

THE ALMA RECORD.

VOL. XLII.—NO. 5

ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 1, 1919

WHOLE NUMBER 2093

MRS. JOHNSON FOUND GUILTY

Convicted of Murder Charge Alma Woman Was Given Life at Detroit.

JURY OUT ABOUT FOUR HOURS

Was Second Given This Sentence for Death of Beatrice Epler in 1917.

"Guilty," was the verdict returned at 9:30 Friday night by the jury, which had been hearing the evidence in the case of the people vs. Inez Johnson of this city, who was being tried in the circuit court of Isabella county on a charge of murder for the death of Beatrice Epler, sixteen-year-old Alma girl, on the night of September 4, 1917.

Saturday morning at 9:00, the last of the three cases for the murder, which grew out of the death of the girl by strangulation was brought to an end, when Inez Johnson, still in the prime of her life, heard Judge Hart sentenced her for life to the Detroit house of correction, after having told him she had nothing to say.

Late Friday afternoon Judge Hart gave the charge to the jury, forty-five minutes being used in the summing up by the judge in his charge. It was 5:30 when the jury retired to consider the evidence in the case, and to decide the fate of the Alma woman, who had made her life of shame an open book in her great fight for freedom in the Mt. Pleasant court.

Friday was used by the attorneys for prosecution and defense in their closing arguments to the jury at which time the court room was crowded to the doors. All four attorneys connected with the case took part in the arguments, Ora L. Smith, prosecutor, and Kelly S. Searl, special prosecutor, for the people, and Chas. L. Goggin and F. H. Dusenbury for the defense. As Ora L. Smith brought his recital to a close the mother of the murdered girl collapsed and it was necessary to assist her from the court room. During this time Mrs. Johnson and her two children, who were with her, were the objects of all eyes in the court room. At times during the arguments Mrs. Johnson would listen very attentively to the argument, and again would be weeping convulsively.

Following being sentenced by Judge Hart she was taken to the Isabella county jail, where she was kept until Monday, when she was taken to Detroit to begin her life sentence in the Detroit house of correction.

OPENS RECRUITING OFFICE

Private First Class L. D. Smith, army recruiting service, returned to Alma last Saturday and has opened the recruiting office at 112 1/2 West Superior street. The army is offering a very attractive proposition at this time in the matter of short enlistment, education and vocational advantages, travel and choice of service in the United States, Europe, Panama, Alaska, Hawaii, China or the Philippines.

Private Smith is here to explain the advantages of service in the many branches of the army to all who may be interested. Enlistments are being made for coast and field artillery, infantry, cavalry, quartermaster corps, medical corps, engineers, signal corps and the air and tank services.

HOWE'S TRAVEL FESTIVAL

Lyman H. Howe's Travel festival will be shown one night only at the First Methodist church Monday, May 13th.

This is the 49th semi-annual tour of this traveling festival and this season's program is promised to be the finest ever.

The people of Alma are to be congratulated in having this high class attraction visit their city, as it has been said by the company's manager that Alma is the smallest city in Michigan in which these pictures are shown.

The Young Men's Bible class of the Central M. E. church, under whose auspices this entertainment is given, have installed one of the finest fire-proof moving picture booths in the city and it is the intention of the church board to rent it for lectures and educational purposes.

SECOND ORATORICAL COUNCIL HAS DECIDED UPON ANOTHER CONTEST THIS YEAR.

Alma is to have a second oratorical contest this year. It is because the Council of Oratory and Debating has decided to hold the annual oratorical contest in the spring of the year, thus permitting the choice of a college representative early enough to that he will not be cramped for time in which to prepare his oration for the state contest.

This, being the first year that Alma has the change of date, means that we are to have our second oratorical contest this spring, May 14. The time is not far away. If we are to have a large number of contestants and a good local contest we cannot wait until the last minute to prepare for this contest. Alma is anxious to win in oratory, but she does not make adequate preparation for winning. Unless a number of students start working at once, this early contest will prove no more satisfactory than former contests and no benefit will be gained from it. There should be a good number of contestants and give a wide choice for orators for next year. With a good orator and eight weeks of summer Alma college should make a good showing in a state contest.

WILL HOLD BIG MASS MEETING HERE

Securing of Better Market Conditions to be Taken Up Tuesday.

There will be a big mass meeting of the citizens of Alma and the surrounding country in the gymnasium of Alma high school Tuesday evening, May 6, at 8:00, for the purpose of securing for the entire community better and more adequate market conditions.

A proposition has been put up whereby it has become possible to secure locally, all of the stock of the Alma Grain & Lumber company, at a price far below what it is worth, and quick action will be needed if the stock is to be handled in this immediate vicinity. The option upon the property is for only a limited time.

The proposition which will come before this mass meeting is a fine one, as it is a well known fact that the property of this company is worth far in excess of what it can be obtained for under this option. It is the intention of placing the matter before the meeting just as it is so that it may be thoroughly understood by everyone who is interested.

The betterment of market conditions here is a matter that should appeal to every business man and farmer in this section of the county, and it is hoped that the representatives of the business interests of the city and the farmers from the surrounding district will all be present.

SOLICITATION COMING

Victory Loan Solicitation Will Be Started Monday, May 5.

It had been hoped, when the Victory Loan campaign started that Gratiot county and Alma would go over the top with their respective quotas, without the city of Alma being solicited on this campaign, but reports of the past few days have shown a big drop, and it has been decided that it is necessary to canvass Alma if the county is to go over with its quota of over \$700,000.

Alma went over during the first three days of the volunteer system, and has been adding to her quota each day with a small additional amount, but it will not prove sufficient to put the county over. There are many in Alma, who it is believed are able to subscribe and will, if solicited. Some of these are known to have property in various townships upon which they have not purchased the Victory notes.

It is understood that the solicitation in Alma will be started on Monday, May 5, and finished up just as quickly as possible.

HILLSDALE COLLEGE FRIDAY

The first Michigan intercollegiate game of the season will be played here Friday afternoon, when the Hillsdale college nine meets the Maroon and Cream aggregation. The local collegians have a strong team, but the Blue and White also has a speedy nine, and a hot battle is being looked for. It is expected that Eddie Boyne will hurl the contest, but Crittenden may get a chance to show again.

PLAY SAGINAW LEAGUERS

The Republic baseball team will meet the Aces, as the Saginaw team of the Michigan-Ontario league is known, on Republic field Saturday afternoon. The Truckmakers are figuring on giving the leaguers the surprise of their lives here, although it is expected that the Aces will put up a hard battle for the day's honors. Sunday the Truckmakers will play the Saginaw leaguers at Saginaw.

Smoke the best, Wanigas.—64-1f

MAY CONDEMN NEW EYESORE

Second Millerville Found in Alma Which is Located on Highland Street.

BOARD OF HEALTH MAY ACT

City is Determined to Clean Up the District if Any Way is Found.

Alma has a new Millerville. This new one has what used to be known as Millerville, shaded by about 110 degrees in many respects, and like the former Millerville it bids fair to be of short duration.

Like the former Millerville, it is the product of the self-styled working man's friend, J. L. Miller, known to practically everyone in Alma.

The new Millerville is situated just a short distance from Michigan avenue on Highland street and a small stretch of land to the east, a portion of the Lewis & Searl addition, which was accepted by the city about three years ago.

A number of good sized lots which were in the Lewis & Searl addition were obtained by J. L. Miller, the working man's friend. These were divided up into smaller sections of land or smaller lots, if you will. Upon these were constructed a number of houses of the well known J. L. Miller type, cheap and of flimsy material, some of which, not yet entirely done, are showing cracks in the foundations, and doing small good to the houses which are constructed thereon.

Perhaps one of the most remarkable features about the new Millerville is the fact that at the present time no less than six houses are not on a street, and are not on any alley which shows in the plat of the Lewis & Searl addition on file at the city hall. A court has been constructed through a portion of this property by Miller, said to be 28 feet wide at one end and 23 feet wide at the other, which he has offered to deed to the city, but which the city has refused to accept. This would allow access to four houses.

That the city authorities are right in refusing to accept a deed for this court, is very evident from the fact that it has a dead end, and as a result would do for nothing better than a footpath, as it would be impossible, probably, to turn a rig around on this street without getting off the street to do so. Neither is it laid out correctly, being 28 feet at one end and 23 feet at the other. When the property was given the "once over" Monday, it was also noticed that the porches of the houses on one side protruded into the street, which would narrow it at this point. In addition on the opposite side of the street or court are two other houses on which porches are evidently to be constructed, which would of necessity also protrude into the street, probably leaving about twelve to sixteen feet for a street.

Even the acceptance of the court would leave three houses without alley or street for access, according to the blue print of the Lewis & Searl addition.

As a result residents, who are purchasing there on a contract, cannot get street or alley said to have been promised them, and not being able to get either of course could not get city water or gas or sewage. It is understood that one single block in which this new "Millerville" is located, contains over forty outhouses, many of them evidently having been thrown to the winds by the "working man's friend" in his desire to build and sell on contracts to unsuspecting people, who claim to have believed that they could secure city advantages in the district.

FIT TO WIN

A private showing of a government health film, "Fit to Win," was given at the Liberty theatre last week of a representative group of men of the city. The features of the film are such that it can be nothing, if not a great moral educational advantage to those who happen to see it. It is just a part of the great crusade against vice which the government is waging as a continuance of its war policy. It is a picture that contains a vital lesson to the manhood and womanhood of the country. It will soon be shown here to the public, with two shows, one for the men and one for women. Children under sixteen will not be admitted.

ELECT OFFICERS

The O. E. S. of this city elected officers at its last meeting. The officers elected for the coming year are: W. M. Carrie E. Fuller; W. P. Jessie E. Fuller; A. M. Ruby Huff; Cond. Jesse McKenzie; Asst. cond. Marcella Stuke; treas. Alma Saad; sec'y, Flora E. Day; Ada, Lora Slater; Ruth, Olive Orwig; Esther, Lucy Lawrence; Martha, Millie Young; Electa, Rilla Gallagher; chaplain, Sarah Taylor; marshal, Ida Montague; warden, Lucy Redman; sentinel, N. E. Saad; organist, Hattie Wyatt.

Best candies. DeLuxe.—77-1f

CONTEST FRIDAY

A. H. S. Oratorical and Declamation Contestants Go To Albion

Donald J. Dunham and Miss Augusta Arnold, winners of the sub-district oratorical and declamation contests will compete at Albion Friday night in the district contest, which is larger than usual this year, two districts having been combined for this event, bringing the local orators into competition with the larger schools of the state.

Miss Augusta Arnold, who won the sub-district declamation contest with the declamation, "Toussaint L'Ouverture," will give this declamation at the big district contest, and Mr. Dunham, winner of the sub-district contest with his oration, "The Impending Conflict," will give this oration.

The two districts which send high school representatives to the contest at Albion, comprise the lower half of the lower peninsula, which takes in practically all of the state's larger high schools.

AEROPLANES COMING TO GRATIOT COUNTY

Alma Will Be Host to Five Planes in Big Air Service and Loan Campaigns.

The latter part of next week Alma will be host to more aeroplanes than have ever been in this city all together in the past. Five planes are coming her from Selfridge field, Mt. Clemens to aid in the Victory Loan campaign and to stimulate recruiting in the air service.

Arrangements for the flying of the planes were not completed, when The Record went to press, notice of their coming having been received just a short time before, so that full details cannot be given this week.

It was only after the greatest difficulty that Lieut. T. Arnold Robinson, chairman of the Victory Loan committee succeeded in getting the planes sent to Alma. The first attempt to get them ended in disappointment, and it was not until after the matter had been taken up with Selfridge field and the War Department, that it was finally decided to send the planes to Alma, and Gratiot county, for the two drives.

It is only the fact that during the war, Gratiot furnished a large number of enlistments in the army, that decided the authorities to send the planes here, for a three-day visit.

There are few places in Michigan which will have the privilege of having these planes for such a length of time as they will be in this city, and it is confidently expected that the visit here will be productive of good results both for the loan campaign and the air service recruiting drive.

GIVEN AWAY

Wildness of Boyne Presented M. A. C. with Opening Game.

M. A. C. defeated the Alma college nine at East Lansing Saturday by a score of 11-5. The score does not do justice to the game however, as M. A. C. scored seven points on Alma in the first inning when Boyne walked five and hit two others.

After the first inning Boyne settled down and pitched fine ball. Both teams made four hits. M. A. C. had saved Donnelly, their first string pitcher for Alma having pitched a second string man against Kalamazoo the previous day. The showing made by the team was encouraging and gives Coach Field an excellent chance to work the team into shape.

Although the hitting and fielding was not up to the standard this can easily be accounted for by lack of practice and also by the fact that this was Alma's first game and the new men were a little unaccustomed to each other.

M. A. C.	AB	R	H	O	A	E
Snider, 2	3	1	1	1	4	1
Carr, ss	4	1	1	1	2	0
W. Andrews, 3	4	1	0	0	0	0
Hammes, 1	4	1	0	12	3	0
Doscher, cf	3	1	0	2	1	0
Johnson, c	3	2	1	0	1	0
Schneider, lf	3	2	1	0	0	0
H. Andrews, rf	4	1	0	0	0	0
Donnelly, p	3	1	0	0	1	2
Totals	31	11	4	27	12	3

Alma	AB	R	H	O	A	E
Cash, 2	4	1	0	1	1	2
Fitch, c	4	0	0	2	0	0
Boyne, p & rf	4	0	2	1	1	0
Pelton, cf	4	0	0	3	0	0
Johnson, lf	4	0	1	0	0	0
Ardis, 1	4	0	0	1	2	0
Williams, ss	3	1	0	1	2	1
Tomion, 3	2	0	0	0	1	1
Richards, rf	2	1	0	0	0	0
Crittenden, p	1	0	0	0	2	0
Warner	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	3	4	24	10	6

* Batted for Tomion.
Summary: 2-base hit: Snider. Stolen bases: Williams, Schneider. Left on bases: Alma 4, M. A. C. 5. Double plays: Doscher to Hammes. Bases on Balls: Boyne 5, Crittenden 2; Donnelly 3. Hit by pitcher: Boyne 2. Struck out by Boyne 6, Crittenden 2; Donnelly 11. Umpire: Green.

When what you have done in the past looks large to you, you have not done much today.

NEW RAILROAD IS POSSIBILITY

Bay City Southern May Shortly Be Constructed Through This Section.

WILL GIVE A NEW OUTLET

Road, if Constructed, is to Have Both Gas and Electric Power in Report.

If the approval of the railroad commission is secured, central Michigan will in the near future have a railroad running north and south which will traverse one of the most productive sections of the state, tapping north and south, as it will, the richest farming district of the state, and furnishing an additional outlet for the crops and manufacturing products of the "heart of Michigan." The road of course is the proposed gas-electric power road, known as the Bay City Southern.

The proposed plan involves the purchase of the Lansing-St. Johns electric line, and the Bay City-Midland branch of the Michigan Central railroad. Thus the plan will involve only the construction of the line from St. Johns through to Midland. While it is not definitely known as yet it is understood that the plans of the backers of the company are to make a division point of Alma, with terminals and shops at Bay City and North Lansing.

There is little question but what the proposed line will have a great influence for the continuance of the rapid development of most of the central Michigan cities which the road will touch, and will, if constructed, serve to stimulate the rapid development of some of them, notably St. Johns, Ithaca, Alma, St. Louis and Midland.

It is understood that those backing the plan have gone over every foot of the right-of-way, and have a thorough knowledge of the cost of construction of every mile of the proposed route.

The road is to be capitalized for a million dollars, and as it is proposed to charter the road as a steam road it will be necessary to pay some thousands of dollars for every mile of the route.

The cities and towns on the proposed route between Bay City and Lansing are Bay City, east and west sides, Midland, North Wheeler, Wheeler, Breckenridge, St. Louis, Alma, Ithaca, Perrinton, Middleton, Maple Rapids, St. Johns, DeWitt and Lansing.

It is the plan to start the work on the new road at once if the approval of the railroad commission is secured, it is understood. This will involve the securing of a franchise in Alma and other places it is expected.

PUBLISH LIST

Victory Loan Slackers Will Get No Sympathy from County Committee.

Notices are being sent to all township Victory Loan chairmen of the county from the county headquarters here, making it plain that unless those who are also, subscribe for Victory Loan notes, their names will be published in the newspapers of the county, even if it is necessary to purchase advertising space for the purpose.

The circular which is going out to the township chairmen shows that up to April 29 there were only 904 subscribers to the Victory Loan, as compared with more than 3,000 for a like period on the Fourth Loan.

It is also made clear that just because one portion of the county may be over the top with its quota, is not excuse for refusal to subscribe on the part of those who are able.

Robinson feels that inasmuch as the government desires a wide distribution of the notes of the Victory Loan issue, in order that banks may not be tied up, and for other reasons important to the country's welfare, that this is one thing which must be done in the Victory Loan Campaign.

TED DALLEY STOCK COMPANY

People of Alma and vicinity are assured of a rare treat this coming week with the appearance here of the Ted Dalley Stock company, which comes to this city under its own large canvas tent for a week's stay, during which time high class comedies and dramas will be offered.

The Straight Road will be the opening play for Monday night. The other plays of the week will be, The Newlyweds, The Marriage Question, The Un-kissed Bride, It Pays to Advertise, A Girl Without a Chance, The County Sheriff, Peg O'My Heart, and Baby Mine.

GRATIOT POMONA GRANGE

Gratiot Pomona Grange will meet at Pleasant Valley Saturday, May 10. The speaker for the meeting has not been selected, but it is certain that the best speaker obtainable will be secured. Visitors as well as Grange members are invited to this meeting. Program for the meeting in next week's issue.

Wanigas at Brunner's.—64-1f

ARMY DRIVE

Salvation Army Starts Nationwide Drive for Funds.

The Salvation army will start a nationwide drive in May during the week of May 19-26 for \$13,000,000.00, to be used in the work of the Salvation army during the coming year, and in almost every section of the country the Victory Loan committees are to handle the work of the campaign.

The great work of the Salvation army during the war won the highest praises of the soldiers of the country, and has given the Salvation army a high standing in the country. What it has been doing in times of peace is best shown by the high tributes paid by the five past presidents of the United States.

In the United War Work campaign the Salvation army received \$4,210,500 for war work and the way that it was used brought the greatest praise of this organization.

With the raising of this \$13,000,000 the Salvation army expects to stop the passing of the tambourine in streets, cars, restaurants, office buildings, etc.

In Gratiot county T. Arnold Robinson, will head the drive, which will call for about \$3,000 in this county. He expects to get the drive under way before the coming week is over and hopes to raise this quota in a very few days.

COLLEGE DEFEATED NORMALS EASILY

Spink Driven from Mound While Crittenden Pitched a Steady Game.

Tuesday the twice postponed Mt. Pleasant Normal-Alma college battle was staged on Davis field, and with Crittenden holding the Normalite stickers, Alma had no trouble in winning 6 to 1.

Spink, the highly touted Normal hurler, was driven from the mound by the avalanche of Maroon and Cream swats. It was the first time in college baseball that Spink was knocked out of the box. Ten hits, including two triples and three doubles were taken from his delivery in six innings. Boyne led the attack on Spink with four hits in four trips to the plate.

While Alma was indulging in a buffet, Crittenden had the Normals eating out of his hand, two hits being all they could gather, and had it not been for an error he would have had a shut out. For the first six innings the Normals failed to get a hit. Ten men were struckout by the new Alma hurler, who looks like the best proposition for box work the college has had in years.

Score by innings—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	r	h	e
Normals	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	2
Alma	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	11	12

TWO DEATHS

Mrs. Sarah Amsbury and Mrs. Ida Hahn Died During the Week.

Mrs. Sarah Amsbury, a well known pioneer resident of this county, died at the home of her son, William L. Amsbury, West Superior street, Tuesday, April 29, at the age of 84 years and eleven months.

The funeral will be held from the residence of her son Friday afternoon. Interment will take place at Wright cemetery northwest of this city. Obituary next week.

Mrs. Ida Hahn, living southeast of Alma, died suddenly at her home on Saturday evening at the age of 43 years. Shortly after her death, the Hahn home caught fire, and caused considerable damage, and adding to the sorrow of the bereaved family. The body was taken to Sunfield for burial.

DEFEATED ST. LOUIS

The Alma high school baseball team defeated its old rival, St. Louis high, in a heavy hitting contest Wednesday, having no trouble in winning by a 12 to 5 score. The green high school team showed a great improvement over its previous two games and the present indications are that Coach Highfield will round out one of the fastest high school nines in this section of the state before the season is over. The work of Pembroke, Stearns and Bishop featured the Wednesday battle.

BURIED HERE

The funeral of the late Stewart W. Knapp was held at St. John's church on Thursday of last week, Rev. J. Frank Jackson conducting the services. Mr. Knapp died on April 21, after a two-weeks' illness with pneumonia. He is survived by his wife and three sisters, Mrs. Zingra of California, Mrs. Brown of Minnesota, and Mrs. Brown of Minnesota, who were present at the funeral. The remains were laid to rest in Riverside cemetery.

NOTICE

I wish to announce that I have installed a sorghum mill equipped with Champion evaporator and power crusher for making sorghum. I have had fifteen years of experience and guarantee No. 1 work.

D. M. Haug.

FAR BEHIND LOAN QUOTA

Gratiot County Has Reached Little Over Half of the Amount Needed.

LASTS FOR ANOTHER WEEK

Active Campaign to be Waged in Every City and Township to Top Quota.

With her quota of \$762,150 only a little over half raised, Gratiot county must do some great hustling during the final ten days of the campaign, if the county is to go over the top with its quota, and bring its war record to a fitting close.

There is little question, but what Gratiot can go over the top, if the solicitors display the activity which they displayed on the previous loan. So far there has been little active soliciting and now the county headquarters in Alma is urging every township and city chairman to see that his territory is thoroughly combed for subscriptions. There is no question but what there are plenty of bond buyers in the county, who have not yet purchased. In this respect the county is pointing to Alma, where seven subscriptions totaled about \$75,000. The balance of Alma's subscriptions so far reported are believed to have been taken by less than three hundred people, and as a result not nearly as many people in Alma have subscribed to bonds as on the Fourth Liberty Loan. Many other towns and townships in this county have a similar showing.

Another reason why the county headquarters is urging the most active solicitation is the fact that the government wants a wide distribution of the Victory Loan notes.

Ashley, St. Louis and Alma went over the top on the volunteer system, and all three places have already received their honor flags. Ithaca, without question will go over before Thursday night, while North Star is rapidly nearing its quota.

Although Alma has not the large number of subscribers that it had on the previous loan, it is most noteworthy that Alma is the only precinct in the county, which has sold more bonds than on the fourth campaign, to date. Alma is rapidly dropping off in sales, however, and indications are that the city will not begin to approach the mark that it set on the Fourth Liberty Loan when \$403,000 in bonds were sold.

Lieut. T. Arnold Robinson, county chairman for the Victory Loan, has been making efforts to secure some loan attractions which Gratiot has never had the privilege of seeing, and his efforts have been bearing fruit. He has received a letter from Major N. J. Boots of Selfridge field to the effect that it is the plan to send planes to Alma for a recruiting drive and loan demonstration before the loan campaign is over, if possible. It is expected that at least one bombing plane and two scout planes will be sent to Alma. Announcement of the dates has not yet been received from Selfridge field, but is expected any time.

ARTHUR HILL VS. ALMA HIGH

In a game featured by errors by the local crew at Saginaw Saturday Arthur Hill took the long end of a 13 to 4 count, the Alma high team being unable to make hits count when they meant runs.

The contest was somewhat of a hitting bee for both teams, although Stearns out hurried Lee, the Hillite twirler. Luck broke with the Saginawans, however, as Alma failed to give Stearns support when it was needed, while the five Saginaw errors did not count in the run making of the Alma team.

Pembroke, Stearns and Bishop featured the contest for the local nine.

Score by innings:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	r</
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