

Williston Graphic

State Historical Society

VOL. XVIII. NO. 42.

WILLISTON, WILLIAMS COUNTY, THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1913.

\$1.00 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

NEGRO LYNCHED BY MONTANA MOB

VICTIM MURDERED SHERIFF AND DEPUTY IN CAMP NEAR MONDAK LAST FRIDAY

I supposed it is all over with me. I feel sorry for my wife and children. How is Sheriff Courtney? I hope he did not get killed.

The above were the last words uttered by Deputy Sheriff Richard Burmeister, of Sheridan county, Montana, two minutes before he died in a local hospital last Friday night as a result of the terrible wounds received at the hands of a colored man whom he had been assisting in capturing.

Friday afternoon Sheriff Thomas Courtney, and Burmeister went to the Union Bridge Co., three miles west of Mondak with a warrant for the arrest of J. C. Collins, a colored man charged with causing trouble in the vicinity. After reaching the construction camp Deputy Wilson, of Mondak, who had been sworn in temporarily, entered the office of the company and inquired if the negro was there. Hardly had he uttered the words when Collins sprang from behind the door and disarmed the deputy.

Leaving Wilson in the office he hurried into the open meeting the sheriff. He fired at Courtney twice, both shots taking effect and the sheriff dropped dead in his tracks. Then Collins turned the weapon upon Burmeister, firing five shots into his body. The shots struck the deputy in the shoulder, through the stomach, arm and two through the knees.

After the double shooting Collins took the weapons of both men and sought hiding in the brush. A posse of Mondak citizens armed themselves and started in pursuit, surrounding the place of hiding. Thus surrounded the negro was forced to give himself up.

When brought to Mondak, lynching was threatened, but cooler heads succeeded in getting the negro to jail. After news had reached Mondak about 9 o'clock that night that Deputy Burmeister had died in the hospital at Williston a mob of angry men broke into the jail and obtained possession of the prisoner. Taking him to a telephone pole nearby they hanged him, and then set fire to his clothing. The body was left hanging until early in the morning, when it was removed and taken to the city jail. A short time afterward the body disappeared, and no trace of it has been found. It is alleged that some of the persons taking part in the lynching made way with the remains to destroy evidence by throwing the body in the river.

All kinds of reports of the shooting were in circulation here Friday evening and Saturday. One was to the effect that about 100 other negroes in the camp had started for Mondak to protect the murder, and that the local militia was wanted there. Had this been the case the local company could have done nothing, as they could not go out of the state.

Collins, who was about 34 years old, is reported to have been a bad man wanted in Kansas on a charge of murder. He had been causing trouble among the negroes at the railway camp. He came to the camp of the construction company, which is erecting a bridge over the Missouri for the Great Northern, about two months ago. The negro was staying with another colored man, who recently sold his shack to a third negro named Patterson. When Patterson came to the camp to claim his property, Collins struck Patterson's wife with his fists. Patterson returned to Mondak and swore out a warrant for Collins.

Sheriff Courtney, who was killed outright, was just recently elected sheriff of the new Sheridan county and had only been in office a few days. After Burmeister was severely wounded, a special train was procured which brought him to Williston to the hospital. An operation was immediately performed but his wounds were so serious that he lived only a few hours. He was not told that Sheriff Courtney had been killed outright. His remains were taken back home Saturday accompanied by Sheriff Erickson, of Williams County.

ATTY. PALMER ILL

Attorney E. A. Palmer has been seriously ill for the past several days. For a time it was thought that he had an attack of typhoid. He was able to take the first nourishment today that he had taken since last Friday.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

City Auditor N. B. Ludowese has issued a financial statement of the city in pamphlet form, covering in totals receipts and disbursements from July 1, 1904 to March 1, 1913.

In transmitting the report to the council the auditor makes the following introductory paragraphs:—

"In submitting to you such statement for March first, 1913, I beg to report that for the past several months I have been engaged in making a detailed audit of the books, records and accounts of this office with a view to ascertaining the true financial condition of the various departments of the city, more particularly the water works and electric light systems. My financial statement for March 1st, 1913, is therefore based upon said audit—a report of which is made a part of such statement."

The preparing of this report has meant a large amount of extra work on the part of Mr. Ludowese, which would have cost the city a neat sum if outside experts had prepared it.

LAUNCH POWER BOAT MONTANA

GUTHRIE & COMPANY GETTING READY TO TRANSPORT MATERIAL DOWN RIVER

The tug boat "Montana," built on the banks of the Missouri here by Guthrie & Company, railway contractors, was launched Monday, and the shipping of railway material down the river into McKenzie county will begin soon. There are a few finishing touches to be put on the boat in the way of completion of the power plant and the placing of some capstans. This done the boat will be ready to handle the big barges, built and launched during the past months. The "Montana" is to be equipped with a gasoline engine developing 100 horsepower.

A smaller tug, which was also built here, has been launched and will be put in commission soon. There are hundreds of tons of material in the railway yards waiting transportation to the scene of the G. N. operations through McKenzie. The boats will run between Williston and the mouth of Wild Cow Creek. The foreman states that the boats will be able to make the round trip in one day.

FATHER DIES IN DENVER

Saturday Chas. Mansfield, of this city, received the sad news of the sudden death of his father, William Mansfield, which occurred at the home of his son in Denver, Col. The deceased was seventy-six years old, and has been ill for some little time but his sudden death was not expected.

G. N. SETTING GOOD EXAMPLE

RAILWAY HAS HAD MEN BUSY CLEANING UP REFUSE IN YARDS

The Great Northern Railway Company has been setting a good example for the city of Williston in house cleaning. During the past few days they have had several men at work cleaning up the winter collection of cinders and junk in the local yards, dumping one or two days more than fifty men it into cars and hauling it away. One was engaged in this work and several carload of cinders and filth were taken up and hauled away. The yards present a very different appearance. The operations were not confined solely to the vicinity of the passenger station, but the yards generally were given attention.

THIRD BAND CONCERT

The largest crowd that has yet been present at one of the Sunday free concerts by the Williston band, gathered at the Star Theatre Sunday afternoon to hear the excellent program. Aside from the usual numbers by the band there was something special in the form of a piano duet by Miss Wheeler and Miss Hougen. The excellent new Baldwin piano, furnished especially for this number, afforded a splendid medium for the interpretation of a very difficult piece of music, artistically executed, as only these two splendid musicians can play. The person who could not appreciate the artistic manner in which this number was given is indeed far removed from the enjoyment or really splendid music.

The county commissioners are in session this week.

A NEW HARD LUCK STORY

BEGGERS ABROAD IN LAND WHO CLAIM TO HAVE LOST THEIR ALL IN OMAHA TORNADO

As a perfectly natural consequence of the Omaha tornado, there are the usual beggars who are going around with a brand new hard luck story to inveigle unsuspecting citizens to "come inveigle unsuspecting citizens to "come across" with their hard earned simoleons for the sole and only purpose of buying red liquor. It is understood that there was a man in town last night, who was plaintively telling a story about how he was a photographer in Omaha when the tornado swept the city, and that his studio was entirely demolished. Of course he had the usual number of children, a mother-in-law or two and perhaps a wife who was depending upon him for support, and now that his studio was gone he was forced to beg for a living. And furthermore, it was ascertained that when the man had caused a quarter to drop into his outstretched palm, he immediately proceeded to be a "sport," according to the old saying "spend your money for booze and sleep in the gutter."

It has been prognosticated that next week there will be people begging on the strength of the Ohio valley flood, and that on the week after that would be victims of possible storms in Oklahoma will be using such possible disaster as a subterfuge to spirit away the "needful" and that it is not at all unlikely that in a short time some one will be begging because he was deprived of house and home on account of the Mexican revolution.

DISPLAY BOOTH PUT IN SHAPE

ADVERTISING BOOTH AT STATION GETS CLEANING AND RE-ARRANGEMENT

"One good way to advertise a community is through the display booths at the railway stations. I must say that some of these I have inspected in this state were anything but a good advertisement for the community. They were poorly kept and suggested anything but enterprise"—These were among the remarks made by President McVey, of the University, in his address before the Commercial Club here recently.

These remarks may, or may not, have any bearing on the fact that the splendid display booth at the local station has been given a good cleaning. The windows have been washed and the displays, which had fallen down, have been re-adjusted and the interior thoroughly dusted and cleaned. The display, although parts of it are a little old and need replacing, now looks one hundred percent better. The next move will be to renew some of the displays when the season arrives when these can be obtained.

There is little doubt but that the display booth is a great advertisement. They make a great impression upon the people from the east. The writer never saw one of these booths till he came to North Dakota, and remembers distinctly of being interested, and made a thorough inspection of the display till the train pulled out.

The county superintendents office has been a busy place during the past few days in the work of checking up final eight grade papers.

SACRED CONCERT

The Sacred Concert held Sunday evening at the Congregational church was well attended, every available seat being filled. The choir repeated the Easter music, interspersed with them with better spirit and interpretation than on the first presentation, inspired, perhaps by the larger audience. The Sunday School Orchestra gave the opening number and in spite of the absence of the first violin did credit to Miss Hougan's faithful training. A liberal offering was received, part of which will buy new music for the choir.

SPLENDID ENDORSEMENT

The voters of the city of Fargo certainly gave the Commission plan of government a splendid endorsement when during the past week that form of government was adopted by a vote of 1300 to 199, or more than six to one. One of the Fargo papers recently published verbatim the circular gotten out in Williston just before the election here.

WILLISTON CO.

IS INSPECTED

LOCAL COMPANY TURNS OUT IN FULL CAMPAIGN EQUIPMENT FOR OFFICIAL INSPECTION

Company E, First regiment, North Dakota N. G., of this city was inspected Saturday evening by Lieut. Col. T. H. Tarleson, of Bismarck. Col. Fraine was to have been here but illness prevented his coming.

The inspection was held at the Gates Hall. Thirty-five men turned out for the inspection in their full service outfits, including khaki uniforms, tents and blanket rolls. A number of men who live across the river could not get here because of the high water. At the close of the inspection the inspecting officer expressed an opinion quite satisfactorily by saying that the company had passed the best inspection of any he had so far visited.

General Orders just received by Captain Evans, of the local company, state that Sarg. John W. Rock, from Company H, Second U. S. Infantry, has been delegated to duty with the North Dakota guard companies. He started his tour to the various company posts on April 3. He will be in Williston on April 14th and will remain till the 20th, giving special military instruction to the officers and men of the local company on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings during the week. The officers of Company E are anxious to have all the enlisted men attend this school, and any others who may contemplate placing their names on the muster roll.

PRES. GRAY AND PARTY HERE

NUMBER OF GREAT NORTHERN OFFICIALS SPENT FEW HOURS IN CITY THURSDAY

President C. R. Gray, of the Great Northern Railway Company, and a party of other officials stopped here for a few hours Thursday on their spring tour of inspection, which covers the entire system to the coast.

The special arrived here about ten o'clock. It was met by a number of business men, who took the officials in autos for a short drive about the city.

In the party were Vice Presidents Gruber and Kenney; Assistant Vice President, Byers; General manager, Emerson; Chief engineer, Budd; Superintendents, Bell, McCandless and Stewart. Traveling Freight Agent, Griffin.

FALLING RAPIDLY

After the big ice jam broke below the city last week the waters of the Missouri receded rapidly and at present there is little more than a normal stage prevailing. Friday and Saturday the river was full of ice, which was moving out rapidly. Sunday morning the river was almost clear. Along about noon however the channel was again covered with ice coming from a gorge, which had broken far above us. By afternoon Monday the river had again cleared of ice, and reports from above indicated that it had nearly all passed. A large amount of timber was carried along with the ice during the two or three days that it was running the heaviest. Some of this was lumber and bridge material being used at places west of here, which was carried away in the break-up.

WHY NOT A FLY CRUSADE

DISEASE CARRIERS SHOULD BE ATTACKED EARLY—A STRONG LINE OF BATTLE

A few more warm days and the common fly will be with us. For a moment he will hang poised in the air and then, when you are not looking, drop meter—like into your coffee, your choicest prepared dinner or any place else where he can rid himself of a few thousand germs. He will continue this all summer and gradually get more adept at the performance as grim winter again approaches. Why not a house fly campaign for Williston—now?

The common house fly is born and bred in filth. Stable manure and all kinds of dirt and foul matter are hot beds for the fly. It requires from ten to fourteen days for the fly to produce a generation. A good way of expressing the vital human relation of flies would be by the use of the three "F's"—Filth—Flies—Food.

During the Spanish-American war a great plague of fever broke out in the different camps of our army. It was noticeable to all that flies were numerous, both at mess tents and on the refuse of the camps. Flour was sprinkled on the refuse of the camp, and during mess, the same flour laden flies crawled over the soldier's food. Some germ cultures were placed on the ground and the flies allowed to walk over them and from these cultures hosts of typhoid germs were developed. It was thus proved beyond question that the flies were the carriers of the disease.

The most practical way to prevent the spread of fly disease is to destroy all filth, screen our houses and kill the flies directly whenever possible.

Special bulletins are prepared on this subject by the Fly-Fighting Committee of the American Civic Association, of Washington, D. C. Among the things the committee most desires to impress upon the minds of the American people are:—

- Don't allow flies in your house.
- Don't permit them near your food, especially milk.
- Don't buy food stuff where flies are tolerated.
- Don't have feeding places where flies can load themselves with germs from typhoid or dysenteric patients.
- Don't allow your fruits and confections to be exposed to swarms of flies.
- Don't let the flies crawl over the baby's mouth or upon the contact of the nursing bottle.

How To Kill Flies

To quickly clean the room where there are flies, BURN PYRETHRUM POWDER in the room. This stupefies the flies and they may be swept up and burned.

To clear room of flies CARBOLIC ACID may be used as follows: Heat a shovel, or any similar article, and drop thereon 20 drops of CARBOLIC ACID, and the vapor will kill the flies.

A cheap and perfectly reliable FLY POISON, one which is not dangerous to human life, is BICHRONATE OF POTASH in solution. DISOLVE ONE DRAM, which can be bought at any drug store, in TWO OUNCES OF WATER, and add a little SUGAR. Put some of this solution in shallow dishes and distribute them throughout the house.

The summary offered in the bulletin is as follows:—Clean up your premises inside and out and then, as much as you can, see that others do the same.

Strike at the root of the evil. The house fly breeds in horse manure, kitchen offal and the like. Dispose of these materials in such a way that the house fly cannot propagate. Screen all your windows and doors and insist that your grocer, butcher, baker and every one from whom you buy food stuffs does the same.

There's more health in a well screened house and clean premises than in many a doctor's visit.

NEW FOUNTAIN

The Williston Drug Company are installing a new innovation soda fountain in their store. The new thirst-quenching apparatus is of the latest design and will add materially to the appearance as well as the service of the store.

The Northwestern Educational Association will meet in Minot April 18 and 19. Supt. Mrs. Martha P. Tatem, of Williams county will be in attendance. Miss Bertha Palmer, of the Williston schools, is on the program for a paper on "Primary Reading." A splendid program has been arranged for the two day session.

A NEW SPECIAL SERVICE

The Graphic announces a new special service which should prove most interesting and helpful to the people of Williston and Williams County. Arrangements have been made with the North Dakota Federation of Commercial Clubs, for a series of articles upon the work of Commercial Clubs, which will include practical suggestions as to the activities that are best suited to North Dakota Clubs. Plans that have been tried out in the state will be given. Suggestions made as to needed activities and helpful information will be given along city and town development lines. In addition to these, the Federation, through the Graphic, will assist in planning new organizations in towns where none are now in existence, telling how and what steps are necessary to organize a club, suggest by-laws etc. You should not fail to read this new department.

A BIG BLAZE AT CULBERTSON

EVANS HOTEL AND SEVERAL STORES DESTROYED—WHOLE TOWN THREATENED

A fire, starting about 1:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, for several hours threatened to wipe Culbertson, Montana, off the map, and before it was brought under control damage which amounted to about \$75,000 had been done.

The fire started in the basement of the Huxol drug store, in the Evans block. A defective furnace is supposed to have started the blaze. The flames quickly spread to the Evans hotel, Eagle saloon, post office, Edmond's store and the Standard Publishing Company, all occupying the same block. All of these business buildings were destroyed and with the exception of the Edmond's store the stocks were also consumed by the flames. The larger portion of the clothing stock in the Edmond's establishment was carried out and saved.

First reports received at Williston were to the effect that the fire was at Mondak. Later the reports were corrected.

A light wind was blowing and for a time a number of other buildings were threatened, among them being the bank building. The fire wall between

the Eagle saloon and the drug store did not serve to stop the flames and they leaped over this, continuing the destruction. All of the available fire fighting apparatus was brought into use but it was not sufficient to control the conflagration until it had in a measure burned itself out.

The Graphic reporter found much other damage in the vicinity of the fire. Large plate windows in the buildings across the street were all broken, the intense heat causing them to break as though they had been hit with a hammer. Nearby buildings in the vicinity scorched, and a scent of general destruction was apparent in the vicinity of the fire.

It is understood that the loss is pretty well covered by insurance.

WILL START OFFICE

J. Arthur Cunningham, who for the past seven years has been with the E. J. Lander Company in charge of the local office of that company, has resigned and will enter the land and loan business on his own account. He will have his offices in the Rawson block. H. C. Lander, of the Minot office, is here temporarily looking after business matters in connection with the Williston office. Mr. Cunningham's successor here has not yet been announced.

That boxing bout at Minot, pulled off late at night some time ago, is being probed.