

WILL OMIT BACK STAMPING LETTERS

Postmaster Moorhead Received Word From Postmaster-General Hitchcock Saying Backstamping Can be Omitted.

DURING HOLIDAY RUSH

An Extra Clerk an Extra Carrier and a Delivery Wagon Will Help Out Wonderfully, Local P. O. Department.

Postmaster S. W. Moorhead has been invested with the power to omit until the annual holiday rush at the postoffice is over, the "back stamping" of all mail, work having been received from Postmaster General Frank H. Hitchcock of Washington, to that effect.

This bit of news will be much welcomed by the local postoffice department as it means the saving of much valuable time and the addition of another clerk in the clerical department of the office. Much time is taken in the back-stamping of letters and this requires the attention of a clerk to do this work. The post office department of the country, realizing the rush in the large offices of the country which occurs each year at this time, have authorized postmasters to do away with backstamping of mail during the holidays, which in the local office will mean up until the third of January if the congested condition of the mails here exists until that time.

This does not make special delivery and registered mail exempt from this order however and these pieces of mail which come under that class will continue to be back stamped.

Extra Help.

The annual post office rush is on with a good spirit in the Keokuk postal department. Each year with the advent of the holidays, comes the big rush of Christmas packages through the mails which are flooded with them and requires much extra work on the part of the clerks to attend to them. Like the merchant's store clerks of the city, the postoffice clerks have their difficulties with the hundreds, and thousands of packages large and small which go all over the world to make others happy. Could the maintenance of the clerk be mimeographed on the exterior of these packages, the receiver wouldn't be liable to find a smile imprinted thereon all of the time.

In the local office, the addition of another clerk, Neis Sorenson and an extra carrier will assist during the holiday rush. On Thursday of this week, a wagon will be pressed into service to assist in the delivery of packages which would be burdensome to the regular carriers.

LEE M'GEE A LIKELY YOUNGSTER

Former Iowa League, Player Making Good in Higher Company— Played With Burlington.

St. Louis Sporting News. "Lee Magee, the likely looking youngster who has made a good impression at second base for the Cardinals has just returned to his home in Cincinnati from the Pacific coast and is kidding the Redland scribes about their not taking some of the tips he gave them earlier in the year. It seems that he recommended Pitcher Gilligan, Pernoll, Greeg and Killian, three of whom found their way into fast company—but not into the society of the Reds. "I was right when I declared that Gaspar would prove a find, said Magee, "wasn't it? Well I'm just as right about these other fellows. Any one of them would have made good with the Reds, especially this fellow Gilligan, who pitched such a fine game toward the end of the season for the St. Louis Americans against Washington. There's one comer left out there in the person of Pitcher Baker. He's a southpaw, built on the order of Pat Ragon, and he will be good and ripe in another season." All the same, Lee should be giving his tips to Manager Bresnahan. He brought back with him a beautiful gold watch charm, presented for what he did to help win the pennant of the Northwestern league. That he did help some is evidenced by the fact that he batted very strongly early in the season, though he fell off during the summer. Then he spurred toward the end of the year, pulling his average up to the .280 mark, or the entire season. He went out to the Pacific slope, by the way, to play second base—the position he will probably have to fight out here with Mowery here—but was

CITY IS OVER AN INFERNO (Continued from page 1.)

pressed into service as a first baseman and made good."

to the top of the building. The jar of the explosion threw the big Mall and Breeze press into gear and it ran all the time the fire was raging.

About twenty-five people were working in the building at the time. More than 400 are employed there during week days.

The cables in the Bell Telephone conduit, which runs through the basement under the sidewalk, were burned out, and a portion of the city is without Bell telephone connection.

Fire department officials say that the natural gas came from a leak in one of the city gas mains and was conducted to the Capital building through a telephone conduit. This is the third gas explosion in the business district within the last week. Mayor Green says the gas mains are in a leaky condition and that the business district of Topeka is standing over a veritable gas reservoir. The people are greatly alarmed. The gas company has been ordered to replace all of its old gas mains in the business section with new pipes immediately.

"In ordinary weather, with normal gas pressure, the gas from the leaks easily seeps through the ground to the surface," said Fire Chief Wilmarth. "But for two weeks the ground has been covered with a sheet of ice. The weather has been cold and the gas pressure has been even beyond the maximum. As a result, more gas has been forced through the leaks, and, as it could not seep to the surface on account of the coat of ice, it has been driven into the sewers and telephone conduits, and the explosions have resulted."

THE CHINESE ARE AFTER TOURISTS (Continued from page 1.)

route to Macao, where there is little danger of an uprising. If there is any evidence of ill feeling I will see that the entire Canton part of the trip is abandoned.

"Personally I do not feel that there is the slightest danger. The people in our excursion are all persons of means and the natives are always glad to see them by reason of the liberal purchases they make. At every port they have touched they have been received with open arms, and the native element has been keenly appreciative of the custom that comes from 650 Americans of wealth and standing.

"One must remember that the Chinese character is always primed for discussions of uprisings. The people are excitable and talkative, but I am not fearful of any violence." [Mr. and Mrs. Albert Connable of Keokuk and J. D. Rebo of Wayland are among those in this party of Americans.]

SHIP REMAINS BACK TO CHINA

Two Celestials Who Were Buried Twenty-Two Years Ago Have Been Unearthed.

UNION CITY Ind., Dec. 20.—After they had been buried in the cemetery here for twenty-two years, the bones of How Kong and his brother, known as Chung Lung, were dug up and in suit cases were taken to Cleveland. Soon, with the bones of twenty-five other Chinese who have died in this country, they will be shipped to Hong Kong.

Bow Hong and Chung Lung died in a hideous tragedy in a little laundry they operated for their brother, Sam Hong. Bow Hong, after trying in vain to persuade Chung Lung to desert Sam's laundry and start a place of their own, murdered his companion with an ax as he was sleeping. Bow Hong then plunged into his own body many times a crooked Chinese dagger, and finally thrust the weapon into his throat before he fell.

Every year Chinese have put food on the graves of their two friends, so that the evil spirits might be placated and permit the dead to rest in peace.

AMBASSADORS ARE NOMINATED

France, Austria-Hungary and Mexico Representatives Have Been Named.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The president today sent the following nominations to the senate:

To be ambassador to France—Robert Bacon of New York.

To be ambassador to Austria-Hungary—Richard Kerens of Missouri.

To be ambassador to Mexico—Henry Lane Wilson of Washington.

Spartan Self-Denial. When Mr. D. known to be miserly, but not believed to be a miser, was approached delicately for a contribution to the organ fund, he shook his head courteously, but with an air of finality. "Charity," he said, "is a pleasure one must do without."—Youth's Companion.

"ORPHAN BOY" IN TROUBLE AGAIN

Fifty-Two Year Old Lonesome Youth Engages in Altercation With Petite Miss Mona Anthony.

DAVIS CASE UP AGAIN

Bound Over to Grand Jury but Sam Will Likely Escape Sentence if he Does the Right Thing.

Petite little Mona Anthony, the fifteen-year old waitress at Van Camp's boarding house, between Eighth and Ninth on Main, states positively that she will no longer stand the abuse and insulting words heaped upon her head by Theodore Sandford, the fifty-one year old orphan boy with the chin whiskers. Sandford has been filling the exalted position of dish washer and it was regarding duties attached to his position that is said to have caused the recent abusive words. As a result of this conflict, which by the way came to mar the Sabbath of the boarding house, Sandford is the defendant to an information filed in the superior court.

Little Miss Anthony and the "orphan boy," as he dubbed himself in court during a trial in which he was a leading figure some time ago, have both been employed at the boarding house. It seems as if several disputes have taken place between the two of late and the one Sunday resulted in a breach which may prove interesting before the trial is brought to a close. The girl charges Sandford with abusing her by using insulting language in her presence.

Action in Davis Case.

Realizing that the Davis family was a losing proposition for Lee county, the authorities were forced to take action today. Sam, head of the family, was bound over to the grand jury and unless he lives up to the agreement he has made between now and the next jury session, it is likely he will go to the penitentiary. In the meantime, however, he has agreed to go to work and donate regularly each week to his better half and the Davis child.

Davis has been in the city jail for two or three weeks past at an expense of so much per day, while Irene Davis, his wife, and the little child have been supported by the county. Davis was charged with desertion, but slipped one over the grand jurors at the last term by agreeing to support his wife and then falling to live up to agreement.

He now is going to work on the ice and will give \$4 every week to his family's support.

ARGUE WRIT OF CERTIORARI

Attorneys Engaged in Legal Battle Before Judge H. Bank, Jr., this Afternoon.

Opposing attorneys are engaged in a pretty legal battle before Judge H. Bank, Jr., in the district court this afternoon, the application of L. M. Hartley, of "Hartley road" fame, for a writ of certiorari being argued. Mr. Hartley is represented by J. C. McCold of Mt. Pleasant, and the board of supervisors, which is protesting against the application being granted, by United States Attorney Stewart of Fort Madison.

The Hartley case has been reviewed a number of times. Mr. Hartley is seeking to take his case into court and secure the closing of a road through his land, which was opened for a public highway by the Lee county board of supervisors.

PERSONALS.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Lanning of Alberton, Montana, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Mott, 526 South Fifth street.

Mrs. H. Chandler 710 C street will leave tomorrow for Beacon, Iowa, where she will visit for a month with relatives.

CITY NEWS.

The Roll-a-way opened today under a new management and a liberal patronage is expected from the many enthusiasts of this indoor winter pastime. The rink will continue to be open in the afternoon and evening and the admission to those who do not wish to skate will be free. The new management will assure the most courteous treatment to patrons.

Forgot the Book. A lady who ordered some carol costs to be sent up on "appro," on Saturday returned them on the Monday following with the message: "None were suitable." The next morning she received a courteous communication from the head of the department returning her prayer-book, which had been found in the pocket of one of the coats.

—Read The Daily Gate City, 10 cents a week.

GIRL ACCEPTS MAN'S CHALLENGE

Typewriting Contest Has Been Arranged Between Press and Lottie Smith.

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 20.—Lottie L. Smith of Spokane, has accepted the challenge of H. B. Press of Seattle, graphophone transcriber in the Alaska coal inquiry here, to a contest of typewriting for speed and accuracy. She would limit the competition to 125 pages of copy from direct dictation at an average speed of 75 words a minute, accuracy to be the main point. The match will take place in Spokane or Chicago early in January. Press accepts the new conditions. His original challenge was for a Marathon contest at a speed of not less than fifty words a minute, to continue until one of the typists gives up. One of Miss Smith's feats was to make the entire transcript of the deliberations of the seventeenth National Irrigation Congress in Spokane August 9 to 14, delivering the copy ten hours after the final session.

SANTA CLAUS HAS NEW WHISKERS

Burned His Old Set Off But Has Ordered an Asbestos Set From Iowa Firm.

DES MOINES, Dec. 20.—Word has reached the branch office of Santa Claus in this city that the famous old saint met with a terrible misfortune several days ago. While working near a redhot stove, ruins the report, the long flowing whiskers, without which the good old fellow would not be recognized, became ignited. Despite the valiant efforts of Dame Santa, working near, to extinguish the flames, in a twinkling the facial adornment of her husband went up in smoke. Otherwise the aged God of children was unharmed.

For several days the realms of Toyland were cast in deep gloom over the dire misfortune, but the fertile brain of Santa Claus soon came to the rescue. He placed an order with a local wholesale firm for a big bunch of asbestos whiskers. These he will glue to his face in place of the ones so cruelly snatched away.

So, despite the hard luck, old Santa Claus will look just the same as he has appeared for ages back.

Cook in Norway.

NEW YORK, December 20.—Intimate friends of Dr. Frederick A. Cook who are on pins and needles, as it were, pending the decision on his data at Copenhagen, said that, in their belief, Dr. Cook is at the home of a friend in Christiansand, Norway, with in easy call of Copenhagen. It is thought Dr. Cook left this country on the steamer United States, which sailed on Thanksgiving Day. Walter Lonsdale, the explorer's secretary, is known to have sailed on the vessel.

CITY NEWS

—Dr. Fred B. Smales is now at his office.

—Do not fail to see that line of toys at Wolfe's.

—Bargain prices in all house slippers, while they last. Star Shoe Store.

—A Montrose man brought down to Deputy Auditor Vermillion this afternoon eight gophers for which he will receive from the country eight cents, or ten cents apiece. Gophers are extremely destructive to crops and land and the county thus puts a bounty on them.

—Toys and games, at Wolfe's, 708 Main street.

—Fine line of men's house slippers, 75c while they last. Star Shoe Store.

—Miss Ruth R. Baker and Pearl L. Graham of Wyaconda were united in marriage this afternoon by Justice John Leindecker.

—In consideration of \$1,134 Chester P. Cory and wife have transferred to Charles Hagneir and wife about nineteen acres of land in Stimpson's addition.

—Holly and evergreen wreathings, "Wolfe's."

—Fred W. Burgess has obtained a quit claim deed to lot 7, block 51, Reid's addition.

—The Roll-a-way opened today with a new manager in charge and a liberal patronage is looked for during the holidays. Admission to the rink is free, both afternoon and evening.

—The public schools will close for the holidays Thursday evening, December 23 and will open again January 3, giving a vacation of slightly over a week.

—The ice was moving very slowly in the river today and it is probable that the stream is blocked below Keokuk.

—Since the advent of the early leaving of the morning Wabash train from this city some who do not care to get up before 4.40 a. m., make use of the freight caboose in getting over into Illinois.

—Local shippers are paying a cent more for turkeys today than they did Saturday and the luscious fowl will no doubt be somewhat of a luxury on Christmas tables.

—Nice green northern grown X: as trees at Wolfe's, 708 Main.

—Through the efforts of the Humane society and Retail men's business association of the city, the hearts of horsemen will be gladdened, at least ten barrels of salt having been administered to the icy surfaces of Bank and Main street hills, from the levee to Second street this morning to lessen the danger of horses falling down and becoming injured on the inclines.

THE NEW CHURCH WAS DEDICATED

First Baptist Church at Blandinsville is Now Ready to be Used as a House of Worship.

Built of White Faced Cement Blocks and Compares Favorably With Churches in Much Larger Places.

IS NOW FREE FROM DEBT

[Special to The Gate City.] BLANDINSVILLE, Ill., Dec. 20.—The large new First Baptist church was dedicated here Sunday, Rev. Judson B. Thomas, D. D., of Chicago, delivering the principal address. The dedicatory program calls for special services every night, except Saturday of this week.

The new church is one of the handsomest of its kind in western Illinois, outside of the cities, and would be a credit to any community of many times the size of Blandinsville. Its outward appearance is very attractive and its general outline suggests roominess. It is constructed of white faced cement blocks, every alternate layer being only six inches thick. The alternate feature adds materially to the beauty and attractiveness of the structure. The auditorium is reached through the main entrance which opens from a concrete veranda and reception hall to the left of the pulpit platform, which occupies the front of the main building.

Back of the auditorium is a large Sunday school room, dining room and kitchen. The entire interior is finished in natural pine. The walls and ceilings throughout the entire building are frescoed in delicate tints which add to the pleasing appearance of the building. An appropriate piece of scenery done in water colors forms the background for the baptismal font which is immediately back of and opens upon the pulpit platform.

The building of the new church has been almost entirely in the hands of Rev. Oranger, E. E. Voorhees and Charles O. Griggsby. They began work in May of this year and by dint of constant watchfulness and everyday pushing have completed a church which is a credit to any small city.

The basement contains dressing rooms and back of them two furnaces. The building is fitted out with a mammoth Acetylene-Electric Mfg. Co. gas plant, and handsome light fixtures and lamps.

This church is good for a \$15,000 appearance but the cost was placed at a much lower figure. The debt to be cleared Sunday morning was \$4,995, nearly all of which was raised in less than one hour, and the remainder during the evening session.

The program of the week began Sunday morning, with Rev. J. Clark Oranger, pastor, in charge. Rev. Oranger is a young man who came to Blandinsville about three years ago. He is one of those born hustlers whom all the people admire. Everybody, without regard to church affiliation, has a good word to say for Rev. Oranger. He is a plain man with a wholesome smile. He is a toller among men and arouses among others the enthusiasm he feels himself. He is a native of Iowa, and attended Iowa College and finished at the Moody Bible Institute. The new church at Blandinsville is largely the outgrowth of Rev. Oranger's push and enthusiasm. He sets an example and others are not slow to follow where he leads.

"Praise ye the Lord," is the motto of the Blandinsville church, and it was with this song that the choir opened the Sunday program. The choir was assisted by Miss Lydia Martin and Miss Maude Nelson, vocalists of Galesburg, and Miss Ruth Gebhart, pianist, and Miss Celestia Gebhart, violinist, from Knox college.

Rev. Judson B. Thomas, D. D., of Chicago, using the second chapter of James for a morning lesson and the 10th verse of the 19th chapter of St. Luke for a text, preached a short but well received sermon appropriate for the occasion. Dr. Thomas, for fourteen years was secretary of the Baptist missionary society, and probably has a greater personal acquaintance among the people of his denomination.

Why Thunder is So Loud.

Experiments made in the Jefferson Physical Laboratory by Professor Trowbridge of Harvard university show that the astounding noise of a lightning discharge is largely due to the dissociation of water vapor, through the explosion of the hydrogen and oxygen gases produced by such dissociation. In his mimic lightning experiments the authority referred to has produced a torrent of huge electric sparks. The noise of the discharge was so great that the operator had to stop his ears with cotton and then wrap a heavy cloth around them.

Caught.

"Pshaw!" exclaimed Miss Yerner, impatiently. "I'm sure we'll miss the first act. We've waited a good many minutes for that mother of mine." "Hours, I should say," Mr. Sloman retorted rather crossly. "Ours? Oh, George," she cried, and laid her blushing cheek upon his shirt front.

Not in That Class.

Wigg—"Miss Caustique says she is very fond of young Saphedde." Wagg—"Why, I thought she was a man-hater." Wigg—"So she is. I suppose that's why she likes Saphedde."

LeBron's 404 Main RELIABLE WATCHES For Christmas Gifts.

When You Buy Clothes Our Way

You cut out the element of doubt. We've a habit here of using the word "satisfaction" as something more than a mere "talking point."

It's an existing reality, and it proves out in the clothes. That means a lot of care and knowledge on our part.

Order a suit or overcoat and you'll be pleased.

Henry F. Krueger The Tailor 14 South Fifth

Farms for Sale

Stock farm 316 acres well improved, 10 miles out, (\$50) per acre. A splendid grain farm, close to Summitville, 160 acres practically all in cultivation, (\$65) per acre. Land all around this last farm selling for from (\$80) to (\$100) per acre. 140 acres 7 miles out, well improved, (\$45) per acre. 150 acres 9 miles out, 1/2 in cultivation, lays fine, (\$35) per acre, improvements good. Dozens of others.

M. S. ACKLES Room 1, Estes Bldg., Keokuk, Iowa.

WANT COLUMN

WANTED—Men to learn the barber trade. Splendid pay after few weeks with us. Shop experience and wages while learning. Tools, demonstrations, and diplomas given. Big demand for Moler graduates. Catalogue mailed free. Moler Barber College, St. Louis, Mo.

WANTED—About 30 men to work on ice. Wagon leaves 12th & Main at 6:30 each morning to take men out, will bring them back in evening. White Ice house. Henry Becker.

FOR RENT—Modern cottage, 516 Orleans ave. Inquire 504 Orleans ave.

FOR RENT—213 Concert street. Inquire W. B. Daniels, or 206 High street.

FOR RENT—Dwelling on Fulton street, and dwelling on Morgan, modern improvements. Inquire 727 Morgan.

FOR RENT—New modern six-room dwelling, with furnace, 927 Franklin and seven room house with barn, 17th and Franklin. Inquire 929 Franklin street.

FOR SALE—Three wood heaters, in good condition. Inquire 314 Exchange street.

LOST.—Gold locket; initials, "L. L. L."; Return to Gate City.

LOST—Saturday, purse containing \$10.00 gold piece, on or near Fourth and Main street Ten cent store. Return to this office. Reward. 1t

A Happy Idea. "I save all my bon bon boxes and all the scraps of my dresses," explains one woman, "and when I get each box full, I put in a little 10-cent doll, child's thimble, thread and needles and give the boxes to little girls at the day nursery. They take a perfect delight in having small dolls to dress and something to dress them in."

If You Want to Be Liked. Listen graciously to advice kindly given. Of course, there will not be the least necessity for you to take it; but, on the other hand, you may learn something that will be a very real help to you, either at the time or later.—Home Chat.

A New Industry. "I see that some of these theatrical stars have plays written especially for them." "What of it, senator?" "Why couldn't I have a few anecdotes written especially for me to figure in? Eh, what?"

Bilious? How are your bowels? The doctor always asks. He knows how important is the question of constipation. He knows that inactivity of the liver will often produce most disastrous results. We believe Ayer's Pills are the best liver pills you can possibly take. Sold for over 60 years.

Finest Display of Leather Goods EVER SHOWN IN KEOKUK NOW ON DISPLAY AT City Drug Store 700 Main