

The True Northerner.

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MERRIMAN WINS P. O. CONTEST

Fred Merriman to Succeed V. W. Olds as Postmaster at Hartford.

NEWS CAME LAST TUESDAY

Several Candidates, Including Present Postmaster, in Race. New Official is Cashier in Bank.

The Hartford post office contest is ended and Fred G. Merriman will soon be the new postmaster. The following from the Hartford Day Spring of this week will give complete details of the contest:

Fred G. Merriman is to become postmaster of Hartford.

A telegram to the Day Spring from Washington shortly after noon yesterday brought Hartford people their first news of the impending appointment. The Day Spring had made arrangements at the national capital to have news of the appointment wired immediately. The post office department yesterday filed its nomination of Mr. Merriman, and its action was quickly flashed over the wire to this paper.

Official announcement of the nomination of Mr. Merriman was published in the congressional record of yesterday, the telegram stated. It is expected that Merriman's official appointment and confirmation by the senate will soon follow.

The action of the post office department is the culmination of a long drawn out post-office campaign, which began last fall. Postmaster Olds, who has completed his second term, was a candidate for re-appointment and was opposed by Mr. Merriman, Eugene B. Bennett and Miss Adalyn Humphrey. All four candidates worked aggressively, and their combined petitions contained the names of nearly all the patrons of the office.

Postmaster Olds, who based his candidacy upon his record for efficient service and the announced policy of the post office department to favor the retention of postmasters where the service was satisfactory, is a good loser. When shown the telegram by the Day Spring yesterday he said: "Well, that settles it, and I am glad that it is over. I naturally desired the appointment, but I have no fault to find or stones to throw." Then with a smile he added,

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NARROW ESCAPE FOR KILLEFER

News Despatch Says "Red" Has Accident Which Nearly Cost Life.

The following clipped from the Kalamazoo Gazette would indicate that Wade Killefer had rather a narrow escape. The True Northerner has been unable to verify the story.

"Richman, Ky., March 19—Wade "Red" Killefer of Paw Paw, Mich., who is a member of the Minneapolis club of the American Association, narrowly escaped drowning here today at Reelfoot lake, near this place. Killefer and Wilbur Smith, both members of the Minneapolis team, were fishing when the boat capsized, precipitating the players into the water.

The accident took place during a rain and the two escaped only by clinging to the sides of the craft until rescued."

WOMEN CAN'T VOTE ON ROAD QUESTION

The question has been raised as to whether or not women would have a right to vote on the matter of good roads that is to be decided by the electors of the county at the election of April 1. In answer to a query propounded to him, Attorney General Kuhn decides that the matter is not within the purview of the constitution that gives the women the right of voting on certain specified propositions.

CRITICALLY ILL IN CHICAGO.

Word comes from Oshkema that D. K. Rix, one of the old residents of that section and well known in this county, has been very ill at the home of his daughter in Chicago for several weeks. He is past 83 years of age and his illness may be of a critical nature.

NO CRIMINAL WORK THIS TERM COURT

Chancery this Week and Civil Cases Set for Jury Next Week. Will Be Short Term.

Circuit court opened Monday afternoon. Only one attorney outside the village of Paw Paw was present. No criminal cases will be tried this term. This week was taken up with chancery cases. The following cases have been set for the week beginning March 25:

William Frangenheim vs. the Wilson Fruit Juice Co. Assumpsit.
John H. Leslie & Co vs. Fred W. Traxler et al. Replevin.
Charles W. Baker vs. Wm. Wishart. Replevin.

HAVENS GIVES THE FIGURES

Seeks to Show Benefits of Proposed County Road System.

The president of the Van Buren County Good Roads association showed a map of the county on which were placed some imaginary roads which touched every market town, railroad station and post office in the county. There was 248 1/2 miles, all together, and to make a reasonable allowance, he called it 250 miles, for county roads, which could be built at a cost of \$2,000 per mile for gravel (the average cost of gravel roads in Michigan is about \$1800 per mile.) 250 miles at \$2,000 will cost, \$500,000. Of this amount the state will

pay.....\$125,000.00
South Haven city and the 9 villages will pay..... 160,000.00
All other property..... 215,000.00
\$500,000.00

And this amount distributed over ten years would be \$50,000 a year and would get the roads.

At the present time the people of the county are voting on to themselves over \$60,000 a year (to be exact in 1909, \$61,752.93) to build roads and keep them in repair and this all outside of the city of South Haven, and \$27,405.64, the repair tax, outside of the incorporated village, making nearly \$500 on a \$1000, the farmers are paying to make roads for everybody to use. Our present rate of assessment for road purposes on all property outside of South Haven is \$4.32 on \$1,000 valuation. The county road system will spread the tax over all the property in the county, real and personal, including South Haven city (that pays \$12.00 of each \$100.00 in the county) and the county tax can not exceed \$3.00 on a \$1,000.00 and will get the roads.

FORMER PAW PAW MAN WAS KILLED

The Kansas City Times of last Monday gives the following account of an accident which resulted in the death of C. V. Bangs, a former resident of Paw Paw and brother of Mrs. E. F. Parks. "C. V. Bangs, foreman of the Missouri Valley Construction Company was struck by a flying timber while blasting ice and debris which had collected around the pier of the Chicago & Alton railroad bridge across the Blue river, yesterday afternoon. His death was almost instantaneous.

The workman was using dynamite and Bangs was standing about fifty feet from where the blast was discharged. A 40 pound chunk of wood, loosened from the crib by the explosion, was hurled through the air and struck Bangs on the head. It crushed his skull. Bangs lived at 133 North Topping avenue. He was 49 years old.

CIVIL ENGINEER IS HOME.

Civil Engineer W. H. Goss, who has been in Oklahoma on a business trip, has returned and is again ready to talk business with those who want surveying or civil engineer work done. Mr. Goss is an expert in this line of work and the many jobs that he has had in charge in this county are splendid testimonials of his ability. He was calling on Paw Paw friends the first of the week, and his permanent address now will be at his home in Bangor.

WOULD HAVE POOR SHOW.

Revenge is sweet! Just wait. Possibly the weather man will run for office some day. Will he be snowed under? The Van Buren county delegation is hereby instructed to do their duty.



ROBERT BACON, OUR ATHLETIC AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE.

AMBASSADOR BACON has frequently been compared with our President Roosevelt. The two men were contemporaries at Harvard, and they walked, swam, boxed and rode together. Each is an all round athlete and has not suffered business or political cares to wear him from his out of door pursuits. Mr. Bacon was one of the best halfbacks Harvard ever had and a crack polo-player. He is taller than his friend, the colonel, and, with his broad shoulders, upright carriage and handsome face, merits the title of the Adonis of the diplomatic service. He is a successful man of affairs, with a considerable record of achievement. He was a member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. and helped to organize the steel trust as well as James J. Hill's \$400,000,000 holding company, which was dissolved by the supreme court decision. He served as assistant secretary of state under President Roosevelt and held the state portfolio for six weeks in 1900. He was appointed ambassador to France in December, 1909.

What Is the Matter With the Michigan Fruit Situation?

BY W. T. DAVIS, PAW PAW

An attempt to supply the demand for No. 1 grades with inferior fruit.

Carelessness or something worse in the packing and grading of packages intended for shipment.

The cure for the evil to raise the grading and packing of the products for shipments. In the absence of such a law a large measure of co-operation will greatly help to fix a uniform grade for all shipments.

The Horticultural society can do more for Michigan fruit growers by bending its energies toward co-operation in the growing, picking and packing of the fruit crop than in any other way. Not large co-operative societies, but small ones at every shipping point in the fruit belt. This will bring every grower face to face with what his neighbor is doing and make the packages more uniform in quantity and quality.

Even neighborhood co-operation in cultivating, spraying, picking, packing and hauling to the railway would be a practical help toward raising the standard. Four men on adjoining twenties or less, each driving three or four miles to the shipping station daily a half dozen or dozen crates of cherries or strawberries or other fruit, could profitably organize to make one trip do for the four, just as the creamery men haul the milk to the station.

Canning factories to take up the surplus fruit or the seconds, leaving only the better grades for shipment, would greatly help the reputation of Michigan's table fruits. If a man buys a basket of grapes and finds them broken and sour, he justly resents the imposition and he waits a long time before he buys again. On the other hand if he gets fine quality of fruit in good, appetizing condition, it is quickly consumed and the second is ordered.

Michigan grapes, like Michigan apples, have a quality and richness of flavor superior to those of other states, but Michigan table grapes in eight pound baskets do not command a higher price; in fact, because of poor grading and

packing they do not find favor in the consumer's mind, and just so long as each individual grower picks, grades and packs according to the dictates of his own conscience so long will there be a woeful lack of uniformity in the condition, size and quality of the fruit shipped to market.

For certain fruits a central grading and packing house at the shipping station gives a measure of uniformity of package and quality, but the standard to be the highest should be fixed by law, requiring stamping on the outside of the package, the name and quality of the fruit, time of picking, together with the grower's name, if the fruit is to be shipped by any of the common carriers.

Many people refused to send their children to school until compelled to do so by statute. These same people, and others, perhaps, would ship culls and No. 2 grades as No. 1 unless there was a penalty attached to this kind of misrepresentation.

The large growers who sell the same trade year after year see the advantage of putting their names on each package of their fruit, as it is a guarantee of quality, but the small, hit or miss fruit man who makes his fruit a side issue, and who is careless or dishonest in putting up his baskets or barrels, gambles that he can work off his poor quality fruit at top prices by mixing his grades.

What we need is enlightenment and the quickest way to secure that is to make it expensive to be dishonest in misgrading fruit, the same as it is for obtaining money under false pretenses in other business transactions. It is just as necessary to have quality in a basket of grapes or a barrel of apples as it is to fix the standard of a bushel of wheat. No doubt but this will come sooner or later, but Michigan should first punish her growers who try to do the "shell game" with the fruit business by the aid of the common carriers. Make the fine twice the value of the shipment and see how quickly the culls are turned into waste instead of being shipped.

SPRING SONG WAS LITTLE TOO SOON

One Blizzard Follows Another in Rapid Succession, and It Seems the End Is Not Yet.

The True Northerner was a little previous in its statement about spring last week. We could almost hear the song of the blue birds and hear the gentle breezes blow through the maple leaves, but by the time the papers reached the homes of its readers the country was again in the throes of one of the worst blizzards of the winter, and as these lines are written, the first day of spring, it begins to look as though another blizzard was on the way. To be honest about it, we don't know when spring will come.

GLEANERS TO GET TOGETHER

County Federation of these Popular Clubs has Been Formed.

Van Buren County Federation of Arbor No. 12, was organized Monday p. m. at Paw Paw. Supreme lecturer Fred R. Marvin and wife of Detroit were present. Six arborers were represented and there was manifest a great deal of enthusiasm for a greater gleaner organization.

The following is a list of the officers elected and members of committees appointed:

C. G.—W. Shaffer, Porter Center Arbor
V. C. G.—John Haworth, Grape Leaf Arbor.

Lecturer—A. Jennett Lee, Eagle Lake Arbor.

Sec. Treas.—Bert Gleason, Gliddenburg Arbor.

Conductor—Percy Harris, Decatur Arbor.

Cou's.—Mrs. Percy Harris, Decatur Arbor.

Chaplain—A. S. Flagler, East Lake Arbor.

I. G.—J. W. Stull, Toquin Arbor.

O. G.—Carl Winslow, Grape Leaf Arbor.

G. W. Lee was appointed chairman of the Look-out committee and Mrs. Jay Hinckley of Paw Paw chairman of committee on Ladies' Federation Arbor Circle.

There were six arborers represented from around the county. The next regular meeting will be held at Lawrence on the first Tuesday of June, beginning at 10 o'clock a. m. A basket dinner will be served at noon and Lecturer, Mrs. Jennett Lee of Paw Paw will have a prepared literary program rendered.

FOUR DISTRICTS TO GET NO MONEY

The last session of the legislature made a change in the Primary School laws, which was ratified by the people as an amendment to the constitution and provided that any district having enough funds on hand to pay teachers' wages and primary tuition for a period of two years should be deprived of its share of primary money until such money shall have been used. This was to prevent districts from piling up a large fund, which under the law could be used for no other purpose.

Commissioner of Schools V. R. Hungerford, states to The True Northerner that under this change there are four districts in Van Buren county that will not draw primary money this year. The districts are No. 1 Arlington, No. 1 Fractional Arlington and Bangor, No. 3 Geneva and No. 5 South Haven.

LOCAL MERCHANT GETS PROMINENCE

The "Dry Goods Reporter," one of the official publications for the benefit of retail merchants, makes complimentary and honorable mention in its last issue of our townsman and popular merchant, W. R. Sellick. The Reporter contains a department called "What Does the Boss Say," which brings out letters from merchants all over the country in reply to various questions propounded which are of interest to the trade. Mr. Sellick answered one of such questions, and the article was complimented in the next issue.

LECTURE POSTPONED.

On account of Judge Des Vignes being indisposed he will not be able to give his lecture at Glendale until Thursday evening, March 28.

SHEPARD TELLS OF THE SOUTH

Thirty-four Page Letter Descriptive of Life in Sunny Clime.

NOW EATING STRAWBERRIES

Former Paw Paw Man is Pleased with Prospects of Success in His New Venture There.

A 34 page letter from L. E. Shepard of Gainesville, Florida, to M. H. Pugsley of this place is full of interest and a splendid descriptive account of the country in general. Following are extracts taken from it that will show his friends in Michigan that he is full of business and thoroughly in harmony with his new surroundings:

"We are eating strawberries grown on the plants that came from 'home' in the latter part of November.

"The weather has been cold, the thermometer registering 26°, which is very rare. It was cold enough to kill the string beans that were just podding. The season has been considered a bad one, but the drawbacks here are no more than in every other country.

"Buyers are already contracting cabbage at \$1.00 per crate, with good prospects for \$1.50. We have out 16 acres, which required 90,000 plants. A fair yield is 100 crates per acre.

"We are now busy with the lettuce. Let me say what I haven't learned about lettuce would fill a big book, but there is big money in it and I will succeed with it. One thing I learned in the north is that working a crop won't hurt it any.

"We are about 20 miles from the big strawberry section. The fruit sells for about \$6.00 per bushel. The growers are getting rich.

"Only a few years back there was very little corn raised here, now nearly enough for home use is grown.

"Cukes (cucumbers) were the best money crop last season. A fair crop is 500 to 700 hampers per acre and sell from 50 cents to \$1.50. You can almost hear the vines grow.

"Dear friends, we sure would enjoy being with you all today, but better still would like to entertain you at our southern home, 'The Scuppernon.'

Mr. Shepard's letter contains a great amount of things that are worthy of publication, but space forbids further comment.

POPULAR CLUB HELD MEETING

"Good Fellowship" Was in Order in Men's Club Wednesday Ev'ng.

The Fellowship Club held their semi-monthly meeting at the residence of County Commissioner Hungerford last Wednesday night. A goodly number of the faithful were there to enjoy the feast and flow both physical and intellectual. The physical was composed of unlimited quantities of ice cream and cake and punch and the intellectual was made up of music both instrumental and vocal by Messrs. Gorton and Mosier. There was a discussion, in which everybody took a part, on primary election, county road system, what constitutes an insurgent, who struck Billy Patterson, what is a standpatter, when is a man a four flusher and how many of the club have been "jackpotters."

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the entertainment committee and waded home in the snow.

EATON GAVE ADDRESS.

Marquis Eaton, formerly of Paw Paw was one of the principal speakers at the Commercial Club banquet in Kalamazoo last night. Mr. Eaton is now a member of one of the large law firms in Chicago. He has gained an enviable reputation not only as a lawyer but as a public speaker.

AN ENJOYABLE PARTY.

A large crowd enjoyed the dancing party given by the Rebekah lodge last Monday evening at the Maple City club rooms. The decorations were suggestive of St. Patrick's day, the club colors of pink and green prevailing. Downing's orchestra furnished the music and dancing continued until 1:30 o'clock.

Ford Wilber is acting in the capacity of official stenographer in the Hillsdale circuit court this week. The regular stenographer there is ill, and unable to attend to his duties.