

THE ALMA RECORD.

VOL. XLII—NO. 3

ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 17, 1919

WHOLE NUMBER 2991

THREE VOLUNTEER DAYS IN COUNTY

Gratiot is Asked to Subscribe for Quota that is Over \$700,000.

ALMA'S SHARE \$116,000.00

Numerous Booths Will Be Located at Advantageous Points in the City.

The Victory Liberty Loan drive all over the nation starts on Monday, and in Gratiot county it will start off with three days of volunteering in every city, town and township in the entire county, and the committee is in high hopes that the end of the first three days will see Gratiot rapidly nearing the quota, which it must raise. The quota for the county is \$702,150.00.

There are three highly important reasons why the volunteering system of bond subscribing has been adopted in every section of the county on the Victory Loan. The first is the fact that the county committee feels that no good patriot needs to be solicited to buy bonds, and expects that every man and woman will step up and do his or her duty, to their fullest extent. The second reason is because on the Victory Loan the government has offered a fine security, a four-year gold note, with four and three-fourths per cent interest. It is an investment that is absolutely safe, yet draws a high rate for a short term. The third reason is perhaps the most important, certainly along sentimental lines, and even in commercialized America there is still a great amount of sentiment which cannot be downed. It is because it is the Victory Loan, the loan which we are making this time. It is the use of this money already spent which brought the war to a close a year sooner than expected, and saved the lives of possibly more than 100,000 young Americans. Truly a saving worth more than \$4,500,000,000, a saving which cannot be measured in dollars.

Every township chairman has made arrangements to take care of the volunteer loans. Some are arranging so that the volunteers may subscribe at school houses in their townships, where there are no banks. Others intend to have them made at the nearest bank. In all townships where there are banks the subscriptions will be made there. This is true also in the towns and cities.

Subscriptions will be received for the volunteer days in the various places in the county as follows:

New Haven township—Maxted & Pentoney store.
Bethany township—Gratiot State bank, St. Louis, and Farmers' bank of Breckenridge.
Ithaca—Potts & Crawford building, Center street, or any bank.
Hamilton township—Lauderbach store at Sieckels.
North Star township—Bank of North Star.
Elba township—First State Bank at Ashley and Bank of Bannister.
Alma—Booths in First State Bank, Alma State Savings bank, Republic Motor Truck Company Inc., Swift & Company, Libby, McNeill & Libby, Giles' Eastern Market, Alma college at A. P. Cook's office, and at Hauck's grocery on Ely street.
St. Louis—Any bank.
Emerson township—Banks in Alma, Ithaca, St. Louis or Breckenridge.
Wheeler township—Banks in Breckenridge or Wheeler.
Seville township—Banks in Riverside or Elwell.
Pine River—Banks in Alma or St. Louis.
Fulton township—Banks in Middleton, Pompeii or Perrinton.
Summer township—Any members of committee at their homes. Committee, A. R. Woods, S. A. Evey, Harry Fisher, A. Tomlin, Well Gee, Harry Schaffer, Ed. Follick, Dell Robey, Albert Johnson, E. A. Potter, Bert Gee, Felix Foa, Bruce Lang or Ed. Miller.

Lafayette township—Banks in Wheeler, Breckenridge and Ithaca.
Washington township—Pompeii bank and Ola store.
Newark township—Nearest banks.
North Shade—Nearest banks.
Arcada—Alma, Ithaca or St. Louis banks.

PLEASANT FAREWELL
Saturday evening, just as Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Hutchinson were finishing their evening work, about eighty of their friends took possession of their home in Elwell to tender them a farewell before they left for their new home in Alma. All brought well filled baskets with them and a bounteous repast was had late in the evening, following some hours of enjoyment in music and games. Late in the evening, in a few well chosen words, Mr. Emery presented them with a fine rug, the gift of friends of thirty years. Even their little grandson, Morris Howell, was remembered, a purse being given to the young fellow. Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson are moving to this city and will reside on Elwell street.

MOVING STORE
The R. H. Brown plumbing shop is being moved this week from its location in the Mills building to Bennett building just to the west. During the past few weeks the Bennett block has been undergoing some extensive repairs, and the new location gives Mr. Brown a far better place of business than the former one.

Your past, present and future will become an open door at the fortune telling booth at the Episcopal church bazaar Thursday, April 24, at the gas office.—adv.

HORRIBLE DEATH

Perrinton Woman and Child of Two Years Burned to Death Monday.

On Monday afternoon Mrs. Lou Landis, aged about 35 years, and a resident of Perrinton, in the southern part of the county, was burned to death as was her two-year-old child. A six-months-old child and Mrs. Landis' mother was also badly burned, but they will recover.

It seems that Mrs. Landis endeavored to start a stove fire, and used some kerosene in order to get it started quickly. Whether or not she got kerosene or gasoline is not known, but the stove exploded, throwing flames to all parts of the room, and the home was a blazing furnace in an instant.

Just as aid arrived at the house Mrs. Landis was seen to fall over dead. Her clothes were entirely burned off, and masses of cooked flesh were dropping from her body. A two-year-old child, that was in the room at the time was also burned to death.

Mrs. Landis' mother, and her six-months-old grandchild were in another room and the aged woman managed to get out of the house with the baby, but not before they were badly burned. It is believed, however, that they will both recover.

TROPHY TRAIN DREW

A LARGE CROWD HERE

Several Thousand People Saw Trophies Captured from the Germans in World War.

The visit of the United States Government trophy train in Gratiot county Sunday in the interests of the coming Victory Loan, drew perhaps the largest crowds which have yet attended loan events, several thousand people being out in both Ithaca and Alma to see the trophies and to hear the addresses.

One of the big features of the train, of course was the "baby" tank, of which everyone had heard so much, but which few people had witnessed, except as they could visualize it from pictures which they had seen of these six-ton conglomerations of steel, which were intended to deal death and destruction to the Hun.

Although the train was in Ithaca early Sunday morning it drew a large crowd, which has been estimated at nearly four thousand people. They saw the tank taken from the train and put through just a few of the stunts that it could do. They also had the pleasure of seeing the other weird looking trophies, which had come from the battlefields of France and of Flanders.

The same performance was gone through in Alma, except that the tank which was stationed in Alma got into action with the one from the train, and both paraded the streets, attracting wide attention, and drawing thousands of people down to the train to hear the loan speeches and to inspect the trophies. It is believed that nearly 10,000 people saw the trophies during the four-hour stay that the train made in Alma. There was a continuous stream of people over the train all during its stay.

In both Gratiot cities addresses in behalf of the loan were made. Corporal Shaw, who saw service at Verdun, with one of the famous French 75's, was one of the speakers. Another was Serg. Barford, and the principal speaker, who drew home the need of the loan, was C. W. Turner of Chicago.

SEEK GOOD ROAD

Gratiot Committee Wants State to Put Work on County Road.

A committee consisting of C. F. Brown, D. L. Johnson, Jotham Allen, and George Ogden of this city, and several members of the St. Louis board of trade were in Lansing yesterday for the purpose of endeavoring to get some state action on the east and west state road through the county, which runs from St. Louis to Alma and west to the county line.

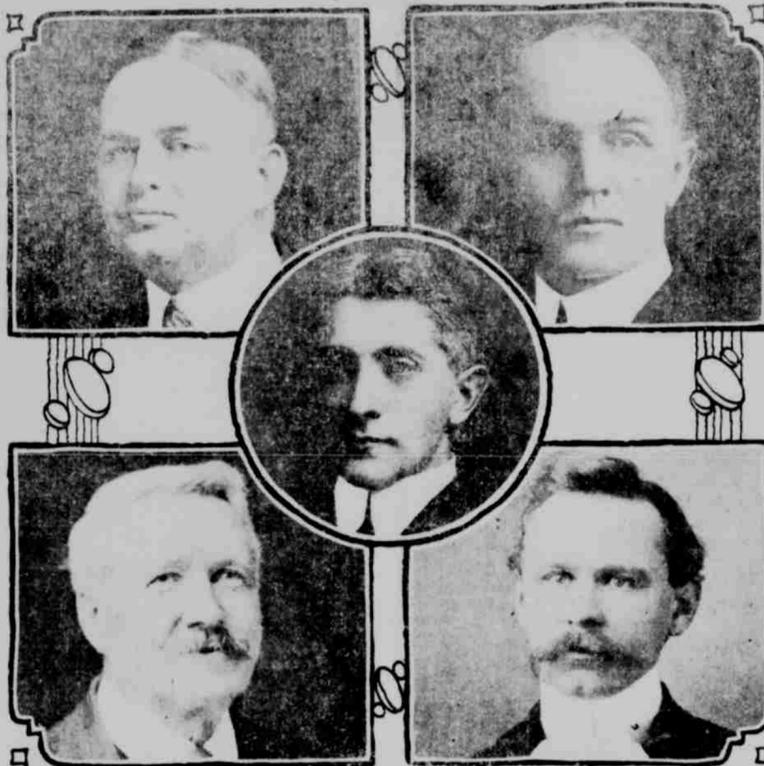
The condition of the road was put before the state highway commissioner and he was strongly urged to take early action in regard to this road which is considered one of the poorest pieces of state road in this section of Michigan, particularly the stretch of road to the west from Alma to the county line.

While no definite promise was given the committee, it is believed that as a result of the trip to Lansing that some early attention will be given to this road, and that it may soon be improved and made into a good highway.

OPENING RECRUITING OFFICE

L. D. Smith, former recruiting officer here, has returned to this city and is again opening a recruiting office in Alma. Enlistments for overseas service are being sought to furnish relief for the men in Europe. The enlistments sought are for the 50,000 replacements recently authorized for service in occupied territory.

Alma's New Mayor and City Commission



Top—John C. Chick and Floyd H. Glass, four year commissioners. Center—Charles R. Murphy, mayor. Bottom—Philip W. Creaser and Albert J. Archer, two year commissioners.

That Charles R. Murphy, mayor-elect, and the new commission of the city of Alma, are intensely interested in the future welfare of the city of Alma, was clearly shown Monday, when the commissioners and the mayor-elect met at an informal meeting and discussed matters which pertain in a vital way to the city. The

commissioners and the mayor-elect went over a number of important things which they hope to put through, and which have the promise of adding greatly in making a larger and better Alma.

The newly elected officials will go into office on May first, and until that time the matters which they take

up and the plans which they may make, will not be given out. It is certain, however, that the commissioners and the mayor-elect, will have marked out a very definite program for the year, at the meetings which the members expect to hold in an informal way between now and May 1.

CREASER BUYS DAVIES BLOCK

Legal Entanglements Cleared Away and a Clear Title Was Secured.

WILL ERECT NEW BUILDING

Modern Brick Structure Will Replace Present Wooden One in Near Future.

Philip W. Creaser, well known Alma real estate dealer, has purchased the Davies block, but because of the various claims on the property and the fact that it was a part of an estate, made the ironing out of the legal entanglements a big proposition. Others had endeavored to purchase the structure, but because of the legal entanglements which they ran across, backed up.

It was a process of several weeks' work on the part of Mr. Creaser to get the matter in such shape that a clear title could be secured upon the property. When this was done, the matter was quickly closed up. It required that the William T. Davies estate, Mr. and Mrs. William T. Davies, Jr., and Janette M. Davies, be satisfied before the matter could properly be closed up.

When seen yesterday Mr. Creaser stated that it was his intention to replace the present wooden building with a modern brick structure in the near future. Plans for the new structure have not yet been made and it is very probable that no active work will be done before late summer at the earliest and it may possibly be fall before the new structure is started.

Until the new building is completed, the new owner of the property expects to continue his offices in the old Creaser block which Floyd Luchini recently purchased.

ALMA HIGH WON BOTH CONTESTS

Representatives in Oratorical and Declamation Contests Won First Place.

The representatives of the Alma high school at the sub-district oratorical and declamation contests held at Ithaca Friday night each grabbed off the first honors for their school and will represent the high school at the district contest to be held later in the month and will meet the representatives of the larger high schools of the state.

Donald J. Dunham, representing the high school in the oratorical contest with the oration, "The Impending Conflict," was given first place by the judges. His oration followed the growth of the bolshevik movement to the present and brought out the conflict to come in the future.

Miss Augusta Arnold, representing the high school in the declamation contest, with the declamation, "Toussaint L'Ouverture," was an easy winner over the contestants from the other schools.

The district contest takes in such schools as Battle Creek, Lansing, all of the Detroit high schools, Adrian and other large places. The local high school had not been notified until yesterday of the place or time for holding this contest, but it is expected to be not later than the fourth Friday of this month.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Women Chairman for All Parts of County Selected for Loan.

Mrs. V. H. Shepard, chairman for the women for the Victory Loan campaign in Gratiot county has completed her list of city and township chairmen.

It is expected that the ladies of the county will play a big part in the success of the last loan campaign, and in nearly every part of the county they are already at work. The list of chairmen follows:

Seville—Mrs. William Schiff, Alma. Pine River—Mrs. J. W. Miller, Alma. Lafayette—Mrs. R. J. Peet, Ithaca. North Star—Mrs. Morse, Carzon City. North Shade—Mrs. Margaret Fitzpatrick, Middleton. Fulton—Mrs. Ernest Arnold, Perrinton. Washington—Mrs. Howard Fraker, Pompeii. St. Louis—Mrs. B. B. Pettit. Hamilton—Miss Sarah Brodebeck, Ithaca. Ithaca—Mrs. Frank Harrington. North Star—Miss Ethel Palmer. Arcada—Mrs. Fred Rockafellow, Alma. Elba—Mrs. A. F. Ryder, Bannister. Riverside—Mrs. Mabel Birdsall. Ithaca—Mrs. E. D. Maurer.

X-CEL-ALL HELD BIG CONVENTION

District and Field Men of the Western Part of State Called In.

BUSINESS PROSPECTS GOOD

Meeting Was Held in Chamber of Commerce Rooms in City of Grand Rapids.

One of the most enthusiastic conventions which the X-Cel-All company has yet held was held in the city of Grand Rapids Saturday in the chamber of commerce rooms. The convention was for the district and field men of Western Michigan, a half hundred of them attending the affair as well as many of the district men and field men from other sections of the state, who desired to pick up new points not brought out at the recent meeting held in Saginaw.

The meeting was opened in the morning by an address of welcome to the city of Grand Rapids by Ernest B. Blett. This address was followed by an address of welcome to the district and field men by T. A. Bamforth, president of the X-Cel-All company.

D. A. Kitch, secretary and general sales manager of the company, was called upon by President Bamforth for a short talk. This was followed by a series of talks, twenty-two in number from field agents, who told of the fields in which they were working and the prospects which their territory had for the future. Judging from these short addresses the X-Cel-All company of this city has an excellent future in all sections of the state.

At noon the delegates adjourned to the chamber of commerce dining room, where a luncheon was served. The room was well decorated for the occasion. Music was furnished during the luncheon by two young ladies.

When the meeting was reconvened an address on the City of Grand Rapids was given to the delegates by Mr. Bierce, secretary of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, in which various statistics regarding Grand Rapids and its growth were given.

During the balance of the afternoon, addresses were given by various division men of the company as follows: R. L. Richards of Onsted, "How to Increase My Business"; F. H. Dewey of Schoolcraft, "The Result of Action"; Wm. Welch of Monroe, "System in Business"; Paul Olmstead of Lapeer, "Theory and Practice"; Ed. Moffett of Saginaw, "Re-

sults of Room Meetings"; R. E. Dean of Lansing, "Systematic Organization"; Bert Preston of Alma, "Results of Labor"; J. R. Hamer of Mason, "Force of Character"; Geo. Bradford of Marquette, "What Gets Results?"

Following these addresses the meeting was adjourned for the dinner in the chamber of commerce dining room.

In the evening the conference was resumed with M. A. Bamforth, vice president and general manager, as the principal speaker. He told of the aims and the future plans of the company, and held the close attention of all of the division and field men, who were greatly interested in the matters which he unfolded to them. M. R. Kimball, head accountant of the company, who had just joined the force, spoke a few short words on his first impressions, after which Ernest Blett told of the future possibilities of the growing Alma concern.

The X-Cel-All company is at the present time arranging for a big state meeting to be held at a later date, which will be held in one of the larger cities of the state and will call for the attendance of all of the division and field men of the company in every section of the state. It promises to call in well over one hundred of these hustling field men.

HONOR FLAGS TO

BE RAISED FRIDAY

Ithaca Will Be Scene of Big Loan Event Next Week Friday Afternoon.

The Gratiot County Victory Loan committee is planning on a returned soldiers' day for Ithaca next week Friday, April 25, at which time the honor flags awarded to Gratiot county for the Third Liberty Loan and the Fourth Liberty Loan will be raised.

Plans for the event are only in their infancy at the present time, and the program for the affair cannot be announced for another week as a result. Efforts are being made to get all of the returned soldiers to take part in a big parade which will be held in Ithaca during the afternoon. With this end in view the returned soldiers of the southern half of the county and at Ithaca are requested to send their names to Frank Harrington of Ithaca immediately, if they will be able to be in Ithaca for the event. Those in and near St. Louis are requested to send their names to Mrs. Pettit of St. Louis and those in the northwestern part of the county are requested to send their names to T. A. Robinson, county chairman, Alma.

According to present plans the raising of the honor flags of the two previous loans will take place about 9:00 p. m. on Friday. They will be raised to the breeze over the court house. Suitable addresses for the occasion will be made by prominent speakers.

DEBATE FRIDAY
Annual Triangular Debate Will Be Held at College Tomorrow.

The annual debates of the Triangular Debating league, which consists of Olivet, Hope and Alma colleges, will be held Friday evening of this week, with Alma debating Olivet at Olivet and Hope college at Alma.

The question on which the teams of the three colleges will debate is, "Resolved, that the United States Shall Continue to Operate all State and Interstate Railways until January 1, 1921, according to the Plans Outlined by William McAdoo."

The Alma team which goes to Olivet will take the negative side of the question at that place. This team consists of Lee Sharrar, Paul Cash and Robert Wyatt. Carl Wenger is the alternate.

The Alma affirmative team will debate with Hope college here, and is expecting a hard debate from the argumentative Dutchmen. Howard Burch, Lyle D. Barnhart and George Olmstead are the members of the affirmative team. Lester Allen is the alternate.

GROWING RAPIDLY
X-Cel-All Company's Business Growing by Leaps and Bounds.

A trip through the X-Cel-All company's plant yesterday brought out the fact that the young Alma concern is now enjoying the best business since it located in Alma a year and a half ago, and that it has been forced within the past few weeks to add considerably to its force.

The early spring brought an early demand for paint, which the books of the company show to be constantly increasing, causing the factory to work at capacity, in spite of the fact that a new grinder and a new mixer were recently installed.

The company is also enjoying a good business with the other lines which it recently adopted, and the indications are that this will increase in popularity as they become better known.

At the present time there seems to be but little question but what the X-Cel-All company at an early date will be forced to enlarge its plant in the southeastern part of the city, in order that it may keep pace with the business which is coming its way.

Best candies. DeLuxe.—77-1f-c

MRS. JOHNSON TRIAL NOW ON

Alma Woman Being Tried in the Circuit Court of Isabella County.

JURY WAS SECURED SATURDAY

First Witnesses in Case Were Called to the Stand for Testimony on Monday.

Saturday, after nearly exhausting five pools of venemen, a jury was secured early in the afternoon to hear the evidence in the trial of Mrs. Inez Johnson of this city, who is being tried in the circuit court of Isabella county on a charge of having had a part in the murder of Miss Beatrice Epler of this city on the night of September 4, 1917.

Following a conference between the attorneys and Judge Hart, it was decided to allow the jurors to go to their homes for over Sunday, thus giving them an opportunity to arrange their affairs for a long trial. The court then adjourned until Monday morning.

The jurors with one exception are farmers. They are Charles Maxon of Bloomfield, R. H. Gardner of Sherman, E. E. Keller of Gilmore, George Grooms of Coe, Albert Favoreau of Coldwater, Frank Foster of Rolland, Clayton Johnson of Deerfield, Charles Craft of Mt. Pleasant, William Winder of Rolland, Robert Gilpin of Union, Joseph Mayer of Coldwater and Theodore Sharp of Wise.

When court resumed Monday morning the examination of the witnesses began.

Kelly S. Seari, who is assisting Ora L. Smith, prosecutor, in the opening statement said that the people would prove that Mrs. Johnson had inveigled Beatrice Epler to join a party late in the evening of September 4, 1917, went to the home of Mrs. Anna Gilson, and that the Epler girl was abused by one or more members of the party, after refusing to concede to improper proposals, that she was carried out to an automobile, alive and trying to scream, that Mrs. Johnson was one of those who assisted, and that it would be proven that the girl had been choked to death by Mrs. Johnson and a man.

Attorney C. H. Goggin of this city made the opening statement for the defense claiming that the testimony of the prosecution was unreliable, that Mrs. Johnson was not at the home of Mrs. Gilson and that she had nothing to do with such a party if one did take place.

Charles Hooper, who discovered the body of the girl on the morning of September 5, was the first witness called to the stand. He was followed by Will K. Ludwig, coroner, who identified the clothing taken from the girl's body. Dr. T. J. Carney and Dr. R. B. Smith of Alma were next called and they told of the finger marks found on the girl's neck, and both stated that in their opinion the girl had been choked to death.

On Tuesday Mrs. S. H. Epler, the mother of the murdered girl was the principal witness for the prosecution. She told how Beatrice had left the house to go down town about 4:00 in the afternoon, and had telephoned home about two hours later, and said that she would be home at once. Up to midnight, she stated, Beatrice had not returned.

Other witnesses furnished what seemed to be a strong connecting link between Beatrice Epler and Mrs. Johnson, one of these being Louis Losey, aged twelve years, who told of having seen Mrs. Johnson and Beatrice Epler talking together in front of the Johnson home on East Superior street, and stated that he heard Mrs. Johnson say to the girl, "Come back and we will go to a show or for a car ride," to which he testified that Miss Epler said that she would do so.

Mrs. Anna Gilson, star witness of the prosecution in the first two of the Epler murder trials, was the feature witness of Wednesday. She was on the stand during the greater portion of the day, and told the story of the party which was held at her home on the night of the murder. She told of Albert Eichorn passing around liquor, of the girl being forced into a bedroom, of the girl being taken out to an automobile, and of Mrs. Inez Johnson aiding one of the men hold the girl in the automobile while the other drove the car.

Albert Doty, on the stand early in the day, corroborated a statement which he had given to David Boudry previous to the Eichorn trial, but which for the first time was introduced as evidence. The statement follows:

"At or about 6:30 o'clock on the fourth day of September, I saw Al. Eichorn step off of Mrs. Johnson's steps and Mrs. Johnson held Eichorn's coat for him and he started west toward town and about 20 minutes later Beatrice Epler came and stopped and talked with Mrs. Johnson for about ten minutes.

"Signed: Mrs. Albert Doty, Albert Doty."

Best ice cream. DeLuxe.—77-1f-c