

# THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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

First Section

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## PETERS, WIEBE, BERGMAN PLEAD GUILTY IN MOHALL BANK CASE

Jacob C. Peters, Frank W. Weibe and Walter W. Bergman, formerly connected with the defunct Mohall State Bank, withdrew their pleas of not guilty and changed them to pleas of guilty, in federal court before Judge Andrew Miller, Tuesday morning. The Judge deferred sentencing them until during the afternoon, as he said he desired to look into the facts of the case before doing so.

District Attorney Hildreth stated that in the case of Weibe, he recommended merely a fine, as he was certain that Mr. Weibe was the least guilty of them all.

Colonel Hildreth stated that he had been told by Peters that he was most to blame for committing the offense of using the mails to defraud. Col. Hildreth stated that while he was always disposed to recommend mercy when defendants entered pleas of guilty, thus saving the government the expense of prosecuting a case, yet the government had been put to considerable trouble already and it was plain to be seen that he would recommend something more than a fine in the cases against Peters and Bergman.

The case which promised to be a long drawn out affair, came to a close with a suddenness that startled the jurors. About half of the jury had already been selected Monday afternoon and the attorneys were preparing to complete the jury when the defendants changed their pleas. Attorney Sinkler, for the defense, announced that the defendants had decided to change their pleas. Atty. J. E. Bryans of Mohall was sitting in the case with Atty. Sinkler.

The prosecution was represented by Col. Hildreth, district attorney and his assistant, Judge Nuchols. Atty. Francis Murphy of Minot had been appointed special prosecuting attorney for this case by the federal government.

Sixty witnesses had been subpoenaed and a couple hundred exhibits gathered. The case promised to last two weeks or more.

The defendants were called before Judge Miller when they changed their pleas. As Col. Hildreth was reviewing the charges against them, one of the defendants, Jacob C. Peters, wept. The Colonel mentioned the fact that Peters has a wife and several small children.

The district attorney announced that the second case pending against the three defendants, charged with conspiracy, had been dismissed. This left the fourth defendant, C. D. Griffith, Sleepy Eye, Minn., banker, and former president of the Mohall State Bank, charged with conspiracy alone.

After the jury had been drawn in the case of C. D. Griffith, Judge Miller raised the question that inasmuch as the case against three of the defendants had been dismissed, which might be construed as an acquittal for them in this particular action, this might leave the defendant Griffith charged alone with the crime of conspiracy, which would be an impossible thing for one man alone. He adjourned court until 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon in order to give the attorneys for each side an opportunity to cite authority bearing on this particular point. In the Griffith action, the same attorneys appeared for the prosecution and Atty. Sinkler of Minot and Atty. Furst of Minneapolis appeared for the defense.

The government undoubtedly had worked up an excellent case against the three defendants who pleaded guilty. Peters was cashier of the Mohall State Bank at the time that S. H. Sleeper was largely interested in the concern. Sleeper disposed of much of his interest in the bank to C. D. Griffith, a well known banker interested in a line of banks in Sleepy Eye and other southern Minnesota points. Griffith had loaned considerable money on farm land in the vicinity of Mohall. The government alleged that the three defendants, Peters, Weibe and Bergman had sent out literature containing a false report of the condition of the bank at the time the literature was issued, offering to accept Liberty bonds at par, giving in return worthless C. D's. The government alleged that other paper was secured by the bank to the extent of many thousands of dollars in a fraudulent manner, at a time when the bank was insolvent. The bank was finally closed by the state banking department and a great deal of money was lost by many who had had transactions with the concern.

Thorwald Mostad Weds Prominent Minnesota Young Woman

Thorwald Mostad, well known Minot man, was united in marriage to Miss Anna C. Johnson of Bemidji, Minn., Monday, Oct. 9, at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. W. P. Elliott, 3550 Eleventh Ave. S., Minneapolis, the ceremony being performed by Rev. E. C. Stone, pastor of the Lutheran church. The wedding was a very quiet affair.

Mr. Mostad has returned to Minot, after spending a week's honeymoon at Mankato and Bemidji, Minn., and Grand Forks, and his bride has returned to Bemidji, where she has been in charge of the Johnson Bros. store for several years. As soon as a new manager can be secured, Mrs. Mostad will join her husband in this city.

The bride is the charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Johnson of Mankato, Minn. She met Mr. Mostad, while he was serving his district as Senator at Bismarck some years ago and at the time she was manager of the Johnson Bros. store in Bismarck. She is a sister of Otto C. Johnson, manager of Johnson's Popular Pried Store in Minot, and of Carl Johnson, manager of the Johnson store in Grand Forks. She is a young woman of the most pleasing personality and exceedingly capable in business.

Mr. Mostad has resided in Ward county practically all of his life. He served our district as Senator for four years and at present is serving as receiver of the Sawyer State Bank. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Mostad, who are among our most highly respected pioneer settlers. A host of friends join the Independent in offering felicitations.

Young Men Attending Normal Want Work

A number of capable young men attending the Minot Normal school are anxious to do most any kind of honest work to earn a little money to help them thru school. Anyone in Minot having work of this kind, will confer a favor on the young men and the institution by notifying Da Geo. McFarland, the president.

Remember His First Love

The last issue of the National Magazine, published by Joe Mitchell Chapel, at Boston, contains two articles of interest to North Dakotans: One a review of Governor Nestos' life history, and the other relating to Mr. Chappell's early experiences. In La Moore county many years ago, when claim hunters were still trekking into that land in search of new homes, Joe ran a newspaper in La Moore, graduating from his father's claim to that high estate, and securing the old hand press and a bit of type of a former enterprise through a trade of an old street car horse for the outfit. He was a versatile kid and made it lively in a county seat fight in those days.

From there he gravitated to South Dakota newspaperdom, and then became a page in the U. S. senate, as we remember it, where his bright mind attracted attention and friends and got him on the road to magazine work, which he has followed successfully ever since. He is an exceedingly clever writer and has published several very interesting books. The Advance man knew Joe in the territorial days and later met him at the Buffalo and St. Louis fairs, to find that the high ideals of youth are still with him and that a bright spot in his memory is those strenuous days on the farm and at La Moore.—Beach Advance.

Light Fall of Snow—Some Damage to Potatoes

A light snow fall was reported throughout North Dakota Sunday night, barely covering the ground and at this writing has practically all disappeared. The ground froze a little and it is probable that the undug crop of potatoes, lying near the surface, was damaged. This will necessitate care in digging for a frost-killed potato will be a great deal of damage to other potatoes in a bin.

OLD TIME RACER SHOWS FORM AND BEATS RECORD

Enderlin.—Running 100 yards on a dirt track in 12 4/5 seconds, J. C. Harper, 66-year-old merchant, has beaten the world's record for the short dash by men over 50 years of age.

## On the Road of Good Intentions



## J. E. ZOOK, FORMER MINOT DAIRYMAN, DIED LAST FRIDAY

J. E. Zook, well known and highly respected retired Minot dairyman, passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. A. A. Patee, 1025 Valley Street, at 8:30 o'clock Friday night after a long illness from heart trouble. He had been failing gradually during the past three years and his death was not unexpected.

The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home of the deceased, on 8th St. N. E., with Elder Dierdorff, of Surrey and Rev. Mr. Michael of Kenmare officiating and the remains were interred beside those of his wife in the Surrey cemetery. Mrs. C. H. Marsh, a daughter, arrived from her home at Rapid City, S. D., a few days before her father's death and her husband arrived for the funeral. A brother, John, of Rantoul, Ill., arrived Monday.

Mr. Zook was born in Mifflin county, Pa., and would have been 62 years of age on Oct. 21. He moved to Franklin Grove, Ill., 42 years ago and thirty-nine years ago in 1883, was married to Anna Lambert. Following their marriage, they located at Sidney, Ky., and 24 years ago came to North Dakota, settling at Cando. They moved to Minot 15 years ago at which time Mr. Zook engaged in operating a dairy in Minot, being compelled to give up the business four years ago on account of failing health.

His wife passed away five years ago in April. He is survived by four children, Mrs. N. P. Flower, Mrs. A. A. Patee and Miss Fern Zook of Minot and Mrs. C. H. Marsh of Rapid City, S. D. A brother, John, resides at Rantoul, Ill., and two sisters live in Pennsylvania and one in Illinois.

Mr. Zook had long been a member of the church of the Brethren and was a fine type of a conscientious Christian.

Potato Growers to Hold Important Meeting in Minot, Oct. 21

The potato growers in the vicinity of Minot have been asked to meet in the Minot Association of Commerce rooms at 2:00 p. m., Saturday, Oct. 21, for the purpose of discussing matters relative to the potato situation.

The meeting has been called by the officers of the Minot Potato Warehouse association, and every opportunity will be given the farmers to make suggestions as to how the warehouse can best serve the needs of potato producers of this section. The shareholders of the warehouse association are also urged to attend.

Karlruhe Man Got 90 Days for Selling Liquor

Edward Hein, a young man from Karlruhe, who was arrested by prohibition officers early this month, pleaded guilty before Judge Miller in federal court Wednesday, to selling beer and whiskey. He was sentenced to serve 90 days in the McHenry county jail at Towner. L. P. Sandstrom, one of the officers, told the court of calling on Hein and buying \$4 worth of liquor. Hein was wary and told Sandstrom he didn't have any liquor, but knew a friend who had. He accompanied Sandstrom over town and slipped back to his home and got the liquor. F. C. Upton was stationed near the home and saw the man take the liquor from his house. The maximum sentence for selling liquor is a six months' sentence or a fine of \$1,000.

## OFFICERS DISCOVER 56 CASES LIQUOR NEAR DILLAGE HOME

Minot Merchants Do Record Business

Minot merchants are enjoying a big trade this week. Hundreds of automobiles have come in from long distances, taking advantage of the good roads, the extensive stocks offered by our merchants and the fair prices. A number of the stores of this city have done a record breaking business. The Minot stores compare favorably with any in North Dakota and customers find that it pays them well to come here to do their trading.

Men Charged With Buying Stolen Auto

The case against Charles Northrup and a man named Stein, both of Minot, charged with purchasing a stolen automobile, is being tried in federal court today. The defendants are represented by McGee & Goss and Greenleaf and Woolledge. Northrup formerly operated "Charlie's Cafe" in Minot. The car in question is said to have been stolen from Wichita, Kan., and driven to Minot.

Northern Ducks Are Down

Duck hunters have been bringing in wonderful bags of northern ducks during the past week. The snow flurry the first of the week hurried the big birds towards the sunny south, the hunting will be at its best for another two weeks at least. The season on prairie chickens and grouse closed Monday. Many Minot hunters bagged all the grouse they wished within five miles of Minot.

Minot Man 62 Years Old, Insures Life

Staal Hendrickson, of Coteau, agent for the New York Life Insurance Co., wrote a \$5,000 life insurance policy for a Minot man 62 years of age Wednesday night. It is a 10 year policy and the man who enjoys the best of health, fully expects to have the fun of spending the money after a decade. This is the oldest man that Mr. Hendrickson has ever insured.

Cows Brot Low Prices

Anthony Walton's sale, held south of Glenburn Friday, did not turn out very satisfactory. The machinery sold well, but after two choice Short-horn milk cows had sold for \$30 and \$31 each, Mr. Walton refused to sell the remainder. He set a minimum price of \$40 on the remaining cows, but could not secure any further bids. A good 4-year-old horse sold for \$55.

P. L. Hodge Is Seriously Ill

Perry Hodge, who recently returned to Minot from Bortolme, N. D., where he spent several years in the grain business, lies critically ill at his home in this city. He has been suffering from pernicious anemia for several years and is now bedfast and under the care of a trained nurse.

North Dakota Potatoes 90 Cents a Bushel in Illinois

The Independent received a copy of the Sterling, Ill., Daily Gazette this morning and notes where North Dakota U. S. grade potatoes are quoted by the Sterling merchants at 90 cents a bushel.

M. J. Boyd of Valley City, traveling auditor for the A.O.U.W., was in Minot Tuesday transacting business and visiting with his brother, Major Boyd, federal prohibition agent from Grand Forks.

## CONSPIRACY CHARGE AGAINST C. D. GRIFFETH IS DROPPED

CASHIER AT ALEXANDER IS UNDER ARREST

Alexander, N. D., Oct. 14.—G. C. Gunderson, formerly cashier of the First State Bank of Alexander, was ordered held to district court to answer to a charge of embezzlement following a preliminary examination held here. He was released on bonds to appear at the next term of court to be held in the county which will be before the first of the year.

The warrant was issued on a complaint made by A. J. Layon, and alleges the embezzlement of a promissory note for \$11,000 signed by Layon together with a chattel mortgage as security. The note and mortgage were given by Layon to safeguard his property from any claim which might be made by his wife who expected to sue for a divorce at the time. The complaint alleges there was no consideration and that the note and mortgage were being held in trust, but were later pledged at a St. Paul bank which is now demanding payment from Layon.

Minot Woman May Yet Get Her Citizenship

Mabel Kawabata of Minot may be able to achieve again the United States citizenship, which she threw away when she married Roy Kawabata under the new laws governing the citizenship of married women in the United States. Kawabata was a Japanese and his wife, in her petition for annulment of the marriage, stated that she married him under his promise to become an American citizen, not knowing that he was barred from becoming a citizen.

Federal officers headed by F. C. Upton and Mr. Stone working on a well defined tip, visited the Jens Ness farm, at the very borders of the village of Rival, Burke county, Sunday night and discovered the cache of liquor, declared to be a portion of the whiskey and gin sold by Paul Matoff, to Lee Dillage, of Lignite, just before masked men murdered and robbed Matoff at Bienfait, Sask., two weeks ago.

The finding of the liquor is apt to play an important part in the case against Dillage, who is now under arrest, charged with the murder of Matoff, a Canadian liquor vendor. Dillage is in the custody of officers at Fargo, awaiting his hearing by U. S. Custom officer Wm. Green, on extradition to Canada where he is to stand trial.

The liquor at the Ness farm was found buried in a hole under the straw in a straw stack and consisted of about 56 cases. The find includes 23 sacks, of two cases each and ten boxes of gin, consisting of one case to the box. The liquor comprises the Hill & Thompson, Simpson's White Seal, Congress Cock Tails, Port Wine, besides ten boxes of gin. Besides there is a lot of French Cognac, all choice liquor.

The original bill of lading for the ten boxes of gin was found in one of the boxes, and this will play an important part in the trial of Dillage, for it is said to prove very conclusively that the liquor is a portion of the Matoff shipment. The Bill of Lading is from the Dominion Distributors Ltd. of Regina and was consigned to R. Lamont of Minot, considered a fictitious name. The liquor has all been brot to Minot and is now under lock and key in the federal building.

Dillage is the man who was found by officers, holding Matoff, as he was dying after he had been shot by four masked men. Dillage had just purchased \$6,000.00 worth of liquor from Matoff and had paid him the currency, when four masked men appeared and demanded the money. Dillage says they began shooting even after Matoff had thrown up his hands. Dillage says he left with the liquor in two cars, when he was highjacked, the thieves taking the liquor and the cars. The fact that this liquor has been found in the strawstack about 2 1/2 miles north of the Dillage farm, appears against the defendant.

Campbell, Moore and Lynd, of Estevan, Sask., have been employed as attorneys by Lee Dillage and Lakoske. The latter was the driver of the truck load of whiskey which it is claimed was stolen from him by highjackers. Lakoske has been arrested charged with being an accessory to the crime of murder.

A man named Bronfmann, of Estevan, a brother-in-law of Paul Matoff, the man who was murdered, is said to be the richest man in Saskatchewan. He is a Jew and it is claimed that he has been operating a 300-gallon still in Estevan for years. Much of the liquor that finds its way across the line into North Dakota is said to be manufactured at Estevan. The labels are printed in St. Paul and are a very good imitation of the original labels found on the various brands of whiskey. There is no law in Canada which prohibits the exportation of liquor between provinces, or from Canada to other countries.