

THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

This Issue 12 Pages

THE INDEPENDENT HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY WEEKLY IN THE STATE

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HEIRS WIN FIRST ROUND IN WILL CASE

Judge Murray Admits First Will Made by Late Jos. Reichert. Mary Keller to Appeal.

The brothers and sisters of the late Joseph Reichert, wealthy young farmer from northwest of Minot, who passed away in this city Feb. 24, from influenza, have won the first round in the legal battle, Judge Wm. Murray admitting the first will executed by the young man.

Miss Mary Keller, a milliner from Carrington, N. D., who was bequeathed \$200 in the first will and who was given the Reichert farm, estimated to be worth \$20,000, by the second will, is preparing to carry the case to the higher courts. She claims that she was to have been married to Joseph Reichert in April, had he lived and she was present when the second will was executed on Feb. 24, about an hour before Mr. Reichert died.

The signature of Mr. Reichert was plainly written on the first will but on the second the writing is scarcely legible, evidently owing to the weakened condition of Mr. Reichert. His first name was written fairly well, but no one would recognize the second name, which merely resembles the scratches of a pen. It was due to the difference in the appearance of the two signatures that caused Judge Murray to recognize the first will executed and he considered that when Mr. Reichert signed the second will he was in the clutches of the Grim Reaper.

The brothers and sisters are represented by Attorneys John J. Coyne and Fisk & Murphy while Miss Keller is represented by McGee & Goss. Miss Keller called at the Independent office Wednesday and informed the writer that she is prepared to take the case to the highest court.

"All that I want is a square deal," she said. "Joe and I were engaged to be married, and had he lived, we would have been married in April. I did not tell anyone before his death that we were engaged, but that does not change the truth one bit. I arrived in Minot at four o'clock on the day that Joe died and went direct to the hospital. He knew me and he also realized that he was going to die. We talked about our coming marriage and Joe suggested that we be married that very afternoon but Father Raith was out of town, besides we would have had to get our health licenses and this, under the circumstances, would have stood in the way. But Joe wanted me to have his property and said that he wanted a new will executed. We had a new will made out giving me most of the property and he signed it in the presence of witnesses. He was conscious right up to the last and knew exactly what he was doing and this I can prove when the time comes. I can also prove that we were engaged to be married, as I have it in black and white and this I will also prove when the proper time comes. I have a letter which he wrote to me the very day he died, Feb. 24, which was mailed in the Minot postoffice at 2 o'clock that afternoon, two hours before I arrived in Minot.

"I intend to fight this case to the highest court if it takes every cent of Joe's property. I consider that I have a right to it. Do you think that I would accept a paltry little \$200? Don't you believe it."

The case will be tried in district court in June or July. Miss Keller states that a change of venue will be taken to some other county.

The first will executed Feb. 23, 1920 bequeathed \$100 to Rev. J. J. Raith, "for mass for my soul"; St. Leo's church, Minot, N. D., \$500; Rev. J. J. Raith, education of worthy Catholics, to Priesthood, \$500.00; to Mary Keller of Carrington, N. D., the sum of \$200 and the remainder of his property to his brothers and sisters, who share equally. The will was witnessed by J. J. Coyne and Miss Einrite, a nurse. Miss Keller claims that she was bequeathed \$500 by the first will and that the figures were changed to \$200.

The second will, signed an hour before death, directed the executor to pay his just debts and expenses as soon after his death as convenient. After the payment of such expenses and debts he bequeathed to Rev. J. J. Raith, \$100 for masses for his soul. The will ends as follows:

"I bequeath unto Mary A. Keller, Carrington, N. D., all my right, title and interest in all lands owned by me in Ward county, N. D., S. 1/2, N. E. 1/4 and Lots 1 and 2, Sec. 6 and Lot 4, S. W. 1/4, and N. W. 1/4 Sec. 5, Twp. 155, N. Range 83."

Rev. J. J. Raith was named as executor and the will was witnessed by A. Carr and Frank E. Wheelon.

Carload of Certified Seed Potatoes for Burlington

H. A. Kluever of Burlington, is in the city today, enroute home from Kennedy, Minn., where he purchased a car load of certified Early Ohio seed potatoes, which will be planted in the vicinity of Burlington. Mr. Kluever purchased the car of potatoes in January and the price has advanced so much since then that he could have taken a clear profit of \$1100.00 on the car without touching the spuds. He was offered 7 1/2 cents a pound for them in Minnesota. The potatoes will be sold to the following at the original purchase price, however, with the understanding that all of the seed

remain in the Burlington district for seed for another year: Einar Madison, John Werner, Harvey and Geo. Johnson, Joe Jacobson, and Dr. F. J. Christie. Mr. Kluever will plant a good sized tract himself. Mr. Kluever bot the potatoes from an old farmer who raised 19 acres of potatoes last year. The farmer had sold \$7,400 worth of potatoes from the 19 acres, besides he retained \$2,000 worth of seed and will plant 20 acres this year. The farmers around Kennedy, Minn., are becoming very wealthy. The little town of 300 inhabitants is in a prosperous condition. One dealer sold seventy tractors last year and 32 tractors have arrived this season. They are all sold. Farmers come in and buy them like they would a pair of shoes.

"The Ten Virgins"
Next Wednesday evening at 8:15 the First Lutheran Chorus will render the cantata, "The Ten Virgins" by A. R. Gaul. This music has never before been sung in these parts, but as the same author's "Holy City" and "Ruth" have been among the most pleasing of the several cantatas given by this organization, there is every assurance that the choir's efforts have not been misplaced and that a treat awaits those lovers of good music who are in attendance at this event.

The music will be given in the church where the pipe organ with the piano give a richness and depth to the accompaniment otherwise not obtainable except through an orchestra. The young folks are asking an admission fee of 75 cents for the purpose of defraying the expense of a piano which has been placed in the auditorium of the church and which greatly facilitates musical activities. They feel free to ask this inasmuch as it is the first time in the eight years of similar activities on the part of the chorus that an admission charge has been asked in its own favor, the wartime admission charges being for the Red Cross.

Tickets may be obtained at the Scandinavian American Bank and the Anderson Drug Company.

Ladies Enjoy Foolish April Frolic

About twenty of the lady members of the First Presbyterian church gathered at the home of Mrs. Chas. McKenzie, Eighth avenue, S. E., Monday evening and enjoyed a Foolish April Frolic that is said to have surpassed the excellent Town Criers festival of similar import. Each guest dressed to represent some favorite movie actress or actor and the evening was filled with stunts that would have been a "scream" had it been possible to secure a film of the various scenes depicted.

\$25,000 for Glenburn High School
Glenburn voted 103 to 4 to bond its school district for \$25,000 to build a high school building.

Doctors Attend Clinic
Dr. Devine, Dr. A. D. McCannel, Dr. P. A. Nestos and Dr. Erenfeld are attending a clinic in Minneapolis.

SAM GORDON'S STORE ROBBED LAST NIGHT

Sam Gordon, proprietor of a clothing store in the Grand Hotel block, west Central avenue, claims to have been robbed of about \$1200 worth of merchandise last night, someone having entered the store thru a rear window and making way with twenty-six suits valued at from \$21 to \$25 wholesale, five suit cases in which they packed the suits, besides a number of pairs of trousers and five suits that had been left there by customers to be cleaned and pressed. J. E. McCutcheon is the owner of one of the suits.

Whoever entered the store came in thru the rear window which they opened after climbing up onto a step ladder. Gordon says he left the store at 10 o'clock Wednesday night. He gave the police the description of two suspicious looking characters who he said had been hanging around the store that day. The police measured a track back of the store which was made by a 7 1/2 shoe.

Miss Desty Hackett Becomes Bride of Edgar Campbell

The marriage of Edgar Campbell and Miss Desty Hackett which occurred at 2 o'clock last Friday afternoon, proved to be a surprise to their closest friends. They were married by Rev. T. F. Gullixson, pastor of the First Lutheran church, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Jenkins, on Third Street S. E. and following the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins served a delightful wedding repast.

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell left on the afternoon train for Duluth where they are visiting with Mr. Campbell's brother. They are expected home within a few days.

Mr. Campbell has been employed as machinist in the Great Northern shops in this city for several years and he is a steady young man and well liked.

The bride has been employed in the bindery and press departments of the Ward County Independent for several years and this concern gladly recommends her as a young woman of the very highest type. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Hackett of this city, coming here with her parents from Texas about three years ago. A host of friends extend their very best wishes to this couple.

MALICIOUS FABRICATIONS AGAINST MINOT MERCHANTS ARE NAILED

The Independent has heard no end of malicious fabrications that have been in general circulation about the streets of our city during the week, to the effect that several of our leading merchants have been fined for profiteering.

At first the Independent was disposed to treat the reports lightly, as the untruth of the stories was so apparent to us that we did not deem it necessary to pay any attention to them. We are glad to learn that not a great many people have placed any credence in the wild rumors, but in order to set our merchants right in the eyes of those who might believe that there might be some truth in the statements, the Independent has concluded to make public its findings concerning these rumors.

The Independent has interviewed each of the merchants concerning whom these tales are being told, and we have been given positive assurance that no fines have been imposed. We even went further and have received the statement from United States Commissioner R. E. Hopkins, before whom such actions would have been taken, that no such action has been taken concerning any Minot merchant, or any other merchant in this section of the state.

Where the stories originated, Satan himself only knows. They are so nonsensical that the Independent will not take the time or trouble to go into them in detail, but the accusations include everything from selling merchandise at profiteering prices to short measurements.

The Independent prints this in order to set the merchants of our city right in the eyes of those who might possibly believe these stories.

You can rest assured that these lies were manufactured by somebody out of whole cloth and the next time you hear one of these stories, ask the tale bearer to present his evidence.

MRS. E. ROULIER OF VELVA, POISONS LITTLE DAUGHTER, THEN SUICIDES

Mrs. Emil Roulier, wife of a prominent farmer residing thirteen miles due south of Velva, caused the death of her little five-year old daughter, Lea, then ended her own life with poison Friday afternoon, in a field not far from the farm home, the tragedy undoubtedly being the result of the poor woman's weakened mental condition.

Mrs. Roulier wrote a letter to her four daughters, who are attending the Velva high school, telling them to hurry home if they loved their mother. The girls received the letter Friday morning and two of the daughters started for home immediately in an auto, thinking their mother was ill.

Mrs. Roulier evidently was waiting for them and that morning she informed her husband that she was going for the mail, the R. F. D. mail box being located about a half mile from the house. Instead she took Lea and went to the field. When the girls arrived from Velva, the mother told them to go to the house, that she would come in shortly. The girls left and the mother did not come in. One of the girls went out to find her and found little Lea in the field dead. The mother told the daughter what she had done. The daughter went immediately to the house for the father and when she returned the mother was lying on the ground in a terribly agony.

After the girls had left her first, she had written a note, which was found pinned to her dress. In the note she stated that she was tired of living and wanted Lea to die also, as Lea was so young she wanted to take her with her. She said she did not want anyone to mourn for her and that members of the family should wear white. She said she wanted to be buried in Velva and selected Rev. Sargent of Ruse to preach the funeral sermon. Before her death, she told her daughter all of the details of the horrible affair.

The poor woman was without question, temporarily insane, her condition being brot on by worry and ill health. She used strychnine that had been purchased for gopher poison and which had been in the house for over a year.

Mrs. Roulier planned her death some time ahead for when her thirteen-year old son left for school that morning, she kissed him good bye and said she would not be there when he returned.

The McHenry county coroner was called to the farm but held no inquest as he considered it a case of insanity.

The double tragedy has cast a deep gloom over the entire community. Mrs. Roulier was born in Christiansia, Norway and was 44 years of age. She came to the Mouse river valley thirty-four years ago to the home of her uncle, Iver Gjelstad. She made her home with the Gjelstad family until her marriage. The Gjelstads came here in the early 80's and live down the river near Falsen. Her husband, Emil Roulier, is an old resident, being a brother of Mrs. A. G. Anderson of Velva. Mr. Roulier is a former rancher and from 1907 to 1910 was engaged in the meat business in Ruse.

There are four girls, all attending the Velva high school and the father, left to mourn. One of the daughters, Edna, is a member of the 1920 graduating class of the Velva high school.

Park Board Committee Saves City a Large Sum

Will E. Holbein, secretary of the Association of Commerce, returned Wednesday from Wausau, Wis., where he attended the annual district Rotary convention.

Mr. Holbein met Frank B. Lambert of the Minot Park Board and Assn. City Engineer Wm. Gettleman in Minneapolis where questions concerning the building of the municipal swimming pool and the proposed city dam

were taken up. The Soo railway company has decided to the park commission two acres along Mouse river where the city dam will be built at some time in the future. The park board committee has saved the park commission a thousand dollars a year on the dam and fully \$12,000 on the sewage disposal plant, the details of which will be made known later.

Minot Rotary Entertains for Dr. E. Leslie Pidgeon

The Minot Rotary Club gave a dinner at the Association of Commerce rooms Tuesday night, having as their guest of honor, Dr. E. Leslie Pidgeon, who was twice International Rotary President.

The local entertainment included a vocal solo by Lefe Flaten with violin obligato by Otto Ellison; a violin solo by Prof. John Howard, with Mrs. Howard accompanying him at the piano; and a vocal solo by Major Person, all of which numbers were much enjoyed.

Dr. Pidgeon addressed the Rotary members for half an hour, giving the best exposition of Rotary principles ever heard by the club.

Licensed to Wed

John E. Kinsella, 24 and Esther E. Craig, 18, both of Berthold. The couple went to Kenmare where they were married by the priest.
L. H. Smithrud, 27, and Harriet Woodward, 22, Bottineau.
Rollie J. Farrell and Mrs. Helen C. Jorgenson.
Albert Pickens and Mrs. Carolyn Cook, Minot.
Palmer A. Melhus, 23, and Selma Hermanson, 19.
Edgar Campbell, 23, and Deste Hackett, 20.
Gust Smith, 48 and Mrs. Alice Morris, Bay City, Mich.

Two Minot Citizens Elected to State Epworth League Offices

Rev. T. A. Olsen and Rev. C. L. Clifford have returned from Valley City, N. D. where they assisted in perfecting a state organization of the Epworth League.

Fred Ernst of this city was elected Second Vice President and Mrs. C. L. Clifford of this city was elected state superintendent of Junior Epworth League work.

First Lutheran Church

"The Faith of the Fathers in the Language of the Children."
Morning worship at 10:30.
Sermon theme: "Anxiety's Antidote, Faith in God."
Sunday school and Bible classes at 12 noon. R. A. Nestos, superintendent.

Chorus rehearsal at 3:30.
Evening worship at 8.
Sermon theme: "The Father Made Manifest."
Anthem: "Evening Hymn", Witt, Baritone solo.
Chorus rehearsal Tuesday evening at 8.

Wednesday evening, April 28th, at the church the chorus renders the cantata "The Ten Virgins".
A hearty welcome to all.
T. F. GULLIXSON, Pastor.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Sabbath school, Saturday 2 p. m.
Preaching service, 3 p. m.
Midweek prayer meeting and Bible study, Wednesday 8 p. m.
Sunday evening service, 7:45 o'clock
Subject: "Ten Reasons Why I Cannot Indorse the Interchurch World Movement." For the reason that many Christian people of Minot have questioned my failure to endorse the Interchurch World Movement at the past church conference held at Grand Forks I have decided to submit my reasons to the judgment of the public. All are welcome to this service.
W. A. Alway, pastor.

Maria Sanford, Professor Emeritus of Minnesota U. Dies in Washington, D. C. Washington, D. C., April 21.—Dr. Maria Sanford, professor emeritus of the University of Minnesota and the best known woman in Minnesota, was found dead in her bed at the home of Senator Nute Nelson today. She was 83 years old.

Miss Sanford, who came here to attend the continental congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution, apparently was in good health when she retired last night.

Heart Disease Causes Death
When members of Senator Nelson's household went to her bedroom today to summon her to breakfast, it was found that she was dead.

Physicians were called. They said death was due to heart disease, probably caused by overexertion.

Old Time Crook Play Thrilling as Ever

One of the best known and most gripping "crook" plays, "Alias Jimmy Valentine" has been pictured by Maxwell Karger and will be seen at the Orpheum theater on Friday and Saturday. Bert Lytell is the star of this well remembered stage play, which scored a great hit on Broadway when first produced.

Jimmy Valentine is a prisoner at Sing Sing, convicted of safebreaking. Although guilty he persists in claiming his innocence, and when his pardon is obtained, he actually does "go straight" influenced by the beautiful girl who has helped him obtain his freedom. He obtains a position in a bank and for three years works diligently and is promoted. Then, when he is engaged to be married, Doyle, the detective, follows him, having obtained evidence that will convict Valentine. But Jimmy has changed his name and has managed to establish a complete alibi. Doyle is about to leave, almost convinced that he is wrong, when word comes that the girl has been locked in the bank safe. No one knows the combination. Then, although Doyle is standing near, and Jimmy knows that he is convicting himself he sandpapers his fingers and with his old time skill that made him the master safe cracker of America, he opens the vault.

It ends happily, of course, but only after the same thrilling climax that made the stage play long remembered by all who saw it.

New Ice Cream Concern Presents the Independent Force With Can of Cream

The Independent force enjoyed a splendid treat this afternoon when C. H. Sorensen of the Sorensen Dairy Product Co., presented the management with a two gallon freezer of delicious ice cream. The Sorensen Dairy Product Co., has just begun the manufacture of ice cream on Third St., N. E. If we may judge from the sample presented we would say the new firm is headed toward success, for after the first taste business was immediately suspended in this office until the cream was entirely gone. It was lick-in good. We thank you.

PLAN SCHOOL DRIVE LATTER PART OF MAY

President A. G. Crane of the Minot Normal school returned from Fargo Tuesday where he attended a meeting of the Board of Regents, the president of the North Dakota University, the Agricultural College and the other state educational institutions.

It was decided at this meeting to make a great state educational drive the latter part of May, the object of which is to place the schools of the state in a better way of getting competent teachers. It is believed that within a few years North Dakota can secure a sufficiency of good capable teachers if she is willing to pay the price and pay the price she must if she does not want to see her schools take any more backward steps.

The principal object of the May drive will be to get an endorsement of a teachers' minimum wage scale, as recommended by a committee from the state educational association. It is agreed among teachers that the minimum wage should be \$1500 a year for teachers who fit themselves to make teaching their profession.

If this minimum wage is granted good teachers will be attracted from other states and more of our young men and women will feel that it will pay them to prepare themselves for this work by attending some state Normal school.

Ninety-three per cent of the teachers of North Dakota have only a high school education and a great many of our teachers are teaching on permits, not being able to pass the requirements for a teacher's certificate.

High School Musical Concert
The high school music department under the direction of Prof. John Howard, will give a concert at the auditorium, Friday evening, April 23, consisting of selections by the glee club, orchestra, vocal and instrumental solos. It will be a musical program of merit. General admission 35 cents, with 25 cents for high school and normal students and 10 cents for grade pupils.

Judge Lewis Plants Garden
Judge Lewis is perhaps the most daring gardener in the city. The judge takes a good deal of pride in his fine garden each year and his chief ambition is to gather "garden sass" ahead of Judge Palda, Bob Bosard, and Orrin Pierce. He planted lettuce peas and sweet peas this week.

L. J. WEHE OUSTED BY GOV. FRAZIER

Suspends Workmen's Compensation Board Member—Work Is Badly Muddled.

Bismarck, N. D., April 20.—L. J. Wehe, member of the North Dakota workmen's compensation commission, has been suspended by an order of Governor Lynn J. Frazier, it was announced today. The order gives Mr. Wehe until April 22 to either resign or make defense to the charges recited by the governor.

In his notice suspending Wehe, Governor Frazier asserts that the commissioner has continued his private law practice since he accepted the state position, that he lacks executive ability, and that in the conduct of recent minimum wage hearings he was "factless in the examination of and disrespectful and offensive to a number of the witnesses who appeared to testify at such hearings."

Former Lake Attorney
Mr. Wehe, formerly an attorney of Devils Lake, accepted the appointment on the state board last July.

As has been repeatedly stated in Forum dispatches from Bismarck, the work of the state workmen's compensation has been more or less confused for some time. High rates have been imposed on employers, and little or no money has been paid to injured workmen.

Some time ago, John Brown, secretary of the board, quit that post, and a petition was prepared and signed by practically every employe in the bureau, asking that Wehe be retired. Some time ago Wehe assured the governor that he would resign, fixing April 1 as the date. He failed to carry that promise into effect and the situation in the commission has finally become such that the governor has been obliged to act.

The notice served on Mr. Wehe, follows:

Charges of Governor

"Evidence has been presented to me to the effect that since your appointment and qualification as workmen's compensation commissioner and during the period that you have been acting as such commissioner and drawing the salary of such commissioner, you have been carrying on a private law practice.

"That in connection with this private law practice you have had stenographers in the employ of the workmen's compensation bureau do a large amount of stenographic work during the time which they should have devoted to the work of the bureau, and for which they were paid by the bureau;

"That for such stenographic work you have used the office supplies of the bureau, and that by reason of the fact there has been great delay in the work of the bureau, and particularly in the adjustment of claims which come to the bureau for adjustment under the law.

"That through the lack of executive ability, irascibility, incompatibility of temperament and lack of comprehension of the spirit of the workmen's compensation law, and by your general inefficiency you have been a detriment to the bureau and a handicap particularly to the work of the claim department of the bureau;

"That at the public hearing conducted by the minimum wage commission held during the month of February, 1920, you conducted yourself in a manner detrimental to public interest, being tactless in the examination of and disrespectful and offensive to a number of the witnesses who appeared to testify at such hearing;

Other Employes

"That several efficient employes of the bureau have tendered their resignation on account of your incompetence, inefficiency, irascibility, and your attitude of intolerance toward them, and that such employes have been induced to remain in the employ of the bureau only through the exercise of the utmost persuasive powers of persons deeply interested in the welfare of the bureau, and that employes decline to remain in the employ of the bureau if you continue longer as a workmen's compensation commissioner;

"That your presence has impaired the efficiency of the bureau and the resignation of such employes would be a great detriment to the work of the bureau and that your continuance in the office as workmen's compensation commissioner will do great harm to the functioning of the bureau.

"In the light of this evidence, I feel it is my duty to inquire what, if any, you desire to state in your defense. As charges, if true are of such nature as to require the immediate severance of your connection with the workmen's compensation bureau an immediate reply is requested. Failing to receive any statement from you or your resignation, on or before the 22nd, inst., I shall consider it my duty to remove you summarily from office.

"You are hereby notified that I have suspended you from the office of workmen's compensation commissioner, such suspension to continue until the final termination of this matter."

L. F. Vollmer who returned from Montana, Friday, reported a two inch fall of snow thruout eastern Montana that day.