

THE ALMA RECORD.

WHOLE NUMBER 2075

ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 26, 1918

VOL. XL.—NO. 39

ENDEAVORS TO BUILD ALIBI

Defense Attempting to Prove Alibi for John F. Brennan in Murder Trial.

PROSECUTOR WAS WITNESS

Placed on Stand by Attorneys for Defense to Refute Statements Made by Beaudry.

When the John F. Brennan murder trial was resumed at St. Johns Friday afternoon, following the death of the wife of one of the jurors, Ora L. Smith, prosecuting attorney of Gratiot county was called to the stand, and flatly contradicted the statement made by David Beaudry, that he had been told by Beaudry previous to the time that the reward was offered that he had seen the girl at the Johnson home about 8:00 o'clock the evening of the murder. The defense scored strongly when the prosecutor made the denial of Beaudry's claim to this effect.

When O. L. Smith was placed on the stand by the defense, William M. Smith, one of the attorneys for the defense said: "I ask you whether, up to the time of offering the reward, Beaudry had told you that he claimed that on the night of September 4, 1917, he had seen Beatrice Epler in Inez Johnson's house about 8:00 p. m. and had seen an automobile in front of the house, with Eichorn and Brennan there at the time?"

The witness replied, "No sir." The examining attorney led the prosecutor around to a discussion of a conference between Mrs. William Baker, Mrs. Anna Gilson, David Beaudry, Deputy Arthur Murphy, Deputy Louis Martin, Charles Power and Prosecutor Smith, the statement obtained and the one later obtained from Mrs. Gilson by Beaudry.

Louis Martin, deputy sheriff, was placed on the stand by the defense and questioned regarding the conference, and told of the statements made by Mrs. Gilson at that time that Beatrice Epler was not at her home. He also stated that she had said at the time that Beaudry told her that if she would say that the Epler girl was there he would divide the reward with her.

Mrs. May Sinit and Mrs. John Blank, witnesses placed on the stand by the prosecution, were recalled by the defense for a short time.

Saturday Morrell Cooper was placed on the stand by the defense and told a story that held close attention of the entire courtroom. He told of hearing David Beaudry coaxing and pleading with Mrs. Anna Gilson to say that the murder was committed in her home and that he offered her part of or all of the reward if she would. Under a severe grilling by Kelly S. Searl, special prosecutor, he clung steadfastly to this story and refused to be shaken in the least. He also denied that he had once said to Albert Doty that he could get more money working for the defense than for the prosecution.

Howard Drake of this city, placed on the stand, said that he saw Brennan at the entrance of the reserved seat section of the show on the night of the murder, and Lawrence Coleman, also of this city, told of seeing Brennan at the show grounds on that night. George A. Clow, who went to the show with his family, also told of seeing Brennan at the show grounds.

Owen M. Williams of Flushing, a member of the show troupe, stated that he saw Brennan back of the scenes on Tuesday evening, in his deposition, and Helen Jean Archer, another member of the company, told of seeing him back of the scenes about the time of the third act. Mrs. Florence Stewart, another member of the company also told of having seen him back of the scenes several times during the show.

Monday new interest was injected into the trial, when the defense introduced some new portions of its alibi, and created a mild sensation in the court room.

Carl Cramer, who is a cousin of Mrs. Inez Johnson who is being held in the Gratiot county jail awaiting trial on a similar charge, was placed on the stand. The significance of the appearance of Cramer on the stand is the fact that the description of Cramer tallies very closely with that of John F. Brennan, the defendant, as given by Mrs. Anna Gilson in her testimony.

On the stand Cramer swore that he was in Alma during the week of July 9, 1917, and that while calling on Mrs. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Gilson had come in.

A second blow at the case which has been put forth by the prosecution, was then given. Mrs. John Blank had stated that he had seen Brennan in Alma at the Gilson home every day during the week of August 13, 1917, and that this was why she was able to recognize him later.

To refute this, Warren Brown of Leslie, a hotel keeper, was called and introduced his hotel register, showing the name of John F. Brennan under date of August 13, 1917, and every day of the week, excepting Tuesday.

Carl E. Gallagher, city clerk of Alma, was then called to the stand and testified that Brennan came to Alma about the middle of August to

THIS IS THE LAST PAPER

You Will Receive if There is a Blue Cross in this Square.

If there is a blue cross in this square, your subscription expires with this issue. Under our instructions from the Government, this is the last paper you will receive until advance remittance is made.

Attend to it today and you won't miss an issue.

obtain a permit for his show, which would account for the day when Brennan was not at Leslie.

Frank Stimpson and Victor Thompson, Alma lads, on the stand stated that they saw the Epler girl going home about the time she was supposed to have been with Brennan. Lee Nummer and Claude Struble swore they saw her talking with a stranger in front of the city hall between 9:00 and 10:00 p. m. Their testimony was shaken on cross examination.

Late Tuesday afternoon John F. Brennan was placed on the stand in his own defense, and was still there when court adjourned at 4:45 for Christmas. His testimony on Tuesday had little effect on the hearing of the case, but it is expected that this morning he will be back on the stand and that important testimony regarding the charges against him will be forthcoming.

Tom Ziegenfuss of this city was on the stand Tuesday and he told of having seen Beatrice Epler on the night of the murder in company with Albert Eichorn. When asked if the man might have been Brennan, he stated that he was certain that it could not have been him.

Glenn Addison, an Ithaca drayman, on the stand Tuesday, told of having seen Brennan on the show grounds in Alma early on Sunday, at a time when according to Mrs. Sinit he was sleeping at her home.

George Palfrey, who stated that the Brennans were at the Arcadia from Friday, Sept. 7, until the next Sunday; Charles Jennings of this city and William H. Rogers were others called to the stand Tuesday.

MANY ANSWERED THE CHRISTMAS ROLL CALL

Hundreds of Alma People Joined the Red Cross Last Week, During Drive.

The Christmas Roll Call for the Red Cross held in Alma from December 16 to 21, was resplendent in a fine manner in this city, although not as many joined the organization as the ladies had hoped.

The number that joined was below that of a year ago, but there are two reasons for this, one being the fact that a house to house canvass was conducted a year ago in behalf of the membership campaign, while this year this was not done, and because the war has been brought to a close and many are not now giving the thought that they were a few months ago to the welfare of the soldiers in Europe.

This year it was decided not to conduct a house to house campaign, but instead to confine the efforts in the city to the booths, which were located in the banks, in the post office and in some of the stores of the city.

A great many people in Alma, feeling the great need that there still is for the Red Cross went to the booths the fore part of last week and tendered their dollars for the memberships. Each day during the week others flocked to the booths and joined the great organization, which has been doing such a great work among the soldiers.

The response to the appeal of the Christmas Roll Call of the Red Cross was a good one in view of the fact that only the booths were used, and that people were not sought out and asked to join for the year 1919.

The campaign in the city was under charge of Mrs. Joseph Grover and that in the schools, known as the Junior Red Cross, was under charge of Mrs. E. L. Smith. The junior membership campaign was also a good one, a great many of the pupils of the Alma public schools again joining the splendid organization.

SOLDIERS HOME

Kenneth Hoyt and James Barry are Home from "Over There."

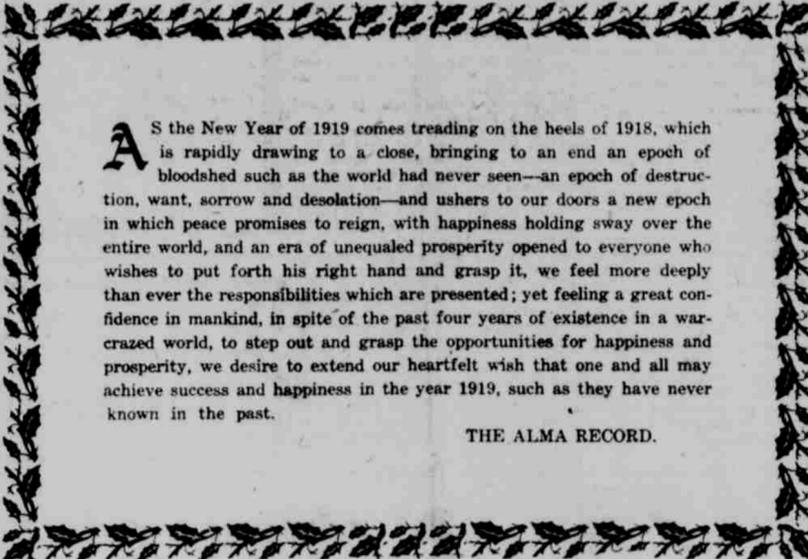
Back from the life of the trenches of France are two Alma boys, who arrived in this city during the past week, laden with stories of adventure, stories of battles, and of happenings almost unbelievable.

These two are Kenneth Hoyt, former employee of the Republic Motor Truck company of this city, and James Barry, the son of John Barry, a farmer living near this city.

Hoyt, better known here as "Hot", enlisted early in the war, and was given a long training in the United States before going to Europe, being sent across only a few months before the end of the war came with startling rapidity. He was in France about four months, but during that time saw plenty of action.

Barry was in a training camp for some months prior to going to France, where he remained only a short time.

Wanigas at Brunner's.—64-tf



ADD TWO VOTING PRECINCTS HERE

First and Second Wards Have Two Voting Places by the Council's Action.

INCREASE IN VOTERS REASON

Each of Wards now Have over Six Hundred Eligible to the Ballot.

Under the state law, which makes it permissible to make additional voting precincts when there are over six hundred voters in a district, the city council at a special meeting on Monday evening divided the first and second wards into two voting precincts, giving the city six precincts at future elections which will be held.

The move, which was made because of the large number of voters in these wards, was necessary. In the past three or four years it has been a hard matter to get the entire vote in at the one precinct in each ward.

Another resolution was presented to the council by John D. Spinney, city attorney, which was also intended to give the voters additional time to get in their votes on election day, particularly the laboring man, but it was not acted on at this meeting. It will probably be taken up at a later time. This resolution was one, which if passed, would keep the polls in this city open until 8 p. m. on every election day, thus giving every voter every opportunity to get in his expression on the various elections.

The first precinct of the first ward, under the resolutions as passed, will have the same bounds as the present ward, except that the portion of the first ward to the east of Pine river is excluded from the first precinct. The portion of the first ward to the east of Pine river becomes the second precinct of the first ward.

In the second ward the division was made on Court avenue from East Superior street south to the main tracks of the Ann Arbor railroad and thence south to the corporation line. The portion of the ward to the west of this line becomes the first precinct of the second ward, and the portion to the east of this line is the second precinct of the second ward.

Polling places for the precincts were not fixed, these being left until such time as elections may take place, in view of the necessity of sometimes changing polling places.

Because the third and fourth wards of the city are small, it was felt that they were not too large to be handled easily as one single precinct for the present at least.

COLLECTOR STATIONED HERE

Karl H. Carrington, deputy collector for the United States Treasury Department, for the first district of Michigan, will be in Alma during the first week of January to aid the people of Gratiot and Isabella counties in making out their income tax, he having charge of this work in both counties.

As his office will be located at the Alma post office, it will be necessary for those needing assistance to come to Alma and meet with Mr. Carrington.

WILL FIGHT CASE

That the city intends to stand suit with Marotta Pollasky, who claims a balance due him for legal services was made plain at the special session of the city council Monday evening, when it was voted to retain the law firm of Lyon & Searl of St. Johns to aid in the case. J. D. Spinney, city attorney, will be the attorney of record.

Wanigas at Brunner's.—64-tf

BAD FIRE

Home of Dick Raycraft Guttled by Flames Early This Morning.

The home of Dick Raycraft on Mechanic street was gutted at an early hour this morning by flames, the house being practically ruined. When the fire was first noticed it had gained a good headway and by the time the fire department reached the scene, was blazing fiercely. Streams of water were rapidly brought to bear and gradually the fire was brought under control, but not before it had ruined the house and destroyed almost all of the household furniture. The loss to Mr. Raycraft is a heavy one, it being reported that he has no insurance on his household goods.

CHRISTMAS BUSINESS OF MERCHANTS GOOD

Alma Business Men Did Best Holiday Business in the History of Alma.

The 1918 Christmas business of the merchants of the city of Alma has been better than ever before, if one is to judge by the expression of opinion from over half of those who had stocked their Christmas trade.

In most cases the business men report a business which shows a great increase over last year and one merchant of the city, with the largest stock which he has ever had in his store, told a Record reporter that his combined sales for the first twelve days of this month, as compared with a like period of last year, indicated an increase of 112 per cent.

There is hardly a merchant in the city, but what has enjoyed a business that is far greater than that of a year ago, although one or two, show only very slight increases.

The business men as a whole are elated over the fine business which has been done in the face of adverse conditions, an amount of business which has been a surprise to themselves, when they took into account the influenza epidemic and the scare which it raised, the fact that many of the younger men are still in the army, men who usually buy heavily at this time of year; the fact that the people have been purchasing bonds, war savings stamps, etc., and other conditions which have been arising.

Most of them have given Alma Record advertising a great deal of credit for the amount of business which they have done during the past month, feeling that it has been a big benefit to them in this respect.

THOMAS DEAD

Superintendent of Republic Plant Two, Died Friday Evening.

Charles F. Thomas, for two years superintendent of Plant 2, of the Republic Motor Truck company, died Friday night at 8 o'clock after one of the most difficult battles of two weeks for his life. He leaves a wife and two small children. Mr. Thomas' death was caused by pneumonia brought on by exposure after an attack of the flu. For the last week his condition had remained the same though he battled constantly to overcome his illness.

The funeral was held Monday at the house and burial followed in the Catholic cemetery.

Mr. Thomas came to this city about two years ago to work under C. A. McElfresh, who died last month. Mr. Thomas made rapid strides in his work and was soon given the superintendency of the plant. Executives as well as his fellow workmen feel a deep regret at his death as he enjoyed more than an ordinary popularity and was a thorough worker.

TAX NOTICE

The state, county and school taxes are now due, and payable at the council room, city hall.

D. W. Adams, City Treasurer, Alma, Mich., Dec. 12, 1918. 74-4-c

Smoke the best, Wanigas.—64-tf



LIEUT. A. G. KRUSE

KRUSE LEAVES

Lieutenant Who Trained S. A. T. C. Men Leaves for Home.

Lieutenant Arthur G. Kruse, who has had charge of the training of the men at Alma college, received his honorable discharge from the service on Monday, December 23, and immediately left for his home in Iowa.

Considerable credit is due Lieut. Kruse for the fine results which were obtained in the training of the S. A. T. C. men at Alma college. Although only a youth himself, with little military experience, he won the respect of the members of the corps, and the faculty of the college as well, and through his hard work made good in every respect. It is with regret that the students of Alma college see him leave.

He was born at Van Horn, Iowa, and graduated from high school at Dysart. He attended the University of Iowa, taking work in commerce and military training.

In 1918 he entered the Reserve Officers' Training Camp at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and there won his commission as a second lieutenant. He was then assigned to duty with the S. A. T. C. at Alma college.

HAROLD REDMAN WRITES INTERESTING LETTER

Alma Boy, in France, Tells of His Trip Over and Some of His Experiences There.

The Record is pleased to be able to publish excerpts this week of a letter from Harold Redman, who is overseas in the service. The letter is highly interesting. It follows:

To Wife and Parents: November 26, 1918. They say we can write a letter now without being censored, so I'll try and write you a real letter telling about our trip across and some of the places we have seen over here.

We took the train at Camp Mills, N. Y. on July 21st at 11:20 a. m. and got on the ship (Orca) at 3:30 p. m. The ship was a freight boat and had 17,000 tons of freight on it. It was a little over 650 ft. long. It was sunk on the trip coming back. We left harbor at 8:30 a. m. on July 22nd. There were 15 transports two battleships, 15 subchasers and two airplanes left at that time. On the evening of July 23 the subchasers and the airplanes returned home. There were three ministers on board and we had our first church service on July 28.

On August 2 we passed an island at noon and arrived at Liverpool at 6:00 a. m. on August 3, but we did not pull into dock until noon. We slept on the steel deck or anywhere we could find a place. All of the officers and boys of our company except 25 boys left and went to a camp but the 25 of us were left to unload our barrack bags. In the evening when we got through we had to go back on the boat for the night. The old ship looked pretty bare but I hunted and found one fellow in the kitchen with some bread. I bought three small slices for 10 cents and was offered 25 cents for them as soon as the boys found out that I had them. I took my clothes and shoes off for the first time on the boat that night. We had been sleeping with them on and a life saver by our side to be ready in case we were hit by a submarine. It sure seemed good to sleep without them.

At noon on August 4 we took a train and passed through Birmingham and Oxford and landed at Winchester at 9:30. We then marched to Camp Winnell about 2 1/2 miles and got there at 11:00 o'clock. August 7 we visited the Cathedral and Castle Hill. This cathedral is next to the largest church in the world. It was built by the monks beginning in 980 A. D. and was finished in 1079. The walls and ceiling are made of stone and cement. The stone used was hauled 40 miles. Some of the rooms have such low ceilings that they don't use them now, but the ceiling in the main room is 85 feet from the floor and the floor is level with the ground. Some of the floors are 14 feet thick made of stone and cement. There is a well in the basement that was dug in 169 A. D. or 1749 years ago, and they are using the water today. There are a number of statues in the building some weighing 2 1/2 tons.

We left Winchester at 10:00 a. m. took a train at 9:15 and arrived at South Hampton at 9:40 a. m. from there we boarded the ship (Charles) at 9:00 a. m. and landed (Continued on page four)

MISSING

Oscar Narrance, College Football Star Listed as Missing in Action.

Oscar Narrance, better known as "Speed" Narrance, a member of the Alma college football team of 1916, who was one of the first of the college men who offer his services to the country, was listed in the casualty lists of Monday as missing in action.

Narrance lived south of the city on a farm with his brother, having moved there from Oregon shortly before entering college. During the short time he was in Alma he gained a wide circle of friends who are hoping that he may yet be heard from.

NO ACTION TAKEN REGARDING DEPOT

Official Action by Council Withheld for Two Weeks at the Monday Night Session.

WANTS PART OF THE STREET

Pere Marquette Would Construct an Addition to Depot, Using Part of Thoroughfare.

NO ACTION TAKEN REGARDING DEPOT

Official Action by Council Withheld for Two Weeks at the Monday Night Session.

WANTS PART OF THE STREET

Pere Marquette Would Construct an Addition to Depot, Using Part of Thoroughfare.

With just a quorum present, there was a hot debate Monday evening at the special session of the city council in regard to granting the request of the Pere Marquette railroad for a portion of Prospect avenue to be used by the railroad as a site for the addition to be constructed to the present Union passenger station, to be used by the express company, the offices of which would be moved to the depot in the event of such construction, it is understood.

A blue print of the depot, Prospect avenue and the adjoining ground, prepared by the railroad company, was submitted to the council to indicate the portion of the street which the company wants to obtain for the site.

This indicates that the railroad wants to use thirty feet of the street for this purpose, thus taking practically half of the width of the street at that point for its use. It shows that over half of the contemplated addition will be in the street, if the city grants the request of the railroad. The addition will be 20 by 50 feet, according to the blue-print, a portion of which, 30 feet on one side and 28 feet on the other, would extend into the street.

It is also understood that the railroad company is ready to put a new heating plant into the station by way of improving it, and that in another year it expects to construct another box-like addition at the east end of the depot. The cost of these improvements would be considerable.

Alderman Montgoy offered a motion that the request of the railroad for this portion of Prospect avenue be rejected and it was promptly supported by Alderman Clark.

A long discussion of the merits of the proposition then took place. The danger of such a crossing was pointed out. The difficulty that the city might experience in getting the railroad off from the city property was pointed out. The expectation that the downtown express office would be moved to the depot was pointed out. The danger that the railroad would construct this addition on the east end of the depot was pointed out, with the belief that the proposed site was the lesser of two evils, and then a motion was made to lay the proposition on the table until the next meeting of the council, until a full board was present to decide the matter.

Matters which were not brought up for discussion were a new depot, which some members of the council feel is out of the question, since they have had a talk with the railroad officials, because of the expense, although it must be admitted that a new heating plant, a new addition at one end of the depot this year and another at the other end next year, are bound to be costly; the length of time for which Alma would have the present inadequate depot pawned off on her when the business of the railroads here is of such an extent as to warrant the construction of a new depot.

HIGH UP

Alma Among Leaders in Fourth Loan is Word from Fenton.

That Alma is high among the cities of the state on percentage of over-subscription on the Fourth Liberty Loan is made plain in a letter from F. R. Fenton, federal director of sales for Michigan, in a letter to The Alma Record.

The letter received, as a result of a query by The Record as to the standing of Alma in the state, is to the effect that the Michigan State War Board is to pass upon the ranking of the cities, the figures having been submitted to that board for the purpose.

That Alma is one of the municipalities of the state, which is being considered for the high honors is made plain in the last sentence of the letter, which says: "I will, however, say that Alma made a wonderful showing and is among the municipalities to be considered for the honor."

His letter states that because of the sudden termination of the war something will have to be substituted for the tanks which will no longer be needed, a matter which can be decided after the honor cities are announced.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

In addition to the Christmas baskets put out by the Republic Circle club, the churches of Alma put out baskets for the needy on Christmas, as did the Salvation Army and the W. M. A.

As a result of the Christmas spirit shown by these organizations this year, it is doubtful if there was a poor family in the city which did not have much to be thankful for.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

In addition to the Christmas baskets put out by the Republic Circle club, the churches of Alma put out baskets for the needy on Christmas, as did the Salvation Army and the W. M. A.

As a result of the Christmas spirit shown by these organizations this year, it is doubtful if there was a poor family in the city which did not have much to be thankful for.

Smoke the best, Wanigas.—64-tf