night by occupants of two closed cars at Sixteenth and Chicago streets, several shots being fired while the machines were racing down Sixteenth street.

Police were unable to locate the cars, which, according to witnesses, were going at a great rate of speed.

An investigation is being made by police to find the cause of the trouble.

ONE DEFENDANT IN DEPORTATION CASE DIES IN ARIZONA

Abrupt Termination of State's Case at Tombstone Outstanding Feature of Day.

Tombstone, Ariz., March 11.—Clarence Ingram, one of the defendants in the Bisbee deportation cases, the first of which is on trial here at present, died at Bisbee early today, shortly after his deposition was taken for the defense by John Sanders, city attorney of Bisbee.

Abrupt termination of the state's case in chief and the square presentation of the I. W. W. issue were the outstanding features of Thursday's session in the trial of H. E. Wootton, Bisbee hardware dealer, charged with kidnaping in connection with the Bisbee deportations of July 12, 1917, during which 1,186 men in the Warren mining district were shipped from Bisbee, Ariz., to Columbus, N. M.

Attacks on the Christian religion and the Roman Catholic church in particular; sneers at any code of right and wrong, and denunciation of the priesthood and the ministry as "followers of Mammon," were read from alleged publications of the Industrial Workers of the World by Frank E. Curley of counsel for the defense during a discussion of whether a witness might be asked if he belonged to the I. W. W.

"If I. W. W.ism be kept out of the case, I have no objection to a witness being examined as to the membership in the organization to show his bias," Mr. Curley said.

Judge Pattee provisionally sustained the objection of the state to the asking of the question, but added that whenever proof was adduced to show that the principles of the Industrial Workers of the World were such as outlined by Mr. Curley he would reconsider his ruling.

Omaha Newsies Work To Save Comrade From Term in Reform School

Omaha newsies were working yesterday to save Sam Novak, 18 years old, newsboy for several years at Sixteenth and Harney streets, from a sentence to the Kearney Industrial school, imposed by Judge Sears in district court Tuesday.

Sam's going to prison would deprive his mother, Mrs. Anna Novak, 1914 Grace street, and his two little sisters of their sole support, according to a petition being circulated among newsboys by Harry Graceman, newsie leader.

"Every newsie in town will sign it," he claimed.

The petition, asking that Sam be paroled, will be presented to Judge Sears later this week.

Sam was found guilty by a jury a month ago of assault with intent to murder Will Brown, negro, lynched during the court house rioting of last September.

The mother is heartbroken over prospective loss of her boy. She became hysterical when the industrial school sentence was imposed on him Tuesday.

"Sam is not a bad boy and will come out all right if Judge Sears will give him a chance," his newsie friends assert. "His mother needs him."

Lithuanian Campaign Here Is Postponed Indefinitely

Maj. Peter Zadeikis, who was scheduled to speak here last night at the New Settlers' hall, Thirty-sixth and U, in the interests of a nationwide campaign to raise a $10,000,000 loan for the Lithuanian government, failed to arrive, and the date of his engagement here is now indefinite. J. P. Uvick received a telegram Thursday stating it would be impossible for Major Vadeikis, who is a member of the Lithuanian finance commission, to come to the city at the present time because of previous engagements.

It is the plan to raise the $10,000,000 loan strictly among Lithuanians of which there are about 900 living in Omaha The committee in charge of the work here is William Sabalauski, president; F. Rigmund, secretary, and J. P. Uvick, treasurer.

Will Cressy to Give War Talk to Elks' Lodge Tonight

Will Cressy, playing this week at the Orpheum theater, enthusiastic Elk, popular actor, talented author and widely known war worker with the A. E. F. in France, has accepted an invitation to be present at the regular weekly meeting of the Elks' lodge this evening and will favor the Elks with one of his extremely interesting war talks.

Newberry's Trial Nearly Over.

Grand Rapids, Mich., March 11.—All the proofs in the Newberry elections conspiracy trial will be before the jury by Saturday and arguments of counsel will start next Monday. This was agreed to by attorneys and Judge Sessions. The arguments will be limited to eight hours for each side, apportioned to individuals as the counsel may determine.

To Run for Senate as Wet.

St. Louis, Mo., March 11.—John C. Higdon, a local lawyer, formally announced his candidacy for the democratic nomination for United States senator. He asserted he would make the race on a "wet" platform.

Over The Political Fence

Harry S. Byrne, as candidate for alternate delegate-at-large to the republican national convention at Chicago June 8, has offered the following signed statement:

"If elected as an alternate delegate-at-large to the republican national convention, I hereby agree to vote for the candidate for president whom the republican voters at the state-wide primary on April 20 indicate as their choice."

Mr. Byrne, besides being a member of the republican county committee, is a representative of Douglas county in the executive committee of the republican state committee. He was a presidential elector-at-large in 1916, when Justice Hughes ran for the republican nomination.

R. E. L. Herdman, who was chosen to serve as treasurer of the local Bryan campaign committee of 12 men and 10 women, yesterday announced that he will not serve. His reasons are: "I am growing old and I do not feel like going through another active campaign. I am going to vote with the Bryan wing and I am with them, but I will not serve on the committee. I need a political rest."

R. B. Howell, republican national committeeman for Nebraska, is expected home today from Chicago, where he attended a meeting of western members of the committee.

An Omaha democrat yesterday afternoon, at the southeast corner of Seventeenth and Farnam streets, said: "Mr. Bryan is a spiritual healer."

Col. J. H. Mithen's statement yesterday, in reply to W. J. Bryan's attack on Senator Hitchcock, was read assiduously by many democrats.

"Just wait until Mr. Bryan comes to Omaha," remarked one of the women members of the local Bryan Glee club.

Said a substantial Omaha real estate man yesterday: "I am most emphatically for General Pershing. I do not care so much about his military record, though it is a grand one, but I believe that he will give us a thorough business administration. As an organizer he would organize the machery of government thoroughly and appoint a cabinet and see to it that the cabinet functioned. As a lawyer he would be in touch with legal affairs. Make no mistake about it, General Pershing is mentally and physically equipped to carry on."

Flashes From Filmland

Neighborhood Houses

GRAND—16th and Binney—WILLIAM S. HART in "JOHN PETTICOATS;" also two-reel Sunshine comedy.

HAMILTON—40th and Hamilton—MONROE SALISBURY in "MAN IN MOONLIGHT;" also comedy.

DIAMOND—24th and Lake—JAMES J. CORBETT in the "MIDNIGHT MAN," and HELEN GIBSON in "THE RAILROAD DAM;" also comedy and scenic.

A TERRIFIC battle between a band of fanatics and a group of guards and clubmen is fought in "Even As Eve," a film production showing at the Rialto theater. "Even As Eve" is a story of a beautiful young girl brought up in the wilds of the Adirondacks, by a father who has become embittered at the world because of the disloyalty of his wife and who wishes his daughter kept away from the society of men. Civilization encroaches upon them, however, and Eileen finally is transplanted to the social circles to which her birth entitles her.

Muse—Neal Hart who stars in "When the Desert Smiled," a film production to be shown at the Muse theater today and Saturday, is a real westerner, and he has lived the life he portrays on the screen. "When the Desert Smiled" gives Neal Hart an opportunity for displaying his ability as a roper and his ability as a rider. At both riding and shooting Hart is an expert and it is a treat indeed to watch him perform before the camera.

Moon—Two men and a woman were suspected of the murder of Monty Paliser. A box at the Metropolitan opera house was the scene of the tragedy. A knife was found behind the rich, black velvet curtains of the box. Who killed Monty Paliser, rich roue and dishonorable lover, is the question that will baffle in Pauline Frederick's vehicle, "The Paliser Case," is the stellar offering at the Moon theater today and Saturday.

Sun—Novelty is the keynote of Maurice Tourneur's photoplay, "Woman" which is attracting the attention and inviting the argumentative comment of patrons of the Sun theater this week. The film is unlike any other production which has ever been unfolded on the silver sheet. Its title will convey to every one a fair idea of its theme, but it could not even suggest the unique development accorded the subject by Charles Whittaker's scenario and Maurice Tourneur's direction.

Empress—The best picture Margarita Fisher has appeared in for a long time, is "The Dangerous Talent" based on a story by Daniel F. Whitcomb. Miss Fisher as a business girl, outwits two clever crooks at their own game. Harry Hilliard, playing opposite the star, has the part of a wealthy bachelor philantropist, with a heart as big as his bank roll. It will be at the Empress the rest of the week.

Strand—The remarkable talents of Norma Talmadge, known to be one of the most versatile of all feminine screen stars, has never been shown to better advantage than in her film production entitled, "She Loves and Lies," now on the screen at the Strand theater. In this adaptation of Wilkie Collins' story of the same name, Miss Talmadge portrays three separate and distinct characters, each being of a different social caste, age and physical appearance. Not only does the star make her portrayals realistic but she makes them convincing.

AT THE THEATERS

AS showgoers are aware, the Smart Set, one of the most famous organizations of colored players, is now touring under the title of "The Smarter Set," headed by the comedians, Salem Tutt Whitney and J. Homer Tutt, presenting a new and original musical comedy success entitled "The Children of the Sun," and which will open at the Brandeis tonight for an engagement of four days. The new company is well up to the mark as regards singing ability, dancing experts and general genuine fun-making, with clean comedy.

Not often has an Orpheum show such a diversity of excellence as is displayed in the current bill. "The Man Who Butted In," a one-act play, is presented by Will M. Cressy and Blanche Dayne. Then there is the exhilarating musical act contributed by Nat Nazarre and the Atlantic Fleet Jazz band, an entertaining monologue by Mr. Cressy in which he tells about the work of actors in entertaining soldiers in France during the war. The most sensational act known to vaudeville is offered by the Four Readings. The artistic phase of the bill is contributed by the Marmein Sisters, dancers, and by the solo work of the distinguished pianist, David Schooler.

You can indulge in cheering "Hip, Hip, Hooray!" at the Gayety only today, this afternoon and evening. Tomorrow matinee another favorite returns to Omaha for a week—Frank Funny Finney, who heads "The Bostonians" in a two-act musical chop suey by Mr. Finney, entitled "From Here to Shanghai." Ladies' matinee today and tomorrow at 2:15.

An act unusual and beautiful was presented by the Terpsichore Four at the Empress yesterday as the stellar attraction. They show exceptional ability as dancers. The rural comedy playlet, "At the Town Pump," in the hands of Robbins and Fulton, causes much merriment.

Frances Starr, in Capt. Edward Knoblock's drama, "Tiger! Tiger!" is coming to the Brandeis for two nights, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 16 and 17, with holiday matinee on St. Patrick's day. Mr. Belasco is sending the original distinguished cast to Omaha, the same that made the play the popular vogue in New York. Among Miss Starr's leading support the principals include Lionel Atwill, Wallace Erskine, Frederick Lloyd, Whitford Kane, Thomas Louden, Edwin Denison, Mary Moore, Daisy Belmore and Helen Andrews.

Brave Coppers Rescue Patrol Wagon From Mud

The change in weather conditions affected roads in the outskirts of the city and trouble followed the police patrol as it answered calls last night.

An emergency call was sent in from Twenty-seventh and Lake streets, where the patrol had gone to transport several night prowlers to jail, and the trouble car responded with ropes and chains.

After several hours' work and an unlimited amount of advice from onlookers safely enthroned along the sidewalk, Patrol Drivers Anderson and Lahey, with the aid of the emergency car, hauled the patrol to safety.

AMERICANS WILL NOT BE HELD FOR RANSOM, VILLA

Unofficial Communication to Washington Says He Will Treat Hostages With Every Consideration.

Washington, March 11.—Relatives and friends of Americans kidnaped by Pancho Villa need have no concern as to their safety and may dismiss all fear that they may be held for ransom if they repose full confidence in a communication recently received from the Mexican bandit leader.

According to his note of reassurance he has adopted the only practical means he can think of to get a friendly conversation with various representative Americans who cross his trail, and, while they are his "guests" they will be treated with every consideration and returned unharmed and unrobbed to their friends.

The substance of Villa's communication was transmitted unofficially to officers of the intelligence branch of the War department.

It was explained in the message Villa succeeded in getting here, that only a vague idea of what was going on in the outside world could be had where he was and the desire to learn more, to gain the American's point of view and a determination to give opportunity to carry back with them some of his own theories of what a government in Mexico should be had caused him to determine to gather in his guests where he might find them regardless of their willingness to accept his invitation. He added that from time to time others would be brought in but urged those interested not to become alarmed.

Receives Prison Sentence For Receiving Stolen Auto

John J. Reynolds yesterday pleaded guilty to a charge of receiving a stolen automobile and was sentenced by District Judge Troup to the penitentiary for one to 10 years. Vernon Mack, pleading guilty to a charge of stealing automobile tires, was sentenced to the penitentiary for one to seven years.

California Man Named On Farm Loan Board

Washington, March 11.—William N. Joyce of Berkeley, Cal., was nominated today by President Wilson to be a member of the federal farm loan board to succeed George W. Norris, resigned.

Officers Are Resigning Because Unable to 'Make Both Ends Meet'

Washington, March 11.—Unable to "make both ends meet' on their present pay, officers are resigning and enlisted men deserting from the army and navy "in droves," the senate was told by Chairman Wadsworth, of the military committee, and Senator Poindexter, republican, Washington. They complained of the refusal of the public to agree to conference on the bill recently passed by both houses providing for increased pay for the service men.

Senator Wadsworth said he had been informed that 200 petty officers deserted from the navy in one month and that since the armistice 2,358 army officers had resigned because they were unable to live on their pay.

"Constructive Liberals" Will Put Candidates In Presidential Race

St. Louis, March 11.—The Committee of 48 will be the nucleus of a new political party which will have candidates in the forthcoming national election, it was announced Thursday.

"Liberal" organizations, such as the American labor party and various farm societies, will compose the "forty-eighters," according to Paul Harris Drake of Boston, a director of the organization. Candidates for president and vice president will be selected at a national convention, probably to be held next June.

The Committee of 48 is a national organization of "constructive liberals" formed a year ago in New York.

Brothers of Negro's Victim Permitted to See Execution

Eddyville, Ky., March 11.—Petrie Kimbrough, alias Will Lockett, alleged slayer of Geneva Hardman and confessed slayer of four other women, died in the electric chair at Eddyville prison early today.

Two brothers of the Hardman girl and 17 Lexington citizens, together with eight soldiers and 12 prison guards, witnessed the execution.

Man Run Down by Motor Car; Woman Driver Is Arrested

Jeff Thompson, 35 years old, 1015 Mason street, suffered bruises about the head and body when knocked to the pavement by an auto driven by Mrs. Glen Gerken, at Thirty-first and Leavenworth streets late yesterday afternoon. Thompson was taken to Nicholas Senn hospital and Mrs. Gerken was arrested and booked for investigation but later released on bond for appearance in court this morning.

KNOCKOUT BLOW DEALT SOLDIERS' BONUS PROPOSAL

Quietus Given Plans to Recompense Former Service Men By Highest Treasury Officials.

By ARTHUR SEARS HENNING

Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire.

Washington, March 11.—Proposed soldiers' bonus legislation was dealt a staggering blow today before the house committee on ways and means by the highest officials of the treasury and the $2,000,000,000 compensation plan is now regarded dead so far as this session of congress is concerned.

Secretary of the Treasury Houston, Assistant Leffingwell and W. P. G. Harding, governor of the federal reserve board, asserted that a $2,000,000,000 bond issue would be disastrous to the credit of the country and to Liberty bondholders, that a consumption tax to furnish the huge bonus would enhance further the high cost of living and that raising income taxes would only add to the already heavy burden of taxation without increasing the wealth of the nation.

Governor Harding said it would be necessary to fix the rate of interest at 6 per cent or higher in order to sell bonus bonds at all. Mr. Leffingwell asserted that only the recreation of a gigantic organization such as was brought together during the war with 2,000,000 volunteer workers and a rekinding of the same sort of patriotism would sell the bonds, no matter what the rate of interest might be.

Secretary Houston opposed the suggestions made by former Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo for reducing taxation by $1,000,000,000 yearly. He said he saw no chance of reduced taxes, but thought a revision of the revenue laws would help to adjust inequalities.

France Moves to Resume Relations With the Vatican

Paris, March 11.—A measure providing for the resumption of relations with the Vatican was introduced by the government in the chamber of deputies.