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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. F. G. Mauser of Albia, has returned home after visiting in Ottumwa. Mrs. B. French of Des Moines, has returned home after visiting in Ottumwa. Mrs. J. K. Zithers of Laredo, Mo., who has been visiting in Ottumwa, has returned home.

Miss Mary Rodgers, 325 Tisdale street, returned from a visit with friends in Des Moines and Minneapolis. Mrs. H. Casel, has returned to her home in Glenwood after visiting in Ottumwa.

Mrs. L. O. Constance of Knoxville, has gone to Sigourney after visiting in Ottumwa. The Misses Ruth and Marguerite Smith of Hamilton street, have gone to Beckwith to visit friends.

Miss Mary E. Braden of Des Moines is a guest of the Misses Nelle and Jo. Mrs. A. J. Wilkinson of Keokuk, is visiting at the home of Mrs. W. T. Wilkinson, 598 North Marion street.

Miss Harriet Raye of Davenport, who has been visiting friends in Ottumwa, has returned home. Mrs. William Devoe, south of the city, has gone to Blakesburg to visit relatives.

Mrs. Wallace Eager, and daughter, Lois, 923 Locust street, and Miss Effie Johnson of Bertrand, Neb., have gone to Oskaloosa to visit friends. Mr. and Mrs. George Haw and daughter, Miss Helen Haw, 117 East Fifth street, have returned from a six weeks' trip through California.

Mrs. M. Travis of Detroit, Mich., has gone to Blakesburg, to visit relatives after visiting at the home of Mrs. W. M. Travis, 414 North Weller street. Miss Mary O'Malley, 508 Center avenue has returned from Des Moines and Minneapolis where she visited for ten days.

Mrs. Harry Nye, 131 South Adella street, has been called to Newton, Mo., by the serious illness of her mother. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sparring of New Orleans, La., visited at the home of Mrs. A. E. Baker of Ellis avenue, Tuesday.

Mrs. Lee Steint and son, Julien and daughter, Jeanette, 326 North Washington street, have returned home from a three week's visit at Mason City. Miss Marguerite Boyce of Oskaloosa, who has been visiting at the home of Mrs. W. E. Dougherty, 322 North Sheridan avenue, has returned to her home in Oskaloosa.

Frank and Anna Ward, 425 North Jefferson street, are in Iowa City to attend the funeral of their uncle, Rev. Father Ward, which was held there today. Mr. and Mrs. R. Hefflin, 563 West Ottumwa street, have returned home from Peoria, Ill., where they have been visiting with their daughter, Mrs. B. Clark.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Smith and children, Donald and Dorothy, of Des Moines, have gone to Hedrick after visiting relatives in Ottumwa. They will also visit in Morning Sun before returning to Des Moines. Mrs. Edgar Earl, of Sioux Falls, has returned home, after a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Nelson, 907 Locust street. She was accompanied by her sister, Miss Alice Nelson, who will visit in Sioux Falls for a short time.

Miss Loretta Sullivan, 113 South Iowa avenue, has returned from a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Smith at Des Moines. Mr. and Mrs. Smith formerly resided here. Dick Smith accompanied Miss Sullivan to Ottumwa en route to Chariton where he will make a visit with relatives.

AGENCY PIONEER IS CALLED BY DEATH

Daniel Wise of Agency township, passed away at the Ottumwa hospital at 12:10 o'clock at the age of 69 years. He has been a resident of Wapello county for 45 years and is survived by his wife, one son, Will, a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Bloom of Cincinnati, O., and a grandson Russell at Agency. The funeral will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home of his son Will, five miles northeast of the city and at 3 o'clock from the Agency M. E. church, conducted by the Rev. M. D. Cox. Interment will be made in Agency cemetery.

LEAGUE ENDORSES PROHIBITION MOVE

Dubuque, July 30.—Resolutions endorsing the action of the last general assembly in adopting prohibition legislation were adopted Thursday at final session of the Iowa Catholic Total Abstinence union. Officers elected were: Honorary president, Archbishop J. J. Keane, retired; president, Rev. P. J. Martin; Osage; secretary, J. Berger; Dougherty; treasurer, Rev. W. J. Conery, Charles City.

HORSE SUPPLY IS NOT HURT BY WAR

L. R. FLEENER, FORMERLY OF OTTUMWA, SAYS FARMERS HAVE GREAT MANY LEFT.

HAS AIDED MARKET

Dealer Says That Without Conflict Stock Would Have Been Worth But Little; Many Shipped From Iowa.

L. R. Fleener, formerly of Ottumwa, but now of Des Moines, connected with Morris Williams in the Ottumwa-Des Moines horse market, declares that the European war is not draining the nation of horses. Mr. Fleener was formerly auctioneer at the local market and has been in the business for twenty-seven years. Following is an interview he gave the Des Moines Register and Leader:

Pursuant to the circulation of numerous reports to the effect that the European war had created a drain on the American horse market, threatening extinction to the salable beasts of burden in this country, a Des Moines man, one of the largest horse dealers in the west, declared yesterday that there was no likelihood of such a situation coming to pass.

On the other hand it was asserted that the war had created a demand for horses and maintained a price which enabled the farmer to dispose of his stock at a price he would not have been able to realize under ordinary circumstances.

Lee R. Fleener, who conducts his stables at South Ninth and Murphy streets, has been in the stock business for twenty-seven years, and during that time has bought and sold perhaps more horses than any other man in a half dozen states. He always kept in close touch with the market. He knows values and has kept prices at his fingers' end.

"I realize that many thousands of horses have been shipped out of the United States since the war began in Europe," said Mr. Fleener. "Practical horsemen realize, too, that had it not been for the conditions across the ocean stock raisers would have been unable to have got anything like fair prices for their horses this year."

"Instead of the European war endangering our horse market, it has helped it beyond measure. The census for 1915, prepared by the federal government, shows that at that time there were 26,800,000 horses in this country. The official figures also show that for use in this country, including the demand of the United States army, only 16,000,000 horses are required."

"When you take into consideration the general depression that has made itself felt in this country since the war began, I would say that a very small portion of this number are being used today. No Local Demand. "As an example of the way the demand has decreased during the last year, I used to sell as many as fifty horses every week for use in Des Moines. These animals were used principally around buildings in course of construction. I have not sold fifty horses in Des Moines during the past year. I relate this instance simply to illustrate the condition of the market. This state of affairs prevails not only in Des Moines, but it applies to every community in the country."

Mr. Fleener declared that the British government had issued an order that no more horses should be bought in this country until after Aug. 8. The reason for this, he said, was that transports could not be secured to ship them on. England has 55,000 horses on feed in this country now, it was said. The French, Italians and Belgians, however, still are buying. Horses Not Scarce. "Motor power has not kept the price of horses down," said Mr. Fleener. "It has kept values from going up to an unreasonable height. "As additional evidence of the fact that horses are not becoming scarce in Iowa at least," continued Mr. Fleener, "I cannot begin to handle all

of the horses that are being offered in my barn. I have secured additional stable room in other parts of the city whenever I could find it, and still I can't take care of the offers that come in daily. I would say that 50 per cent of the horses of the United States would pass inspection."

Mr. Fleener said that he had received from the agents of the British government word that the price for first class gun horses would be reduced from \$10 to \$20 per head. He declared he would not pay more than \$175 for the best horse on the market.

Resolutions

Headquarters Grand Army of the Republic, Winslow post No. 107. Post in session July 20, 1915. Agency, Ia. By unanimous action we hereby record our high appreciation of the life and service of our comrade, John Dwire, who departed this life on the twenty-first day of June, 1915, being in the seventy-sixth year of his age.

At the age of twenty-two Comrade Dwire enlisted in Co. F, Fourth Cavalry Iowa Volunteers and was honorably discharged with his regiment at Atlanta, Georgia, August 1865, having served almost four years in the war for the preservation of the American union. He was a charter member of our post and served as commander and chaplain, and at the time of his death he was serving as quartermaster. He was a good soldier and faithful comrade. We deplore his loss and extend our sincere sympathy and fraternal regard to the sorrowing wife and friends of our departed comrade.

By special order of the post a copy of this action was ordered sent to Mrs. Dwire. G. W. Creath, C. S. Cooper, Committee.

EX-MINISTER WOUNDED

Paris, July 30.—Adolphe Messimy, former minister of war, was severely wounded in the thigh by a shell splinter while on the Vosges front, where he was in command of a battalion of light infantry.

PIONEER OF COUNTY DIES AT MUNTERVILLE

Victor T. Hasselroth of Munterville passed away Thursday at his home at 12:30 p. m. at the age of 79 years 5 months and 3 days. He was born in Holland, Sweden, and has been a resident of Wapello county for forty-nine years. He was a member of the Swedish Lutheran church of Munterville. He is survived by his wife and three children, Hugo Hasselroth of Council Bluffs, Oscar Hasselroth of Chillicothe and Mrs. Frank Larson of Ottumwa.

The funeral will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Munterville church, conducted by the Rev. Mr. Carlson of Chariton. Interment will be made in Munterville cemetery.

BIRMINGHAM.

Miss Georgia Burch went to Montrose, Iowa Monday to visit her sister Mrs. Manfred Johnson. Mrs. H. B. Kirkpatrick went to Valley Junction last week to visit her sister Mrs. Anna Rankin. Verly Anderson and sister Yada visited Chicago the first of the week to visit their aunt Mrs. Perry Bonnett. Roy Flinger and family of Fairfield visited last week with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Will H. Hastings and daughter Gladys went to Scandia, Kansas on Tuesday to visit a sister of Mrs. Hastings.

A. Wheeler and John Taylor, were arrested for shooting traps on East Mill street and were tried in police court this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

THREE SHOCKS GIVEN.

The first shock lasted a full minute and the executioner said that it was 1,850 volts and ten amperes in strength. It came while Becker was still commending his soul to his maker.

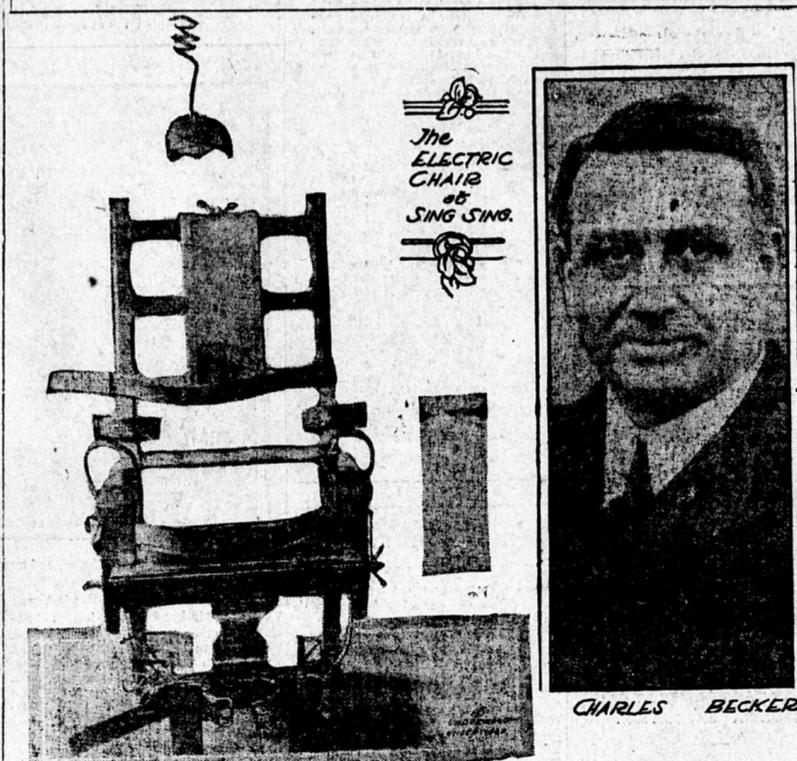
The two prison physicians stepped forward to examine the collapsed figure that sat supported in the death chair by the thick black leather straps. The stethoscope was applied to the heart and Dr. Charles Farr, the prison physician, pressed his finger against the artery in the neck. There was still a feeble fluttering of the heart.

The physician stepped back from the rubber mat and again the electric current pulsed through the body. The shock lasted seven seconds and the current was then turned off. After a hasty examination Dr. Farr asked that a third shock be given. This lasted five seconds. An examination that took several minutes followed. Three physicians among the witnesses then made an examination and Dr. Farr at 5:55 o'clock pronounced Becker dead.

Writes Last Statement. During the night Becker penned on a piece of paper what he captioned "My Dying Declaration." It was taken to the warden's office where two copies were typewritten, which Becker signed with his fountain pen in a bold hand. To Deputy Warden Johnson, who had charge of the execution in place of Warden Thomas Mott, Osborne, who does not believe in the death penalty, the one time police lieutenant gave his fountain pen as a gift. "It is the last thing that I have to give away and I want you to have it. I want you to give this statement to the newspaper men."

Becker's message given out just before he went to his death read: "Gentlemen: I stand before you in my full senses, knowing that no power on earth can save me from the grave that is to receive me. In the face of that, in the teeth of those who condemn me, and in the presence of my God and your God, I proclaim my absolute innocence of the foul crime for

Electric Chair Gets Men Who Murdered Rosenthal



BECKER IS EXECUTED WITH PRAYER ON LIPS

The one time police officer hesitated as he entered the execution room. It seemed to the witnesses as if he was near at hand. He looked quickly at the double row of witnesses, glanced at the floor, swept with his eyes the whitened walls of the room and then, suddenly, as if coming to himself, walked briskly over the rubber mat and seated himself in the electric chair. Behind Becker followed the prison priests chanting the prayer of death, which was repeated by the condemned man.

"Jesus, Mary, Joseph, have mercy on my soul," nervously spoke Becker as deputy wardens stepped forward and adjusted the electrodes. The minute elapsed before the electrode was applied to the right leg, a slit having been previously cut in the trouser leg from the knee down. After the electrode had been firmly adjusted against a shaven spot on the back of the condemned man's head, the state executioner looked at Deputy Warden Johnson, who surveyed the figure that was still mumbering the death prayer in the chair. Johnson half turned his head and the executioner jammed the switch.

After his wife had said farewell, shortly after midnight, Becker maintained a casual conversation with Deputy Warden Johnson who sat beside the screen in front of his cell. Sometimes he smoked cigars, after which he would let his head fall on the floor for minutes at a time. Dawn found him seated on the edge of his cot carefully pinning a photograph of his wife on his white shirt just over his heart. Then, as if he desired to have her all to himself, Becker put on a thin black alpaca coat, which he tightly buttoned. The photograph was not seen by the witnesses until the prison physician opened his coat as he sat in the death chair.

Becker was put to death by the state executioner whose name is unknown to the public. This man succeeded State Electrician Davis and he said he would not take the job unless his name was kept secret. He lives in a little town up-state and went about his work briskly. Becker's executioner said that in his opinion the man had died instantly at the first contact.

Negro Follows Becker. An autopsy on the body of Becker was performed, according to law, immediately after the execution. After Becker's body had been removed from the electric chair, Samuel Haynes, a negro murderer, was brought into the execution room and electrocuted. One executioner, at the requests to Warden Osborne was that he be put to death before Haynes.

Mrs. Becker Makes Statement. A statement credited to Mrs. Becker was given out here shortly after her husband's death. "I shall never rest," she was quoted as saying, "until I have exposed the methods which were used to convict my husband. Whether he was guilty or innocent, there was no justification for the means employed to convict him. "I would rather lose all the other members of my family, as dear as they are to me, than lose Charlie. No one can take his place. In all of the ten years of our married life I never had occasion once to regret that I was his wife. "Charlie was no angel. He made no pretense of being one. He was just

FOUR HUNDRED ARE THROWN TO GROUND

SEATS GIVE AWAY AT COMEDY PLAYERS' PERFORMANCE AT CHARITON.

Chariton, July 30.—(Special to The Courier.)—Four hundred people were thrown to the ground here Thursday night when a section of the seats in the S. P. Nutt Comedy Players' tent gave away. Out of that number but few were injured, only three receiving serious injuries.

Those who are reported to be suffering considerably from their fall are: Mrs. John Connor, hip dislocated; Mrs. C. W. Carter, shoulder dislocated, and Mrs. Morgan Lewis, ankle twisted. The management of the concern can give no cause for the accident. The managers state that an extra reinforcement of cinders had been placed beneath the seat supports to strengthen the tax upon them by the soft condition of the ground.

A remarkable escape as well as a coincidence in connection with the accident was that experienced by the child of Bert Starr. Mr. Starr was sitting in the front row with the child in the go cart in front of him. The vehicle was entirely demolished in the wreckage that followed but the child was unhurt.

district attorney, declaring he had nothing to fear. Harry Vallo and Bridgie Webber, gamblers and friends of Rose and Becker, were arrested as witnesses. The grand jury began its investigation.

Rose Turns Informer.

Rose lay in prison twelve days without word from Becker, and, believing his chief had deserted him, confessed. Vallon and Webber corroborated his story. He told of his long association with Becker, of police corruption which existed as Rosenthal had charged, of thousands collected by Becker for police protection and, finally, of his commission by Becker to arrange to have Rosenthal killed by gunmen—a commission he executed.

That night, July 29, 1912, District Attorney Whitman summoned the grand jury by telephone and telegraph, laid his evidence before it and within two hours obtained the indictment of Becker on a charge of murder.

Four east side gangsters were indicted as the actual murderers. Rose had testified that these men were assigned by "Big Jack" Zelig, a gang leader who had been arrested by Becker's men on a trumped-up charge, to do the murder. They were to receive \$1,000 and Zelig was to be released. Zelig's orders had been issued from the Tombs to the gunmen.

These gunmen—known in the streets of the east side as "Gyp the Blood" Horowitz, "Lefty Louis" Rosenberg, "Dago Frank" Cirofici and "Whitey" Lewis—were rounded up one by one. The last two were arrested, "Gyp the Blood" and "Lefty Louis" were not found till September, hiding in a Brooklyn flat. With them were found their young wives, who, to divert suspicion, had dyed their light hair dark.

Case is Complete.

To give standing to the testimony of Becker's case accomplices who had turned informers—Rose, Webber and Vallon—a corroborating witness who was not implicated was needed. Sam Schoppa, a dapper little gambler who had fled the city, was the man who could do this. He was found at Hot Springs, Ark., brought back to New York and the people's case against Charles Becker was complete. It went to trial on October 7, 1912.

A verdict of guilty of first degree murder was returned at midnight October 24, 1912, after the jury had deliberated seven hours and fifty-seven minutes. Becker was sentenced six days later to die in the electric chair during the week of December 9, 1912. Within less than a month the four gunmen were placed on trial as the actual slayers, found guilty and sent to the death house.

More than a year later, on February 24, 1914, the court of appeals decided that Becker should have a new trial. The gunmen's conviction was upheld and they paid the penalty with their lives on April 14, 1914. One of the number, "Dago Frank" confessed the guilt of his three associates but maintained his own innocence. His confession, made on the eve of the execution, became known the day they were put to death.

Becker was brought back to the Tombs. His second trial was begun May 6, 1914, and ended May 22, with a verdict of guilty. He was sentenced to die during the week of July 6, 1914, and his appeal was filed, but the conviction was upheld by the higher court in a decision handed down May 25, last, and the date of the execution was set for the week beginning July 12. Later appeals postponed the execution till today.

Wife Loyal To Becker.

Throughout Becker's troubles his wife remained loyal to him and was his constant adviser. She labored apparently without tiring in his behalf, assisting his counsel in every way possible. She appeared to be crushed when the Court of Appeals upheld his second conviction, but soon turned her energies toward eleventh-hour work to save him. It was largely at her urging that he joined in the plan to ask Governor Whitman, his prosecutor, for clemency.

Waits For Vengeance.

There was one other woman who, if reports are true, followed Becker's career through the courts as closely as his own wife did. This was Herman Rosenthal's widow. Soon after Becker's second conviction she disappeared. Not long ago she was found broken in health and spirit, and living with an old-time friend.

"I am living for one thing," she was quoted as saying, "to see the day that the penalty is exacted."

The Fair 118 East Main Street