

# THE ALMA RECORD.

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WHOLE NUMBER 1953

## REORGANIZE REPUBLIC IN NEW YORK CITY

Incorporated Under Laws of New York and Capitalized at \$1,000,000 Seven Per Cent Cumulative Preferred Stock and 62,500 Shares of Common

### LOCAL MEN FILL OFFICES

G. H. Burr of New York Elected Director of New Company at Recent Meeting

A complete reorganization of the Republic Motor Truck Company of this city under the laws of the state of New York was furthered in New York City last week. The papers of organization provide for a slight alteration in the name of the company, an increase in capital stock and a directorship of five men instead of seven as was found under the old organization. F. W. Ruggles, Charles G. Rhodes, Thomas A. Burr and Geo. W. Moore, who have been prominently connected with the concern since its first organization, represented the company's affairs at the reorganization meeting in the east.

With a few slight changes the directors and officers of the new company are the same. F. W. Ruggles will head the company as president and general manager. Thomas A. Burr and Francis King were elected vice presidents, Geo. W. Moore treasurer, and Charles G. Rhodes, secretary. George H. Burr was made a director of the company. Mr. Burr of the George H. Burr & Company, an investment, securities company, holds a prominent position in financial circles not only in New York, but throughout the country. It is understood that Mr. Burr will have charge of the company's affairs in the east.

Under the new organization the company will be known as the Republic Motor Truck Company, Inc., and will have a capitalization of \$1,000,000, 7 per cent cumulative preferred stock and 62,500 shares of common stock. At present \$750,000 has already been issued and paid into the company.

The three-year history of the Republic Motor Truck Company is pronounced by authorities in the industrial world as one of the biggest successes that has yet occurred in the motor truck business. In July 1913 the Alma Motor Truck Company was organized with a capital of \$500,000. A year a half later the company raised its capitalization to \$250,000, which was followed in September of the same year (1915) by another raise which placed the company's capital at half a million. The first six months following the organization of the Republic company saw 60 trucks sold to the trade. This number has been doubled, tripled and tripled in an effort to meet the demand. During the first six months of 1916, 3,000 trucks were sold. The Republic has representatives in practically every country in the world, who are constantly calling for more trucks stating that it is impossible to keep abreast of the demand.

The company has expended on buildings and equipment during its three years of life approximately \$200,000. At present there are 700 employees on the payroll and with the completion of the new half ton truck plant, which is now under construction, from 300 to 500 men will be added before the beginning of the year. At a meeting of the stockholders held in this city previous to the reorganization in New York a 20 per cent dividend was declared, 10 per cent to be paid now and the remainder at a future date. A motion was also passed by the stockholders transferring all the stock of the old company to the new organization.

Figures taken from the payroll of the Republic Motor Truck Company and given out with authority by E. M. Orr, indicate that the bonus system, recently adopted by the company to increase the individual efficiency of the men and at the same time increase the output, is successful thus far in the various departments where it is actually being worked. Mr. Orr states that the men are taking very kindly to the plan and daily appreciating what the system is doing for them. The bonus system will be gradually installed in all the mechanical departments of the factory.

The bonus system has been working about a month at the Republic factory and during that period the bonuses have been gradually increasing. At the first pay day two weeks following the installation of the system the factory paid out \$37,28 in bonus money. They pay checks last week showed that \$199,77 was paid to the men above their regular wages. This is an increase of \$162,49 in twelve days time. The highest bonus paid to any of the men was \$17.09 for two weeks. Many of the employees made \$10, \$12 and \$15 while others were only able to reach \$3 and \$4 over their wages.

Guy Gongwer of Flint is spending a few days in the city at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Gongwer on Woodworth Avenue.

### ASSIST IN CAMPAIGN

Civic League Will Have Every Woman Voter at the Polls Tuesday

At the monthly meeting of the Civic League held at the Free Reading Room, Friday, committees were appointed and plans completed to assist Mayor McKinney and the council as much as possible next Tuesday when the bond issue will come before the voters of the city. The members of the League during the time that remains will urge all women voters to go to the polls next Tuesday and if necessary will bring them there. The League are very much interested in the bonding proposition and are doing all they can to help pass it.

Plans to assist Dr. T. J. Carney in the health campaign by gathering statistics of the city and distributing health cards in the resident district. Committees to conduct this work were named. Mrs. C. B. Gardner was appointed to attend the National Playground Association meeting at Grand Rapids.

### ROY PETTIT OF ITHACA SHOT BY WIFE AT MT. CLEMENS

"I Killed Him Because Another Woman had Entered His Life," Said Mrs. Pettit

"This is the end of a real love affair," said pretty Mrs. Emmet Pettit, who early last Thursday shot her husband five times, killing him instantly, at their home on North Walnut street, Mt. Clemens. "I want to die so that I can join him. I killed him because another woman had entered his life," said Mrs. Pettit. After the tragedy Mrs. Pettit wired her mother-in-law at Ithaca: "I have killed my baby boy, Roy." Mrs. Pettit was arraigned before Justice John at Mt. Clemens, Friday, charged with murder in the first degree. Prosecutor Kent carried on an exhaustive investigation previous to the arraignment and said that he could find no other charge to make. Mrs. Pettit's condition is critical and it is feared she will lose her mind before she is placed on trial.

Mrs. Cora Pettit of Ithaca went to Mt. Clemens, Friday, and returned with the remains that night. Interment was made in the Ithaca cemetery. She softly sobbed as she gazed on the dead face of the last member of her family. "I was afraid that something like this would happen, as of late he has been having much trouble with his wife. This is the third member of my family to die during the month of August and now I am alone."

Roy Pettit was born and raised in Ithaca. He attended the Ithaca high school and following his course at that institution took up a course in the law department at the University of Michigan. After his graduation he opened up a law office in Alma and remained here for some time conducting a lucrative practice. He left this city for Chicago and was next heard of from the west. A short time ago he accepted a position as night clerk at the Medea Hotel at Mt. Clemens.

### RACES ARE BIG CARD

County Fair Meet Promises to be Attractive Event

In addition to the Floral Hall, which is practically completed, the management of the Gratiot County Fair announces that considerable improvement has been made to the fair grounds and equipment. A new horse stable, 120 feet long, was finished this week while new sheep and hog barns are under construction and will be ready for the specimens the first of the week. The track has been re-laid and put in excellent condition. The management states that more entries for the races have been registered than at any previous fair. Wednesday of next week will be the big day at the fair.

### ILLINOIS PICNIC

The program for the Illinois picnic which will be held at Wright Park, Saturday, will be as follows: Invocation, Rev. J. W. Priest; Address, W. J. Orr, President Mich. Bean Jobbers Association. Song, Miss Elmore Putman; Recitation, Miss Ruth Palmer; Solo, H. C. Moore; Violin Solo, Miss Ruth Palmer; Solo, Miss Ruth Palmer. In case the weather is bad the picnic will be held in one of the halls in the city. All Illinois people are urged to attend.

## HELMEER RETURNS TO ALMA MATER

Leaves Central Normal to Become Director of Athletics at Alma College

### MEETS APPROVAL OF ALUMNI

Helmer One of Few Alma Coaches Who has Made Good—Six Years at Normal

H. A. Helmer, one of the foremost athletes ever at Alma college and for six years athletic director at the Central Normal School, Mt. Pleasant, has accepted the offer made him by President H. M. Crooks of Alma college and will become head of the athletic department at the Presbyterian institution this coming September. This announcement was officially given out this week by the college authorities and by Helmer himself. While it has been practically a settled thing for some time as far as the college people were concerned, it was doubtful whether Helmer would be able to secure a release from the Normal so late in the season. Helmer will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Coach W. C. Bleamaster, who will have charge of all departments of athletics at the University of Moscow, Idaho.

Helmer is one of the few athletes of Alma college who has made a record in the coaching profession. Immediately following his graduating in 1908 he accepted a position at Cadillac where he did some teaching and had charge of the city's athletics. Cadillac was unable to hold him longer than two years and he left that city for Mt. Pleasant where he became athletic director of the state institution. Helmer has been at the Central Normal School for six years and probably could have remained there just as long as he liked.

Until Helmer went to Mt. Pleasant, the Normal hadn't been in the habit of hiring a regular athletic director. It was sort of an experiment, but an experiment that proved mighty valuable for the Normal people. Helmer went to work facing the same problem that confronts every normal coach—short course students. His first attempts at turning out top-notch teams naturally didn't develop into very much, but gradually the athletic spirit began to show signs of real life and teams of a formidable nature began to go out into the state from the Normal. During his six years stay there Helmer has had some of the fastest aggregations in the state not expecting any of the smaller institutions, and on several occasions he has carried away scalps from his Alma Mater.

Helmer's record in Alma college in very few instances has been equalled. He was a good student, a good leader, a mighty fine fellow and a great athlete. In having all these characteristics he couldn't help, but occupy a conspicuous place in the life of the institution. Helmer was active in the work of the Y. M. C. A. and for four years was a member of Zeta Sigma literary society.

Harry Helmer never saw a foot ball until he dropped his suit case in front of Pioneer Hall. When local critics looked him over Alma's football stock took a sudden leap upwards and for four years Helmer was one of the big causes for keeping it there. For four years every team that went out from Alma college in track, baseball and football and for three years basketball had found Helmer a member of the squad. He was captain of the football teams for two seasons and also headed the track and baseball men during his course.

The Alumni of Alma college are particularly glad that Helmer has been chosen to guide Alma athletics. He is the first graduate coach that Alma has had to take over the entire supervision of that department of the institution. His ability as a coach and as a true leader of men can not be questioned.

### BANKERS CHOOSE ALMA

Annual Banquet to be Held in This City Sept. 4-2

The annual banquet of the fifth group of the Michigan Bankers Association will be held in this city, September 12, according to an announcement made by H. C. Moore, cashier of the Alma State Savings Bank, who was in Saginaw the first of the week at a meeting of the executive committee of this group. Mr. Pleasant was also at the meeting. Bankers from nine counties in Michigan will be present. The counties in the fifth group are Saginaw, Bay, Gladwin, Arenac, Tuscola, Midland, Labella, Clare and Gratiot. Many prominent speakers will give addresses at the banquet.

### THE GRAIN MARKET

It is well for our farmer friends to look up the grain market before marketing for the past week the Alma market has been from two to five cents in advance of any other markets in this country, especially on wheat. Wheat is coming to Alma from a distance of twenty miles.

### ANNUAL MEETING HERE

Central Mich. Bean Jobbers Will Hold Annual Gathering in Alma

The annual meeting of the Central Michigan Bean Jobbers Association will be held in Alma, August 31. Several prominent speakers, well known in the county and state will be present at this gathering. A banquet will be held at 12:30 at which it is expected 300 plates will be laid. Will Griffin, manager of the Alma Grain & Lumber Company, who is in charge of the local arrangements, stated yesterday that the meeting will be well attended. The business session will be held in the morning and in the afternoon following the banquet and addresses the members through the courtesy of the officials of the company will be shown through the Republic Motor Truck Company's plant. The St. Louis band has been secured for the day.

### LARGE VOTE EXPECTED AT PRIMARIES, TUESDAY

Bond Issue Will Probably be Endorsed—Diekema Choice for Governor

It is expected that next Tuesday's primaries will call forth the largest vote cast in the city for several years. Besides the nomination of national, state and county officers, Alma will vote on the \$100,000 bonding proposition, which, if endorsed by the people, the council will use for the extension of water and sewer mains and the erection of a municipal power plant to force pure water through the mains.

It is generally understood that there will be very little opposition to bonding the city for the amount stipulated by the mayor and council. If there are any who do not favor the proposition they are keeping quiet about it. No public effort has been made against the suggestions of the council and for this reason Mayor McKinney is satisfied that the voters will turn out in large crowds to set any opposition that may unexpectedly arise.

Interest over the primaries outside of the bonding of the city has not been noticeably strong. It is already conceded here that the present incumbent of the county offices will be returned, and for this reason there has been practically no campaigning as far as the county offices are concerned outside of the little carried through the county papers.

With the primaries less than a week distant and five candidates asking for the Republican nomination for governor intense excitement would be the natural thing. But the fact is that the gubernatorial race is very little discussed in the situation. There has been no actual campaigning in the county by any of the candidates and for this reason it is difficult to give any truthful estimate of the results. Occasionally candidates are discussed on the streets and thus far Diekema seems to be favored here.

Sleeper also has quite a following and will probably run second. The other three candidates will not count for much in the local vote it is stated. The fight for state senator between John Damon of Weidman and Newell Smith of St. Louis is causing the only real excitement of the campaign and before Tuesday it is expected it will develop into nip and tuck contest. The candidates have been in the field constantly during the past two weeks and both are confident of the endorsement of the electors of the district. It is quietly noised about here that Damon will receive the local vote by a fair majority. He has been in the senate one term and has proven himself equal to the task. In many sections of the district it is the opinion that Mr. Smith is taking to much for granted; that it is the custom to return a candidate who has truly represented the district and that according to rotation this county isn't entitled to a candidate until the next election occurs. Despite this announcement Newell Smith is making every effort and is going to give Damon a run for the office.

### ANNEX OPENS

Miners' Cafe on Michigan Avenue Commences Business

The Annex, managed by Henry and Vern Miner, opened to the public Saturday. The proprietors will run the Annex in connection with their down town cafe and for this reason will be able to serve the public very satisfactorily.

### DEPUTY APPOINTED

Donald Smith to Assist Dr. Carney in Health Campaign

By action of the city council at the Tuesday night meeting Donald Smith was appointed deputy to assist Dr. T. J. Carney in the health campaign in the city. Mr. Smith will have direct charge of the work in the field, spending the majority of his time in seeing that the ordinances are obeyed by all property holders. Mr. Smith commenced his work this week.

### RETIREES FROM BANK

F. A. Bernard, cashier of the Commercial Savings Bank of St. Louis for 25 years, retired from active business this week. Mr. Bernard will remain in St. Louis for the present.

## FORDNEY SLATED FOR CHAIRMAN

In Event of Republican Victory will Head Ways and Means Committee

### WILL BE RENOMINATED TUES.

By Largest Majority Ever Given a Representative in District or in State

Correspondence at Washington write that everything indicates that the Wilson administration will be turned out at the November election, that a Republican president will be elected, a Republican house of representatives elected and perhaps a Republican, it is already acknowledged in the capital that the chairmanship of the next Ways and Means Committee will fall to the lot of Congressman Joseph W. Fordney of Saginaw and of this congressional district. As chairman of this important committee Mr. Fordney will be invested with the duty of originating legislation for safeguarding the prosperity of this country against the period immediately following the close of the European war.

Mr. Fordney's views become of the greatest importance for this reason and when asked what sort of legislation would be presented to preserve the prosperity of the nation against foreign commercial invasion, safeguarding American industry, insure a continuation of the present prosperous activities of capital and labor and to provide adequate federal revenue without having to impose galling internal taxes on the people, made the following reply. "In all probability, if the situation works out satisfactorily, a bill embodying five lines of action will be presented to congress. These five are: First: Repeal the existing Tariff law which has resulted in an unprecedented increase of imports through entailing a tremendous falling off in revenue; Second: Repeal of stamp taxes imposed under guise of 'war revenue' to make up decrease in customs; Third: Creation of tariff commission whose duty shall be to learn the difference between cost of production of competitive goods in this country and abroad; Fourth: Enactment of an anti-dumping law to prevent goods being dumped in this country at lower prices than they bring at home; Fifth: Enactment of a tariff law that will lay on competitive goods a duty to the difference in cost of production at home and abroad."

Mr. Fordney anticipates no trouble in securing the passage of such legislation in the event of a Republican victory in November. As soon as it is known that the next house will be Republican work will commence immediately to gather information. Mr. Fordney states that no matter if the foreign war continues another year "preparedness" can be effected as early as July and the country will be in a position to defend itself commercially as soon as conditions alter themselves in Europe.

These are the views of Hon. J. W. Fordney, who is up for renomination for the district at the primaries Tuesday. If it wasn't for the formality of the thing, there would be no need for Mr. Fordney to place his name of ballot. As one editor put it "it would be to cast a reflection on the good common sense of the district to even assume that Mr. Fordney would not be returned." He will be sent back to Washington with the biggest majority by any congressman from Michigan in many years. The voters of the district appreciate the efforts Mr. Fordney has put forward in the interest of the nation, state and district and know that especially at this crisis in commercial affairs in the country his presence at Washington as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee is of vital importance.

Mr. Fordney has made himself very popular with citizens of Alma during the last year owing to his efforts in securing funds for purchasing a lot which eventually will mean the erection of a government building in the city. However, it is not for this little courtesy alone that the city wants Mr. Fordney at Washington. His past record is the reason.

### BOHEMIA

On the sixth of Sept. Miss Sarka E. Hrbkova, head of the department of Slavic Languages and Literature in the University of Nebraska, will lecture in the Guild House of St. John's church. The title of the lecture is "Through Slavic Lands." Many of the slides illustrating were taken by Prof. Hrbkova during her travels in her native land. Descriptions will be given of the costumes, customs, occupations, amusements, etc., of the people of Bohemia and related countries. That Miss Hrbkova is a woman of very rare ability is evidenced by the fact that she is the head of her department in such a university. This lecture will be an intellectual treat not often enjoyed and should be attended by many. Tickets may be had of the members of St. John's Guild. Fuller particulars next week.

### CORNER STONE LAID

Ceremony at New County Poor House Held Friday

The corner stone of the new county poor house was laid Friday. The building committee and the County Poor Board were present and a short ceremony was carried out. The stone contains a copper box made by Ralph Pettit and bearing his name on the inside. In the box are deposited the following: History of the entire movement for the relief of Gratiot's poor, as given in the W. D. Tucker History of Gratiot county, Gratiot County Herald, giving an account of the fire and pictures of the building and ruins. Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors in the matter of a building. Director of county officers, pictures of the present county officers, proof of the primary ballot for 1916. Proceedings of the 1916 Board of Supervisors. Pictures of the streets of Ithaca, Campaign cards of the various county candidates for 1916. Copy of current issues of the Gratiot County Herald and the Detroit Free Press.

The work on the new building is advancing very satisfactorily under the directions of Spence Brothers of Saginaw. Supervisor Chambers, who was appointed chairman of the building committee is keeping a close watch of the work and reports every thing moving along nicely. Some delay was occasioned by the inclement weather early in the spring but it is still expected that the contractors will be able to have the building ready by December 15, 1916.

### ALMA MAN CONDUCTS EXECUTION OF MEXICANS

Capt. Brock Reads Death Sentence to Villistas, Who Attacked Columbus, N. M.

A recent letter from Capt. A. W. Brock of Deming, New Mexico, indicates that he is taking an active part in an attempt to quell the disturbance between the United States and Mexico. Capt. Brock is now situated about seven miles from Columbus, John Watson of Breckenridge, who until recently was a lieutenant under Captain Brock, is now captain of the Silver City company. Lieutenant Ely is still a member of Brock's company. During an execution of two of the Columbus raiders Capt. Brock had direct supervision of the hanging. The following story from the Deming Graphic is interesting because of that fact.

"Francisco Alvarez and Juan Sanchez paid with their lives early today for their part in the raid on Columbus, March 2, in the local jail yard. They were the first to die of seven found guilty of murder in the district court here.

"Alvarez stepped on the gallows at 6:34; at 6:36 the trap was sprung and at 6:45 he was pronounced dead. Sanchez mounted the gallows at 7:10 o'clock and at 7:30 his dead body was cut down. Both were very indifferent to their fates. Particularly was it true of Alvarez who answered Capt. A. W. Brock, 'Yo no quiero,' (I do not care to) when asked if he would like to make a final statement. His attitude has from the first been one of absolute indifference to his fate. Even while in the death chamber he was smoking and joking as though he was going to a picnic. Sanchez was a little more serious and for several hours prior to the execution was engaged in silent prayer. A few minutes before going to the gallows Alvarez called for a cigarette. Capt. Brock read the death sentence in Spanish, to which no comment was made.

Deming was absolutely quiet, during and before the execution and Company 1, Capt. Brock commanding, and Company B, Lieutenant West commanding were in charge of the city. During last night sentries were posted about the jail and provost guard went on duty with loaded guns and drawn bayonets.

### DIEKEMA IN CITY SAT.

Will Make Swing Around County on Last Trip Before Primaries

Hon. G. J. Diekema will be in the city Saturday afternoon on a final swing through the state prior to the primaries Tuesday. Diekema managers were in Alma Wednesday preparing for the county trip and stated that they were quite satisfied over the support that Mr. Diekema will have Tuesday. Mr. Diekema will arrive in the city at 3 o'clock from the county seat and will address the people for three quarters of an hour. Mayor Tilma of Grand Rapids will accompany Mr. Diekema on his wind-up trip.

### MASS MEETING

Mayor McKinney Calls Mass Meeting at City Hall Friday Night

A mass meeting to discuss the proposed bond issue for water and sewer extension throughout the city has been called by Mayor McKinney and the council to be held at the city hall Friday night. Every person who is in favor or against the proposition should be present. The future welfare of Alma depends upon the attitude the voters take towards this proposition. It is hoped that every voter will turn out.

## BONDING CITY REDUCES COST

If "Piece-Meal" Plan is Followed Cost Would be Increased 20 Per Cent

### PLAN RAISES TAXES SLIGHTLY

Entire Issue Could be Removed in Twenty Years and Hardly Would be Felt

Figures and statistics compiled by City Attorney James A. Greene show that by bonding the city for the amount stipulated in the petitions of the mayor and council Alma will save considerable money, and that the annual increase on the city taxes for a period of twenty years—the term over which the bonds will spread—will be less than .014 per cent on each \$1,000 valuation. Mr. Greene gets at the proposition in the following manner:

"The council propose bonding the city for \$100,000, \$50,000 of which will be used for water supply in the city and \$40,000 for sewer extension. On the sewer bonds \$2,000 will be paid off each year while \$1,000 will be paid annually on the water bonds. This will allow the entire amount to be cleaned up in a term of 20 years.

"Property holders who will be benefited by the sewer extension will pay practically 60 per cent of the \$40,000 set aside for this improvement. This will leave \$16,000 to be met by the general tax of the city. By spreading this over a period of 20 years the annual amount to be met will be \$800.

"The council plan to pay \$3,000 of the \$60,000 for water bonds annual. The average net annual water rentals to the city reach approximately \$2,514.58. The amount of the water rentals will take care of all but \$485.42 of the annual payment on the water bonds. This amount will also have to be taken care of by the general tax.

"It is thus found that by adding the two items together, \$800 for sewer extension and \$485.42 for water extension, the total annual amount to be met by the general tax to meet the bond payments will reach \$1,285.42.

"The total valuation of the city in 1915 was placed at \$835,379.00. To this amount add 10 per cent for average increase in valuation of the city for 20 years, and the valuation will reach \$918,916.90. By a simple process of division it will be found that for 20 years the average increase on the general tax of the city for water and sewers will be .014 per cent on each \$1,000 valuation.

This is the plan that will go to the tax payers at the Primaries, Tuesday, and is far ahead of the piece-meal plan that many think would adequately take care of the situation. Mr. Greene made the statement that by following the latter plan in the long run the cost of installing the proposed improvements would be increased at least 20 per cent and perhaps more.

### PURCHASES AGENCY

S. L. Bennett Opens Insurance Office in City

S. L. Bennett has purchased the Sharrar & Wheeler General Insurance Agency and will take over the control and management immediately. Mr. Bennett has rented offices in the Opera House Block and will equip them with every office convenience. Mr. Bennett has been in business in Alma for twenty years and is well and favorably known.

The agency that Mr. Bennett has purchased has the largest insurance business of any in this part of the state. It represents 43 companies backed up by \$500,000,000. The agency deals with fire, automobile, life, tornado, plate glass, accident, liability, and compensation insurance and surety bonds. Mr. Bennett will devote his entire time to the business.

### ALMA CIVIC LEAGUE PRAISED

During a recent visit to Alma, as a guest of the Board of Trade of that city, Allen D. Albert, president of the Rotary Clubs of America, in a public address advised the citizens to prepare their civic improvements upon a scale large enough to care for the needs of a population approximately 12,000 within the next ten years. He also took occasion to compliment that city on the Civic League and the work it has done during the few years it has been organized. He said "I have been in no city this summer where I have found a league that has done as much for any city as the Alma League."—Michigan Investor.

### BAMBER ON DRAY AGAIN

V. F. Bamber announces that he is again back on his dray line and asks his former patrons to make a note of this fact. Mr. Bamber made arrangements with Clyde Campbell to handle the business, but Tuesday, Mr. Campbell discontinued in the employ of Mr. Bamber, going into business for himself. The Bamber dray line is the oldest in the city and has always given efficient service. Parties wishing dray service should call this office or Mr. Bamber's residence. Ad.