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Tri-Weekly Courier

CHANGING ADDRESSES. Subscribers wishing their address changed will please give the name of the postoffice to which the paper has been sent as well as the postoffice where they desire it to be changed to.

LOCAL NEWS ITEMS.

Mrs. S. F. Fall and daughter Adelaide of Des Moines have returned after visiting at the home of C. E. Ball 113 North Green street.

Mrs. Julia Swenson and daughter Frances of Burlington have returned after visiting at the home of Mrs. J. B. Gephart, 304 North Benton street.

Mrs. Herbert Basquin and Miss Mamie Work of Topeka, Kans., have returned home after visiting at the home of W. A. Work, 304 North Court street.

Mrs. James Younk of Trenton, Mo., has returned home after visiting at the home of J. M. Snyder, 539 Ottumwa street.

Miss June Bell of Sigourney has returned home after visiting at the home of W. H. Asbury, 310 East Maple avenue.

Mrs. J. A. Gunn of Fremont has returned home after visiting Mrs. W. A. Heinman, 403 East Fourth street.

Mrs. G. E. Bailey of Sterling, Colo., visited with friends in Ottumwa en route to Chillicothe.

Miss Opal Weir of 1817 East Main street has returned home after an extended visit in Sioux Falls, S. D.

Miss Alma Swigart of Williamsburg, has returned home after visiting Miss Myrl Farmer, 709 North Ash street.

Miss Ruth Isherwood, 610 Norris street, has gone to Davenport to visit with friends.

Mrs. Fred H. White of Ft. Madison has returned home after visiting Mrs. W. A. Heinman, 403 East Fourth St. A petition for a writ of attachment entitled Jo R. Jacques vs. Lloyd D. Burton, has been filed with the clerk of the court. The plaintiff asks for a writ against the property, rights and credits of the defendant for the sum of \$198 with interest and costs.

Several signs calling attention of the public to stop dumping rubbish of various kinds in a number of places within the city limits that are made the refuse heap by persons at present, have been delivered by the city and will be installed about the city by the street force within the next few days. Among the places where dumping is prohibited is the foot of Cass street and Blackhawk street, as well as the vacant lots near vacant lots where the throwing of inflammable rubbish is a fire menace.

Ray Grammar, Scott Bibbles and Ambrose Bibbs had a narrow escape from serious injury Wednesday night when nine men in a city when the taxi in which they were riding turned over. They were rounding a curve at the time and a radius rod snapped throwing the car over on its side. The men were given a shaking up but were not hurt to any great extent.

Mrs. William Culbertson and daughter Alta, 801 East Holt street, have returned from their camp on the Skunk river near Rubio.

SAYS VERA CRUZ HAS LITTLE LIFE

LETTER FROM LEE CHERRY WITH ARMY IN MEXICO TELLS OF HAPPENINGS THERE.

Another letter has been received by J. L. Cherry, 1608 East Main street, from his son Lee, who is with the army in Vera Cruz, Mexico. This is the third note from the Ottumwa lad who is one of the men in the signal corps under General Funston's command. The letter follows:

Vera Cruz, Mex., June 27, 1914.

Dear Parents and Brothers:

I will report you a few lines to let you know the old world is still going around here. This leaves me as fit as a fiddle. It is pretty hot here but we can enjoy it doing bunk fatigue. I have been pretty busy lately replacing the tickers with telephones at all the outposts which consists of stringing wire and putting in phones. It has begun to get dead, the same old thing every day. Have just enough drill and work to keep in trim. This is one celebration I can't celebrate. We will have a big boat race, swimming contest, foot races and the cavalry will have its Roman race. I have another photo of our recreation room and the outside of our quarters. We had a general inspection the 24th which was passed very successfully by the whole company. We receive mail tomorrow. It closes at 10:45.

Tropical country has a great effect upon the lazy. I set up every morning at 5 and take a shower before breakfast. I was talking to McCutcheon of Chicago, this morning; he has more pictures and a story for the Tribune. The marines relieved one another at the waterworks at Eltejar this morning.

What is the excitement in Ottumwa the Fourth of July? The street cars are running as usual here. They charge six cents which equals two cents in gold. Not much. Well it looks as if they are going to run Huerta out of Mexico City. I hope we can give him a warm reception if he comes this way.

Well, as I haven't anything else to write I will send you a few photos of the best and newest buildings of the city. Hoping this finds all of you in the best of health. I will close.

Your son and brother, Lee.

TALES OF THE SANTA FE TRAIL AND OTHER ROUTES OF THE PIONEER ARE RECALLED

In his former article describing the Santa Fe trail as he found it late in 1865 after he returned from the war, James King, a former plainsman relates in very minute yet pleasing detail everything of moment along the dangerous route. The Indians and their modes of attack on immigrant trains, the blood brotherhood, the buffalo and the wolves, the overland mail and soldiery; all come in for mention and the life on the plains is vividly pictured in an interesting manner by this veteran who lived the life and knows from actual experience the things he relates. His first number was printed in the issue of May 19, 1914 and the second, July 7. That number because of its great length was thought best to divide and is followed by the present installment. In the preceding number the party of which Mr. King was a member, had reached Cow creek the headquarters of Col. Leavenworth, agent for the Indians. The letter continues as follows:

Cow creek was homesteaded in 1867 by an old soldier of the twelfth Missouri cavalry. I met this man in Hutchinson, Kansas, in 1887 and he told me that when the Santa Fe railroad was built through that country that he set up a saw mill and that the first year he netted nine thousand dollars in the shipment of crude and sawed walnut timber and lumber to the eastern markets. Cow creek ranch was kept by William Matherson who was the original Buffalo Bill of the plains. My old friend William F. Cody gained the sobriquet of Buffalo Bill by killing buffalo for meat for contractors when building the K. P. railroad up Smokey Hill river in 1867 and 1868.

Matherson had a wife and family in New York but they never came west. Here as at Little Arkansas river there were extensive stockades and the same class of squaw man. Matherson was both feared and revered by the red men and was called by them Big Thunder. He derived this name from being the happy possessor of a fine grass howitzer. He was an adept ventriloquist and could discount any worry on the trail at archery. With a position for a writ of attachment entitled Jo R. Jacques vs. Lloyd D. Burton, has been filed with the clerk of the court. The plaintiff asks for a writ against the property, rights and credits of the defendant for the sum of \$198 with interest and costs.

This is about verbatim as told to us by Matherson himself and I afterward heard him repeat the tale at the old Mansion hotel in Leavenworth, Kansas, in the fall of 68.

A band of Cheyennes made their appearance near my ranch and from a safe distance gave peace signs and asked for a parley. I did not let them see any one but myself. I permitted two bucks to approach me. In the meantime I had given orders to double shot the howitzer and have it ready to use at a second's notice. When they came near they said they were head good Indian and wanted to trade. I saw the treachery in their eyes and informed them that the great father from up in the sky was in the ranch and that he had his thunder with him and that he would destroy the entire tribe with his thunder medicine unless they went south across the Arkansas river to never return, and for them to go and so inform their chief.

They started back to report to their chief who had singled me as my Indian. He stropped inside the door and was soon dressed in a suit of U. S. cavalry uniform and a full feathered Arapaho war bonnet. I had twenty-one trusty men all behind their guns and the little brass boy was at a port hole in the stockade as were all the men. After instructing my men to elevate the muzzle of the piece so that the missiles would go above the heads of the men I mounted the fine Comanche horse and rode straight into the midst of the Indians. The Indians began moving about restlessly, some stringing their bows and some drawing their tomahawks while others edged away toward the creek as though they thought me an imp of Satan. I rode straight up to the chief and laying my hand on his shoulder I told him in the Cheyenne tongue to come with me to the great chief Big Thunder wished to see him. This was the signal agreed for the firing of the howitzer which was promptly done.

"The whizzing of the missiles at most created a general stampede which actually did take place immediately after the firing of the second shot. The great chief appeared to think that something of the supernatural was taking place and without a grunt or even looking back he rode by my side straight into the stockade where he dismounted and hid himself and placed under guard in a small room. I then had the little howitzer placed alongside the house near the room in which the chief was a prisoner and once more loaded, this time with powder only and at a given signal it was discharged, shaking the entire room. At the same time I appeared in the door way and found the red man prone on the floor singing the death song of his tribe and calling on the great Manitaw to save him from the wrath of the thunder God.

Matherson told us that he thought the prisoner brought about a treaty which was backed by hostages of three squaws and thirty fine ponies as a bond that the Cheyennes would never molest him again. An Arapahoe afterward stampeded some of Matherson's stock and some belonging to the Overland Stage Co. and almost immediately afterward this same chief with thirty Cheyenne braves appeared at the ranch and offered their services to pursue the Arapahoes and if possible regain the stolen stock. Matherson said they returned in eight days bringing back every head of stock that had been stolen and fifty fine Arapahoe ponies.

Matherson paid them in trinkets, sugar, salt, etc. for their trouble and also bought the fifty captured ponies which he sent to an eastern market. He said they had thirteen Arapahoe scalps on their return and that they celebrated their victory with a two

days scalp dance on the bank of Cow Creek. They begged to see the squaws which were held as hostages but were stoutly refused. On the eve of their departure however Matherson rode out of the stockade with the three hostages robed in cheap dresses of the most gaudy hue and riding three fine ponies all of which he turned over to the red warriors. Matherson told us that the joy of the warriors exceeded all bounds ever known on the Santa Fe trail and that they then insisted that the blood bond of brotherhood be formed between Matherson and the tribe.

The blood bond of the brotherhood is known among all Indian tribes of the plains even to the Navajos of New Mexico and the Navajos of Arizona. The fierce Comanche recognize the blood bond also. It can be performed only by the great medicine man in presence of the high chiefs of the tribe. I have never been present at a ceremony of that character but I will give you a description of it as performed in the past.

If the bond is to be performed between a paleface and a band of Indians a council fire is built; a council held, the pipe of peace is passed; the pale face smoking first, then the chiefs. Then the left breast of the paleface and that of the head chief is bared and a small puncture made with the point of an arrow and the blood exposed to appear on the surface. Then the paleface touches his index finger to the blood on the breast of the chief and makes a circle around the incision in his breast. This is repeated by the chief by making a circle on his left breast in like manner. The blood of the pale face being used. Then a bow and two arrows and a tomhawk are produced and the pale face strikes the bow and shoots an arrow into the space toward the rising sun being the east. This is repeated by the chief who discharges the arrow towards the west after which the tomhawk is wrapped in a piece of buckskin, buffalo hide or blanket and is then buried in the ground at which time a ceremony peculiar to the tribe is cherished. This ends the ceremony of the blood bond of brotherhood as conferred on the Santa Fe trail.

This bond was in vogue among the Sioux or Arapahoes nor with old Roman Nose the chief of the Dog Soldiers. I have not the time to describe what was known as the Dog Soldiers but will do so when I speak of 1866 on the Santa Fe trail.

There was another tall bridge at this point and after another day rest we crossed the bridge and with high spirits we pulled westward towards the Zarah and Pawnee Rock. The latter being described in a former note. We camped that night at the Wallows. This depression derived its name from simply being a low place carved by the American bison pawing and wallowing in the dirt. Here we found a good supply of stock water and we camped early. Just as the sun was going to rest in the west a herd of twenty fine antelope was coming to the wallows to quench their thirst. Two fine buffalo was procured from the herd and the cooks stayed up all of the night frying and roasting the meat. Many disputes arose as to who actually killed the buffaloes each one claiming that it was his shot that slew the shaggy monarch of the desert. But the dispute was always settled and was washed down with a good piece of either ham or mutton. The antelope falls a victim of the savage wolves, the latter being able to run crossroads and maintain the chase at the same time. I have often seen a drove of these beautiful animals, the antelope, being actually huddled close together for self protection and protection of their fawns while the wolves would be leisurely sitting on the haunches of the antelope waiting for an opening to make a charge. I have seen this sight most conspicuously on the rabbit ear plains on the Bear Creek route of which I will speak later on.

We replenished our larder from this herd of bison. A wagon was brought, the meat loaded and we all joined hands and circled around the different messes for more juicy steak.

I promised you I would speak of the different routes west of the Arkansas river, but as space will not permit at this time I will take you from the Great Bend of the Arkansas river west to a future period.

James King.

COMPETINE PLANS BIG HOME COMING

EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS BEING MADE FOR THIRD ANNUAL EVENT.

Elaborate preparations are being made by the committees in charge for the third annual home coming at Competine, to be held this year on the last Saturday in August or August 29. Both of the gatherings held previous to this one have been successful from every standpoint and every indication points to the one this year being even better.

RATTLERS GIVE PEOPLE FRIGHT

FRANK OF TWO LADS WITH SNAKES CAUSE DEPOT PATRONS TO SEEK SAFETY.

It was the prank of two boys but the unsuspecting persons gathered about the union depot when Burlington No. 9, the afternoon express came rumbling in, did not see the joke as did the ladies. The women shrieked, gathered their already tight skirts tighter about them and sought places of refuge. Some tried to negotiate a baggage truck but the decree of dame fashion, who has ordered milady to wear tight skirts, forbade this exit from supposed danger. Men who witnessed the sight gave way, found places of vantage where they might see and be out of danger. Many threw up their hands in the attitude of supplication for deliverance and others made a solemn vow to never again drink any of the squirrel brand booze that is peddled about the city. And the cause:

Donald Schamp and Stewart Salter, two youths who have the requisite amount of regard for fun walked along the platform, appearing from apparently nowhere just as the train pulled into the station Thursday afternoon. Wrapped about their necks and persons generally were huge rattlesnakes that bore every semblance to being deadly poisonous and full of venom; writhing and curling about in a frenzy as if anxious to strike those who came near them. The two boys assumed a nonchalant air and strode along the platform being given a wider path than would be accorded militant suffragettes on destruction bent. The two reptiles measured five feet in length with bodies of a proportionate size. The boys were taking the snakes to the depot where young Salter is employed and their appearance caused a stir among the crowds of both gender and sterner sex assembled about the station.

The fangs of the reptiles had been removed and they were considered harmless but the persons who saw them for the first time, were unaware of this. The boys bought the rattlers from a snake farm in Texas and will keep them for pets.

members of the herd and even then the wolves in their desperation would break through the cord and succeed in hamstringing a calf or some other member of the herd. I have known antelope when hard pressed to take shelter under the protection of the great buffalo bulls. The wolves in the antelopes chase divide themselves into stations or relays and when one pack has chased the quarry a distance another pack, sometimes only one, will take up the chase and so on until the beasts either hamstring or otherwise capture the antelope. The antelope falls a victim of the savage wolves, the latter being able to run crossroads and maintain the chase at the same time. I have often seen a drove of these beautiful animals, the antelope, being actually huddled close together for self protection and protection of their fawns while the wolves would be leisurely sitting on the haunches of the antelope waiting for an opening to make a charge. I have seen this sight most conspicuously on the rabbit ear plains on the Bear Creek route of which I will speak later on.

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The festivities will be centered about the Competine Christian church where the program will be given; while the dinner will be served in picnic style in the woods nearby. The program will consist of music and speaking and the complete announcement of the program will be made soon as the committee is still at work on that part of the day's events. It is the plan of those in charge to have as many as possible of former Competine people and those who have lived in the near vicinity, to come back for festivities which have been arranged for the day.

Church Notes

Miller church: Rev. Carl A. Montanus, minister. Sunday school, 2 p. m. Fred Rupp, superintendent. Preaching service 3. Subject of sermon "Winning the race." Christian endeavor meeting at 7:45.

WAPELLO COUNTY HISTORY IS OUT

FACTS AND FIGURES RELATING TO EARLY DAYS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY COMPILED.

The two volume history of Wapello county which has been in preparation for several months past is off the press now and has arrived in the city, having been delivered today to the purchasers. The books are bound in black and dark green morocco and cloth bindings. The first volume contains 432 pages while volume two has 615 pages. The frontispiece of the first book contains a very good likeness of Harrison L. Waterman of Ottumwa, who was the supervising editor of the history.

The books contain a very complete and detailed story of the county, the city and their inhabitants since the very early days when the Indians roamed the prairies upon which Ottumwa and the other cities of the county now stand. The facts and figures of these pre-settlement days are taken from the old Indian record books and trading list entries which are still in existence. Beside the historical sketches of the county and city the books are given over to biographical sketches of the many of the citizens of the county and these are accompanied by cuts in a great many instances.

BOY IS KILLED BY LIGHTNING

11-YEAR OLD GLENN BEDFORD MEETS INSTANT DEATH NEAR HILLSBORO.

Glenn Bedford, the 13-year old foster son of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Decker of near Hillsboro, was struck by lightning and instantly killed in the storm which passed over southern Iowa Thursday afternoon.

The lad came to the American Home Finding association in this city six years ago, and was placed in the Decker home about three months ago. Superintendent U. E. Smith of the association left last evening for Hillsboro to take charge of the remains. Funeral arrangements have not been completed. Owing to telephone connections being down in that vicinity no particulars of the accident could be learned.

HITEMAN.

Mrs. Tom Ansberry of Hocking visited last week at the home of her mother Mrs. A. Davis.

John Clarkson and family of Albia, Dick Phillips had a small picnic Thursday evening.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Owan Ellis, Thursday, a son.

Mrs. Rebekah Roach of Des Moines has been visiting here with friends and relatives.

Mrs. Belle Krebs returned last week from Ohio where she has been visiting.

Mrs. August Norlander was a business caller in Albia Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bottomly were business callers in Ottumwa Monday.

Mrs. Stephen Foy and daughter Hazel went to Des Moines Monday.

They expect to make their home there. Mrs. Lilly Dawson of Des Moines who has been visiting here and in Albia for the past week went to Chariton Sunday evening. She expects to return home from there.

Mrs. Munsel of Hamilton visited her niece Mrs. Nell Leike one day recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Gletzer and son Edgar, Miss Kate Jefferys and Logan Dury drove through to Des Moines in the Gletzer auto, for a visit at the Lee Hamilton home.

Mrs. Truman of Lucas is visiting with her daughter Mrs. Owen Ellis for a couple of weeks.

Ed Rbyn and family went to Chariton Sunday.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY.

Whereas, it hath pleased God to remove from our midst the daughter of Mrs. O. B. Lee and granddaughter of Mrs. J. Lee, members of our society, be it resolved that we extend to them our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement and commend them to God who alone can comfort the bereaved. Be it further resolved that the Ladies' Aid society of the South Ottumwa Baptist church present to the bereaved a copy of these resolutions.

Mrs. F. M. Rogers. Mrs. A. L. Lewis. Mrs. Frank Boyd. Committee.

ALBIA.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Milligan were in Ottumwa yesterday.

Mrs. Wm. Reed is on the sick list this week.

The fire department was called out about noon yesterday to extinguish the flames from a pile of refuse which was set on fire just before the high wind came up. No damage resulted.

Gus Shelquist, who left Albia seven weeks ago to visit his old home country Sweden, returned this week.

Mr. and Mrs. John G. Evans who have been touring the east in their automobile, will return to their home in this city this week.

FORMER OTTUMWA MAN PASSES AWAY

C. B. KOETT OF BURLINGTON, SUMMONED WHILE IN SIOUX CITY HOTEL.

Word was received here Thursday evening of the death of C. B. Koett, formerly of this city, which occurred in Sioux City Thursday afternoon at 3:30. Funeral services will be held in Burlington Monday.

Mr. Koett was born in Ottumwa August 12, 1864, and lived here until about ten years ago, when he went to Burlington. He was among the Burlington railroad firemen who struck in 1888, and after quitting the road engaged in the fire insurance business. At the time of his death he was special agent and adjuster for an insurance company. He was on the road most of the time, his territory comprising parts of Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska. He left Burlington several days ago and went to Sioux City, where he was taken ill on Monday and was unconscious for three days.

The survivors are one daughter, Esther, who was with him at the time of his death, three sisters, Mary and Agnes of Ottumwa, and Mrs. Margaret Hess of San Antonio, Tex., and four brothers, Will of San Antonio, Andy of Burlington, and Chris and Aloysius of this city.

JEFF SAYS:



The paper, the other day told about a sixty pound cat fish being caught. Somebody would have to give me a fish like that before I would believe that such a fish can be found around here. I have always been told that the big fish were in some other place—never at home.

WIND PLAYS HAVOC WITH HICKORY TREE

The high wind which accompanied the heavy rain storm visiting Ottumwa and vicinity Thursday afternoon played havoc with a big hickory in the yard of Samuel Hawks, 892 Clarissa street. The tree which stood between forty-five and fifty feet high was of the common shell bark hickory variety and measured about a foot through the trunk. The branches did not appear on the tree until near the top leaving considerable of a straight bare trunk. The heavy wind snapped the tree off about twenty feet above the ground as clean and sharp as if it had been done with a cross cut saw. While the Hawks family are lamenting the loss of the shade of the tree, the youngsters about the neighborhood are bemoaning the fact that they will not be able to gather nuts from the tree as it has proven a very popular place for all of them.

MRS. LEASURE IS BURIED AT ABINGDON

Batavia, July 17.—The funeral of Mrs. Pearl Leasure of Oskaloosa who died here at the home of her sister, Mrs. Rex Raney, some three miles east of here on Monday, was held Thursday at Abingdon and the interment was made there. Mrs. Leasure was a widow and shot herself through the heart Monday while visiting her sister. She lived for twenty-four hours after firing the fatal shot. A seven year old daughter and two sisters, Mrs. Rex Raney of Batavia and a sister who resides in Oskaloosa are plugged from a newspaper announcing the engagement of a man for whom she is said to have cared.

FIX THE BLAME FOR COLLISION AT SEA

London, July 17.—The British admiralty court today found the British steamer, Incomore, responsible for the collision on June 17 with the North German Lloyd steamship Kaiser Wilhelm II just after the liner had left Southampton for Cherbourg and New York.

Sir Bargaive Deane the judge in giving his decision said he found the Incomore had made a mistake in giving a signal that she had stopped when in a matter of fact she had not done so. This, he said, had misled those on board the Kaiser Wilhelm II and had caused a collision in thick fog which resulted in considerable damage to the German vessel.

SUFFRAGE OPPOSED.

Atlanta, Ga., July 17.—An adverse report was recommended by the state senate committee on constitutional amendments yesterday on the measure to give Georgia women the right to vote in state and county election. Similar action was taken recently by a house committee.

CHARGE LAW VIOLATORS.

Danville, Ill., July 17.—District Attorney George A. Karch today filed a suit in the federal court here against the St. Louis municipal bridge terminal company and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, alleging that each of the companies violated the 28 hour shipping law.

TO AID CONVICTS AFTER RELEASE

REV. FRANK WILCOX TO ADDRESS MEN'S BIBLE CLASSES AT BAPTIST CHURCH.

An organized effort to help the released prison convict make a good citizen is to be made Sunday at the First Baptist church when Rev. Frank G. Wilcox, assistant superintendent of the Iowa division of the Society for the Friendless will present his plan before a union meeting of the men's bible classes of Ottumwa.

Geo. Cosson, attorney general, is president of the society. Mr. Wilcox says that the society works both to put the released convict on his feet, and to remedy conditions that cause crime. He can tell of many instances of how the helping hand of the society and friends has made it possible for the man out of prison to get a start and regain his own and the public's self respect. The first few days or weeks after one is given his freedom are critical, and often tells whether he is to drift back to crime or not. Mr. Wilcox believes that in most instances where this happens it is because the man found doors for honest employment closed to him. This is where the society comes in and saves him from a return to crime. He estimates that the work of the society has saved Iowa three-quarters of a million dollars in making good citizens instead of criminals out of men that have been influenced to live right.

Obituary

Mrs. Ann Cassidy. The death of Mrs. Ann Cassidy, an old resident of Wapello county, occurred at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Michael McHenry, about two miles east of Ottumwa Thursday night at 10:40 o'clock. Death was largely due to old age. Mrs. Cassidy being 85 years old and ailing for the past year. The decedent resided in the county for the past thirty-three years and for twenty-five years in Ottumwa. She is survived by three sons, Patrick of Toronto, Can., Michael of Milwaukee, Richard of Sioux City and one daughter, Mrs. McHenry with whom she made her home.

The time of the funeral has not been arranged owing to the uncertainty of the time of arrival of relatives from a distance.

HAGENBECK-WALLACE CIRCUUS HAVE CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE AT BURLINGTON.

The Hagenbeck-Wallace circus which showed here on Monday of this week met with considerable trouble Thursday afternoon at Burlington on account of the heavy wind and rain storm which came up just before the afternoon performance opened. This morning's Burlington Hawk-Eye tells of the near panic in the following:

The worst storm of wind, rain and lightning that Burlington has experienced this year broke over the city yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Trees were blown down, fences wrecked, and much damage done in and about the city. The rain fell in torrents and the display of lightning has never been exceeded in Burlington.

But it would have caused little commotion had it not been circus day, and not some five thousand people were gathered in the main tent of Hagenbeck-Wallace circus at that time. Those within the tent had a narrow escape from serious panic and it is a wonder that there was no one in that vast crowd maimed or killed. As it was, when the people were seating themselves and the band was playing an overture preparatory to the beginning of the performance, the storm broke in all its fury and in a minute all was confusion. No attempt was made to go on with the performance, the circus people bending all their energies to strengthening the main tent and to keep the throng of people from becoming panic stricken.

It was a heroic task, however, and had it not been for the aid rendered by cool heads among the spectators, might have failed. A great many people within the main tent rushed to the exits just in time to see the animal tent blown down. There were many people in this tent when the storm broke, but all escaped before the canvas collapsed, only the animal trainers and the circus people were in that tent when it fell. Being experts in such emergencies they crawled from under the canvas, and soon had it wrapped about the animal cages so as to prevent the wild beasts from becoming more frightened than they were.

The deluge of rain had much to do with quelling any spirit of panic. When the people got to the entrance and saw the storm without a great majority of them hesitated to dash out into it. "Stay where you are. The tent is the safest place for everyone," was the reassuring cry from the well drilled circus employes. The note of optimism was taken up by many cool heads among the spectators and soon the vast crowd which seemed on the point of becoming a wild mob, cooled down and soon were quietly waiting until the storm blew over.