

# THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT.

VOLUME 2. NUMBER 34.

MINOT, WARD COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1903.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00 PER ANNUM.

## RECENT WILLISTON CRIMES AND TRIALS

### A Plea for Mercy Gave Alice M. Hale the Lightest Possible Sentence—The People of Williston Left no Stone Un- turned to Prejudice the Jurors Against Bert Benedict.

Within a few weeks Williston has lost four of her objectionable characters on account of the murder of Pearl Taylor and Charles Striegle. Bert Benedict, better known in Minot, has been sentenced to fifteen years in the penitentiary for killing the woman. The evidence was circumstantial entirely. Alice M. Hale, alias Pearl Brown who confessed to shooting Chas. Striegle, her lover, was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. The cases were of more than ordinary interest here in Minot because all were known to some extent here and E. L. Sutton, of this city, defended Benedict and Alice M. Hale.

Benedict had been ordered out of Williston by Sheriff Costello. Sunday afternoon and Monday he and Pearl Taylor had drunk whiskey and quarrelled. He was heard to remark on Monday afternoon by Chas. Moore, that he would kill Pearl Taylor if he had to leave town.

He was seen to enter the woman's room Monday night at 11 o'clock and shortly after that he came out and went into the kitchen. He returned with a teaspoon and some water which he dissolved some morphine in. He then injected a dose of morphine into his arm. He went back into the room and that was the last seen of him until the next morning at 6 o'clock. A man named Jamison, the woman's lover, had returned from the east and Benedict thought it was the sheriff after him, so skipped out the back way and caught a west bound train. He went to Culbertson, Mont., and wrote the woman a letter from that place. It was a cold epistle however, entirely unlike his other letters of infatuation and this gave the state a leverage. It is believed that Benedict wrote the letter merely as a blind, knowing that Pearl Taylor was lying cold in death at the time he penned the few words. In it he says: "How do you like the 'You Know' that I gave you last night?" According to expert testimony, the woman had been dead two hours when Bert Benedict left her that morning. The stomach had been sent to Prof. Ladd at Fargo and upon examination he found that there were ten grains of morphine in it. Benedict testified that he had been lying asleep on the bed with the woman. After taking the shot with the morphine, he says the woman remarked, "I guess I will take some of the stuff." He said, "Who was your nigger last year?" He then claims to have fallen to sleep and when he awoke next morning, he left in such a hurry that he did not notice that the woman was dead. The woman was found on the bed and the clothes were not mussed. Her shoes were off.

The people of Williston were much worked up over the affair and did not leave a leaf unturned to prejudice everyone against the objectionable characters. Some one published a leaflet with a poem regarding the affair. It is believed that this was done to influence the jurors and if the guilty man can be found he will be severely dealt with. Mr. Sutton was alone in the case and he did extremely well to get his client off with fifteen years. In both of the murder cases, the state hired John Burke, the well known Devils Lake attorney to prosecute. Mr. Sutton's argument to the jury before Benedict received his sentence, was as able a one as was ever made in Williams county.

The case of Alice M. Hale is a particularly sad one. She is not yet 21 years of age and is a most beautiful girl. She is said to be refined in a way and had she been given a chance, could have been a useful woman. Down along the railroad track in the eastern part of Williston stands a log house in which Alice Hale better known as Pearl Brown or Cow Boy Pearl, and Charles Striegle lived. Striegle was considered a good hearted fellow, but worthless. He had another home, a far more unhappy one where lived his wife and two babies. Striegle was in the habit of bringing bad companions, both men and women, to the log house. The last night he spent on earth, he brought a crowd of his male and female friends to the log house and Pearl was in bed with her little brother. He commanded her to get up and dance and drink whiskey with the crowd. She did as she was bidden and then went and opened the door. The top hinge broke and the door fell over against Striegle. He was angered and jumping up, he grabbed the girl by the hair and struck her on the face. She rushed to the bed and reaching under the pillow pulled out a revolver. Turning around she fired and the bullet struck him in the middle of the forehead. A second later she was sorry for what she had done and she pillowed his bleeding head in her lap but he was soon dead.

Attorney Sutton arranged for the girl to plead guilty to manslaughter in the first degree. On account of the character of the man she killed and because of her youth, the Judge gave her the lightest possible sentence, five years in the penitentiary. Mr. Sutton for three quarters of an hour plead for the girl and not an eye in that large crowd which filled the court house, was dry. The girl sobbed as if her heart would break. Even the Judge was visibly affected and when Mr. Sutton had finished his eloquent plea, he himself was almost broken down. The maximum limit was fifteen years and it is due considerably to Mr. Sutton that the sentence was so light.

#### Took Crisp and Harness.

Charles Crisp, who came here from Cando with a stolen harness, was taken back to that place Friday night by the sheriff from that place. The harness which he stole was sold to an employee of Tom Johnson's livery stable and it was recovered. It is believed that Crisp will be convicted of grand larceny.

#### WILLISTON HAS A HOUSE CLEANING

Objectionable Characters Forced to Leave  
the Town but Many Come to Minot.

The Independent learns from E. L. Sutton, Attorney for the Great Northern, who has been defending two murders at Williston, that that city has harbored within her borders criminals of the worst character and the scenes enacted in that place every night heretofore, would put to shame the worst dives of South Clark street Chicago, or the Chinese dens of San Francisco. A hop joint has been running in full blast right in the city. Four or five sporting houses have been the scenes of the worst form of rowdism and within one week two murders were committed in them. Gambling houses were in full operation and beer was sold in them as well as in the sporting houses. Morphine dens of the worst character made Williston their headquarters.

The recent murders have had a tendency to clean out these joints and Williston has seen the best house cleaning of her history. The court ordered that the state's attorney investigate the condition of affairs in the slums and he has done so. It seems that in Williams county, the officials do not do anything in the way of getting rid of objectionable characters, until ordered to do so by the court. The afternoon that Pearl Taylor was found murdered, one of the sporting houses, was moved out of the town, goods and all. The inmates scattered, some coming to Minot and others going west. The hangers-on came to Minot. Thus our city has been flooded with more of this worthless set. An information has been filed against Charlie, the Chinaman, who is accused of running a hop joint. Another against Ethel King and Rose Dow. It is presumed that their cases will come up at the next term of court. Court will convene at Williston again Dec. 21 at which time the case of the state vs. Sennet, charged with gambling, will come up.

#### Operated With a Jack Knife.

Mrs. Jos. Clementich, who had her fingers jerked off by an angry cow sometime ago, had a second operation on the hand Saturday and believes the hand is doing nicely now. At the time of the accident she displayed great fortitude. The fingers were but partially pulled off, so her husband finished the job with his jack knife. A physician was called in and put the finishing touches on the job.

#### Farrell Returned to Jail.

James Farrell, who has been lathing for D. A. Dinnie for some time, was taken to Grand Forks Friday by Sheriff Scofield and placed in the jail at that place. Farrell is connected in some way with a holdup in Larimore and D. A. Dinnie put up a cash bond for the man. Recently he had reasons to believe that the man was going to skip, so ordered him returned to jail.

#### Portal Pigger in Hock.

James Early, a Portal pigger, was brought to the Minot jail Friday night by United States Commissioner Gil Haggart. The commissioner took his man to Grand Forks Sunday where he will be tried before the U.S. court. Early is up the second time and will likely get a severe sentence. He will undoubtedly be found guilty.

A. P. Slocum has a very beautiful Christmas display at his drug store. Several hundred dolls arranged on a pyramid present a beautiful sight.

## Christmas Satisfaction And Saving

If there is ever a time during the whole year when you want your money to go farthest it is right now. Everyone likes to give. The problem is what you can give that is worthy of giving and still make your money go around. In both of these respects this store can be of service to you. What to give becomes an easy matter when you have such an ample stock of desirable goods to select from as we are showing this year. It combines every element of Beauty, Usefulness, Novelty and real worth. Many items in our stock that you cannot get elsewhere and nothing that you can get elsewhere that is worth having that you cannot get here for the lowest obtainable prices. Actual bargains in goods of worthy quality are what we promise you.

## Come Soon

We would like to impress upon everyone the desirability of making their selections soon. Every day will count from now until Christmas, and every day the task of making selections if put off will only increase your worry. The prices cannot be lower than they now are and the assortments will constantly grow less. Our stock is too large to be completely exhausted but it is so much easier to pick your gifts before the final rush begins.

## Let Us Help You

We want to lend every assistance in our power that will help to make this a satisfactory holiday season for you. If desired, goods on which a small payment has been made will be set aside for you. We will pack and ship goods for you to out of town friends and will deliver goods in town Christmas morning. If there is any other accommodations that we can extend to you, let us know.

## Paul V. McCoy, Druggist, - Jeweler

Leland Hotel, Minot, N. D.

"Nothing But The Very Best."

### MANY CHILDREN WITH- OUT SCHOOL ADVANTAGES

In Some Parts of the Country the Condition is Appalling—It Will Take Time and Money to Establish the Hundreds of Schools Desired but the Work Should Not be Neglected.

Des Lacs, Ward Co. N. D.  
Dec. 4, 1903

To the Editor of Independent.  
My Dear Sir:

Asking your indulgence I wish to air the subject of schools in a few communities of which I am conversant. In n. e. corner of 155-84 on 4 sections in a square are some 30 children of school age. In n. e. corner of 155-84 the same is true—s. w. of the last mentioned instance the condition is repeated. The crying need of schools has been here for three years already with no apparent hope of relief.

Burke says—Education is the chief defense of nations—Horace Mann says—Jails and state prisons are the complement of schools. So many less of the latter you have, so many more of the former. Franklin says—A bible and a newspaper in every house—a good school in every district—all studied and appreciated as the merit—are the principal support of virtue, morality and civil liberty. From the above quotations and the intelligence of your readers, it is not necessary for me to speak further on the need of schools. Now, these people, parents and citizens have been asking petitioning and voting and are no nearer cured that they were when they began to suffer.

And why they don't have and can't get schools "no fellow can find out." The all pay school tax however. If North Dakota

### CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Our business is constantly on the increase, so that an addition to our force was necessary. We employ more help than any other gallery in western North Dakota. If you can arrange to call soon we can get your work out before Christmas. Nothing is nicer and as inexpensive as a nice photo for a Christmas gift, and our photos are extra nice on our new swell line of cards. You should call at once and let us show them to you. Miss Olson the hair dresses will return soon to assist our lady patrons in the arrangement of their hair, should they so desire. Yours to please

VAN EXIE, Souris Studio.  
MINOT, N. D.



or Ward county can't furnish the facilities for a common school education to her citizens for pecuniary reasons, why don't she make her wants known, and enough charitable people in the United States will send relief I am positive.

Public opinion says the above conditions are due to carelessness or dilatoriness of some body—and the "powers that be" have schools very conveniently situated and with an exceptional attendance of 6 pupils. Why must there be hundreds of children of school age in Ward county deprived of common school privileges? And we have a compulsory attendance law to.

If it wasn't so serious, it would be amusing. 3 or 4 more years out of school is an irreparable loss to a child and if one class of children need a common school education more than another, it is the class that are holding down homesteads in North Dakota or anywhere else for that matter.

Now I haven't mentioned my own district s. w. corner of 154-85. If anybody should be in-

terested in our own welfare let them inquire.

Now I only represent my own indignation and am open for suggestions for relief.

Resp. yours,

W. S. Groninger.

#### Deering Closes Norstrum Mine.

E. J. Deering was down from Burlington Monday and filed an injunction on the Norstrum coal mine, one the best in the state, and it has been closed. He filed on the land a few days ago. The filing had run out which had been placed upon it by one of the members of the coal company. It had been the habit of the members of the company to file consecutively on the land when the time of filing had run but Deering claimed that the last filing had run out nine months. The claim is worth \$20,000 when developed as there is a ten foot vein of coal. Already 1000 feet of entry has been made and it will take but a little more expenditure to place the mine in condition to get out from eighty to one hundred tons of coal in a day.