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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

"JAMES F. KING" IS BAD, BAD MAN

Man in Box Butte County Jail Who Swindled Reardon is Escaped Convict, Bigamist, Horse Thief and All Around Bad Man

CONFESSES TO SHERIFF THAT HE COMMITTED CRIMES

"James F. King," alias J. B. Merton, alias B. B. Lee, alias Frank Knapp, alias Wm. Lord, alias Geo. Wm. Fletcher, who came to Alliance early in December with a woman he married in Anaconda, Montana, October 11, who pretended that they desired to purchase the Simmons store, and who on the 8th of December passed a bad check for $25 on Jack Riordan, is, according to information received here, an all around bad man.

King and his wife were caught at Sidney on Tuesday, December 9, and he was brought back to Alliance the next day by Sheriff Cox. The girl was taken to Lexington by her uncle, H. Burger, a wealthy, respectable business man of that place. According to the reports received, King, whose rreal name is Geo. Wm. Fletcher, has a wife and two children in Topeka, Kansas, and another wife in Montana. It is believed there are three women, and perhaps more, who believe themselves his wife.

King was believed at first to be Lloyd E. Knapp, alias Linsey King, who escaped from custody at San Francisco on the night of September 17, 1912, while enroute to the penitentiary at San Quentin, Calif. When the circular offering a reward was shown to King he claimed to be the man and said he wanted to go to California without a requisition. He did not answer the description fully and it is believed he wanted to be taken to California to get away from the scenes of his recent crimes in Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana.

A description of King, or Merton, as he was known in the Montana state penitentiary at Deer Lodge, Montana, was sent to Cal Cox totogether with photographs taken at the pen. The description from there reads as follows: Name, J. B. Merton. Received February 11, 1912. Crime, grand larceny. Age, 31. Occupation, architectural engineer. Height, 5 feet 10 inches. Weight, 165 pounds, etc. Paroled, October 4, 1913.

Russ M. Hoop, sheriff at Sheridan, Wyoming, who arrived this morning to get King and take him back to Wyoming, forwarded the following letter to Sheriff Cox: Anaconda, Mont., Dec. 11, 1913. Russ M. Hoop, sheriff, Sheridan, Wyo. My dear sir: I hope you will pardon me the liberty I am taking in dropping you these few lines, and I hope you will give me the information I am asking for. I happened to be at Deer Lodge on December 2, and I saw the message you had sent to Frank Conley, warden of the state prison, inquiring about B. B. Lee, alias John B. Merton, who had stolen a team of horses, forged a check and beat board bill. John B. Merton has served two terms at the state prison at Deer Lodge, Montana. On October 4, 1913, he was paroled, and his parole will expire June 8, 1914. Please advise me if you have him in custody. I thought I would give you this information, as I consider he is no good. He violated his parole here and left a good friend of mine in the hole and beat his board bill and $10 in cash from the landlady, and left the state. I remain, Very truly yours, J. E. Clifford, state parole commissioner.

Writes to His Latest "Wife."

On Friday, December 12, King wrote a letter to his latest "wife" at Lexington, where she had been with her uncle after King was taken into cusotdy at Sidney. This letter was copied. It shows how King, the crook, was writing as King, the husband, asking wifey to get uncle to loan $75 to get him out of trouble here.

The letter follows: Alliance, Nebraska, Friday, December 12, 10:30 p.m. Dear Honey Wife: I guess the little short letter I sent with my long one was good news, wasn't it dear. I just had time to scribble those few lines as the sheriff was waiting and was going to take my other letter which I had written before I knew anything about the other. He came in with my supper and be told me then, so now dear you want to get after uncle Pop and don't give him any peace until he gets it fixed. If he don't they will give me about five years they say. I can easily pay him back $75 and I don't want to be apart from you for five long years. Honey, it would kill me sure to be away from you for so long a time. Might just as well be dead as to be separated for that long. I can't live without your love and must have you near me. I love you so.

How are you, honey dear. Are you alright and well. Heard anything from home yet? I am looking for a letter from you in the morning so be sure and write. I guess Cal thought I had gone crazy the way I cheered up when he told me they would agree to settle if we paid back the check and costs. The whole thing will amount to about $75 and I guess there may be a couple of dollars left over $80. I can use them for railroad fare to come to you. What do you think? I say, let's go home to mother and stay there. She loves us and wants us both near her and I can't be without my honey, can I, sweetheart.

I say, like the Irish song goes "A bushel of kisses I will bring when I return again your king" and sure there will be more than a bushel. Never fear, it will be kisses for breakfast, dinner and supper time. Boiled kisses, fried kisses, stewed kisses and kisses raw. Oh, honey, how I want you, dear. I love you, I love you so much, I can't tell how much. Without you life would not be worth while. I am always yours and no one else's, nor ever shall be and you are mine. I know it. Love me honey and write to me till I come to you, for we are never going to be apart again so long as we live, my own. Good night, my own true heart and God watch over you forever. Your husband with love, Jim. x x x x x x x x

Sweetheart, you are the last in my thoughts at night and first in the morning and you are never absent in my mind thru the whole blessed day. My own true wife, I love you better than life itself, for you are my life and without you there is no life. Kisses and a big hug. Good night, your own boy, J.

At the bottom of the letter was a picture of two hearts labled "Pauline" and "Jim", both bound together with chains and pierced with an arrow, with the words, "Two hearts with but a single thought and a single love. May they forever beat as now—as one."

Sheriff Cox wrote to the county judge at Anaconda on December 23 asking the date that King was married and the address of his wife's parents. In reply he received word that John B. Merton and Pauline Marie Kerisonezo were married in Anaconda on October 11 by Justice of the Peace Pringle, but the address of her parents was not given.

Hoop Wires Cox

On December 24 Sheriff R. M. Hoop of Sheridan wired Sheriff Cox at Alliance as follows: "I hold warrant for J. B. Merton, alias B. B. Lee, alias James King, horse stealing and forgery. Think he is same man who tried to pull off trick at Alliance December 8. Can you give me information?" Sheriff Cox wired in answer and the next day received the following letter from Hoop:

"Sheridan, Wyo., Dec. 24, 1913. Friend Cal. Telegram received O. K.. The man I want from the name of John B. Merton, alias B. B. Lee and his real name is Geo. Fletcher. He left here Dec. 1 at noon and went east after stealing a team, forging some checks and stealing some furs and clothing, also an automatic pistol. He was released from Deer Lodge pen Oct. 4, 1913. Is a civil engineer. We want him the very worst way. If you cannot handle him, for —— sake let me have him. Had a French woman with him, married October 14 at Anaconda, Mont."

On December 26 Sheriff Hoop wrote Cox as follows: "Just received your letter and I had just wired you about an hour before. Now this man you have in custody, his real name is George Fletcher and his parents live at —— St., Kansas City, Mo. He was released from the pen at Deer Lodge, Montana, on parole Oct. 4, 1913, was married at Anaconda Oct. 11 and was in Billings a few days, violated his parole and came to Sheridan, where he gave the name of B. B. Lee. He was convicted once before from Silver Bow county, at Butte, for grand larceny under the name of John B. Merton. He stole a livery team and buggy, forged some checks, robbed a woman of a set of furs and a tailor made suit, stole an automatic Colt's revolver and jumped a board bill of $138 at the Sheridan Inn here.

"He had his mail sent to Denver under the name of Wm. Lord, as I have had detectives at Kansas City watch for some letter to his parents, who are respectable people and in no way responsible for his actions. I spent four days in Denver trying to locate him. I have two warrants for him. We will get out requisition papers in order to be on the safe side. Russ M. Hoop, sheriff."

Sheriff Hoop arrived this morning and will take King back to Sheridan tonight, where he will undoubtedly be given a quick trial and speedy justice for his many misdeeds. Seldom has a man with such a varied record been incarcerated in the Alliance jail. He is intelligent and claims to have been an illustrator on McClure's Magazine in New York City.

ENCAMPMENT INSTALLATION FRIDAY NIGHT

The installation of new officers in the I. O. O. F. Encampment will take place Friday evening at the I. O. O. F. hall. The installation will not be public, but patriarchs and their families are invited to attend.

BEST EVER SEEN IN THIS CITY

Eagles Give Athletic Entertainment to Large Crowd of Members and Friends

The athletic entertainment given by the Eagles at the club rooms Tuesday evening, was the best ever seen by the local sporting fraternity. The events were clean and the work was good. Lunch and refreshments served after the program were deliciously gotten up and everyone enjoyed them.

In the wrestling match between Wm. Monier and Charles Loessner, Monier was thrown the first time in six minutes and two seconds. Loessner was practically unknown here and he proved a big surprise to some, for he is a wonder. He threw Monier the second time in twenty-six minutes and two seconds.

The big event was the boxing match between Kid Florian of Whitman and Kid Edson of Alliance. Florian is an all around athlete and although he is chiefly known as a wrestler, he is a swift, clean boxer. Kid Edson is well known to the Alliance boys and has the punch. The bout was scheduled for ten rounds, clean break.

Round one was an even break, both men landing some good blows. As round two started, Florian bounded from his chair and landed a telling one to the right side. Edson retaliated by a left to the jaw, followed by a right uppercut by Florian. In round three Florian led out with a right to the neck and received one in return. Florian sent a heavy one to the stomach and received a severe right blow by Edson. Round four was swift and full ofsurprises. It was clearly Florian's round but he was unable to follow up his advantage. He had Edson on the defensive and started out with a right to the jaw, a left to the jaw and still another left to the jaw, which made Edson drop his hands and look for the ceiling to come down. Edson quickly recovered and Florian lost his chance there to win the bout.

In the fifth both men started out fresh and seemingly in good condition. Edson led out with a heavy blow to the heart, receiving a right to the shoulder. Edson shot a right to the jaw which missed, following it with a left jab which caught Florian in the right temple. Florian went to the mat and took the count.

President McCormick and his able corps of assistants deserve credit for the fine entertainment provided.

DISTRICT COURT CALENDAR, 1914

Court Will Be Held in Alliance for Box Butte County May 4 and November 9

The 1914 district court calendar has just been received by The Herald from District Judge W. H. Westover of Rushville. Court will be held in the different counties as follows: Sheridan, April 6, and September 7; Cherry, April 20 and September 21; Box Butte, May 4 and November 9; Sioux, May 20 and November 23; Dawes, June 6 and December 7.

MRS. KENNEDY RECOVERING

Word has been received by relatives in Alliance that Mrs. James Kennedy, who was operated on at the Presbyterian hospital in Omaha on Sunday, is recovering from the operation. She has been a cripple since childhood. Her right limb was amputated just below the knee and she will be fitted with an artificial limb.

CRETE DEFEATS ALLIANCE TEAM

Alliance Basket Ball Team Struck Bunch of Long Legged, Long Armed Players

(By Herald Correspondent with the Alliance Team.)

LINCOLN, Dec. 31.—The Alliance boys struck the unexpected last evening when they found the Crete basket ball team to be a bunch of tall, heavy players who followed university style of playing. The score at the finish was 42 to 6 in favor of Crete. The game was fast and clean and there was no playing out-of-bounds. The Alliance team was simply outweighed and outreached.

The lineup for Alliance was as follows: Darnell, center; Beach right forward; Schafer, left forward; Graham, right guard; Spacht, left guard. Nolan, center second half.

A HOME OF THEIR OWN

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Kewer have been rooming and boarding since coming to Alliance but will soon have a home of their own, and are delighted with the prospect of soon keeping house. They have bought the Joder residence at 816 Big Horn avenue, which is a nice property, all modern except furnace. Yesterday they had a new kitchen range put in. They have the furniture ordered to furnish the home and expect to move in the first of the week.

Mrs. Hattie Owens is quite ill.

Miss Josephine Hoag returned yesterday to her home at Beatrice. She has been visiting her father, G. N. Hoag, during the holidays.

Mrs. Martha Patmore was hostess at a six o'clock dinner and theatre party last evening given in honor of Mrs. J. W. Holliday of Denver, who has been visiting with Mrs. Jerry Rowan.

The Herald ...Calendar

Herald Readers are Requested to Phone Announcements for Department to 340.

Thursday, January 1, 1914

Royal Highlanders' annual supper, M. B. A. hall. Installation of officers at 8 p.m.

Schubert Concert company at the opera house, auspices of the Ladies Guild.

Y. M. B. C. skating party. Meet at club rooms at 1 p. m.

The right day to join The Herald's Happy Family if you are not already a member.

WHISTON COMING TO ALLIANCE SOON

The "Gatling Gun" Evangelist Will Commence Meetings at the Christian Church Sunday

R. F. Whiston, known as the "Gatling Gun Evangelist," will conduct a series of special meetings at the Christian church, corner Ninth and Box Butte, commencing next Sunday, January 4. Mrs. Whiston will assist in the music. There will be special music at every service.

The services will be short but exceptionally interesting. Those who attend will be splendidly entertained and a hearty welcome will be given to all. "Come early—follow the ushers."

BAYLE AND PATSY ON A WORLD TOUR

Famous Vaudeville Team Just Returning from Two Year Tour of Eastern Countries

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday there will appear at the Crystal as a special feature a Sullivan and Considine act which is just returning from a two year tour thru Honolulu, Japan, China, India and the Philippine Islands. They have a refined comedy and singing act htat stands preeminent in the vaudeville world. Bayle is known as one of the best baritone singers on the stage today.

CARD FOR SOW BELLY CANON

The Herald has printed for distribution on a number of large cards a poem by Charles B. Clark, Jr., entitled "Bacon". It is a takeoff on the diet of the frontiersmen and pioneers of the west. The first of these cards to be given out from the office was taken by Rev. D. W. Montgomery. He wanted it to take to "Sow Belly Canon," a place he visits in his ministerial travels.

The disappearance of the mint bed from the White House garden will be noted with silent scorn by Kentucky statesmanship.

Read The Daily Herald.