

Skinner Lawyer Says Charges on Company False

Allegations of Gross Mismanagement in Suit of Stockholders Asking Receiver Are Denied.

Positively false is the way William Ritchie, jr., attorney for the Skinner Packing company, branded yesterday all charges made in the latest legal action against the firm filed Monday in federal court by stockholders, whose attorneys he accuses of "harassing" the financing of the concern.

This latest action against the Skinners is taken by Nebraska farmers who invested from \$5,000 to \$30,000 each in Skinner stock, and charges that the affairs of the company are still grossly mismanaged, that the assets have been dissipated for the benefit of the officers and that from last June to November, while the plant was being managed by Paul F. Skinner, employees were busy playing checkers, cards, horsehoes and base ball.

Only \$5,000,000 in assets remains in sight to offset \$7,000,000 of issued stock, the stockholders claim in petitioning for a receivership of the company.

Irregularities Charged.

The petitioners charge that Paul Skinner formed a new corporation, the Omaha Refrigerating company, controlled by him, to which was transferred the new cold storage house at Twelfth and Douglas streets, and that he as general manager was awarded a salary of \$18,000 a year plus 1,000 shares of stock to be paid 100 annually, and received 2,500 shares of stock for a cash payment of \$5,000, with his personal unsecured note counting for a balance of \$245,000.

When the packing plant was leased to the Dold Packing company, the petitioners alleged a \$3,000,000 working capital, and that, by the conditions of the lease, nothing will be left to divide between the Dold company and the Skinner stockholders for at least two years, and maybe not during the seven years of the lease.

Answers Suit.

"The Dold contract was the only way in which proper working capital could be obtained for operating the plant after all the agitation last summer," declared Ritchie, in his answer to the suit.

The Omaha Refrigerating company was suggested by a responsible financial institution which agreed to assist in financing the cold storage business if it could be operated by a corporation which could be free from the constant harassing of the attorneys who are bringing the present suit.

In the suit, the stockholders allege this company was incorporated in Delaware with a capital stock of \$1,585,000 of which \$1,000,000 was common stock and \$585,000 was "founders' stock" which Paul Skinner got with "special voting privileges."

The Skinner Packing company, under control of its officers, is then said to have sold the cold storage warehouse at Twelfth and Douglas streets, to the Omaha Refrigerating company for \$1,000,000, accepting as payment this common stock.

Major Dropped.

This, the complaining stockholders charge, was for the purpose of further establishing Paul Skinner in control of the warehouse to the detriment of the other stockholders of the company.

"When the proposed refrigerating company," declared Ritchie, in answer to this charge, "was presented to me, I advised against it, and the matter was dropped. And there is no intention on the part of the board of directors to carry out the suggestion, although there was some reasonable argument in favor of it, and if it had been carried out, there would have been no fraud on the stockholders."

Thus Ritchie declines to concede to the petitioners that the formation of the refrigerating company has been effected.

"The attorneys bringing this litigation," he proceeds, "are the same who have caused most of the trouble we have had, and this constant harassing has made it very difficult for the company to be financed, in fact they have even attempted to prevent it being so financed."

"The suit now pending is practically the same as the suit which the state supreme court dismissed last summer over the protest of these same attorneys."

The company has tangible assets exceeding all indebtedness by at least 2,500 per cent, and if this kind of agitation can be stopped the stockholders will eventually receive a fair return on their investment."

The petitioners ask that the Omaha Trust company be appointed receiver for the Skinner Packing company.

Kennel Club Plans Dog Show in Park in June

The Omaha Kennel club is planning a dog show to be held in one of the parks during June. Canines of pedigree ancestry will not be eligible for entry on this occasion.

W. W. Bradley, secretary, explains that it will be an exhibition of "plain dogs," or "mutt dogs."

The club has extended to April 23 the award of \$5 for the best drawing of a design for use on the club's stationery. The officers of the club are: J. W. Welch, president; Dr. J. J. Wanta, first vice president; H. Wasserberger, second vice president; O. T. Alvison, treasurer; W. W. Bradley, secretary.

Contract for Purchase Of Airlines Extended

Washington, April 19.—(Special Telegram).—As a result of a conference held with War department officials by Congressman Reavis, the contract heretofore made with the Nebraska Aircraft Corporation, a Lincoln concern, for the purchase of a large number of government planes, which was about to expire, was extended for a period of six months. Mr. Reavis asked this extension on behalf of his constituents in view of the stringency in the money market.

New Grand Guardian Of Woodmen Circle



Mrs. Ida B. Kennedy of Lincoln was elected grand guardian of the Woodmen circle for Nebraska at the biennial convention which opened at the Rome hotel Monday. She succeeds Mrs. Blanche McKelvy of Omaha.

Nebraska Railroad Fireman Gets \$21,000 Damage for Injury

Minneapolis, April 19.—(Special Telegram).—A verdict of \$21,000 for damages suffered while at work as railroad fireman December 18 was returned by a jury before District Judge W. W. Bardwell this morning, for Gerald R. Spencer, Lincoln, Neb., against the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad company.

Spencer, who is 37, according to the testimony, was seriously injured while attempting to load coal into the tender of an engine from a coal chute at Utica, Neb. Injuries were caused because of a defective metal spout attached to the coal chute. He was struck on the chest with the spout and was knocked to the ground.

Postmasters Appointed

Washington, D. C., April 19.—(Special Telegram).—Postoffice department has accepted the proposal of Charles L. Pickard to renew lease for present quarters for the postoffice at Geneva, Neb., for a term of five years.

Postmasters appointed: George F. Armstrong, vice George E. Carter, resigned; James, Plymouth county, Ia., Ed. Pratt, vice Thomas Eggers, Belmont, Keith county, Neb.; Hiram S. Clark, vice John Perry, resigned; Parkman, Sheridan county, Wyo.; Daniel C. Carson, vice Greta V. Allen, Pine Mill, Fremont county, Wyo.

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Women Stay Out Of W. O. W. Fight: Omaha Meet Ends

Majority of Auxiliary in Session Here Opposes Insurgents; Contention Cause Deemed Imperative.

Women will stay out of the World fight, according to Mrs. Katherine Remington, supreme banker of the Woodmen circle, the women's auxiliary now in session at the Rome hotel.

The women's convention opened Monday in Omaha, simultaneously with the fiery men's meeting at Columbus, where a split occurred. "We will not even discuss it during our convention—we stand with the administration," Mrs. Remington announced.

Court Action Predicted.

"Only one Omaha grove out of 13 sides with the insurgents," said Mrs. Remington, "and they have only seven votes in the convention, so it would be useless for them to start anything."

This grove is Alpha grove, and its membership includes only personal friends of the Unit-Endres faction, she said.

Mrs. Remington predicted the matter would be taken into the courts soon.

"We have no fear as to what the Supreme convention will do in New York in June as the Nebraska delegates chosen are favorable to the administration," she said.

Both Acts Necessary.

Increases in the salaries of officials and raising the insurance rates brought about the discussion.

"These two acts were necessary to the life of the order, though, and we had to do it," she explained.

A luncheon at the Chamber of Commerce yesterday noon for 200 delegates and a reception and memorial service in the afternoon, concluded the biennial meeting.

Baby Weighs But 22 Ounces At Birth; in Perfect Health

Lincoln, April 19.—(Special).—Omaha's championed 24-ounce baby has a rival in Melvin Martin John Hiedman, net weight, one-pound and six ounces. Melvin was born March 11, 1921 alive and well, according to the birth certificate just reaching the state bureau of health.

His father is Fred J. Hiedman, 23, a farmer. His mother is 27, the mother of six other children, only two of whom are living.

Teamster Shoots Wife and Stepson; Boy May Not Live

North Platte, Neb., April 19.—Merrill Richards, a teamster, yesterday shot his wife in the arm and his stepson in the back. The condition of the boy is serious. Mrs. Richards is not severely injured. Richards escaped.

'Duke of Chesterfield' Fights Off Camera Man



Craig Chesterfield, alias Chester de Granville, alias Virgil St. Claire, alleged "Duke of Chesterfield," recently found guilty of forgery in the Dodge county district court, will henceforth be known as Convict No. 837. When Chesterfield was first arrested, attempts were made to take his picture at the Fremont jail for the prison records.

The officials declare that Chesterfield was familiar enough with the law to know that his picture could not legally be taken until he had been convicted of some crime. As a result, the alleged "duke" resisted attempts to place him before the camera, and to avoid trouble, he was returned to his cell, for a later sitting.

He was brought out again yesterday and after a rough and tumble tussle, in which the Englishman was somewhat manhandled, he was held in the chair while he was being "shot."

The officers believe that Chesterfield fears that other places will recognize his photo.

Man Drops Dead in Store

Bloomfield, Neb., April 19.—(Special).—Elijah Smith, 71, dropped dead here while entering a business place. Death was due to heart disease. He was the father of Mrs. R. B. Hammond, living near here, and recently came up from Kansas to visit his daughter.

Governor Talks At Building Show

Declares Home and Wife Greatest Contributing Influences to Success.

Governor McKelvie and Mayor Smith assisted Monday night at the opening of the middle west's first complete building show in the Omaha Auditorium.

The exhibition, which embraces an interesting and educational array of interior and exterior appointments and appointments for the home, is under the management of Charles A. Franke and Robert C. Mitchell and is patronized by 105 local dealers.

In an opening speech, Governor McKelvie declared the greatest contributing influences to his success in life were a wife and a home, and proceeded to explain how the Americans are a home-loving people.

Mayor Smith referred to the show as a wonderful enterprise indicative of the Omaha spirit.

John W. Gamble, vice-president of the First National bank, introduced the governor and mayor. The Rev. W. H. Kearns opened the formal program with prayer. Mrs. Verne Miller sang "Home Sweet Home."

Nebraskans at Capital

Washington, April 19.—(Special Telegram).—Robert Samardick of Omaha, formerly connected with the prohibition enforcement office in Nebraska, and L. A. Ricketts, an attorney of Lincoln, are visiting here.

Man Who Fled From Wife Weds Her Sister

Fred German, 41, Council Bluffs, who ran away last September with his wife's sister, Mary Detamer, 45, and was arrested in Omaha, resulting in divorce, was married April 11 to the sister in Nebraska City, his former wife revealed yesterday.

The sister had made her home for some time with the Germans, when the wife suddenly became suspicious, and the flight of the lovers confirmed her fears.

She secured a divorce in Council Bluffs September 20, and resumed the name of a former husband, Mrs. A. D. Olds.

She is now living at 2210 West Broadway and working in Omaha to support her two young sons.

The newlyweds will make their home in the Bluffs, the divorced wife declared.

2 Mail Order House Men Jailed as Shortage Found

Following the alleged discovery of a shortage of \$25,000 in the accounts of the Bradley, Merriam & Smith mail order house, two employees have been arrested.

Thomas Hall, 1202 North Twenty-sixth street, was bound over to district court by Judge Foster yesterday in \$1,000 bail on charges of embezzlement and receiving stolen property.

C. W. Noone, 1502 Clairmont avenue, Council Bluffs, is being held for investigation into charges of selling goods of the firm and obtaining the payments without the knowledge of the officials of the concern.

Omaha School Boy Passes West Point Examination

Washington, April 19.—(Special Telegram).—Congressman Jefferis was notified today by the war department that Harry T. Haynes, a senior in Omaha Central high school, had successfully passed his entrance examination to West Point. Haynes is 17 years of age, and is the son of Charles C. Haynes, who resides at 4508 North Twenty-fourth street. He took his examination at Fort Leavenworth March 1.

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