

# THE LEON REPORTER.

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## JUDGE MAXWELL SICK

Court Adjourned Until Monday, Nov. 27th when Trial of Tom Young will Again be Taken Up.

Court adjourned for the second time Tuesday morning on account of the illness of Judge Maxwell, until Monday, November 27th, when the trial of Tom Young, charged with the murder of Mrs. Bertha Zornes, near DeKalb, last December, will be again taken up.

When The Reporter went to press last Wednesday the work of selecting a jury in the Young case was in progress, a special venire of 75 jurors having been summoned in addition to the regular panel of 24. On Thursday morning it looked as if it would be impossible to secure a jury from the regular and special panel and Judge Maxwell ordered a second special venire of 30 jurors summoned to appear at noon on Thursday. After the special venire was drawn eleven jurors were secured and by agreement of the prosecution and defense it was agreed to try the case to a jury of eleven members, and the following were sworn in as the jury after noon on Thursday: J. P. Wolf, Garden Grove; George Gilchrist, Burrell; C. L. Akers, Center; T. W. Daniels, Burrell; W. C. Beavers, Woodland; J. N. Bethards, Woodland; R. R. Havens, Decatur; F. E. Hammer, Fayette; A. J. Fulton, Eden; C. C. Bright, Morgan; Otis Peters, Bloomington.

A rather peculiar coincidence in the selection of the jury is that of the regular and special venire 99 jurors, 66 reported for duty, and from this number 11 jurors were selected.

Judge Maxwell had not been feeling well for several days and after the jury was sworn in he felt he was not able to proceed with hearing the case and court was adjourned until Monday at 1:30 o'clock. Judge Maxwell returning to his home at Creston. He returned to Leon Monday and the trial of the case was commenced at once, although Judge Maxwell was quite sick. The attorneys made their statements to the jury and three or four witnesses were examined Monday afternoon. Tuesday morning Judge Maxwell was so sick that it was necessary to call a physician to see him and the physician positively forbade him getting out of bed, so it was impossible to proceed with the trial and by agreement of the attorneys court was postponed until Monday, November 27th, when the case will again be taken up. Judge Maxwell was feeling some better Wednesday and was able to return to his home at Creston.

The docket of our court is getting in a very bad state and it will probably be necessary to hold a special session of three or four weeks some time soon. The trials of the criminal cases this year have occupied practically all of the time of the regular sessions and many cases are waiting to be tried. It looks as if the only way to clear up the docket is to hold a special term of court.

The following cases have been disposed of since our report last week:

**Criminal.**  
State vs. Macy Stephen, grand jury ignores charge, defendant discharged and bond exonerated.

State vs. Will Owen, grand jury ignores charge, defendant discharged and bond exonerated.

State vs. Leo Boatman, grand jury ignores charge, defendant discharged and bond exonerated.

State vs. A. C. Wilson. Dismissed at defendant's cost.

**Probate.**  
Guardianship of Harrison Brown, final report approved, guardian allowed \$150 for his services to date. Guardianship of Henry Stanley, annual report of guardian approved. Sale of personal property to Henry Stanley, Jr., on credit and note taken for same is approved.

**Law and Equity.**  
Coral Horner vs. Elizabeth A. Smith, et. al. Report of sales and deeds approved and clerk ordered to certify same.

R. W. Braden vs. E. O. Lovett. Settled and dismissed.

Austin Olsen, et. al. vs. Maud Judson, et. al. Settled as per stipulations and agreement of partition.

Mary E. Goff vs. L. H. Goff. Dismissed.

W. H. Bronson vs. Walter Venn, et. al. Dismissed without prejudice.

**Uncle John Holden Dead.**

Uncle John Holden, one of the best known citizens of Leon, was stricken with paralysis last Thursday morning, and his death followed on Sunday morning. Uncle John had been in failing health for the past two years and with his wife returned just a few weeks ago from a visit of several weeks in Kansas and at St. Joe. Funeral services were held at the home on Monday at 10 o'clock, under the auspices of the G. A. R. Post, of which he had been an active member for many years. It was impossible to obtain the data for an obituary this week, and it will be published next week.

**Mrs. Matilda Butcher.**

Mrs. Matilda Butcher, one of the pioneer settlers of Burrell township, died at her home near Terre Haute on Monday morning, just six days after the death of her sister, Mrs. Malinda O'Dell, another of the old pioneers of that section. Her funeral was held on Tuesday, interment being made in the Miller cemetery. A fitting obituary will be published next week.

## COSSON GOING AFTER RAFFLES.

Calls Attention of Mayors and Others to Laws Relating to Such Things.

In an opinion made public Tuesday George Cosson, attorney general announced a statewide war against the candy raffle in a campaign to be carried on by every county attorney and the mayors of the cities.

A candy raffle is real gambling. Mr. Cosson says, and requests the officers to indict every merchant who is guilty of the offense, for such a case constitutes running a gambling house, Mr. Cosson construes the law.

The following is from Mr. Cosson's letter that has been sent to officials of every county:

"My attention has recently been directed to various slot machines and candy raffles. The complaint is made that so great has become this evil of candy raffles, that a merchant who refuses to handle these gambling schemes can not compete in business with those who do. Formerly, wholesale candy raffle boards confined the prizes to candy, but the evil has so multiplied and competition has become so great that within the past ten days I have received complaints that diamond rings, silverware, clocks, gold watches and other articles of jewelry, spurious as well as genuine, are being disposed of as prizes in connection with the candy raffles. It is common knowledge that the larger part of the money received in disposing of these candy raffles is from boys and girls, some of them immature.

"I therefore suggest and request that the several mayors and superintendents of public safety direct their chief of police officers to cause all forms of gambling to be suppressed, including all schemes of raffles, lotteries and all slot machines containing an element of chance, and if the offenders continue the illegal operations of these gambling enterprises, that they be immediately arrested under the city ordinances, and that the county attorneys also cause them to be indicted by the grand jury of their respective counties for operating gambling houses in violation of law, and that the paraphernalia be condemned, as by law provided."

## More Trouble With Mail Clerk.

It looks as if something should be done to improve the service on the Des Moines and Cainsville postal run, especially when a postal clerk named Van Emmert is on duty. Last week The Reporter and Journal for Pleasanton were mailed on Wednesday, yet they had not reached Pleasanton on Saturday. The package for Cainsville had not reached that office on Monday. We received the Pleasanton paper published on Friday on the train from the north Monday, and the Osceola papers published on Thursday were received Monday. On Saturday when the mail pouch was received from the Cainsville train there was not a thing in the pouch at all, the mail which should have reached Leon Saturday afternoon from Cainsville and Pleasanton being received on the Charlton train Sunday. The postal clerk is either utterly incompetent or grossly negligent, and the matter has been reported to the superintendent of the railway mail service at Des Moines several times. Our subscribers are kicking and we don't blame them. We are doing our part and mailing The Reporter on time every week, and there is no excuse for them not being delivered the same day they are mailed. Just a few weeks ago this same mail clerk carried our papers in his car for three or four days before they were delivered at the various offices right here in Decatur county. There is going to be an improvement at once or the matter will be taken up with authorities higher up.

## Was Elected Secretary.

Mr. E. E. Bell, of the firm of Bell & Robinson, the Rexall druggists of Leon, attended the meeting of the Iowa Rexall dealers held at Cedar Rapids last week, and read a paper on the stationery department of the retail drug store, which was highly commented on by the dealers in attendance at the convention and by the daily papers of Cedar Rapids. At the annual election of officers of the association Mr. Bell was elected secretary and treasurer. There are 185 Rexall drug stores in the state of Iowa, and 42 applications waiting to be passed on, as the Rexall goods are only placed in first-class drug stores. And Bell & Robinson have one of the best of the Rexall stores in the state of Iowa.

## Improvements at Exchange National Bank.

Some extensive improvements are being made in the fittings and furnishings at the Exchange National Bank, and when completed the bank will have the noblest bank in southern Iowa. New steel ceilings and oak beams are being put in both the banking room and the directors' room in the rear, the floors will be covered with linoleum and other improvements made. The Exchange National is growing right along and felt that their increased business justified them in having a finer place in which to transact business.

## Traded Sausage for Coal.

Saturday morning J. Hoffhins found a good sized package of sausage in his coal store house, which some fellow evidently dropped there the night before while helping himself to some coal. Jonas is in the coal business and says he is willing to trade coal for sausage, but wants to be there when the exchange is made.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The newspapers of Leon will adopt a new rule on January 1, 1912. On and after that date all subscriptions will be stopped at expiration of the time for which the same has been paid. The present requirements of the postoffice department regarding subscription accounts is such that we deem it advisable and fully in accord with the desires of a majority of our readers, to adopt the rule of requiring that all subscriptions be paid in advance. Papers will be promptly discontinued at the date of expiration unless the subscriber has renewed by paying in advance for another year or such portion thereof as it is desired that the paper continue to them. We urge all readers to carefully note the address label on their papers which show the date to which subscriptions are paid. If you are not paid in advance and desire your paper to continue to your address attend to this matter without delay. The subscription rate to the Leon Reporter is \$1.50 a year. Pay up your arrearages and in advance to the date that you wish your paper to continue to you.

## J. L. PARRISH GETS IT

Former Leon Attorney Appointed as Chief Counsel for Rock Island R. R. with \$10,000 Salary.

The many friends of James L. Parrish, years ago a struggling young attorney of Leon, will be pleased to learn that he has been appointed general counsel of the Rock Island R. R. for Iowa and South Dakota, to succeed the late Carroll Wright. Mr. Parrish studied law in Leon in 1888 and 1889, and was married in this city, his bride being Miss Ollie Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Clark of this city. In 1890 Mr. Parrish and Geo. W. Baker also of this city, went to Des Moines and opened up a law office, but Mr. Baker returned to Leon a short time afterwards. Mr. Parrish remained in practice in Des Moines and was very successful and is now considered among the best attorneys of the state. The Register and Leader of Sunday has the following notice of his promotion:

James L. Parrish, assistant solicitor under the late Carroll Wright, general counsel of the Rock Island road for Iowa and South Dakota, has been selected to fill the vacancy caused by the recent death of Mr. Wright. The Register and Leader has this upon authority of one in intimate touch with the management of the company. The announcement of the appointment of Mr. Parrish was arranged to be made next Wednesday, when it was intended to first make it public.

That James L. Parrish has been chosen and that the announcement will be made public Wednesday is certain. Mr. Parrish came to Des Moines from Leon in 1890. He had been a stenographer in the office of his brother, Robert L. Parrish, under whom he studied law. Prior to removing from Leon to Des Moines he was admitted to the bar, and soon after coming to this city he associated himself with the law firm of Spurrier, Dowell & Parrish.

When Mr. Spurrier retired from the firm to accept a position upon the Polk county district bench the firm was reorganized under the name of Bishop, Dowell & Parrish. Later, Mr. Bishop also was elected to the district bench, and then was elevated to the state supreme court. He had served one term and was well along in his second term when he died suddenly at Waterloo while attending a meeting of the State Bar association. With the retirement of Judge Bishop from the firm the vacancy was filled by taking Judge Robert L. Parrish into partnership.

In 1903 he was tendered by Mr. Wright the position of assistant solicitor for the Rock Island for Iowa and South Dakota. He accepted, and has continued in the legal service of the company until the present time. By local attorneys it has been conceded the vacancy, caused by the death of Mr. Wright, would probably be filled by the selection of Mr. Parrish. The matter has been under consideration by the management of the Rock Island for ten days of more, and yesterday agreement was reached to name Mr. Parrish for the place.

## Patrick Flynn Died Saturday Night.

Patrick Flynn, one of the old time settlers of Leon, died at his home 11 miles southeast of Leon last Saturday night, after an illness of some months. Funeral services were held at the Catholic church in Woodland township on Monday, interment being in the Catholic cemetery adjoining. Obituary will appear next week.

## Stephen-Merryman.

Mr. Macy Stephen and Miss Daisy Merryman, two well known young people of Eden township, were married at the office of V. R. McGinnis in this city last Wednesday, the ceremony being performed by Justice A. R. Warford.

## Cholera for cuts and burns.

## Capt. J. D. Brown for Department Commander G. A. R.

Capt. J. D. Brown, of this city, is receiving favorable notice from all parts of the state in his candidacy for the position of Commander of the G. A. R. for Iowa. The Register and Leader of Wednesday morning has the following:

Capt. John D. Brown of Leon, who is a candidate for the post of department commander of the G. A. R. in Iowa, to succeed Capt. Lot Abraham, of Mount Pleasant, attended the banquet of the Loyal Legion in Des Moines last night.

Captain Brown, who has represented the Fifth district in the senate during the last two general assemblies, will not be a candidate for reelection next year. Alternately, a resident of each of the three counties comprising the district, Decatur, Ringgold and Union, is elected to the senate every four years. Next year a Union county man is due to fill the place. A candidate for the office already is in the field in the person of Charles Thomas, of Kent, a banker, who will be elected without question, according to Capt. Brown.

There is a peculiar coincidence in connection with the race of Captain Brown for commander concerning the present head of the Iowa department, Lot Abraham, which was related by Capt. Brown to a circle of friends at the state house yesterday. During the "battle of the Big Blue," in Missouri, Captain Brown was wounded seriously and left on the battlefield to die. Soon after Captain Brown regained consciousness, Lot Abraham's company advanced over the very spot where Brown lay wounded. Abraham left the ranks long enough to make Brown as comfortable as he could and when he went on to join his company left his canteen.

Capt. Brown lay on the field of battle two days and nights and declares he would have died had it not been for the full canteen that Abraham left. That is why Capt. Brown would not become a candidate for department commander last year when he heard Abraham wanted the honor.

## Leon Boys Star Foot Ball Players.

Two of the Leon boys who are attending college this year are star members of the two best foot ball teams in the state. Ralph McGinnis, who is a student at the State University at Iowa City, plays quarterback and in the big game between Iowa and Perdue at LaFayette, Indiana, last Saturday, he made the only touchdown during the game, Iowa winning by a score of 11 to 0. The press reports mention the name of McGinnis frequently as doing some great work. Raymond Hurst, another Leon boy who is attending the State Agricultural College at Ames, is also playing star foot ball, and plays quarterback for the Amesteam. Ames defeated Cornell Saturday at Ames by a score of 15 to 0. Up at Ames they call him General Hurst, for his great headwork in the games. Next Saturday Drake and Ames will meet for the game which will decide the state championship, and it is a peculiar coincidence that two Leon boys will be pitted against each other in this game, both playing quarterback.

## At the Christian Church.

On account of the cold weather but small audiences were out last Lord's day. Rev. John W. Marshall, of Chicago gave a splendid address in the afternoon and preached a splendid sermon on "The Pre-eminence of Christ" in the evening. His addresses were appreciated by all who heard them. Choir practice will be held Wednesday of this week at eight p. m., at the home of Dr. Woodmansee. All the regular services of the church next Lord's day.

## J. S. Coffin, pastor.

## Marriage Licenses.

Macy Stephen, Leon ..... 19

Daisy Merryman, Leon ..... 14

## EIGHT GIRLS BURNED

Fire in Washington Powder Plant of which Former Leon Man is Superintendent Kills Eight.

A fire which destroyed the big plant of the Imperial Powder Co., at Chehalis, Washington, of which Victor L. Bedier, formerly of this city was superintendent, cost the lives of eight girls who were in the mixing department, on November 1st. The origin of the fire was unaccounted for, as it was shown there was no fire in the plant except in the furnace room which was isolated from the other buildings. At the inquest held on the bodies of the victims the fullest inquiry was made as to the cause of the accident, and the coroner's jury returned a verdict that the girls came to their death by fire in the packing room of the powder plant, and that the fire was purely accidental, and the jury holds the company free from any blame.

The following account of the terrible accident is taken from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer:

Chehalis, Wash., Nov. 1.—Fire which destroyed the plant of the Imperial Powder Company, at Chehalis today, burned to death eight young women employed in the mixing room. They are: Vera Mulford, niece of the Mulford brothers, of Chehalis; Sadie Westfall, an only daughter of Samuel Westfall; Eva Gilmore, a sister of Mrs. J. W. Wilson; Bertha Hagle, whose mother, Mrs. Mary White, is a widow; Ethel Thorp, daughter of E. F. Thorp; Tillie Rosebach, sister of Mrs. Harry Kanouse, and Mrs. Ethel Henry. Bertha Crown was so badly burned that she died at 11 o'clock at the St. Helens Hospital.

Hundreds of people, including the relatives of the dead, swarmed about Sticklin's morgue all the evening. The relatives, with one exception, however, were unable to identify their loved ones, for all the bodies were burned beyond recognition.

The fire began with a flash of powder about 4 o'clock, and was so swift and terrible in its work that in less time than it takes to tell, the whole structure was a roaring, seething mass of flames. There were a dozen men working in and about the factory at the time the accident occurred, and all escaped without injury.

Just before the flare-up, Victor L. Bedier, superintendent of the plant, the chemist who discovered the process of making Imperial powder, had called Emma Cochran from her work into another part of the plant. To this fact she owes her life.

Eva Zavalosek, the only other girl who escaped, was in the building when the flash came and was thrown out, she knows not how.

The Cochran girl ran toward the company's railroad track, while the Zavalosek girl tore madly up the Coal creek valley, where it was necessary to overtake her with an automobile later, so badly was she frightened. She had her hat badly singed and counts her escape as miraculous.

How the fire started will never be certainly known. An early report was that a careless employe had allowed a pot of paraffine to boil over and that this ran into some loose powder on a table nearby, igniting it. This theory is disputed and no one fell for sure. Suffice it to say that there was a terrific flash, and instantly came the blaze that snuffed out the lives of the women employes.

The latter worked behind a bench next to the wall. Apparently from the position in which the bodies were found, the women had been blown into a bunched position, or had huddled together in a frenzied effort to escape. Their work bench stood across their only chance of egress, but the flames burst too rapidly about them in every direction.

Besides causing this terrible loss of life, the fire destroyed four of the building owned by the company and equipment, powder that was ready for shipment and other property valued at fully \$20,000. Two of the buildings were saved. The flare-up can hardly be called an explosion, especially not to explode except when confined. The result was that after the first flareup the buildings and contents burned slowly, the former being of galvanized iron construction.

The Imperial Powder Company plant was erected on Coal Creek, over the hill from town, and just outside the city limits, about a year ago. Cassius M. Cole is president of the company, G. C. Israel, a retired attorney, formerly of Olympia, is secretary and treasurer, and Victor L. Bedier, superintendent.

The company has just completed arrangements for the erection of a branch plant in Medford, Oregon.

Word of the terrible disaster came to Chehalis from the power plant of the traction company, located near the scene, and the news spread like wild-fire. Scores hastened to the scene to lend aid.

W. E. Birchfield, engineer for the traction company, was the first to find any of the burned bodies. He worked faithfully for a few minutes, but was soon overcome by the intense heat.

Coroner Sticklin soon arrived on the scene and took charge of the rescue work.

Chehalis was shrouded in gloom tonight on account of the terrible accident. The theaters closed their houses for the night, and all over town there was great excitement.

Messrs Israel, Cole and Bedier, of the powder company, are distracted with grief over the calamity, which they feel most keenly. The feeling is that the accident was due to some

one's carelessness. The employes had been repeatedly cautioned to use the utmost care, and especially in that portion of the plant where the fire started, but apparently some one failed to heed the warning.

The victims of the disaster were all industrious young women, all of whom, with the exception of Mrs. Ethel Henry, have relatives in or about Chehalis. It was impossible tonight to learn who Mrs. Henry's people are. Owing to the fact that it will be impossible to identify the bodies, it is a question just what funeral arrangements will be made. Tonight Coroner Sticklin, Sheriff Urquhart and others went into all the phases of the matter, and a full investigation of the matter will follow to determine if possible, who, if anyone, was to blame directly.

## Teach it to the Children.

When your little girl got her new coat this fall what was done with the old one which was fairly respectable but which she had outgrown? When your boy who shot up so this summer found that last year's overcoat wouldn't button over his expanded chest and set you back for a new one what went with the perfectly good coat which was too small for him? Did he have a boy in mind who would fit that coat and who was shivering without it, some deserving boy who lacked a coat through no fault of his own; and had the little girl noticed some little child whose need suggested further usefulness for the coat her new one supplanted?

The easiest thing in the world is to call up some one whose business it is to care for the very poor and say you have a boy's overcoat and a girl's coat. It is an excellent thing to do if you couldn't do better, but it gives the children an impersonal impression of human needs and their own opportunities to relieve them. The better way is to encourage your girl and boy to see need, to make personal observation and quiet and helpful distribution of their own gifts. It's a good habit to help along and splendid aid to true character.

Most men are fairly willing to be charitable. The helpful and human instinct is in every heart. But few men and women are actually observant of the struggles of other men and women until the choice between actual starvation and cold appeal for public charity comes to the unfortunate. There are always deserving people who need a little help. Few of them would refuse the overcoat or the coat the boy and girl outgrow. Why not let the new one suggest to your children that it also affords them an opportunity to make some less fortunate child comfortable?

As our children are taught so shall the world be when in a few years they are the world. If all actually believe in the good Samaritanism we preach about let's teach it to our children.

## Horses are Dying From Eating Corn Fodder.

In various parts of Iowa the farmers are losing many horses from allowing them to eat too freely of corn fodder. One farmer near Allerton lost five head of valuable horses one day last week from this cause, and quite a number of horses in Decatur county have been sick and some deaths have occurred. Dr. F. G. Hume, the veterinary of Leon, says the cause is from eating corn fodder, and he has been treating a number of cases the past ten days. M. F. Springer lost a horse one day last week and a neighbor also lost one. Dr. Hume made an examination of one of the horses which died, and found that the intestines were packed solid with fodder, so that medicine could not take effect. Farmers should be careful about allowing their horses to run too freely in stalk fields, for the disease is caused from eating fodder standing in the fields, as no cases have been heard of where horses are fed corn which was cut up being affected.

## The Punkin Huskers.

Devotes of the simple life will find something to their liking in the next theatrical offering at the opera house Saturday night, Nov. 18th, the Punkin Husker, a rural comedy in four acts. The scenes of this pastoral gem are laid in Indiana, a favorite spot with our modern playwrights for the locale of pastoral plays. The particular locality from which the scenes of The Punkin Husker is taken is one of the garden spots of mother earth and attracts thousands of summer tourists annually. Where nature has lavished her bounties with such a lavish hand it can readily be seen the scenic artist's task was a comparatively easy one, approaching, as it would seem, a labor of love. With its wealth of special scenery; its beautiful story of American home life, interpreted by a carefully selected cast, The Punkin Husker promises to be a real theatrical treat.

## A Decided Change in the Weather.

Talk about your quick changes of weather, but this section experienced one of them with a vengeance Saturday, when the mercury dropped from 65 degrees to 2 degrees above within twelve hours, a change of 64 degrees, and these figures were registered on the government thermometer kept by Morris Gardner. And the worst part was the terrific northwest wind, the cold snap catching many persons unprepared for cold weather.

## The Lineville Tribune Last Week

entered upon its 39th volume, and for nearly thirty-eight years Chas. H. Austin has been the editor and publisher. A neat illustrated souvenir edition was gotten out to celebrate the event.