

# THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

This Issue Pages

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

First Section

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## FORMER MINOT DANCING TEACHER, MURDERS NOTED MONTANA CLERGYMAN; COMMITS SUICIDE

Hayre, Mont., Oct. 28.—Inquest over the body of Rev. Leonard Jacob Christler, "bishop of all outdoors" and his "platonic friend," Mrs. Margaret Carleton, his alleged slayer who committed suicide, opened here tonight.

Friends of the dead man and woman gathered in the little morgue for the investigation, demanded by Mrs. Don Davenport, mother of Mrs. Carleton, who disbelieves that her daughter did the shooting.

Bishop William Frederick Faber of Montana was present when the inquest opened.

Widow Called Important Witness  
Mrs. Christler was to be one of the most important witnesses. She was present in an adjoining room, according to her story, when the fatal shots were fired.

Mrs. Carleton's mother arrived here during the day and by demanding an inquest crossed the intentions of police to close the investigation.

The mother said she was not satisfied with the story given by Mrs. Carleton shot the minister and killed herself in the pastor's home Sunday night, due to loneliness and sickness.

Mrs. Christler clung to her original story that she believed Mrs. Carleton, known as the "miniature beauty" was demented as the result of hard work and loneliness.

Pastor Called "Orator Magnificent"  
Mr. Christler, affectionately called the "bishop of all outdoors" because of his missionary work in the rough lumber and railroad camps of the frontier towns, was killed in the parlor of his home Friday night by Mrs. Carleton. The pastor's widow found Mrs. Carleton's body lying over that of her husband.

Business of Hayre was at a standstill today during the funeral services for the noted parson. High tribute was paid to his work by Bishop Faber of the Montana diocese in the funeral sermon.

Chief of Police Joseph Moran tonight told of the incidents leading up to the murder and suicide as he had been able to uncover them.

"I saw Mrs. Carleton about 12:15 a. m. Friday standing in front of the home of Mr. Christler," the chief said. "She remarked that she was waiting to meet someone and I passed on. The only account of her movements from that time on is what we have from the lips of the widow.

"Apparently she immediately entered the Christler home where the pastor and his wife found her a short time later. She was tearing up pictures of Mr. Christler and was otherwise acting strangely."

Widow to Accompany Body East  
Mrs. Christler, while not announcing her plans for the future, expects to accompany the body of her husband to Auburn, N. Y., where it will be buried. She probably will then live there, after a final visit here to supervise the settlement of her husband's affairs. She said she would assume all financial obligations connected with both burials.

Friends of Mrs. Carleton said she recently had returned from a strenuous trip on the chautauqua platform. The public speaking resulted in ill health, which completely had unnerved her, they said.

She had been nervous and her actions were queer, employees at the hotel where she had been stopping, reported.

No one has been found who saw her movements Friday night, previous to the time she went to the home of Mr. Christler, while he and his wife were away. She was in the home when the couple returned, and apparently had been tearing up photographs of the pastor. After a short visit, during which Mrs. Christler said the visitor did not act normally, she arranged to take her leave. The husband accompanied her to the door where the shooting came with dramatic suddenness.

Mrs. Carleton's body was taken to Butte today, where it will be buried.

Minot was shocked when it was learned that Mrs. Margaret Carleton had taken the life of Rev. L. J. Christler and then ended her own.

Mrs. Carleton was well known in Minot where she spent the summer of 1921, assisting Ted Cavens, playground instructor from Minneapolis, who was in charge of the play ground work in the Minot parks for several months during that summer.

Mrs. Carleton was in charge of a pageant, given at Oak Park, her work and that of her pupils being exceptionally well received. She engaged the ball room of the Association of Commerce for a period and gave instructions in dancing. She was an exceptionally attractive, vivacious little woman, about 40 years of age. Mrs. Carleton leaves a husband, a former district judge, residing in Hayre, from whom she had separated, and a bright little girl, ten or twelve years of age.

It was known that the principals of the tragedy spent some time in Minot together during the summer of 1921. Mrs. Carleton had given dancing instructions in Williston before she came to Minot. After Mrs. Carleton had concluded her work in Minot, it is said that Mrs. Carleton accompan-

ied by the Rev. Mr. Christler, returned to Hayre.

Rev. Mr. Christler was a fine looking man, a perfect figure physically, standing more than six feet. He was 46 years of age and in addition to being a noted preacher and lecturer, was well known as a political writer.

There seems to be little question that the affair was murder and suicide. When Dr. D. S. Mackenzie, who was called after the shooting, arrived, the pistol with which the two had been shot, was still grasped in Mrs. Carleton's hand, and her finger was still on the trigger.

Mrs. Christler, describing the shooting, said that Mrs. Carleton came to the Christler home late Thursday night and remained until early Friday morning talking to the Rev. and Mrs. Christler. When she started to leave, the clergyman accompanied her toward the entrance, the widow said, and had just shut a door between a small hall and the room where Mrs. Christler was left, when two shots rang out. Mrs. Christler opened the door and found the bodies, that of Mrs. Carleton being on top of the minister's body.

All of the principals in the tragedy were prominent, both in Montana and elsewhere. The Rev. Christler, who was 46 years old, had held charges in New York and New Jersey. He came to Montana in 1910 as missionary of the Milk River Valley and had developed his field into one of the largest mission territories in the United States.

Mrs. Christler is the daughter of the late David Wadsworth, Auburn, N. Y. manufacturer. The Reverend and Mrs. Christler were married in 1914.

In an unsuccessful effort to establish a motive for the shooting, officers partly reconstructed a number of letters found in a partially destroyed condition in the room Mrs. Carleton had occupied in a local hotel. They declared they could find no mention of the dead clergyman in these letters, which came from Mrs. Carleton's mother, daughter, and husband, former Judge Frank Carleton, from whom she was separated. One letter from the husband, officers said, mentioned he was sending her a sum of money.

Activities of press correspondents do not find favor with Coroner Holland, who, expressing resentment this morning said:

"All they want is something sensational," and he followed his statement with the intimation that the killing of the noted minister, supposedly, he said, by a member of the minister's parish was not particularly the public's affair.

Inquest Unnecessary  
Coroner Holland said that when Mrs. Carleton came to the Christler home at 1 o'clock Friday morning she acted demented and that in view of this statement made to him by Mrs. Christler he was convinced no inquest was necessary as he said:

"I know and all the officials know how the killing came about."

When asked to state what Mrs. Christler had told him to convince him that the killing was a murder and suicide, Coroner Holland said again it was not the public's business and that he would not make Mrs. Christler's statement public unless he should receive the consent of Mrs. Pyle, mother of Mrs. Christler.

Two Minot Young Men Charged with Stealing Overland Car  
John Armstrong and James O'Brien, two young men who have been employed around Minot, were arrested at Portal Monday, charged with the theft of an Overland-Four from the Stearns Motor Co. Sheriff Scofield went to Portal and returned with the prisoners early Tuesday morning.

The young men had hired the car from the Stearns Co. for two or three hours and after three days the owners became suspicious. They claim they intended returning to Minot, but it was learned at Portal that they had made inquiries as to how they could take the car across into Canada. One of the young men was employed as a taxi driver in this city and the other worked for Mr. Stearns' brother on the John Ehr farm.

Townley Wants Eighteen Elevators  
Townley and Lemke spoke at Hope recently. Townley in his speech criticized the present administration for not having built enough elevators and said that Governor Nestos should have had eighteen elevators built in order to handle the present crop. When we remember how long it took the Nonpartisan administration to start building one elevator, and that during the last eleven months of that administration no work of any kind was done on it, we wonder whether Townley and another League administration would get the eighteen elevators built in time to handle the 1950 crop.

A poultry cull demonstration was held near Wilton. The hens were divided into 25 good ones and 10 "boarders". They were kept seven days and the good hens laid 40 eggs and the culls one. The culls will be fattened so they may pay for themselves in meat.

## Most Geese in Years Being Shot by Hunters

One or two geese a season has been about the record for Carrington hunters for some years past but this fall the big birds seem to be much more plentiful and several have been brot down. Frank Shriner shot into a flock west of town Sunday and brot down one with No. 6 shot. A. H. Wentland of Bordulac holds the record by bagging three. Others have shot one or two each and a dozen or more have found their way to the dining tables in this part of the county the past week.

## Taxidermist Finds Owl Stuffed for Many Years

J. D. Allen, Mandan taxidermist, in searching for a box in which to ship mounted specimens, spied just what he needed in one corner of his "Old Curiosity Shop." He hauled out the box and opened it and found it contained a mammoth owl, one of the largest he had ever mounted. It was wrapped in Mandan papers dated in November and December, 1887. Altho 35 years ago the owl had been stuffed it was in perfect condition and was purchased by O. McGrath, game warden.

## WARD COUNTY MURDERER IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, YEAR

D. M. Noah, murderer of a Kenmare farmer named Johnson, who was sentenced to serve a life term in the penitentiary at Bismarck nearly 15 years ago, has been in solitary confinement ever since he was arrested in Wichita, Kan., nearly a year ago, after making his escape.

Warden L. L. Stair when giving Noah special privileges prior to his making escape, warned him that if he ever violated the trust the warden placed in him, he might expect solitary confinement during the remainder of the warden's administration and it appears that Stair is going to keep his word.

Noah is kept in his cell behind a screen in the cell house night and day. He is let out of the cell but once a week, to take his bath. He can read all the books he desires but is considered a dangerous man and is not permitted to mingle with the other prisoners.

Noah for several years after being sent to prison, edited the penitentiary paper. He learned to be a fairly good printer and was in charge of the penitentiary printing plant located in the basement of the hospital.

Warden Stair insists on good order among the inmates. A year or more ago, sixteen prisoners rebelled because one of their number had been punished for the infringement of some rule, and refused to go to work. Guards with drawn guns ordered them to the dungeon. One fellow refused to go and the guard shot him thru the arm, the bullet cutting the skin of his breast. The sixteen men were confined in the dungeon, which is pitch dark, and fed on bread and water until they promised to obey orders and refrain from engaging in further rebellion about the prison. Some of the leaders held out for six weeks before they would agree to this, but finally everyone of them promised to be good and returned to work.

A. H. Glaze Receives Word That Father Is Dying  
A. H. Glaze, head pharmacist at the Bonno Drug Co., left Tuesday for Des Moines, Ia., upon receipt of a telegram stating that his father, who has been visiting at the home of a daughter in that city, had become ill suddenly and that his death was expected within 48 hours. Mr. Glaze's father is 73 years of age, and a veteran of the Civil war. He visited at the home of his son in Minot last summer, where he made many friends.

Rotary Luncheon  
Roy McCandless was chairman of the Rotary luncheon. G. D. Colcord read the weekly paper, his subject being "The Making of an Alleged Newspaper." Only four members were absent, an effort having been made to secure a 100 percent attendance.

## Ward County Red Cross Says Car Shortage is Critical

An appeal directed especially to the Interstate Commerce commission at Washington, D. C., for freight cars to alleviate the shortage existing in northwestern North Dakota, which is described as "critical," was dispatched by telegraph Monday by H. M. Wilson, chairman of the Minot branch of the American Red Cross, who calls attention to seriousness of the situation, and the inconveniences which are being suffered.

The Red Cross chairman urged prompt action as the only means of saving for millions who are starving throughout the world the immense amount of wheat stored on the ground and threatened with spoiling by the falling snow. The telegram:

"With millions throughout the world dying for bread, what is being done to furnish cars to move the wheat from northwestern North Dakota?" says the message.

"Parshall, a typical example, located 60 miles southwest of Minot, has five elevators with a combined capacity of about one quarter million bushels, all filled to the roofs. Practically every private garage, every machine shed, every lumber shed, and every barn in town has been turned into a temporary grain bin. The Soo Line furnished but a few cars last week, not a single car Friday. On Saturday morning at 8 o'clock 100 wagon loads of wheat were on the streets waiting to be unloaded and other uncounted loads streamed into town all day. Hundreds of thousands of bushels of wheat are dumped on the ground on farms over northwestern North Dakota. With snow falling this morning, the wheat, if not lost, will be severely damaged, unless the railroads furnish cars quickly."

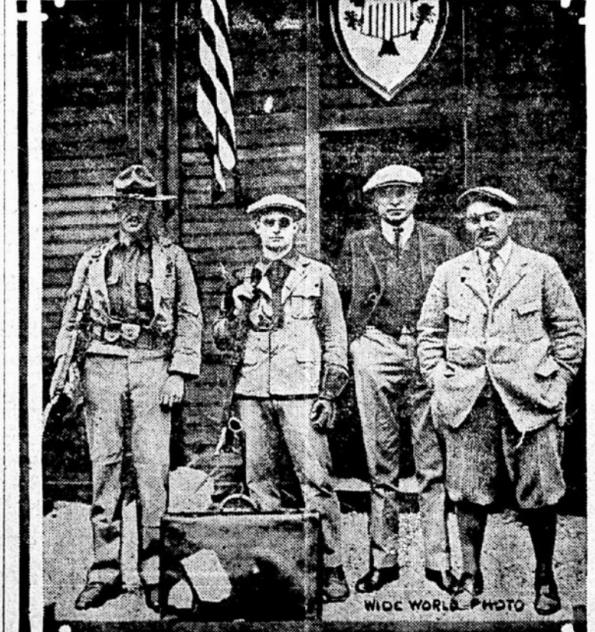
Copies of the message also were sent by wire to Presidents Harding, Taft and Ralph Budd of the Soo and Great Northern railways, the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, and the Chicago Board of Trade.

Piper-Howe Lumber Company Purchase Bovey-Shute Interests  
The Piper-Howe Lumber company, with headquarters at Minot, recently consummated a deal by which they took over the line of yards between Max and the Missouri, operated by Bovey-Shute.

Four yards will be effected by the deal. We gather that the finishing touches were given the deal last week, inventories of the yards having been completed at that time.

Someone stole the steering wheel from Raymond Truax's auto at Burlington Saturday night. While he was hunting for another steering wheel, the thieves stole his headlights. En route home without lights, his auto ran into a ditch, but no damage was done.

## Yankee Marksmen Compete in Italy



American sharpshooters, who are competing at the international shooting contests at Milan, Italy, outside their quarters.

## NEW YORK MILLIONAIRE SENDS \$1000 CHECK FOR WARD CO. COW



W. L. NUESSELE  
For Judge of the Supreme Court

O. K. Spires, of Burlington, who sold a three-year-old full blooded Guernsey cow to J. C. Penney, the millionaire merchant, was in the city Saturday.

"When I started breeding full blooded cattle, it was my ambition to some day be able to say that I sold an animal for \$1,000. I have done that and now I have raised my sales to \$2,500. I have a Guernsey cow on my farm that I value at that figure and feel certain that should I care to sell, I can get the price some day.

"There is money in dairying in North Dakota. Why, with our cheap land and abundance of feed, it is the easiest thing in the world for a North Dakota farmer to make money out of cows. I would suggest to a farmer who wants to get into dairying on a small scale to pick up ten heifers of most any strain which can be bought for \$15 or \$20 each then invest in a full blooded bull."

Naturally, Mr. Spires would recommend the Guernsey sire. The sire is 30 per cent of the herd and the following year the farmer would have ten high grade calves, probably half of them heifers. Mr. Spires has a number of pure bred young bulls for sale at from \$150 to \$250.

Mr. Spires showed the editor of this paper the check he had received for \$1,000.00, and the following letter accompanying it:

Emmadine Farms,  
Hopedale Junction, N. Y.  
Nov. 1, 1922.

Dear Sir:  
Mr. J. E. Dodge advises me that he has bought for me the Guernsey cow, Sweet Alice of Ferndale, No. 100,675, for the sum of \$1,000.00.

Accordingly, I am enclosing my check, on the Public National Bank of New York, for the said sum.

Kindly make out receipted bill to me for this item and return for my file.

Very truly yours,  
J. C. Penney,  
by C. L. Road.

Mr. Spires states that J. C. Penney bought the cow on recommendation of a breeder named Hathaway from Moosejaw, Sask., who stopped in Minot en route to the National Dairy Show to look over the Spires and Persen Guernsey herds. Hathaway met J. C. Penney's representative, Mr. Dodge in Minneapolis, and introduced him to Mr. Spires. Dodge asked Spires how much he would take for the cow. Spires refused to price the animal and Dodge made a thousand dollar offer which was accepted.

Mr. Spires feels quite elated over the transaction, considering that he not only bred the cow, but her dam and sire as well. The sire is owned by F. O. Bacon which heads his herd on the Granville farm. Mr. Spires still owns the dam, a half sister, a full brother and two of the cow's daughters. The cow didn't have a record and she was bought because of her almost perfect dairy type. She is as well developed as a four-year-old. This climate is the best in the world for dairy cattle, Mr. Spires says. There's something in our climate and the quality of our feed that makes a dairy cow rugged. Keep your eye on northwestern North Dakota for dairying.

Mr. Spires has 43 head of full blooded Guernsey cattle on his farm. He is milking 17 cows and has no use for a milking machine. He does much of the milking himself and finds that it keeps him pretty busy to milk 17 cows morning and night and haul the milk 16 miles to Minot.

The business has been very profitable for our Canadian friends. The American runners had driven their high powered cars up to the liquor warehouses at Bismarck, Gainsboro, and other Canadian whiskey shipping points, forked over their good American money and headed south with loads of whiskey, and no questions asked.

Now the American high jackers and bank robbers are at work. The Canadian banks are being robbed, perhaps by some of the very same men who have been acting as whiskey runners.

And the American officials are now accused of not answering the appeals of the Canadian authorities.

DILLAGE HELD FOR TRIAL  
ON TWO CHARGES  
Regina, Sask., Nov. 1.—Lee Dillage, brought to Regina Friday after he had waived extradition proceedings at Fargo, N. D., was formally charged in provincial police court here this afternoon with the murder of Paul Matoff, at Bismarck, Sask., on Oct. 3. He was also charged with the theft of six thousand dollars from Matoff. No plea was taken and the prisoner was remanded to jail until Nov. 4, which is the date fixed for the preliminary trial of Jim Lacoste, held at Weyburn on the same charges.

Dillage, a farmer living near Lignite, N. D., was engaged in whiskey running and was present at the time Matoff was murdered by highjackers. He had just turned over \$6,000 to Matoff for two auto loads of whiskey. After the murder, considerable whiskey was found cached in Dillage's barn yard, and more was found on a nearby farm with the original bill of lading, proving that the latter was a portion of the Matoff liquor.

Police Arrest Fifty Minot Boys for Sabotaging Property on Halloween  
Local police rounded up fifty Minot lads Tuesday night who had been caught damaging property in the city, in the course of playing Halloween pranks.

The Minot lads have usually confined their operations to overturning buildings and removing property, but that night they did a great deal of damage. Small buildings were not only overturned, but they were torn to pieces as well. At a residence on 8th Ave. N. E., the spindles were torn out of a porch and broken up. Yard fences and gates were torn up and broken to pieces. They daubed tar on white houses. Windows were broken. The night before they threw a milk can thru the plate glass window of N. C. Nelson's grocery store on Third St. N. E. and did \$75 damage. A wagon was taken from an implement house, taken apart, hauled to the top of a blacksmith shop and set up, with the tongue dangling over the sidewalk.

The police have the boys pretty well "pegged" and say they are going to be sorry for that they did before they are thru with them.

One of the worst things they did was to place a wagon and rack on the Mill street railway crossing. This was removed in time to avert a wreck.

Mr. Howard T. Brigham, one of the early settlers in the Hiddenwood district, died from high blood pressure at Saree, Pa., Oct. 3, where she had been living with her mother and sister. Her husband passed away in Alberta, in which place they moved from North Dakota.