

Webster City Freeman

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THE PASSING OF AN OLD RESIDENT

J. L. Ford Dies at Sanitarium in Des Moines—In Seventy-Third Year.

John L. Ford, an old resident of this county, who had been very ill at a sanitarium in Des Moines for the past four weeks, passed away at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon at the sanitarium from an illness dating from February 14th, when he suffered a paralytic stroke. Since that time he had failed rapidly and the end was not unexpected.

Mr. Ford was born in Parkman, Grange county, Ohio, April 19, 1842, and would therefore have been seventy-three years old today. He moved with his parents to Eaton Rapids, Eaton county, Michigan, in the spring of 1849. Here he united with the Methodist church in the spring of 1858. In February, 1864, he removed to Paw Paw, Ill., where he was married to Miss Louisa M. Bray, Sept. 16, 1868. In June, 1873, the family moved to this state, settling in Scranton, Greene county, but in December of the same year removed to Otho, Webster county, moving ten years later to his farm near Blairsburg where he has since resided, with the exception of one year spent in Webster City, until the family removed to this city in 1911.

At the time he came to his farm near Blairsburg there was not a tree or post upon the place. Being a carpenter he at once went to work building a rough board house, fourteen by twenty feet, in which his family lived from spring until fall, when a more commodious home was prepared.

With the aid of his family he planted the beautiful grove of trees which surrounds the former Ford home on the farm and made all the improvements upon the place.

Five children were born to this union, one a daughter, Ada, dying in March, 1882. The living are Mrs. A. W. Little of Des Moines; Mrs. Carrie Devine of Chicago, and Mrs. W. H. Perry and John F., both of this city. These, together with the wife and mother, mourn the loss of a kind and loving husband and father.

The funeral services were held this morning at 10 o'clock at the family home at 621 Bank street, Rev. Arthur Metcalf, pastor of the Congregational church of this city, of which the deceased was a member, officiating. Interment made in the Blairsburg cemetery beside the remains of the father and mother of Mr. Ford.

BOY IS ACQUITTED OF MURDER

Atlantic Jury Returns Verdict After Long Deliberation—Lad, in Defense of Mother Shoots Stepfather.

Atlantic, Ia., April 19.—After being out from 4:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon until 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon and taking nine ballots the jury in the trial of Francis Dunn, which was on in the district court here before Judge Rockefeller all last week, returned a verdict of not guilty. The case was one growing out of the killing of T. J. McEniry, the stepfather of the lad on Dec. 19. The lad shot him after he had beaten the boy's mother and started back to the house threatening her and members of the family further injuries.

The defense introduced testimony showing a long list of abuses to which the woman had been subjected at the hands of the deceased and placed the case before the jury on the proposition that the lad, who is 17 years old, frenzied, and fearful that the elder man would kill or seriously injure his mother, shot him without really knowing what he did. There has not been a case tried in this county in the last twenty years which has attracted so much attention and so much comment. The

court room was crowded every day and the case was a subject of discussion every where about the streets. The jury on the first ballot was evenly divided, but each succeeding ballot brought new votes for acquittal until at 2 yesterday afternoon the court officials were notified that a verdict had been reached.

The case was hard fought. T. B. Swan assisted T. C. Whitmore, county attorney, in the prosecution, and made a masterly address to the jury appealing for conviction. B. A. Goodspeed was attorney for the defense. His appeal to the jury was a dramatic one and was listened to by a crowd which occupied every inch of available space in the court room. The McEniry farm on which the tragedy occurred is west of the city and the boy and his mother and brothers and sisters expect to make their home there. The lad is a nephew of Fire Chief Clancy of Milwaukee.

Moving to This City.

Mrs. Louis Frank and daughter, Mrs. H. G. Higbee, arrived home yesterday from Dubuque, where Mrs. Frank has been assisting her daughter to dispose of her household goods. Mr. and Mrs. Higbee will make their home in this city, having shipped here what household goods they did not sell. Until suitable apartments can be secured they will reside with the Frank family. Mr. Higbee, who was recently promoted to a leading position in the revenue department and has Iowa territory, working out of Omaha, can have his headquarters here as well as elsewhere, hence their removal to this city.

HIGH SCHOOL WINS FOURTH PLACE

Twenty-Four High Schools Represented in Drake Relay Carnival in Des Moines.

Four men from the Webster City high school, Clarke, Gilmore, Greenwood and Wood, accompanied by Prof. Wyckoff, went to Des Moines Friday afternoon to represent Webster City in the Drake Relay Carnival held in the Drake stadium on Saturday. Several universities were represented, including the University of Chicago, Madison, Wis., and Ann Arbor, Mich.

In the relay races, university was matched against university—college against college—and high school against high school.

In the high school relay race, Webster City won fourth place, which is excellent considering the number of schools in the relay.

Easter Missionary Meeting.

The Women's Missionary society of the Congregational church held a delightful Easter meeting at the home of Mrs. F. E. Willson Friday afternoon. After a short business session, a fine program of Easter selections was rendered, the opening number being a vocal duet by the Misses Clarine Mueller and Ruby Whitham. Rev. Arthur Metcalf then gave an interesting talk. Miss Hester Huff followed with a vocal solo and after that Mrs. G. W. Crosey spoke in memory of the late Miss Anna McKee, for many years a faithful missionary worker. Another solo was rendered by Miss Edna Moore and the last number on the program was an interesting talk given by Miss Kathryn Lane. She told of spending the Easter time in Rome, Italy; of the impressive services held on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter in different cities. Miss Rosalind Cook accompanied the vocalists on the piano. After the program ice cream and cake were served by a committee of which Mrs. G. B. Pray was chairman.

Getting Better.

W. H. H. Smith, who has been with his brother, John T. Smith, formerly of this city, the past week or two at Britt, arrived home Saturday. John T. has been very sick, suffering from uremic poisoning, and it was not thought that he could recover, but he is now getting better. When he regains sufficient strength it is planned to have him undergo an operation for prostatic trouble.

JOINT SCOUT HIKE A HUGE SUCCESS

Fort Dodge Scouts Join Local Patrol in Supper, Hike and Contests.

Six automobile loads of boy scouts numbering thirty-six members, their scoutmaster, Mr. Hawley, and assistant scout master, Mr. Hessel, and the Congregational minister, Rev. Minty, of Fort Dodge, arrived Saturday afternoon to join our local scout patrol on a supper-hike.

They were a trifle delayed by not being able to secure enough cars early in the afternoon, but arrived before 4 o'clock. Over forty scouts of the Webster City patrol, together with their scout master, Murray McMurray, added to the number of visitors, made an aggregation of boys good to behold.

The destination of the boys was the meadow, back of Mercy hospital, and the games and contests were held on one side of the creek, while the supper and camp fires were at some distance from the scene of the sports.

A ball game was the most interesting feature of the entertainment, Webster City winning the game with a score of 7 to 1. The line-up of the local scouts was: Harold Woodall, pitcher; Myron Hahne, catcher; George Mertz, first base; Earl Omstead, second base; Arthur Jewett, third base; Kenneth Neel, short stop; Leonard Busing, left field; Harold Leopold, center field; Harold McConnell, right field. The game proved so vigorous a one that five bats were broken during its progress. Various scout contests were also the delight of the fifty or more people who gathered to watch the boys from the brow of the hill. The horse and rider contest, a tilting contest and a few others preceded the supper.

The guests brought their own sandwiches and fruit from their homes while the hosts furnished the Vienna sausages, which were roasted over the fire, canned beans, doughnuts and the cocoa.

The Ft. Dodge people left the city about seven o'clock, having had so good a time that another joint meeting was planned for next fall when the Webster City boys will go to Ft. Dodge and return the call made here.

The scouts of this city plan to hold another father and son banquet in the early part of May, such as was held last year for the first time.

The ladies aid society of Breeze Hill will meet with Mrs. Gale Bickford Thursday, April 22, at 2 p. m.

SUIT AGAINST THE CENTRAL RAILROAD

A. Groves and Wilfred Groves Ask Judgment for Sixteen Hundred Dollars.

Wilfred Groves by his next best friend A. Groves has filed a petition in the office of the clerk of the district court asking judgment against the Illinois Central railroad company for \$1600 as damages for injuries sustained when an engine of defendant company struck an automobile driven by Wilfred Groves at the Des Moines street railroad crossing in Webster City, on Nov. 28, 1914.

A. Groves has also filed a petition asking judgment against the railroad company for \$1,500. The petition states that while plaintiff's auto was approaching the crossing near the passenger depot in Webster City, on Nov. 28, 1914, and while the driver of said automobile was in the exercise of ordinary care, a train operated by agents of defendant, suddenly and without warning, ran down upon said automobile and carried it some 200 feet and broke and damaged the same; that said damage was caused by the negligence of said company in running said train at an unlawful rate of speed, in not sounding the whistle or ringing the bell, in not slowing up after seeing said

auto and in allowing bell at said crossing to become out of repair.

The Webster City Implement company asks judgment against Ed Beaver and Eva Beaver for \$129.60 alleged due on note.

Special Meeting's Closed.

The special meetings at the church of the Nazarene closed Sunday night with the largest attendance during the two weeks. Quite a number of people remained outside during the service. The second coming of Christ was the subject of the discourse, the thought being based upon Matt. 24:32-51.

The signs indicating the speedy return of the Lord were classified as 1 physical, 2 intellectual, 3 commercial, 4 spiritual—different portions of scripture being cited in support of each. At the close of the service some raised their hands for prayer, expressing a desire to obtain the experience of pardon and entire sanctification. One came forward.

The morning service at 11 o'clock was one of refreshing and an uplift to the members.

While all was not accomplished that had been hoped for yet seed has been sown that will bear fruit.

Mrs. Wines and Mrs. Dobson left for Marshalltown this morning, Mrs. F. B. Gowland and sister, Miss Fern Levi, accompanying them.

Sustains Slight Stroke.

J. L. Treat sustained a slight stroke of paralysis Saturday noon, which affected the left side of the body. This is the second stroke he has sustained, but he almost at once regained the use of his left arm, although he is still confined to his bed and passed a very comfortable night.

LEG WAS BROKEN IN TWO PLACES

Stratford Young Man Brought to Mercy Hospital Following Motorcycle Accident.

F. M. Lillyard of Stratford, a young man who is employed there, was brought to this city Saturday afternoon for an X-ray examination, following a motorcycle accident in which he was thrown from the wheel. His leg is broken in two places below the knee and he was taken to Mercy hospital for treatment.

He rested very easily last night and is getting along well.

Mr. Farmer!

We are paying 17c in trade for eggs. It will pay you to remember where you can do well on the egg question. Kearns Grocery, 1111

L. H. Sours at Cass Center.

L. H. Sours, formerly pastor of the Christian church in this city, now cashier of one of the Hampton banks, is supplying the Cass Center pulpit every two weeks, and was in the city Sunday for a short time, having filled the pulpit at Cass Center at both morning and evening services.

Will Hold Birthday Social.

The members of the W. C. T. U. will meet on Wednesday of this week at 2:30 o'clock at the home of Mrs. J. L. Peterson for one of their birthday socials. At this meeting the birthdays of eight of the members will be celebrated. Mrs. J. E. Clark is chairman of the program and refreshment committee. The program will include talks by Mrs. Hepburn on Suffrage, Mrs. J. C. Robinson on the Mule Law, a reading by Miss Helen C. Woolsey, a solo by Miss Rodine, and violin and piano selections by the Misses Irma Gosard and Maree Peterson.

Legislature Adjourns.

The legislature adjourned Saturday and Senator Chase arrived home Saturday night and Hon. Rube McFerren came up Sunday. The session has been a strenuous one and the record made will compare favorably with other legislatures. Senator Chase won recognition in the senate as a leader and Hon. Rube McFerren attained a place of influence in the lower house. They were usually right upon questions embracing the public welfare and while being upon the losing side in some instances their records in their entirety are satisfactory.

The Clothes a Man Wears



AVALON Clothes are really interesting. It's not as if you were just going to fit yourself out with a suit without regard to style or becomingness.

Test them by trying them on in our store. Take them home with you and see how they are admired there.—When you wear them they will occasion favorable comment.

There is becomingness in those one and two button coats with broad lapels, soft roll fronts, shoulders without padding. There is no reason nowadays for a man to wear a coat that does not hug the collar and shoulder closely. This is one of the great

points about AVALON Clothes. Make a resolution to buy your next suit here.

\$15 to \$25

Chas. T. Smith & Son

Head-to-Foot Outfitters

A PRISONER ESCAPES FROM JAIL AT FORT DODGE

Desperate Highway Robber Makes Daring Getaway, Being Third Within a Week.

FACED A LONG PRISON TERM Had Been Sentenced to Twenty Years for Holding Up Auto Driver.

Fort Dodge, April 19.—The third prisoner to escape from the jail here within a week was successful yesterday in making his way to liberty from a cage in the center of the county prison, through three sets of bars to the fire escape.

He was Elmer Margerum, sentenced last week to twenty years in the penitentiary for being convicted of highway robbery with aggravation.

Margerum was locked in the cage on the fourth floor of the jail for safe keeping. The sheriff, W. H. Hohn, does not live in the apartments reserved for him on this floor. The escape was made about 9:00 o'clock yesterday morning and it was noon when a note was found on the sidewalk outside the jail telling of the escape. It had been dropped by one of the other prisoners.

It is thought Margerum was aided in his escape by other prisoners in the jail who were allowed the freedom of the corridors around the cage in which he was locked. The lock of the cage was picked, and the lock of the door to the corridor was forced with an iron rod. When outside the corridor Margerum secured passage through the bars across a window to the skylight. One of the bars had been removed earlier in the week by two other convicts, Raymond Burgess, arrested for complicity in a robbery and George Murphy, being held for the federal government on a bootlegging charge, who made their escape in that manner.

After making the dangerous crossing of the skylight, Margerum broke the window to the fire escape and made his way to the ground without discovery. It is thought that a few hours after his escape the note was thrown to the sidewalk.

Margerum was convicted of the robbery of a taxicab driver of Moreland last summer. With his wife he hired the machine to drive to Calender. When about half way to the other town he held the driver up with a revolver, bound and gagged him and, after taking his watch and some money, abandoned him in a cornfield. They were arrested several weeks ago in North Dakota about ninety miles from a railroad in the mountain region. The woman is still

being held. Police in Des Moines and other cities along the Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern railway have been notified to keep a watch out for the fugitive, as it is believed that he boarded one of the trains on this system.

Pebble Dash Finish.

The F. E. Gempel building on Des Moines street, occupied by the Johnson millinery store, is undergoing improvements. The cement exterior of the building is being removed and a pebble dash finish will be put on. Mr. Gempel is also contemplating putting in a new front. If he should do this the building will be improved greatly.

Opened Season.

Fort Dodge opened her baseball season Sunday afternoon with a game in that city between the Capital City Strollers of Des Moines and the Fort Dodge Independents, the contest ending 8 to 18 in favor of the Strollers. Peterson pitched for Fort Dodge and evidently had a hard time finding the plate, as he walked five men in the first inning.

The Fort Dodge line-up is about the same as last year. Peterson and Blesser are on the pitching staff; Somers, catcher; O'Keefe, first base; Carter, second base; Umstead, short stop; McCafferty, third base; Buckingham, left field; Pherson, right field. They are strong ball players and the teams in this vicinity who expect to meet them this season will have to put up the real article of baseball to hold their own. However, that is the only brand the Webster City Nationals will hand out this season.

16 TERRE HAUTE MEN TO PRISON

Convicted Politicians Leave for Federal Penitentiary With Smiling Countenances.

Indianapolis, Ind., April 19.—With smiling countenance, Mayor Donn M. Roberts, with the fifteen other prisoners convicted in the Terre Haute election conspiracy case and sentenced to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, started on the trip to prison yesterday afternoon.

As the time for the departure was not made public, only a small crowd was at the station as the prisoners boarded the special car attached to a Pennsylvania passenger train.

While the men were being placed in line in the jail yard, preparatory to marching to the railway station the eighty-two men who were given jail sentences for their part in the conspiracy shouted goodby.

The prisoners were not shackled but a guard walked beside each prisoner, accompanied him into the car and occupied the seat beside him.

The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance.—John Philpot Curran.