

THE DENISON REVIEW

Aldrich chas curator
Historical dept

VOLUME 43

DENISON, IOWA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1907.

No. 41

TRIAL PROGRESSING.

Third Week of Testimony In Famous Murder Case.

HASSANS ON THE STAND.

Make Good Impression as Witnesses—State Springs Surprise in Ninus Montgomery—Trial Will Last All This Week.

The story of Joe Hassan as told on the witness stand was an interesting one. Without attempting to give the seemingly interminable questions and answers we give a brief synopsis of his testimony under direct examination.

Joseph Hassan was born in Syria twenty-two years ago. He came to America in 1901 landing in New York and then going to Fort Dodge, at which place there were people from his locality. He started as a peddler, the first month going on foot and carrying his pack. He then obtained a horse and wagon, and has since been traveling about the country as a peddler his territory for the most part being between Denison and Fort Dodge. In 1905 his brother Solomon and his cousin Fred Nawfl, the murdered man, started for this country. Solomon was delayed enroute and Nawfl reached here first. Joe testifies that when Nawfl reached New York he was out of funds and that upon his security \$20. was wired him by Ferris Daniels, a wholesaler. Nawfl came to Fort Dodge. Joe backed him for goods and he started out as a peddler carrying his pack. A couple of months later Solomon arrived on the scene and was started out in the same way. Joe and Solomon were in partnership, that is, Joe bought goods in his own name for both, but Nawfl bought in his own name, with Joe as security. Joe taught the boys to read and write Syrian to a limited extent. They pursued the life of peddlers, roving about the country but generally planning to meet at least once in two weeks.

Shortly before Christmas the boys met at Denison on a Saturday and according to Joe it was then that he and Fred met the woman with whom he

states he left Fred Nawfl on the fateful Saturday night, January 5th. Solomon was but a boy and the two elders did not let him know about their adventure. The three left Denison Saturday night and went together to Frank Larson's near Kiron. They spent Sunday in that vicinity, hunting together and appearing to be good friends. Just before Christmas the three met in Panama, and together they went to Omaha. The defense attempts to show the friendly relation existing by the fact that Joe ordered repairs for Freds wagon and had them sent back to Panama, that the three were together constantly in Omaha on a friendly footing, that Joe was held as security for goods bought by Fred while in Omaha. The defense seeks to prove that Fred had little money, first because he failed to pay for all the goods he purchased in Omaha, and second because he is alleged to have borrowed ten dollars of Joe. On New Years Day the three returned to Panama. The next day they separated, the Hassans went through Earlring together and then they separated. On the road that afternoon Solomon and Nawfl met, they stopped and played ball together and when they separated Nawfl kept the ball and bat. (This is a part of Solomon's story.) Solomon and Joe later met on the road and stayed over night at Joe Kepford's near Buck Grove.

Before leaving Panama the boys had agreed to meet in two weeks at Panama, but Fred suggested to Joe that they meet in Denison on the next Saturday as they had the Saturday before Christmas. This was arranged and later Solomon asked Joe where he would be on Saturday and Sunday. Joe told him and Solomon said he would try to come also.

Joe reached Denison on Thursday Jan. 3rd. His wagon spring was broken and he took it to Roeh's blacksmith shop to be mended. He stayed that night at Oscar Goodrich's. On Friday he came to Denison, had his horses shod and later in the afternoon he started for Johnson's north of Deloit, stopping at Goodrich's on the way. He stopped over night at Johnson's and then borrowed their light wagon and drove to Denison. He reached here early on the afternoon of Saturday Jan. 5th. Put up his team and then went to ascertain if Nawfl had reached town. They generally met either at the postoffice or the railway station. On his Satur-

day the two met near the Central station. While talking here they met the woman in the case and made an appointment to meet her at ten o'clock that night at the Central freight station. The boys then went up town, had something to eat and went to Grill's barn and got Joe's team which they drove to the Central station and tied to a telephone pole. As Solomon had not arrived by team they thought he would come in by train. He did and Joe met him, Nawfl keeping out of sight as he did not want Solomon to see him on account of the woman deal. Joe met Solomon who asked for Fred, Joe said he was about and he would go and talk with him, and for Solomon to watch the team. According to the story Solomon thereupon watched the team for three or four hours while Joe and Nawfl went together. Joe claims that they met the woman as per appointment and that the three went to the pump house in the field north of the road and west of the Central tracks. They remained there for sometime and then Joe said he must go. Nawfl did not want to go, made some excuse that his horse was lame, and the woman said she would see that he got to a hotel all right, so Joe left the two, returning to Solomon and the team started for Johnson's and went directly to the reaching there about 1:30 in the morning. The next morning he and Solomon spent in rearranging and packing goods as it was customary for them to do on a Sunday. He left Johnson's Monday morning and proceeded on his way leisurely, following his trade of peddling so that when he first heard of the murder he was at Hitchings' place not ten miles from Johnson's. He was greatly startled by the news, so much so that he started on foot to run to Ells to get a train for Denison. Finding he could not go far on foot, he borrowed a light wagon of Hitchings, left his peddler wagon and started for Ells, he missed the train there, borrowed a saddle of Mr. Ells and came on horseback to Denison. He went before the coroner's jury, stated that night at Goodrich's, returning to Denison the next day and was then placed under arrest. Joe claims that he had at no time had any trouble, misunderstanding or unfriendliness with Nawfl. One of the strong points made by the defense is that no attempt was made to get away, although several days elapsed from

Saturday night until suspicion was directed to Joe.

Solomon Hassan's story was in the main the same as that told by Joe.

He told about coming to Denison on Saturday, January 5th, says he staid with the team and then drove to Johnson's with Joe. Did not see Nawfl. He told of his subsequent movements, said he knew nothing of murder until after arrested near Sac City and that he was not hastening to get away. He said that on the road between Earlring and Kepford's he met Nawfl and they played ball together and Nawfl keep the ball and bat. He swore to the friendly relations between Nawfl and Joe. The defense introduced a number of Syrian witnesses from Omaha and Ferris Daniel of Ft. Dodge who testified as to friendly relations, movements of the boys at Omaha and identified goods as similar to those they had sold Joe Hassan at different times.

As to the blood said to have been found on Joe's coat, he swore that he did not wear that coat on Saturday Jan. 5th and that if there was blood on it, it must have been his own as he was subject to nose bleed.

Stated briefly the defense denies the charge, alleges that prior relations were most friendly, that there was no motive for crime, as Nawfl had little money and no large amount of goods. It is admitted that both the Hassans were in Denison on Jan. 5th. That Joe was with him, but left him with a woman back of the I. C. pump house about 10:30 p. m. It is claimed that no goods can be identified as having belonged to Nawfl and other incriminating evidence is explained away.

Mysterious Blood Stains

The most mysterious feature of the case, the one which baffles both state and defense is this; Joe Hassan's wagon and effects were brought to Denison the week following the murder. Will Laub brought them in, stored them in his barn and staid there all night to guard them. They were viewed by several that night. When examined later, one grip was found to be smeared with blood, which was not there when grip was first examined. How, When, Where, and by whom this was done in an unsolved mystery.

The Hassans made good witnesses; they were little shaken by cross examination and made good appearance on the stand.

Today and yesterday was given over to rebuttal evidence produced by the state. This consisted largely in showing unfriendly relations between Nawfl and Joe Hassan. New testimony of a sensational nature was brought in when Ninus Montgomery and Miss Lundgren swore that Joe and Solomon were in the Merchants Cafe for lunch between 11 and 12 o'clock on the night in question.

The court room was crowded when Mrs. Max Koplan was placed on the stand this afternoon. She is a pleasant faced Jewish woman, she said she was 28 years old had lived in this county about a year. She swore that she had never seen Fred Nawfl, Jos Hassan or Solomon Hassan on or before Jan. 5th. That she was not with any of them either at the I. C. freight station, pump house or any other place. She said she spent evening and night of Jan. 5th at home. Mrs. Geo. Koplan and Max Koplan corroborated this story. Max the husband of the woman accused as being the last person with Nawfl, said he got home between 4 and 5 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, that he staid at home until Sunday forenoon and that his wife was with him. There was some difficulty in examining these witnesses on account of their unfamiliarity with English. It is probable that the evidence will be all in Thursday night. Two days is not too much to estimate for the pleas and Judges instructions and the case will probably go to the jury by Saturday night.

GUSTAV GIRARD DEAD

Respected Farmer Dies Near Schleswig After Long Illness

Mr. Gustav Girard one of the prominent German farmers of Otter Creek township died at his home on Saturday Oct. 5th after a painful illness which has lasted for many months. Funeral services were held this afternoon many friends from all over the county being in attendance. A more extended obituary of this worthy and honored citizen will be published next week.

The argument in the Hassan case will come on Thursday and Friday of this week.

Filsworth Green returned last week from Boynton, I. T. and has been visiting relatives in this county and at Rolfe, Iowa.

SAVED THE HOUSE

Prompt Action of A Young Lady at the Fire Tuesday

There was excitement at the home of Mrs. W. W. Jackson just after dinner on Monday, the young woman who is assisting in the home during the sickness of Mrs. Jackson went up stairs after dinner to procure a book of postal card views, and on reaching the top looked out and saw a small flame coming up through the roof of the kitchen. On looking saw that the time she made in reaching the foot of the stairs, grabbing a pail and filling it with water and pouring on the flame was simply record breaking. The fire alarm was turned in, but Lute Seeman and George McHenry living near came with a rush and attached a long lawn hose to the hydrant and put the flames out with little damage to the house. It is thought that sparks from the kitchen chimney set the roof on fire.

Mrs. Bird Wygant Alyswoth has charge of the library during Miss Meyers absence.

Frank Gibson has made extensive improvements to the house he bought on South Main near the Raine property.

P. W. Weberg has bought the Nelson property south of town on the road to the cemetery. He means to get up where the water will not reach him in future floods.

There were a number of people up from Panama to testify in the Hassan case. They came to deny some of the statements by the defendants as what they did, and what they had, when at Panama last January.

The Degree of Honor had a delightful gathering at their hall last night. As there were several other attractions it was decided to postpone the "Blind Auction" but the lodge members and friends had a jolly evening nevertheless. The Degree of Honor is one of the Denison lodges that is rapidly pushing to the front.

Russell Norman leaves to-morrow night for Cumberland, Md., where he has accepted a position as piano tuner with the Morrison Music Co. He has a good job and we believe he will be able to hold it down in good shape. He is a clever hard working boy and with his natural love of music he is sure to succeed in his profession.

Have you seen our line of Cloaks? Our Winter stocks are complete

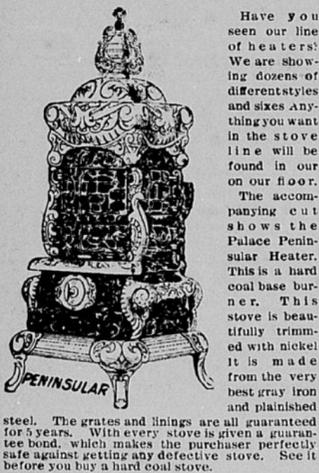
It will pay you to take a look at our showing if you are in the market for a cloak.

Our prices on heavy Underwear, Blankets, Comforts, Flannels, Fleece and Woolen Hose are the very lowest.

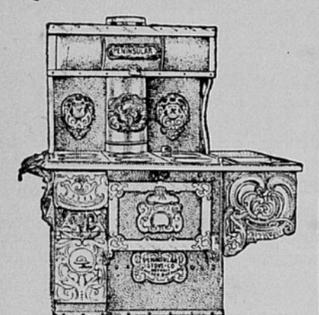
Husking Mitts, Gloves, Husking

Pins of all kinds. Our stocks are complete and our prices the very lowest. Prices range from 50c to \$1.00 per doz.

Stoves! Heaters!



RANGES!!



Peninsular Ranges are the standard in the stove world. These ranges are made from the very best cast steel and have a 4 inch punch feed. It has a double blue bottom below the oven. This keeps the oven from being suddenly chilled. There are a number of different points of superiority these ranges have over others. Call and make a thorough investigation of our line before you buy.

CLOAKS! CLOAKS! CLOAKS!

Anything you want in a cloak will be found in our line. No place can a more Up-to-Date showing be found. All of the new styles and colors of the season and not one single old garment in the line. All it takes is a look to show you the quality of our cloaks.



Ladies' Cloaks.

The accompanying cut shows one of our big leaders. This cloak is made up in black kersey. It is beautifully trimmed with silk braid and velvet around collar and over shoulders, and has imitation cuffs. A bargain at

\$12.50

CLOAKS FOR THE MISSES.

Gray Astrakan cloaks, sizes 10, 12 and 14, at \$6.75

Fancy mixture cloaks, trimmed in brown silk braid and velvet sizes 16 and 18. price \$8.00

Blue and browns in all of the best shades and in sizes that run almost as large as ladies sizes. These cloaks are very good values. Ranging in price from \$6.48 to \$12.50

CLOAKS FOR THE BABY.

Don't think for a moment that we have forgotten the baby. Our line of bear cloth in curly and colors is complete. All sizes. Price \$2.50 to \$4.19.

Gray Astrakan cloth, cloaks beautifully trimmed with silk braid at \$4.50



Ladies' Cloaks

The accompanying cut shows No. 8800. The cloak is made from black broad-cloth, imitation fur lined, has a six inch sable fur collar.

This cloak is a remarkable value, at

\$22.50

Fur Coats.



We are now showing the largest line of fur coats in this county. The famous "Gorden & Ferguson" coats are still the leaders. Every coat is guaranteed to be made from the very best selected furs and the workmanship the most skilled. Our prices are the lowest.

We are agents for the biggest and best manufacturers line of ladies' sealskin coats. You will find our prices the lowest on the best grade of goods.

Wizard Flour

Has no competitor — just as good — use it, every sack is guaranteed.

\$1.50 per sack.

Geo. Menagh & Co.
We Pay Cash for Butter and Eggs
Denison, Iowa.

Fresh Oysters,
Celery and Cranberries

Send us your orders

Winter Underwear and Hose.

Our stock of ladies', gents' and children's underwear are larger than we have ever before shown.
Gents' heavy fleeced underwear, garment \$3.00
Gents' brown ribbed underwear, per garment \$1.00
Gents' fleeced under suits per garment \$1.00
Ladies' good quality fleeced underwear, garment \$1.00

RUBBERS AND OVERSHOES